



Meck Bees

Mecklenburg Beekeepers Association
Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm
2219 Tyvola Road
Marion Diehl Park and Rec Building
Mailing address: 121 Hermitage Rd Charlotte NC 28207
704-358-8075
Visit our website at
www.meckbees.org



President -
Wayne Hansen

Vice President -
Richard Flanagan

Treasurer -
Libby Mack

Chaplain -
Gene Shannon

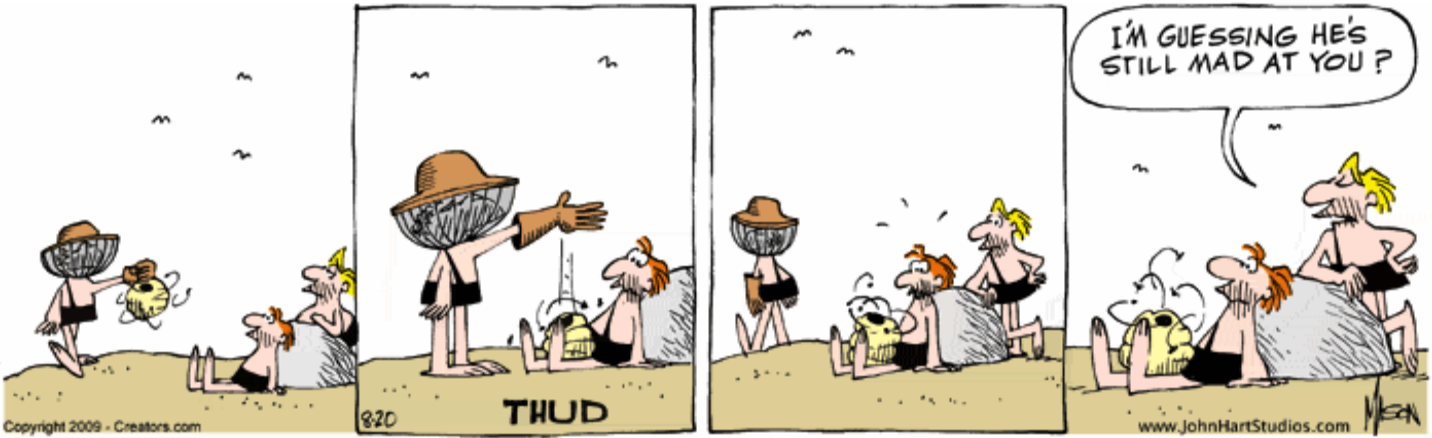


This Month's Meeting/Program
September 17

 **Our own Leslie Carlson will come and teach us how to make soap out of beeswax.**

This is a very interesting and easy process that we should all learn. Come learn and experience another useful product from the hive.

This months refreshments are provided by
Julie and Steve Morgan



Updates and Information

Beekeepers Yearly Management Calendar for September

Medicate with terramycin to treat for foulbrood.
Combine weak hives to prepare for the cooler months.

Speakers for 2009

September-Leslie Carlson
Soap making with beeswax

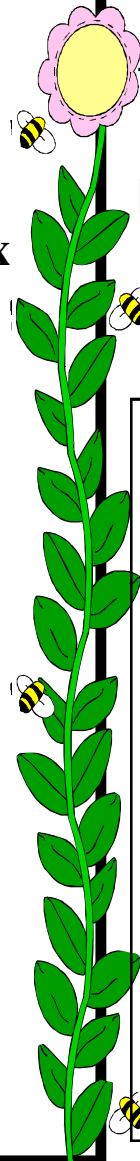
October-Don Rosenberg
Organic Gardening

Nov-Wayne Hansen
Wax Melting

Dec—Pot Luck Dinner

Jan 10-Frank Clements
Trap outs

**Feb 2010 Carol Buie
Jackson**
Wildlife habitats



For your convenience, the video report of the Grand Opening of the Honey Bee Exhibit is now on NCSBA web site "Zoo Exhibit" page.

<http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/zoo.htm>

What: The SaveTheHives.com rolling road-tour is coming to Charlotte.

When: Aug 31-Sept 1, 2009

Who: Debbie Delane and Jennifer Keller

How you can help: I know a few of you have located feral hives at savethehives.com. Debbie is coming to take bee samples from those hives for some genetic testing. If you email her with your address and the number of sample bottles you need, you can take the sample and they'll be ready to pick up

Any questions? Contact Wayne at: whansen319@yahoo.com

Hi all,

I always think the beekeeping management recommended in the Natural Extensive Beekeeping handbook could be a solution for people with scarce resources who live all over the world: they are thousands of millions and are living with different lack conditions.

This technique allow to practice beekeeping without knowing the theory, without purchasing hives – only acquiring bees from catching swarms. This will partially or on the whole depend on people. I think as many others do that it's good to gift a fish to poor people, but it's better to teach them to fish it. The limited resource is the beekeeping material necessary for practicing this natural extensive beekeeping.

Because of poverty – resources or capital lack – it would not be worth for you to read information of this free handbook if you hadn't any place where to put swarms and transform them in productive colonies.

That's the reason why we have imagined a hive design which could be constructed easily with cheap, available materials and without sophisticated machines – only a simple saw, a hammer and some nails. The result is the hive showed in the following video you can see in:

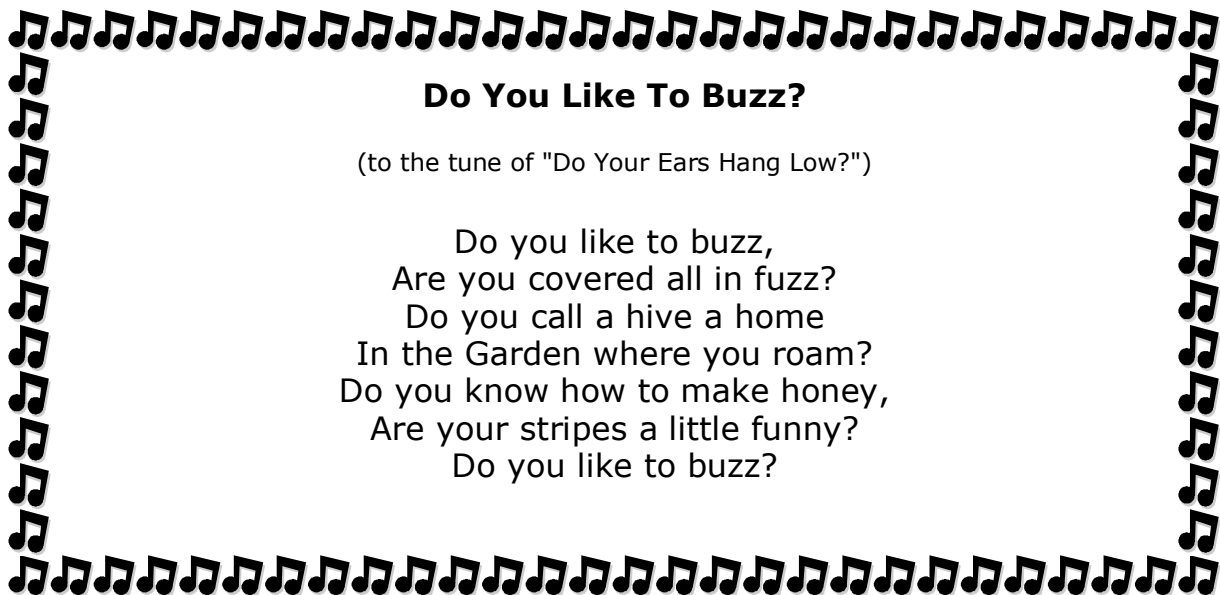
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2Gx9ewmrmo>

Thanks to Alvaro Ferrés de Montevideo, Uruguay, for your translation.

Thanks to all
God bless you and yours families.

Oscar Perone

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Presidents BZZZZZ !

September 2009

Last month, I found out what my bees would do when I caged the queen for thirteen days. When I went back in to release her, there were two frames with three capped queen cells each on them. If I had more time, equipment, inclination, or if it was June instead of early August, I probably would have stuffed those frames into nuc boxes and tried to make more hives. Not sure if those were emergency cells or not, but the bees had certainly decided that the current queen was not getting the job done. I'll have no idea if she made it or not, unless they happen to replace her with a queen with a different coloration. This one is (or was?) a beautiful golden color. I do plan to do a mite count in a week or so, so there should be some information from that next month.

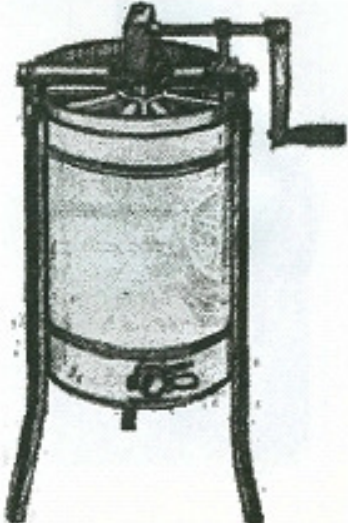
Also last month, there was a little contest in the Bzzzzz. A. Kirkman from Whitsett, NC, picked up on the fact that there actually were TWO misspellings! One was intentional - "might" for "mite." The other was unintentional - "here" for "her." The other contestants split very evenly between the two.

At the August club meeting, there was quite a bit of talk about beetles and beetle traps. I found one more trap quite by accident. I don't think it was my Charles Goodyear moment, but it'll do for August. Some beekeepers lift the outer covers on their hives by placing a stick under one end of it. I had an extra stick one day, and my inner covers are screened. So I left that stick on top of the screen. I checked that hive the day I let that queen go, and noticed that there were a few beetles running around the stick. I had to "pet" them all, and I left the stick there. Usually now, I can find a half dozen or so beetles around that stick. Guess how many of the other hives now have extra sticks? (No, that's not a contest.) It does seem that there is a type of stick, or shape of stick that the beetles prefer more than others, or perhaps this hive is just more tolerant of the beetles. I don't know. This should work on a solid inner cover as well. If anyone tries this, the best stick is currently dry and brittle, about the diameter of a finger, and still has enough bark on it to give the beetles a couple more places to hide. The stick also lays flat against the inner cover.

Also, for those who are still reading, the club needs a volunteer for vice-president next year. A volunteer for president would be nice as well. Why don't you consider it? Get in touch with any of the club officers, or the soon to be announced nominating committee if you would like to consider it.

See you around the bee yard!
Wayne Hansen





It's Harvest Time!

We have the following equipment available for extracting honey:

- Extractor (manual)
- Uncapping tank (use your own excluder)
- Bucket with valve
- Electric uncapping knife

The charge is \$2 per day to borrow the extractor.

You will want to use your own filters and food-grade plastic buckets.

To obtain the equipment:

- Call Jimmy Odom to arrange a time to pick it up.
Phone: (704) 408-2726
Address: 17026 McKee Rd Charlotte NC 28278
- When you pick up the equipment, take an envelope and card to mail in your payment
- Return the equipment **promptly, clean and dry**
- Mail your payment in the envelope provided

With the growth of the club, there is heavy demand for the extractor in the summer months. There will be a waiting list, so be prepared for a short wait, and when you get the equipment, please return it promptly so the next person on the list can get it. Please don't pass it on to someone else who isn't on the list. Thanks!

[David R. Tarpy](#) thought you would like to see this page from News-Record.com.

This is indeed sad and sobering news. A great man and beekeeper, a true ambassador for NC apiculture and honey bees, and he will be missed.

"Bee King" Brady Mullinax dies at 88

By Bob Burchette Contributing Writer Wednesday, August 19, 2009



Brady Mullinax, 88, the bee king of North Carolina, died today at the VA Medical Center in Salisbury where he had been a patient for several weeks.

Mullinax became a legend in his own time by getting the N.C. General Assembly in 1973 to designate the honey bee as the state's official insect.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Main Street United Methodist Church with Dr. Jeff Patterson, Rev. Rick Carter and Rev. Dale Hill officiating. A private family inurnment will be held in Mt. Gur Cemetery.

Mullinax, retired superintendent of the Kernersville water plant, had lived here since 1946 and was Kernersville's 2006 "citizen of the year" and grand marshal for the town's Christmas parade.

He once said, "I started "messing with bees when I was about 7 or 8. "I was the only boy in the fifth grade through the 12th grade that they would let out of class to go see if the bees were swarming.. He got his first bee hives at age 9 - homemade ones. His first store-bought hive was a Montgomery Ward model he bought for \$3 when he was 16. The hive was delivered on a horse-drawn buggy.

Nearly 20 years later, he would join the N.C. Beekeepers Association. That was after he had served nearly four years with the Navy on 18 islands in the South Pacific during World War II. His military unit was the Seabees, naturally.

While Mullinax "was seeing the world," his mother was caring for his beehives. When the war was over and he took a job as water plant supervisor, Mullinax brought his hives to Kernersville in the back of his 1937 Plymouth. He set them up behind the water treatment plant.

"There were less than 500 people in Kernersville back then," he said. "The town had one stop light, and it didn't work," he said. He also served as a part-time deputy sheriff.

After moving to Kernersville, Mullinax ended up with more than 300 hives and had become the champion for those hard- working little creatures who produced that tasty honey. School classes flocked there to see the bees and hear Mullinax enthusiastically proclaim the honey bees' value to mankind.

Mullinax could be depended upon to have a beehive and history display at farmers markets and fairs in Greensboro, High Point, King, Hickory, Reidsville and Raleigh.

Mullinax's love for his adopted community didn't stop when he retired in 1983 - 37 years after bringing his bees to town.

Mullinax won many awards, including King Beekeeper in 1981. He was honored March 19, 2006, for 25 years service to Toastmaster, an organization where he was Toastmaster of the Year in 1987. He has been involved in Masonic projects for 60 years.

He and his family also have won many awards, including several at the N.C. State Fair and other events.

He is credited as the driving force behind starting the biggest annual event in Kernersville in 1975 - the Honeybee Festival, which attracts thousands each year.

Mullinax and Buster Linville of Oak Ridge were the driving forces behind the state farmers market being started in Colfax. Mullinax organized the Kernersville Farmers Market many years before the state market and organized Miss Mary's Children's Parade in 1950.

Mullinax was involved with a project to build a permanent honey bee exhibit area at the N.C. Zoo near Asheboro.

He is survived by his wife of almost 62 years, Mary Vance Mullinax of the home; daughters Barbara M. Hodge and Paul Hodge of Ashland, Va., and Laura M. Rathbone and Mike of Kernersville; and son Brady Wilson Mullinax Jr. and Karen of Atlanta.

(CNN) -- They're ready to sting, and they know where they're going.

They're called "nanobees," and they're not insects -- they're tiny particles designed to destroy cancer cells by delivering a synthesized version of a toxin called melittin that is found in bees. "Melittin, which would otherwise result in substantial destruction of your red blood cells and other normal tissues if it were delivered intravenously alone, is completely safe when it's on a nanoparticle," said Dr. Samuel Wickline, director of the Siteman Center of Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Nanobees are one of the latest examples of how nanotechnology may change the way diseases are treated. Nanotechnology encompasses a wide array of innovations that make use of structures that are 100 nanometers or smaller. That means they generally cannot be seen under a regular microscope, but are larger than individual atoms. For example, a nanobee is less than 10 times the diameter of a red blood cell, Wickline said. Particles on the nanoscale are small enough to enter cells, but big enough to carry large doses of drugs, said Robert Langer, Institute professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a leader in the nanotech field. "We are gradually forming a pipeline of nanotechnology-based products," said Piotr Grodzinski, director of the National Cancer Institute's Alliance for Nanotechnology in Cancer, a program that funds eight Centers of Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence in the U.S., including Wickline's and Langer's research initiatives. "These things are happening as we speak." There have already been two approved cancer treatments on the market that make use of nanoparticles: ovarian cancer drug Doxil, approved in 1995, and breast cancer drug Abraxane, approved in 2005. Both of these involve medication bound with nanoparticles that circulate in the bloodstream for longer than conventional drugs and are expected to migrate to the tumor site, Grodzinski said. These drugs are being tested in some of the eight clinical trials associated with the NCI nano program.

Nanobees, by contrast, are engineered to travel directly to tumor cells without harming any others. They leave the healthy cells alone because the blood vessels around a tumor are like a "postal address" for the nanobees, Wickline said. These vessels express a particular protein to which a substance on the nanobees has a chemical affinity. This principle of targeting harmful cells and leaving healthy cells intact is under development in many labs. It means efficient delivery of large concentrations of drugs, but with fewer side effects, experts say. One hundred trillion nanobees can be delivered in a single dose, and are not difficult to make, Wickline said. Also, scientists do not use real insects, so they're "not decreasing the bee population," he said.

So far nanobees have been tested only on mice, with promising results, researchers said. Wickline anticipates this therapy could become widely available in humans in about five years. Dr. Ellen Vitetta, who also works on targeted nanotech cancer therapies at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, found the approach intriguing, but said it will be at least 10 years before something like this gets to the market. That's because what works in mice doesn't always work in humans, as she learned while developing a targeted antibody cancer treatment. "People need to appreciate the time issues and the cost issues and just what sort of tests need to be done," she said. "But it's always fun and exciting to see a new approach, because who knows what's going to end up at the finish line."

Langer estimates that his group's nanotechnology technique for prostate cancer could be in clinical trials by the middle of next year. The method involves putting an approved cancer drug, docetaxel, in a nanoparticle that has a homing device to take it directly to the tumor. These nanoparticles are made out of some of the same materials often used for dissolvable sutures, Langer said. In addition to having an "affinity molecule," which targets the tumor cells, these nanoparticles are coated with polyethylene glycol, which helps the particle get to its target without being "eaten" by white blood cells called macrophages.

Langer and colleagues have also been involved in a new treatment for ovarian cancer, as described in this month's issue of the journal *Cancer Research*. The technique has shown success in mice, and could go into clinical trials within one to two years, said lead author Daniel Anderson at MIT. The group has published work on two methods, one using DNA and one using RNA. These particles do not have special targeting antibodies on them, but are injected straight into the abdominal cavity where the cancer cells are likely floating.

Nanoparticles are also useful in medical diagnosis, researchers have found. Abigail Lytton-Jean, a postdoctoral fellow in Langer's lab, worked at Northwestern University on showing that gold nanoparticles can help detect the presence of DNA. When the nanoparticles are coated with a DNA sequence, the solution changes color in the presence of the corresponding DNA. One possible application of this would be anthrax detection, she said.

While a lot of new research is ongoing with nano-sized materials, the particles themselves are not new, and therefore should not cause any more safety concerns than other materials used in medicine, experts say. "There are going to be nanomaterials that are toxic for sure, but I definitely do not think that because something is nano there's any more reason to have alarm," Lytton-Jean said. Many of the NCI-sponsored nano centers, located at universities across the country, have spun off small companies, Grodzinski said. Kerios, which will make the nanobees, and BIND, which will work on Langer's group's prostate cancer therapy, are two of the 25 companies that have arisen from the research.
