



*The Monthly Newsletter of the Mecklenburg County Beekeepers Association May 2018*

## **In the Bee Yard**

*David Segrest, NC Master Beekeeper*

Hopefully the bees are busy making honey and we should be leaving them alone. Most beekeepers are not very good at sitting on their hands so let's call this edition "In the Bee Shop". There are some things we are going to find very useful when we start pulling honey. To give full disclosure these were presented by Gerry Mack a few years ago and are not my invention.

The first is called a honey horse. It is basically a honey bagger. The full super is set on the arms and a bag. (I use a construction clean-up bag) can be slid over the super and the whole thing can be lifted off and taped at the end to protect the honey. For those pulling honey for the 1st time, it needs protection. The bees will be all over it given a chance. The picture is the best how-to for building this. It must be very strong. The one Gerry built did not have as many supports as the one I built because he is a much better carpenter than I am and he made his strong with good carpentry. I made mine strong with a lot of wood. Once honey is pulled it must be extracted immediately or frozen to avoid damage by wax moth or small hive beetles that will be hatched from eggs in the cracks of the frames.

The second item is a solar wax melter. This is very simple. It is basically a box and it can be made in virtually any size. The top fits over the box much like a telescoping top cover fits over a hive box. In the one I built the top has two grooves and 2 sheets of clear Plexiglas are slid into them. At least one end of the cover should be secured with screws instead of nails so the Plexiglas can be removed for cleaning. The inside of the box has a narrow shelf on one end to hold a tray that rest on the little shelf at one end and a container for the melted wax at the other. Where the tray rests on the container a piece of #8 hardware cloth is bent over the junction. A small piece of cheap paper towel is placed under the screen for a filter.

Use a cheap paper towel because a good quality towel will not let the wax flow through. The inside of the box should be painted black. Buy the tray and the container before you build the box. Some people make these boxes large enough to accommodate a deep frame. Have fun making these things and using them, it is better than distracting the bees while they are trying to make honey.

**May's Meeting**

**May 17**  
**7 PM**

Mouzon United Methodist  
Church  
3100 Selwyn Avenue  
Charlotte, NC

Speaker: Patrick Jones  
Protecting Pollinators  
Pesticide Labeling



*Honey horse*



# It's Harvest Time!

We have the following equipment available to club members for extracting honey:

- \* 9 Frame Maxant motorized extractor (Manual extractor available as a backup.)
- \* Uncapping tank
- \* 5 gallon bottling bucket
- \* Electric and non-electric uncapping knife
- \* Uncapping roller
- \* Capping scratcher
- \* Two stage honey strainer.

**NEW This Year:** Honey Refractometer to determine the moisture content of your honey.



The charge is \$5 per day to rent the equipment with 2 day minimum.

To reserve the equipment:

Go to the club's website [meckbees.org](http://meckbees.org) and under the "Members" tab select "Extractor Rental".

With the growth of the club, there is heavy demand for the extractor in the summer months. When you get the equipment, please return it promptly so the next person on the list can get it.

If you have any questions contact George McAllister at [gmcallister@outlook.com](mailto:gmcallister@outlook.com) or call 704-579-1169

## Biography of May's Guest Speaker, Patrick Jones



Deputy Director for Pesticide Programs  
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division  
Patrick (Pat) Jones, Deputy Director for Pesticide Programs at the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Service, Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division has worked for the department for more than 34 years as a pesticide inspector, field supervisor and enforcement manager. As deputy director, he oversees regulatory and outreach programs focused on ensuring the safe use of pesticides in North Carolina. He is a graduate of N.C. State University with a degree in agronomy.

Mr. Jones will be presenting on pollinator protection, discussing pesticide labels, DriftWatch/Bee Check apiary registration, and outreach materials.



# What's Blooming in May: Salvia

Matt Burgoon

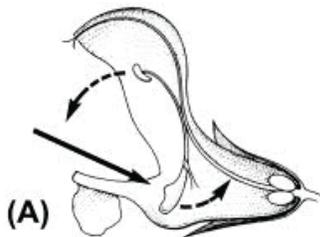
**Common Name:** Lyre-leaf Sage  
**Botanical Name:** *Salvia lyrata*.  
**Plant Type:** Perennial herb  
**Typical Bloom Period:** April-May  
**Nectar Usefulness:** good  
**Pollen Usefulness:** good

“Kick Me” is what we would write on the paper with tape, and a gentle pat on the back would mark the victim in such a way that s/he couldn't see or remove it. You might think of the word “note” and then of the word “nototribic”. The *Salvia* genus of flowers are nototribic, and they are blooming in Mecklenburg County.

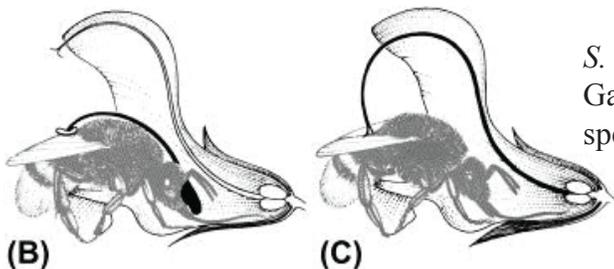


Worldwide, there are about 900 species of the genus *Salvia*. In Mecklenburg County, our most common native species of salvia is *S. lyrata*, “lyre-leaf sage” or “cancer weed”. They have purple-veined leaves in a rosette at the base which are irregularly lobed, and shaped a bit like a lyre. A square stem stands 1-2 feet tall, covered in sticky hairs and irregular whorls of flowers. The flowers are bilabial — they have an upper lip and a lower lip. They range in color from very pale lavender to rich blue. Wild *S. lyrata* is most often found along the edges of disturbances. Cultivated varieties of *Salvia* are very popular in southern flower gardens. Favorites include “black and blue” *S. guarantica*, originally from South America, and “hot lips” *S. microphylla*, originally from Mexico. These varieties bloom later in the year than natives, and they serve to feed our bees through the summer months.

*Salvia* flowers need bees to transfer pollen grains from the anthers to the stigmas. But every grain that the bees collect and take away is then unavailable for the reproduction of the flower. To combat the loss, our flowers slap a “note” of pollen onto the back of the bee in such a way that she cannot work it around to her corbiculae in mid-flight, so ensuring that she will carry it to the next flower. As the bee enters the floor of the flower to reach the nectary, she presses her head against a lever-shaped stamen and the other four stamens are pushed down to deposit pollen on her back, where she cannot reach it. Because of this staminal lever mechanism, salvia has been the subject of considerable study.



If you observe your cultivated salvia, hoping to see the lever in action, you might observe carpenter bees, *Xylocopa virginica*, working the tops of the flowers, on the outside. They are biting through the petals to reach the nectar within, bypassing the staminal lever mechanism entirely. Our honey bees will often use the holes that the carpenter bees have bitten to gather nectar only.



*S. lyrata* blooms through April and May in Mecklenburg County. In *Garden Plants for Honey Bees*, Peter Lindtner rates most *Salvia* species as good sources of both pollen and nectar; he includes a fine photograph of a bee biting through the top of a flower.

The August 2007 issue of *Annals of Botany* (Volume 100, Issue 2) is devoted to the morphology of salvia, and would be a good place to start more intensive research.



Join CASN for a Science Café  
with

Dr. Stan Schneider of UNC Charlotte  
on

**Honey Bee Communication: How  
Complex Societies Make Adaptive  
Decisions.**

Date: May 9, 2018

Time: 5:00PM-6:30PM

Location: UNCC Bioinformatics Building Room 105

Refreshments at 5:00PM; Talk begins at 5:30PM.

Parking Passes Provided: Park in CRI Visitor Parking Deck

Campus Map:

[https://facilities.uncc.edu/sites/facilities.uncc.edu/files/media/Maps/Uncc\\_Campus\\_Map\\_20180405.pdf](https://facilities.uncc.edu/sites/facilities.uncc.edu/files/media/Maps/Uncc_Campus_Map_20180405.pdf)



## 2018 MCBA OFFICERS

**President:** Ed Moyers ([meckbeepres@gmail.com](mailto:meckbeepres@gmail.com))

**Vice President:** David Segrest ([meckbeevp@gmail.com](mailto:meckbeevp@gmail.com))

**Treasurer:** Jeff Dieker ([meckbeetreas@gmail.com](mailto:meckbeetreas@gmail.com))

**Membership Secretary:** Dietlinde Zipkin  
([meckbeesec@gmail.com](mailto:meckbeesec@gmail.com))

**Chaplain:** Tommy Helms

**Webmaster:** Kevin Freeman ([meckbees@gmail.com](mailto:meckbees@gmail.com))

## Contact Us

Email us with questions at  
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Picture and Article Submissions  
are always needed and are  
greatly appreciated.

**Email submissions to:**  
[Rachel.E.G.Woodhouse@gmail.com](mailto:Rachel.E.G.Woodhouse@gmail.com)



# Mecklenburg County Beekeepers Association

201 8 Dues Form (January 1 thru December 31 )

Note: State registration is now handled separately through the state website  
Please see link below

(Please print clearly)

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

MCBA Annual Dues: \$5

I am:

New

Renewing

N/A

\*First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ \*State: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Email: \_\_\_\_\_

County of residence: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you kept bees? \_\_\_\_\_ (yrs) Number of hives \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to be involved with the Club? \_\_\_\_\_

\*This information (name, mailing address, email address) will be provided to all members of the Mecklenburg Beekeepers (and to members ONLY - no one else will receive this information from us). If you DO NOT want this information shared, please opt out by initialing here. \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to MCBA and mail completed form to:

Dietlinde Zipkin  
MCBA Secretary  
201 Foxlair Ct.  
Matthews , NC 28105

For state membership registration or renewal , you'll find a link on the NCSBA home page:

<https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/>

Benefits of state membership include :

- Subscription to the quarterly Bee Buzz newsletter
- Notices of bee-related education opportunities
- Member discounts to the state conferences and other education opportunities
- Discounts on magazines such as the American Bee Journal
- Copy of the Yellow Book statewide membership directory
- Annual beekeeping calendar

