



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

## **President's Buzz . . .**

### **Annual Business Meeting**

We are holding our annual business meeting and election of officers at the October meeting. This offers an opportunity to learn more about what our organization does, and provide input into our future. I encourage everyone to join us!

And that's not all!

There's another reason to join us at the October meeting: A number of our MeckBees have agreed to bring special jigs and equipment that they have used, and often have made. This can range from things used to make common beekeeping equipment, like frames, to specialized hive components, treatment and feeding of the bees, and things that help with honey extraction and bottling.

Come and see what folks are doing. I'm sure you'll get great ideas that can improve your beekeeping experience!

### **Researching Roundup on the Bees**

I have to admit that I have a love/hate relationship with Google. I use Gmail, Google Maps and their search engine, but worry about access they, or others, have to my personal information. One of the things that bugs me, but again is sometimes helpful, is how their search engine displays "articles" on subjects it thinks I may be interested in. It's already figured out that I'm a closet Star Trek fan.

Google also knows that I'm interested in bees. So when I pull up Google's search engine, it's common for me to see one or more articles about honey bees. Most are general interest, or stuff that I've already read about in one of the bee journals. But this past week, one popped up that caught my interest. It was an article on the USA Today website about research into the effects of glyphosate (commonly sold under the trade name Roundup) on honey bees.

While the information in the article was too general to be of much help, it had a link to the research paper. I clicked on it, knowing that most of the

## **October Meeting**

**October 18, 2018**

**7pm**

**Selwyn Methodist Church**

This month we will have our annual business meeting and election of officers. Following the business meeting, we will have a "Beekeeping Jig Fair" featuring tools and other devices made and used by MeckBees members.

### **Halloween Trivia:**

*Q: What do you call the ghosts of dead bees?*

*A: Boo Bees!*



time, you're only able to access the abstract for the article. So imagine my delight when I found that the entire research paper was available!

It was just published, so the paper contained new information about the impacts of glyphosate on honey bees. It points out that glyphosate works by destroying an enzyme found only in plants and microorganisms, which supposedly makes it safe for animals, including insects. However, most bee microbiota—those friendly bacteria that live in the bee's gut, and aid in digestion and other functions—contain the same enzyme.

Thus, the microbiota of bees that ingest glyphosate can be negatively impacted. Because there is a variation in the microbiota of bees in different colonies, the impacts can vary. In general, though, damage to the bees' microbiota impacts bee's weight gain and resistance to certain pathogens, including some that have been shown to be present in high percentages of bees in colonies that don't survive the winter. The impact on weight gain can be particularly dangerous—and life-shortening—for young bees.

It's exciting to have direct access to this kind of research, rather than relying on the interpretation of journalists who don't understand the biology of bees or chemistry of pesticides. If you'd like to read this research paper, you can find it at: <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2018/09/18/1803880115>

### **An Informative Meeting**

September featured our annual "Meeting in the Round." It was a great opportunity for folks to ask and answer questions. The great thing about this forum is that it allows folks to express different ideas and opinions that benefit all of us. An early discussion was in response to my question about what folks did to prepare for Hurricane Florence. Divergent views about whether it made sense to strap hives down in advance were expressed. What was most helpful, though, was the reasoning folks gave for why they felt it was prudent to strap down hives, or not.

There were, of course, a lot of other useful discussions, including mite treatment and winter feeding. We also had some new beekeepers who hadn't attended Bee School join us, and they were thankful for the opportunity to ask questions and get a chance to meet other beekeepers.

Hope to see all of you this month!

Ed



# Eastern Apicultural Society



This is the first ever EAS Conference, to include states on the Eastern Seaboard, to be held in Greenville, South Carolina

Save the Date!

July 15 - 19, 2019



### Join the team EAS 2019 !

Volunteer positions are available with Registration consideration. Join us now to help make decisions about the 2019 Conference.

Contact Buddy May  
buddy\_may@bellsouth.net

[www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org)

Elaborate display of Honey, Food Exhibits, Gadgets & Artwork

EAS 2019  
July 15-19  
Greenville, SC



EAS 2019  
5 days under one roof, One Facility

Major Beekeeping Suppliers and Artisans

2 Day Short Course  
Different Learning Tracks

Renowned Keynote Speakers & Excellent Topics

Friday Night Banquet with Speaker, New EAS President

30 LIVE Hives for on site, hands on training

EAS Master Beekeeping Program Testing & Certification



Creating the perfect learning environment to help you become better beekeepers.



## Where in the World is Greg Clements? *by Gerry Mack*



Many beekeepers have been wondering - whatever happened to Greg Clements this summer? Greg has a good excuse for missing a few monthly meetings, he took a seasonal job at Yellowstone National Park.

Greg works at the gas and convenience store in Canyon Village when he and Margie are not otherwise hiking, fly fishing, making campfire s'mores and showing family and friends around the Park.

In this picture Greg stocks the milkshake cooler while telling us about recent wildlife encounters.

## A New Generation

Young Meck Bees receive awards for becoming certified beekeepers! Congratulations!



Sam Tobin



Clara Clark, Izzy Clark, Jack Clark



# In the Bee Yard

by David Segrest, NC Master Beekeeper

For anyone who has been doing what they should, this is an easy time of year. The bees should have received a heavy mite treatment (good enough to wipe out mites behind cappings). The colonies should have been checked to make sure the treatment was effective and if it wasn't some follow-up should have been started.

There is always the question of whether to keep feeding into the winter months, especially if the frames are full. Some people don't believe in feeding and I don't want to step on your religious toes. It is good if the bees are taking the food to keep feeding. Some of the full frames of sugar honey can be pulled and frozen for feeding in the spring buildup. This feeding will result in more drawn comb which is always good.

Even though the weather has been warm, many queens are starting to back off on egg laying. If there is apparently little or no young brood find the queen and make sure she's there. Don't pinch her at this time. She may be just taking a break.

This is the time to make sure the bees have plenty of room to store honey but not too much room to defend. The small hive beetles and wax moths love spacious cavities with lots of food and brood. There are a lot of ways to prevent a heavy buildup of either and very few ways to deal with them when they get a foothold. A lot of equipment is ready to be repaired or tossed out. Everything that isn't occupied should be cleaned and painted. Drawn combs should be stored in such a way that wax moths won't be able to spoil them. Use Para-Moth, not moth balls. Also stacking them "Libby-style" is effective in preserving the combs.

Get a wax-moth costume for Halloween. That is the scariest thing I can think of.

## 2018 MCBA OFFICERS

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

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

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## Contact Us

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Picture and Article Submissions  
are always needed and are  
greatly appreciated.

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