



## Remember...

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What's Blooming.....

Sumac

Alsike Clover

Ladino White Clover

Heartsease, Smartweed

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JULY 2008

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS

## This month's meeting...

Is at the Agriculture Building on Graham-Hopedale Rd.

*Will Hicks will speak on Integrated Pest Management*

See you July 17th at 7:30.

## Honey Bee Word Search

H	A	M	B	C	P	D	S	D	N	A	L	G
Y	O	A	U	I	Q	O	G	E	F	H	L	A
G	N	N	H	S	D	W	L	F	M	I	H	S
S	B	D	E	T	A	A	T	L	N	H	I	C
F	U	I	H	Y	B	G	Y	U	E	B	V	R
L	Z	B	R	F	D	B	D	O	T	N	E	A
O	Z	L	J	O	O	H	R	P	H	O	V	T
W	Y	E	R	H	M	N	O	Q	O	L	E	R
E	R	S	Q	U	E	E	N	G	R	J	K	E
R	L	E	N	M	N	O	E	Z	A	F	R	N
L	M	T	B	E	E	S	W	A	X	W	G	H
A	C	O	L	O	N	Y	A	Y	K	Q	O	S
L	A	R	V	A	E	R	R	E	K	R	O	W

## Honey Bee Buzz Words:

Honey

Queen

Worker

Drone

Larvae

Pollen

Flower

Mandibles

Nectar

Colony

Abdomen

Beeswax

Glands

Hive

Thorax

*Alamance County Beekeepers*

- The honey flow this year has been tremendous and the wholesale price of honey is up to \$1.50 per pound and is projected to reach \$2.00. While you may not be wholesaling your honey, the rising price will affect what you can charge for your honey. Not to mention with all the news coverage the bee industry has been receiving, people now have a greater appreciation for bees. This too will allow you to demand a higher price for your honey. With the honey price up, be sure to maximize your yield. The best way to maximize your yield is to ensure your bees have the space to store the nectar and harvest more than once. By taking the honey reserves the bees have created you induce them to work harder and produce more. By harvesting more than once you can also separate your honey into varieties and ask more for your honey.
- With the tremendous flow this year there was a tremendous swarming season, which continues in some places. I have talked about the swarming in previous emails, but I have not talked about the condition of the hive after the swarm. After a hive swarms a new queen needs to assume the position of the one which left; however, the virgin queen must first mature sexually, go on a mating flight, and then make it back to the hive to begin laying. There is a lot of room for error! To begin, after the swarm it may take up to 3 weeks before you see new eggs in the hive. A newly emerged queen usually matures sexually in the hive for about a week before going on a mating flight. There are also several factors that can affect the quality of her mating, weather being one of the more influential.

It is important to monitor colonies which have swarmed. First you want to make sure the colony is in fact queen-right. The best method of determining queen-rightness is the presences of eggs, but remember it may take as long as 3 weeks, but generally 2-2.5 weeks for the new queen to begin laying proficiently. Continue to monitor her progress, if she is poorly mated she may develop a spotty brood pattern or become a drone layer. If she is a poor quality queen, for what ever reason, the colony may try to supercede her. Again, there are risks associated with a new virgin queen and now an extended period of little brood production and weakening colony.

## Bee Facts

### SEASONS

SPRING: Queen starts to lay eggs. Colony grows to 70,000. If bigger, workers make a new queen.

SUMMER: end the food stores are full. How do bee keepers know how much honey to leave bees for winter?

AUTUMN: a lot of bees die off. Survive on food store.

WINTER: about 20,000 bees. Hibernate until flowers come out again.

There are over 300 varieties of honey, because there are over 300 kinds of flowers. Darker honey has higher mineral content and antioxidant potential.

Honey should not be fed to babies under the age of 1 year.

Honey is an effective antimicrobial agent, which inhibits growth of bacteria.

Honey has a pH of 3.9

The darker the honey the more minerals and vitamins in it.

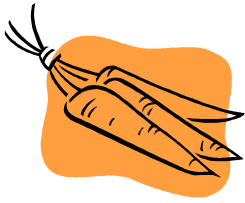
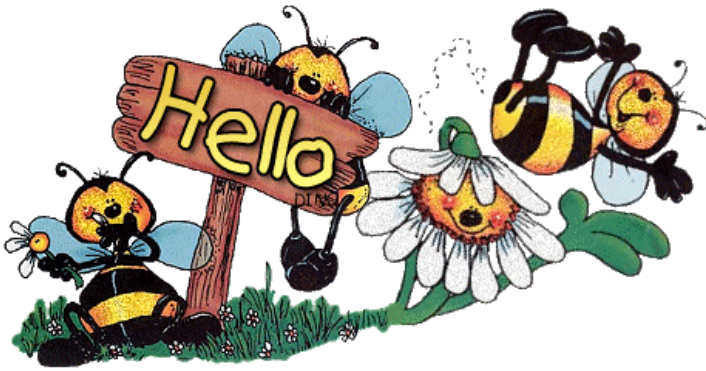
It takes nearly 48 bees in their life time to actually make 2 table spoons of honey.

It takes at least 3 tries for a honey bee to pollinate a flower.

Honey can last indefinitely if stored correctly.



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Article compliments of Brushy Mountain and Steve F.



#### Honeyed Carrots

- 2 lbs of carrots, cut into 2-3 inch strips
- 1/3 c. honey
- 1/4 cup of butter, cut into pats
- 1/2 c apple juice
- 1 tsp. rosemary, crushed
- 1 tsp. thyme
- 1/4 tsp. salt

Place carrots in a 10" skillet with 2 cups of water and bring to a boil. Simmer for about 8-10 minutes or until the carrots are tender. Drain water. Add honey, butter, apple juice ( or sherry) and remaining ingredients to the skillet. Cook, turning the carrots in the skillet until glazed, takes about 6 minutes. Makes 8 servings.

*Article for August : Donna Devanney*

*August Speaker: Ice Cream Social at Don Moore's, 3:00 pm on August 23rd*

*" In the Bee Yard with Don & Don "*