



JANUARY 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS

Remember...

Sign up for the articles & refreshments slots left. Let David Mullis know as soon as possible.

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New Time: 7:00 at the Ag Building

January 21, 2010

Speaker: Don Hopkins

Article for February: Don Moore

Refreshments: Audrey Moore

February Meeting : Ag Building

Feed those bees!

Alamance County Beekeepers

This month's meeting...

Will be at the Agriculture Building at 7:00. The speaker will be Don Hopkins who is speaking on "Beekeeping in Bolivia". Please be sure to note the time change for the meetings. We will now meet at 7:00 instead of 7:30. Our new eating place is the Burlington Diner, which is on Church Street on the right just before you turn on Alamance Road.

Greetings to all Alamance County Beekeepers,

I hope this new year finds you all with healthy hives and very few winter losses. I am looking forward to serving the chapter as President for this coming year. The planning committee has come up with what we hope will be an interesting and beneficial program for each month. Please save this newsletter with the program schedule for future use and make an extra effort to attend all the meetings. Our low attendance is one area we need to address this year so I would like to urge all of you to call on your fellow beekeepers a few days before the meetings and ask if they plan to attend.

We still need another 8 or 10 people to write a newsletter for one of the months and a few to bring the refreshments. If you can do this please contact our Vice President, David Mullis at mullisd@aol.com or (336-272-4531) so he can assign you a month. The newsletters should be sent to Camille Thomas at stthomas770@earthlink.net by the 5th of the month. The members will be reimbursed for the cost of the refreshments but not for writing the newsletters.

You will notice a change in our meeting times and locations. The meetings at the ag building will begin at 7 pm and the dinner meetings will be held at Burlington Diner starting at 6 pm. The Burlington Diner is located at the intersection of Alamance Road and South Church Street, across Church Street from Office Depot, across the street from Grove Park Baptist Church.

If any of you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at mross953@hotmail.com or 336-584-8652.

Happy New Year to all of our beekeepers,

Mike Ross



Cheese Dip with Fresh Fruits

- Makes 4 servings -
Preparation Time: 8 minutes

Ingredients

- 1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 Tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 cup diced toasted almonds

Directions

In a medium mixer bowl, beat cream cheese until light honey, vanilla, cinnamon, and lemon juice; mix well. Spoon into a small bowl and top with almonds.

To serve, place bowl on a plate and surround with such as banana slices, grapes, apple slices, strawberries, or nectarine slices.

Honey-Curry Vegetable Dip

- Makes 1 cup -

Ingredients

- 1 cup low-fat mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 Tablespoon curry powder
- 1 Tablespoon white wine vinegar
- Assorted fresh vegetables (celery, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, etc.)

Directions:

Combine mayonnaise, honey, curry and vinegar; mix well. Refrigerate about 1 hour flavors to blend. Serve with vegetables.

Winter Feeding

Just like when cows need some feed from their keepers because they can't find enough grass in the pasture to stay healthy as the result of a drought or cold winter weather; if bees don't have enough honey stored to get through the winter we have to help them or they will die.

We should have fed enough last fall that the bees would not need feeding now, but what if they do? This past fall was much too wet and probably a little too warm and I believe the bees consumed more honey than normal. Lift up on one side of your hives to check the weight and then check the other side. If some seem a little light you may be able to take steps now to prevent a dead hive.

When we think about feeding bees we usually would be feeding sugar syrup in a hive top, frame, or entrance feeder. Of these three I prefer the hive top feeder with center access covered with hardware cloth. This setup is easy to fill and check since the bees cannot enter the area that you open up for filling. In the cold of winter feeding syrup creates problems for the bees a couple of ways. They are reluctant to move away from the cluster into a feeder to take the cold syrup but even if we have some warm days the extra moisture from the syrup may cause more harm than good. This is especially true with less than adequate ventilation and cold damp days.

Dry Sugar can be placed directly on top of the cluster and the bees will eat it. It has the added benefit that instead of creating extra moisture in the hive it will absorb excess moisture that the bees make. This is a very quick and simple way to feed in cold weather but you should try to limit heat loss from the hive. If you are using the old style inner covers you can pour sugar on top of it without losing hardly any heat from the hive. The other option is to pour it on newspaper placed directly on the top bars. I would use a spray bottle of warm water to moisten the newspaper and the top of the sugar. This will prevent sugar from falling to the hive bottom and through the screened bottom board or bees carrying it out as trash. Make a small hole in the newspaper right over top of the cluster for easy access and wet a little sugar there to get them started quicker. If you can do this during a warm day they should start eating immediately.

As we move into Feb. or March some hives may need a little 1 to 1 sugar water to help their spring build up but much caution should be used to avoid over feeding. Too much feed in the spring either from the beekeeper or from nectar makes it harder to manage the colony and prevent swarming. If they start filling the cells that the queen needs for laying to expand the brood nest then swarming will soon follow.

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**Date of Meeting | Alamance County Beekeepers Program – Year 2010**

January 21, 2010 | Beekeeping in Bolivia – Don Hopkins, NCDA&CS Bee Inspector  
 Time: 7:00 PM | **Please note time change for all our Ag building meetings, 7 PM rather than the usual 7:30 PM**

Ag. Building | Article – Mike Ross/Refreshments –Janice Foulks & Camille Thomas

February 18, 2010 | Producing Comb Honey – Don Moore Comments and a video

Time: 7:00 PM |  
 Ag. Building | Article – Don Moore Refreshments – Audrey Moore

March 18, 2010 | Bees as Social Insects – Will Hicks, NCDA&CS Bee Inspector  
 Time: 6:00 PM | **Note time change for our “Restaurant” meetings, 6 PM rather than usual 6:30 PM**

Burlington Diner | *Spring meeting of NCSBA, March 5-6, Lumberton, NC Article - \_\_\_\_\_*

April 15, 2010 | Spring Management – Ken Pipes

Time: 7:00 PM |  
 Ag. Building | **Article - \_\_\_\_\_ Refreshments - \_\_\_\_\_**

May 20, 2010 | Planting for Bees – Mark Danieleley – Horticulture Agent, Alamance CES Office

Time: 6:00 PM |  
 Burlington Diner | **Article - \_\_\_\_\_**

June 19, 2010(Saturday) | Harvesting Honey – Don Moore and Mike Ross. We may have some work on  
 Time: **3:00 PM** ?? | tree identification as well. This will also be our ice cream social, normally  
 Don & Audrey’s | **Article - \_\_\_\_\_** held in August. Bring ice cream or goodies.

July 15, 2010 | Allergies, Anaphylactic Shock and Use of the Epi-Pen – Dr. Pringle  
 Time: 7:00 PM | *NCSBA Summer meeting, Jul 8-10, China Grove*

Ag. Building | **Article - \_\_\_\_\_ Refreshments - \_\_\_\_\_**

August 19, 2010 | Diseases and Treatments – NCDA&CS Bee Inspector --

Time: 6:00 PM |  
 Burlington Diner | **Article - \_\_\_\_\_**

September 16, 2010 | TBA at a later date due to confirmation

Time: 6:00 PM |  
 Ag. Building | **Article - \_\_\_\_\_** This will be a Covered Dish Dinner

October 21, 2010 | Candle Making - **David Langham, Ken & Lola or Charles Fleckenstein**

Time: 7:00 PM |  
 Ag. Building | **Article - \_\_\_\_\_ Refreshments - \_\_\_\_\_**

November 19, 2010 | Beekeeping in Earlier Times – L. L. Langstroth

,Time: 6:00 PM |  
 Burlington Diner | **Article - \_\_\_\_\_**

**Heritage Day – Cedarock Park, August 28, 2010** |||Please e-mail your newsletter article to  
**Farm to Table – Probably September 14 & 15, 2010** |||Camille by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS  
 2010 OFFICERS**  
 MIKE ROSS, PRESIDENT  
 DAVID MULLIS, VICE PRESIDENT  
 JAN FOULKS, TREASURER  
 AUDREY MOORE, RECORDING SECRETARY  
 CAMILLE THOMAS, PROGRAM CHAIR  
 DON MOORE, 1-YEAR DIRECTOR  
 EDDIE THOMAS, 2-YEAR DIRECTOR  
 PAT JONES, 3-YEAR DIRECTOR



## Born and Bred in NC

### Program description

The NC State Apiculture Program is pleased to announce a new state-wide training initiative. We have recently secured a grant through the **Golden LEAF Foundation** to hold numerous *workshops on queen rearing and clinics on bee breeding*.

Most beekeepers acquire new stock by purchasing newly mated queen bees from large commercial queen producers, mostly located in the Southeast (GA and FL) or the west coast (CA), and then introducing them to their hives. This large-scale, national queen production strategy has several inherent problems, most notably an unreliable supply of queens, difficulties in obtaining queens when they're needed, and a lack of local genetic adaptation. We believe that local, small-scale queen producers located across NC is a viable alternative model for obtaining queens, which will enable individual beekeepers to control the genetic destiny in their own hives. In doing so, we hope to elicit every beekeeper in North Carolina to implement their own queen-rearing program if they so choose.

We will hold numerous **queen-rearing workshops during the spring of 2010** in various locations all across the state. The purpose of the workshops will be to educate a large number of beekeepers in basic queenrearing techniques (e.g., creating cell-builder colonies, grafting, establishing mating nucleus hives, etc...). Each workshop will be open to all beekeepers and the general public, capped at a maximum enrollment (roughly 50 participants, depending on the venue) on a first-come first-serve basis (concurrent sessions will be considered if demand warrants). In doing so, we will conduct separate workshops in each of the major geographic areas across the state to take advantage of the appropriate seasonality: roughly March for Eastern NC, April for Central NC, and May for Western NC. At each event, we will conduct hands-on training exercises that participants can implement immediately, and we will incorporate evaluations and surveys to collect information on each participant for subsequent follow up. *These trainings are geared towards all beekeepers at all levels* and aimed at helping to provide the tools and know-how in raising your own queens.

Once we establish an interested group of beekeepers specifically educated in basic queen-rearing protocols, we will then solicit participants for **advanced bee-breeding clinics in the fall of 2010**. Bee breeding is above and beyond basic queen rearing, since it involves a thorough understanding of genetics, selection, specialized techniques (such as instrumental insemination), data collection, and constant monitoring. We will conduct these trainings in the fall, again in each of the three areas identified above to enable us to concentrate on the unique aspects of the local climate. Unlike the queen-rearing workshops, we will select only those participants who have attended prior training on queen rearing and we will carefully vet the applicants to ensure that the participants are willing and capable of conducting a comprehensive breeding program. We will cap each short course at approximately 15 participants, and we will instruct each participant in basic pedigrees, genetic crosses, selection criteria, trait quantification, prevention of inbreeding, instrumental insemination techniques, and stock analysis. *These trainings are geared towards experienced beekeepers* with an expressed interest in not only queen rearing but stock selection and queen production.

We are currently coordinating the logistics of these workshops and clinics, and we will announce the dates and locations as they become available. As more details emerge, we will post them on our web site at: <http://entomology.ncsu.edu/apiculture/BornAndBred.html>

If you are interested in participating in any of these exciting opportunities, please fill out the [contact information form](#) and send it in to the NC Apiculture Program. We will contact you as offerings become available. Of course, information will be strictly confidential and used only for direct mailings and not further disseminated. We are very pleased to be given this opportunity to offer trainings in queen rearing and bee breeding, and we look forward to working with the beekeepers in North Carolina on this initiative.