



AUGUST 2008

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALAMANCE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS

## Remember...

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What's Blooming.....

Sumac

Heartsease, Smartweed

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Cedarock Park-Heritage Days

August 23<sup>rd</sup>

8:00 until about 4:00

Farm to Table- September 14, 15<sup>th</sup>

Program for 5<sup>th</sup> graders

*Alamance County Beekeepers*

## This month's meeting...

is at Don Moore's house for "Don(Moore) & Don (Hopkins) in the Bee Yard" and Ice Cream Social following the program. The meeting will start at 4:00 pm. Bring your favorite flavor for all to sample and/ or other sweet treats.

Directions to Don's house for those of you that are new ..... Travel 87 N from Burlington. Turn on Stoney Creek Church Rd. and go about two miles (as the bee flies) and Breezy Acres will be on the right side with a Honey Bear and a "Breezy Acres" out front.

August 8, 2008

Wow, can you believe its August all ready?

I have been beekeeping in Durham for almost 6 years now and I have recently been told that it was "illegal" or against the city ordinance. When I called the planning and zoning department over 6 years ago they told me "it does not say anywhere that you can't." I have been trying to promote backyard beekeeping in Durham for the past year and several people told me it was illegal. Great! Now they tell me.

There was a committee meeting recently and beekeeping was on the docket to be discussed all due to a Durham Beekeeper by the name of Buck Horton. Unfortunately on the day of the meeting, Buck was unable to attend. Armed with a bottle of honey, and dressed in my best bee charmer t-shirt, I attended the meeting prepared to advocate for the bees I love.

The ordinance stated that "It's illegal to have a hive in the city if the bees that live in it might fly to somebody else's yard." Although the ordinance was not enforced I particularly did not want to be doing anything illegal, enforced or not. I currently have 10 hives in the city including two at The Sarah P. Duke Gardens. After stating my case and educating the panel on the importance of honey bees and how they need our help I believe the city is going to "heave rules on hives". The only thing they would like to see is a rule to not allow hives in front yards. The County Animal Control director was present, and confirmed that she does not receive complaints regarding honeybees. To me, this is a big win for all beekeepers especially those "wanna bee" beekeepers in the city of Durham.

Donna Devanney

### Minor League Baseball Fans Enjoy NHB-Sponsored "Honey Nights"

Fans of three minor-league baseball teams enjoyed NHB-sponsored "Honey Nights" as part of NHB's summer baseball honey promotion, which included sponsorship of the three teams. Fans participated in honey bear stacking contests and viewed a funny honey video featuring promotion spokesperson Turk Wendell, a former Major League baseball player. Free baseballs were given to fans answering questions about honey, and amid colorful "Sweeeet!" honey signs, the first 1,000 fans leaving the ballparks received pure honey samples.

The official "Honey Nights" at participating ballparks were: July 9, the Iowa Cubs, Des Moines, Iowa; July 17, Stockton Ports, Stockton, Calif.; and July 29, the Durham Bulls, Raleigh/Durham Area, N.C.

NHB's team sponsorship also includes honey serving as the official natural energy booster for the three teams at their training tables. For more information, visit <http://www.honey.com/milb>

### USDA Awards \$4.1 Million to Study Colony Collapse Disorder

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on July 17 an award of \$4 million to the University of Georgia to study the causes of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and other diseases affecting bee populations, whose pollination is valued at \$15 billion annually to U.S. agriculture.

"Bees are an extremely valuable contributor to the overall productivity of American agriculture, but invasive pests, diseases and environmental stresses are putting U.S. bees at serious risk," Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer said. "This research will help beekeepers meet the pollination demand for the nation's food supply."

The Protection of Managed Bees Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP), funded through a four-year grant from USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), aims to improve the health of managed bee populations in agricultural systems. The research will address genomics, breeding, pathology, immunology and applied ecology to explain the causes behind dwindling bee populations. Researchers will work closely with the extension community and other stakeholders to develop and implement mitigation strategies for CCD and other significant problems.

### Farm to Table will be in September.

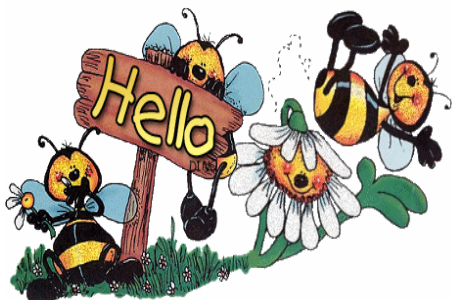
Volunteers are needed to take turns speaking both days. Try to clear your calendar for one or both days and speak on bees & agriculture. Let Don Moore/ Ken Pipes know if you can help.



### Cedarock Heritage Day

The ACB will again participate in the Heritage Day at Cedarock Park. Unfortunately, this year our ACB monthly meeting (program and ice cream social) and the Heritage Day occur on the same date, August 23. We will begin setting up at Cedarock Park at 8:00 A.M. on the 23rd and will be ready for the "early birds" by 9:00 A.M., although the formal start time is 10:00 A.M. We will have the bee cage there and any beekeepers that want to demonstrate manipulating a hive of bees in the cage may do so. These bees will be gentle, so no veil or gloves will be needed, nor worn. Participants will earn one public service credit in the NC Master Beekeeper Program - Journeyman, Master or Master Craftsman levels. We will close down our exhibit around 2-3 P.M. so we can attend the ACB program and Ice Cream Social!!

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Anyone wishing to take the NC Master Beekeeper Program Certified Level practical test may do so at the August 23rd meeting. If you plan to take the test, please call Don Moore prior to the meeting so it can be scheduled. The testing will take at least 30 minutes, but we can have several people taking the tests at the same time if we know in advance how many people want to be tested. So, let Don know well in advance of the August 23rd date. His phone number is 336-584-3195, or you can e-mail him at dlmoore1@bellsouth.net.

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### Honey Facials



#1 For normal skin:  
Mix equal parts honey and yogurt or mix baking soda and water for an exfoliating mask

#2 Moisturizing:  
**Ingredients:**

- 1/2 avocado
- 1/4 cup honey

**Preparation:**  
A classic recipe for dry skin. Mash the avocado in a bowl, then stir in honey.  
Apply to skin and leave for 10 minutes.  
Rinse face with a cool washcloth.

**Article for September : David Mullis**

**September Speaker: John Ambrose on "Beekeeping History"/ location- Western Steakhouse**