

BEEKEEPING NEWS

april, may, june, 2008

a local chapter of NORTH CAROLINA STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

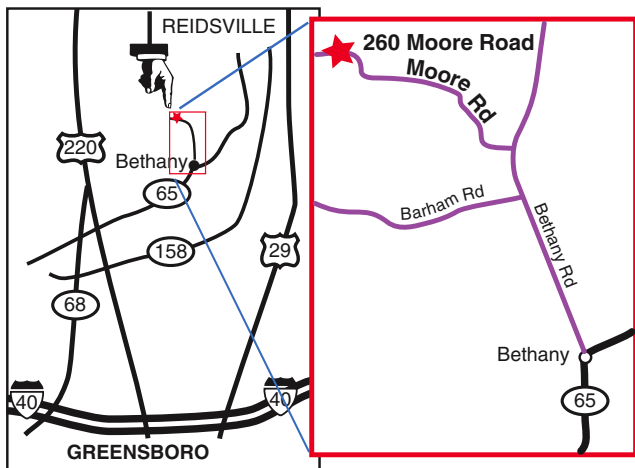


Articles of Interest

Meetings & Programs

- **Saturday, April 19, 10:00 a.m. FIELD DAY**
no REGULAR meeting in April

April 19th - Annual Field Day - Come out as Rockingham County and Guilford County join together to experience the Spring weather and bees buzzing. The Field Day this year will be held at 260 Moore Rd, Reidsville, NC. (see map or check google map on your computer) Guilford County Beekeepers will provide the meat, buns and fixings. We are asking each member to donate \$1 to help offset the cost since there may be 150 plus people in attendance. Members are also asked to bring a dessert or side dish. Drinks, desserts, baked beans, chips and cole-slaw are to be provided by Rockingham County Beekeepers. Anyone interested in taking their certified practical test should be prepared to do so. This means bringing any protective clothing, hive tool and smoker (including fuel and matches.) There will be plenty of hives on site so that beginners can get a look and some hands on experience if desired. Richard Lippard, NCDA Apiary Inspector, will be present to go into the beehives and demonstrate at the Field Day. This event always proves to be a fun event and **remember to BRING A CHAIR.**



- **Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.** (no meal)
Honey Production: Jack Tapp of Busy Bee Apiaries is a commercial beekeeper specializing in pollination, queen rearing, and honey production. Come and hear what it takes to haul in a really big crop.

- **Tuesday, June 10, 6:30 p.m.** (covered dish meal)
The Basics of Beeswax Candle Making: Kurt and Natalie Bower have been making beeswax candles successfully for years. Come and learn about tapers, votives as well as silicone candle molds..

Propolis could be used as a natural, non-toxic food preservative

Thursday, October 25, 2007 by: David Gutierrez (NaturalNews) Extract of propolis may function as a natural antibacterial preservative, according to research conducted by scientists from the National University of Technology in Argentina and published in the journal Food Chemistry.



N.J. Offers Gear To Beekeepers In Training

March 10, 2008
TRENTON, N.J. -- New Jersey officials are trying to create some buzz about beekeeping. The state Agriculture Department is offering \$300 worth of gear to the first 50 to register for and then complete a beekeeping class that's scheduled for Mansfield next month.

The goal is to raise the number of bees in the Garden State. It's not just about honey. Bees are important in pollinating the state's fruit and vegetable crops. Nationally, the number of bees has been on the decline, though.



More Morsels: New ice cream flavor to help the plight of honey bees

By Carolyn Jung, Mercury News 2/27/08
Haagen-Dazs has introduced new Vanilla Honey Bee ice cream. A... (Courtesy of Haagen-Dazs) For the past few years, honeybees, which are essential for crop pollination, have died off in unprecedented numbers. The cause of this alarming condition, known as colony collapse disorder, is not clearly understood.

Oakland's Häagen-Dazs hopes to help shed some light on the matter. With nuts and fruits included in nearly 40 percent of its ice cream flavors, the company knows full well the value of bees.



That's why a portion of proceeds from its new Vanilla Honey Bee flavor, as well as some other flavors, will go toward research into sustainable pollination and colony collapse disorder at Pennsylvania State University and the Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility at the University of California-Davis. The other flavors, which all have ingredients dependent on honeybee pollination, feature an "HD loves HB" (Häagen-Dazs loves Honey Bees) logo on the container. Häagen-Dazs will donate up to \$250,000 toward those research efforts. Suggested retail for the new Vanilla Honey Bee flavor is \$4.19 per pint. For more information on the honeybee efforts, go to helpthehoneybees.com.

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Hear the latest buzz? It's all about buffed-up bees

By Jack Gillum

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

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In a world obsessed with performance enhancement, underperforming bees can now get some zing in their sting. One Tucson entomologist is trying to beef up the pollinating insects, which may become nutritionally deficient from a lack of variety in their diet. Gordon Wardell, president of SAFE R&D LLC in Tucson, spent four years researching the right concoction to give nature's little workers some extra pep.

A solution is critical, he said, because beekeepers worry their bees aren't going to be adequate pollinators.

"We want to make bees healthier and live longer," said Wardell, who is in a cooperative research agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Carl Hayden Bee Research Center in Tucson.

"So we feed it to them — like a bee smoothie."

"MegaBee" is made by Yuma-based Castle Dome Solutions LLC in partnership with Hamilton, Ill.-based Dadant and Sons Inc. as a product for commercial and hobbyist beekeepers. Castle Dome started manufacturing MegaBee in September, said Cherie Gilmore, the company's sales manager.

A new protein shake must be the bee's knees: One part amino acids, a dollop of lipids and a hefty dose of pH balance, among other ingredients, may make for a better supplement that could help buck the trend of vanishing hives.

In what has over the last year become known as colony-collapse disorder, honeybees disappear from their hives. Dead bees are seldom found and there is no evidence of disease, predators or other causes in their nearly empty homes.

And while scientists have tried to find the "smoking gun" that causes the disorder, Wardell believes it could be a symptom of poor nutrition. The paradigm for beekeeping has changed in the last 20 years, Wardell said. And since some plants, like almonds, bloom at the end of January, bees have to be stimulated to work earlier.

The new supplement, distributed by Dadant, comes as a powder that can be fed to bees dry, made into patties or given as a liquid. The supplement mimics the granular texture of natural pollen. "It's a very nutritional diet for the bees," said Wade Fisher, a third-generation pollinator who works in several areas, including Florida and New England states, and who is just starting to use MegaBee. "When you're trying to imitate Mother Nature, it's just not easy."



11.12.2007

Industrial Pheromone Tricks Bees into Collecting More Pollen Now New and Improved! (Or Is That Hopped Up and Over Stressed?)

By Kim Flottum

And now for the Next Installment of Industrial Strength Beekeeping: A steroid-laced tool.

A brand new pollination aide has been released just in time for the multi-million dollar almond bloom in February. Phero-tech, an agricultural products company in Canada, working with researchers from Texas A&M, have developed a synthetic honey bee pheromone that can be used by beekeepers to boost the pollinating activity of their bees, and to help the overall health of the colony.

It's a synthetic pheromone mimicking that produced by baby bees in a hive -- scientists call it brood pheromone. Baby bees produce this pheromone to urge foraging bees to gather pollen to feed them. The more babies, the more pheromone produced and the more pollen collected. As more pheromone is produced and released in a hive, the number of bees in the hive that are pollen collectors increases, the amount each bee collects increases, and, to get even more pollen younger and younger bees are drafted to start collecting pollen. And, not-surprisingly, lots and lots of pollen is collected.

Of course when collecting pollen, foraging honey bees are transferring pollen between those flowers that are producing the crops the beekeepers are hired to pollinate.

From a growers perspective, this is only getting better ... they can hire the same number of bees, and get more and better pollination. They'll get more crop but spend the same amount of money on pollination. From the beekeepers perspective, too, this is only getting better, isn't it? The same number of bees can do more work, so fewer colonies are needed at any particular orchard, freeing up colonies to rent to more growers.

So, fewer bees per orchard ... wait a minute! Maybe that's not right. Growers will simply hire fewer bees to work harder to do the same amount of work as more bees used to do. Fewer bees means spending less money. And those pheromone-spiked bees, why they'll make more crop. Growers will spend less money and make more money.

Right now, I don't know if the colony will be better off because of this increased activity or not. The literature isn't clear.

Maybe beekeepers better think this through. And I wonder what the bees think.



Guilford County Beekeepers Association

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Norman Faircloth, editor (nfaircloth@northstate.net)

- Don Hopkins, State Inspector: (336) 376-8250
- Guilford County Beekeepers Association web site www.guilfordbeekeepers.org
- North Carolina State Beekeepers Association web site www.ncbeekeepers.org



Beehive bandits hit hard at almond pollination

HERALD, Calif. Third-generation beekeeper Roscoe Hall spent the past year fretting over a disease that's inexplicably caused thousands of his industrious insects to abandon their colonies. Now, entire hives are disappearing, too. In the long, flat valley where the nation's almonds grow, bee thieves are striking hard this winter, nabbing increasingly valuable hives from farmers' fields where bees are used to pollinate blossoming nut trees.

A few weeks ago, 180 of Hall's hives were lifted over a period of days, a bit of banditry he estimates cost him nearly \$70,000 in lost bees, pollination fees and honey production. "If a man doesn't have his bees under lock and key these days, he's going to pay for it," Hall said as he opened one of his remaining hives to reveal thousands of amber-colored bees busy in the honeycomb. "Even then they'll find a way of breaking the lock.

"Each year, thousands of keepers haul their bees to California during bloom season to work with farmers who depend on the insects for more bountiful almond crops, larger blueberries and perfect watermelons. But a bee shortage largely the result of a puzzling ailment called Colony Collapse Disorder that causes adult bees to forsake their broods has pushed the cost of renting a hive this year to \$200 in some places, up from about \$55 four years ago.

As the price of pollination soars, each hive becomes a sitting gold mine, sheriff's deputies say. Skilled criminals simply dump the colony into a new container, and rent the bees to farmers as their own, pocketing the fee they're paid for pollination. "Just from the buzz that's out there, our detectives are thinking hive thefts are increasing," said Bill Yoshimoto, project director for the Central Valley-based Agricultural Crime Technology Information and Operations Network. "If there's even a further shortage because of bee thefts, that's a problem for everyone." But the hive heists have set keepers in California back as much as \$330,000 in the past year and a half, including the cost of the hives, the bees, and the money they would have earned from pollination and honey-making, according to local sheriff's departments.



"Honeybees thrive in the warm, winter feeding grounds of California, and almond farms of all sizes use the pollinators' services to grow about 80 percent of the world's almonds. In pollination, bees take pollen from one flower to another flower to fertilize the seed, which gives the plant a signal to build a fruit around the seed. Still, the risk of getting stung keeps most novice burglars from filching bee hives, authorities say. Keepers typically stack their hives two-tall on wooden pallets, which bees included, can weigh up to 500 pounds and require a forklift to move. "A hive isn't something you just throw into your trunk," said Orin Johnson, a former president of the California Beekeeper's Association, "Generally it's someone with knowledge, experience and equipment who thinks 'Go-lee, it's just easier to go and load someone else's hives up than it is to make my own.

Beekeepers try to fend off thieves by burning both the wooden boxes where the bees form their colonies and the frames where they build their honeycombs with individual brand numbers they're issued by the state. Others, like Johnson, are going high-tech, buying traceable microchips that can be implanted into the boxes. Global positioning technology sends an alert to the owners once the hives are on the move, but some keepers complain it's too late to find them by then since the chips can only be traced at close range. Johnson lost 70 hives to a bandit a few years ago, but authorities eventually found them lying in an orchard in the next county. After placing a lien on the thief's property, Johnson recovered about \$5,000, but he said he had to spend extra money nursing his sick bees back to health and replacing several queens the thief let die. Hall, who earns 80 percent of his annual income renting bees during the almond bloom, said he was too busy working to worry about buying fancy security devices to guard his hives. As he scrambles to meet farmers' orders, he's stashed his remaining colonies in a field of wild mustard in Herald, a tiny farm town 30 miles from Sacramento. Thousands of scouts mostly female workers made a light hum on a recent afternoon as they flew into the boxes packing gobs of brilliant yellow pollen on their hind legs to feed their brood. "It hurts us, don't get me wrong," Hall said. "We'll get everything made back up and go again. These little animals keep going, and we do, too." 2008 The Honolulu Advertiser

