
NEWSLETTER OF THE GUILFORD COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
APRIL, MAY, JUNE, 2015

Norman Faircloth, the editor of our newsletter, is taking a break from editorial duties. This edition of the newsletter is our effort to keep the membership informed in his absence.

- **MEETINGS & PROGRAMS**

April 19 @2:00PM—FIELD DAY- at the McLeansville Wildlife Club.

For location and other information about the Wildlife Club, follow this link--

<http://mcleansvillewildlifeclub.com/location/>

You bring side dishes/desserts to share and the club furnishes hamburgers, hotdogs and the fixings to go with them. Bring family and bring friends who might be interested in beekeeping. We will have information about treating bees and demonstrations of extracting equipment and simple bee vacuums. We also plan to have a tour through a hive.

MAY 12 @6:30PM...covered dish meal (bring a dish or dessert)—Rob Jacobs will present ideas for when you are asked to give a talk about honey bees. He invites others who give bee presentations to join him so that we all will be better prepared to make friends for bees.

JUNE 9 @7:00PM....no meal—Linda Dixon, a Registered Nurse and certified American Red Cross Basic Life Support Instructor, will speak about types of allergic reactions to bee stings, basic first aid for stings, and proper use of epipens.

TWO MEMBERS OF THE GUILFORD BEEKEEPERS AWARDED LIFE MEMBERSHIPS IN OUR ASSOCIATION

Norman Faircloth and Martha Boren, both master beekeepers and long time members of the Guilford County Beekeepers Association were awarded lifetime memberships at our Christmas dinner this past December. The membership voted these awards for their service to the association in many capacities over the years. Both have held office in the association. Norman has served as past president, treasurer, and editor of the newsletter. He has taught at the Beginner

Beekeeping course for many years. Martha has been our presence at the Guilford County Agricultural Fair and has given presentations at the association to teach other members the ins and outs of award winning honey presentations. She was a Vice President and director of the Guilford Beekeepers.



Martha Boren



Norman Faircloth

OXALIC ACID APPROVED FOR VARROA MITE CONTROL

On March 12, 2015, the EPA announced approval of the use of oxalic acid as an active ingredient for use against the varroa mite. The rapid approval process is one result of the President's June 20, 2014 memorandum creating a federal strategy to promote the health of pollinators, including the honey bee. Oxalic acid had previously been registered as an antimicrobial pesticide with the EPA. An updated review of earlier studies and a "work share" agreement with Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency helped expedite risk assessment. Canada has permitted in-hive use of oxalic acid for mite control since 2010.

Oxalic acid is a relatively strong organic acid found naturally in many plants and vegetables, as well as in honey. Oxalic acid in concentrations above the recommended rates of dilution can be highly toxic to adult honey bees. Used at the recommended concentrations, and when brood is absent or at a minimum, testing has shown that the adult honey bees can tolerate oxalic acid while providing effective control of mites. Testing suggests that the oxalic treatment is toxic to brood. **Because oxalic acid is corrosive to the eyes and skin and**

may be highly irritating and damaging to the respiratory system if inhaled, the product's label will require the use of a respirator and goggles in addition to personal protective equipment (long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and gloves).

Oxalic acid will be labeled for application by 3 different methods:

1. By solution to package bees (oxalic acid in sugar solution is applied as a spray to the package)
2. By solution to beehives (oxalic acid in sugar solution is trickled between frames and other spaces)
3. Vapor treatment of beehives (oxalic acid dehydrate is heated and the vapor sublimates in the hive)

According to Brushy Mountain Bee Farm, oxalic acid remains technically illegal until it is approved for use by the State of North Carolina and until proper use and mixing instructions appear on product labels. For Randy Oliver's experiences with oxalic acid and his warnings and instructions about the diluting and application of oxalic acid, follow the "Scientific Beekeeping" link to his website at www.guilfordbeekeepers.org and type in the search term "oxalic."

A SLOWDOWN ON THE APPROVAL OF NEONICS?

The Environmental Protection Agency issued a notice to registrants of neonicotinoid products on April 2, 2015. "EPA believes that until the data on pollinator health have been received and appropriate risk assessments completed, it is unlikely to be in a position to determine that such uses would avoid 'unreasonable adverse effects on the environment' as required under FIFRA to support further regulatory expansion of these pesticides in outdoor settings." In an earlier portion of the letter, the EPA stated it would, ". . . specifically receive data on potential impacts of a pesticide on developing bees (larvae, pupae), oral exposures and data which will examine potential adverse effects on honey bee colonies. These data are being generated now under the Registration Review program for this class of pesticides."

MORE WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH GUILFORD BEEKEEPERS

In addition to our website/blog at www.guilfordbeekeepers.org , Donna Wallace is managing our Facebook page, and Jamie Firth is managing our Twitter page. Look for them all and stay in touch. If you have Facebook and Twitter accounts, search "Guilford Beekeepers" and get connected.

James Brown, President

Levern Allen, Vice-President

James Parker, Treasurer

Sam Coble, Secretary

Jack Fleming, Ruth Edwards, Jamie Firth--Directors