

Joco Beekeepers

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the
Johnston County Beekeepers Association



JOHNSTON COUNTY
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION

Officers

President Al Hildreth
Secretary Thomas Anderson
Treasurer Evie Vose
Program Director David Massengill

Directors

1st Director Ronnie Fish
2nd Director Janice Turrisi
3rd Director May Markoff
Webmaster Facebook Newsletter Adam Pendergrass

Meeting information

Third Monday each month 7:00 pm.
Johnston County Agricultural Center
2736 NC 210 Hwy
Smithfield, NC US 27577
[\(map it\)](#)

August Meeting Agenda

The August meeting will feature 'Getting Ready for NC State Fair Competition' presented by Al Hildreth.

Pig picking

At last count we had 75 attendees at the pig pickin everything was perfect and we would like to give a big thanks to David Massengill and to all the volunteers for their hard work.

CLUB Gear

T-shirts and hats will be available for pickup at our next meeting. Please bring small bills or checks made to JCBA

Queens for sale!

Club member Ronald Lassiter has queens for sale his number is 919-235-8004.

Businesses and Services

Businesses and Services offered by JCBA are listed on our website at [\(click here\)](#)

Like us on social media



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Would like to be featured in the newsletter?

Please submit your request to Newsletter@jacobee.org

August Bee Tips!

Early August is prime time for invasive wasps and yellow jackets. Installing an entrance reducer can help by giving the guard bees more control over the entrance.

Aug 5th golden rod is in bloom.

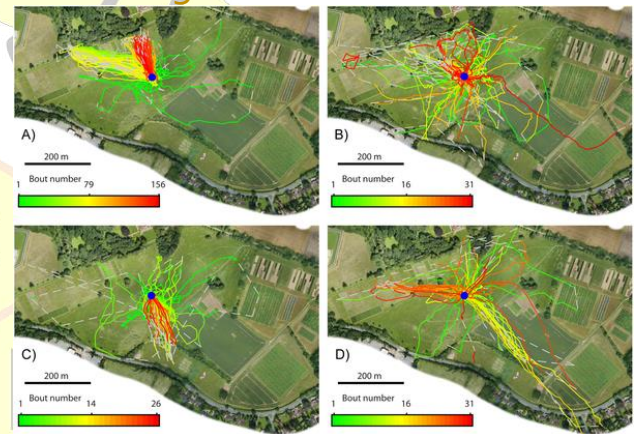


Flow Hive Frustrations by May Markoff

I have a Flow Hive I purchased in 2015 that arrived in December. I placed it on one of my strongest hives in early March. (I must preface my story with a little background details that may have impacted this year's outcome: First we had a late freeze that killed a lot of new growth and buds on trees, flowers and vegetation...a nectar set back. Then the weeks of rain came and delayed the foragers from getting an early start to the season by washing away nectar and pollen also.) So, back to the Flow Hive...The FH was on the strong hive for a few weeks and on the next sunny clear day, they swarmed. So I moved the FH to another colony and yup, that colony swarmed too. I was beginning to think it was because of the FH but then I was vindicated as my neighbors hive swarmed too! There have been record numbers of swarms this year. Anyway, I persevered and tried spraying the frames with sugar water but that didn't help. Then I removed the queen excluder and that didn't help. Then I read an article that suggested coating the FH frames with melted wax. I tried that and sure enough that worked. It took a good month to get the girls to start to store nectar in the FH but sure enough it's finally happening. They didn't like virgin plastic frames. The bees are very high in

numbers now and the FH is full of bees and honey is getting stored. It's been a very long road. The queen excluder is on 2 deep hive bodies and I will see how much they store in this honey super before I have to remove it in the fall. I do not plan to leave it on during the winter because the hive will be wintering with 2 hive bodies. I will wrap and freeze the FH frames to place back on in the spring. I was asked if I had to do this over again, would I buy the FH? I said "Because this was a strange year, I can't say for certain so, ask me again next year. 🐝😊"

Scientists Chart the Lifetime of a Bee in Flight Paths



Using harmonic radar tracking, scientists in the U.K. have monitored the entire lifetime of flights taken by four worker bees. The research, which was published in PLOS ONE this week, breaks down the bees' flights into two categories: exploration (when the bee is first figuring out where to find what it needs) and exploitation (efficient, straight flight paths based on previous knowledge).

Interestingly, bees tended to continue exploring even after they had figured out the best route. And while bees may be thought of as efficient worker drones, the four surveilled bees actually showed a large variation in their behavior. Previous research has looked at bees' DNA to determine the presence of personality, and this new study bolsters the idea that bees are far more unique than you might think. The researchers write:

"One bee developed a straight route to a forage patch within four flights and followed this route exclusively for six days before abandoning it entirely for a closer location; this second location had not been visited since her first exploratory flight nine days prior. Another bee made only rare exploitation flights and continued to explore widely throughout its life; two other bees showed more frequent switches between exploration and exploitation."

[\(read more\)](#)

Varroa has reached Australia?

Raising the fear that varroa has now entered Australia, the last major land mass free of the mite. Varroa has been found in a colony of the Asian hive bee *Apis cerana*, found in a container at the port of Townsville, Queensland in northern Australia. The colony has now been destroyed, but it may have been present for some time, raising the fear that varroa has now entered Australia, the last major land mass free of the mite. The key will be which species and haplotype the mites were, which will indicate whether they can live on the western honey bee, *Apis mellifera*. [\(read more\)](#)

Africanized bees found in South Carolina for 1st time in 15 years.

A colony of Africanized honey bees has been destroyed in Charleston County, according to officials. The Africanized bees are the first to be found in South Carolina in 15 years, experts said. Last Africanized bees in state found in Greenville in 2001. [\(read more\)](#)

How Do Honey Bees Curl Their Abdomens?

Thanks to new research published in the Journal of Insect Science, the movement of the many-segmented bee butt is a little less mysterious. In 2015, a team of researchers from Tsinghua University in Beijing used a high-speed camera to observe how honey bees curl their abdomens while in flight and under restraint. The work confirmed that bees can manipulate the shape of their

abdomens (for instance, to improve stability while flying), but that they can only bend in one direction — down, toward the bee's underside. Now, in a follow-up paper, the same team has identified the mechanism behind that movement. Specialized membranes that connect a honey bee's abdominal segments are thicker on the top of the abdomen than on the bottom, allowing curling in just one direction. [\(read more\)](#)

CNN Story – Spraying for Mosquitoes – Cover Your Bees!

After the first locally transmitted cases of the Zika virus were identified in a small area north of downtown Miami, officials began to spray an insecticide over a 10-square-mile portion of Miami-Dade County on Thursday morning. But what was in the insecticide, and how does it work?

The main ingredient of the insecticide, Dibrom, is the chemical Naled. It works by killing mosquitoes on contact. Sprayers produce very fine droplets that are small enough to stay airborne and intercept mosquitoes in flight.

Naled does not pose a health risk to either people or pets when sprayed in low concentrations, according to both the Environmental Protection Agency (PDF) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Mosquito Control Section has applied Naled via an ultra-low-volume spray for many years, officials said in a news release. In fact, Dibrom has been used in the United States over the past 50 years, said Timothy J. Donnelly, vice president, chief administrative officer and general counsel of AMVAC Chemical Corp., which makes the insecticide. "It is regularly sprayed in 12 states on over 15 million acres each year," Donnelly said. Since the variety of mosquito that carries Zika is most active predawn and at sunset, all spraying must take place at those times. Special precautions are not necessary, Miami-Dade County officials advised, though people with allergies may want to remain indoors. **During any insecticide operation, it is recommended that beekeepers cover their bees.** [\(read more\)](#)