

Joco Beekeepers

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



Officers

- President** Barney Biles
- Vice President** Al Hildreth
- Secretary** Adam Pendergrass
- Treasurer** May Markoff
- Program Director** Thomas Anderson

Directors

- 1st Director** Thunderhawk Chavis
- 2nd Director** Jim Dempster
- 3rd Director** Troy Fair
- Extension Agent** Brandon Parker
- Webmaster/Social Media** Adam Pendergrass

JOHNSTON COUNTY
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION

Meeting Information & Agenda

- ✓ The May meeting speaker will be Jennifer Keller from the NCSU Bee Lab will be presenting State Fair Exhibits and Contests - How to Bring Home the Blue Ribbons!
- ✓ Be sure and check out the recent updates to the JCBA website, like the new Beekeeping Glossary
- ✓ Sign up for the Swarm List
- ✓ Free door prizes
- ✓ JCBA 2018 membership ([link](#))
- ✓ NCSBA 2018 membership ([link](#))

In this Issue

- Officers..... 1
- Directors..... 1
- Meeting Information & Agenda 1
- BEE Basics before each meeting! 1
- 2018 Swarm list 1
- Reminder to check mite loads!..... 1
- Have a story? Would you like to be featured in the newsletter?..... 1
- Businesses and Services..... 1
- Native Plants for Bees!..... 1
- Like us on social media  1
- This Month's Bee Tips!..... 2
- Bayer Young Beekeeper Award 2
- JCBA Members Tagging Bees at the Bee lab! 2
- New Cover Lets in Only Red Light, and Keeps Small Hive Beetles Out..... 2
- Robotic Bees Are a Real Thing 3
- From the Bee Yard!..... 3
- Classifieds 4

BEE Basics before each meeting!

This is a new program started in January 2018 and still running. "BEE Basics" is a general talk held before each meeting. At 6:30 - 6:55. The purpose is to gain basic info for NEW Beekeepers & Reminders for experienced Beekeepers.

2018 Swarm list

Do you want to get on the JCBA swarm list? Contact Steve Rhudy at the monthly meeting and sign up!

Reminder to check mite loads!

From Jim Dempster
Remember to check mite loads! Check varroa mite levels now. Last week I completed a proposed varroa mite treatment and found high levels of infestation. This week I am using MAQ strips along with sticky boards and collecting dead bees. Now I am finding extremely high 24 hour counts of mites. Good news is that very few deformed wing issues meaning the infestation is recent. It is unusual for high mite counts at this time of year and probably from the warming and cooling weather cycles this spring.

Beekeepers will need to decide how to manage the mites if the thresholds are exceeded. They also need to keep in mind what the options are if honey supers are in place. If they want to treat- then it would be MAQ Strips (formic acid strips) which can be applied while having honey supers.

Have a story? Would you like to be featured in the newsletter?

Please submit your request to Newsletter@jacobee.org

Businesses and Services

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

Native Plants for Bees!

Link for native plants good for bees ([click here](#))

Like us on social media 

This Month's Bee Tips!

From: Nancy Ruppert, Apiary Inspector, NCDA & CS
CALENDAR FOR BEEKEEPING IN CENTRAL NORTH
CAROLINA

This month MAY

- ☑ Nectar flow continues keep adding supers; get extraction/bottling equipment ready. Consider adding an additional hive entrance (via 5/8" hole or shim) above brood area, for foragers.
- ☑ Swarming continues keep up prevention/capture measures.
- ☑ Replace failing queens.
- ☑ Start planting annuals for future nectar/pollen supplementation.
- ☑ Install traps for small hive beetles if needed (i.e., if more than 20 adult beetles seen in hive).
- ☑ Place two or more bee "watering holes" in apiary, if not already present.

Next month JUNE

- ☑ Main nectar flow starts to dwindle---fewer supers needed, unless sourwood nearby: if in area of sourwood, consider harvesting available honey before mid-June sourwood flow to ensure more "pure" sourwood crop.
- ☑ If honey being harvested, put "wet" supers back on hives late in day to limit robbing.
- ☑ Can start late season splits during last half of June; feed splits initially, even if there is nectar available.
- ☑ Continue measures to control small hive beetle population.
- ☑ Keep water for bees constantly available.
- ☑ Make plans for attending NCSBA Summer Meeting in mid-July.

Bayer Young Beekeeper Award

The 2018 Bayer Bee Care Young Beekeeper Award provides entrants between the ages of 12 and 18 the opportunity to win a \$3,000 (1st place), \$2,000 (2nd place) or \$1,000 (3rd place) prize to support honey bee-focused initiatives in their schools or communities or to be applied toward college tuition. Any student under 18 who has approval from a legal guardian as well as a sponsoring mentor, such as an apiarist/beekeeper, grower, community leader, teacher, school official, etc., may apply. If you're between the ages of 12 and 18 and already working with pollinators, you're eligible!

Article: <http://www.bee-culture.com/catch-the-buzz-six-reasons-why-you-should-apply-for-the-young-beekeeper-award>

Bayer form: <https://beehealth.bayer.us/what-is-bayer-doing/bayer-bee-care-center/young-beekeeper-award>

JCBA Members Tagging Bees at the Bee Lab!

Here are 2 members of the club Tom and Thunderhawk tagging bees at the NC bee lab!

Video 1 : <https://youtu.be/zC1nofKMPJc>

Video 2: <https://youtu.be/czBhW6goU6s>



New Cover Lets in Only Red Light, and Keeps Small Hive Beetles Out

"For about 22 years, we've had a problem with small hive beetles," Superior Hive Solutions' Michael Richardson tells a group of roughly 50 people. He's speaking at a networking event at the Springfield Art Museum, known as 1 Million Cups. "They eat the bees." Richardson tells the audience the beetles were first found in 1996 in Charleston, South Carolina, where they were most likely imported on a loaded

fruit from South Africa.

He moves on to explain his company's idea: a transparent, red piece of acrylic shaped like a lid. It fits over a honey bee box hive, known professionally as a Langstroth hive, which almost looks like a small set of drawers. As sunlight shines through the acrylic, it creates red light inside the hive that disturbs small hive beetles and deters them away. He calls the product the Beetle Banisher. Working like a charm Later, at local beekeeper John Raleigh's residence, Richardson and business partner Joseph Bennett explain how their idea was discovered. After using a white light to build and repair honey bee hives at night, the partners went home covered in stings. "The bees don't like white lights, so they got really angry and we got stung a lot through our suits," Bennett says. "We were wondering if we even wanted to be messing with bees from then on." Later, Bennett and Richardson learned through another beekeeping friend that while white light is troublesome to bees, red light doesn't bother them. "We did some research and found bees see red as black, so we got some lights and went out at night and started working on the hives, and we didn't get stung," Bennett said. "They just didn't care." The discovery led them back to the small hive beetle — a pest they were growing tired of dealing with, Bennett says. They wanted to test whether the parasite had an aversion the red light. "Sure enough, they couldn't stand it," Bennett said. "So, we decided to make a top." Once prototypes for Bennett and Richardson's product came in, several were sent to beekeepers in Florida, where small hive beetles are a year-round concern. "I must admit I was skeptical at first as everyone seems to have the absolute answer with their theories and gimmicks," one testimonial on the Beetle Banisher's website reads. "Bottom line ... I'm impressed. I think this is really a step in the right direction for a minimally-invasive, chemical-free process for reducing or eliminating small hive beetle presence in the hive." One prototype went to Raleigh, too. "I put the lid on a hive and I left it there for six days," John said. "I went back and looked at the hive and in the top box, there were no beetles. The second box had a few, in the third box there was a few—you get less light as you go through there—but I put it back on for four more days, and I came back and looked, and basically, they were gone."

Read more: <http://www.bee-culture.com/catch-the-buzz-new-cover-lets-in-only-red-light-and-keeps-small-hive-beetles-out>

Robotic Bees Are a Real Thing

The buzz about pollination drones is more important than ever, and companies like Walmart want in on the action. When several types of bees and bumblebees made the endangered-species list thanks to declining bee populations it's easy to see why companies are looking towards robotics as a possible solution.

After all, bees supply more than just honey. Without busy bees pollinating plants, domestic crops such as various fruit and vegetables could be hit hard.

More than 75 percent of the world's food crops rely at least in part on pollination by insects and other animals.

Between \$235 billion and \$577 billion worth of annual global food production relies on direct contributions by pollinators, according to a 2016 report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

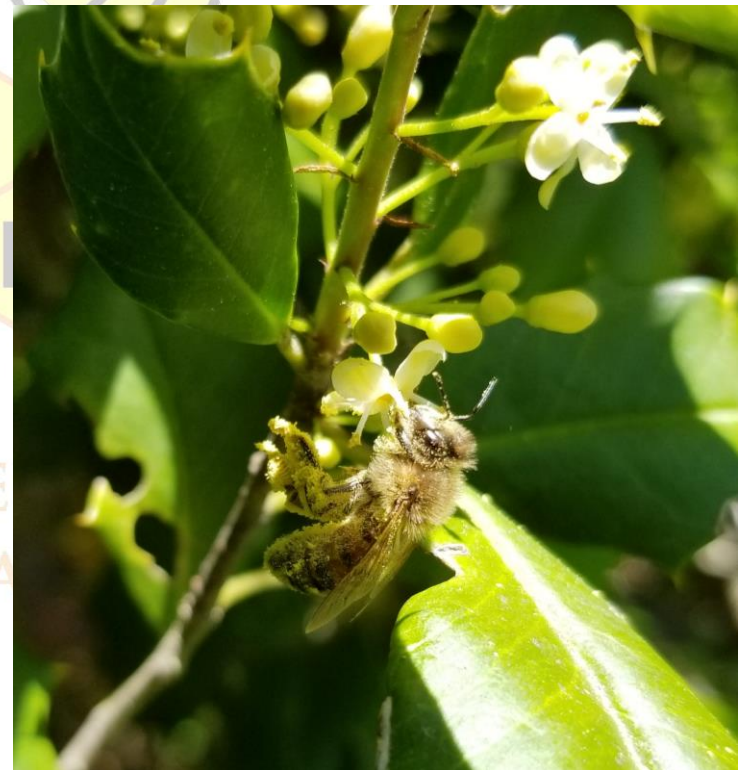
The European Union went so far as to recently ban all outdoor use of pesticides containing harmful neonicotinoids to protect bee populations overseas.

Now Walmart wants to get in on the act of giving bees a helping hand while investing in advanced robotics.

Read more: <http://www.bee-culture.com/catch-the-buzz-robotic-bees-are-a-real-thing-and-the-company-funding-them-might-surprise-you/>

From the Bee Yard!

If you have pictures you would like to have in the newsletter send them to newsletter@jacobee.org





Classifieds

May Markoff has nucs for sale: with good laying marked queen born early April from a split, has 5 natural wired wax frames (#1 is honey, #2 is nectar and eggs, #3 is nectar and eggs, #4 capped brood, larvae and eggs, #5 is pollen and honey.) All brood covered with nurse bees, good active healthy colony, all parent colonies were treated in February with MAQS, asking \$150, can bring a nuc box to my home to transfer frames over early evening in good weather. No guarantee, no trading frames. Will have 3 more nucs available end of month after laying pattern is proven.



CLACK
B A
N COUNTY
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION