



WAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

www.wakecountybeekeepers.org

May Meeting: Tuesday, May 8th, 2012 at 7:30 pm

Location: Wake County Office Park – 4011 Cary Dr. Raleigh, NC 27610

Featured Program
Speaker: Eleanor Spicer Rice of the Entomology Dept. of NCSU – Honey bees and medicine.

April Meeting Summary

- Upcoming meeting dates:



May 8th, Tuesday, 7:30 pm

June 12th, Tuesday, 7:30 pm.

- The association is working toward setting up 4 hives at the Wake County Office Park for our use. There are currently two hives installed in the demonstration yard at Cary Drive.
- Andy Currin, Charles Heatherly and Dr. Ambrose met with the staff at the Town of Cary and reached what they thought to be a reasonable proposal for beekeeping rules in Cary.
- The club will be raffling an extractor, uncapping tank and knife, and a bottling kit with filters. Tickets will be available from April 10 through the meeting in June when the tickets will be drawn.
- An auction to benefit the Raleigh Police Widows and Orphans Fund was held after the meeting and \$277.00 was raised for this purpose.
- There will be an additional beekeeping school May 19 and 20 with the practical for anyone that has previously passed the test but not taken the practical on the second day.
- Glenn Hackney gave a program on various diseases and how he looks at the carriers in the lab. He invited beekeepers to bring their diseased bees to him for analysis. He said to call him.

Hey, catch this swarm!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

April Meeting	1
NCSBA Events	2
WCBA Officers	2
Back to Basics 2012	3
Medicinal use of manuka honey	3
May in the Bee Yard	4
Member Volunteer Opportunities	4



2012 WCBA Officers:

President:
Andy Currin

Vice President:
Steve Brown

Secretary:
Gordon Goeking

Treasurer:
Neil Woodcock

Program Chairman:
Raymond Goodman

Board of Directors:
Vivian Joyner
To serve 2 years
Danny Jaynes
To serve 1 year
Larry Williams
To serve 3 years

Education Materials:
Ben Crawley

WCBA officer contact information can be found on the WCBA website:
www.wakecountybeekeepers.org

Location of Club Extractors & Equipment:

The club owns equipment that is available for members to borrow. Please contact the following people for equipment:
Steve Hildebrand: Knightdale 919-266-9464; Vivian Joyner: New Hill 919-387-0164; James Knox: Raleigh 919-847-5098; Larry Hall: Central Wake 919-612-4499. See complete list on the WCBA website.

Upcoming NCSBA Events



- Check the NCBSA website for detailed information on these events:
<http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/news.htm>
- Scheduled NCSBA Summer Meetings:
 - **July 12-14, 2012 NCSBA Summer Meeting** in Lumberton, NC.
 - **August 13-17, 2012 EAS Conference**, Burlington, VT.

Want to learn more the Master Beekeeper Program in NC?

The **MBP** program was established in the fall of 1982 for the purpose of providing an infrastructure whereby beekeepers can improve their beekeeping skills and knowledge on a continuous basis.

To learn about the requirements for the certified, journeyman, master, and master craftsman levels visit:

<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/entomology/apiculture/mbp.html>
and
<http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/master.html>.

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Remember to bring and wear your name tag to each meeting so we can easily identify one another.

Check off your name on the attendance sheet so we can track membership attendance.

We would also like Visitor's to check in and fill out a name badge.

March Bee Keeping Class



Our March Beginning Beekeeper class was full with 65 participants. The time was well spent and the new class of beekeepers is now setting up their first bee hives. We will have our second beginning class May 19 and 20.

Back to the Basics 2012:

It seems that winter came to an abrupt end and summer weather is upon us. Many of you have either installed your new packages of bees or split your hives to develop a new colony. These are going to be weak colonies until they can establish themselves so be sure to feed adequately.

It is also worth noting that with the spring flow starting earlier, it will more than likely end earlier. In years past, this has resulted in a longer summer dearth (a period of little or no nectar flow). **Be cautious if you do a late spring honey harvest as you may need to feed if such a dearth occurs.**

A Sweet Way to Treat Wounds



Treating a simple cut or scratch isn't always so simple anymore, a fact that is becoming clearer with every new report of drug-resistant skin bacteria turning once-minor wounds into threats to life or limb.

That's why I'm intrigued by a new study showing what medical-grade manuka honey—a type of honey that's harvested from manuka trees in Australia and New Zealand and then sterilized—can do in our battle against out-of-control skin infections. It isn't just that this honey kills microbes—other honeys can do that, too. What's new is that lead researcher Sarah E. Maddocks, [PhD, an associate lecturer in microbiology at Cardiff Metropolitan University in Wales](#), discovered that manuka honey also has the potential to detach bacteria from wounds, which makes wounds easier to treat with topical medications.

What makes manuka honey so special? For one thing, manuka contains much higher concentrations of methylglyoxal, compared with other honeys, which makes it a superior microbe fighter. The main type of antimicrobial ingredient in other types of honey is hydrogen peroxide, Dr. Maddocks said.

She analyzed medical-grade manuka honey, specifically, because it's irradiated and therefore sterilized. Honeys that are sold for eating are not sterilized, she explained, and therefore might contain microorganisms that can be transferred to wounds and cause infection. But don't worry—you can still buy the medical grade variety.

Bad News for Bacteria

In lab petri dishes, Dr. Maddocks and her team treated samples of *Streptococcus pyogenes*—a skin bacterium often found in slow-to-heal surgical infections—with 20% to 25% concentrations of medical-grade manuka honey. Within two hours, the honey produced big results—85% of the bacteria were destroyed.

The most interesting part of the study was that the honey also stopped the bacteria from binding to proteins that often are found in wounds. Normally when bacteria stick to these proteins, they form a barrier to healing when the wound is treated with topical drugs, such as antimicrobial creams.

So with this one-two punch, the honey appears to have the power to minimize the likelihood of infection and make the wound easier to treat. If it starts being used on a wide scale, medical-grade manuka might do even more than save patients unnecessary suffering—it could save buckets of money as well. Dr. Maddocks estimated that in the developed world, between 2% and 4% of all health-care expenses go toward treating nonhealing wounds. Her study was published this past January in *Microbiology*.

Easy to use, a little hard to find:

Though more research needs to be done to confirm its effectiveness on people's actual wounds in clinical trials, not just on bacteria in petri dishes, Dr. Maddocks said that some hospitals all over the world already use medical-grade manuka honey, mainly to treat serious, chronic wounds. But if you want to use it on a minor wound yourself at home, it's a good natural option, according to Daily Health News contributing editor Richard O'Brien, MD, an attending emergency physician at Moses Taylor Hospital in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Manuka honey tends to be costly since it needs to be imported great distances. It's available in some pharmacies, but regular manuka honey found in health or food stores usually isn't medical-grade. And you can't sterilize regular manuka honey yourself. The best place to find it is online—just be sure that the label states that it's "medical-grade" or "sterilized."

To use medical-grade manuka honey on a minor wound, first clean the wound with mild soap and water to lower the bacterial count and remove any debris, said Dr. O'Brien. Then apply a thin film over only the wound (not the surrounding area) and cover it carefully with a nonstick bandage, such as Telfa, so the pad itself won't stick to the honey, he added. Twice a day clean the wound and reapply the honey and bandage, Dr. O'Brien said, and if the bandage needs more frequent changing due to drainage or pain, see a doctor to make sure the wound is not infected.

[Sources:](#) Sarah E. Maddocks, PhD, associate lecturer, microbiology, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Cardiff, Wales. Richard O'Brien, MD, an attending emergency physician at Moses Taylor Hospital in Scranton, Pennsylvania

In the picture below the plant is Spanish Lavender which is sometimes referred to as French Lavender as it grows wild in France. It is collected there to some extent and processed for oil used in perfume. The bees seem to really enjoy it.

Picture from Raymond Goodman



Check the **WCBA WEBSITE** for up to date information:
www.wakecountybeekeepers.org

May in the Bee Yard



About once a week, check each hive and determine where the bees are working. If the super to be added is drawn comb, it may be placed on top of the other supers. If the super to be added is foundation, it should be placed above the queen excluder and below all other extracting or foundation supers.

Toward the end of the month, add an additional

super only after the last super added is mostly capped. When the nectar flow stops, remove any unused supers of foundation. This will prevent the bees from chewing and damaging the new foundation, as they will do, when no nectar is available.

If the supers of new foundation are to be used for comb honey, then these supers should be removed as soon as all frames are fully capped. If left on the hives, the combs will become travel-stained as the bees walk over the dark brood combs and then track

pollen and propolis onto the new white cappings. Before any supers of comb honey are removed, check and make sure that all cells are capped. If all cells are not fully capped delay the removal a few days. Unsealed cells may contain unripe honey with high moisture and could cause the honey to ferment if removed.

Information derived in part from the Alamance County Beekeepers Association:
<http://alamancebeekeepers.com/may06.aspx>

Member Volunteer Opportunities

▪ **Volunteer at the Bee Exhibit at the North Carolina Zoo.** There are 2 training sessions this Spring:
 •April 21 1:00-4:30pm
 •May 12
 Interested beekeepers should contact NCSBA Honey Bee Exhibit Co-coordinators for additional information and to register:

Judy Pick:
JimJudy9@aol.com

Janno Lewis:
jannolewis@gmail.com

▪ **Bee Day at North Hills:** On May 19th Sarah & Al Pleasants are hosting a Bee Day at the Midtown Farmer's Market in the heart of North Hills. They need volunteers to bring observation hives with bees and help educate the public on bees and promote the WCBA. Time is from 8 am – 12 pm. Contact Sarah if interested in helping: 919-880-8208 or sarahpleasants@pedmontlitho.com.