



# Wake County Beekeepers Association

## JULY 2009



Don't forget our summer meeting coming up next weekend July 9-11 in N. Wilkesboro: They have a great line up of speaker and workshops. Check out the itinerary: <http://www.ncbeekeepers.org/meetings.htm> I am most interested in the chemical free beekeeping and foundationless natural beekeeping- someone please take notes for me.

### **Next Meeting: July 14th 2009 @ 7:30 pm**

Location: Wake County Commons Building, Cary Drive. Our Guest Speaker will be Ricky Coor from Spring Bank Apiaries in Goldsboro NC. His presentation will be on "Splitting Hives and Queen Rearing". He is putting on a free workshop for us at his place on July 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-1:00pm.

Karma Lee, Catherine Nichols & I have signed up to bring refreshments. We need a couple of people to sign up to bring refreshments to the November 2009 and January 2010 meetings. If you have the time, it is not too much trouble to bring refreshments to a meeting: You can pick out your favorite things and submit your receipt to Vivian for reimbursement. If you wish to sign up let me know.

### **June Meeting Summary**

Thank you to Dan Brubaker, Steve Brown and Qugen Mao for bringing refreshments to the meeting. Take time to read the proposed changes of the State Constitution. Charles Heatherly, past president of the NCSBA spoke about the proposed changes: Charles tells us that there has been phenomenal growth in the NC State Beekeepers Association in the past 10 years. It has expanded from about 400 members to a couple of thousand. One change in the constitution is going to be how we are represented to accommodate regional growth/larger individual chapters and make it more democratic. There have been 4 officers, 3 directors and 6 regional directors. In place of the regions coastal, piedmont, and mountains, there will be 4 directors for each region with no more than 2 from a single chapter. If you wish to speak to Charles to discuss this in greater detail prior to July 9<sup>th</sup> you may contact him. Also, he wants to encourage us to attend the Summer Meeting because our club President Danny thinks we will be awarded "Chapter of the Year". Charles has seen what other clubs have done in years past and we have exceeded them.

We need Beekeepers to do programs and presentations at schools etc. Harris Creek Elementary needs someone talk to a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom next year. If you are working on your Master Certification you need 5 of these- they are also fun. Pam Barbour an elementary school teacher has used the "Buzz on Bees" an educational program developed by Claudia Linkous. They say this is a great program to follow. They have this book and could get you a copy of it. Now is the time to start thinking about NC State Fair entries: Cooking with Honey and Products of the Hive, Light Dark and Amber Honey, Mead and other entries.

Vivian has membership cards if you do not have your yet. She is doing a great job getting our club information to the State for the upcoming Yellow Book. Hopefully they get it in accurately.

New Business: Many of us are having trouble with queens- not laying, taking off, nor making it. Danny is interested in getting a group to share knowledge and get in the business of making queens for themselves. He believes they have good stock and need someone with grafting tools and skills. We have some good sources of training such as Betsy and Jennifer. We also have some members doing a good job breeding their own queens without buying a \$500 breeder queen. Contact him if you are interested. Someone asked about the honey straw making equipment. There is an element of the machine being patented that is holding everyone back. We will have to continue to order these in quantities of thousands from Oregon.

Program: Paula Cattano from Pur Essence ([www.purescence.com](http://www.purescence.com)) spoke about their company and their products made without harsh chemicals. This was founded by Donna Klinert in 1996.

Paula had some good handouts:

- Top ten synthetic ingredients to avoid: <http://www.squidoo.com/aubrey-organics#module31128962>

- 1, 4 Dioxane myth vs. fact sheet  
<http://www.organicconsumers.org/bodycare/DioxaneFacts080314.pdf>
- & their great lip balm recipe that they demonstrated how to make.

She spoke about some chemicals neonicotinoids that make their way into beauty products. These are the same products that beekeepers are having trouble with. Pur Essence founders use essential oils with the desired properties for their products. For example, Geranium and Cedarwood are used to pets' anti-flea and tick treatment. Paula tells us that "Natural" and "Organic" are profitable buzzwords. They are not always what they seem. Some petrochemicals used in beauty products are actually known carcinogens and can cause skin irritation and rashes. This includes methylparaben, propylene glycol and sodium laurel sulfate. The handout Paula gave us made by Abry Organics: 10 Hazardous Synthetic Chemicals in cosmetics shows the main bad ones. Organic consumers tested 100 products labeled "natural" and "organic". 46 of them contained 1, 4 dioxane, a known carcinogen. 1, 4 Dioxane is still present in products such as lotions and kids bubble bath. Dial soap has it present in 18ppm (parts per million). She told us about an online database where you can look up 42,000 personal care products that you may be using to see how they stack up as far as toxicity, carcinogens etc. The National Institutes of Health has a website where you can look up the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) for many products:

<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/index.htm>

There are several books on these chemicals and products with them. I have "The Safe Shoppers Bible" [http://www.amazon.com/Safe-Shoppers-Bible-Consumers-Household/dp/0020820852/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1246296467&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Safe-Shoppers-Bible-Consumers-Household/dp/0020820852/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1246296467&sr=1-1) It is good, but not organized how I would like, but a good reference nonetheless.

Dr. Bonners Magic soap filed a suit against alleged fraudulent claims of "organic" products to warn consumers.

Paula asks us: Should Natural Care Products contain harmful petrochemicals? You would think our answer would be a resounding: NO!

You would hope that multimillion dollar business wanting to be earth and people friendly should have a moral obligation to not harm customers. Pur Essence team members demonstrated how to make beeswax lip balm. You should not heat higher than 140, when you pour them into the containers they will heat up and shrink and the caps will not fit. You should also add honey and essential oils at 100 degrees. They have formulated and refined their recipes- the lip balm is important to have a great application consistency-not too waxy.

Questions: Where can you find their products? They sell their products online ([www.purescence.com](http://www.purescence.com)), at the State Farmers Market and Pittsboro and Holly Springs Farmers Markets.

Some "natural" ingredients that are harmful are mineral oil and petroleum that originate in fossil fuels. Another ingredient used frequently in shampoos and conditioners is propylene glycol, a derivative of petroleum. Propylene glycol is also found in anti-freeze laundry detergent, paint. It may cause liver and kidney damage, and respiratory irritation. Another derivative of petroleum is isopropyl alcohol. Used to kill bacteria, isopropyl alcohol is found in cleansers, toners and other cosmetics. It dries the skin causing cracks and irritations that may allow bacteria to get in the skin. The skin is our largest organ, and may absorb up to 60% of the chemicals slathered on it. Moreover, smoking and hormone patches applied on the skin pass directly to the blood stream, so toxic chemicals may as well. Another not good additive derived from petroleum is a family of preservatives called parabens. These increase the shelf life to a minimum of 3 years. These are particularly harmful to pregnant women and developing fetuses. Avoid anything "artificial" such as color, flavor, and fragrance.

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To subscribe send mail to [wakecountybeekeeperssubscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:wakecountybeekeeperssubscribe@yahoo.com)  
Back copies of newsletters and the bylaws are available on this yahoo group.

### Location of Club Extractors:

The club owns extractors that are available for members to borrow.  
Ricky Barbour: Zebulon 269-0108  
Whit Joyner: New Hill 387-0164  
Raleigh Myers: Raleigh 787-0058  
James Knox: Raleigh 847-5098.

### Editors Note:

Since Paula's presentation I looked at some of my products. I thought it was strange that my Tom's of Maine Toothpaste contained Sodium Laurel Sulfate! I looked at the following Organic Consumers Association website to find out that unlike certified organic food standard, beauty and body care products do not have a certification standard. There are a lot of wolves in sheep's skin-claiming to be organic. "Natural" sounds good but carries little weight. There are many natural things (poison ivy, cocaine, urine) that would not be desirable to be in beauty products. The following is borrowed from their website: According to the Organic Consumers Group (<http://www.organicconsumers.org>): They are campaigning for organic integrity in body care products. Their "Coming Clean Campaign" is working on getting rid of the falsely labeled organic products, and make sure everything labeled organic actually is organic. In addition, they are working on getting the 1,4 dioxane a known carcinogen out of body care products. It is reduced in recent years, but a new study shows some products mislabeled as "Natural" actually should have cancer warning instead.

*Jill Currin, Secretary*

### What to do in the Bee Yard: July

Continue to monitor your hive. Inspect regularly, every two weeks to ensure the queen is laying well. As always, make sure the bees have access to water. They need it to cool the hive. You may also like to do powdered sugar mite counts. As the amounts of available nectar fluctuate make sure you do not have robbing going on in your bee yard.

From Guilford County Beekeepers- Piedmont NC Calendar:

#### **The Bees.**

On hot and humid nights, you may see a huge curtain of bees cooling themselves on the exterior of the hive.

#### **The Beekeeper.**

June and July are harvest months for the piedmont beekeeper. Continue inspections to the hive to make sure your hive is healthy.

Heartsease and Smartweed bloom this month.



*(Photo Credit: Copyright Oxford University/Lucy King)*

Thanks to Temple Porter for submitting this neat article:

### **Beehive Fence Deters Elephant Raiders**

ScienceDaily (June 8, 2009) — A fence made out of beehives wired together has been shown to significantly reduce crop raids by elephants, Oxford University scientists report. The fence is constructed of log beehives suspended on poles beneath tiny thatched roofs (to keep off the sun). The hives are connected by eight meter lengths of fencing wire. Elephants avoid the hives and will attempt to push through the wire but this causes the hives to swing violently causing the elephants to fear an attack of angry bees. The results of a pilot study in Kenya, published in the *African Journal of Ecology*, show that a farm protected by the beehive fence had 86% fewer successful crop raids by elephants and 150 % fewer raiding elephants than a control farm without the fence. The reduction occurred despite the fact that none of the hives were occupied at the time suggesting that elephants remember painful past encounters with African honeybees and avoid the sights and smells associated with them.' Our previous research has shown that elephants



*Close up of the beehive fence which can withstand crop raids by elephants.*

are scared away by recordings of the buzzing of angry bees,' said Lucy King of Oxford University's Department of Zoology who led the project in collaboration with the charity Save the Elephants. 'We designed the beehive fence as an affordable and practical way of applying this knowledge to create a barrier that the elephants would be afraid to cross.'

'The reaction from the farmers involved in our pilot study has been very positive,' said Lucy King. 'Our beehive fence design has been shown to be robust enough to survive elephant raids and cheap enough for farmers to construct themselves – especially as it also gives protection against cattle rustlers and, when occupied by colonies of African honeybees, will give the farmers two or three honey harvests a year that they can sell to offset the cost of building the fence.' During the six-week pilot study the team used GPS to track one particularly notorious elephant raider dubbed 'Genghis Khan'. Genghis was spotted raiding by several farmers and was observed amongst a herd of eighteen bull elephants returning from crop raids and his GPS movements were shown to closely match the routes of the raiding groups. Despite their thick hides adult elephants can be stung around their eyes or up their trunks, whilst calves could potentially be killed by a swarm of stinging bees as they have yet to develop this thick protective skin.

Lucy King said: 'We hope that these results will encourage farmers in other areas losing crops to elephant raiders to build their own beehive fences and help to reduce the conflict between humans and elephants that can lead to the tragedy of animals being shot, as well as farmers suffering devastating losses to the crops that are their livelihood.'