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**GUILFORD
COUNTY
BEE
KEEPERS
ASSOCIATION**

**BEEKEEPING
NEWS**
JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, 2007

a local chapter of NORTH CAROLINA STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

MEETINGS & PROGRAMS:

- **Tuesday, January 9, 6:30 p.m. (covered dish meal)** Harold Curtis, local beekeeper from Graham, produces queens at a commercial level. His talk will focus on selecting the best stock for positive traits.
- **Tuesday, February 13, 7:00 p.m. (No Meal)** Dr. Olav Rueppell, Professor of Biology at UNCG will review some of his research on honey bee behavior.
- **Tuesday, March 13, 6:30 p.m. (covered dish meal)** Judy Faircloth & others will show & tell about cooking with honey followed by Emerson Heatherly to discuss "Spring Preparations."

NEEDS YOUR ATTENTION:

- **TIME TO PAY your 2007 dues.** Jackie will appreciate your CHECK for county & state dues (if you choose to join both). Pick up your receipt later. Those paying cash will need to wait for receipt. County dues are still \$10 and state is \$15. **•••MAKE SURE ADDRESS & EMAIL ARE CORRECT•••**

Our CHRISTMAS PARTY this past Dec. 12, was a really good time of fellowship, fun, prizes, and good food. No-shows REALLY MISSED IT.



Articles of Interest

Honey Bees join the bomb squad

They're as good as dogs at picking up the scents

by Dan Vergano USA TODAY

The latest advance in bomb-sniffing technology relies on simple devices - honey bees.

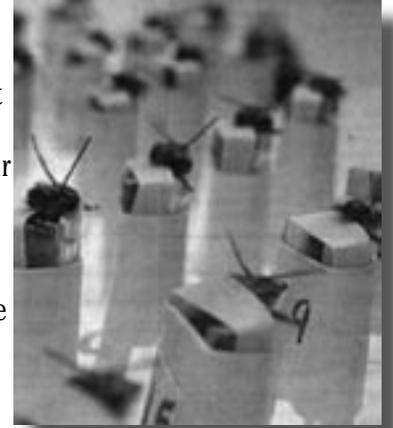
"Oh yeah, there is a laugh factor there," says entomologist Timothy Haartmann of Los Alamos (NM) National Laboratory. "We walk into a room with security experts and say, 'We use bees,' so they have to shift gears."

But with defense researchers at places such as the federal Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency focusing on anti-terrorism measures, scientists are looking at nature's native soldiers, bees and wasps, to augment dogs widely used for bomb detection.

"Honey bees are as good as dogs," Haartmann says. The

trick, it turns out, is training the little critters to detect bomb scents. Some bees, exposed to the scents of bomb ingredients and rewarded with sugar water, get it right away. Others wash out, a surprise given that insects are seen as automata because their behavior is so uniform.

So far, his team has trained bees to pick up the scent with their antennae and then flick their proboscises when exposed to TNT, howitzer propellant and liquid-explosives ingredients at a level in the air of a few parts per trillion. Bees are natural-born sniffers, antennae sensing pollen in the wind and tracking it down to the flowers that are a food source for their hives.



From the outside the bomb-detection unit in practice would look like a plain box with a few air holes, perhaps stationed outside an air plane entrance ramp or train platform. Strapped into straw-like tubes within the box, a sensing device already manufactured by a British firm, rows of bees would be exposed to puffs of air, constantly checking for faint bomb smells. A video camera tied to pattern-recognition software would signal when the bees suddenly start waving their proboscises in unison.

An open-air application with released bees may be used for detecting land mines. Analyzing where bees congregate using a laser device reveals the presence of mines in US Army funded field tests, says entomologist Jerry Bromenshenk of the University of Montana-Missoula.

Wasps also have been proposed for bomb-sniffing duty. Researchers at the US Department of Agriculture and the University of Georgia last year unveiled a "wasp hound" device that relies on five strapped-in wasps to sniff out danger.

Insect sniffers may have uses in areas such as food quality counterfeit-goods smuggling and even in detecting drug smugglers.

The recent publication of the honey bee genome in the journal NATURE showed that bees have about five times more smell-related genes than flies do. "I guess we got lucky, we picked the right insect," Bromenshenk says. "They are amazing critters." *...from the editor...I saw a portion of this info on TV news. Maybe you will have seen it too.*

Where's 104-year-old Waldo? .. Still working!

Spry Kansas senior raises bees and sells honey, just retired from running

Associated Press

QUINTER, Kan. — Waldo McBurney lives in two worlds: one of buggies and hitching posts — and the other of a growing trend of older Americans working longer. Still spry and agile at 104, McBurney briskly walks most days from home to work in this High Plains farming community, where he raises bees and sells honey.

When McBurney was born on a nearby farm, flying was left to the birds and people communicated by writing letters. A three-mile trip to town in a wagon took a half hour, and working 10 hours a day, six days a week was the norm. He has worked since he can remember. At age 4 or 5, he gathered eggs from the hens in the old



sod house where his parents had lived until shortly before he was born. His first paying job at age 13 was guiding a lead team of horses pulling a wheat thrasher. For that, he was paid 50 cents a

day. "After you finished with the chores, we would light the kerosene lamp and read," he said.

He started gardening on the farm and even now raises fruits and vegetables in his backyard, bending down to pick tomatoes and put them in a pail. "I like to see things grow, whether it's cats, or calves or tomatoes," said McBurney, his hands steady and his grip strong.

In October, Experience Works gave McBurney its "America's Oldest Worker for 2006" award at a ceremony in Washington. "He may not be the oldest worker but he is up there and definitely outstanding," said Cynthia Metzler, president of the national group, which provides training and employment for the senior citizens. Metzler called McBurney "a real role model for all of us" at a time when Americans are working longer. "People are living longer and don't have enough money to sustain themselves. Some want to work to remain active," she said.

While it can't be said definitively that McBurney actually is the oldest American working, the odds favor him. "I can just go about anywhere and be the oldest. The ones my age don't run around that much," said McBurney, with wisps of white hair and weathered face and hands.

The United States has an estimated 77,770 centenarians, about 0.026 percent of the population. The average American life span is 77.9 years. After McBurney's award, the town erected a sign near his office: "Congratulations, Waldo. America's Oldest Worker."

"I never considered myself a great character. They are testing my humility," he said. Those who know McBurney say he's indeed a humble man who believes in helping his neighbor. "He doesn't think he's more special than anyone else. I don't know if I've heard a negative word out of his mouth," said Laura Kesler, vice president of KansasLand Bank. "He always looks at the positive side, and that's probably why he's lived as long as he has."

For McBurney, work is good. "I'm not a strong believer in retirement. I don't think retirement is in the Bible. Maybe it's there, but I haven't found it," he said.

After graduating from college in 1927, he worked a quarter century variously as a vocational-agricultural teacher, county extension agent and at the local co-op. In the 1950s he started a seed-cleaning business. He also took a decades-long hobby of beekeeping and went into the honey business. He operated the seed-cleaning venture until age 91 and still raises bees and sells honey, although much less than before. "I'm trying to get out of the bee business because my back isn't standing up like it should," he said. "I hope somebody else will be handling the bees. I'll keep a few at the house to raise our own honey."

In 2004, McBurney published his book, "My First 100 Years: A Look Back from the Finish Line," which he sells in his office. "Selling books isn't retiring," he said. "I expect to be working."

He enjoyed running all his life and at age 65 took up long-distance running. A decade later, he began competing in the Senior Olympics, the World Masters and other events, winning 10 gold medals for track and field events.

Read more about McBurney at: www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15548443/

The Evidence Supporting the Use of Honey as a Wound Dressing

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Some clinicians are under the impression that there is little or no evidence to support the use of honey as a wound dressing. To allow sound decisions to be made, this seminar

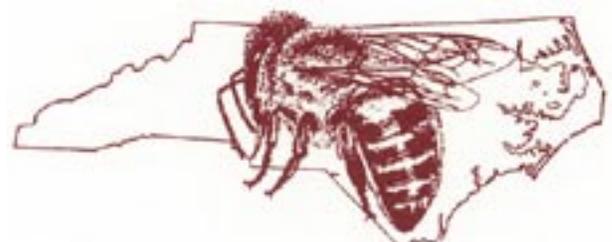


article has covered the various reports that have been published on the clinical usage of honey. Positive findings on honey in wound care have been reported from 17 randomized controlled trials involving a total of 1965 participants, and 5 clinical trials of other forms involving 97 participants treated with honey.

The effectiveness of honey in assisting wound healing has also been demonstrated in 16 trials on a total of 533 wounds on experimental animals. There is also a large amount of evidence in the form of case studies that have been reported. It has been shown to give good results on a very wide range of types of wound. It is therefore mystifying that there appears to be a lack of universal acceptance of honey as a wound dressing. It is recommended that clinicians should look for the clinical evidence that exists to support the use of other wound care products to compare with the evidence that exists for honey.

editor's note: Doctors and scientists are reluctant to accept reports of honey's benefits in treating wounds. They perceive them as folklore and myth. That these properties exist in honey is being recognized and researched. The flesh eating bacteria and antibiotic resistant type infections, according to some researchers, can be treated with honey. Not all honey is the same, however, so don't get your hopes too high as there is still some question as to what is "Medical Grade Honey". So far, the honey from New Zealand seems to be a favorite. Maybe some of the other benefits of honey will be recognized too.

- Don Hopkins, State Inspector: (336) 376-8250
- Guilford County Beekeepers Association web site www.guilfordbeekeepers.org
- North Carolina State Beekeepers Association web site www.ncbeekeepers.org



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