BEEKEEPING NEWS

APRIL, MAY, JUNE, 2009

GUILFORD COUNTY BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Kurt Bower, *President*
James Brown, *Vice President*
Barbara Jarrett, *Secretary*
Jackie Wiggers, *Treasurer*
Directors
Martha Boren, Jack Fleming, Harvey Friddle,
Norman Faircloth, *Editor*

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

Meetings & Programs

• Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. (no meal)
Kurt Bower to present on honeybee species and races. Come and learn about the different bee species around the world. Kurt will also talk about the different races available here In the USA as well as advantages and disadvantages as related to personal beekeeping.

• Saturday, May 2, 10 - 2 p.m.
FIELD DAY at Hagan-Stone Park shelter #5

5920 Hagan-Stone Park Road, Pleasant Garden, NC
http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/FF80D16A-B31D-41A8-9D3A-2546F30C5E3F/0/hsmap1.pdf

Hagan-Stone Park is one of Guilford County's most beautiful parks and conveniently located.

The club will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and the fixings. Members are requested to bring drink, side dish and or desserts to share.

Some of the associartions own Master Beekeepers will provide a demonstration of hive manipulation and evaluations will be provided to all levels of beekeepers. Mini presentations will be provided on topics such as Honey Extraction, Woodenware Construction, Proper Medication Techniques, and more!

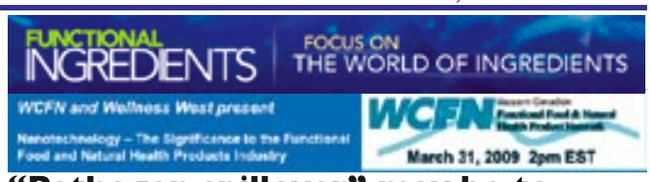
Field Dayis a great time of social interaction and fun for all. Picnic tables are provided for seating and dining convenience. Feel free to bring beekeeping items that might be interesting to the group! Remember to bring chairs!

• Tuesday, June 9, 7:00 p.m. (no meal)
Greg Fariss, former Maryland state inspector, will provide a deeper look at the small hive beetle and what it means for us. Greg will help us to identify as well as control and treat the small hive beetle if found in your hive!

Telling the Bees

In Loving Memory Of
Magdalene Colling Bennett
January 24, 1927 - March 15, 2009

former member
Linda Toomes Blakley
March 23, 2009



"Pathogen spillover" may be to blame for bee crisis

Functional Ingredientsm Staff September 2008

The mysterious decline of the bumble bee population in North America, which threatens a host of crops used to make food ingredients, could be caused by a virus passed on to wild bumble bees by commercially reared bumble bees, according to scientists.

Researchers at the University of Toronto said there was "circumstantial evidence [suggesting] that pathogen 'spillover' from commercially reared bumble bees, which are used extensively to pollinate greenhouse crops, is a possible cause."

The pathogen in question is one found in commercial bees, and known as Crithidia bombi. The researchers modelled spillover of the pathogen into the wild and concluded that "during the first three months of spillover, transmission from commercial hives would infect up to 20% of wild bumble bees within 2km of the greenhouse."

The fate that awaits us all if the decline in bee populations continues over the long term is illustrated plainly in a book on the subject of the crisis, *A World Without Bees*, by Alison Benjamin and Brian McCallum. This tells how every April thousands of families in southern Sichaun in China gather to pollinate fruit trees manually because over-use of pesticides killed off all the bees in the region 20 years ago.

The book explains: "The farmers must first collect pollen from the trees by scrubbing it off the anthers, the male part of the flowers, into a bowl. They let it dry for two days, before the whole family comes out with their homemade feather dusters [made from bamboo sticks and chicken feathers], which are dipped in the pollen and applied to the flowers' stigmas, or female parts."

Ingenious as this is, it isn't a practical solution to the crisis, according to Theobold. "It can be done," he said, "but it certainly can't be done on a commercial scale across the US to produce food for 300 million people."

Articles of interest

An African bee trap containing African bees in Washington County, Utah

African Bee Detected in Southern Utah -- Residents Advised to Approach All Bees with Caution

St. George, Utah – The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) has detected the presence of the Africanized Honey Bee in Washington and Kane Counties of Southern Utah. The hives that were discovered have been destroyed and there have been no reported incidents of attacks on humans or animals. The presence of AHB in Utah is not believed to be wide spread. We encourage residents to approach all bees with caution and respect.

The UDAF has maintained a series of bee traps throughout Southern Utah since 1994. Over the past several months, tests have been conducted on more than 80 hives that were located in areas suitable for AHB activity. Seven of the 80 hives have been confirmed as Africanized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service laboratory in Tuscon, Az. The seven hives were promtly destroyed. Three of the seven hives were found in the wild near St. George, Utah in UDAF traps intended to attract African bees. Four of the seven hives were found in hives managed by private beekepers near Kanab and St. George, Utah.

"This discovery makes it imparative that we think differently about honey bees in our state," said Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Leonard Blackham. Commissioner Blackham says, while the African bee poses a credible health and safety risk, we should not overreact to this development. Communities throughout the South and Soutwest have safely coexisted with the bee since 1990, and we in Utah can do the same. I encourage you to visit our web site (ag.utah.gov) to understand the risks, and learn how to avoid these aggressive bees.

African bees look just like traditional European honey bees. An African bee sting is NOT more powerful than a European honey bee sting. Their danger comes from the number of stings a hive can inflict.

The UDAF continues to work with Utah beekeepers to identify hives that become aggressive. We wish to remind residents that the honey bee population in Utah is very important to agriculture and wildlife, and that not all bees are African bees. Beekeepers who maintain gentle stocks are our first line of defense against AHB. African bees tend to not move into an area where bee colonies already exist.

Since the discovery of African bee in Mesquite, Nevada in November of 1999, the UDAF has been working with Washington County public safety agencies regarding African bee response. We will redouble or efforts to offer training to emergency first responders, local health departments, police and fire, school districts and any group that seek assistance. Our agency's Internet web site has useful information on how to be safe when it comes to the African bee.

Science News

Aggressive African bees dominating in Fla.

Published: Feb. 8, 2009 at 1:10 P.m.

TAMPA, Fla., Feb. 8 (UPI) -- Up to 80 percent of the wild bee population of South Florida has been hybridized by an aggressive African bee strain, experts say.

Experts said since the first reported sighting of African bees in Tampa, Fla., seven years ago, the insects have been slowly invading domestic bee colonies and reproducing at an alarming rate, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported Sunday.

The increase of Africanized bees in the area has resulted in multiple bee attacks, including one last April in Okeechobee County in which Robert Davis, 51, died after being stung more than 100 times by the hybrid bees.

In October, 70-year-old Nancy Hill of Riviera Beach, Fla., was hospitalized and her two dogs were killed in a bee attack that also killed a third dog and left a fourth injured.

Urban entomologist Bill Kern told the Sun-Sentinel the Africanized bees' reproductive rates and sensitive nature indicate similar attacks are likely to occur in the South Florida in the future.

"Something as simple as a squirrel running across the branch nearby -- that can set them off," the University of Florida researcher said.

from: The Environmental

Monday, March 19, 2007www.theenvironmentalblog.org/

This is a continuation of the honeybee problem facing the United States and other countries right now:

Here is a link <neonicotinoid pesticides> that is provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The link in PDF format is a fact sheet for a pesticide called Clothianidin which is in a subclass of pesticides known as neonicotinoids. The major US producer of this chemical is the Bayer Corporation which also produces for Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Germany, Hungary, Mexico, New Zealand, and the UK, which uses this pesticide to treat seeds for corn and canola. This is the same company that makes Aleve, Alka Seltzer, and of course Bayer Aspirin. The product name for its Clothianidin use is called Poncho as it will be cited below in the excerpts.

Colony Collapse Disorder is also being reported in Canada and in Europe...go figure... Quoted from the Bayer Corporation web site's News Release in 2003:

"Clothianidin is a new active ingredient in the chemical class of neonicotinoids. Poncho as a seed treatment offers an extended and highly consistent efficacy at low application rates against chewing and sucking insects under diverse climatic and soil conditions. Due to its high root systemicity it is an excellent tool for the protection of the vulnerable kernel and the young seedling.

Poncho offers a new dimension in pest control in maize. The unique seed applied control of corn rootworms (Diabrotica spp.) and cutworms (Agrotis spp.) combined with the control of all major secondary pests is setting a new technical standard for maize production in the USA. In canola, clothianidin is highly effective against the major pest, flea beetle"

Quoted from EPA science fact sheet on Clothianidin:

"Available data indicate that clothianidin on corn and canola should result in minimal acute toxic risk to birds. However, assessments show that exposure to treated seeds through ingestion may result in chronic toxic risk to non-endangered and endangered small birds (e.g., songbirds) and acute/chronic toxicity risk to non-endangered and endangered mammals. Clothianidin has the potential for toxic chronic exposure to honey bees, as well as other nontarget pollinators, through the translocation of clothianidin residues in nectar and pollen..In honey bees, the effects of this toxic chronic exposure may include lethal and/or sub-lethal effects in the larvae and reproductive effects in the queen."

Now could this be the link that is causing up to 95% losses in honeybees in parts of the nation? Bee keepers in 25 states have declared to have colony collapse disorder. Its time our scientists officially figure out the root cause of the deaths. According to the data, this (product) is a possible cause to the deaths, but no studies have recently been released to provide supportive evidence of this.

Bee experts argue over link between imports and disease

By BEN LEACH Staff Writer, 609-272-7261
Press of Atlantic City.com
Published: Monday, January 26, 2009

While the sound of bees is stifled for the winter season in New Jersey, beekeepers across the nation are buzzing about foreign bees coming into the country.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has imported bees as part of a trade agreement with Australia since early 2005. These shipments stopped briefly late last year when Australian authorities could not verify whether those shipments contained an aggressive species of bees from Asia that did not belong.

Shipments of bees from Australia resumed earlier this month...

Marie Springer is one such critic of importing bees to places and climates where they are not raised naturally. Springer, a beekeeper from Sussex County, has studied bees throughout New Jersey in places such as the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in Galloway Township.

Bees from different parts of the world can compete with native bees for hives. Springer also said these foreign bees don't just bring in numbers and honey. "On their path (to the United States), they're bringing diseases and parasites with them," Springer said.

Many blame IAPV for bee colonies collapsing across the U.S., with some commercial hives reporting losses of as much as 90 percent of their colonies.

According to Wayne Wehling, a senior entomologist with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the USDA, entomologists found IAPV in bee samples from the United States dating to 2002 - years before bees were brought in from Australia.

As far as the Australian bees are concerned, Wehling said both the USDA and Australian authorities rigorously test the bees for diseases and parasites. Among the commercial hives that have used Australia's honeybees for pollinating their crops, no major problems have been reported.

Wehling said even proof of a disease such as IAPV not being linked to colony collapse has not stopped beekeepers from protesting Australian imports, but he said he suspects the arguments are not completely unbiased.

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CATCH THE BUZZ 3-26-2009

These comments, submitted by the National Honey Bee Advisory Board to EPA concerning the registration of imidacloprid, a systemic pesticide produced by Bayer Chemical Company, have been edited here because of length. But the stories have not been changed or altered. The NHBAB consists of beekeepers from both the AHPA and the ABF, and represents most of the nation's commercial beekeepers. EPA now must act on these and other comments regarding this compound. At the same time, this group of beekeepers and Bayer are meeting to discuss continued research with this compound. Time will tell if increased regulation, or more precise research improve the situation.

Beekeepers from around the United States, and around the world, have had persistent problems associated with the use of the systemic pesticide imidacloprid. Since the first uses of imidacloprid in France in 1994 on sunflowers beekeepers reported problems. Soon the condition was given a name in France: "mad bee disease." Problems reported by beekeepers, combined with mounting independent scientific data, caused the French Minister of Agriculture to suspend the use of imidacloprid on sunflowers in January of 1999. In February 2004, France extended the suspension to include uses on corn. At the same time they further broadened the ban on systemic insecticides to include the chemical fipronil.

In Europe the debate goes on, important data from toxicity studies is being produced. Conclusions from this data vary. The chemical manufacturers continue to maintain that the systemic compound imidacloprid is safe for use around honeybees, native pollinators, birds, and does not pose an unreasonable risk to the environment. Reports from the field, however, are telling a different story. The recent dramatic increase in use of imidacloprid on a greatly expanded list of cropland, rangeland, forest, residential, and recreational (golf courses and parks), has greatly increased exposure of pollinators to contaminated nectar and pollen expressed from flowering crops and weeds.

Imidacloprid is only one of six product formulations in the broader class of "systemic neonicotinoids." Although only imidacloprid is currently 'up' for public comment, all six of these products in this class are of great concern to beekeepers. Much attention has been given to the seed treatments such as Gaucho, a trade name for a formulation of imidacloprid.

Recent data from Penn State on crabapple trees, although unpublished, and not yet replicated is extremely concerning. Two controls, and two treated trees were used in the experiment. After three weeks no imidacloprid was detected. However the next spring pollen samples from pollen sacs and anthers tested over 900 ppb combined Imidacloprid and 2 principal degradants: 5- hydroxe and olefin. In nectaries the combined number was 1,450 ppb. Although further research is required for this study to be properly concluded, the initial data raises questions about how imidacloprid is stored and translocated in woody plants, like fruit trees.*The message brought to you by Bee Culture, The Magazine Of American Beekeeping*www.BeeCulture.com editors note: This article is lenghty. If you want to read more go to Apitrack News Nbr 174

Challenges face almond farmers and beekeepers

Issue Date: January 28, 2009 by Christine Souza, Assistant Editor

John Miller of Miller honey farms in Newcastle says beekeepers and almond farmers will have to work together closely to overcome "unprecedented challenges" facing pollination this year.

A reduction in almond prices, limited water availability, increased production costs and the declining health of bees may all influence what happens during this year's almond bloom, impacting both almond growers and beekeepers.

Speaking at the Almond Board of California annual meeting last month, board member Dan Cummings warned his audience that this spring could be "dicey" for almond growers and beekeepers alike.

"Bees are competing for almond growers' money the same as water, fertilizer, fuel and all of our other inputs, at a time when the price of almonds has dropped. So we will be rationalizing where we go with our bees," said Cummings, who farms almonds in Chico and is co-owner of a full-service beekeeping operation. "We will be fallowing some other crops to direct water to almonds and perhaps abandoning almond orchards."

As a result, he said he believes many growers may reduce the amount of honeybee colonies that they place into the orchards for pollination during bloom, to save money."Bee guys and almond guys face unprecedented challenges. Working together, they will continue to produce 80 percent of the world's almonds profitably and competitively," said Miller, who supplies beehives to almond growers in Stanislaus and Merced counties. "We invest in relationships with the growers. My business plan relies on customers that I can rely on for years."

California's No.1 tree nut crop, almonds comprise 660,000 bearing acres, so even if the demand for pollination decreases, many almond growers will still require the service. "We are still going to need a ton of bees," Miller said. " Of the approximately 1.2 million beehives needed to pollinate California almonds, in-state beekeepers supply about half, with the remainder of hives supplied by out-of-state beekeepers. editors note: (article is much longer if you wish to see all of it check on the internet)

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

Guilford County Beekeepers Association
A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
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