



Meetings & Programs

Articles of Interest

Tuesday, January 8, 6:30p.m. (covered dish meal)

- This will be primarily a business of the Association meeting. We will be considering the proposed Constitution & Bylaws update, collecting State and local dues, exchanging ideas about club meeting activities and speakers, and proposing adjustments to our mentor program. Once we collect NCSBA dues from the beginners course first session, Ruth will be forwarding dues to the STATE. After that time, anyone wishing to send in State dues will have to do it as an individual.

Tuesday, February 12, 7:00p.m. (no meal)

- Mike Simone Finstrom, a post doctoral student in David Tarp's lab at NCSU will be our speaker. With all of the research efforts involving honey bee health, development, and behavior taking place in universities labs all around the world, we have asked Mike to give us information about how research projects are designed and executed.

Tuesday, March 12, 6:30p.m. (covered dish meal)

- Program to be determined.



Over the past 20++ years one of our club members has given many hours teaching new club members how to become beekeepers. He also brought Mrs. Bennett along with her biscuits and fresh vegetables. In recognition and appreciation of his many years of service and support for Guilford County Beekeepers, **James Bennett** was awarded **Lifetime Membership** in the club. Congratulations, James! May you have many more years with us.

Featured Wednesday, 12 December 2012 13:27 Written by Analia Manriquez



Average december price US \$ 5.78 per pound, 8.8% higher than the same month of previous year and the highest level in recorded history

Unit Honey Prices by Month - Retail

Average Retail Price per Pound across all reporting regions - Data from Bee Culture magazine used by permission. Based upon average price across all reporting regions. Assumes various sizes sold at the same rate.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2006	\$3.88	\$3.75	\$3.76	\$3.82	\$3.82	\$3.76	\$3.88	\$3.83	\$3.91	\$3.89	\$4.01	\$3.91
2007	\$3.99	\$4.00	\$3.89	\$3.92	\$3.94	\$4.03	\$4.17	\$4.29	\$4.27	\$4.19	\$4.16	\$4.22
2008	\$4.14	\$4.07	\$4.19	\$4.22	\$4.27	\$4.25	\$4.42	\$4.40	\$4.47	\$4.39	\$4.56	\$4.60
2009	\$4.50	\$4.51	\$4.46	\$4.44	\$4.64	\$4.68	\$4.74	\$4.60	\$4.80	\$4.74	\$4.85	\$4.87
2010	\$4.82	\$4.82	\$4.73	\$4.60	\$4.66	\$4.81	\$4.91	\$5.04	\$4.98	\$4.91	\$5.08	\$5.06
2011	\$4.94	\$5.02	\$5.10	\$5.22	\$5.19	\$5.04	\$5.23	\$5.17	\$5.17	\$5.23	\$5.22	\$5.31
2012	\$5.26	\$5.43	\$5.42	\$5.56	\$5.65	\$5.32	\$5.67	\$5.59	\$5.73	\$5.57	\$5.63	\$5.78

USA- BAYER IS TRYING TO CLEAN THEIR OWN FAULTS ANNOUNCING PLANS FOR A BEE CARE CENTER Tuesday, 11 December 2012 16:12 Written by Analia Manriquez



Below you will find the Bayer CropScience press release about this new center in North Carolina



Bayer Bee Care Center Helps Solve Bee Health's Toughest Challenges 12/04/2012

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. (Dec. 4, 2012) – Bayer CropScience today announced plans to break ground in February on its North American Bee Care Center, which will serve as a gathering place for researchers, bee experts, students and other visitors to meet regularly with leading Bayer scientists. The Bayer Bee Care Center is dedicated to promoting and protecting bee health so that these hard-working, beneficial insects can continue to provide hive products as well as pollination services for foods we enjoy each day.

The North American Bayer Bee Care Center, to be located at the Bayer CropScience North America headquarters in Research Triangle Park, N.C., is scheduled for completion in July 2013. The Bee Care Center is part of Bayer's Global Bee Care Program, which provides a more focused and centralized resource for Bayer scientists and external stakeholders. The Center will bring together significant technological, scientific and academic resources, with the ultimate goal of supporting product stewardship and sustainable agriculture. "We understand the necessity for healthy bees as pollinators and their critical role to agriculture, and by working with scientists, growers, beekeepers and customers, we strive to create new approaches and solutions to benefit bee health and the global food supply," said Jim Blome, president and CEO of Bayer CropScience North America. "Because we are aware of the challenge to continue feeding a growing world population, our Bee Care Center will be a vital resource in our ongoing commitment to maintaining sustainable agriculture."

The North American Bee Care Center will include:



- Full laboratory and research apiary, as well as honey extraction and workshop space needed to conduct bee health research and to support a practical apiculture. The research will focus on Integrated Pest Management for the multiple causes affecting bee health, such as parasites, like the Varroa mite, predators, diseases, seasonal management, and environmental stressors
- The active promotion of bee-responsible use of Bayer products along with communication activities worldwide
- State-of-the-art meeting, training and presentation facilities for beekeepers, farmers and educators to provide resources and an interactive learning center

Bayer's new North American Bee Care Center is the second established by the company to promote bee health. In 2012, its global Bayer Bee Care Center was established at the joint headquarters campus of Bayer CropScience and Bayer Animal Health in Monheim, Germany.

The Bayer Bee Care Center, a more than 6,600 square feet building in Research Triangle Park, will be fully staffed, including an office space for graduate students. Not only will the Center be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certified, providing pollinator-friendly gardens, but it will also produce a surplus of energy. As a LEED-certified building, the Center will continue Bayer's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint to help improve agricultural management and foster environmental stewardship. The net zero building will generate more energy each year than consumed through its geothermal heating and cooling, LED lighting and solar water heating.

For more than 25 years, Bayer has been actively involved in finding solutions to improve honey bee health, and the two new Centers confirm how its commitment furthers collaboration and understanding of the health of bees.

Bayer is dedicated to crop protection and is committed to environmental stewardship and sustainable agricultural practices, including the protection of beneficial insects such as honey bees.

For additional information and background on other sustainability initiatives please visit <http://www.bayercropscience.us/our-commitment/bayer-initiatives>.

Search [Varroa Mite Reproductive Biology - eXtension](#) to get complete article.

Varroa Mite Reproductive

Biology Last Updated: October 09, 2012

Learn about some of the latest research into bee decline.

Managed Pollinator Coordinated Agriculture Program (CAP) Updates

A National Research and Extension Initiative to Reverse Pollinator Decline

This is part of an ongoing series of updates from the Managed Pollinator CAP. Additional installments can be found at the:

[CAP Updates Table of Contents](#)

and <http://www.beeccdcap.uga.edu>

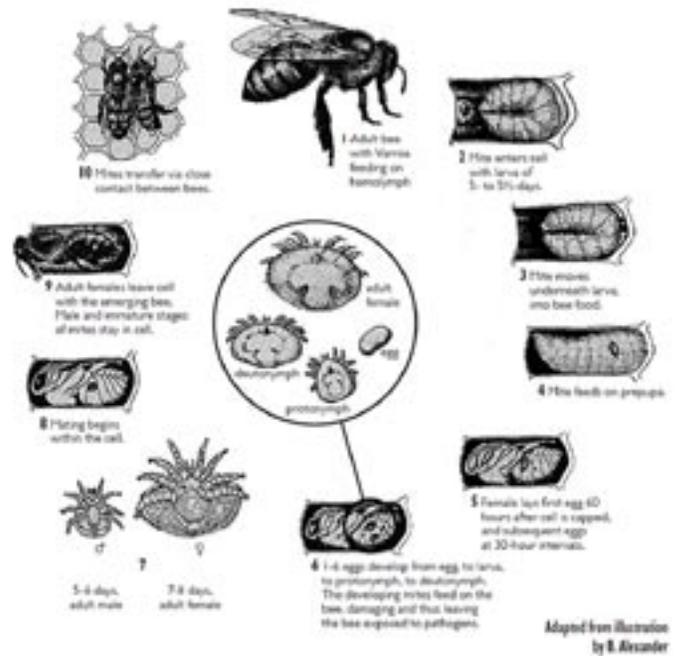


Fig. 1. Varroa destructor life cycle, adapted from B. Alexander

by Zachary Huang, Department of Entomology, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI 48824 CAP Updates: 29

Jointly published in the [American Bee Journal](#) and in [Bee Culture](#), October 2012.

The varroa mite (*Varroa destructor* Anderson and Trueman) is an ecto-parasite of the Western honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) and is distributed worldwide. Because *A. mellifera* colonies almost always die within two to three years after mite infestation, if not treated, feral bee colonies (unmanaged colonies in the wild) in U.S. were almost totally wiped out by this mite around 1995, less than a decade after it was introduced to the USA (around 1987). There is anecdotal evidence that honey bees might be becoming feral again in recent years (resistant genetics possibly leaking out due to swarming), but there is no systematic study proving this. Unless otherwise noted, throughout this paper I will use “varroa”, “varroa mite” or the generic “mite” interchangeably to refer to *V. destructor*. The varroa mite is currently the most severe pest of managed honey bees worldwide. Understanding the varroa mite’s reproductive biology will therefore allow us to better manage this important pest.

The Life Cycle of Varroa

Varroa mite life cycle has two stages (Fig. 1). During the phoretic stage, mites ride on adult workers or drones, at the same time feeding on blood (hemolymph) from bees, usually from the inter-segmental membrane on the abdomen. The phoretic stage lasts about 5-11 days when there is brood in the colony. Of course, mites are forced to remain phoretic if there is no brood, and this can last 5-6 months in cold climates. Mites change hosts (hop from one bee to another) often and this contributes to transmission of various viruses, by picking them up from one bee and inject to another during feeding. Mites experience higher mortality during the phoretic stage, because they make mistakes, and fall to the screen bottom board, if a hive has one, get bitten by workers during grooming, or die due to old age. The “natural drop” on a screened bottom board reflects a combination of all of these factors. However, the total of these fallen mites are less than 20% of the population. Therefore, using a bottom-screen-board alone will reduce, but not eliminate, chemical use for varroa management. The phoretic stage is important for mites to transfer horizontally to other colonies, by being accidentally

dropped onto flowers and then picked up by other foragers (this probably does happen, but we do not know the actual probability), by mite-carrying bees drifting to another colony, or finally by bees robbing a colony dying from mite infestation. In the last situation, we are actually selecting for mites with high virulence, because while in a natural forest, mites that kill a colony will also die with their host (due to the low likelihood of being found by a neighboring colony), while in an apiary this robbing behavior is guaranteed, insuring the successful transfer of mites from the dying colony to another, where it will repeat the cycle again.

For complete article search the sources shown at the beginning

**GUILFORD
COUNTY
BEE
KEEPERS
ASSOCIATION**

Beginner Beekeeping Course: 2013

The Guilford County
Beekeepers Association
and the North Carolina State
University Extension Service
will offer the:

Beginners Beekeeping Course
series on the following dates:

Thursday, January 17
Thursday, January 24
Thursday, January 31
Thursday, February 7
Thursday, February 14
Thursday, February 21
Thursday, February 28



Cost is \$25.00 for Individuals or \$35.00 per Family and Includes: Book, Handouts, and Membership Dues.

PRE-REGISTRATION is RECOMMENDED. Space & fire code limits class size.

Forms may be printed from club web site <guilfordbeekeepers.org>

Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. meet for about 2 hours and follow an outline to provide you with facts and skills necessary for certification in Beekeeping.

FREE BEES for those who complete the course may be provided by club members depending on availability in swarm season

**Guilford County Agriculture Center
3309 Burlington Rd., Greensboro, NC**

for more information call 740-1703 or access
www.guilfordbeekeepers.org

Christmas I Remember Best: A jar of honey taught child true lesson of Christmas — sharing

By Ivan Allred Olson
For the **Deseret News**



Published: Friday, Dec. 21 2012 9:40 p.m. MST

In 1931, my family traveled from Provo, where I was born and raised, to Vernon in Tooele County to be with extended family for Christmas. I was 5 years old, the sixth of seven children, and although I did not understand it at the time, we were in the depths of the Great Depression.

This is the fourth of seven winners in the Deseret News' annual Christmas writing contest, "Christmas I Remember Best."

In 1931, my family traveled from Provo, where I was born and raised, to Vernon in Tooele County to be with extended family for Christmas. I was 5 years old, the sixth of seven children, and although I did not understand it at the time, we were in the depths of the Great Depression. Everybody was out of work, including my father. Due to my young age, and perhaps the conditions of the era, I had little knowledge of Santa Claus bringing gifts and did not fully understand the festivities of Christmas Eve.

On Christmas morning, Mother handed me a jar of honey with a ribbon around it and said, "Ivan, look what Santa Claus left you." I took that jar and it was mine! That was my Christmas present and I treasured it. But I had not yet experienced its true gift.

That happened later Christmas morning when we gathered as a family for breakfast. There were at least a dozen family members sitting around the breakfast table. A morning prayer of thanks was offered and we began our meal.

It was then that Mother leaned toward me and gently suggested, "Ivan, wouldn't that be fun if you could share your jar of honey with all of us for breakfast?" I really did not want to do that. It was the only gift I had received.

Eventually, I decided my mother's idea might be all right. I handed the jar to Mother and watched as it was passed around the table. Each took a helping and thanked me for sharing. There were glad responses all around. I felt so good in my heart. I was pleased that everybody was enjoying something I had shared and particularly proud of my jar of honey as it was returned to my side.

Eighty-one years have passed, and I still remember the good feelings I had while watching my family enjoy the jar of honey. Ever since that Christmas morning, I have been more willing to share and look after those in need. This has been a theme throughout my life, and what a gift that theme has become. I feel an overwhelming appreciation for my Christlike mother who showed me at an early age the gift of sharing. The Christmas of 1931 turned out to be the first Christmas I can remember, and the Christmas I remember best.

Bee pest fight may get new weapon

Beekkeepers ask EPA for use of amitraz to control varroa mites

By SEAN ELLIS, Capital Press

BOISE -- Idaho beekeepers could soon have another tool to use in their battle to control varroa mites, honeybee parasites that have been linked to colony collapse disorder and can devastate hives.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has asked the Environmental Protection Agency for an emergency exemption that would allow Idaho beekeepers to use the pesticide amitraz.

Amitraz has proven effective as an insect repellent in other uses, but has not been approved yet for use in honeybee colonies in the United States.

The EPA approved the use of amitraz strips in bee colonies in South Dakota in October and then Oregon last month and Idaho officials are hopeful the Gem State will quickly receive permission to use the pesticide.

Without emergency approval from EPA, beekeepers could have to wait years until the product is fully registered. Idaho is among several states, including California, that have requested emergency permission to use the pesticide.

Paul Andersen, president of the Oregon Beekeepers Association, said a lot of the traditional varroa mite treatments have been losing some of their efficacy as the insects build tolerance to them.

If another product to control them is available and beekeepers can rotate treatments, he added, "it would take the mites longer to build up resistance."

Researchers have documented mite resistance to the two main synthetic products beekeepers currently use to control them, said entomologist researcher Ramesh Sagilli, assistant professor of Oregon State University's Department of Horticulture.

If beekeepers follow the label for amitraz and don't over-use it, the product could prove helpful for several years at least, he said.

Andersen said the mites are a huge problem to the industry and can completely wipe out a hive if their numbers are high enough.

"Keeping the number of mites in a hive somewhat under control to where they're not causing a big problem is getting to be more and more difficult," he said.

Amitraz has not been approved for use in beehives in the U.S. but has proven its worth in other countries, said Jan Lohman, a commercial beekeeper in Hermiston, Ore.

"In Canada, they have had great success with it," she said, adding that industry officials there have told her "it has made a huge difference to their beekeepers."

Because bees are dormant right now, Lohman said, the product wouldn't be used by Pacific Northwest beekeepers until February at the earliest, when they start preparing for the almond harvest in California.

The industry won't know if amitraz will help solve the varroa mite problem until enough beekeepers have a chance to use it, said Jonathan Millet, president of the Idaho Honey Industry Association and a commercial beekeeper in Marsing, Idaho.

While there is significant hope that it will help, he said, beekeepers are also mindful that the problem has persisted for more than two decades.

Alamo Township beekeeper Jeremy Marr goes back to nature to save his hives

ALAMO — While scientists around the world try to unravel the ongoing mystery of dying honeybees, an Alamo man has vowed to do what he can on a simpler scale to save bees, one hive at a time.

Jeremy Marr is throwing out almost everything beekeepers have tried to make life better for honeybees and, instead, will let Mother Nature decide how to run the show.

Honeybees have been in trouble for years. Parasitic mites nearly wiped out wild bees in the 1990s.

Then a mysterious, massive die-off of commercial honeybees began in 2006 with the sudden disappearance of every adult bee in a hive. *continued to next page*



Millions of research dollars have been poured into studies to battle that Colony Collapse Disorder — everything from genetic analysis to irradiation of honeycombs. Nothing has worked yet. Losses of U.S. bee colonies averaged 34 percent last year.

Still, some bees manage to hang on, and those will be the focus of Marr's "20-hive outyard project."

Marr's bees won't be drinking syrup supplements, they won't be treated for mites, or even benefit from flower gardens or clover fields planted to entice their pollen collection.

Provided only a box with a hole in it to call home, each of Marr's backyard hives will sink or swim of its own accord, and Marr will write about their fate in a blog for the magazine Mother Earth News. **There is more written but you get the idea??.....end.**

Where do bees come from?

If you can get YouTube ...Watch this Dean Stiglitz presentation which lasts about 5 mins

IT IS WORTH the time! Bet you can't stop at just one time!

(YouTube)<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqFr4P405mo>

Project Apis m.

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Project Apis m. (PAm)

- Enhancing the health of honeybees
- Improving crop production potential
- Bee research guided by beekeepers
- Practical solutions for managed colonies
- Over \$1 million infused into bee research
- Funded 2 MacArthur Award winners (nicknamed the Genius Grant)
- Largest non-governmental, non-profit bee research funding organization in the USA
- Funded 28 projects involving research institutions in 13 states
- Managing 3 Specialty Crop Block Grants awarded by the California Department of Food and Agriculture

Donate

Latest News

NEW Video Posted on YouTube: Transporting Honeybee Colonies to CA for Almond Pollination

[Read more...](#)

The Cummings Report

Project Apis is a web site worth visiting. Lots of information here.

Our web site, www.guilfordbeekeepers.org is your source for local beekeeping information, questions, and answers. Sign up for our forum board and join the conversation!

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- North Carolina State Beekeepers Association www.ncbeekeepers.org



Guilford County Beekeepers Association

A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BEEKEEPERS

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