
2016-17 OFFICERS: President: Harvey Joyner Vice President: Jerry Taylor & Bucky Moore Treasurer: Donna Rogers
Secretary: Sue Moore Program Coordinators: Karen Joyner Newsletter Editor: Tammy Malkin



The President's Corner

SUMMER IS ALMOST OVER...WHAT DO I DO NOW?!

Most of the beekeeper's work is over by this point in the year, unless you haven't extracted honey, and, if you haven't we heartedly encourage you to bring frames of capped honey to our Annual Extractaganza on Saturday, August 26, 10-3, at the Extension Office in Emporia. **If you have honey that you wish to be extracted, please let Sue Moore know immediately, if you haven't already.** We will have working stations set up for extractions, and, of course, we will also have a potluck celebration, and, again, **please let Sue know what you plan to bring to the table.**

Upcoming events with the club that you need to put on your calendar include:

- September Meeting (28th), when we need to hold nominations for our 2018 Officers and we will hold the actual elections at the October meeting. We need to elect: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Program Chairman. Our big day at the Annual Virginia State Peanut Festival is Emporia, Saturday, September 23. We will need participation in the parade on Main Street and at our booth in Veterans' Memorial Park. **Sue has requested sign-ups. If you haven't done so, please let her know ASAP. If you would like to help with the float or be in the**

parade, contact Steve Suessmann at sosuessmann@gmail.com .

- The feature of our October Meeting (26th) will be the Election of Officers, and it is terribly important that you attend!
- There is no November meeting, and we hope that you will be enjoying a Happy Thanksgiving Day on November 23rd.
- On December 9, we will celebrate our Annual SBA Christmas Party at the Extension Office. Of course, more to come on this event, but stay tuned and schedule it on your calendar

Well, as the saying goes "It's not over 'til it's over!" And, at this point in the Summer, there is still the hoped-for prospect of an early Autumnal nectar flow. You might also want to consider pest management of Varroa mites by dusting the bees with powdered sugar. Depending on the nectar flow, or lack thereof, you will also need to determine whether to feed your bees, or not. Of course, if you have any questions about any of these considerations, please contact me or any of our veteran members who are always glad to help.

See you at the Entactogens!

**Bee well,
Harvey**



SBA MEMBERSHIPS ARE

DUE

**There will be no August
monthly meeting!**

6th Annual Extractaganza

DATE: Saturday, August 26

TIME: 11am

PLACE: Emporia/Greenville

Extension Office

105 Oak Street

Emporia, VA 23847

***** Please respond to Sue Moore's Extractaganza email, sbmoore07@hotmail.com.**

SBA Memberships expired on June 30th. If you have not done so this year, don't forget to pay your dues at this month's meeting. Dues are \$20 per household, per year. Cash or checks are accepted. Checks can be made payable to Southside Beekeepers Association and given to Donna Rogers, Treasurer of the Assoc. If you have already paid your dues, you are good until June 2018.



To make a prairie,
it takes a clover and one bee.
One clover and a bee...
and revery.
The revery alone will do,
if bees are few.
~Emily Dickinson

Please Contact Sue Moore, at the meeting or by email, sbmoore07@hotmail.com, about the following:

- You plan on volunteering at the Peanut Festival

Thank You!

Honey Bee Festival 2017

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It's time to celebrate honey bees once again at the guild's signature event - the Virginia Honey Bee Festival™, held in conjunction with the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

We'll start the festivities Saturday morning, August 19, 2017, in Baker Visitors Center with an assortment of educational displays, vendors, food purveyors and live music. More activities for children will take place in the WOW garden.

A honey bee festival would not be complete without local honey for sale and guild

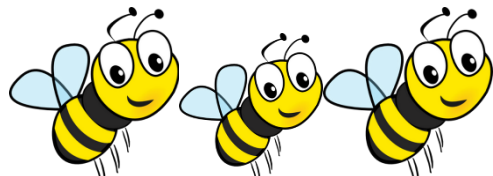
members will provide it along with beeswax candles and other hive products such as handcrafted soaps, lip balm and propolis.

To be successful, the festival requires many guild volunteers. Volunteers explain the 8-frame observation hive, assist with beeswax candle-rolling, explain Heifer International, sell bee-friendly plants, referee the Busy Bee Beanbag toss, help kids blow giant bubbles and possibly demonstrate how to extract honey from the comb.

Please help if you can; shifts are short - only four hours. If you can give a few hours of your time, please sign up in the members section of our website. Any assistance is most appreciated!



DID YOU KNOW?
Morgan Freeman is very concerned about the decline of the bee population, so he converted his 124 acre ranch into a bee refuge. He hired a gardener, planted hundreds of flowers and turned himself into a beekeeper.
THEFREETHOUGHTPROJECT.COM



BEEKEEPING IN AUGUST

AUGUST AND THE BEES: The bees are behaving much as they did in July, although the nectar dearth is more prominent in August. The bees are making a strong effort to store up for winter, searching for final nectar sources, which are few. Golden Rod and Aster plants may provide some nectar flow.

AUGUST AND THE BEEKEEPER: This is the start of the beekeeper's year! What you do in August will strongly influence how well your bees do next year, and how well they overwinter. Here's your work list for August:

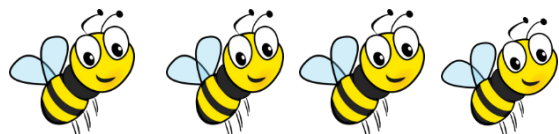
1) **Consider requeening.** You don't have to, if your queen has done well. But it is advisable to requeen in August, no later than September. If you can afford to requeen your hive each year, it would be best to do so. A new queen means a much younger queen who has stronger pheromones to curtail swarming, and who will be more apt to lay eggs more efficiently in the spring.

2) **Continue to monitor Varroa mite infestation.** Promptly take appropriate action to reduce the mite load early in the fall.

3) **Take off all your supers.** There is no need for them now, and you will want to tighten up the hive by removing excess supers.

Check to see if the colony is honey bound. Raise problem combs and other full combs of honey to the upper brood chamber. Never raise eggs or young larvae above the excluder as the bees may rear a queen.

If you have multiple hives, you must be careful not to let a strong hive rob a weak hive. Be careful not to open the hive for extended periods as other hives may attempt to rob the hive while it is opened.



SOUTHEAST VA BEEKEEPER "YARD NOTES"

For



August

There are still a few nectar and pollen sources such as vegetable gardens and landscape ornamentals. However, the bees sense that the primary nectar flow is over so you should begin to see less brood production and slightly more defensive behavior during hive inspections.

- If you are fortunate enough to live in an area with cotton fields, they should be in bloom now. Otherwise, if you have not already done so, August is a good time to remove any surplus honey that is on the hive.
- When pulling honey or returning wet supers to the bees, keep an eye out for robbing activity and install entrance reducers as needed.
- Check your hives for mites and treat if you have high levels of infestation. Mite treatments should be completed in August to produce healthy winter bees. If using the powdered sugar method, use 1 cup per deep brood box or 2/3 cup per medium brood box. Please think hard before using chemical treatments in your hive, you are after all putting an insecticide in a box full of insects. Mite loads should be heavy before you consider this option. If treating with chemicals, all honey for human consumption should be removed before treatment begins, with the exception of Mite Away Quick Strips, which, like all treatments, are applied only in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- If your bees are from swarms or the queen is over two years old, consider requeening in the fall so that the new queen is ready for spring work.
- Make sure your bees have an adequate water supply. They need hydration for themselves and to cool off the hive too!



Bowman's Root (*Gillenia trifoliata*)

What's Blooming In August

Anise hyssop (*Agastache*), Aster, Autumn Sunflower, Bee Balm, Begonia, Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*), Blanket Flower, Bluebeard (*Caryopteris*), Borage, Bowman's Root (*Gillenia trifoliata*), Butterfly Bush, Butterfly Weed, Calendula, Catnip, Chaste Tree (*Vitex*), Chives, White Flowered Sweet Clover (*Mellilotus alba*), and other clovers, Coneflower (*Echinacea*), Cotton, Crepe Myrtle, Cucumber, Dandelion, Dusty Miller, Eggplant, *Escallonia*, Fan Flower (*Scaveola*), Ginger (*Hedychium*), Horehound, Hibiscus, Japanese Clerodendrum, Lamb's Ears, Lavender, Lemon Balm, Lespedeza, Marjoram, Marigold, Melons, all the Mints, Onion, Oregano, Petunia, Plumbago, , Queen Anne's Lace, Roses, Rose Campion, Rosemary, Rose of Sharon, Russian Sage, Salvias, Seven Sons Tree (*Heptacodium miconioides*), Sedum, Soybean, Squash, Sunflower, Thistle, Thyme, Tickseed, Tomato, Trumpet Vine, Verbena, Veronica, Yarrow



Russian Sage
(*Perovskia atriplicifolia*)





Beggarticks (*Bidens aristosa*)

What's Blooming in September

Ageratum, Aster, Bachelor's Buttons, Beggarticks (*Bidens*), Begonia, Blanket Flower, Borage, Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia*), Butterfly Weed, Candle Bush (*Cassia alata*), Canna (*Canna x generalis*), Cape Leadwort (*Plumbago auriculata*), Cat Nip, Celosia, Chrysanthemum, (*Dendranthema hybrids*), Cleome, Coleus, Crepe Myrtle, Eggplant, Escallonia, Fan Flower, Ginger Lily (*Hedychium*), Goldenrod (*Solidago*) Gordonia (*Gordonia lasianthus*), Glossy Abelia, Honeysuckle, Hyssop (*Agastache*), Lavender, Lilyturf (*Liriope spicata*), Marigold, Marjoram, Mexican Sage (*Salvia leucantha*), all the Mints, Oregano, Oxeye daisy (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), Petunia, Pumpkin, Purple & White Coneflower (*Echanacea*), Rose (*Rosa*), Rosemary, Russian Sage, Sunflower, Thyme, Tickseed (*Coreopsis*), Annual and perennial Salvia and Sage (*Salvia* species and cultivars), Sedum, Verbena



Salvia guaranitica

SOUTHEAST VA BEEKEEPER

“YARD NOTES”

For



September

- Hive population will begin to drop this month as the queen's egg laying slows and the drone numbers begin to decline.
- Since drone numbers are decreasing, Varroa mites will begin to reproduce in worker brood at higher rates. Varroa infestations prevent proper development of winter bees, which impacts the likelihood of colony survival. Treat as needed after removing all honey for human consumption.
- You may have begun to see an increase in Small Hive Beetles inside the hive. They survive the winter as adults within the bees' winter cluster. Traps are available commercially to reduce their numbers.
- The 'sour' smell of aster nectar being evaporated into honey may be apparent near hives and is not cause for alarm.
- Harvest your honey crop if you haven't done so already, but remember to leave 60 lbs. of honey for the bees.
- Feed sugar syrup inside the hive if needed in a 2:1 ratio (5 lbs. sugar to 5 cups water) to ensure hives have adequate winter stores. Each gallon of syrup fed to the bees increases their reserves by about seven pounds. Do not use entrance feeders at this time of year.
- Remove queen excluders between the colony and its winter stores.
- Only strong colonies should be overwintered. If you are going to combine weak colonies with strong colonies, do it **NOW** to allow time for the bees to arrange their brood nest and honey stores before winter.
- Install a mouse guard on the hive entrance before cool weather to prevent mouse damage over the winter.

RECIPE CORNER

The BUZZ

Honey Balsamic Butternut Squash



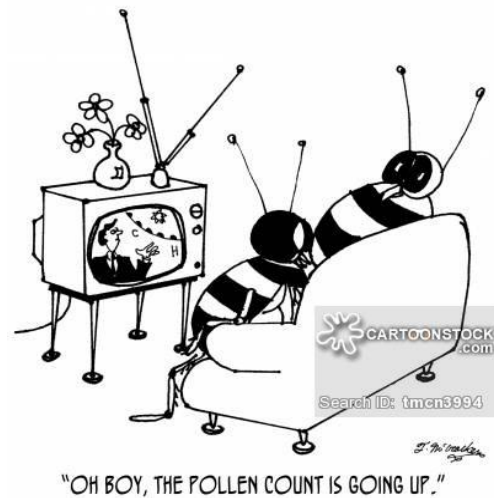
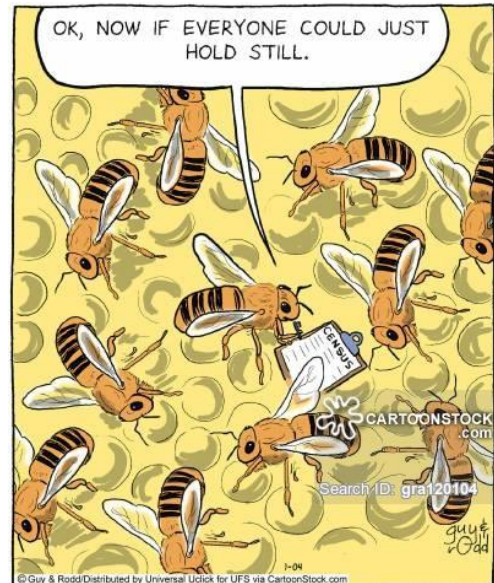
Ingredients

- Butternut squash, peeled
- 1 T honey
- 1T olive oil
- 1 T balsamic vinegar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ t kosher salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ t black pepper

DIRECTIONS

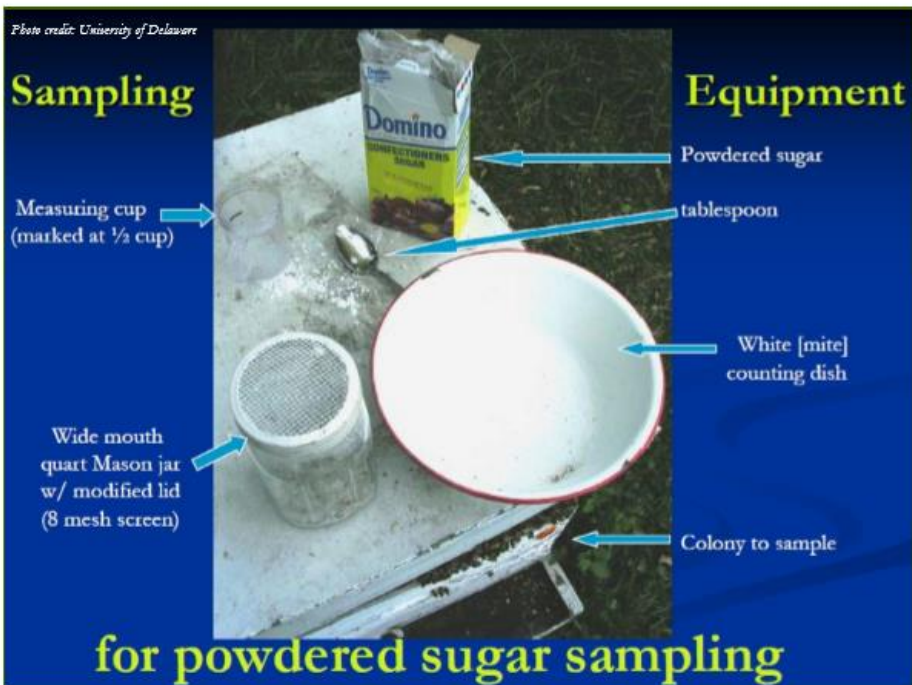
1. Heat oven to 425 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with nonstick foil.
2. Cut butternut squash into 1-inch pieces.
3. Place squash on prepared baking sheet; toss with honey, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, kosher salt, and black pepper. Spread evenly and roast 25 minutes, stirring twice, or until tender and caramelized.

Yummy



Shake Your Bees!

by Pam Fisher



August is the month to treat for Varroa mites to ensure healthy nurse bees capable of rearing winter bees. Be sure to sample prior to treating and only treat if colonies in your apiary test above the treatment threshold.

Researchers have concluded that despite years of attempting to correlate natural mite fall on a sticky board to mite load in the hive, the method is simply not an accurate means of collecting data on mite levels as they relate to treatment thresholds. The

latest recommendation is to use the powdered sugar shake method to more accurately assess the number of mites in your colonies. The following are instructions on how to sample mites using the powdered sugar shake method.

Construct Your Sampling Jar

Step 1: Obtain a pint or quart mason jar and cut a circle of #8 (1/8-inch) screen (used for screened bottom boards) using the lid, NOT the band, as a template. Insert screen inside ring band.

Obtain Bee Sample

Step 2: Open the colony and select one to three frames of open brood, preferably with some capped drone brood. **MAKE SURE THAT THE QUEEN IS NOT ON YOUR SELECTED FRAMES.**

Step 3: Shake bees from frames into bucket, box or plastic storage box.

Step 4: Scoop up 1/2 cup of bees (approximately 300 bees) with a measuring cup. The bees will clump together if you shake or bang the

container before scooping.

Step 4: Transfer 1/2 cup bees to the mason jar and screw on modified #8 screen lid.

Add Powdered Sugar

Step 6: Add 1 to 2 heaping tablespoons of powdered sugar to the bees in the jar through the screened top

Distribute Powdered Sugar

Step 7: Vigorously shake the sample for 1 to 2 minutes to distribute the sugar over the bees. If bees are not

covered, add more sugar. Keep the jar vertical while shaking.

Shake Out the Mites

Step 8: Invert jar over a white dish and vigorously shake sugar and mites from jar. Shake until no sugar or mites come out of jar.

Optional Additional Shake

Step 9: Add an additional 1/2 Tablespoon sugar and shake again for one minute. Invert jar and shake out sugar and mites until no more drop.

Release Bees

Step 10: Return sugar-coated bees to their colony.

Wet Powdered Sugar

Step 11: Use bottled water or a spray bottle of water to wet powdered sugar until it dissolves. Mites will be visible reddish-brown dots.

Calculate Number of Mites

Step 12: Count total number of mites in white dish. Divide number of mites by three (3) to obtain number of mites per 100 bees. Colonies with mite counts over 3 mites per 100 bees should be treated. **THRESHOLD ASSUMES NORMAL SIZE HIVE WITH BROOD.** All colonies in an apiary should be treated at the same time.

Keep Records

Record the number of mites found in your colonies and what treatment, if any, you applied as well as the date it was applied. Resample after treatment to determine treatment efficacy.

