

Spring Flowers are Blooming!



Honeybee on Red Bud

MCDOWELL BEEKEEPERS---A CHAPTER OF THE NC STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

McDowell Bee Buzz

April 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

The McDowell Beekeepers

The McDowell Honey Bees is a chapter of the North Carolina State Beekeeping Association and meets the 2nd Thursday of every month except December (no meeting). McDowell County has a rich history of beekeeping and the club serves the community by promoting beekeeping with educational monthly meetings, school presentations, a free Bee School every winter, agricultural presentations, involvement in community festivals, hosting two annual "Best Tasting Honey in McDowell County" competitions, and maintaining a bee yard at the McDowell Technical Community College for demos and learning.

In addition, our club serves established beekeepers with novice, intermediate, and advanced level classroom and field education, seasonal beekeeping programs, discussion sessions, and providing support and training to advance our beekeepers in the North Carolina Master Beekeeper Program:

Certified Beekeeper
Journeyman Beekeeper
Master Beekeeper
Master Craftsman Beekeeper

Our monthly meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend!

2019 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ed Speer
Vice President: Merrill Davis
Secretary: Karen Speer
Treasurer: Jim Austin
Directors:
Ray Revis
Adam Wright
Sharon Fairchild
Jason McCurry
Kaylyn Fairchild (Youth Director)
Extension Services Agent—Adam Lawning

WEBSITE

[McDowell Honey Bees Website](#)

All past eNewsletters can be found here

HAVE A SWARM?

Save the bees! Contact a Beekeeper
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Everyone Welcome!

Join us at our next monthly meeting!

MARCH 14, 2019 MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday April 11
6:30 pm

McDowell Senior Center
Next to YMCA
100 Spaulding Rd
Marion, NC 28752

Guest speaker
Doug Elliott---Beekeeper, Story Teller



NEW—THERMAL MITE TREATMENT PROGRAM

The McDowell Beekeepers are proud to announce our newest program—Thermal Mite Treatment. Join us Saturday April 6 at Sweet Betsy Farm Apiary for the first training

session on using the Mighty Mite Killer units that will soon be available for club members.

2019 MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS

Jan 10 Karin Stegall
Feb 14 Charlene Covert-Foster
Mar 14 Lynn Williams—Mighty Mite Killer
Apr 11 Doug Elliott—Master Story Teller
May 9 Gear Day—Honey House
Jun 13 Spring Honey Tasting Contest
Jul 11 Open
Aug 8 Open
Sep 12 Summer Honey Tasting Contest
Oct 10 Open
Nov 14 Potluck & Elections
Dec No meeting

Have your bees swarmed?



*Honeybee queen laying eggs
Sweet Betsy Farm Observation Hive 2015*

April 11, 2019 Meeting Agenda

6:30 pm Call to order
Old Business
New Business
7:00 pm Program Speaker—Doug Elliott—Beekeeper & Master Story Teller
8:00 pm Break/Refreshments
8:25 pm Door Prizes/Announcements
8:30 pm Adjourn

Contact Ed Speer to Add AGENDA items
Ed@SweetBetsyFarm.com (828) 724-444

Visit us on Facebook

202 Area Beekeepers Online!

The McDowell Honey Bees has a Facebook page! It's a great place to post your latest activities, keep in touch with fellow beekeepers, learn what's happening right now and communicate with your new friends.

[The McDowell Honey Bees](#)

2019 Field Day

April 27 11 am – 3 pm

Take the NCSBA Certified Beekeeper Practical Exam

Hands-on instruction in an active bee yard

Sweet Betsy Farm Apiary—Glenwood, McDowell Co, NC

Contact [Ed Speer](#) for more information

Everyone Welcome:

- Students from the February 2019 Bee School
- McDowell Beekeeper Club Members
- Beekeepers (beginner to advanced)
- Family Members
- Guests



**Beginning Beekeeper
Class**



Certified Beekeeper Instruction

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 4, 2019

6:30 pm

Sweet Betsy Farm

3947 Mudcut Rd

Marion, NC

US 221, 4 mi south of I-40 (exit 85)

Left turn onto Mudcut Road

First driveway on left

**MCDOWELL COUNTY
NCSBA MASTER
BEEKEEPERS**Ray Revis
Wayne Holland
Karen Speer**MCDOWELL HONEYBEE
MENTORS**

Charles Myers---Nebo
cjmyers1952@gmail.com
Wayne Holland---Glenwood
828-659-4161
Ed Speer---Glenwood
828-724-4444
Karen Speer---Glenwood
828-925-4444
Don Miller---Old Fort
828-668-0154
Merrill Davis---Old Fort
828-668-3153
James Lunsford---Old Fort
828-668-9112
Charles Revis---Marion
828-925-1430
Ray Revis---Marion
828-460-3247
Lonnie/Barb Bewernitz--Old Fort
828-280-3784

Are you a beginning beekeeper who needs
help?

Contact a mentor near you,
or contact Mentoring Chairman Jason McCurry:
jmccu8777@aol.com 828-342-4003

**2019 McDowell Beekeeper Association
Officers****Club Officers**

elected at the 2018 November monthly meeting

Ed Speer – President
Merrill Davis – Vice President
Karen Speer – Secretary
Jim Austin – Treasurer
Ray Revis – Director
Adam Wright – Director
Sharon Fairchild – Director
Jason McCurry - Director

Our Regional Bee Inspector**Lewis Cauble, Apiary Inspector NC Dept Agriculture & Consumer Services****(828) 230-4544; Lewis.Cauble@ncagr.gov****SWARM LIST**

Have you seen a swarm of honeybees?
Don't panic—they aren't aggressive. Call
the McDowell Extension office (828-652-
8104) or call a beekeeper in your area; they
may be able to help!

Marion

Adam Wright 828-442-7817
Harold Arrowood 828-659-2921

Glenwood

Ed Speer 828-724-4444
Wayne Holland 828-659-4161

Pleasant Gardens

Bill Hendley 828-460-0292

Greenlee

Doug Mikell 828-896-5755

Nebo

Ricky Styles 828-652-0184 or 803-3387

Old Fort

Lonnie Bewernitz 828-280-3784
James McGinnis 828-668-4232
Darren Orr 828-581-4494
Don Miller 828-668-0154

Little Switzerland

Mitch Hughes 828-756-7294

McDowell County

Cameron Johnson 828-652-1263

Varroa Management

**Mites, Mites, Mites Everywhere! Oh my!
What's a beekeeper to do?**

Beekeepers' biggest challenge today is the Varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*), which first arrived in the US in 1987 and has been causing widespread chaos ever since. Over the last 30 years, innumerable research studies and beekeeping practices have generated a vast array of management options for the beekeeper. The purpose of this page is to provide a simple, yet complete, summary of these options.

Beekeepers tend to fall into one or two management styles and follow either use of chemical miticide treatments or chemical-free beekeeping. Whichever path you follow, a combination of management practices is often useful. If interested in any of the options listed here, educate yourself further with additional Internet and published reference research. But bee-forewarned: evidence-based advice is often difficult to distinguish from anecdotal-based advice; however, the wise beekeeper should only follow established evidence-based opinions.



Adult Varroa mite on adult honeybee

Recommended References

Tools for Varroa Management—A guide to effective varroa sampling & control; Honey Bee Health Coalition, 2015 (revised 2015)—**a must read resource!** www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org

I.M.N. System of Queen Rearing; Mel Disselkoen, 1988 (revised 2008)
www.mdasplitter.com/docs/IMN-Original-Research-2016.pdf

Solomon Parker www.ParkerBees.com

Randy Oliver www.ScientificBeekeeping.com

Michael Bush www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm

Kirk Webster www.kirkwebster.com

The Bee Gym www.vita-europe.com

Facebook: Treatment-Free Beekeepers Public Group

Internet Search: Treatment free beekeeping

YouTube: OTS Queen Rearing

Dr. Samuel Ramsey videos on Varroa mites

Splits and Varroa; William Hesbach, 2016

Natural Beekeeping; Ross Conrad

Top-Bar Beekeeping: Organic Practices for Honeybee Health; Les Crowder

The Practical Beekeeper: Beekeeping Naturally; Michael Bush

OTS Queen Rearing: A Survival Guide for Beekeepers Worldwide

(2016 Expanded Edition; Mel Disselkoen)

Kill the Little Suckers

- Chemical Miticides** (carefully follow package directions; avoid mite resistance by alternating the use of 4 or more of these chemicals---never use the same chemical on the same hive twice in a row)
 - Synthetic Miticides

Very effective; mite resistance &/or comb residue concerns; avoid or use with extreme caution.

 - Apistan (tau-fluvalinate)
 - Apivar & Takic (amitraz) not approved for use in the US
 - Checkmite+ (coumaphos)
 - Hivastan (fenpyroximate)
 - Many others
 - Natural Miticides

Low to high effectiveness; antibiotic &/or comb residue concerns; mite resistance unknown.

 - Essential Oils
 - Apiguard (thymol)
 - Api Life Var (thymol + eucalyptol, menthol, & camphor)
 - Many low-dose essential oil formulations are currently being tested
 - Organic Acids
 - MiteAway II (formic acid)
 - Oxalic Acid (oxalic acid dihydrate)
 - HopGuard II (hops beta acids)
 - Sucroicide (sucrose octanoate)
- Other Mite-Killing Options** Effectiveness unknown to very low.
 - Hive dusting with powdered sugar
 - Hive fogging with vaporized oils (mineral oil &/or essential oils; beekeeper health concerns)
 - Hive smoking (regular smoke or that from tobacco, grapefruit or aromatic leaves)
 - Use of screened hive bottoms w/ sticky boards
 - Heat treatment (whole-hive or whole-super heater; 104-110°F for 2-4 hrs.) (highly effective)
 - Removal & freezing special-use frames of drone brood (highly effective)
 - High-heat special-use frames of drone brood (in-hive drone frame heater)
 - Ultra-high frequency sound (yes, this is a thing; effectiveness unknown)

Make Them Unwelcome

Effectiveness unknown to low.

- Use small cell comb (small-cell foundation or foundation-less natural comb; 4.6-5.0 mm vs. 5.4 mm)
- Lower pH of sugar syrup &/or pollen substitutes with vinegar when feeding bees (match pH of Honey)
- Locate hives in sunny sites with good air circulation (heat from summer sun probably harms mites)
- Reduce adult bee drifting (space hives far apart, add distinguishing colors/markings)

Other Effective Management Options

In no order.

- Interruptions of honeybee & mite brood cycles

(splits, swarms, cage queen 1-2 weeks, re-queening, winter cluster).
- Use of proven mite-resistant/tolerant honeybee stock (Russians, VSH, Minnesota Hygienic, etc.).
- Repopulating lost or weak colonies with un-treated survivor stock from same apiary.
- Acquiring only chemical-treatment-free honeybee stock.
- Providing proper nutrition for overall better honeybee health & strength (healthier bee forage).
- Removal of high-mite-load drone brood.
- Natural beekeeping (Including avoidance &/or reduction of beekeeper-applied chemical miticides).
- Fungal miticides (in commercial development)

Monitor Mites for Better Decision Making

Strict record keeping and repeated mite counts (via sugar shake, alcohol/detergent wash, ether spray, or sticky board) can help a beekeeper decide which management option, if any, may be needed. The USDA's Bee Research Center in Tucson Arizona rates hives as varroa-tolerant if they have less than 7 mites per 100 bees (7%). But over time, most researchers have steadily reduced threshold counts, especially for low-mite-tolerant honeybee races. Some researchers now consider 1 mite per 100 bees (1%) to be the critical threshold---anything above that suggests some sort of management action is appropriate. Mites should be below acceptable thresholds by August 15 to allow production of healthy winter bees.

The Good News

Varroa mites aren't the end of beekeeping! Many hobby, sideline and even large commercial beekeepers are successfully keeping chemical/treatment-free honeybees throughout the US and around the world---check the references listed on this page. With a bit of diligent research, you too can learn how it's done. Heck, even feral bees are doing it---so you can too! Caution: The abrupt termination of chemical treatment programs in individual apiaries may result in heavy honeybee losses---re-populate from the colonies that survive or start over with local proven survivor stock. When acquiring new bees, if possible select only local non-chemically-treated survivor stock.

Club Committees

The McDowell Honey Bee club volunteers support local beekeepers as well as help educate the public about the importance of honeybees as critical pollinators and producers of products like honey and bees wax.

Committees/Chairs

Executive Committee

Ed Speer ed@sweetbetsyfarm.com
828-724-4444

Carson House Apiary

Bill Hendley bmhendley@gmail.com
828-460-0292

McDowell Honey House

Adam Wright blueold96@yahoo.com
828-442-7817

Community Outreach

Karen Speer
Karen@SweetBetsyFarm.com
828-924-4444

Hospitality

Lynn Bradley lsbradley@msn.com
828-305-0323

Golden Achievement Program (GAP)

Mentoring Program

Jason McCurry jmccu8777@aol.com
828-342-4003

Webmaster---Karen Speer

Newsletter---Ed Speer

Bee School 2019---Karen Speer

Journeyman Study Group---Bill Hendley

Beekeeper Education---Ed Speer

Thermal Mite Treatment---Ed Speer

Nominating Committee--TBD

Treasury Report for Mar 31, 2019

Treasurer---Jim Austin

2019	Feb 28	Mar 31
Checking	\$4,312.01	\$3,171.58
Cash on hand	149.47	186.47
Total	\$4,461.48	\$3,358.05

- 1 Wellness Program payments in 2019
- No debt or unpaid bills
- 36 Current paid memberships (includes families)
- 4 Lifetime members

TREASURY REPORTS

The treasury reports will be included in each monthly newsletter but will not be presented in detail at the regular monthly meetings. The Executive Committee has oversight of the club's treasury and reviews the details at each bi-monthly EC meeting. If you have any questions or concerns about the club's treasury, you will be given an opportunity to speak at the regular monthly meetings or you may speak to an officer or director, who will then present your comments at the next EC meeting. Club members are welcome to address the directors at any Executive Committee meeting.



MCDOWELL HONEY HOUSE

The Honey House is closed for the winter. It will reopen soon.

THERMAL MITE TREATMENT

Club members will soon be able to rent one of the Might Mite Killer units recently purchased by the club. This is a non-chemical method of controlling Varroa mites. Interested members should attend the training session on Saturday April 6, 10am-Noon, at Sweet Betsy Farm Apiary. Lynn Williams, inventor of the MMK will be on hand to show how the heaters work.



BEGINNER MENTORING

Need an experienced beekeeper's help? Contact our club's mentoring program Chairman **Jason McCurry** to be assigned a mentor. jmccu8777@aol.com
828-342-4003

BEE SCHOOL 2019

Thanks to the many club volunteers who helped make another successful Bee School. We raised more than \$1,300 for the club!

Bee School

The club's annual Bee School offers beginner beekeepers classes and hands-on training leading to **Certified Beekeeper** status by the NC State Beekeepers Association.

McDowell Honey House

The McDowell Honey House is a fully equipped self-service honey processing facility built and maintained by the McDowell Honey Bees. It is open to all club members—reservations required.



Community Outreach

Mountain Glory Festival
Presentations to schools & Community
Agriculture Awareness Field Days

Upcoming Events



NC STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION SUMMER MEETING

August 8-10, 2019
Thursday, Friday & Saturday
Hickory, NC

MCDOWELL BEEKEEPERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday April 4, 2019 6:30 PM

McDowell Honeybee Chapter EC meetings
are held every other month

2018 EC Meetings:

Jan 8	Jul 9
Mar 12	Sep 10
May 7	Nov 12

**THIS IS A SPECIAL MEETING TO ORGANIZE THE CLUB'S NEW THERMAL MITE
TREATMENT COMMITTEE AND SET RULES FOR USING THE EQUIPMENT**

All officers and directors are expected to attend. Club members are also welcome---please contact the president ahead of time if you wish to address the board or place topics on the agenda.

MCDOWELL BEEKEEPERS MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

THURSDAY APRIL 11, 2019

6:30 pm

McDowell Senior Center
Marion, NC

2019 Monthly Club Meetings:

Jan 10	Jul 11
Feb 14	Aug 8
Mar 14	Sep 12
Apr 11	Oct 10
May 9	Nov 14
Jun 13	Dec--no meeting

Door prizes at beekeeper gatherings are a strong long-standing tradition. Donations for our monthly meetings are encouraged and welcomed. Please bring your donated items to the next meeting. Here's your chance to highlight your products or handicrafts, clean out your storage locker, or simply share your bounty with fellow beekeepers!

ADVANCED BEEKEEPING CLASSES--JUNE

June 15, 22 & 29

Bill Hendley's advanced beekeeping classes are held the last 3 Saturdays in June. Required registration will began soon.

BEST TASTING HONEY COMPETITIONS

The McDowell Honeybees hosts two **Best Tasting Honey in McDowell County** competitions every year!

Spring Honey (June 13)
Summer Honey (September 12)

Plan to enter your honey in 2019!
 The top 3 winning honeys are sent to Texas A&M University
 for pollen analyses, paid for by the club!

4-H BEEKEEPING GROUP STARTING!

McDowell County's own 4-H Beekeeping group is getting started! Sponsored by the McDowell Cooperative Extension and the McDowell Beekeepers Association. 8 kids signed up at the initial meeting October 25th. Call Chad (828-652-8104) or Sharon (828-652-9478 or 460-4044) for more information or to sign up.

NCSBA SOURWOOD INITIATIVE

The McDowell Bee club has submitted 10 sourwood samples from different local beekeepers to the NCSBA for special nuclear magnetic resonating (NMR) testing by a lab in Germany. The samples are now at the lab and results should soon be available. This is the initial testing to establish the world's first fingerprint chemical standards for Sourwood honey! We are extremely excited to be a part of this program!

THERMAL MITE TREATMENT TRAINING SESSION

April 6, 2019
10:00 am – noon
Sweet Betsy Farm Apiary

Mr. Lynn Williams, Inventor of the Mighty Mite Killer, will explain his new, revolutionary, chemical-free, heat treatment for Varroa mites. Check out his YouTube videos and the Mighty Mite Thermal Treatment Users Facebook page. The fight against Varroa has now turned in the beekeepers' favor!

MCDOWELL BEEKEEPERS APRIL MEETING

April 11, 2019

Mr. Doug Elliott of Rutherford County, NC is a beekeeper and a master storyteller! His beekeeping antics are sure to entertain everyone. Don't miss it!

Beekeepers

A world of easily-accessible beekeeping information awaits you! Check out the following online, magazine, book, catalog, and workshop sources for the answers to all your beekeeping questions.

Never stop learning!

MONTHLY BEEKEEPING MAGAZINES

[American Bee Journal](#)

[Bee Culture](#)

GENERAL BEEKEEPING INFO

[Randy Oliver's Scientific Beekeeping](#)

[Free Beginner's DVD](#)

[YouTube Beekeeping Videos](#)

[Choose from 100's---Search any topic](#)

[Michael Bush's Practical Beekeeper](#)

[The Different Types of Honey Bees](#)

[Removing Feral Bees](#)

[Free Classic Historical eBooks](#)

including Langstroth 1853!!

HONEY BEES WORK HARD

How much honey does a single worker bee produce during her lifetime?

1/12 teaspoon!

How many honeybees does it take to make 1 lb. of honey?

800 honeybees working for 2 weeks! Or 11,000 honeybees working for 1 day!

How long would a single worker bee have to live forging every day to produce 1 lb. of honey?

29.5 years!

How far do honey bees fly to produce 1 lb. of honey?

55,000 miles! That's 2.2 times the distance around the earth!

How many flower visits does it take to produce 1 lb. of honey?

2 million!

NORTH CAROLINA BEEKEEPING NEWS

[NC State Beekeepers Association](#)

[North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Apiary Inspection](#)

[North Carolina State University Apiculture Program](#)

[North Carolina Honey Standard](#)

[Africanized Honey Bees in NC](#)

PLANTING FOR BEES

[Garden Plants for Honey Bees](#)

[Sensible Gardening](#)

[Xerces Society](#)

[Native NC Pollinator Friendly Plants](#)

[Honey Plants of NC](#)

[Flowering Season WNC Plants](#)

[Painters Greenhouse](#)

COMMERCIAL HONEYBEE SUPPLIERS

[Beech Mountain Beekeeping](#)

[BetterBee](#)

[Dadant](#)

[Hwy 226 Bee Supply](#)

[Kelley Beekeeping](#)

[Mann Lake](#)

[Miller Bee Supply](#)

[Orr Bee Supply](#)

[Reel's Bee Supply](#) (828) 738-3939

[Revis Russian Apiaries](#)

[Honey & The Hive](#)

WORKSHOPS/CLASSES

[Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary Workshops](#)

[NC Cooperative Extension Online Courses for Beginner & Advanced Beekeepers](#)

[Honey & The Hive](#)

Friends of Honeybees

The world of beekeeping can be both fascinating and confusing. Your local beekeeping club is here to help.

SWARM OF BEES? WHO YOU GONN'A CALL?

Have you seen a swarm of honeybees? Don't panic—they aren't aggressive. Just call a beekeeper in your area; they may be able to help.

Marion

Adam Wright 828-442-7817
Harold Arrowood 828-659-2921

Glenwood

Ed Speer 828-724-4444
Wayne Holland 828-659-4161

Pleasant Gardens

Bill Hendley 828-460-0292

Greenlee

Doug Mikell 828-896-5755
Bruce Clifton 828-925-0646

Nebo

Ricky Styles 828-652-0184 or 803-3887

Old Fort

Lonnie Bewernitz 828-280-3784
James McGinnis 828-668-4232
Darren Orr 828-581-4494
Don Miller 828-668-0154

Little Switzerland

Mitch Hughes 828-756-7294

McDowell County

Cameron Johnson 828-652-1263

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH CRYSTALLIZED HONEY?

1) Eat it like spreadable paste. It has probably not spoiled. Many cultures around the world prefer crystallized rather than liquid honey---Yes, they wait for honey to crystallize before eating it! Creaming crystallized honey by periodically stirring makes a smooth, delicious spread. Use like butter on toast, biscuits or muffins.

2) Return it to liquid with low heat applied over a long time. Set bottle of crystallized honey on dashboard of car parked in the sun---works in a few hours (summer) to a few days (winter). OK, doesn't work in really cold weather, but you should avoid heating honey in a microwave or in a boiling-water bath on a stovetop because that much high heat kills beneficial bacteria and enzymes.

Storing honey in the refrigerator can hasten crystallization! Storing in dry, room-temperature dark kitchen cabinet can slow the crystallization process.

Recipe of the Month

HONEY SPICED CIDER

From www.SweetBetsyFarm.com

Ingredients

2 quarts of apple cider
Peel from 1 large or 2 medium oranges
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon or 4 cinnamon sticks
1 tsp ground cloves or 1 tablespoon whole cloves
¼ cup raw honey

Directions

1. Peel oranges taking only the orange part of the peel---you do not want any of the white as it will make the cider bitter.
2. Mix all ingredients in a saucepan and heat.
3. Simmer 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Adjust sweetness by adding more honey if desired.
5. Serve hot.

Cold weather is coming---be ready with this tasty hot apple cider!

Submit your favorite honey recipe for the next newsletter

Ed@SweetBetsyFarm.com

BEE STING EMERGENCY?

CALL 911

GENERAL QUESTIONS?

call Allergy Partners of WNC
(828) 255-3749

Allergy Partners of WNC--Marion
136 Creekview Court
Marion, NC 28752
(828) 652-6454
Dr. Leigh Anne Schwietz
Mondays 9am-5:30pm
Tuesdays 8am-11:30pm, 1pm-4:30 pm

NORMAL VS. DANGEROUS REACTIONS TO INSECT STINGS
What's the difference? Check these websites:

[WebMD](#)

[American Academy Allergy Asthma MedicineNet.com](#)

[MedicineNet.com](#)

[NC State University](#)

[B. Marterre, MD](#)

MCDOWELL COUNTY HONEY TRAIL

Looking for Local Honey or something fun to do in McDowell County?

Visit an active bee farm
Find local honey for sale

www.McDowellCountyHoneyTrail.org

BEE JOKE OF THE MONTH

What kind of weapon does a bee use?

(Find answer on last page)

DOES HONEY GO BAD?

Normally---no. Some honeys stay fresh for thousands of years. Most honey will eventually crystallize, but crystallization is not spoilage---just a change in physical state. Honey is naturally anti-microbial and kills most bacteria, fungus, and viruses. Honey is antiseptic and is often used to heal infected wounds.

However, the water naturally contained in honey may separate out during crystallization. Mold and/or alcohol can then develop in the expelled water and cause spoilage. Fermented honey will smell and taste like alcohol.

Yeast in the air is the culprit--to prevent crystallization and possible spoilage, store honey in full, air-tight containers at room temperature.

McDowell Honey Bees

FREE!

Classified Ads

Have something to sell, trade, or give away? Here's your chance to advertise FREE in our monthly newsletter! Choose one of the listed categories and submit your listing (40 words or less) to the editor: Ed Speer Ed@SweetBetsyFarm.com

You must be a paid member of McDowell Honeybees (or a supporter of the club) to make a listing—but you can make as many listings as you like. Need other categories---just let the editor know. Your listing will continue every month until you inform the editor to remove it. Describe your item and give your phone number, address, and/or email so interested parties can contact you directly. Listings are subject to editor approval; editor not responsible for accuracy or validity of listings.

If your classified ad was successful, please consider making a donation to our monthly meeting refreshment fund.

LOCAL HONEY FOR SALE

Honey House at Sweet Betsy Farm. (Fri & Sat 10-5, May-Dec, other times by appointment), 3947 Mudcut Rd Glenwood.

Chemical-free Beekeeping. (828) 724-4444. Karen@SweetBetsyFarm.com
www.SweetBetsyFarm.com

HoneyBird Farms. Sugar Hill. (828) 738-8593 jessemo4@hotmail.com

Mikell's Farm Honey---uses Organic Beekeeping Practices (828) 668-0103. Old Fort. www.Mikellsfarmhoney.com
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/mikellsfarmhoney

Ray Revis. (828) 652-3524.
Marion. www.RevisRussians.com

Charles Revis. Old Fort. (828) 925-1430.
revisjs@gmail.com

Orr Bee Supply. 323 Morris Hollow Rd, Old Fort. (828) 581-4494.
OrrBeeSupply@live.com

Bill Hendley. Pleasant Gardens. (828) 460-0292. bmhendley@gmail.com

Wayne Holland. Glenwood. (828) 659-4161. Wayneholland57@yahoo.com

Magic Creek Farm. Marion. (843) 421-6852. Jimaustin66@gmail.com

OTHER HIVE PRODUCTS FOR SALE

Beeswax---Honey House at Sweet Betsy Farm. (Fri & Sat 10-5, May-Dec, other times by appointment) 3947 Mudcut Rd Glenwood. (828) 724-4444.

Karen@SweetBetsyFarm.com
www.SweetBetsyFarm.com

HONEYBEES FOR SALE

Russian Honeybees---Nucs & queens. Revis Russian Apiaries. (828) 652-3524. PO Box 2520 Marion, NC 28752.
www.RevisRussians.com

Russian Honeybees---Nucs & queens. Charles Revis. (828) 925-1430. revisjs@gmail.com

Superior North Carolina-raised packaged bees and overwintered 5-frame nucs; also queens---Orr Bee Supply. 323 Morris Hollow Rd, Old Fort. (828) 581-4494. OrrBeeSupply@live.com
www.orrbeesupply.com

Italian Honeybees---Nucs. Hwy 226 Bee Supply. 13133 NC 226 South. Union Mills. (828) 652-1263.
www.Hwy226BeeSupplies.com

FARM PRODUCTS FOR SALE

Free-Range Eggs---Honey House at Sweet Betsy Farm. (Fri & Sat 10-5, May-Dec, other times by appointment) 3947 Mudcut Rd Glenwood. (828) 724-4444.

Karen@SweetBetsyFarm.com
www.SweetBetsyFarm.com

HANDMADE CRAFTS FOR SALE

Lip Balm, Soap, Earrings, Wax Ornaments---Honey House at Sweet Betsy Farm. (Fri & Sat 10-5, May-Dec, other times by appointment) 3947 Mudcut Rd Glenwood. (828) 724-4444.

Karen@SweetBetsyFarm.com
www.SweetBetsyFarm.com

Lip Balm, Soap, Salves, Butters, Balms, etc---All Natural and Organic Ingredients with Essential Oils---Mikell's Farm Honey. (828) 668-0103. Old Fort.

www.Mikellsfarmhoney.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Bee-Naturally-by-Sharry-of-Mikells-Farm-1595338734026320/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/mikellsfarmhoney

Lip Balm, Soap, Body Creams, Beard Balm---HoneyBird Farms. Sugar Hill. (828) 738-8593 jessemo4@hotmail.com

Handcrafted Soaps, Body Scrubs, Bath Soaks & More!

Forever Found Farm, Glenwood (828) 738-9989 ForeverFundFarm@gmail.com
www.etsy.com/shop/ForeverFoundFarm

BEE-FRIENDLY PLANTS

Bee-Friendly Plants, Including Natives---Painters Greenhouse Nursery 734 Roy Moore Rd, Old Fort, NC www.paintersgreenhouse.com (828) 668-7225
Paintersgreenhouse1@gmail.com

ITEMS FOR TRADE/BARTER

Bees for Trees---Will trade six (6) potted Sourwood trees (3'-5') for an established Honeybee colony, preferably Russians or some other hygienic race. Lonnie & Barb Bewernitz, Hugging Tree Farm. Old Fort, NC (828) 668-9660
LonnieB@LonnieB CPA.com

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES FOR SALE

Custom-made Wooden Ware and Beekeeping Supplies. Also Extractors (hand crank or motorized)---Orr Bee Supply. 323 Morris Hollow Rd, Old Fort. (828) 581-4494. OrrBeeSupply@live.com
www.orrbeesupply.com

Custom-made Wooden Ware---Reel Bee Supply. Sugar Hill. (828) 738-3939.

Hive Frames, Small, Wood, new, no foundation, 10 total---Jim Austin, Magic Creek Farm, Marion (843) 421-6852.

Complete Beekeeping Supplies---Hwy 226 Bee Supply. 13133 NC 226 South. Union Mills. (828) 652-1263. www.Hwy226BeeSupplies.com

USED BEEKEEPING ITEMS FOR SALE

Complete Hives/Hive Components---Used in our personal bee yard, cleaned, refurbished, ready to use. Orr Bee Supply. 323 Morris Hollow Rd, Old Fort. (828) 581-4494. OrrBeeSupply@live.com
www.orrbeesupply.com

HONEY STICKS FOR SALE

Flavored Honey Sticks---\$16.50/100 honey sticks. Chocolate, Sour Apple, Caramel, Ginger, Mango, Root Beer, Pink Lemonade, Sour Strawberry & Sour Cherry. Honey House at Sweet Betsy Farm (Fri & Sat 10-5, May-Dec, other times by appointment) 3947 Mudcut Rd Glenwood. (828) 724-4444.
Karen@SweetBetsyFarm.com
www.SweetBetsyFarm.com

CDB Infused Local Honey Sticks---Bill Hendley, Marion Farmers Market (828) 460-0292 bmhendley@gmail.com

BROWN MOUNTAIN LIGHTS BOOK

The Brown Mountain Lights--History, Science, and Human Nature explain an Appalachian Mystery by Ed Speer 2017

Three years of research
250-page book signed by author

\$35
Ed@SweetBetsyFarm.com 828-724-4444

The McDowell Bee Buzz April 2019

(828) 724-4444

eNewsletter of the
McDowell Honey Bees

a Chapter of the North Carolina State
Beekeepers Association

MCDOWELL COUNTY BEST TASTING HONEY WINNERS

2011 (Sep 10)

- 1st Bill Hendley
- 2nd William & Barb Higgins
- 3rd Ray & Mickey Revis (Southern Buzz-N-Honey)

2013 (Sep 7)

- 1st Adam & Brooke Wright
- 2nd Joel & Charlene Lambert
- 3rd Jill Sidebottom

2015 (Sep 12)

- 1st Stoney Finley
- 2nd Jim & Deb Austin (Magic Creek Honey Farm)
- 3rd Ed & Karen Speer (Sweet Betsy Farm)

2016 Summer Honey (Sep 8)

- 1st Bill Hendley (Hendley Honey)
- 2nd Tonya Kiser
- 3rd Dan & Susan Wilson (Little Swiss Hives)

2017 Summer Honey (Sep 14)

- 1st Russell Schmidt
- 2nd Sharon & Keith Fairchild
- 3rd Jada Fairchild

2018 Summer Honey (Sep 13)

- 1st Dan Shea
- 2nd Ray & Mickey Revis (Southern Buzz-N-Honey)
- 3rd Mike & Marie Hobbs (Wisteria Farm)

2012

- 1st Wayne Holland
- 2nd
- 3rd

2014 (Sep 6)

- 1st Don Miller
- 2nd
- 3rd

2016 Spring Honey (Jun 9)

- 1st Ryan & Sarah Jacobs (Jacob's Hollow Honey)
- 2nd Ed & Karen Speer (Sweet Betsy Farm)
- 3rd Vanda Brock

2017 Spring Honey (Jun 8)

- 1st Fairchild family (Keith, Sharon, Jada)
- 2nd Ray & Mickey Revis (Southern Buzz-N-Honey)
- 3rd Charles Revis

2018 Spring Honey (Jun 14)

- 1st Charles Revis
- 2nd Jim & Deb Austin (Magic Creek Honey)
- 3rd Mike & Marie Hobbs (Wisteria Farm)

2019 Spring Honey (Jun 13)

To be Determined!

Please help correct and/or add to this list. Anyone with additional information should contact the editor. Together, we can help preserve our club's history.

Answer to this month's bee joke:

A bee-bee gun!

Thanks for Reading
April 2019

Newsletter Editor—Ed Speer (828) 724-4444 Ed@SweetBetsyFarm.com