

## Early Spring Flowers are Blooming!



# McDowell Bee Buzz

## March 2019

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

IN THIS ISSUE

## The McDowell Honey Bees

The McDowell Honey Bees is a chapter of the North Carolina State Beekeeping Association and meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
See Swarm List on [page 4](#)

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## Everyone Welcome!

# Join us at our next monthly meeting!

### MARCH 14, 2019 MONTHLY MEETING

**Thursday March 14**  
6:30 pm

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

Guest speaker  
Lynn Williams—Mighty Mite Killer



### MIGHTY MITE KILLER

*Our March meeting will be very informative. Lynn Williams, inventor of the Mighty Mite Killer will be discussing his New, Highly-Effective Non-Chemical mite treatment. Don't miss it!*

### 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

## Did your bees survive the winter?



Honeybee queen laying eggs  
Sweet Betsy Farm Observation Hive 2015

## March 14, 2019 Meeting Agenda

6:30 pm Call to order  
     Old Business  
     New Business  
 7:00 pm Program Speaker—Lynn Williams—Mighty Mite Killer (Heat Treatment for Mites)  
 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](mailto:Ed@SweetBetsyFarm.com) (828) 724-444

### Visit us on Facebook

***184 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



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 12, 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.

## 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

**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

Chuck Wilson 828-803-9089  
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!](http://www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org) [www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org](http://www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org)

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

Solomon Parker [www.ParkerBees.com](http://www.ParkerBees.com)

Randy Oliver [www.ScientificBeekeeping.com](http://www.ScientificBeekeeping.com)

Michael Bush [www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm](http://www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm)

Kirk Webster [www.kirkwebster.com](http://www.kirkwebster.com)

The Bee Gym [www.vita-europe.com](http://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](mailto:ed@sweetbetsyfarm.com)  
828-724-4444

### MTCC Apiary

#### Carson House Apiary

Bill Hendley [bmhendley@gmail.com](mailto:bmhendley@gmail.com)  
828-460-0292

### McDowell Honey House

Adam Wright [blueold96@yahoo.com](mailto:blueold96@yahoo.com)  
828-442-7817

### Community Outreach

Karen Speer  
[Karen@SweetBetsyFarm.com](mailto:Karen@SweetBetsyFarm.com)  
828-924-4444

### Hospitality

Lynn Bradley [lsbradley@msn.com](mailto:lsbradley@msn.com)  
828-305-0323

### Golden Achievement Program (GAP)

#### Mentoring Program

Stephanie Wilds [swilds2014@gmail.com](mailto:swilds2014@gmail.com)  
828-301-3030

### Webmaster---Karen Speer

### Newsletter---Ed Speer

### Bee School 2019---Karen Speer

### Journeyman Study Group---Bill Hendley

### Beekeeper Education---Ed Speer

### Nominating Committee--TBD

## Treasury Report for Feb 28, 2019

### Treasurer---Jim Austin

2019	<u>Jan 31</u>	<u>Feb 28</u>
Checking	\$2,333.66	\$4,312.01
Cash on hand	144.47	149.47
Total	\$2,478.13	\$4,461.48

- o 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.*

## MTCC APIARY

Three of the 4 hives died in 2017. The remaining hive is doing well. Due to unexpected herbicide use at the college, all hives were moved to the Sweet Betsy Farm apiary and will be returned to a different site at the college when they are healthy.

## MCDOWELL HONEY HOUSE

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



## MTCC Apiary

Honeybee hives at McDowell Technical Community College are maintained by the McDowell Honey Bees. The hives are used for education and instruction. The honey is harvested by the club and shared with the college.



## 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.

## 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!



## Community Outreach

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

# Upcoming Events



## NCSBA SPRING 2019 MEETING

**March 1 & 2 2019**

Monroe, NC

Joint meeting with South Carolina Beekeepers Association (SCBA)

For more information:

[NC State Beekeepers Association](http://www.ncstatebees.org)

## NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Tuesday March 12, 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

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.

## NEXT MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

**THURSDAY MARCH 14, 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 begin soon.

## BEST TASTING HONEY COMPETITIONS

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

**Spring Honey (June)**  
**Summer Honey (September)**

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 25<sup>th</sup>. 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!

## MCDOWELL HONEYBEES MARCH MEETING

**March 14, 2019**

**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 HONEYBEES 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!!

## 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](#)

## 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](#)

## 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](#)

[Wild Mountain Bees](#)

## WORKSHOPS/CLASSES

[Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary Workshops](#)

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



# 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

Chuck Wilson 828-803-9089

## 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.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.McDowellCountyHoneyTrail.org)

## BEE JOKE OF THE MONTH

What do bees use to build roads?

(Find answer on last page)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Karen@SweetBetsyFarm.com)  
[www.SweetBetsyFarm.com](http://www.SweetBetsyFarm.com)

HoneyBird Farms. Sugar Hill. (828) 738-8593 [jessem04@hotmail.com](mailto:jessem04@hotmail.com)

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

Ray Revis. (828) 652-3524. Marion. [www.RevisRussians.com](http://www.RevisRussians.com)

Charles Revis. Old Fort. (828) 925-1430. [revisjs@gmail.com](mailto:revisjs@gmail.com)

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

Bill Hendley. Pleasant Gardens. (828) 460-0292. [bmhendley@gmail.com](mailto:bmhendley@gmail.com)

Wayne Holland. Glenwood. (828) 659-4161. [Wayneholland57@yahoo.com](mailto:Wayneholland57@yahoo.com)

Magic Creek Farm. Marion. (843) 421-6852. [jimaustin66@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Karen@SweetBetsyFarm.com)  
[www.SweetBetsyFarm.com](http://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](http://www.RevisRussians.com)

**Russian Honeybees**—Nucs & queens. Charles Revis. (828) 925-1430. [revisjs@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://OrrBeeSupply@live.com)  
[www.orrbeesupply.com](http://www.orrbeesupply.com)

**Italian Honeybees**—Nucs. Hwy 226 Bee Supply. 13133 NC 226 South. Union Mills. (828) 652-1263. [www.Hwy226BeeSupplies.com](http://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](mailto:Karen@SweetBetsyFarm.com)  
[www.SweetBetsyFarm.com](http://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](mailto:Karen@SweetBetsyFarm.com)  
[www.SweetBetsyFarm.com](http://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](http://www.Mikellsfarmhoney.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Bee-Naturally-by-Sharry-of-Mikells-Farm-1595338734026320/](http://www.facebook.com/Bee-Naturally-by-Sharry-of-Mikells-Farm-1595338734026320/)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mikellsfarmhoney](http://www.facebook.com/mikellsfarmhoney)

**Lip Balm, Soap, Body Creams, Beard Balm**—HoneyBird Farms. Sugar Hill. (828) 738-8593 [jessem04@hotmail.com](mailto:jessem04@hotmail.com)

**Handcrafted Soaps, Body Scrubs, Bath Soaks & More!**  
Forever Found Farm, Glenwood (828) 738-9989 [ForeverFundFarm@gmail.com](mailto:ForeverFundFarm@gmail.com)  
[www.etsy.com/shop/ForeverFoundFarm](http://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](http://www.paintersgreenhouse.com) (828) 668-7225 [Paintersgreenhouse1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:OrrBeeSupply@live.com)  
[www.orrbeesupply.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:OrrBeeSupply@live.com)  
[www.orrbeesupply.com](http://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](mailto:Karen@SweetBetsyFarm.com)  
[www.SweetBetsyFarm.com](http://www.SweetBetsyFarm.com)

**CDB Infused Local Honey Sticks**—Bill Hendley, Marion Farmers Market (828) 460-0292 [bmhendley@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Ed@SweetBetsyFarm.com) 828-724-4444

# The McDowell Bee Buzz March 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)

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

### 2013 (Sep 7)

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

### 2015 (Sep 12)

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

### 2016 Summer Honey (Sep 8)

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

### 2017 Summer Honey (Sep 14)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Russell Schmidt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sharon & Keith Fairchild
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jada Fairchild

### 2018 Summer Honey (Sep 13)

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

### 2012

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wayne Holland
- 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 3<sup>rd</sup>

### 2014 (Sep 6)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Don Miller
- 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 3<sup>rd</sup>

### 2016 Spring Honey (Jun 9)

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

### 2017 Spring Honey (Jun 8)

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

### 2018 Spring Honey (Jun 14)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Charles Revis
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim & Deb Austin (Magic Creek Honey)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

*Nec-tar!*

Thanks for Reading  
March 2019

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