



Albuquerque kicks off "Bee City" Summer

Last year, the city of Albuquerque adopted a resolution making it part of the **Bee City USA movement**—a growing program to get American cities to commit to creating and maintaining healthy pollinator habitats. This summer and fall, numerous events will help celebrate pollinators and the **Burque Bee City USA resolution** this summer and fall, with ongoing events throughout the city. Here are some highlights...



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THE NEW MEXICO BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

is dedicated to informing and inspiring persons interested in beekeeping, and educating the general public.

Botanical Mural Project

Ongoing

Later this year, **516 ARTS** will host an exhibition about bees and other pollinators (see "Cross Pollination," below). In anticipation, the **Botanical Mural Project** features two new murals by renowned Argentinian artist Pastel.

Tower Plaza Building, 510 2nd St. NW
Sanitary Tortilla Factory, 401 2nd St. SW

Kelly Eckel: Insects Magnified

June 1 - October 1, 2017 (Tues-Sun, 9 am-5 pm)

Artist and educator Kelly Eckel's photographs of magnified insects. (You can also join Kelly for a workshop on Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 10 am-Noon.) Free.

City of Albuquerque Open Space

Visitor Center Gallery
6500 Coors NW

Abq Beeks Meeting

June 1, 2017, 6:30-8:30 pm

Have you ever wanted to learn how to become a beekeeper? Join the **Abq Beeks** local beekeeping group for their monthly meeting to find a local beekeeping community.

Bosque School, Budagher Hall
4000 Learning Rd.

Edible and Medicinal Plant Hike

June 11, 2017, 9-11 am

Free instructional hike led by Dara Saville. Pre-Registration Required. Contact Bill Pentler at 505-452-5222.

City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center
6500 Coors Blvd NW

Pollinator Garden Tour

June 17, 2017, 8:30am-12 noon

The **Native Plant Society of New Mexico** hosts a tour of the Rio Grande Nature Center native plant garden, the Oso Grande Pollinator Garden, and the Unitarian Church Garden.

2901 Candelaria Rd NW (parking \$3)

Pollinator Celebration at the Botanic Garden

June 17, 2017, 10 am-2 pm

Discover the fascinating jobs of bees, birds, bats, beetles, butterflies and other pollinators.

Included with regular admission.

ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden

2601 Central Ave. NW
505-768-200

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Message from The President

Anybody want to play "Stump the Beekeeper"...?

One of the activities I enjoy most is teaching children about honeybees. That's why I participate in the Bernalillo County Extension's "Kids, Kows and More" program. Recently, in several sessions over the course of two days, I spoke to more than 600 students about how important our honeybees are. The kids were 2nd through 5th graders.

On the last day, I was telling my group about a bee's proboscis and how it sucks nectar into the bee's second stomach, the "honey stomach." I also shared how bees communicate through pheromones and smell. One little boy (in a Ninja Turtle shirt) raised his hand and asked, "Where is a bee's nose to smell pheromones, and how does a bee breathe when sucking in nectar?" I had absolutely no idea what the answer was to either of these questions. I had been stumped!

I came home and immediately began researching both questions. Turns out bees don't have lungs, but breathe through a series of tracheas and air sacs. As the air sacs open, air flows in through vacuum and is forced into smaller and smaller tracheas until it reaches individual cells. Bees smell with their mouths, antennae and the tips of their legs through sensilla: receptor nerve cells on organs that look like hair. Even after ten years of beekeeping, I obviously still have plenty to learn!

I encourage and applaud each and every one of you who gets out there and speaks about bees to kids, neighbors and community members. We are all stewards for a very important insect who speaks through us—and sometimes, we might even learn something new.

Wishing you a bountiful summer,

Jessie Brown
President
New Mexico Beekeepers Association

Sources:

Huang, Zachary. "Anatomy of the Honey Bee." Extension.org. June 9, 2014. <http://articles.extension.org/pages/21754/anatomy-of-the-honey-bee>

Robertson, Hugh M., and Wanner, Kevin W. "The chemoreceptor superfamily in the honey bee, *Apis mellifera*: Expansion of the odorant, but not gustatory, receptor family." Genome Research, 16(11): 1395–1403, 2006. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1626641>



NEW MEXICO BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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NM Beekeepers Association Presents Dr. Dewey M. Caron

September 23, 2017, 10 am-3 pm

Join the NM Beekeepers Association for guest speaker Dr. Dewey M. Caron as he speaks about *"Good News About Honeybees"* and gives a practical beekeeping workshop. Admission: \$15.

South Broadway Cultural Center, 1025 Broadway Blvd SE.

Dr. Caron is Emeritus Professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware, and Affiliate Professor, Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University. He spent 40+ years teaching, doing bee extension and bee research at Cornell University, the University of Maryland, and the University of Delaware. He now spends four to six months each year in Bolivia, where he keeps Africanized bees and teaches beekeeping (in Spanish). His five backyard colonies in Tigard, OR are docile European bees. He continues his passion of paying forward bee knowledge giving Bee Short Courses and lectures to various bee clubs and state organizations in the U.S. and Europe, and is active in both WAS and EAS.

"Bee City" Summer

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Bee City Pollination Celebration

June 18, 2017, 9 am-2 pm

Celebrating pollinators and ABQ's designation as a Bee City USA. Activities include Burque Bee City USA kickoff event, bee keeping displays and activities, honey tasting, educational booths, kids activities, pollinator-themed exhibits, permaculture workshop with Michael Reed of La Orilla Farm, and building of a **Bee Hotel** for wild bees and native pollinators with artist Sheri Crider. *Free.*

City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors NW 505-897-8831

National Pollinator Week

June 19-25, 2017

National Pollinator Week is a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what you can do to protect them!

Sunset Talk by the River: Pollinator Patterns of Life

July 23, 2017, 6:30 PM

Join 516 Arts at Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge for a **sunset talk by the river** about the connections between pollinators, art and ecology, led by artist, farmer and activist Daryl Lucero. *Free.*

7851 2nd St SW. (Access the refuge from 2nd Street, then follow the signs. It's a five-minute walk to the river.)

Open Studio with VAN Resident Jennifer Angus

August 17, 2017, 5-7 pm

Open studio with artist Jennifer Angus, in the final stages of her installation on the 25-foot high entrance wall of **516 ARTS**, using numerous insects arranged in patterns, anthropomorphizing insects in hopes of changing people's fear of them and promoting interest in the role they play in ecosystems. *Free.*

516 Arts, 516 Central Ave SW.

Cross Pollination: Art + Science

August 19, 3:30 pm

516 ARTS brings artists, beekeeping and natural science experts together in a panel to discuss their interest in pollinators from various perspectives. *Free.*

516 ARTS, 516 Central Ave SW.

Cross Pollination Exhibition

August 19 - November 11, 2017

(Thu-Sat, 10 am-4 pm & by appointment)

516 ARTS presents **Cross Pollination**, a group exhibition showcasing work at the intersection of art and science that focuses on bees and other pollinators. *Free.*

516 ARTS, 516 Central Ave SW.

Bee City & More Short Films about Pollinators

September 2, 2017, 1 pm

516 ARTS and the Guild Cinema present

a visual mixtape of short films featuring pollinators from a variety of angles. Admission: \$7.

Guild Cinema, 3405 Central Ave SE.

Cross Pollination at the Downtown Block Party

September 16, 12-6 pm

516 ARTS is joining the Downtown Block Party with educational and art-making activities for all ages on the theme of pollination. *Free.*

2nd St. between Lead and Coal.

IKO-kinesis with SHIFT I DANCE

October 12, 2017, 8 pm

516 ARTS and SHIFT I DANCE and UNM ARTS Lab are teaming up for a multimedia performance in celebration of the Cross Pollination exhibition. Tickets: \$15 (\$10 for Friends of 516 ARTS).

Available from **516 ARTS**.

UNM ARTS Lab, 1601 Central Ave. NE

Valerie Roybal: Bee Dreams

Reception: October 13, 2017, 5-8 pm

Artist talk: October 21, 2017, 2 pm

516 ARTS and Exhibit 208 present an artist talk with Cross Pollination exhibition curator Valerie Roybal on her work from the series Bee Dreams. *Free.*

516 ARTS

516 Central Ave SW





Growing up on Bosque Honey Farm

Rick Cole

Bosque Honey Farm began with a vacuum cleaner.

My parents received two vacuum cleaners for wedding gifts, so they traded my grandfather one for a beehive. My dad, Jerry Cole—a machinist at Sandia National Laboratories—was so intrigued by the hive that he bought another. And then another. He and my mother, Betty, had recently purchased four acres in Bosque Farms where they planned to build a home on a small farm and raise a family. The plans were soon adjusted to include the building of a “honey house,” wired and plumbed to accommodate the machinery needed to extract and bottle the “liquid gold” that the bees so readily produced in this rural village 20 miles south of Albuquerque.

The bees did make lots of honey in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Bosque Farms was verdant with alfalfa fields and clover-lined ditch banks, as dairies were the main enterprise of this community established in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). By 1964 when the honey house was completed, Jerry and Betty had four children and more than a hundred hives.

I was the oldest, and at five years of age I had already been helping with the bees for a year. My sisters, Valerie and Betty, would be helping bottle honey by the time they began school. My brother, Allan, born in 1964, was allergic to bee stings, which is not a good thing if one lives on a honey farm. Mom took Allan to a specialist in Albuquerque once a month for eight years for a long series of shots, and by the time he was in middle school, he had normal reactions to stings. Allan would spend the next dozen summers working in and eventually supervising the extracting operation. My youngest sister, Donna, was born in 1968 to complete the “Cole Colony.”

That year, Jerry and Betty made the big decision to transform the farm from a sideline operation into a full-fledged commercial enterprise. It was a huge leap of faith because Jerry would have to leave a good-paying job at Sandia with numerous benefits. But Jerry and Betty both grew up on farms and had a vision for owning their own farm. They purchased the beehives and much of the equipment of a retiring commercial beekeeper in Farmington, and now had more than 500 hives in apiaries scattered across Valencia and Socorro Counties. They officially named the place Bosque Honey Farm, and even posted a huge artistic sign in

front of the property proclaiming such. The next two years produced good crops and my parents sold the honey for 25¢ per pound or a quart for 75¢ and a gallon for \$3. Jerry still had to work as a machinist in the winter months each year to make sure the farm had enough capital to operate. But by the third year, Jerry and Betty had enough money saved to buy out another retiring beekeeper in Colorado. The farm was now more than 1,000 hives strong and Jerry would never work as a machinist again.



Photo: Jerry Cole

Jerry and Rick Cole harvest honey from a beeyard in Maxwell, NM in 1989, surrounded by hundreds of acres of blooming sweet clover.

We enjoyed abundant crops every year while my parents also established a thriving wholesale/retail sales operation marketing and delivering honey in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Taos to New Mexican restaurants (think sopaipillas), bakeries, health food stores, cooperatives, grocery stores and specialty outlets. My dad was so grateful for God’s blessings that he even dedicated one bee yard of about 100 colonies in Sierra County as “the Lord’s yard” and donated all proceeds from that yard to missionary work. Because Jerry and Betty invested profits back into the farm, by the mid-1980s Bosque Honey Farm had more than 5,000 hives in eight counties, a new partially automated extracting system and an expanded bottling facility in operation five days every week. It was the largest honey farm in the state and would remain so until my parents retired and sold the farm in 1997.



Photo: Jerry Cole

The Dryland Road beeyard in 1980. One of more than 120 registered beeyard locations of Bosque Honey Farm, the Dryland Road yard typically had more than 100 colonies and usually averaged more than 250 pounds of honey production per hive per year.



During those 39 years of beekeeping, Jerry was continually active in the New Mexico Beekeepers Association, serving as an officer for 32 of those years, including four terms as President. He was also on the Board of Directors for the American Honey Producers Association for more than 20 years and served one term on the American Honey Board. Betty served as secretary for the NMBKA 24 years and teamed with my dad to plan and host many AHPA national conventions.

Thanks to growing up on Bosque Honey Farm, I have fond memories of beekeeping that will be forever etched in my mind. First and foremost, I got to work and play with my family every day. But I also treasure the sight of beehive entrances teeming with bees coming and going. I love the sound of hundreds of thousands of bees buzzing through the air in a bee yard. I like the strain of lifting a super so heavy with honey that I have to get proper foot placement to make the maneuver. I even like the sensation of being drenched in my own sweat after hours of harvesting honey on a hot summer day. Even a sting can be pleasant if viewed as a preventative to arthritis.

It is memories like watching the sun set across a prairie of clover that stretches to the horizon in Colfax County, or rise after moving bees all night to Velarde for apple pollination, or the smile of a restaurant customer eating Bosque honey on a sopaipilla, that keep me a beekeeper to this day—although I am just a simple, happy hobbyist now. God willing, I always will be until Jesus takes me home.



Photo: John Mavis

The Cole Family in 1972.

Rick Cole is a former NMBKA president and retired teacher who works for NM MESA, helping prepare students for college and careers in mathematics, engineering, science or technically-related fields. He lives on a small farm in Peralta with his wife, Theresa, where he keeps a dozen hives, raises some livestock, a garden and an orchard. He is the happy father of four children and five grandchildren.



Photo: Melanie Kirby

Todd Bates harvesting oregano

June 16 Field Day

Kicking Off New Research on Oregano de la Sierra

On June 16th, 2017, NMBKA members and all friends of pollinators are invited to attend a field day highlighting new research into the native New Mexican herb oregano de la sierra, and its effects on pollinator and human health.

Monarda fistulosa var *menthifolia*, also known as wild bergamot/mountain bee balm or oregano de la sierra, is a native plant that has long been known for its healing properties to New Mexicans of both Pueblo and Spanish descent. It can be found growing wild high up in the mountains, but farmer and plant researcher Todd Bates of Embudo has been experimenting to determine which strains could acclimate and grow at lower elevations along the northern Rio Grande. After noticing that that many different species of pollinators seem to be attracted to the plant's gorgeous purple flowers, Bates began collaborating with beekeeper and queen breeder Melanie Kirby of Zia Queenbees. She placed a few hives at Bates's oregano farm and noticed marked improvement in the hives' health. They then enlisted the help of NMSU horticulture researcher Robert Heyduck, of the Sustainable Agriculture Science Center at Alcalde, and all three will be sampling nectar from the oregano flowers, pollen, wax, honey and bees for analysis this June. Other team members include Dr. Don Hyder, a professor of chemistry at San Juan Community College in Farmington;

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A Visit with the Melipona Bee In Yucatán

Mark Chalom & Betty Tsosie

This past January, we spent two and a half weeks in Yucatán, Mexico. Since we're beekeepers, one of our goals for the Yucatán trip became tracking down the Melipona bee—a very small stingless bee found in Central and South America. The Melipona bee and its honey are well known in Yucatán, and play an important part in traditional Mayan culture.

We got into the bee business by accident, three years ago, when an unexpected swarm arrived on our property and we called a friend with Langstroth boxes. I took an introductory beekeeping course at the Rio Arriba Agricultural Extension service, taught by Melanie Kirby (a great instructor) and today we have two hives in Abiquiu, near the lake so there is plenty of water.



In Mérida, the capital city of Yucatán, we found locals selling Melipona honey in the main plaza. Melipona honey is not very sweet, but has a distinct lemony flavor. It is used mostly for medicinal purposes and is made into soaps, eye drops, and salves as well as taken internally. Melipona honey for eating was mostly found in upscale shops—for about five times the cost of regular honey, since Melipona bees and their honey are rare, and harder to raise and harvest. Sales folks were very educated about its history and uses, perhaps because the government and cultural groups have been promoting the cultural importance of the Melipona bee. We learned a lot there, but wanted to find local sources in the pueblos.

Heading south, near the ancient Mayan city of Uxmal, we were very lucky to meet a local beekeeper. He was knowledgeable about local beekeeping and farming, very proud of his culture, and determined to help keep the traditions of the Melipona bee alive. He shared with us the strong Mayan religious appreciation for bees and honey, explaining traditional songs and prayers that are shared at different times of the year including harvest time. He showed us traditional log hives that Mayan families still use, made from logs with one opening hole and both ends mudded in. These are either



Log hive

racked up on an A frame or hung sideways off the walls of their homes.

He also opened a small box hive to show us how different the hives and bees were from European bees. There is no uniform hexagonal framework or structure built by the bees; instead it seems very organic and free flowing. The brood areas look like clusters of small round balls with no real pattern visible. Honey is stored in larger cups in the hive.

The Melipona bee itself is very small, and gathers much less honey than you would get from European bees, so many Mayan beekeepers have been switching to European bees



Close up of hive

Photos: Mark Chalom and Betty Tsosie

for economic reasons. This has put Melipona bees and the traditions that surround them at risk. With this in mind, the government of Mexico has been working with the local people developing educational programs and workshops to teach beekeeping for the Melipona Bee. Cooperatives are being formed, and strategies developed to create markets in the spas and hotels of the Yucatán.

While we still consider ourselves newbees, we did learn a lot during our trip, and wanted to share what we experienced in Yucatán. We also hope that this will help continue the Melipona revival.

Mark Chalom and Betty Tsosie live in Santa Fe, NM.
Reach them at solarch@rt66.com





June 16 Field Day

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Dr. Jay Evans, Director of the USDA National Honey Bee Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland; Dr. Olivia Messinger-Carril of Santa Fe, author of *The Bees in your Backyard*; and the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP), a national program following the health of hives around the United States. This will hopefully be the first in a series of research investigations to promote healthy habitat for pollinators and potential value-added crops and products for farmers and gardeners.

The field day event begins at 9am, with talks at the NMSU Center in Alcalde, 371 Country Rd. 40, and then moves to the Bales farm in Embudo, to view the bees feeding at the oregano de la sierra field. NMSU researchers and guests will discuss medicinal plants, honeybee health and behavior, clinical research with medicinal honey, and native pollinators.

To pre-register, call Anna at 505-852-4241 or Augusta at 505-852-2668.
(Day-of registration begins at 8:30 am.)

More information about the project is available at www.herbs4bees.com



2017 National Survey of Honey Bee Pests and Diseases

The New Mexico Beekeepers Association is in search of beekeepers with eight or more Langstroth-style hives in a single beeyard, for the 2017 National Survey of Honey Bee Pests and Diseases in New Mexico. Beekeepers who participate will receive a free full diagnostic of their yard, including any diseases, pests and pesticides present. The information gathered will help build a picture of the health of honeybees around the United States and guide the direction of honeybee parasite, disease, and pest research for the U.S. apiculture industry.

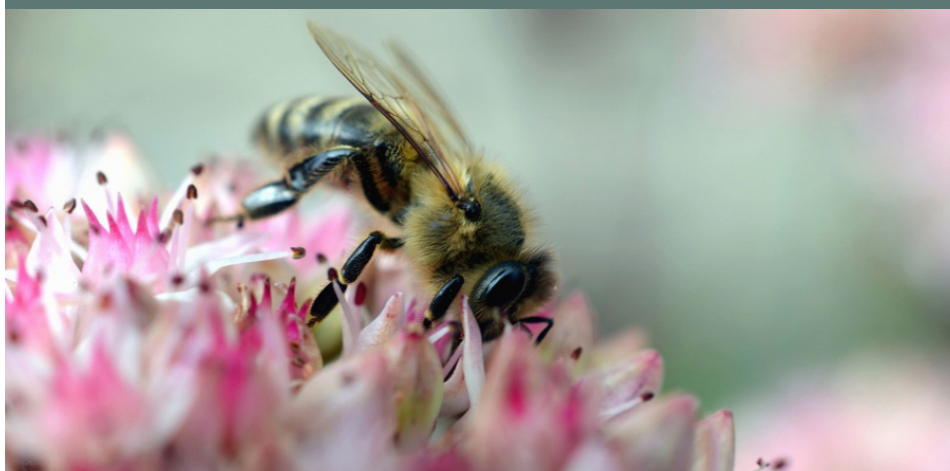
If you are interested in participating this summer, please contact the New Mexico Beekeepers Association at info@nmbeekeepers.org.

To find out more about how hives are sampled, or to see results from previous years, click [HERE](#)



Have an idea for an article or feature that you would like to see in the NM Beekeepers Association Newsletter?

Please get in touch! editor@nmbeekeepers.org



Not a member? Join Now!

www.nmbka.org



NMBKA

NEW MEXICO BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Bee City

Pollination Celebration

June 18th 9am - 2pm at the Open Space Visitor Center

Displays, Workshops, Live Music, Storytelling, Presentations,
Installations, Honey Tasting, Art Exhibits, Science Activities,
Community Art Pieces, Bee Memorial Celebrations...

Open Space Visitor Center - 6500 Coors Blvd. NW
897-8831 tty 711 www.cabq.gov/openspace



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