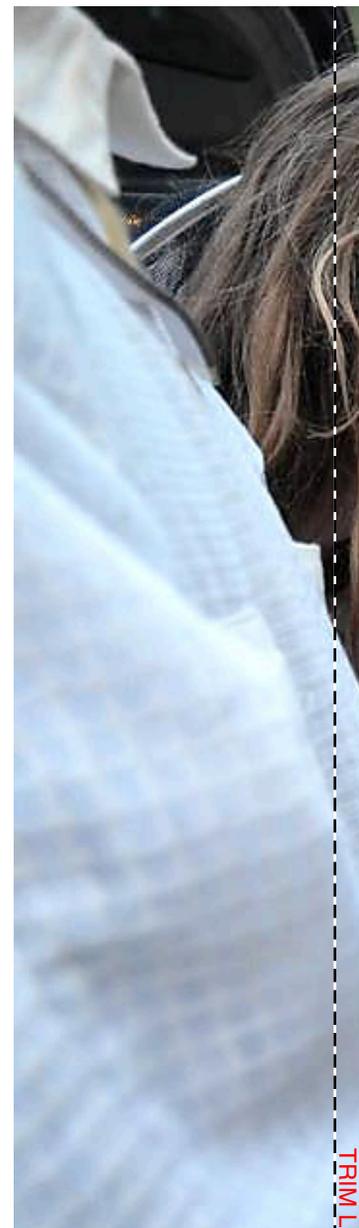


BUSY BEES

STUDENTS JOIN CAUSE TO SAVE THE BEES

BY MOLLIE PING



The buzz on a warm spring day will be a faint memory to future generations if precautions to bee sustainability are neglected.

Bees sting. True.

But, without the sting of bees, life would be detrimental in more ways than the loss of sweet, sticky honey.

"Recently, there's been a really big decline in bee populations around the world, which is a big problem so we're trying to raise awareness about how human development is affecting the bees and how the plants [and food] we live off of today are suffering... Almost every single fruit. We would probably only have grain and nuts," Hannah Rothkopf, 12, said.

Not only are bees necessary for sustaining life, their product can be used for distribution. Co-president of the Bee Club, Alyssa Rafferty, 12, outlines the process of creating and selling Wando bee's honey for profit.

Though this is already happening with the existing hives that Wando students have access to in Hidden Ponds Nursery, the Bee Club's ultimate goal is to house bees and have their own observation hive. Wando Bee Club teams up with the

Charleston-based Savannah Bee Company to extend their curiosity beyond the bounds of the classroom.

"We extract honey [from the observation hives] in September and bottle it and sell it to the faculty or students, whoever is interested in

we can start getting it at the school... we wrote a letter of intent and we just did that and got it approved."

The approval grant for the hives is a foot in the door for the observation hives, but there is still work to be done. The club can only do so much because they depend on the community to raise awareness and contribute. Rothkopf emphasizes plants' dependence on bees.

"Bees are for every plant, everything, There are a few other pollinizers in the world that would be able to replace them but not nearly to the extent that bees do," Rothkopf said.

Co-president of the club, Erin Dovey, 12, captures the Bee Club's purpose in one sentence.

"We want to educate people so they know how important bees are," Dovey said.

Rothkopf recalls a quote from Albert Einstein that members of the Bee Club refer to while they pursue their mission: "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man."

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it and then every April there is a bee expo at Cinebarre movie theatre where we sell honey at a booth there... Right now, we're trying to get a grant for an observation hive at the school," Rafferty said. "The Bee Cause started by Savannah Bee Company help schools have observation hives, like a 'pay it forward' thing... it's paid for if it's approved by the principal and then

MUST BE THE HONEY: (right) Annie Wright, 11 retrieves fresh honey from the Awendaw beehive. "Bee Club is different from other clubs because we get to talk about the environment and bees impacts," Wright said.



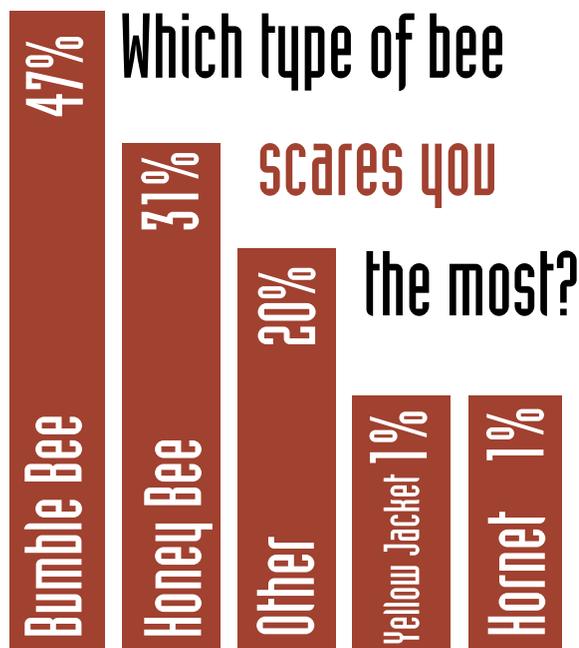
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BEE-ZEE GIRL: (above) Emily Scruggs, 11, admires the bees up close and personal at the Whole Foods hives. "It's really neat to have a hive available for everyone to see up close without having to actually put on a suit because it gives people the awareness about how these honey bees work and live," Scruggs said.

BUZZING ABOUT HONEY: (above right) Jack Fair, 11, shows off the club's honey. "To be that close to actual bees and they are on your face and all over... you getting to do the honey and scraping it off. I think that is just really because these are these tiny little creatures and they can do so many things," Fair said.

THE BEES' NEEDS: (right) Alyssa Rafferty, 12, harvests a comb at the Awendaw beehive. "My interest in bees came from going to see a bee expo with Erin. There were a lot of tents set up, including her mom's, and I walked around to each tent and thought it was interesting so I learned more," Rafferty said.



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