



# Alamanca County Beekeepers

April 2020 Newsletter

## Monthly Meeting

April 16 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

[Joe Milone](#) | NCSU  
Pesticides and How to Navigate Them

Joe Milone is a PhD candidate working with Dr. David Tarpy studying the influence of multi-pesticide exposure on honey bees. Read more [here!](#)

Due to our continuing social distancing practices, this program will take place on Zoom. See you there!



Join Zoom meeting here:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89562868689?pwd=NUtSdStxcplLMDBOYkx3RTFsVHg4QT09>

## March Meeting Notes

There was no meeting in March. Public health experts were recommending maintaining social distance to prevent spread of the novel coronavirus, so that's what we did.



## Message from Ira

Well, when we began this year, no one would have thought we would be mostly confined to our homes. That should be good news for your bees. We can take care of the tasks we have put off and keep a better eye on the swarms. Yes, swarms are a happening !!! Perhaps more than I've previously experienced in April.....maybe because of the warmer days we are having.



Caitlin and Sheyenne have set up a Zoom account for the Club to view our April meeting. Joe Milone with N.C. State will be presenting the program. I believe Caitlin has sent out instructions on how to access the program on Zoom. You can either use your smart phone or laptop.

This is the best option until we are able to meet in person again. Let's make the best of this time we have with our families and bees. I'm praying our researchers come up with a vaccine so we can put this virus behind us !!

Stay safe and take care of your bees !!!

*Ira*



*Honey bee visiting apple blossoms*

*Photos by Jennifer Welsh*

*April 5, 2020*

## Colony Division An Easy Method to Split a Colony

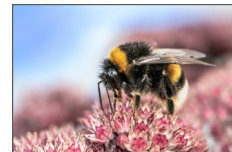


If you're trying to avoid swarms by splitting colonies, take a look at this excellent refresher by Penn State Extension:

<https://extension.psu.edu/colony-division-an-easy-method-to-split-a-colony>

## Citizen Science for Bumble Bees

If you are interested in pollinators beyond the fabulous honey bee, there is an upcoming opportunity to become a citizen scientist studying bumble bees!



Many beekeepers in our area know Debbie Roos, a Sustainable Agriculture Agent in Chatham County. Debbie is a champion of pollinators, the person who established the [Pollinator Paradise](#) at Chatham Mills. She and Rich Hatfield, of the [Xerces Society](#), will be offering a webinar, "Using Community Science to Conserve Bumble Bees," on Thursday, April 30, 2020, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

In the webinar you will learn about [Bumble Bee Watch](#), a community science project that tracks bumble bees with the goal of conserving them.

A citizen science endeavor would be a great opportunity to work with others while maintaining social distance, to be outdoors, to acquire new knowledge, and to do good work.

Learn more details, including how to register for the webinar, [here](#).

## Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

[Beekeepers advised to check bees often and thoroughly.](#) Agricultural Review, April 2020. Bees are swarming earlier than normal this season, Varroa mite populations are already elevating, and we're still not past the average last frost date in our area. Keep a close watch on your bees.



## This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- Nectar flow is often heaviest this month; make sure that all medications are out of hive unless required for bees' survival. Be prepared to add new supers every 7-10 days, and remove feeders from all except new or weak hives.
- Bees should be very busy; closely examine hives that are not, and trim weeds that may be hindering flight.
- Swarming usually heavy; continue prevention/capture measures.
- Look closely at brood pattern; replace queen if needed.
- Have everything ready to install nucs/packages that you've ordered; feed upon installation.
- Consider adding queen excluder to prevent brood in honey supers.

<https://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/CALENDAR-FOR-BEEKEEPING-IN-CENTRAL-NORTH-CAROLINA.pdf?fwf=no>



## Graduation

Congratulations to the Alamance County Beekeepers Class of 2020! We didn't imagine going in that the class would be disrupted so profoundly, but thanks to electronics and some can-do attitude, the class was able to conclude, and new beekeepers were able to install their bees. We wish you many happy years of beekeeping!

James Allen  
Kaitlyn Buckland  
Carl Buckland  
Hank Byrd  
Becky Cano  
Fred Carden  
Joseph Combs  
Lacy Copeland  
Laurie Fais  
Kaitlynn Fields  
Alan Fisher  
Terri Lamm  
David Marin  
Whitney Meeler  
Josh Meeler  
Bryan Miller  
Tonya Miller

Chuck Moon  
Mary Moon  
Johnny Murray  
Megan Noor  
Jamie Ramirez  
Mike Reckert  
Jason Rimmer  
Maria Teague  
Bob Teague  
Madison Tedrow  
Chad Unger  
Robert Wagner  
Judy Whitfield  
Wayne Whitfield  
Liz Whitfield  
Jamie Wright  
Mary Yacovone



Officers for 2020

President : Ira Poston  
Vice-President : Mike Ross  
Recording Secretary : Sheyenne Michelizzi  
Treasurer : Sarah Stevens  
Program Chair : Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson  
One-year Director : Chuck Couch  
Two-year Director : Johnny Mills  
Three-year Director : Paul Jollay  
Webmaster : Geoff Leister  
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce