



Alamance County Beekeepers

May 2020 Newsletter

Message from Ira

We are all waiting until we can meet as a group again. Until then, please take advantage of the excellent presentations available online. There are several mentioned in the newsletter. One that I watched a few nights ago was put on by Dr. Tarpy's group at NC State. Excellent. Several of our inspectors gave their insights on keeping our bees alive this year.



With all of this time I have on my hands, I'm trying to get my hives built up and requeened. So far my nectar crop has been dismal. Probably because my hive populations weren't where they needed to be. I hope they will be built up for the sourwood run this year. I need to do mite checks, that's one thing the inspectors repeatedly mentioned.

Take care of yourself and your bees!! Hope to see everyone soon!

Ira

Meetings are on Hiatus, But Learning Isn't!

Beekeeping Webinars: Live and recorded online presentations by the NC State Apiculture Program, <https://entomology.ces.ncsu.edu/apiculture/beekeeping-webinars/>

Stay at Home Beekeeping Series: Distance Learning for Beekeeping Clubs, Alabama Extension, <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/bees-pollinators/stay-at-home-beekeeping-series-distance-learning-for-beekeeping-clubs/>

Notes from the April Meeting

We met on Zoom last month with Joe Milone, of NCSU's Entomology Department. (Some of you might remember Joe as a student in Alamance County's beekeeping classes a few years ago.) He talked to us about his research on pesticides and honey bees.



It turns out that different genetic stocks of honey bees respond differently to pesticide exposures, an important finding with lots of implications.

If you're a reader of Wolfpack's Waggle, you'll know that Joe has accepted work with the EPA where he will be "putting his expertise to work by crunching the numbers behind how pesticides are registered to minimize their off-target effects on honey bees and other pollinators."

Thanks for your work, Joe, and all the best to you!

Bees in the News

Click on headlines to link to articles.

Honeybees dying from "deformed wing virus," research finds, Becca Most, Minnesota Daily, 4/17/2020. University of Minnesota researchers have found that DWV causes honey bees to forage when they're too young, which disrupts the hive system and affects colony survival.

How 'undertaker' bees recognize dead comrades, Eva Frederick, ScienceMag.org, 3/20/2020. Dead bees emit fewer CHCs (cuticular hydrocarbons), part of the waxy coating on their cuticles. Undertaker bees recognize that decrease and proceed to look for their dead bee hive mates.

Virus-infected honey bees more likely to gain entrance to healthy hives, Diana Yates, UI at Champagne-Urbana, Phys.org, 4/27/2020. "Honey bees that guard hive entrances are twice as likely to allow in trespassers from other hives if the intruders are infected with the Israeli acute paralysis virus, a deadly pathogen of bees, researchers report. ... IAPV infection alters honey bees' behavior and physiology in ways that boost the virus's ability to spread ..."





Common spiderwort, *Tradescantia virginiana*
Photo by Geoff Leister, May 2020



Passionflower, *Passiflora incarnata*
Photo by Jennifer Welsh, May 2020



Grape hyacinth, *Muscari armeniacum*
Photo by Geoff Leister, May 2020



Chinese privet, *Ligustrum sinense*
Photo by Jennifer Welsh, May 2020

Asian Giant Hornets

You probably know people who got a little excited recently about the “murder hornet” and were sure they were seeing them in Alamance County.

The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services published an announcement about Asian Giant hornets on May 4, and attached a good resource for identifying them. If you use that document and believe that you have found an AGH in NC, please contact NCDA&CS. To date, there are no known sightings of the AGH in NC.

If you'd like to learn more, check out these terrific posts from the Department of Entomology and the Plant Disease and Insect Clinic at NCSU:

[Asian Giant Hornets Not a Problem for NC Beekeepers ... Yet?](#)

[Are Asian or Japanese Giant Hornets in North Carolina?](#)

This Month in the Bee Yard

- Nectar flow continues.
- Keep adding supers.
- Get extraction/bottling equipment ready.
- Consider adding an additional hive entrance (via 5/8" hole or shim) above brood area, for foragers.
- Swarming continues — keep up prevention/capture measures.
- Replace failing queens.
- Start planting annuals for future nectar/pollen supplementation.
- Install traps for small hive beetles if needed (i.e., if more than 20 adult beetles seen in hive).
- Place two or more bee “watering holes” in apiary, if not already present.

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



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