



# Alamance County Beekeepers

July 2020 Newsletter

## Monthly Meeting

July 16 | 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

[Adolphus Leonard](#)  
NC Apiary Inspector

## Preparing Hives for Winter

Adolphus will be speaking to us about fall/winter preparation, with an emphasis on overcoming wet springtimes and less-than-stellar nectar flows. How can beekeepers think about those conditions and build up their colonies for the coming year?



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As we approach our meeting day, be on the lookout for an email with the link to join in on Zoom. For those who cannot log on to view and listen, you can try calling one of the phone numbers listed at the bottom of the invite. You'll be able to listen in that way!



## Message from Ira



I know it's HOT right now, it is Summer! Maybe you can get into your bees early before it heats up, or later in the evening. There was still plenty of daylight at 8:00 last night. Depending on where you are in the county, you may need to start feeding your bees. You still have options if you need to treat for mites.

The club has an extractor if you need to use one to process your honey. Just text me to see if it's available. Several people have already used it this year.

Thanks to Caitlin and Sheyenne for keeping the Zoom meetings going. The way it looks, we will be meeting like this for a while. If you haven't already joined our ACB Google Group, please do so or give your permission and we'll add you. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on during the downtime.

Stay safe!

*Ira*

## Notes from June's Meeting

Sheyenne Michelizzi

We met virtually on Zoom last month with Suzy Spencer, who graciously told us of her adventures when she visited Slovenia on a beekeeping tour. The people in Slovenia have a long history of beekeeping, where it is often considered a way of life. Their native (Old World) Carniolan bee is part of the Slovenian national identity. There's even been a bee on their currency!



In a country that is approximately 1/6th the size of North Carolina, one out of every 250 people keeps bees, giving them just shy of 100,000 beekeepers total. Slovenians were the ones to push for World Bee Day to be May 20, in honor of their own [Anton Janša](#) (1734–1773), a pioneer of modern beekeeping and one of the greatest experts in this field in his day. Slovenian beekeepers often use [A-ž hives](#), which are stacked in 'bee houses' and commonly decorated with [folk art panels](#) depicting beekeeping scenes, landscapes, and flowers.

With their passion for beekeeping, Slovenia may be the ones to watch for what may be coming to the US in the future. Thank you to Suzy for sharing her experience! We look forward to seeing you again soon!

## Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

[Honeybee lives shortened after exposure to two widely used pesticides](#), Oregon State University, phys.org, 6/16/2020. "In a study published in the journal PLOS ONE, honeybee researchers in OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences found detrimental effects in bees exposed to Transform and Sivanto, which are both registered for use in the United States and were developed to be more compatible with bee health." Article links to study.

[Preliminary Results of the 2019-2020 National Honey Bee Loss Survey](#), Bee Informed Partnership, 6/22/2020. "From April 1st, 2019 to April 1st, 2020, nearly 44% of colonies were lost. Losses during Summer 2019 marked the highest ever recorded by BIP during that season, whereas losses during Winter 2019/2020 were the second lowest on record."



[Agroforestry is 'win win' for bees and crops, study shows](#), MorningAgClips.com, 6/22/2020. "Planting woody plant species alongside crops could double the number of insect pollinators helping farmers produce food, new research has demonstrated for the first time."

[Helping Honey Bees Make It Through Winter With Early Cold Storage: New Website Available](#), Kim, Kaplan, USDA Agricultural Research Service, 6/22/2020. "Putting honey bees into early indoor cold storage in October rather than November increases their chances of surviving the winter and the colonies emerge readier to pollinate almonds, according to a new Agricultural Research Service (ARS) [website](#)."

[What the honeybees showed me](#), Helen Jukes, New York Times, 4/24/2020. A new beekeeper describes how her life changed as she learned to pay attention to honey bees.

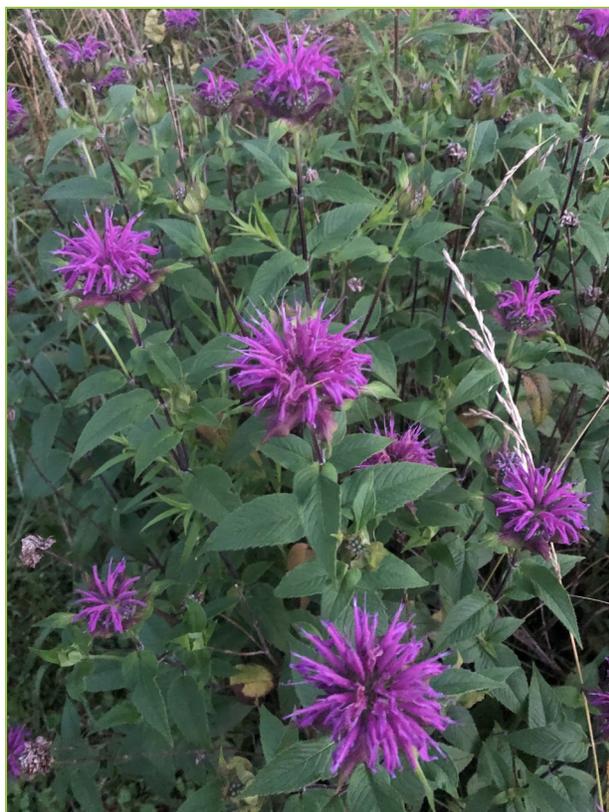
## Blooming in the Piedmont



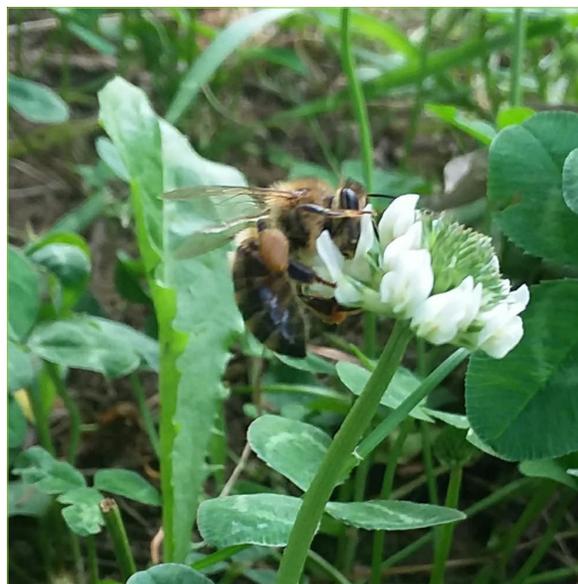
Honey bee on [anise hyssop](#), *Agastache foeniculum*.  
Photo by Jennifer Welsh in Snow Camp, 6/21/2020.



Honey bees on cucumber blossoms!  
Photo by Jennifer Welsh in Snow Camp, 6/21/2020.



Bee balm, [Monarda](#)  
Photo by Cynthia Pierce, Mebane, 6/17/2020.



Honey bee on [clover](#), *Trifolium repens*.  
Photo by Jennifer Welsh in Snow Camp, 6/24/2020.

## Calendar

### Pollinator Webinar Series

Penn State Extension | Wednesdays through July 22  
Registration required | no fee

### Beekeeping Webinars @ NCSU

Ongoing

#### 'First-year' BEES School-Saturday July 18, 2020

<https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=CALS-BEES-BEES1.11&deptName=CALS&instanceID=000001>

#### 'Intermediate' BEES Academy Online-Thursday and Friday August 27-28, 2020

<https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=CALS-BEES-2.00&deptName=CALS&instanceID=000003>

**BEES Courses** | Self Paced | <https://www.ncsuapiculture.net/online-classes>

### This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- ◆ May harvest some (or all) of honey; may continue late-season splits; continue beetle controls; keep water available for bees (see June activities).
- ◆ Replace failing queens; consider replacing any queen that is two years old or older.
- ◆ Can begin annual varroa mite assessment, and treat if needed/practical.



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



#### 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  
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