



# Alamance County Beekeepers

October 2020 Newsletter

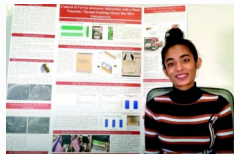
## Monthly Meeting

October 15 | 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### Raina Jain

Inventor of the HiveGuard Entranceway

Our virtual Zoom meeting will feature Raina Jain of Riverside, Connecticut. Raina is one of 40 high school finalists selected in this year's Regeneron Science Talent Search. She designed and 3D-printed a new entranceway to honeybee hives. Her entranceway coats passing bees with thymol gel, killing the mites. The project's title is [Control of Varroa destructor Infestation with a Dual-Function Thymol-Emitting Honey Bee Hive Entranceway](#). She was featured in two recent articles in Bee Culture that can be found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).



Link to the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83394106978?pwd=aFZucitJbWUrVVF4VmxrVWZOVExoQT09>

## Message from Ira

I don't know about you, but this Corona stuff's getting old! I sure hope they come out with a vaccine soon.



I hope everyone has been working to build up your hives to make it through the winter. If you missed a few mites, you can use oxalic acid sometime in December.

Hope everyone catches our Zoom meeting Thursday night. It should be very interesting. She's a very smart young lady!!



Honey bee foraging on Tea Camellia, [Camellia sinensis](#). Photo by Geoff Leister, Burlington, 10/10/2020.

## Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

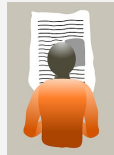
[Agency denies critical habitat for endangered bumblebee](#), John Flesher, AP, 8/31/2020. The rusty patched bumblebee "was officially designated an endangered species March 21, 2017. Federal regulators said Monday, Aug. 31, 2020, they won't designate critical habitat for the rusty patched bumblebee, the first bee species in the continental U.S. to be listed as endangered. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said the species can get along without having specially protected habitat, even though its population has dropped 90% in the past two decades."

[Meet a Bee With a Very Big Brain](#), Elizabeth Preston, New York Times, 9/15/2020. "New research suggests there is a relationship between the diversity of a bee's diet and the size of its croissant-shaped brain."

[Scientists "scent train" honeybees to boost sunflowers' seed production](#), EurekAlert.org, 9/17/2020. A study shows that "it's possible to condition honeybees to a rewarded odor inside the colony, and this experience modifies the bees' odor-guided behaviors later." Link to the study is at the end of this announcement.

[Kenzo gets the buzz at bee-themed Paris Fashion Week show](#), Thomas Adamson, APNews.com, 9/30/2020. Read how honey bees inspired Kenzo's spring 2021 collection!

[Flow Hive Supports Pollinators via The Bee Friendly Farming Program](#), PSA, Pollinator.org. Bee-friendly farmers can apply during the month of October for a grant of up to three pounds of native plant seed from Applewood Seed. The goal is to help provide food sources for pollinators all year long.



## Notes from the September Meeting

You were probably wondering ...

How do you know what a weak colony is and how do you know when to combine colonies? \* Plastic or wax foundation and why? \* Talk about robber screens and entrance reducers. \* Why do bees buzz around the porch light early in the morning? \* How many supers should I overwinter with? \* How can I overwinter my bees successfully? \* Is it too late to treat for mites? \* When do you change over to 2:1 from 1:1? \* What's the timing on using entrance reducers? \* When should I eliminate upper entrances? \* How to work with quilt boxes? \* When should we take feeders off? \* Any hacks for saving beekeeping money? \* Smoker hooks! \* Aggressive hives? \* What's the process for selling nucs? \* Favorite way to store drawn comb and supers?

It was a great evening of questions and answers. Expert panelists Don Hopkins, Geoff Leister, and Mike Ross gave answers and options and opinions, and we closed the evening much more informed, thanks to them. Sheyenne Michelizzi and Sarah Stevens seamlessly moderated the conversation. Thanks to you all!



## Blooming in the Piedmont



(Above) Yellow Crownbeard or Stickweed, [\*Verbena occidentalis\*](#), is a common flowering aster in our area in the fall. It is a honey bee favorite. This plant has opposite leaves, whereas Wingstem or Yellow Ironweed, [\*Verbena alternifolia\*](#), has alternate leaves. Photo by Chuck Couch.



A good reason to let your plant go seed:  
Honey bee aiming for late-summer basil.  
Photo by Jennifer Welsh, Snow Camp.



Honey bee foraging on Aromatic Aster,  
[\*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium\*](#). Photo  
by Jeff Telander.

## October in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- Post-treatment assessment for Varroa mites (i.e., did your treatment work?).
- Remove all queen excluders, if present.
- Combine hives that are weak/have failing queens.
- Feed thick syrup, if needed, for winter food stores.
- Limit frequency of inspections after mid-October. Bees are sealing cracks with propolis, and waste lots of time/energy if they have to keep replacing it.
- Add entrance reducers near end of month to keep mice out.
- [Drones being expelled in most hives.](#)
- Plant (in October and November) herbaceous perennials for future nectar/pollen sources.



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



Honey bee on Goldenrod.  
Photo by Jeff Telander.

## Calendar

Continuing Ed

<https://entomology.ces.ncsu.edu/apiculture/beekeeping-webinars/>

Voting for ACB officers for 2021 will take place soon. Stay tuned.

Use the ACB membership [application](#) now to renew for 2021!



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