



# Alamance County Beekeepers

December 2020 Newsletter

## Membership Renewal

It's that time again: time to renew membership for the 2021 calendar year. You can now renew [online](#)!

Or choose the form that applies to your wishes: renew [ACBA membership only](#), [ACBA and NCSBA both](#), or [NCSBA only](#). Forms can be filled out online and then printed for mailing with your payment.

And remember that there is now a section on the website -- click on the [Members](#) tab -- where you can listen to Zoom recordings of some of this year's meetings. Access requires current membership and a password.

It's been a hard year, and many of us are tired of living online. But we think you'll find that the meetings and meeting recordings will definitely be worth your time and attention!



## Message from Ira

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well.



Your Board have been working hard to plan our Zoom Programs for 2021 and the now "virtual " Beginning Beekeeping Class. All of the membership can re-take the Class again.

Just check our [website](#) to see how to register for the Class. There are two options, the first is for the general membership and the other is for last year's Class. We want you to stay involved and interested in keeping your bees alive so we've offered you a deal of the century.

Thanks to Cynthia for producing an outstanding newsletter ..... Again. We really appreciate you !!



## Alamance County Beekeeping Classes in 2021

Alamance County beekeeping classes will take place again in 2021, for the thirtieth consecutive year. But who could have imagined we would be teaching and learning during a pandemic on this anniversary?



So, in 2021, the beginning beekeeping classes will be taught online (Zoom) on Tuesdays beginning January 26. That includes the field day on April 6. Read more details [here](#).

You can register and pay [online](#). If you are a returning student from 2020, use this discount code at checkout: 2020RETAKE. If you are a current ACB member who did NOT take the class in 2020, use this discount code: 2021BEECLASS.

The fee for a new student is \$75 and for a family is \$100. Registration deadline is January 19.

## ACB Website Redesign

Geoff Leister, our webmaster, has investigated doing a refresh of the ACB website.

Ira will be forming a committee to review and evaluate a website redesign. The work will range from vision to execution, with a lot in between!

If this is something you might like to be involved in, please contact Ira at [igposton@gmail.com](mailto:igposton@gmail.com).



## Notes from the November Meeting

Jay Rimmer (first year), Sarah Stevens (second year), and Lindsey Chinni (third year) updated us on life in their apiaries at the end of 2020.

Jay has been committed to weekly inspections, taking good notes, and having a plan when he cracks open a hive. He even got honey in his first year. Recommends [Two Bees in a Podcast](#) and [The Hive Jive](#) for your audio learning pleasure.

Sarah had an aggressive colony that made it a bad year for beekeeping. Ultimately she killed the queen which made for a happier time in the bee yard. She focused on resource hives this year, and encouraged people to ask help from other beekeepers if they're foundering.

Lindsey has reached a level of comfort in her bee yard that she didn't have in her second year when she suffered too much from stings. She learned you can never have too many boxes, and she's getting better at harvesting. When she's doing hive work, she's begun to record by video more and speak her notes. She's finding it easier to use a stylus when she's taking photos.

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In other conversation, Jeff Telander has found 4x reading glasses which he uses along with a halogen flashlight in order to see eggs.

There was also discussion about the challenge of poor internet connections in being able to attend meetings.



## In the Leister Apiary



"I like using the sugar shake method for mite counts in my hives after a thymol treatment. Selecting a frame with primarily nurse bees, some open brood and no queen can sometimes be a challenge, but usually easily accomplished. The attached two images taken in late September 2020 from Hive#2 exhibit a frame before the shake and after the shake. Some interesting visual reveals are seen on the frame after the shake and 2 mites/300 bees = 0.66% mites per 100 bees." (Geoff Leister)



Last January I decided to use supplemental feeding on my hives with homemade sugar cakes following the recipe posted in Ann Harman's article here: <https://www.bee-culture.com/sugar-for-bees/>. I recycled the square plastic containers from bird suet cakes to add form to the wet sugar and let it harden over night. These cakes were added to all hives with shims that remained in place from late fall until February. No problem with feeding! (Geoff Leister)

### Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

- [Honey Bees Use Animal Dung to Fend Off Giant "Murder" Hornets](#), University of Guelph, SciTechDaily, 12/9/2020. "U of G researchers have discovered honeybees in Vietnam collect and apply spots of animal dung around hive entrances to deter deadly nest raids by an Asian hornet (*Vespa soror*) whose North American cousins have been dubbed "murder hornets." This finding is also the first to document the use of tools by honeybees."
- [I See You: Honey Bees Use Contagious and Honest Visual Signal to Deter Attacking Hornets](#), Mario Aguilera, UC San Diego News Center, 12/7/2020. This study out of UCSD describes more defensive honey bee communications that help them defend their hives against predators.



## December in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- Combine hives that are weak/have failing queens.
- Feed thick syrup if needed (i.e., if not more than one super of honey stored up).
- Consider insulating smaller hives (those with 4 or fewer frames of bees).
- Sell honey to Christmas gift shoppers.
- Year-end review/assessment of apiary success/challenges.
- Leave bees alone, if possible.



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



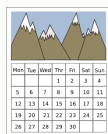
Remember the bright and warm days of honey harvest? Here's a little blast from the summer past: Charlie and Mike Ross harvested honey as giant honey bees flew about! Thanks to Tom Montgomery for the photo and the reminder of warmer days!

## Calendar

[Alamance County](#)  
[Beginning Beekeeping Classes](#)  
*on Zoom*  
January 26 - April 6

[NCSBA Spring 2021 Meeting](#)  
March 4-6  
New Bern, NC

[Eastern Apiculture Society](#)  
[Summer Conference](#)  
July 26-30  
Amherst, MA



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