



# Alamanca County Beekeepers

January 2021 Newsletter

## Message from Ira

I hope everyone had a good Holiday and stayed safe. We have had a few sunny days lately, maybe you've checked on your bees to see if they need any Winter feed.

A reminder if you haven't paid your dues, we are still accepting checks if you are not able to pay online. There are still over 60 people that have not paid.

We will start our Virtual Beginning Beekeeping Class on January 26th. Sheyenne and Caitlin have done a lot of work to be able to pull this off. Many Thanks to both of them !!! I hope you will tune in to our Zoom Meeting or go to our website later to listen to it. Hope to see you later this year after everyone has had their Vaccine shots !!



- Ira

## January Meeting Info - 1/21 7pm [link](#)

"All About The Queen" - Tina Sebestyen keeps bees in top bar, Langstroth, and long Langstroth hives. She learned beekeeping from wonderful mentors, "old guys", as well as through mentoring as founder of the Four Corners Beekeepers Assoc. She is past vice president of the Colorado State Beekeepers Assoc. and is currently working to produce the Master Beekeeper Program for the state of Colorado. She writes for the American Bee Journal and Bee Culture magazines (along with some bee journals from abroad) from her farm in SW Colorado, and speaks about bees everywhere she gets the chance.

*Click above link to join or, Meeting ID: 867 6806 4944 Passcode: 628067. Past meetings can be found in the members section of our website.*

## Notes from the December Officer's Meeting



The officers this year are hard at work planning for a great 2021. The program schedule is up on our website, and we are very excited to be able to have such a wide array of speakers present to us this year. Our meetings are open to the public, and virtual is a great way to get your friends to join!

Also on our website is our new online renewal link for membership dues. Please make sure to take the time to renew your membership! Mail in form is available in the same place for those that prefer to mail in a check - please allow ample time for your check to arrive due to current USPS delays.

While you're at it, check out our Beginning Beekeeper Class starting January 26th. It is virtual this year, and we have been having a blast putting it together in a new format. Class is \$75 (includes dues) for Individuals, and \$100 for families. If you have taken it in the past and/or are a current club member, discounts are available - email us for more information.

And finally, if there's something you would like to see in the newsletter, or you have photos, articles, accomplishments, questions, etc, you'd like to add - email us! We can always be reached at [alamancecountybeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:alamancecountybeekeepers@gmail.com)

### Bees in the News

Click on headlines to link to articles.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/insomniac-bees> - Insomniac Bees; Honeybees need their sleep!

<https://blog.oup.com/2021/01/good-news-for-honey-bees-from-150-year-old-museum-specimens/> - Good news from Honeybees from 150 museum specimens

<https://phys.org/news/2021-01-climate-abundance-diversity-wild-bees.html> - Climate change reduces the abundance and diversity of wild bees, study finds

<https://cals.ncsu.edu/news/shedding-light-on-the-secret-reproductive-lives-of-honey-bees/> - Shedding light on the secret reproductive lives of honeybees

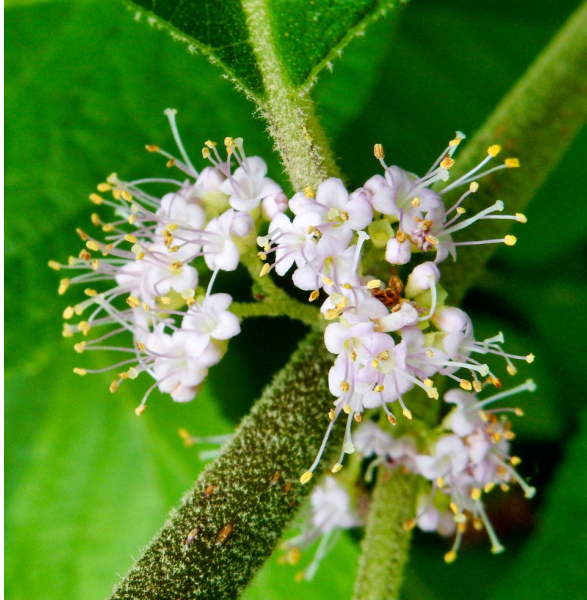
## Swarm Team

In 2020 the Alamance County Beekeepers created a "Swarm Team" to respond to swarm calls from the public.

When a swarm call was received, Jeff Telander sent a group text to everyone on the Swarm Team list to let them know and to find out who was available. The 1st person to respond to the text message was given the exact address/ location & contact info of the individual who called Jeff about the swarm. To make it fair for everyone, if multiple beekeepers responded to the text, preference was given to those who had not yet had a chance to respond to a swarm call.

In 2020 the Swarm Team responded to **39** swarm calls!

To be on the Swarm Team, you must be a current member of Alamance County Beekeepers. If you want to be included in 2021, confirm you've paid your annual ACB dues, then send Jeff Telander an email ([telander@gmail.com](mailto:telander@gmail.com)) or text 919-618-8094 with your name & cell phone number to let him know.



*Thanks to Geoff Leister for the photos!*

## 2021 Wildflower of the Year

The North Carolina Botanical Garden has announced the American beautyberry has the wildflower of the year! While this flower has many aesthetic, growable, medicinal, and edible virtues, head over to the Georgia Native Plant Society's website to read all about the pollinator benefits. More NC specific info here.



*From Geoff's Apiary...*



My climbing aster (*Ampelaster carolinianus*) still has a few open blooms, but most Aster flower heads have the characteristic winter "feathery" dried flower head (second photo). Each flower head is composed of bundles of mature seeds or achenes, as they are called botanically, with a white pappus composed of long bristles that facilitates wind dispersal much like in dandelions. And bees were actively bringing in pollen yesterday.



*Images courtesy of Geoff Leister, taken in his apiary and home garden in Burlington, 1/13/21 - Thank you Geoff!*

## **In-person Meetings are on Hiatus, But Virtual 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/>

### **This Month in the Bee Yard**

- Add pollen supplements, if needed
- Check/repair/replace stored equipment
- Keep learning---bee school, read books/journals, etc.
- Combine or insulate smaller (less than 4 frames of bees) hives.
- Combine hives where queen has failed, if they're still alive and haven't absconded.
- Move hives if they'll need to be relocated this year.
- Bees may need help removing dead bodies from entrance area.

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



#### Officers for 2020

President : Ira Poston  
Vice President : Mike Ross  
Recording Secretary : Sheyenne Price  
Treasurer : Sarah Stevens  
Program Chair : Jeff Telander  
One-year Director : Johnny Mills  
Two-year Director : Paul Jollay  
Three-year Director : Zivon Price  
Webmaster : Geoff Leister  
Newsletter : Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson