



Alamance County Beekeepers

April 2021 Newsletter

Message from Ira



Greetings !!

April and May are the two months that our bees are the most active. They could be actively gathering pollen and nectar or actively swarming. You can make sure your Queen has plenty of room to lay eggs and check to see if you need to add more honey supers. It also would be a good idea to have an extra super prepared in case you need to hive that swarm. New beekeepers should keep checking their feeders to make sure their bees have adequate food and the bees keep making wax.

Maybe your mentor can take you along on a swarm call. It's a good learning experience and always helpful to have an extra set of hands.

Keep beeing safe,

- Ira

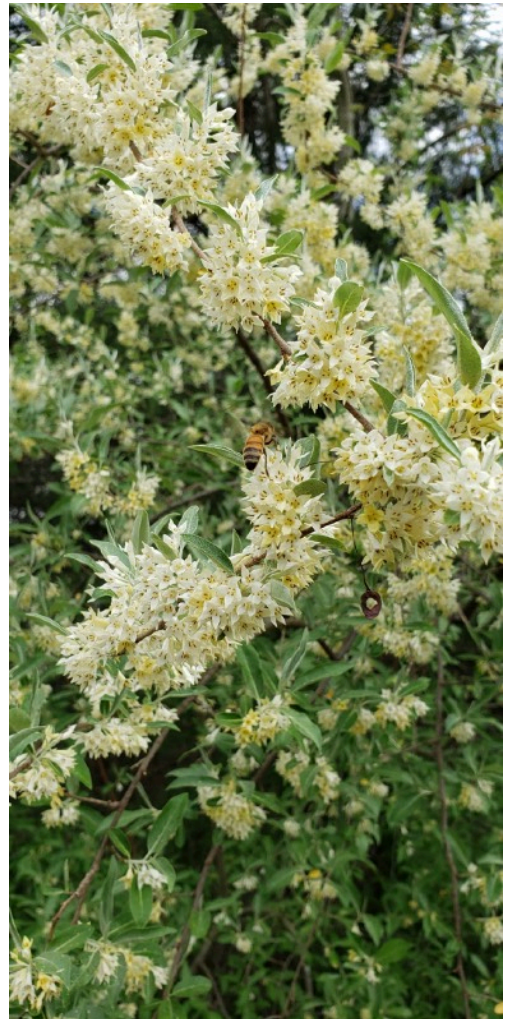


Photo credit: Sheyenne Price

April Meeting Info - 4/15 7pm [link](#)



Jerry Hayes - "How Beekeepers Fool Themselves"

Jerry will discuss beekeeper confirmation bias and how beekeepers often trick themselves. Join us for a thought provoking presentation followed by lively Q&A.

For almost four decades, Jerry Hayes has worked across the USA apicultural industry to promote sustainable beekeeping. As head apiarist of the State of Florida inspection service when Colony Collapse Disorder struck, he was on the front line helping Floridian beekeepers and their 300,000 plus colonies. For three decades, he has also been well-known and respected amongst beekeepers for his informative and entertaining column, The Classroom, for the American Bee Journal, Classroom the book, Honey Bee Health Lead at Monsanto, VP of Vita Bee Health and now Editor of Bee Culture magazine.

Click above link to join or, Meeting ID: 879 0681 1675

Passcode: 941365. Past meetings can be found in the members section of our website. Can't log in? Find your local dial in number here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87906811675>

Notes from the March Meeting

Ira gave us an update on the club and Beginning Beekeeping Class.

Last month, Jennifer Keller presented information on Reading the Combs, and how to tell the health and growth of your hive during your inspections

As always, 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

Membership Renewals and Mailing address

Don't forget to renew your membership so you can keep receiving the newsletter and club updates from us! You can do it online through our website [here](#), or you can download the application and mail us a check. Our club relies on our dues to keep our programs available!

As a 501(c)3, we are also able to accept donations. Donations can be accepted a few different ways, feel free to reach out for more information.

Our club has a new mailing address! If you should have any need for a mailing address for the club, it is:

Alamance County Beekeepers
PO Box 512
Snow Camp, NC 27349

Beginning Beekeeping Class Update

Thank you so very much to this year's class! We have had an average of 40 participants per session, and have had some fantastic discussions both in and out of our classes. We know that you all will be great additions to the beekeeping world, and to our club!

We know that with swarm season, bee packages, and nuc sale season being upon us, it can seem overwhelming and busy, but we want to remind you (and our general membership) that we are here for you if you need us! We can be reached at alamancecountybeekeepers@gmail.com.

And if you need a refresher on who we are, this is for you: <https://youtu.be/izus3zALMCE>

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/>

From Geoff's Apiary... (adjacent!!)



On April 8th, Geoff Leister and Mike Ross were able to respond and help some of their Elon mentees capture and install a swarm! Thankful for their efforts!!

And thank you to Geoff Leister for always letting us use your photos to learn!!



Packages!!!

Ever wonder how your package of bees gets to your pick up place? Many local vendors use suppliers that breed bees on a commercial scale in Georgia (Florida is another big bee producing state). Here are club members helping out with the pick-up of bee packages. Thanks guys!



Clockwise from left: Paul Jollay our Two-Year Director assesses selection; Ira Poston coordinating with officers home in NC; fans in the trailer will help keep the bees cool enough in transport back to NC

If you are ordering - or have ordered - bees from a local vendor, chances are this is what their pick-up looked like!



Calling All Backyard Photographers!

****we have received some entries, but would love more!****

Even though we can't all be together right now, we would still love the opportunity to do a little show and tell in a friendly competition! Let's see those back yard (and front yard and side yard!) pollinators at work! Honeybees and native pollinator friendly, so feel free to get creative.

Send in your photos to alamancecountybeekeepers@gmail.com. We'll have the membership vote blind on their favourite next month and reveal the winner at our May meeting!! Door prizes and bragging rights at stake, you don't want to miss out. In the spirit of getting to know YOU, this is not open to officers in the club. We look forward to seeing your great photos!



Credit for photos from the top left, clockwise: Geoff Leister/Jeff Telander, Jennifer Walsh, Laurie Fais. Thanks!!

This Month in the Bee Yard

Nectar flow is often heaviest this month: make sure that all medications are out of hive unless required for bees' survival, be prepared to add new supers every 7-10 days, and remove feeders from all except new or weak hives.

Bees should be very busy; closely examine hives that are not, and trim weeds that may be hindering flight.

Swarming usually heavy---continue prevention/capture measures.

Look closely at brood pattern; replace queen if needed.

Have everything ready to install nucs/packages that you've ordered; **feed upon installation.**

Consider adding queen excluder to prevent brood in honey supers.

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



Officers for 2021

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