



Alamance County Beekeepers

September 2020 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

September 17 | 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Experts Panel

Present your beekeeping questions to our panelists and get informed answers! Geoff Leister, Don Hopkins, and Mike Ross will entertain all your queries, and you will finish the session a better beekeeper.

If you know your questions ahead of time, send them to

alamancecountybeekeepers@gmail.com

See you on the Zoom!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89446618970?pwd=NXp2VTVBYjJNQ0g0YWxiVG50OVJSZz09>



Message from Ira

I have appointed a Nominating Committee to come up with a ballot for this year's ACB Election that will take place in November. Thanks to these individuals -- Chip Allen (Chair), Tom Montgomery, and Conrad Kunkel -- for stepping up to the plate and doing something out of their comfort zone.



They will contact individuals first, to make sure they fit their criteria for becoming Officers/Directors, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. After their list is compiled, we will publish and/or send more correspondence on when voting will take place and the method of voting we are going to use this year.

As President, this is one of my duties that takes place in September of each year. We will reach out to the individuals that do not have an email account.

Thanks to our membership for your continued support in dealing with a different way to host meetings and communicate during this pandemic. Hopefully, these vaccines that are on the horizon will prove effective and we can meet in person again soon. I feel along with the great meetings we have, the social time we have together are our best learning experiences.

Your President,
Ira

Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

[From lobsters to honey bees, social distancing is common in the animal kingdom](#), Lucy Hicks, Science, 8/14/2020. "... Humans aren't the only animals that put some space between themselves and others to reduce the transmission of disease. Wildlife—from finches to mandrills—use similar tactics, according to a paper published this week in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*."

[Bee Healthy: Honey May Beat Cold Meds Against Cough](#), Amy Norton, U. S. News & World Report, 8/24/2020. Researchers at Oxford University in England looked at 14 studies conducted since 2007 to learn more about the efficacy of honey to fight cold symptoms. Overall, honey was found to be better than cough medicine in limiting coughs. Readers are cautioned to be sure to talk with their health-care provider about any cough developed during COVID-19 time.

[Lead released in Notre Dame Cathedral fire detected in Parisian honey](#), University of British Columbia, Phys.org, 7/29/2020. "Elevated levels of lead have been found in samples of honey from hives downwind of the Notre Dame Cathedral fire, collected three months after the April 2019 blaze." That is up to 3.5 times the amount of lead found in Parisian honey before the fire. The study showed that honey is "a helpful tracer for environmental pollution during an acute pollution event like the Notre Dame fire."

[This rare, mutant honeybee is both male and female](#), Jason Bittel, National Geographic, 8/5/2020. Learn a little about genetics when you read about this doubly, wildly unusual honey bee found in a Pennsylvania hive.

[Bee, Wasp or Fly? Identifying N.C. Bees](#), Justin Moore, NCSU Extension|Homegrown, 8/21/2020. "... There are key differences between bees, wasps and flies that are easy to spot with the trained eye. Whether you're seeking peace of mind or looking to identify new guests in your garden," you can start learning how in this article and short video.

['Its body looked like a warzone.' Air pollution could kill off critical honey bees in India](#), Harini Barath, ScienceMag.org, 8/10/2020. "Bees feel the sting of air pollution more acutely than we do. A 3-year study in India finds that even mildly dirty air could kill 80% of giant Asian honey bees, a key pollinator in South Asia. Without such bees and other insects, domestic production of fruit, vegetables, nuts, and legumes could be at risk, the team says."

[Environmental groups want to block honeybees from Utah's national forests](#), Brian Maffly, The Salt Lake Tribune, 8/23/2020. Commercial beekeepers have found Utah's national forests to be refuges from pesticides for their bees when the bees are not on a job. Environmental protection groups are asking for restrictions so honey bees won't overwhelm native bees in the forests.

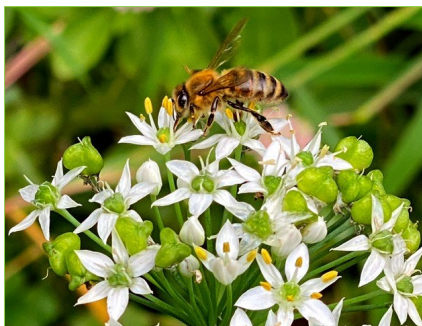


Blooming in the Piedmont



Chinese Golden-rain Tree
(*Koelreuteria bipinnata*)

Sheyenne Michelizzi & Zivon Price



Honey bee nectaring on Garlic Chives
(*Allium tuberosum*)
Photo by Geoff Leister



Above: Sweat bee (*Halictus ligatus*)
on Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia*
rotundifolia) Left: Sweat bee
(*Halictus ligatus*) foraging pollen on
Smooth aster (*Symphyotrichum laeve*)
Photos by Geoff Leister

Notes from the August Meeting

- All the documentation related to getting 501(c)(3) status has been sent to IRS. ACBA is almost in nonprofit status.
- The evening's planned program had to be changed at the last minute. Instead of getting to hear our presenter, we had a question-and-answer info-sharing session for an hour. We talked about treating and feeding, small hive beetles, mites, and got a sourwood report from the hive-haulers. If you would like to listen to a recording of the program that might have been, use this password 8Z.g170P at this link: <https://guilfordbeekeepers.org/community/viewtopic.php?f=9&t=2425>.



September in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- Beehive population drops; drones begin their seasonal die-off.
- Leave your hive with at least 60 pounds of nectar for winter use.
- May feed thin (1:1) syrup to stimulate laying. By end of month, thicken syrup to 2:1 to be used for winter stores if you haven't left enough honey.
- Combine colonies at end of month if you have weak or failing queens.
- You should have brood in the bottom box.
- Continue pest control activities. *Varroa* treatments should be finished by end of month.
- Consider *Nosema* assessment/treatment.
- Give thanks for fall nectar and pollen!



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



Bearded robber fly, member of Asilidae family
These true flies are predators who enjoy a honey bee treat.
Photo by Jennifer Welsh

Calendar

September is National Honey Month

Beekeeping Webinars @ NCSU

Ongoing

BEES Courses | Self Paced

<https://www.ncsuapiculture.net/online-classes>

Extension Master Gardener Plant Sale

September 16

Sale will be held online this year.
Inventory will highlight native plants.
Order and pay at the Square store
and pick up orders at the
Ag Building parking lot.



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