



# Alamance County Beekeepers

May 2021 Newsletter

## Message from Ira



Swarms, swarms, and more swarms. At least that's my story! One was 6 feet out of my reach, even with my 40 foot extension ladder. After many trips up and down the ladder and 2/3's of the bees, I decided to put in a frame with a queen cell. Let's hope she hatches and comes back to the hive.

The nectar flow has been pretty good so far. Tulip Poplars are still blooming and I see blackberries blooming. Maybe we will have a good honey year.

Our speaker this month is Jennifer Berry. I recognize her from the numerous articles she has written in a number of publications. She has worked for University of Georgia for the last 20 years. She will talk to us about controlling Varroa Mites with Oxalic Acid. Come loaded with questions to ask this Apiculture Research Professional and Lab Manager from UGA.

See you soon !!

- Ira

## May Meeting Info - May 20th 7pm [link](#)



Jennifer Berry: [Oxalic Acid Application for Varroa Control: What really works, what doesn't](#)

At our zoom meeting this month, Jennifer Berry will present the results of her research on the use of oxalic acid. Parasitism by Varroa destructor is the number one reason our bees die. To be successful, we must manage these pests appropriately or else our bees are doomed. But how when there are so many options/choices/opinions? For several years Jennifer Berry has been studying various application methods using oxalic acid. Results of her research will be discussed along with a best course of action to save our bees.

### Jennifer Berry

For over 20 years, Jennifer Berry has been the Apicultural Research Professional and Lab Manager for the University of Georgia Honey Bee Program. Her research objectives have focused on queen breeding, improving honey bee health, IPM techniques for varroa and small hive beetle control, sub-lethal effects of pesticides on beneficial insects, weeds for bees, and what best to plant in non-traditional horticultural landscapes to enhance pollinator populations and diversity. Jennifer's extension duties extend to Central and South America to teach women the art of beekeeping. She is also instrumental in teaching and certifying inmates through the Georgia Master Beekeeper Program in Georgia's medium and maximum-security prisons.

*Click above link to join or, Meeting ID: 815 3859 1295*

*Passcode: 619037. 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/81538591295>*

## Notes from the April Meeting

Last month, Jerry Hayes gave a thoughtful and information packed presentation on beekeeper confirmation bias. Did you find that you fall prey to these tricks yourself while in and out of the bee yard?

Don't forget - as a member of Alamance County Beekeepers, you have access to past zoom recordings - we strongly encourage you to watch this one!

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](mailto:alamancecountybeekeepers@gmail.com) or now at [newsletter@alamancebeekeepers.org](mailto:newsletter@alamancebeekeepers.org)

## **Membership Renewals and Contact Info**

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

It is now even easier to get in touch with us! While our main email address ([alamancecountybeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:alamancecountybeekeepers@gmail.com)) remains in effect, each of our officers has their own club email address. We hope that this makes it easier for you to get in touch with who you need to quickly. They should be fairly intuitive, but they are:

president@alamancebeekeepers.org  
vp@alamancebeekeepers.org  
secretary@alamancebeekeepers.org  
treasurer@alamancebeekeepers.org  
programs@alamancebeekeepers.org  
oneyear@alamancebeekeepers.org  
twoyear@alamancebeekeepers.org  
threeyear@alamancebeekeepers.org  
newsletter@alamancebeekeepers.org

## **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 our members... let us know your favorite!!*



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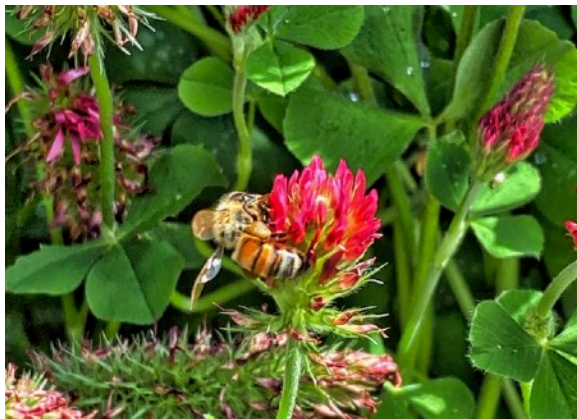
Thank you so much to our members who sent in submissions! Which one is your favourite? Why? We'd love to hear more from our members and what they're seeing, Most asked after photo will have a full explanation/ caption in next month's newsletter, as well as full credits for all photos. We can't wait to see which one that is!!



*From our officers...*



This is what I found in one of my swarm traps. They must have moved in right after I put them out in late March. She might be a candidate for grafting !! - Ira Poston



Bees on crimson clover - Jeff Telander

Beginner's luck! Queen on first frame pulled during first solo inspection. Way to go!  
- Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson





*From Geoff's Apiary...*



*Clockwise from left: Silver-Spotted skipper (Epargyreus clarus) nectarine on American Wisteria (Wisteria frutescens), Honey bee (Apis mellifera) foraging on our native American Wisteria, Female Carpenter bee (Xylocopa virginica) foraging on American Wisteria , Honey Bee foraging on yellow pollen on Catmint*



*Thank you Geoff for the generous use of your photos!*

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

Nectar flow continues---keep adding supers; get extraction/bottling equipment ready.

Consider adding an additional hive entrance (via 5/8" hole or shim) above brood area, for foragers.

Swarming continues---keep up prevention/capture measures.

Replace failing queens.

Start planting annuals for future nectar/pollen supplementation.

Install traps for small hive beetles if needed (i.e., if more than 20 adult beetles seen in hive).

Place two or more bee "watering holes" in apiary, if not already present.

<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