



Alamance County Beekeepers

February 2019 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

February 21 | Ag Building
Potluck @ 6:00 | Program @ 7:00

Queen Rearing Jennifer Keller

Jennifer Keller is an apiculture technician with NC State's Apiculture Program. She will talk to us about queen rearing.



Those of you who attended the program in February 2017 were lucky to get to hear Jennifer's talk on Africanized honey bees. She is a gifted presenter and teacher. It will be a good program!

Come early to share a meal and social time with beekeeping friends.



Message from Ira

Greetings, I'm sure everyone has enjoyed a short break from Winter. Perhaps you have had a chance to look at your bee hives and determine if you need to feed. I know some folks have been checking the pollen the workers have been bringing in and trying to determine its source.



This month we are pleased to have Jennifer Keller presenting "Queen Rearing". I know the seasoned beekeepers will really enjoy this discussion. The beginning beekeepers will put this on their list of things to try later on. We had a good turnout at last month's Potluck Dinner. Please consider joining us this month, we eat some good food and have time for fellowship before the Main Program begins.

Be sure to check out NC State Beekeepers new web page and registration is now open for the Joint Meeting with South Carolina in Monroe, NC on March 1-2, 2019. If you have never been to a State Conference, you're missing a lot of good workshops and discussions.

Look forward to seeing you soon !!

Ira

January Meeting Notes by Sheyenne Michelizzi

Our district supervisor, Randall Austin, presented Ira and Mike with their Journeyman Level certificates.

Dr. Mark Powers discussed a case study of Patient B getting a bee sting with examples of possible symptoms (hives, shortness of breath, passing out, swelling, low blood pressure, etc.) of an allergy (generalized, local, systemic), and how allergy testing can be beneficial to those with proven allergies.

Link: [Bee Sting Allergy What You Need to Know](#)

- Venom allergies occur in about 2% of adults, and .5% of children.
- There are at least 40 deaths a year.
- Systemic - reactions away from where you get stung
- Generalized - reactions in the same area you've been stung, like the whole arm or leg
- Local - reactions where you get stung
- Toxic Reaction - not caused by the antibody
- Heat exhaustion and heat stroke - can happen when we're out in the sun/heat in our protective gear
- Don't wear bright colors, perfume, go around barefoot, eat bananas
- If you have hives away from where you get stung, you should head to the emergency room just in case.
- If you administer an epi-pen, you should call EMS because they only last 15 minutes.
- Does Venom Immunotherapy work? Yes - 95% protection



The NC Zoo would like to have more volunteers.

Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

[Bee-Killing Mite Isn't a Vampire After All](#), Dee Shore, NCSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences News, 1/15/2019. Varroa mites are not feeding on hemolymph; they're feeding on bees' fat body tissue. This finding has implications for developing sustainable management practices. Full report of study is [here](#).

[Wolfpack's Waggle](#), NCSU Apiculture Program, 1/2019.

[Culprit found for honeybee deaths in California almond groves](#), Misti Crane, Ohio State News, 2/4/2019. Deaths among honey bee colonies brought to the almond groves in 2014 led to an investigation. Turns out, growers were mixing insecticide into their fungicide treatment, causing a lethal combination.

[Bees 'get' addition and subtraction, new study suggests](#), Alex Fox, ScienceMag.org, 2/6/2019. Findings "could pave the way to novel approaches in artificial intelligence and machine learning."



Alamance County Beekeepers Meeting & Programs for 2019

Meeting Date	Speaker(s)	Topic Titles	Potluck/ Snacks
Jan. 17 th	Mark Powers Associate Professor Emeritus of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary Allergy and Critical Care Medicine Duke University	Venom Allergy	Meal
Feb. 21 st	Jennifer Keller Apiculture Technician NC State Apiculture Program	Queen Rearing	Meal
March 21 st	Cynthia Speed NCSBAs Master Beekeeper Program committee member and current secretary for the Orange County Beekeepers Association	Master Beekeeping Program	Meal
April 18 th	Inge Kautzmann Member Person County Beekeepers Association	Products of the Hive	Snacks
May 18 th (Saturday)	Field Day at Ira Poston's, Blueberry Hill Apiaries, 3515 Stoney Creek Church Road, Elon, NC	Field Day/Cookout @ Ira's	
June 20 th	Lewis Cauble, NC Apiary Inspector, Mountain Counties	Varroa Mites	Meal
July 25 th	Adolphus Leonard NC Apiary Inspector, Coastal Plain	STATE FAIR info Session	Meal
Aug. 17 th (Saturday)	At Don and Shirley's Moore's Breezy Acres Apiary, 3634 Stoney Creek Church Rd., Elon, NC	Ice Cream Social	
Sept. 19 th	Nancy Ruppert, NC Apiary Inspector, South Central Counties Honey Tasting w/Caswell County	Winterizing Hives Honey Tasting w/Caswell County	Snacks
Oct. 17 th	TBD		
Nov. 21 st	1st Year Beekeeper, 2nd Year Beekeeper, 3 Year Beekeeper	Lessons Learned	Snacks
Dec. 3 rd (Tuesday)	Ira Poston	Planning Meeting for 2020	Snacks

Link to PDF: [Alamance County Beekeepers Meeting & Programs for 2019](#)



Calendar

4-H Beekeeping Essay due
2/15/2019

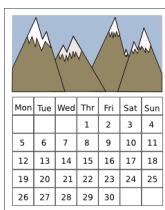
“Pollinator Nectar and Pollen Sources
in the Piedmont of North Carolina”
2/28/2019, 7:00 p.m.

Caswell County Beekeepers Association
Yanceyville, NC
Presented by Geoff Leister, Ph.D.

3/1 - 3/2, 2019

NCSBA Spring Conference
Monroe, NC

Homegrown in the Park
4/27/2019, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Burlington City Park



This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- Noticeable pollen flow under way, especially red maple- brood build-up intensifying.
- Minimal if any nectar available---most hives need feeding (1:1 syrup in most cases, unless honey stores very low [i.e., <1/2 super left]).
- Combine hives if needed (see January).
- Repair/replace equipment if needed; move hives if needed; keep learning.
- During last half of February, consider adding super/hive body of wax foundation to allow bees to draw out more comb for spring. (Feeding or nectar is required for this.)
- Replace a few (<4) frames where comb is old or has excessive drone cells.
- Some hives may need treatment for Nosema disease, especially if too cold for cleansing flights.
- Get your name on the swarm-catcher list, if you wish.
- Make plans to attend the annual NCSBA Spring Meeting in March.



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

State Fair Ideas

Are you crafty? Is there a hobby you enjoy that you could express with a honey bee theme? Then there's a category for you at the NC State Fair: Bee-Themed Crafts!

Quilting * Jewelry-Making * Paper-Making *
Sewing * Print-Making * Painting * Wood-
Working * Metalwork * Glass-Blowing *
Stamp-Making * Weaving * and more!

Factors judged are creativity, appearance, originality, and quality. Start planning now!



Officers for 2019

President : Ira Poston
Vice-President : Mike Ross
Recording Secretary : Sheyenne Michelizzi
Treasurer : Zivon Price
Program Chair : Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson
One-year Director : Paul Jollay
Two-year Director : Chuck Couch
Three-year Director : Johnny Mills
Webmaster : Geoff Leister
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce