



Alamance County Beekeepers

August 2021 Newsletter

Message from Ira



If you like ice cream, then our meeting on Saturday, August 4th at 3pm is your lucky day!! Please bring a chair and a freezer of your best homemade ice cream. If you don't have an ice cream maker, then bring something yummy. We are just going to enjoy being outside and being able to talk about keeping bees.

Speaking of bees, if you haven't checked on your bees in a while, they might be in need of some food. I had a couple of nucs that I lost because they ran out of food. Even your larger hives might be getting light. It's time to start building up the weight so they can make it through the winter.

Also, if you haven't checked on the mite load and treated (if need be), this is a good time to do that.

The Ice Cream Social will be held at Don Moore's - 3634 Stoney Creek Church Rd, Elon.

See you soon,

-Ira

Notes from the July Meeting

Our July meeting had state apiary inspector Adolphus Leonard helping us get prepped for the winter!

Don't forget - as a member of Alamance County Beekeepers, you have access to past zoom recordings! The members only section of our website can be accessed [here](#), and the password is in the email sent to members with this newsletter.

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 or now at newsletter@alamancebeekeepers.org

Goldenrod

If you're like me, summer is been a whirlwind of activity and when you get to your hive check ... later than you planned ... you may be seeing a new source of nectar coming in just in the nick of time! While we all mean well and do our best, sometimes we are saved by this late-summer rockstar of a bloomer to give us another great boost before the winter - I present to you the humble "weed", Goldenrod. With a nice long bloom period of 67 days in our [region](#), and only one more flower type left to bloom before winter, I'm happy to see it lining woods and fields.

Some great links on this showy bloomer [here](#) and [here](#).

Thank you Louis Sullivan for the great example photos!





THE STATE FAIR IS COMING!!!



We are still collecting entry ideas for this year's State Fair and we want YOU!! If you're interested in entering anything in the 2021 State Fair, check out all the categories [here](#) and let [Sheyenne](#) or [Caitlin](#) know!

We are also still actively looking for folks to help with the building, transporting, and setting up - We look forward to an awesome booth this year!!

*Additional Volunteer Opportunity
NC State Fair Bees & Honey Volunteer Info Booth*

If you have an interest in communicating to the fair public about basic honeybee information and answering related bee questions this may be for you. Please consider volunteering for one or more of the 4 hour time slots. We're looking for positive and breezy answers to Frequently asked questions. Stay away from controversy and refer prickly or difficult questions to an Apiary Inspector.

Admission to the fair will be provided. Parking is always a challenge but we will be communicating the best spots as time draws nearer.

Please give your full mailing address as we may be mailing your gate passes to you. A good email that you check frequently so we can keep you updated as the Fair draws near is needed.

Feel free to share the sign up link with anyone who wishes to volunteer for this task. Have fun and enjoy talking about our beloved honeybees.

Link-- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4BAEAF2DA3F85-state4>

Educational Opportunity

NCSU is offering an outstanding learning opportunity this October. Called “B.E.E.S. Academy” (**B**eekeepers **E**ducation and **E**ngagement **S**ystem), this fall’s event will be a 2-day (Saturday/Sunday, October 2-3rd 2021) training session with a blend of lectures and hands-on activities. Taught by NCSU’s David Tarpy and his research staff, you will, among many other things, not only learn what American Foulbrood is but you’ll get to hold and smell infected frames (with nonviable spores, of course).

The October training will be held at the Union County Cooperative Extension Center in Monroe, a short drive down I-85 and Hwy 601, just east of Charlotte. This is an excellent facility – the joint NC/SC Beekeepers’ Conference was held there several years ago.

The ideal participant is someone who has been to beginner bee school or has done equivalent self-study, and has kept bees long enough to know that things like Varroa management are important (even if you, like the rest of us, are not sure what is the best way to accomplish that). If you are working toward your NCSBA MBP Journeyman certification, this fits into that perfectly.

The cost is \$175 per person, which covers both days and includes lunch. Compare that to \$4,550 per semester at NCSU for basic tuition and fees (roughly \$1,138 per class for the same instructors), and this is a great opportunity!

The full agenda and enrolment form are at <https://www.ncsuapiculture.net/bees-academy-home>. Space is limited so sign up now!

Beekeeping in the News

Thinking about urban beekeeping? Take a look at what some folks in NY are doing [here](#).

Oh my but those boxes are getting heavy! [This](#) 97-year old man has been at it his whole life.

Is it time to put the brakes on beekeeping? Check [this](#) out.

This Month in the Bee Yard

- If not in area of significant cotton bloom, harvest remaining desired honey by mid-month to keep bees from eating it.
- Pest control is critical this month: hive beetle populations are peaking, varroa mites are nearing their peak populations, some factors increase risk of damage from wax moth larvae, and yellow jackets/ hornets tend to be plentiful.
- Careful assessment of queen performance---this month is usually last chance to replace queens until the following spring.
- Can still make late-season splits early in August if using mated queens.
- Keep water available for bees constantly.
- Be prepared for "badly behaving bees": because nectar flow is so scarce, bees may become more defensive and more likely to rob other hives→install robbing screens or entrance reducers (but be aware of need for ventilation), and keep hive inspections as brief as possible.
- Completing honey harvest + decrease in queen's egg-laying = extra empty supers of drawn comb; store them using method that prevents damage from wax moth larvae (freezing, keeping open to light/ventilation, using paradichlorobenzene [PDB] crystals).

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



Pollinator busy busy at work on a Luffa gourd flower in Caitlin's garden.

We'd love to see yours! Send us those pics!

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) 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
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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 : Jay Rimmer
Newsletter : Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson