



Alamance County Beekeepers

Newsletter for January 2018

Monthly Meeting

January 18th @ 7:00 p.m.
In the Ag Building Auditorium

Wally Swaim
ACBA Member and
Master Beekeeper

Sometimes honey bees set up home in places that are inconvenient or uncomfortable for people. Sometimes you'll get a call to come help remove them.

Wally will talk to us this month about hive extraction. Come learn from his experience and expertise.



A Message from Ira



Greetings!!! I hope everyone is staying warm on these chilly days we've had at the beginning of January. Our bees should have changed gears on December 22nd. Yes, it's the beginning of springtime for them. The amount of sunlight is continuing to increase every day and that's when the hive will start building up to get ready for the pollen and nectar soon to come. This past week has been a little warmer so hopefully you've had a chance to peek in your hives to see if they have enough food to get them through the rest of the winter.

We have some interesting meetings lined up for this year. We are still making the final changes and the 2018 Meetings Calendar will be posted to the website soon. Perhaps you can volunteer to speak to the ever-increasing number of clubs or classrooms that want to learn more about bees. It's not difficult ... remember, you know more about bees than they do.

It's also time to make repairs to your supers, build frames, order that equipment you know you HAVE to HAVE. Yes, it's cold now, but before you can turn around, you'll be wishing you had prepared several swarm boxes or honey supers.

Last, we are starting our Beginning Beekeeping Class on January 23rd. I believe it's the 27th year Alamance County has offered this class. Thanks to Don Moore and Ken Pipes for having the foresight to develop this class syllabus. We are all grateful. Just look at all the beekeepers you inspired!!

Ira

Bees in the News

Click on the title to read the article.

[Syrian beekeeper tastes sweet success with British honeybees](#), Caroline Brothers, UNHCR, 12/6/2017. "Building anew in northern England, refugee Ryad Alsous has become an advocate for native species and passes on his beekeeping knowledge to others."

[Agricultural fungicide attracts honey bees, study finds](#), Diana Yates, University of Illinois News Bureau, 1/8/2018. "When given the choice, honey bee foragers prefer to collect sugar syrup laced with the fungicide chlorothalonil over sugar syrup alone, researchers report in the journal *Scientific Reports*."



[Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) to Protect Honey Bees and Other Pollinators in Soybean Fields](#), Adam G. Dolezal, Honey Bee Health Coalition Soybean BMP Technical Committee, 11/27/2017. "This document presents BMPs for conserving and promoting the health of pollinators, particularly managed honey bees, in conjunction with soybean production. The recommendations attempt to identify potentially negative impacts of soybean agricultural practices on bees at each stage of soybean production and suggest steps to mitigate these impacts."

[Winter Survival – Bees in Extreme Cold](#), Claire Jones, keepingbackyardbees.com, 1/8/2018. This article is a good reminder of how to care for bees in harsh weather. We're not done with the freezing yet.

Winter Bloomer

Helleborus / Hellebore

Attractive to honey bees, but not deer.



Membership Renewal

Membership renewals for 2018 were due by December 31st. Please contact Zivon to renew your membership. Names of members who have not paid dues by March 31st get deleted from membership rolls.



Update Bylaws

Please review the attached pages and familiarize yourself with the proposed updated bylaws for our club. We will vote on the updates at the February 15th meeting.



Notes from the November Meeting

Margie and Steve Reynolds told about their experiences in the bee yard this year. Major takeaway: Plant food sources for your bees!

David Bristow spoke about his first year, as well, and we could all see he is smitten!

Zivon Price and Sheyenne Michelizzi spoke about their continuing shady beekeeping adventures.



And we were reminded that using nematodes for combatting SHBs has been a success for Sheyenne and Zivon. They buy theirs from [Southeastern Insectaries](#).

Thanks for sharing, everybody!

Out and About with Alamance Beekeepers



Sweet Betsy -- along with future beekeepers Amber Welsh and Luther Ross -- and Randy Stinson, represented Alamance beekeepers in the Burlington Christmas Parade on November 18th. Nice ride, Randy!

On November 28th, Dr. Geoff Leister gave a presentation on the official state insect of North Carolina at the [Haw River Historical Museum](#). About 30 people attended, and they brought lots of curiosity to the event. Thanks, as always, to Geoff for his generosity in helping us have a greater appreciation for honey bees and beekeeping.



Election Results

Selection of club officers in November resulted on one change: Our new three-year director is Chuck Couch. Wayne Foulks has completed a three-year run as director. We owe him thanks for a job well done. And thanks to Chuck for being willing to serve.



Calendar

Beginning Beekeeping Classes
January 23 through March 31
<http://alamancebeekeepers.org/>

[NCSBA Spring Meeting](#)
March 1 - 3 in New Bern, NC

If you are out and about sharing your beekeeping love and know-how with others, please tell, so we can share the good news!



Officers for 2018

President : Ira Poston
Vice-President : Mike Ross
Recording Secretary : Sheyenne Michelizzi
Treasurer : Zivon Price
Program Chair : Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson
One-year Director : Randy Stinson
Two-year Director : Paul Jollay
Three-year Director : Chuck Couch

Appointments

Webmaster : Geoff Leister
Newsletter : Cynthia Pierce