



Alamance County Beekeepers

December 2018 Newsletter

Annual Planning Meeting
December 4 | Ag Building | 6:30 p.m.

2019 Programs

Ira and company met on the evening of December 4th to plan programming for the coming year. Looking ahead, we can expect to learn more about

- * Queen-rearing
- * Journeyman & master beekeeper education
- * Wax craft
- * What's up in honeybee research @ NCSU
- * Varroa mites



... and we'll still look forward to a field day at Ira's, the summer ice cream social, honey-tasting in the fall, and opportunities to share our enthusiasm for bees and bee-keeping with members of our community.

*Happy
New year*

Message from Ira

Thanks go to Mike Ross for organizing our float for the 2018 Burlington Christmas Parade. The Alamance County Beekeepers were well represented by Thomas Montgomery, Nancy Montgomery (Betsy Bee), Charlie Ross, Ira Poston, Judy Ross (driver) and Mike's grandson Luther, Jennifer Welsh and daughter Amber. The parade route was approximately 1 mile long and there were people lined on both sides of the street along the whole route. If I had to guess, there was probably 3-4,000 people. We all had a good time and represented the Club well.



Photo by Jennifer Welsh



Notes from November's Meeting

Voting for 2019 officers took place. Johnny Mills will be the new three-year director. Thank you for being willing to help your local beekeeping group, Johnny. Thank you, Randy Stinson, for your three years as a director. All other 2018 officers were re-elected for 2019.

Ira talked about the State Fair planning meeting, and club goals for improved showing next October.

Ira, Zivon, and Sheyenne will meet with an accountant soon, and start the process of getting nonprofit status for our club. There was discussion of the advantages of being nonprofit. One advantage is we will be eligible for reduced entry fees for events. Another is we will have the ability to receive funds such as donations, grants, and State Fair premiums. Randy asked about the club bank balance. Zivon said it's around \$3,600. Zivon also said we have a new mailing address: P. O. Box 215 | Elon, NC | 27244.

ACB shirts and hats are available for purchase @ \$12 each. Shirt sizes are women's and XL and XXL.

Mike paid the fee for ACB to be in the Burlington Christmas Parade on November 17th. Thank you, Mike! He asked interested paraders to meet him behind Company Shops @ 8:00 to get lined up. Parade starts at 10:00. Nancy Montgomery agreed to wear the bee suit.

Three beekeepers talked to us about beekeeping lessons learned to date. Thank you, all three!

Alex McCollum, of the Class of 2015, was our first speaker. He has learned a lot about beekeeping in his three years: You HAVE to treat for mites. Don't get attached. Don't grow outside your means. Make a plan for yourself and your bees and know it. You don't have to check every frame every time you do a hive check. Everybody has an opinion about how to keep bees. Set bait hives within 50 feet of pond in order to attract swarms. Train bees to a controlled water source early to keep them out of the neighbors' swimming pool. His effort to create two colonies out of a package and an extra queen worked!

Chip McFalls and his girlfriend Theresa Faulkner started keeping bees two years ago. They wanted to raise Russian bees because of their reputation for being mite resistant. Their experience is that mites are still a problem, and so is cold weather!

Tom Cowan, from class of 2018, has been a diligent student of beekeeping this year, but is still nervous about going into the winter. He learned that it is good to check on bees more often than he did during high season. Will be combining his weak colonies before winter.

Mike reports that the sourwood honey crop was about 10 percent of what he gets in a good year. Also said that not much nectar was gotten from tulip poplar this year.

Ira, Zivon, Sheyenne, and Caitlin took the journeyman testing held in October. Ira passed the exams, while Zivon, Sheyenne, and Caitlin *almost* did! Wally Swaim encouraged people to pursue advanced learning and testing. He was very positive about the NC journeyman and master beekeeper programs.

Ira brought a fine thank-you cake in acknowledgement of all the good work done by the State Fair contributors. And Randy Stinson brought a *dee-licious* homemade pound cake. We all enjoyed the sweet end to our season's programs.

Bees in the News

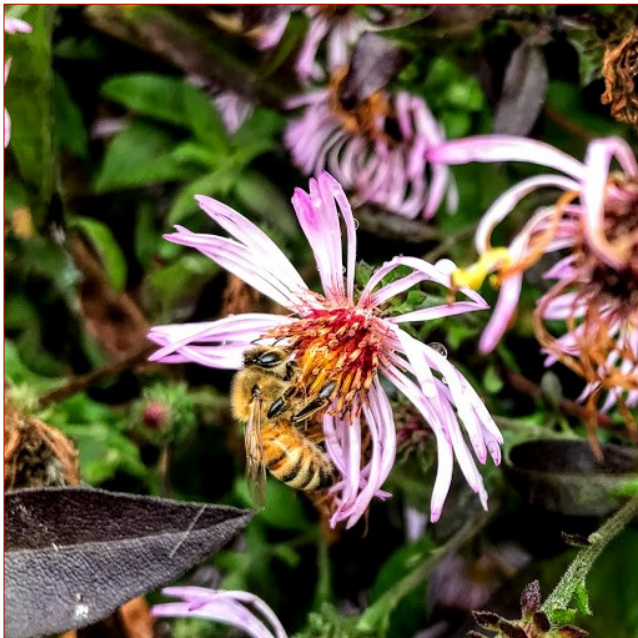
Click on the headline to read the article.

[Understanding Mead](#), Nancy Koziol, Mother Earth News, 10/2018. "Understand the history, origin, and unique story behind mead and why it is such a popular home brewed fermented beverage." Oh, and MEAD is a category under Bees and Honey, NC State Fair ...

[Rebel honeybee workers lay eggs when their queen is away](#), Yao-Hua Law, ScienceNews, 12/4/2018. Rebel workers appear to be a subcaste of worker bees who have higher reproductive potential than regular workers in the absence of a queen. Rebel workers are more likely to drift to other colonies and function as reproductive parasites than normal workers. See original study [here](#).

[Honeybee protein keeps stem cells youthful](#), Krista Conger, Phys.org, 12/5/2018. "A mammalian protein similar in structure to the active component of honeybee royal jelly—the queen-making goop that helps worker bees raise a new egg-laying diva for the hive—functions as kind of a fountain of youth for mouse embryonic stem cells, according to researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine."

[Like Son, Like Father](#), NCSU Giving News, 12/3/2018. State Apiary Inspector Lewis Cauble generously shares his knowledge with beekeepers. His generosity extends to the Apiculture Science Fund at NCSU, as well. Read more [here](#).



Honey bee on *Ampelaster carolinianus*, 12/1/2018
photo by Chris Stecker

Bees in the Funnies

Mike Ross



What does a queen bee NOT want to find in her wardrobe?

A yellow jacket.

North Carolina 4-H Beekeeping Essay

The North Carolina 4-H beekeeping essay contest provides a platform for youth to creatively express their working knowledge and research of the craft of beekeeping.

The topic for 2019 is "Honey Varietals, State to State," and is due February 15, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.

For details on the contest, see <https://tinyurl.com/y93foucu>. You can also call Cynthia or Taylor at the 4-H office, 336-570-6740, to find out more!



Alamance Beekeepers @ Gibsonville Christmas Parade



Ira Poston; Tom and Nancy Montgomery; and Mike, Judy and Luther Ross represented ACB at the Gibsonville parade December 8th. Thanks for taking time on a Saturday afternoon -- before a snowstorm! -- to show beekeeper holiday spirit, y'all!

<https://youtu.be/F4Wi9cf9fMo>

Alamance Soil & Water Conservation District Seedling Sale

SWCD is taking orders for native trees through February 1, 2019. This year, they are offering

- Loblolly pine. Supports 232 butterfly and moth species. 25 trees for \$5.
- Yellow poplar. Supports 18 butterfly and moth species. \$2 each.
- Buttonbush. Supports 24 butterfly and moth species. \$2 each.
- White oak. Supports 488 butterfly and moth species. \$2 each.

Call SWCD at 336-290-0380 or stop by to see them at the Ag Building for more information and to make your order.

Renew Your Membership Now!

Dues for 2019 are
\$10 for ACBA and \$15 for NCSBA.
Revised membership form is on our
[website](#).



Calendar

[Alamance County Beekeeping Class](#)

1/22 - 4/2 and 4/6, 2019

[Chatham County Beekeeping School](#)

1/8 - 2/26, 2019

3/1 - 3/2, 2019

[NCSBA Spring Conference](#)

Monroe, NC

This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- * Combine hives that are weak/have failing queens.
- * Feed thick syrup if needed (i.e., if no more than one super of honey stored up).
- * Consider insulating smaller hives (those with 4 or fewer frames of bees).
- * Year-end review/assessment of apiary success/challenges.
- * Leave bees alone, if possible.



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



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