



Alamanca County Beekeepers

August 2020 Newsletter

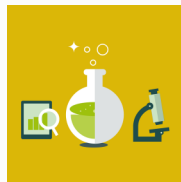
Monthly Meeting

August 20 | 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Jessica Louque
Louque Agricultural Enterprises, LLC

*Beyond Pesticides, Bee Testing, and
Data Analysis*

We hope to see you online for Jessica Louque's presentation at our monthly meeting. Many of you know Jessica from her *Bee Culture* column "Bigger Picture." Many of you know her from previous programs or conferences. She's a great presenter, and always engages and challenges her audience's thinking!



So, plug in your internet, find your headphones, grab a snack, and be on time. You won't want to miss a word!

Message from Ira

Greetings,

I know everyone is tired of this heat and the coronavirus. We can't do anything about the heat, but you can wear a mask if you go out (and are around other people). Practice social distancing and wash your hands.



I know a number of people have treated their hives and have checked to see if the treatments have worked. Most have used either Apiguard or Apivar because of the temperatures lately.

If you have questions about treatments, or are not sure of what to do about a problem, please reach out to your mentor or one of our club's officers. Or submit your question to our club's Google group, theacb@googlegroups.com.

I know my bees are acting a little irritated and have been going through their resources. Be sure to check to see if your bees need feeding.

Until we can meet in person, please utilize our Zoom meetings. Caitlin has done an awesome job setting up our meetings. Hopefully you will be able to attend.

Ira

Notes from July's Meeting

We're all wanting to get back to meeting in person, but the Zoom is working pretty well for us. For those whose internet connections are iffy, there's the option of phoning in, which several members did for the July meeting. We had a record virtual attendance of 33 people. Thanks, Sheyenne and Caitlin, for powering through and making this electronic life work for our ACBA members.



Adolphus Leonard was our guest presenter on 7/16. He spoke to us from his home (!) about preparing bees for winter. It was a good refresher with updates and good audience questions at the end. It cannot be emphasized enough how important it is to monitor for Varroa mites. Check before treatments, and check to see how effective your treatments have been.



Bees in the News

Click on the headline to read the article.

[First Asian giant hornet found in Washington state trap](#), AP News, 7/3/2020. "The state now plans to search for nests using infrared cameras and place additional traps that try to capture hornets alive. If they catch live hornets, the agriculture department will try to tag and track them back to their colony so the colony can be eradicated."

[Researchers discover honeybees have more than one way to feed on nectar](#), Bob Yirka, Phys.org, 8/12/2020. Scientists were able to capture on video in great detail two ways honey bees take nectar in. The variation depended on the viscosity of the nectar. The amazing videos and the link to complete study in *Biology Letters* are included.

[Sweet dreams: Malaysia's stingless bee honey creates a buzz in Mideast](#), AroundWorld24.com, 8/8/2020. "Malaysia's honey farmers are tapping into nectar from stingless bees to export the product around the world, including the Middle East, which has seen a spike in demand following its discovery as a potential superfood."

State Fair Canceled for 2020

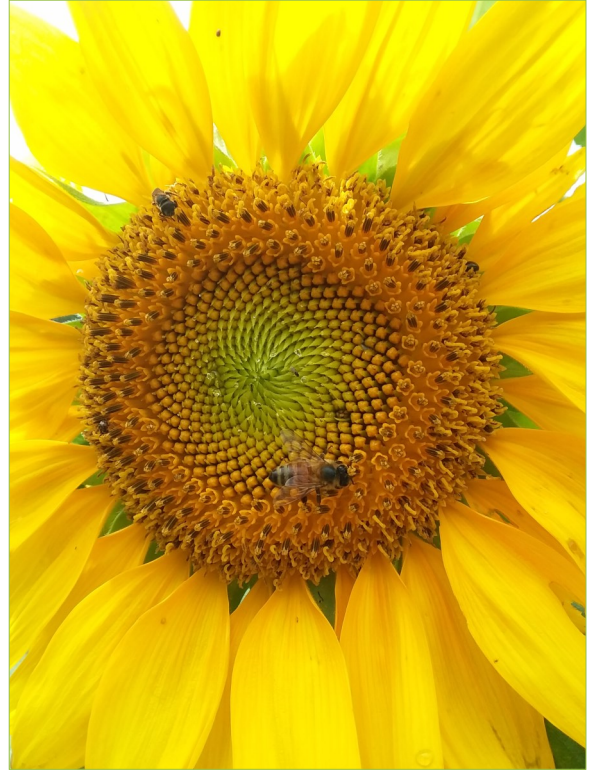
We'd been waiting for it, and it was finally declared: The [State Fair for 2020 has been canceled due to the COVID pandemic](#). The dates for 2021 have been set for October 14-24.

Beekeepers, maybe working on entries for next year would be a good antidote to the at-home-ness that has no foreseeable end.

Blooming in the Piedmont



Hairy mountain mint, *Pycnanthemum pilosum*
Photo by Geoff Leister



Honey bees on sunflower, *Helianthus annuus*
Photo by Jennifer Welsh, 7/27/2020, Snow Camp



Zucchini flower with honey bee, black Two-spotted Long-horned bee, and fruit flies!



Cutleaf coneflower, *Rudbeckia laciniata*
Photo by Geoff Leister

This Month in the Bee Yard

Courtesy of Nancy Ruppert

- 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?fw=0>

Calendar

Beekeeping Webinars @ NCSU

Ongoing

National Honey Bee Day | August 15

BEES Courses | Self Paced

<https://www.ncsuapiculture.net/online-classes>

Name that Pollen Source

Note from Geoff Leister

The orange pollen pellets that bees are currently bringing to their hives come from North Carolina native *Rudbeckias* such as [Black-eyed Susan](#) and [Green-headed Coneflower](#). You've probably noticed them currently flowering in yards and fields.



Officers for 2020

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