



# Alamance County Beekeepers

February 2021 Newsletter

## Message from Ira

Your hives should be boosting their numbers. Hopefully, the back and forth cold weather will subside soon and the risk of losing brood will be lower. Make sure they have plenty of food. Those not “in town” may want to put out a pollen feeder. There are advantages to being located near a diverse range of flowering plants, trees and bushes.

Our Beginning Beekeeping Class is going great!! I expect the interest in keeping bees to continue. Our club has demonstrated why we are one of the best in the state ..... if not the best!!

Please be sure to tune in to our February Meeting. Lewis Cauble (NC Bee Inspector) will be presenting a program on swarms. A very timely topic!! If you can't log on to the zoom meeting, you can always listen to the audio portion.

I hope you and your families are staying well. Perhaps one day, we can meet in person again.

- Ira



## February Meeting Info - 2/18 7pm [link](#)

Spring is just around the corner and that means swarm season will be here too. Swarming remains one of the greatest bee management problems in the production of honey. The prevention and, when necessary, the control of swarming is good bee management. This month, NCDA&CS Apiary Inspector Lewis Cauble will share wisdom about swarms, swarm prevention and how to manage your apiary to meet your beekeeping goals. Join us for a lively talk followed by Q and A.

Lewis Cauble is responsible for Area 1, covering Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties.

*Click above link to join or, Meeting ID: 815 3620 7970*

*Passcode: 057923. Past meetings can be found in the members section of our website. Can't log in? Find your local dial in number here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81536207970>*

## Notes from the January Meeting



Tina Sebestyen spoke to us about the fascinating world of queen bees. She had wonderful insights on top bar as well as langstroth hive beekeeping. We thank her for the delightful program and wish her the best with establishing a Master Beekeeping Program for the state of Colorado!

Ira gave us an update on the Beginning Beekeeping Class.

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](mailto:alamancecountybeekeepers@gmail.com)

## Bees in the News

The economic value of insect pollination services is much higher than previously thought in the US:

<<https://phys.org/news/2021-02-economic-insect-pollination-higher-previously.html>>

Summer weather conditions influence winter survival of honey bees:

<<https://phys.org/news/2021-02-summer-weather-conditions-winter-survival.html>>

Hive thinking: Beekeeping makes a buzz in Ivory Coast:

<<https://phys.org/news/2021-02-hive-beekeeping-ivory-coast.html>>

Hygienic honey bees are more resistant to destructive parasite:

<<https://phys.org/news/2021-01-hygienic-honey-bees-resistant-destructive.html>>

## **Membership Renewals and Mailing address**

Don't forget to renew your membership! 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!

*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

## **Beginning Beekeeping Class Update**

Welcome to this year's class! We are so very excited about this year's Beginning Beekeeping Class! We have had an average of 40 participants per session, and have had some fantastic discussions both in and out of our classes. We know it's easy to be "zoomed out" these days, but thank you to all of the participants and instructors working to make this year's class the best it can be. The fabulous amount of content going into the class is what sets our class participants up for success!

So far this year we have covered:

- Introduction to beekeeping
- Bees as Social Insects
- Anatomy of Bees

This month we will also cover:

- Starting a Honey Bee Hive
- Medicating Bees

Normally we get the chance to bond and get to know one another during class times in person. As we are virtual this year, we want to remind our class participants (and our general membership) that we are here for you if you need us! We can be reached at [alamancecountybeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:alamancecountybeekeepers@gmail.com).

And if you need a refresher on who we are, this is for you: <https://youtu.be/izus3zALMCE>

## **\* \* BIG NEWS: Non-profit Status is Official!! \* \***

We are so excited to announce that we have officially received notice that we are a 510(c)3 non-profit organization! This definitely helps our club, but it also means that any donations made to the club are tax deductible for you. Feel free to reach out with any questions, or for info on how you can make donations to support your club.

*From Geoff's Apiary...*



Both male & female trees of Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* var. *rubrum*) are flowering in southern Alamance County. (Above Left, Right)

Paperbush (*Edgeworthia chrysantha*) will be opening in late February (Left)

Honey bee nectaring on Fragrant Honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) that is now in flower (Right)

*Thank you Geoff Leister for the photos!!*



## **In-person Meetings are on Hiatus, But Virtual Learning Isn't!**

Beekeeping Webinars: Live and recorded online presentations by the NC State Apiculture Program, <https://entomology.ces.ncsu.edu/apiculture/beekeeping-webinars/>

Stay at Home Beekeeping Series: Distance Learning for Beekeeping Clubs, Alabama Extension, <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/bees-pollinators/stay-at-home-beekeeping-series-distance-learning-for-beekeeping-clubs/>

### **This Month in the Bee Yard**

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. 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.

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



#### Officers for 2021

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