



# Alamance County Beekeepers

October 2021 Newsletter



## **Message from Ira**

The weather is changing and we need to make sure we have our hives well fed. If you need to combine two weak hives, do so on a warmer day. I hope you have checked for mites and treated if necessary. You can treat with Oxalic Acid in late November or December when the capped brood is minimal. I hope you will join our Zoom Meeting this month. Don Hopkins, our NC State Bee Inspector will be talking about what a day in the life of a Bee Inspector is like. Those of you that have heard Don speak know he has many years of experience and great knowledge about our honeybees.

We look forward to seeing you and hearing your questions.

-Ira

## October Meeting Info - October 21st 7pm [link](#)



Have you ever wondered what it is like to be an Apiary Inspector?  
This month, Don Hopkins, North Carolina Apiary Inspection Supervisor will share his perspective and experience in his presentation "A Year In The Life Of An Apiary Inspector"  
Please join us for this informative and enjoyable presentation.

### About Don Hopkins (from [easternapiculture.org/](http://easternapiculture.org/))

Don Hopkins became interested in bees at the age of 5, when beekeeper Dave Pruden was also the bread delivery driver in his hometown. He didn't get a hive until he was nine or ten, but he has kept bees almost continuously since then. As a youth beekeeper in the Morris County (NJ) Beekeepers Association he was inspired by New Jersey State Apiarist Jack Matthenius.

Don later served as president of that same organization.

Don started working for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture in 1989 as a bee inspector. In 1994, he became the State Apiarist.

Don has been president of Apiary Inspectors of America twice: in 2000 and 2010. At EAS, Don is sometimes known as the Chief Bee Wrangler and has presented several workshops, primarily on bee diseases. His primary interest is honey bee health and biology, as well as the interactions between the bees and other organisms.

Don has been on many volunteer projects to educate and learn from beekeepers in other countries. His trips to Bolivia have given him experience with Africanized Honey Bees and insight as to how the beekeepers there manage the bees

## Notes from the September Meeting

Our September meeting was such a treat! Debbie Roos is such a great wealth of information and enthusiasm surrounding pollinator plants and plantings. Members are highly encouraged to visit her pollinator garden if they can.

The September meeting also saw a call for volunteers for the board and State Fair information

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](mailto:alamancecountybeekeepers@gmail.com) or [newsletter@alamancebeekeepers.org](mailto:newsletter@alamancebeekeepers.org)



## STATE FAIR UPDATE



We were sincerely hoping to have a list of our county members who won ribbons this year, but the winners haven't been announced at time of publication.... stay tuned!

And for those members that entered - don't forget entries need to be picked up on 10/25 8am - 6pm. Photo ID required if claim ticket stub has been lost.

## *Election! Election!*

A heartfelt thank you to those that have volunteered to be officers of our club next year. The general membership will see ballots in their email just like last year shortly. Instructions and dates will be included in that email.

Candidates are:

President: Ira Poston  
Vice President: Mike Ross  
Recording Secretary: Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson  
Treasurer: Sarah Stevens  
Program Chair: Reid Cardwell  
3-year Director: Liz Riley  
2-year Director: Zivon Price  
1-year Director: Paul Jollay  
Webmaster: Jay Rimmer  
Newsletter: Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson

## *From Caitlin's field trip...*

This month I had the unique opportunity to go to Camellia Forest Nursery to participate in non-bee related workshops. The second day I went, the weather was on the cooler side, but sunny and breezy. I was in a large Camellia Sinensis garden - the variety of Camellia that produces tea - and walking up and down the rows the bees were LOUD. While there isn't a ton of flowers right now compared to the spring flow, I found myself in a field of some of the easiest accessible pollen flowers there are, and all in full bloom. GORGEOUS. Of course, like any good beekeeper, it was all I could do to not talk everyone else's ear off :) A video of the bee activity can be found here: <https://youtu.be/S50ALWORrxE> (look closely!)



*Camellia Sinensis varieties - Fairhope Select,  
Fairhope Select, Rosea*

## **Beekeeping in the News**

The joys and perils of backyard beekeeping: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-10-08-the-joys-and-perils-of-a-backyard-beekeeper/>

Researchers aim to breed bees for specific diets: [https://www.ivpressonline.com/open/researchers-aim-to-breed-bees-for-specific-diets/article\\_e373d440-270b-11ec-99d0-933616040530.html](https://www.ivpressonline.com/open/researchers-aim-to-breed-bees-for-specific-diets/article_e373d440-270b-11ec-99d0-933616040530.html)

Leicester Is Turning All of Its Bus Stops Into Green Roof Pollinator Gardens for Bees: <https://mymodernmet.com/leicester-green-roof-bee-bus-stops>

Researchers Develop Self-Pollinating Almond With a Gold Mine of Tasty Traits: <https://www.almonds.com/why-almonds/almond-lifecycle>

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

Assess for varroa mites via sugar roll or alcohol wash. Varroa levels need to be below threshold by mid- October, as winter bees are developing and can be permanently damaged by varroa.

Remove all queen excluders, if present.

Combine hives that are weak/have failing queens.

Feed thick syrup, if needed, for winter food stores.

Limit frequency of inspections after mid-October: bees are sealing cracks with propolis, and waste lots of time/energy if they have to keep replacing it.

Add entrance reducers near end of month to keep mice out.

Drones being expelled in most hives.

Plant (October through December) herbaceous perennials, shrubs and trees for future nectar/pollen sources.

<https://www.ncbeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/CALENDAR-FOR-BEEKEEPING-IN-CENTRAL-NORTH-CAROLINA2020.pdf>

## **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](mailto: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.



### 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