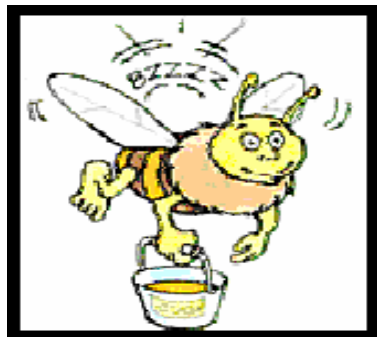


January, 2005



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

# The Next Meeting Will Be Monday, Jan. 3rd

The Norfolk County Beekeeper's Association (NCBA), is dedicated to apiculture education and promotion of the art and science of beekeeping among beekeepers, agriculture and the general public. This is a "Not for Profit" organization, meeting the first Monday of every month, at 7:30 PM (second Monday if the first Monday is a holiday). The meetings are held at the Norfolk Agricultural High School (Media Ctr. Cafeteria) in Walpole, MA. Meetings in June-August will be held at members' bee yards as announced.

### Notes From The Editor:

IMPORTANT!!! Because of the unseasonably warm temperatures, the bees have been very active and are rapidly chewing through their winter stores. At your first opportunity, heft each hive a few inches. If they feel light, run, don't walk, to the nearest grocery and pick up the ingredients for bee candy. I "borrowed" a quick microwave recipe from BCBA ... it's on page 2 of this newsletter.

Got your new 2005 calendars yet? No? Well, check out page 3 for a Massachusetts Agricultural Calendar. However, regardless of which 2005 calendar you have, flip to the February page and circle Sunday the 13th. That's the date for our club social! This year we'll be at FENG'S 88 in Walpole. There's a separate flyer in this newsletter telling you all about it, and a little blurb on page 2 with some additional information. We've scheduled the social for early in the afternoon, so come out and dine with us!!

Dues. You just have to get this paid to continue in our good company. Now, true, you can get this newsletter off our web page for free, so I can no longer threaten to kick you off my mailing lists. But, you see, I will take you off and you won't be getting an email every month reminding you to go to the web page to fetch the latest edition. And, after awhile without the reminders (human nature being conditioned to require prompts these days), you'll forget all about us. You'll not only miss the news, but you'll isolate yourselves from the rest of the beekeepers in Norfolk County. Our Treasurer Miguel Lessing is a nice guy ... really. And he's got the cutest dimples when he smiles ... a smile you would readily see if you were to give him your check for \$15. So, how about it? Get those delinquent dues paid up and keep Miguel smiling!

And so, fellow beekeepers and friends, 2004 will soon become history. Here's hoping 2005 will be a year of peace ... and it wouldn't hurt to have a record honey flow either!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*Irene Gorczyca*

### 2004-2005 NCBA Officers

#### President

Tim Sullivan  
101 Sherman Road  
Dedham, MA 02026  
(781-326-2834)  
TimSul123@comcast.net

#### Vice President

Norm Shaw  
19 Skyline Road  
Hyde Park, MA 02136  
(617-361-5359)  
theshawzzz@hotmail.com

#### Treasurer

Miguel Lessing  
45 Russell Road  
Wellesley, MA 02482  
(781-431-2411)  
miguellessing@comcast.net

#### Recording Secretary

Mike Miconi  
172 Berwick Road  
Attleboro, MA 02703  
(508-226-8212)  
mrmiconi@msn.com

#### Corresponding Secretary

Irene Gorczyca  
(aka, Attila the Honey)  
276 Winter Street  
Walpole, MA 02081  
(508-668-0547)  
ikgorczyca@comcast.net

#### Bee School Director

Howard Crawford/Tim Sullivan  
11 Miller Street  
Norfolk, MA 02056  
(508-528-9869)

#### Fair Committee Chairperson

Irene Gorczyca

Norfolk County - Massachusetts

# THE NORFOLK BEE

Online at: [www.norfolkbees.org](http://www.norfolkbees.org)

## Minutes from the December Meeting Mike Miconi

The meeting was called to order at 7:30; there were 23 people in attendance. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published and the treasurer's report, as given by Miguel Lessing was also accepted.

Tim S. reported that he would again like to have a social get together at a local restaurant and "Feng's 88" was recommended. This will be investigated and plans will be announced at a later date.

Tim Donahue was generous and donated a two-frame extractor to the club. This will be a great addition to the club and will be greatly appreciated by members who don't own an extractor. This extractor will be available for rental to club members whose dues are current. Details to be worked out. THANK YOU TIM.

At 7:45 we started watching a movie, "Free Bee's for You" with Jim Tewes and the four Barnett brothers from North Carolina. The Barnett brothers have been harvesting bee's from trees for many, many years and it was quite a site to see them chain saw down a tree and harvest the bee's all without so much as a veil among them – unlike Jim Tewes – who was fully outfitted head to toe! It didn't matter a bit that it was almost impossible to decipher their North Carolina accents!

We took a break at 8:25 and raffled off the two door prizes. Miguel Lessing won a piece of cut comb which was donated by Howard Crawford. Sheila Hollister won a tool/nuc box from Brushy Mt.

The movie resumed at 8:40 with information about harvesting bees from buildings and 'bee lining'...methods of watching and following bee's to find their hive. Tim Sullivan brought in a couple of boxes used in bee lining. The festivities wound down and the meeting adjourned at 9:15.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Equipment Orders With BCBA Attila

This is going to be a little convoluted. I will take any of your orders via email or phone until January 7th, and then I'll contact BCBA and see exactly what the pricing is for the equipment you want. I will either have to email or call you with the pricing, and you will have until January 14th to decide whether or not there is a sufficient price advantage for you; a check to me by the 14th will get your order placed. Make the checks payable to **BCBA**. The club membership can order anything from the Brushy Mountain and Walter Kelley catalogs, but we will only be taking orders for hive top feeders, division board feeders, and gloves from Mann Lake. When the equipment is in, I will pick up the orders and distribute them in the Aggie School parking lot. I apologize for the communication difficulties; sometimes the holidays make things difficult.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Second Annual Social Attila

The second annual social will be held at the FENG'S 88 Chinese Restaurant on Sunday, February 13th, at 1 PM. The restaurant is only a mile south of the Aggie School on Rt. 1A (Main Street) in the Main Street Shopping Center. The shopping center is located at the intersection of Rt. 1A and Rt. 27 in Walpole Center, and has a CVS that is easily spotted from the road.

FENG'S 88 is a favorite of mine. It is refreshingly bright and clean, and the food is excellent and plentiful. The dining room is ours for the afternoon and there is a cash bar for those preferring something stronger than tea or a soft drink. Look for the separate flyer accompanying this newsletter to sign up and make your menu selections. The price is \$12.60 per person, all taxes and gratuities included. Reservations need to be received by February 7th ... you can either mail them in or hand-carry them to the club meeting that night. Mailing instructions are in the flyer.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Farmers' Markets looking for Growers December edition of the Farm & Market Report:

Several new farmers' markets are being proposed for the 2005 season. If you are interested, please get in touch with the contact listed.

- Brighton, Dennis Minihane, 617-254-1130
- Brookfield, Sarah Heller, 508-867-8494 or [gohls@mac.com](mailto:gohls@mac.com)
- East Boston, Jackie Rosatto, 617-833-3304 or [Jackie\\_rosatto@hotmail.com](mailto:Jackie_rosatto@hotmail.com)
- Lexington, Sonia Demarta, 781-860-0729, or [marantha@rcn.org](mailto:marantha@rcn.org)
- South Hadley, Linda Kurowski, 413-538-5042, or [lkurowski@hotmail.com](mailto:lkurowski@hotmail.com)
- Wareham, Susan Lauerman, 508-291-4316 or [slauerman@admakepeace.com](mailto:slauerman@admakepeace.com)

For more information on selling at farmers' markets contact David Webber at 617-626-1754 or [david.webber@state.ma.us](mailto:david.webber@state.ma.us).

\*\*\*\*\*

## Bee Hive Candy Recipes (from BCBA's December 2004 Buzz Words)

Microwave Recipe – 1- In a 1-quart or larger microwave dish, mix thoroughly 1 and ½ cups granulated sugar and ½ cup light corn syrup. 2- Microwave on high, stirring every few minutes until the mixture is clear and bubbles become thumbnail sized (about 10 minutes). STOP immediately if the mixture begins to brown. A wooden spoon is very effective for stirring, as it can be left in the dish while heating. 3- Pour into a shallow mold made of cardboard, or a container lined with paper to cool.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Massachusetts 2005 Agriculture Calendar Published

### December edition of the Farm & Market Report:

The 2005 Ag calendar includes Massachusetts agriculture facts, conservation facts, agriculture and horticulture related events and websites, and a chart showing when local crops are in season.

"This calendar will educate consumers about the rich diversity of agriculture in the Bay State," said Commissioner Gillespie, noting that the calendar also features facts about Massachusetts agriculture, agricultural events, and websites offering more information. "I'm sure folks will enjoy viewing these attractive pictures throughout the year while learning about farming in Commonwealth."

"The Massachusetts Agriculture calendar also offers people an opportunity to learn about conserving natural resources on a farm and in their own backyard," said Cecil B. Currin, Massachusetts State Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. "I'm happy that NRCS was able to partner with the state ag department and Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom on this educational project."

Calendars may be purchased for \$10 each; the wholesale cost is \$5 each for orders over five copies. Proceeds will benefit Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, a non-profit organization that works with teachers throughout the state in developing classroom materials. Send a check payable to [Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom](#) with your name and address to: Calendar, Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, c/o Debi Hogan, PO Box 345, Seekonk, MA 02771.

\*\*\*\*\*

## New Pheromone Creates Buzz About the Clout of Older Bees

A recent discovery unveils the chemical secret that gives old bees the authority to keep young bees home babysitting instead of going out on the town. A hard-to-detect pheromone explains a phenomenon Michigan State University entomologist Zachary Huang published 12 years ago – that somehow older forager bees exert influence over the younger nurse bees in a hive, keeping them grounded until they are more mature, and thus more ready to handle the demands of buzzing about.

The work that identifies the chemical, "Regulation of Behavioral Maturation in Honey Bees by a New Primer Pheromone" is publishing in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science Biological Sciences*, Population Biology, Early Edition the week of Nov. 29.

"If the older ones don't keep them in check, the young ones can mature too quickly," Huang said. "It's kind of the same thing as

*(continued in next column)*

with people, you need the elders to check on the young, even if the young are physically able to go out on their own, it's not the best situation for anybody and now we know how it works."

Huang worked with a team that spanned from the United States, France and Canada to explain how the bees kept an exquisitely consistent balance between the ones that go out to collect nectar and pollen and defend the hive, and those that stay home and nurture the larvae. Huang had documented that this balance is controlled by the elder bees, those that typically spend the final one to three weeks of their five-week lifespan out in the field.

Experiments showed that if a significant number of forager bees didn't come home, the young nurse bees would mature ahead of schedule and head out to become foragers themselves. If the older bees were kept inside more than usual – as in an extended rain shower – fewer young bees would mature, but instead stick to brood care.

But the question was always, why? Pheromones are a chemical signal emitted by animals, insects and humans. Some, called releaser pheromones, are like a quick conversation that changes behavior, such as those that inspire sexual attraction. Since releasers change behaviors immediately, they historically have been easier to identify. Hundreds of releaser pheromones have been chemically identified, whereas only four (including this new one) have been identified as primer pheromones. Primer pheromones are more difficult to work with because they imparts behavioral changes in a much longer time scale, taking days or sometimes weeks to see an effect.

Huang and his associates spent years futilely searching for a primer pheromone. After many dead ends, the group came upon a crucial difference between forager bees and nurse bees: Forager bees carry a mother load of a chemical called ethyl oleate in the abdominal reservoir in which they store nectar.

That, Huang said, led them to identify ethyl oleate as another kind of pheromone – called primer pheromone. Forager bees load up on ethyl oleate when they're buzzing about gathering food, but don't digest it. The forager bees feed the chemical to the worker bees, and the ethyl oleate keeps them in a teenage state, sort of like being grounded to watch the younger siblings. As the old bees die off, the chemical no longer is fed to nurse bees. Eliminate ethyl oleate and the bees mature into foragers.

"This provides clear insight into how a bee colony works," said Gene Robinson, G. William Arends professor of integrative biology and director of the neuroscience program at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. "What's most impressive about a honey bee colony is it is able to respond to changing conditions and alter its division of labor. When you think of that type of flexibility and adaptability, you immediately think, 'who's in charge'?' People from many scientific and engineering endeavors are fascinated by localized decentralized decision making."

Huang said the system makes sense for the health of the hive. Young bees – those in the first two to three weeks of life – are biologically better suited for brood care, thanks to some boosted

*(continued on page 4)*



From:

Irene Gorczyca  
276 Winter Street  
Walpole, MA 02081

TO:

## Swap N' Sell

Here's a column where you can sell, swap, or giveaway just about anything. If you are a paid member, advertising is free for as many issues as you wish. If you are not a member, the cost is \$8.00/ad/issue (so, it pays to become a member for just \$15!)

**FOR SALE:** Honey, 60 lb. pails. Please call Merrimack Valley Apiaries, (978) 667-5380 for prices.

**FOR SALE:** Claire Desilets from BCBA has taken on a dealership for Honey B Healthy. A feeding stimulant made up of spearmint and lemongrass oils; it promotes healthy, vigorous bees, aids in re-queening, and calms bees when used as a spray. 8 oz./\$13.00. Please call, (508) 888-2304, or email <beekepr@qis.net>

\*\*\*\*\*

## New Pheromone Creates Buzz About the Clout of Older Bees

(continued from page 3)

blood protein. Bees forced out too early aren't great navigators, and since foraging is dangerous, they risk dying before their time. "Our idea has never been disproved, but the lack of mechanism drove me crazy," said Huang. "Now we know the specific chemical that controls the behavior of honey bees for the good of the whole population."

In addition to Huang and Robinson, the paper's authors are Isabelle Leoncini, Yves Le Conte, Didier Crauser, Guy Costagliola and Jean-Marc Bécard, of the National Institute of Agricultural Research in Avignon, France; Mianwei Wang, Erika Plettner and Keith Slessor of Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, Canada; and Amy Toth of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The research was funded by the National Institute of Health. Huang's research also is supported by the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station.

For more information and photos, go to:  
<http://special.newsroom.msu.edu/bees/index.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2004-2005 Meeting Schedules:

### MONTHLY MEETINGS:

MON, 13 SEP 2004	MON, 07 MAR 2005
MON, 04 OCT 2004	MON, 04 APR 2005
MON, 01 NOV 2004	MON, 02 MAY 2005
MON, 06 DEC 2004	
MON, 03 JAN 2005	
MON, 07 FEB 2005	

### BEE SCHOOL MEETINGS

Bee School will resume next January/February, 2005. For more information, call Tim Sullivan (781) 326-2834, or Howard Crawford (508) 528-9117.