



# The Norfolk Bee

Norfolk County, Massachusetts • [www.norfolkbees.org](http://www.norfolkbees.org)

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## Letter from the Editor

The big things to report on this month. BEE SCHOOL. The bee school this year is busting at the seams. We never anticipated having over 40 students this year. Tim had to order extra books and we also decided to order an extra hive. I went to the class last night and it was amazing. People from all walks of life, interested in becoming beekeepers. I think it is important for the future of beekeeping to have as my hobbyist as possible. Now what with the strange colony collapse situation showing itself in mostly commercial beekeepers, it has become more challenging than ever.

I hope that everyone will welcome our new members by either coming to the monthly club meeting in March or by stopping by one of the classes. With so many new faces, the more club member we have, the more our club can do for beekeeping. Please read the minutes of the last meeting carefully as there are a lot of important things going on between now and the next club meeting.

*Tony Lulek*

## Colony Collapse Disorder

The following is a news release about the ongoing study of what may be a nation-wide problem of colony loss. If you have seen this disorder in your bees, or know someone who has, go to [www.beesurvey.com](http://www.beesurvey.com) and fill out the survey. The researchers need all the data they can find. The National Honey Board, the American Beekeeping Federation, EAS, the USDA and others have given funds to support this emergency research study.

University of Montana, USDA and Penn State University researchers have been enlisted to discover what is killing U.S. honeybees.

Entomologist Jerry Bromenshenk and his team at Bee Alert Technologies Inc. -- a University of Montana technology spin-off company -- along with the Pennsylvania and USDA researchers, are investigating a mysterious ailment called Colony Collapse Disorder.

"We don't want to panic the beekeeper industry because we are not sure it's time to push the panic button yet," Bromenshenk said. "But we do know this is real, it's severe and it's widespread."

The malady, sometimes called disappearing disease, results in most adult honeybees abandoning a hive and disappearing, leaving the queen and some younger bees. Dead adult bees aren't found near the hive, they are just gone.

At the bequest of a group of concerned beekeepers, the researchers are currently conducting chemical and genetic analysis of hives in the 22 states they've found to have been affected so far. Surveys are ongoing.

Theories about what causes the malady range from a rouge protozoan that killed bees in Spain to new chemicals or a soil fungus. Bromenshenk says no one knows for sure.

### LOOK FOR THE NEW SECTIONS IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

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## March Programs.

March will be on top bar hives. I have made one adopted from plans found on the web so people can see and touch and will also show a movie about them. Attached to the newsletter is a PDF with material. This is also downloadable from our web site. If everyone can print out 2 copies and bring them to the March meeting, I would appreciate it.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

*Tim Sullivan*

## The NCBA Board Meeting

The NCBA Board will meet the last week of February. The date, place, and time will be announced and an agenda shared as well. Some items:

- Club finances and budget for 2007
- Membership costs
- Door prize and raffle expenses
- Meeting refreshments
- Name tags& NCBA gear
- Newsletter issues/printing/postage
- Club events
- Committee status
- Spring Members Picnic
- Town day participation
- Future Meeting topics
- Redesign web site
- Relations with the Aggie School
- Scholarships and grants
- Buying beekeeping books for the library
- Communities relations
- Other

If anyone would like to suggest a topic or join the meeting please let Ed Karle know. The voting board members are the club officers , committee chairperson, and club representatives.

## Sweets for the Table

In light of the current increase in our bee school, we are anticipating a large turnout at the March meeting. If we could have some extra help with sweets, it would be appreciated. Please contact Susan Simmons at Rastasue30@hotmail.com. We will try and get an estimate at the next bee class to see how many members will be coming.

## Raffle Table

**Just a reminder that we need items for the raffle table. Please bare in mind to keep the items of good quality and as bee related at possible. Remember One man's junk is another man's treasure.**

## March Meeting

The Bee School has brought a large number of new members into our organization which is wonderful. The March meeting will be the first NCBA meeting for most of them.

For current members please consider bringing one or more items for the raffle table and please introduce yourself to the new members, or anyone you don't recognize. We will have name tags to help with introductions.

## Bee School

We had 46 new beekeepers were at the first class of the 2007 Bee School. This is very impressive. The new beekeepers said that most of them heard about us from web search results, the web site is really paying off!

The class on Feb 27<sup>th</sup> will be the hive building class so please consider joining Tony Lulek and Ed Karle for session and bring some new hives or supers that you have to be built for the class.

If you would like to help with the Bee School please contact Tim Sullivan, Bee School Director. (781) 326-2834.



# Creative Comb



Bee! I'm Expecting You

Bee! I'm expecting you!  
Was saying yesterday  
To someone you know  
That you were due.

The frogs got home last week,  
Are settled, and at work;  
Birds, mostly back,  
The clover warm and thick.

You'll get my letter by  
The seventeenth; reply  
Or better, be with me,  
Yours, Fly.

*Emily Dickinson*



## YOUTUBE

One of our new bee students told us that he found a video on YOUTUBE that showed how to light a smoker. I took a look at it and it was great. There are also many other beekeeping or honey related videos on the site. I wish there was a way to download them. I would put some of them on our web site.

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

# Norfolk County Beekeepers Association

## Administrative Page

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

### 2005-2007 NCBA Officers

#### President

Ray Hennessey  
50 Sheldon Road  
Wrentham, MA 02093  
(508) 384-7897  
rhennessy1@earthlink.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

Ed Karle  
169 Seekonk Street  
Norfolk, MA 02056  
(508) 541-6324  
ewkarle@yahoo.com

#### Corresponding Secretary

Tony Lulek  
35 Dalton Road  
Holliston, MA 01746  
(508) 893-7970  
tlulek@gallery223.com

#### Bee School Director

Howard Crawford  
360 West Central  
Franklin, MA 02038  
(508) 528-9117

#### Bee School Director

Tim Sullivan  
101 Sherman Road  
Dedham, MA 02026  
(781) 326-2834

#### Fair Committee Chairperson

Jeanette Ruyle  
23 Green Street  
Medfield, MA 02052  
(508) 359-8148  
jrulye@comcast.net

#### Librarian

Whitley Frost  
62 Child St.  
Hyde Park, MA 02136  
(617) 364-6113  
whitfrost@rcn.com

## Swap N' Sell N' Wanted Classifieds

Here's a column where you can sell, swap, or give away 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 in 60 pound pails available. Light amber for \$78.00, Extra light amber for \$84.00 and Blueberry for \$90.00. We have quantity discounts available. For more information, visit our website or Call (978) 667-5380  
Merrimack Valley Apiaries, Inc.  
96 Dudley Road  
Billerica, MA 01821

If you have something for sale, something to sell, something to give away, or something you want, please send me an email at [tlulek@gallery223.com](mailto:tlulek@gallery223.com)

## Sugar

**Andy Reseska still has 80 lbs boxes of sugar for sale for \$20. Please contact him directly.**

### 2007 Monthly Meeting Schedule

March 5  
April 2  
May 7  
June 4

### Newsletter: Email or Snail Mail

The cost of printing the newsletter has gotten very expensive now that Tom Kerr is not able to do it. If you have been getting a printed copy and have an email address, please let us know so that we can save money. This will be a big help to the club and to the people who have to print and mail the newsletters.  
Thank you.

## Membership Dues

**There are still several members that have not paid their due. Please do so, so that you can continue to receive the newsletter.**

# A Taste of Honey



## For People

### Honey Cake

Adapted from the Moosewood cookbook, *Enchanted Broccoli Forest* by Mollie Katzen. This is for the Jewish New Year, but of course, it can be for any new year or any time of the year.

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup honey
- 1 egg
- 3 tbs. canola oil
- 1/2 cup cold back coffee or water (I used coffee)
- 2 cups unbleached white flour
- a scant 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- a dash each of nutmeg, cinnamon, allspice

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease a mid-size loaf pan.
2. Beat the honey at high speed in an electric mixer.
3. Add the egg, oil, and coffee or water. Beat for 1 minute.
4. Add the flour, salt, baking powder, and spices. Stir or mix until well-combined.
5. Spread batter in the loaf pan and bake for about 45 minutes or until a knife inserted to the center comes out clean.
6. Cool in the pan for about 15 minutes, then remove cake to cool thoroughly before slicing.

Jeannette Ruyle made this for the January meeting. It was delicious.

**For the Bees** (I'll keep these here as a quick reference until spring)

#### Bee Hive Candy Recipe (Fondant) Stove Top *Courtesy of Tim Sullivan*

Fondant bee candy can be fed directly to the bees once cooled. It is also common to use this recipe in small quantities to plug the hole on a Queen Cage.

#### Ingredients

Mix 5 pounds sugar, 1 pint light Karo syrup and 1 1/3 cups water

#### Directions

Heat to 242°F while stirring constantly – this mix will be boiling for about 10 to 15 minutes before it reaches 242°F. Let cool to 190 to 200°F (important), stirring constantly. It will start to get milky white and then you should pour into paper plates to harden and store in the freezer

When ready to feed, remove paper, break in half and place both halves over top bars, add a 3/4" shim and replace inner cover, etc.

#### Bee Hive Candy Recipe (Fondant) Microwave Version

Here's a microwave recipe for any hungry hives you may have entering the deep freeze of January and February.

#### Ingredients

1 1/2 cups granulated sugar  
1/2 cup light corn syrup

#### Directions

In a 1-quart or larger microwave dish, mix thoroughly 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar and 1/2 cup light corn syrup. Microwave on high, stirring every few minutes until the mixture is clear and bubbles become thumbnail sized (about 5 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. Pour into a shallow mold made of cardboard, paper plate, or a container lined with paper to cool. The candy will become brittle and can be slipped on top of the frames beneath the inner cover where the bees can consume it.

# Minutes from the February 5, 2006 Meeting

**Next meeting: Monday March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Attendance:** 34

**Meeting topic:** Part 2 of German Skep Beehive Management

**1. Door Prize/Raffle:** There was no door prize this month and the meeting membership decided to no hold a table raffle this month but rather to hold the ten items brought for this meeting over to the March raffle table.

**2. Bee Packages for 2006:** Price will be \$68 for members and the earliest arrival date will be April 7<sup>th</sup> so a week or two later is more likely. The packages will come from Wilbanks.

**3. NCBA Board Meeting:** The NCBA Board will schedule a meeting prior to the March NCBA meeting.

**4. Meeting topic:** Skep Beehive Management in Northern Germany

Tim Sullivan presented the second of the DVD movies about Master Beekeepers in Northern Germany that exclusively use skeps, domed hives made of twisted straw, to manage over 700 hives. This DVD presentation covered Summer Honey Collection, Relocating Bees to heather, Wax collection, Honey bottling and wintering.

This is a very different world from our modern and conventional Langstroth hives. The filming was very impressive as well as the details of their beekeeping processes including: 1) the pipe-type-smokers; 2) simple wood bowls used to scoop beeps from swarm skeps to new hives and packages; and 3) the sports-jacket beekeeper garb.

The two DVD set is now part of the NCBA library and can be borrowed by members current in dues on request.

**5. Howard Crawford report that three of his hives had been vandalized.**

Vandals had entered his back field by a trail off the road and had knocked over the hives. Fortunately, Howard and his wife Sandy went to the field the next morning and were able to get the hives mostly back together and stacked.

## Name Badges

Since our club has almost doubled in size due to the increase in bee students, I feel it is important that we identify our selves at our meetings. Names badges is one of the issues that the board will discuss, but in the meantime, if you would like a name badge similar to the ones I made for the students, please send me an email with your name and I will have them printed out for the next meeting. See the image of the bee school badge to the right. I can do some thing very similar to this for the current members.

Thanks

Tony



**Norfolk County  
Beekeepers Association  
Bee School 2007**

**Paula Mark**

## **NUCS 2007**

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## **Bee School Volunteers**

**Please continue to help support the bee school by coming to the classes. It is a great opportunity to meet our new students as well as answer the many questions they have.**

## **News from the Library**

### **Notes from the Library:**

**The Library has lost track of a video called "The Monk and the Honeybee". If it happens to be in your VCR player, would you kindly return it at the March meeting, or send me an email reminding me that you borrowed it: [whitfrost@rcn.com](mailto:whitfrost@rcn.com).**

**Thank you**

**Also, please look at the web site in the very near future for our new library page.**

## **FEED THE BEES**

**What with all the crazy weather, it seems the bees are going through all their honey stores. Already had one report of someone losing a hive due to starvation. The recipe for bee candy (fondant) is on page 5.**

## **Packaged Bees**

**For the order form from Reseska Apiaries, please go to our web site and download. Schedule delivery is April 8th.**

# First Night of Bee School



**Our Illustrious Head Teacher and his jam-packed classroom**



From: Tony Lulek  
35 Dalton Road  
Holliston, MA 01746

TO:

**Winter Bees  
February 2007  
Ed Karle**