

The Norfolk Bee

Norfolk County, Massachusetts • www.norfolkbees.org

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Letter from the Editor

Spring is always so elusive and fleeting, but after the beautiful day we had this Sunday, I can vouch for the fact that Spring has come. With that, most of us will be pretty busy from now on with our bees. I have a lot of stuff to report on so I will keep it as short as possible.

The bees are in. Ray picked up the orders from Andy around noon on Sunday and delivered them to the school. It went off with only a couple of snags. Then some of the people were on their way down to Howard's to watch Howard and Tim hive two packages. This year the bees were Minnesota Hygenic and the queens come packaged a bit different. No attendants and in the funny little plastic cage.

I hope all the students enjoyed it. I was sorry to miss it as I was stuck at the house. My son Anton and wife Diane were able to make it.

Now on to the newsletter!

Regards,

Tony

Bee Packages

Crystal Card from Merrimack Valley Apiaries sent me an email on Sunday. She said they are still taking orders for Nucs. The best way to place an order is to go to our Website. www.MVABeePunchers.com. People can fill out the order form, print it, and send it in with their check. If you don't have your bees yet, this is probably your last chance to get them. Don't wait.

LOOK FOR THE NEW SECTIONS IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

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Annual Club Social

It was decided at the April meeting that we would have our Annual Club Social be a BBQ.

The BBQ will take place on Sunday, June 4th, at Sandy and Howard Crawford's farm at 360 West Central Avenue in Franklin. If it rains Howard will be able to move the BBQ to the Franklin VFW Hall just down the street (This will be confirmed at the May meeting).

The NCBA will pay for the food to be cooked, drinks (soda and beer), plates and utensils. If members would volunteer to bring salads, desserts, family favorites, etc. that would be great. We started a list at the April meeting. We have 4 volunteers so far. I will post a list on the web site as more people volunteer. If you would like to volunteer to bring something, please check the web and then let me know.

Some Amazing Bee Fact

Honeybees may make 10,000,000 trips to gather enough nectar to make a single pound of honey. The total distance travelled by all the bees to create this much honey may equal twice the distance around the world. Their activity for this single pound of honey means a total distance flown of 55,000 miles and over 2,000,000 flowers visited.

Honeybee workers move to different jobs as they grow older:

- Week #1 - clean the hive
- Week #2 - feed the larvae
- Week #3 - do repair work on the honeycomb cells
- Week #4 - guard the hive
- Week #5 and beyond - collect pollen and nectar from flowers

The term "honeymoon" comes from the Middle Ages, when a newly married couple was provided with enough honey wine to last them for the first month of their new life together.

When searching for food sources a honeybee may travel up to 60 miles in a single day.

Honeybees have 2 compound eyes and 3 simple eyes, for a total of 5 eyes. The compound eyes have around 6,900 "facets," giving them excellent eyesight.

The wings of honeybees beat over 11,000 cycles per minute, but their average flying speed is only around 15 miles per hour.

(Continue from page 1)

Honey Bees are the designated "state insect" in: Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin. The State of Utah has the motto "The Beehive State," however the top producers of honey are traditionally California, Florida, and South Dakota. China produces more honey than any other country in the world.

The average American eats a little over 1 pound of honey each year.

Honeybees do not actually "make" honey, but instead they convert the nectar they gather from flowers to the thicker honey, by constantly regurgitating it and allowing it to dehydrate.

The honeybee is not native to the United States. It is believed to have been introduced to this continent by some of the first European settlers. Native Americans referred to the honeybee as the "White Man's Fly."

Apitherapy is the use of honeybee venom and honeybee products to treat people medicinally. It includes the use of honey, pollen, propolis, royal jelly, beeswax, and the venom from the bee sting. Two of the most common uses of bee venom are for treating the debilitating symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis.

Many ants, bees and wasps are equipped with stingers, for offense or defense. All of them, except for the honeybee, are capable of stinging repeatedly. However, the honeybee can sting mammals only once, as its barbed stinger gets stuck in mammal skin and cannot be removed. It tears from the body and the bee dies shortly afterward. Bees are capable, though, of stinging other insects more than once, as their barbed stinger is able to pull free from these animals.

A queen bee can lay her weight in eggs each day, laying 1 per minute, all day and all night, for a total of 1,500 eggs in 24 hours, and 200,000 in a year. One reason for this is survival, for if the workers have detected a pause in their queen's egg laying they will immediately begin the process of creating a replacement.

The queen bee receives about 90,000,000 sperm from mating with a male, but she controls how they are used. Not only will she store about one tenth of them in a separate "spermatheca", but by creating fertilised or unfertilised eggs the queen can determine whether the eggs develop to female or male bees.

All of the workers in the colony are females, so the vast majority of the eggs are fertilised to become females. However, when males are needed the queen lays unfertilised eggs.

The Africanized honey bee (also known as the "killer bee") have been known to chase people for over a quarter of a mile once they have gotten excited and aggressive.

A 77-year-old lady was walking down the street and the bees were attracted to something she was carrying in her purse and she was swarmed. Fire fighters had to douse her in water to remove some two hundred bees swarming her she was stung more than 500 times and she survived.

NCBA COOK BOOK LETS DO IT!

We know that everyone loves to eat and we all must do something with the honey we gather, so please share your recepies. Susan Simmons and I are working on our club cookbook. Please submit them via email or bring them to the meeting. I am sure that there are enough recipes out there that we could put something together. It would be a great way to share things within the club. We could possibly sell our cookbook at fairs too. If anyone would like to help on this project, just let Susan or me know.

Monthly Meeting Snack Table

As always, Susan is asking for help with the sweets/treats for our May meeting. Thank you to those that contributed last month. If you are interesting in baking something for the May meeting, please contact Susan at rastasue30@hotmail.com

Bee School 2006

Bee School is now over. If anyone has any pictures of the school or the hive demonstration, please email them to me. I would like to put them on our web site.

Curious About our Web Site

Back in March I started tracking our web site with a program that Google offered called Google Analytics. It allows you to see who/where/when people are coming to our site. Below is a list of states and towns where people have come from. Most of the Massachusetts we can guess are members, but several are from other parts of the country as well as the UK. If you are interested in this information, let me know. I think it is fun to see how far our site and club reaches.

Massachusetts: Waltham, Dedham, Medfield, Milford, Wayland, Newton, Center, Sharon, Randolph, Cambridge, Boston, **California:** San Rafael, San Francisco, **Wisconsin:** Appleton, **Virginia:** Reston, **Georgia:** Atlanta, **North Carolina:** Durham, **Connecticut:** Rogers, **New Hampshire:** Exeter. **Ohio:** Cincinnati, **United Kingdom.**



Creative Comb

Combinations

A flea flew by a bee. The bee
To flee the flea flew by a fly.
The fly flew high to flee the bee
Who flew to flee the flea who flew
To flee the fly who now flew by.

The bee flew by the fly. The fly
To flee the bee flew by the flea.
The flea flew high to flee the fly
Who flew to flee the bee who flew
To flee the flea who now flew by.

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To flee the fly who now flew by.

You know you're a beekeeper when . . .

You don't mind driving home with a few honey bees inside your vehicle.

Your family and friends know exactly what they're going to get for Christmas.

You don't mow the lawn because the bees are working the weeds.

In honor of Swarm Season

A swarm of bees in May
Is worth a load of hay.
A swarm of bees in June
Is worth a silver spoon
A swarm of bees in July
Is not worth a fly.

Bee! I'm Expecting You *Emily Dickinson*

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.

Thought for the day

The whole fabric of honey bee society depends on communication—on an innate ability to send and receive messages, to encode and decode information.

The Honey Bee

A Taste of Honey



For People

How to get honey in your tummy

Enjoy honey at its simple best, spread on hot buttered toast or spooned into porridge, just the thing to get you started on a gloomy wintry morning.

It's great swirled into natural yoghurt but you can jazz it up even more with lightly toasted nuts and chopped banana.

And then, add it to any smoothie that needs a little extra, all-natural sweetening. And the good news is that because it's sweeter than sugar, you'll need less and thus consume fewer calories.

For a simple dessert, drizzle onto vanilla ice cream sprinkled with chopped almonds. Or serve over mascarpone cheese and fresh figs.

But it's not just for sweet things, honey adds a deliciously delicate flavour to a host of savoury dishes. It's wonderful in marinades as it not only tenderises the meat but imparts a tasty flavour to food as it caramelises: Mix together a can of tomato paste, thinned with a little hot water, with half a cup of honey, two minced garlic cloves, one tablespoon minced shallot or onion, a finely sliced, de-seeded chilli (optional) and handful of chopped fresh coriander.

For a delicious Asian-inspired sauce to add to stir-fries (wonderful with pork, chicken, beef or even just veggies and noodles): Mix together half a cup soy sauce, four tablespoons honey, a dash of dry sherry, a sprinkling of toasted sesame oil, a clove or two minced garlic, a teaspoon minced fresh ginger and a little chilli to taste.

Or try glazing chicken, salmon or prawns in a mixture of honey, chilli and ginger.

Honey makes for a great salad dressing too. Make a honey mustard dressing: Blend a quarter cup honey, minced garlic clove, squeeze of lemon juice, three tablespoons Dijon mustard, milled black pepper, pinch of salt, and half a cup each of olive oil and sunflower or canola oil.

For the Bees

Sugar Syrup Spring Feeding

Spring will be here soon and with that will come feeding sugar syrup to your hive. This time of the year you should be feeding a mixture of 1 to 1, sugar to water. Don't confuse this with the fall syrup with is a 2 to 1.

The spring feed is meant to stimulate a nectar flow, where the fall feeding is thicker which helps the bees reduce the syrup quicker for honey stores.

Ingredients

Mix 5 pounds sugar, 11 cups water.

Directions

Boil water, turn off heat and stir in sugar. Continue to stir until all the sugar is dissolved. If it does not completely dissolve, turn the heat back on for a few minutes. After it is cooled, pour it into a gallon container and store in your fridge

Note: Your first feeding of the spring should also include Fumilgin-B for Nosema. This is one gallon per hive.

Always looking for more recipes.

**Please submit by email or
bring to the next meeting**

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 (Media Center Cafeteria) in Walpole, MA. Meetings in June-August will be held at members' bee yards as announced.

2005-2007 NCBA Officers

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2006 Monthly Meeting Schedule

May 1, 2006
June 5, 2006
July and August TBA

A special thanks to Al Needham from the Plymouth County Beekeepers Association.

He is a great source of bee information.

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!)

USED EQUIPMENT FOR SALE—GREAT CONDITION—SAVE TIME IN BUILDING and \$\$ in SHIPPING. 20 or more shallow supers some with frames some without. Also 2 queen excluder, outer covers, deeps. To contact e-mail AKDAB@aol.com or phone 401-481-8293

FOR SALE: Various Bee Keepers Equipment. Supers, mini's, Smokers, Hat's, Gloves, Coats, Extractor, etc... lots of equipment... Please contact Dennis for prices and to schedule an appointment at 508-346-1235 (Days), or 508-528-5341 (evenings).

NCBA Library

Here are some new books for the Library Shelf that were ordered through Wicwas Press. If you are interested in being the first one to crack one of these open, email or call: Whitley Frost [whitfrost@rcn.com] or [617-364-6113].

A link will soon be available through the Club's website for the Library. The web page will show what books and videos are currently in the Library collection, as well as a small picture of each cover to help identify it. For those Club members without web access, we will send out a list of the Library books periodically. In order to reserve a book, just call or email Whitley Frost at (617) 364-6113 whitfrost@rcn.com, and I will bring your request to the next Club meeting.

Also, if you haven't returned the book you borrowed to the library, please bring it with you to the next meeting. Thank you.

Donations and suggestions of books are gladly welcomed.

New Addition to the Library	
Beeswax Crafting	Berthold, Robert
Making Mead (Honey Wine)	Morse, Roger
Queen Rearing and Bee Breeding	Laidlaw, Harry Jr., and Robert Page, Jr.
Apiculture in the 21st Century	Hoopingarner and Connor
Honey Shows: Guidelines for Exhibitors, Superintendents and Judges	Morse, Roger and Mary Lou
Beeswax Production, Harvesting, Processing and Products	Coggshall, William, and Roger Morse

Minutes from the April 3, 2006 Meeting

Next meeting: Monday, May 1st, 2006

38 members in attendance. The meeting raffle collected \$54

There were three door prizes: Large smoker, Jenter Queen Kit and Queen Rearing Video

Raffle prizes included: a beekeeper's suit, numerous honey pails, Bee Journal magazines.

Copies of the March newsletter and the MA Bee Association newsletter were available for anyone that didn't get them via email.

Old/Current Business

1) Library

The Librarian, Whitley Frost (whitfrost@rcn.com), was not able to attend today's meeting but due items could be returned and items wanted to be checked out can be requested for pick-up at the May meeting. The inventory is in this newsletter and will soon be posted on the web site.

2) Microphone and speaker for our meetings

Howard volunteered Ed Karle to research and purchase before the May meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

3) Spring NCBA Social

This had been planned for April 30th is canceled. Irene Gorczyca could not find a suitable location for that date. Tony suggested an alternative of having a Pot-Luck BBQ. The membership agreed to the following:

The BBQ will take place on Sunday, June 4th, at Sandy and Howard Crawford's farm at 360 West Central Avenue in Franklin. If it rains Howard will be able to move the BBQ to the Franklin VFW Hall just down the street (This will be confirmed at the May meeting).

The NCBA will pay for the food to be cooked, drinks (soda and beer), plates and utensils. Member need not bring any food to the BBQ. But, a list of items members want volunteer to bring (salads, desserts, family favorites, etc) was started and will be posted on the web site and updated at the May meeting.

4) Treasurer's Report by Miguel Lessing

\$6,270 is in the club bank account. The balance in April is typically the high point of the year. It is after the income from the bee school and before club expenses. This is a comfortable balance to manage the cost of the Spring Social and other planned expenses. The treasurer report was accepted.

5) Packaged Bees – This Sunday

Andy Reseska is expecting to have the packages by Saturday and Ray Hennessy is planning on bringing the 64 packages ordered by members, including the Bee School students, this Sunday, April 9th, to the Aggie School in Walpole at 4pm.

New Business

1) Quail water feeds

Recommend in several popular bee publications, will be available to association members at cost of \$8 at future meetings.

2) **Membership List**, including member contact information, will be available to members that have paid 2006 dues. An electronic format will also be available. This will not be posted on the web site until a secure tab can be in place.

3) SWARM List

Updating the contact list for SWARMS was discussed. It was agreed that if the web site had a tab that allowed people needing the service to click on the town and see the responding members that will answer the call and contact information. (EK: On Tuesday I was talking to a crew from Bartlett Tree Service who said they and other tree services would be interested in knowing how to contact beekeepers about SWARMS. So maybe should contact these local services about our program.)

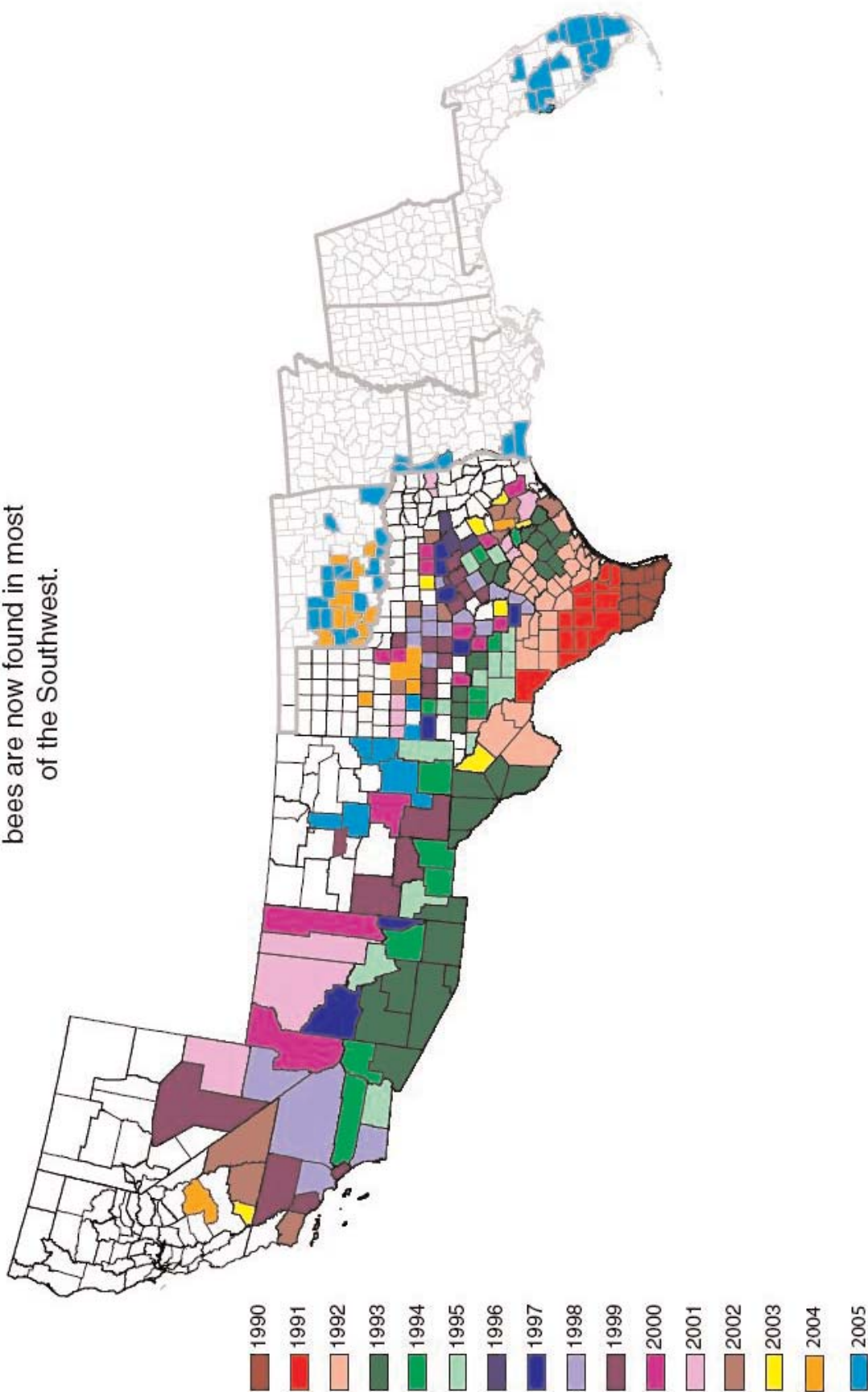
5) **Meeting Topic:** Part 4 of Queen Rearing by Tim Sullivan – Jenter and other systems. The slides and notes will be posted on the NCBA web site.

Where are the AHB now? Do you know?

Great map tracking the movement of the Africanized honey bees since 1990.

Where are Africanized honey bees now?

First found in southern Texas in 1990, Africanized honey bees are now found in most of the Southwest.



**Howard, Tim and the new Bee School
Students, Akin Bak Farm
April 9th, 2006**



From: Tony Lulek
35 Dalton Road
Holliston, MA 01746

TO:

**Spring Gathering
April (Ed Karle)**