



The Norfolk Bee

Norfolk County, Massachusetts • www.norfolkbees.org

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Letter from the Editor

I hope that everyone is having a good spring. This well-needed rain is certainly annoying, but at least we got off to a good dry start with April.

The big talk this month is the June Social. As you can see from our president's reminder and the web site, we are having a party. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, this is your chance to catch up with everyone before the summer. We are having a cookout at Howard's Aken Bak Farm. If you will be attending, please let me know how many will be coming with you so we can plan accordingly. The club is paying for hamburgers, hot dogs and paper goods. Club members are asked to bring something, so please email me with what you will bring (there is an updated list online of who is bringing what, so we don't have too many duplicates as one can only eat so much potato salad...) I hope that many of you can make it. It should be a fun party. If it rains, we can use the VFW in Franklin, courtesy of Howard.

I've been told that the newsletter is not usually published during the summer. I will try and get out at least one edition. I would love to see pictures from people's hives. I personally love to see the bees at work. You can email your pictures any time.

This past year has been a lot of fun for me. Being part of the club is a great experience. If you haven't been able to make it to the meetings, I hope you can try when we reconvene in the fall. We are going to try and have 1 or 2 sessions at someone's place during the summer. Howard has volunteered for August.

Tony Lulek

LOOK FOR THE NEW SECTIONS IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

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Beans and bees, much like birds and bees, can live together in harmony. Farmers find yield boost in fields near beehives—West Lafayette, Ind.

Some research even suggests the two could be helpful to one another. But they still may be harmful, especially as a growing number of farmers spray for soybean aphids.

Soybeans are self-pollinating, so they do not depend on honeybees for pollination, unlike crops such as apples and melons. But some Hoosier farmers are finding a surprising yield boost in their fields located near beehives. "Every now and then I do hear from farmers who believe their soybeans near the honeybees do produce more beans," said Greg Hunt of Purdue University's Department of Entomology.

"Other self-pollinated plants have been known to benefit by visits from bees - for example, tomatoes," he said. Greenhouse grown tomatoes often rely on bumblebees to increase yields. As for exact numbers on how bees could increase soybean yields is unclear. "It has never really been documented, so it is an unknown," Hunt said.

On the other hand, bees, which mainly forage on deep rooted, nectar-producing clover, will move to soybeans if the clover dries up. And, while soybeans could help bees make good honey, if the conditions are not right, bees will move to another source. Last year, for example, bees did not seem to go for soybeans. "It seemed like we got all of our honey in the spring," Hunt said. "Usually our honey production is in June and July from the clover."

This is likely because of the weather conditions last year. So, while there are some connections between the two, they also lately have found themselves in disharmony. "Soybeans can be a benefit to the honeybees, but now they are also a danger because farmers now need to spray for aphids, which is a relatively new pest," Hunt said.

He, however, offered some simple ideas that could help alleviate problems. First of all, he said, be a good neighbor.

"The main thing is to talk to each other," Hunt said, adding beekeepers owe it to themselves to talk to their farm neighbors and open the line of communication. "But it goes both ways, if you are a farmer, you can be proactive if you see hives on your neighbors."

In addition, spraying soybeans after 5 p.m. can greatly reduce the bees' risk to the pesticide exposure. "Most farmers, I think, would be willing to, at least, change their spray tactics to spray very late in the day if they knew that his neighbor has bees," Hunt said.

The value of protecting honeybees goes well beyond the economics of honey sales in the state, according to Ken Foster, Purdue agriculture economist. "The value of honeybees to the state's economy is that, we can value the honey - and come up an estimate of the value - but the real value of the bee keeping industry to the state is pollination," he said. Blueberries, melons, apples and cucumbers all are very dependent on bees for pollination, Foster noted.

He knows this very well because, along with his post at Purdue, he also is a beekeeper for his own apiary called Wildcat Creek Apiary.

Foster noted spraying is not a new issue, as beekeepers have worked with fruit growers for many years on the issue. "Most fruit growers are sensitive to that, especially since they are just as dependent on the bees as the bees are to them," he said. However, with aphids being a fairly new pest in soybeans - and now with the threat of soybean rust - Foster said the issue once again has surfaced. "I am a little worried about what might be happening in terms of (spraying for aphids) and rust," he said. "As a beekeeper, my plea to all crop farmers out there is that, if they are going to spray insecticides, they try to do it late in the evening."

To Clove or Not to Clove.

Cut down on your mowing chore and be nice to honey bees by changing some of your expanse of lawn --- saves gas as well :-)

White clover, now considered a weed in many lawn situations, was commonly mixed with other lawn seeds until the 1950s. In areas without high foot traffic, planting expanses of white clover alone can be a good option. Clover fixes its own nitrogen, so it does not need to be fertilized as regularly as turf grass. It is attractive to honey bees, however, and therefore is not a good choice for "barefoot" areas.



President's Perspective

I would just like to remind everyone that there is no meeting June 5th at the Aggie School. The June meeting will be covered by the club social on Sunday June 4th. The next meeting at the Aggie will be September 11th. At the Sept. meeting the topic will be winter prep. For the June meeting do not forget to bring your veil etc. to view a hive or hives of Howard's choosing. If there is enough interest we will pick an outdoor meeting for July or Aug. at the June event. There will be a board of directors meeting in Aug. which we will also set up in June. The committee that was formed to help set up the event at Howard's farm will meet at 3:00 on June 3rd at the farm.

Regards,

Ray

Contributed by Mary Anne Doherty ... her sister sent this along to her.

Pretty neat set-up Check it out.

Subject: worlds only floating apiary

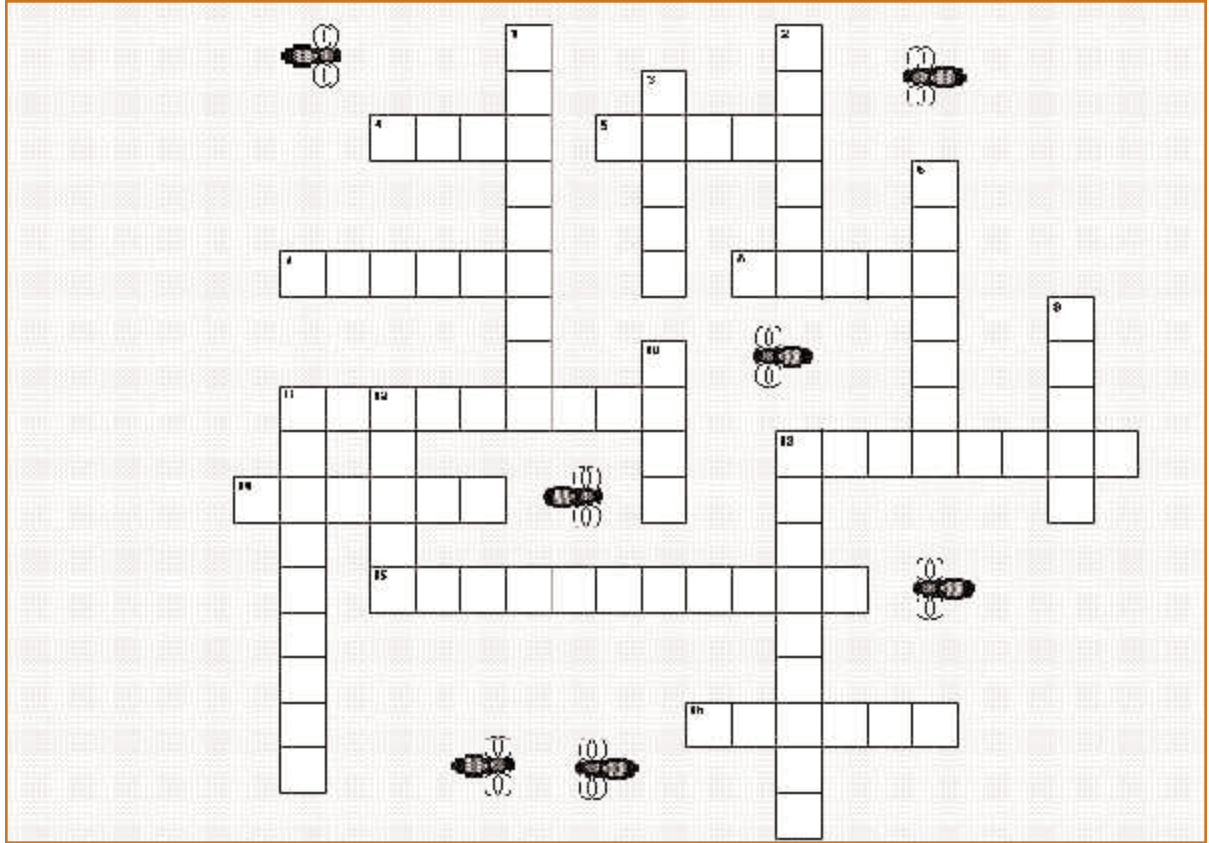
<http://www.longvillage.com/issue1/features/pilgrims1.html>

For those of us who have DirecTV; channel 379, RFDTV, there is a show on occasionally called bees & beekeeping with Dr Keith Delaplane, Extension Entomologist in Georgia. The show is from 1993 but is fairly current, one episode even showing Wilbanks Apiaries, where we get our bees.

We have been contacted by the Norfolk Beekeepers Association from Norfolk England. I sent them an email to exchange links and to introduce our club to them. We are kind of sister clubs in that Norfolk comes from England. I'll keep you posted.



Creative Comb



BEES AND POLLINATION CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Copyright 1998 by Janice D. Green
 Of Bees, Beekeepers and Food (<http://queenbeejan.com>)

ACROSS:

- 4 What a beekeeper wears to keep from getting stung on the face or head
- 5 The place in a beehive that is for bees to put honey in
- 7 A powdery substance found in flowers that is needed to make seeds
- 8 A male bee
- 11 A pollinator that lives in colonies; most are found in the wild
- 13 The most popular pollinator that also makes honey
- 14 A sweet liquid found in flowers and plants
- 15 A wild bee that lives alone rather than in colonies
- 16 The part of a plant that is the beginning of making seeds

DOWN:

- 1 Something bees do for plants that helps them to make good fruits and vegetables
- 2 Female bees that do not lay eggs
- 3 The female bee that lays eggs
- 6 A honeybee's home
- 9 A food made by bees and eaten by both bees and humans
- 10 Something that is needed for making new plants; without bees we would not have many of these
- 11 A person who takes care of bees
- 12 A tiny animal that gets on bees and kills them
- 13 What bees make to put honey in

I eat my peas with honey.
 I've done it all my life.
 It makes the peas taste funny.
 But it keeps them on the knife!
 - Bennett Cerf

There was a man who loved bees.
 He always was their friend.
 He used to sit upon their hive.
 But they stung him, in the end.
 - Provided by Nick Wallingford, NZ

A Taste of Honey



For People

Golden Morning Muffins - Makes 12 muffins -

Ingredients

2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1 cup honey
2 eggs
1/2 cup 2% milk
1 cup dried, chopped apricots
1 cup chopped walnuts

Directions

Grease muffin tin or line with paper bake cups. In small bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and ginger. In large bowl, cream butter with honey until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs and milk. Stir dry ingredients into wet mixture until just moistened. Stir in apricots and walnuts. Pour into muffin cups. Bake at 350°F for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool on wire racks.

Golden Glow Muffins - Makes 18 servings -

Ingredients

2 cups whole wheat flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup nuts, chopped
1/2 cup seedless raisins
2 eggs
1/4 cup orange juice
1/2 cup salad oil
1/2 cup honey
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon grated orange peel
1 cup carrot, shredded

Directions

In large mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, cinnamon, salt, nuts and raisins. Set aside. In small bowl, blend together eggs, orange juice, oil, honey, vanilla and orange peel. Add to dry ingredients. Stir in carrots until moistened. Spoon batter into paper-lined or greased muffin pan cups. Bake at 375°F 20 to 25 minutes.

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. Also, be careful with over-feeding your bees. They will take in more syrup than they need and not leave enough room for the queen to lay. Check your frames to make sure they are not over loaded with syrup.

Apricot Honey Bread - Makes 12 servings -

Ingredients

3 cups whole wheat flour
3 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1-1/4 cups 2% low-fat milk
1 cup honey
1 egg, slightly beaten
2 Tablespoons vegetable oil
1 cup chopped dried apricots
1/2 cup sunflower seeds, chopped
walnuts or chopped almonds
1/2 cup raisins

Directions

Combine dry ingredients in large bowl. Combine milk, honey, egg and oil in separate large bowl. Pour milk mixture over dry ingredients and stir until just moistened. Gently fold in apricots, sunflower seeds and raisins. Pour into greased 9 x 5 x 13-inch loaf pan. Bake at 350°F for 55 to 60 minutes or until wooden pick inserted near center comes out clean.

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

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) 226-8217
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

2006 Monthly Meeting Schedule

April 3, 2006
May 1, 2006
June 5, 2006

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!)

FOR SALE: Blueberry honey in pails and jars. Also, wildflower honey in pails. Please call Merrimack Valley Apiaries, (978) 667-5380 for prices. I spoke to Crystal at MVP and they have already started taking orders for NUCs. The price for 2006 is \$69, plus a refundable box deposit of \$15. She suggested that we combine our orders. There is a discount if we order over 100 NUCs. They have a web site, www.mvabepunchers.com. There is a downloadable form, fill it out and send it along with a check. (That is unless we can combine orders and get the discount.) I have asked Irene to handle it again this year.

FOR SALE: I have 20 shallow honey supers with drawn foundation, about 4 deeps without frames, and 2 queen excluders. Please call Annie Birman at (401) 333-3251, or email: akdab1@cox.net

FOR SALE: Can you put out the word that I have one last hive for sale. Consists of a deep with a super of mostly drawn comb. Price is \$125. Would appreciate one last bulletin. Needs to go by Tuesday. Tom Wycall, 781 934 2911 twycall@adelphia.net

Q: Are there any laws against keeping bees? My neighbor says he is afraid of them.

A: No government may enact any laws or ordinances to prohibit beekeeping with the exception of specific zoning ordinances. Your neighbor may have had a bad experience with wasps or hornets.

Educating your neighbor about the gentleness of domestic bees, giving him some honey and explaining their value in pollination will go a long way toward eliminating his fears.

May Attendance: 48

The meeting raffle collected \$78

Summer Hive Opening: Howard Crawford's Farm, Sunday, August 20th

Next Meeting at the Agricultural School in Walpole: Monday, September 11th

Door Prize: a complete shallow honey super, frames with foundation included.

1) One new member to welcome: Lisa Nason

2) The NCBA Social will be a Bar-B-Q at Sandy and Howard Crawford's Achin Bak Farm, 360 Cental Avenue in Franklin, on Sunday, June 4th stating at 2pm. More details will be posted on the association web site <http://norfolkbees.org> . What we have so far: If you plan on attending the Club Social, please email or call Tony Lulek at corresponding@norfolkbees.org or (508- 893-7970 and let him know how many people are coming and what you will be bringing. Tony will maintain an updated list on the association web site so that we don't get too many duplicates on food.

We need volunteers to help set up the tables, chairs and grounds at Achin Bak farm on Saturday, June 3rd starting at 1pm. We will also purchase the basic food groups: hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages, sodas, beer, deli salads, etc, that day. So far we have Ray, Tony, Irene, Tim and Ed. More hands are welcome!

3) Membership Lists

Copies of the membership list are available to members that have paid 2006 dues through the Treasurer, Miguel Lessing or the Corresponding Secretary, Tony Lulek.

4) Nuc packages

Nuc packages from Merrick valley Apiaries are expected to arrive May 6th. Irene Gorczyca is coordinating pickup MVA.

5) Farm looking for beehives

Jane and Paul's farm in Norfolk is looking for beekeepers want a good place to set up a hive or hives. They are at 33 Fruit Street in Norfolk just off Cleveland Road. 508-528-0812.

6) Swarm List

Could still use some volunteer contacts. If you have signed up please notify in person the police offices of your willingness. Better that they see you in person to know you are serious.

Additional

7) Giant Pumpkin seeds were available again this year from Ray McKay.

8) John Heemskerk who judges at the annual Marshfield fair in Plymouth Country suggested that Norfolk residents consider entering their honey and hive items in the fair this year.

Meeting Topics:

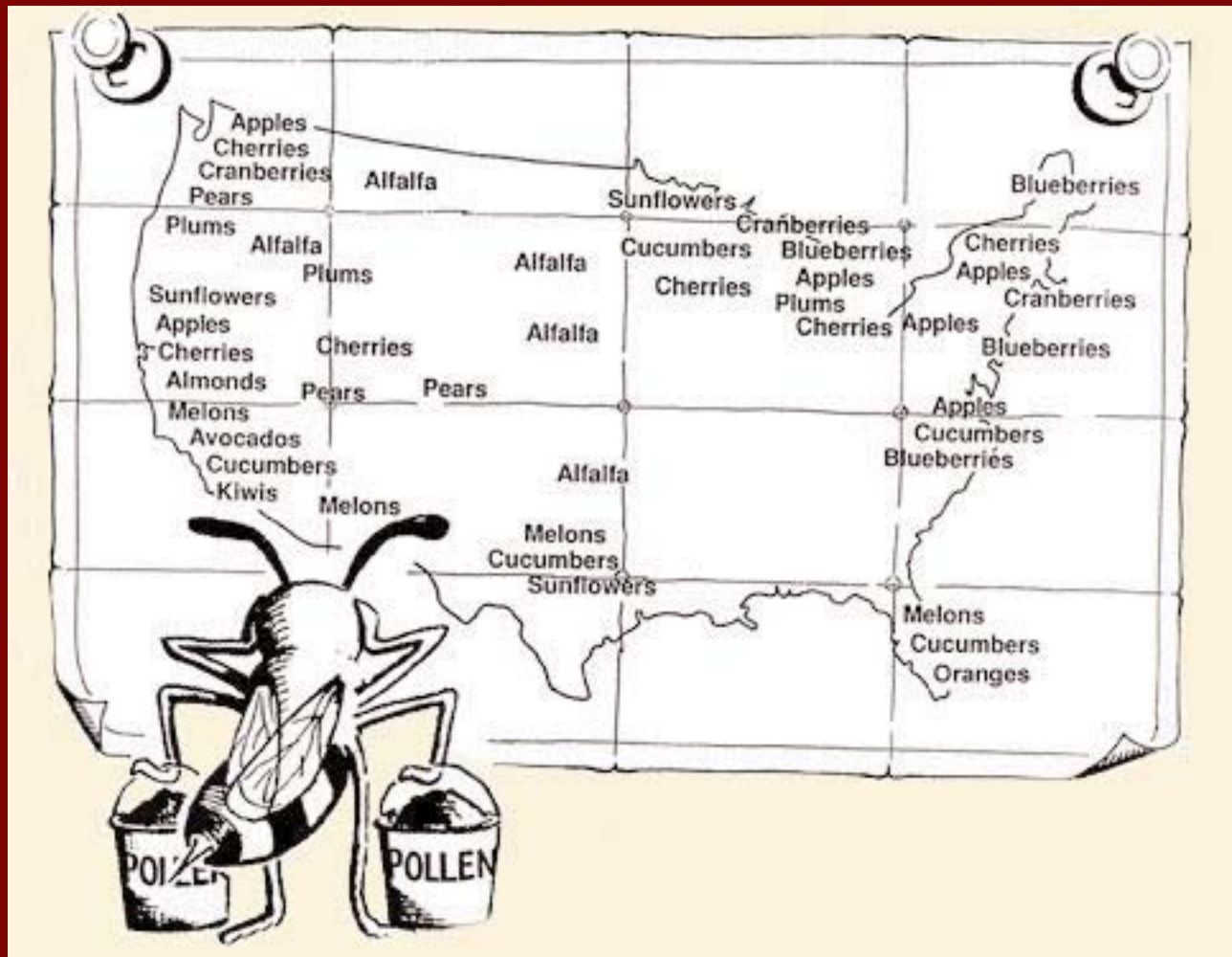
Creating a bait Hive to catch swarms and log sheets to recording hive visits and conditions.

Tim Sullivan presented both topics and distributed notebooks with copies of the materials.

The time for Spring Swarms is around May 15th and usually take place about 1pm, which is Local Apparent Noon in Standard Time.

Pollination Map

This map shows some of the fruits and vegetables pollinated by bees in the U.S.



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 very well
attended club
meeting
May 1, 2006**



From: Tony Lulek
35 Dalton Road
Holliston, MA 01746

TO:



**Pear Blossom
May 2006 (Tony Lulek)**