

August, 2005

## The Next Meeting Will Be

### Sunday, Aug. 21st



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:

Oh, my goodness, do I have a lot of info to get out to you folks! As you probably have noticed, there's hasn't been a newsletter published in quite awhile (lots of reasons, but they all boil down to a lack of time), but I've got more to say about this later on.

First, there's a hive dive this coming weekend at Howard's place. Hopefully, the heat and humidity will stay away for awhile and make this a pleasant experience. Please check out page 3 for more details.

Glassware! I don't know about you folks, but I'm drowning in honey already and my season is only half finished! But I'm not complaining because this is the first real summer we've had in three years. A great price list for you on page 2!!

The fair exhibit is going up this week at the Marshfield Fair thanks to Jeanette Ruyle. This year's fair committee (Jeanette, Daniela Dana, and Norm Shaw) did an excellent job explaining how honey gets from the flowers to the consumer. The Marshfield Fair opens this Friday, August 19th, and runs until Sunday, August 28th. We're in the bee building right behind the grandstand.

Election of officers in November! I am definitely stepping down from the Corresponding Secretary position because I'm enrolled in two school programs at the same time and my FAA exams start soon. The Fair Chairperson position is also up for grabs. More on page 2.

Lastly, one of the reasons I've delayed in writing a newsletter is because my cat Willie, who always sat on my lap as I pounded this keyboard, had to be put to sleep after a severe illness. It's still a bit difficult as I think about it, but to his credit, he survived for 17 years. Bye, bye for now, sweet boy, I'll sadly smile when I light the stove this winter, remembering how you always curled next to it's warmth. A life, like the honeybee, is so fragile, but matters so much!

*Irene Gorczyca*

Norfolk County - Massachusetts  
**THE NORFOLK BEE**  
Online at: [www.norfolkbees.org](http://www.norfolkbees.org)

### 2004-2005 NCBA Officers

#### President

Tim Sullivan  
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(781-326-2834)  
TimSul123@comcast.net

#### Vice President

Norm Shaw  
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theshawzzz@hotmail.com

#### Treasurer

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#### Recording Secretary

Mike Miconi  
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#### Corresponding Secretary

Irene Gorczyca  
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#### Bee School Director

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

#### Fair Committee Chairperson

Irene Gorczyca

## PRICES, PRICES, PRICES!!!!

Attila

OK, so this is normally Mike Miconi's spot for the last month's meeting minutes. Mike did an excellent job, as usual, on the April Minutes, but it's not exactly timely at this point. However, all is not lost! I will extract some information and place it here and there in this newsletter. But, for now, let's review this year's prices for glassware.

Andy Reseska is offering the club some unbeatable prices, and I do mean unbeatable because I've checked everywhere and no one else comes close to these prices! In addition, Andy will deliver orders to the Aggie School on or about September 10th—we will notify all those placing orders of the exact date and time.

- 8 oz Classic (12 jars/case) with 48mm white plastic lids, \$ 4.95
- 1 lb. Classic (12 jars/case) with 48 mm white plastic lids, \$ 5.00
- 2 lb. Classic (12 jars/case) with 63mm white plastic lids, \$ 7.50
- 12 oz Round Belly Honey Bears w/ white flip tops safety seal liner, \$ 0.40 each
- 5 lb. Plastic Jars (6 jars/case) white plastic lids, \$ 8.75

ALL CLASSIC JARS ARE 12 CT CASES. HONEYBEARS ARE BULK PACKED.

Tim Sullivan will collect all order forms and checks from paid members only. Orders must be in by Friday, August 26. Please make checks out to "NCBA", and mail to:

Tim Sullivan  
101 Sherman Road  
Dedham MA 02026

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### Rika Heemskerk

It is with the utmost sadness that the officers of NCBA are informing the membership that Hendrika "Rika" Heemskerk, wife and loving companion of NCBA life member John Heemskerk, passed away on June 10.

Expressions of sympathy can be sent to:

John Heemskerk  
60 Maple Street  
Needham, MA 02492

John, on behalf of the membership, please accept our deepest sympathies.

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## ELECTION OF NCBA OFFICERS

Attila

According to the bylaws, it's time to again vote for officers.

### Section 2 – Elections

During the meeting PRECEDING the biennial meeting, a Nominating Committee shall be chosen, consisting of five members; three appointed by the President and two from nominations from the floor and elected by the vote of members present. The Committee shall submit a list of officers for the upcoming year to which may be added any other nominations from the floor. The membership will be duly notified of nominations by the Secretary, and/or by the official newsletter of the organization.

### Section 3 – Biennial Meeting

A. The biennial meeting shall be held in the month of November at which time all old business shall be completed, the reports of officers and committees received, followed by which the officers for the coming two years shall be elected and then assume office.

B. At the biennial meeting, fifteen members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business.

As of this writing, neither President Tim Sullivan nor I shall be running for re-election.

The office of President is demanding. Now, I'm not speaking for Tim, but from my own observations. When I first joined NCBA, there used to be a Program Committee and their job was to set up the program for the monthly meetings. Somehow, the idea of a Program Committee slipped away, leaving all the work for the President. It's terribly demanding work for one person to have to try and find a speaker, or a movie, or set up a work shop, month after month, with no help. Club members have to start helping out a lot more on the various committees to help lighten the load. One person can't do it alone ... or at least they can't do it alone for extended periods of time because eventually, it stops being fun. We'll end up burning out those few people who step forward to help run the club when what we want to do is help them so they continue their stewardship. So when the new President asks for a Program Committee, stick your hand in the air and volunteer to help. With many hands, the work is divided into manageable chunks. Without your help, the club will disappear.

As for me, I think you all know that I dearly love writing this newsletter. But I am also trying to complete a 30-month aviation mechanics program concurrently with a Masters of Science in Systems Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. (Why? Because the opportunities were there.) All of what I do is separately compartmentalized in my noggin, so nothing interferes with anything else. But the one thing I cannot control is time, and the JHU weekly homework assignments take between 24-35 hours, all of which must come out of my "free" time on Monday nights, Friday nights, every other Saturday when I don't go to aviation mechanics school from 7:30 AM– 4 PM, and Sundays. This leaves little time for anything else.

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I have yet to even ride my motorcycle this year! And, of course, I pick this year to double the number of hives that I own (19). So, in order to be able to sleep for a few hours, something has to "give" a little in my schedule, and I'm afraid it has to be the office of the Corresponding Secretary and the position of Fair Chairperson.

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**AUGUST HIVE DIVE  
Howard Crawford's Achin'  
Back Farm  
August 21, at 1 PM**

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS FROM THE AGGIE SCHOOL:**

South on Rt. 1A, through downtown Walpole, towards Wrentham for about 4 miles (you'll pass Bristol Square on the left, Chris' Auto Repair on the right, and a little seafood restaurant on the left before coming to this intersection)

Right onto Winter Street (this is the last intersection before you climb the big hill to MCI Cedar Junction)

Winter Street becomes Clark Street, becomes Main Street – just keep on going straight for about 4 miles until the road forks right onto Pleasant Street (at Acorn Animal Hospital)

Follow Pleasant Street for about 3 miles to Rt. 140 (at the 3rd light) – look across Rt.140 and you'll see Howard's white house.

Go straight across Rt. 140 and into Howard's driveway. There's lots of room to park.

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**June Hive Dive Was at Fred Rapkin's House**

Approximately 10 people attended the hive dive on the sweltering Sunday. John Balconi (past member/president), shared a wealth of knowledge and many suggestions ---"super the hell out of those bad boys - give them all the space they want to pack away the honey" Contrary to some beekeepers John suggested removing all the queen excluders from Fred's hives.

To boost a new strong 2 level nuke, in which 8-9 frames in the upper box were not filled in with honey or brood, attending members shifted some honey frames from some of the other hives. Tim suggested drilling an entry in each super to allow another way to vent the hives and for the bees to enter the hive. With club approval Fred had already propped up the outer covers for better ventilation and easier access by the bees.

(continued in next column)



**Ah, the fun of beekeeping - attending to hives even during oppressive heat! What hives? Do you see any hives? Me thinks Pam Crow and hubby, Tim Sullivan, and Joe Svelnis (left to right), were partying at Freddie's house! - Attila**

One of the wintered-over hives, in which a Buckfast queen had been installed back in April with Norm Shaw's help, recently swarmed. To shore things up, a super from a very strong hive, started from a package of Buckfast was installed **on top** of this hive - reasoning is that you add supers just above brood boxes. The older and/or stronger super draws bees up through the hive.

All and all things looked very good in Fred's hives - "Not enough supers on", to satisfy John, but then he tends to go 6 to 8 supers per hive (no excluders) until extraction time. Nice to see you again John.

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**Square Dance? No! Waggle and Round Dances**

For an interesting video on the differences between the bees 'waggle dance' and the 'round dance' go to the following web site and click on the Windows Media Icon about half way down on the right side. The site is in German but the video is in English.

<http://mkat.iwf.de/index.asp?Signatur=C+1335>

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**MARS SPECTACULAR!**

The Red Planet is about to be spectacular! This month, Earth is catching up with Mars in an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287.

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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:** I have 10 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 at: [AKDAB@aol.com](mailto:AKDAB@aol.com)

**FOR SALE:** Assorted bee stuff, boxes, frames, bottoms, etc. Some new, some old - all in good condition. \$500.00 for all - but will separate. Please call Lloyd at 508-243-4784.

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Due to the way Jupiter's gravity tugs on Mars and perturbs its orbit, astronomers can only be certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth in the Last 5,000 years, but it may be as long as 60,000 years before it happens again.

The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles of Earth and will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. At a modest 75-power magnification.

Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye! Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August it will rise in the east at 10p.m. and reach its azimuth at about 3 a.m.

By the end of August when the two planets are closest, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30a.m. That's pretty convenient to see something that no human being has seen in recorded history. So, mark your calendar at the beginning of August to see Mars grow progressively brighter and brighter throughout the month.

Share this with your children and grandchildren. NO ONE ALIVE TODAY WILL EVER SEE THIS AGAIN

## 2005-2006 Meeting Schedules:

### MONTHLY MEETINGS:

SUN, AUG 21, 1 PM  
MON, 12 SEP 2005  
MON, 03 OCT 2005  
MON, 07 NOV 2005  
MON, 05 DEC 2005  
MON, 09 JAN 2006  
MON, 06 FEB 2006

### BEE SCHOOL MEETINGS

Bee School will resume Tuesday, February, 2006 at 7 PM.  
For more information, call Tim Sullivan (781) 326-2834, or  
Howard Crawford (508) 528-9117.