



The Norfolk Bee

Norfolk County, Massachusetts • www.norfolkbees.org

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Letter from the Editor

I am finally sitting down to do the newsletter. We had a small delay in the October minutes and decided to wait until I had the November minutes and do one newsletter to sum it all up. The club has had a busy month, what with elections coming up and our holiday meeting.

I can't believe that it has been 2 years since I began been serving as corresponding secretary. With the new elections in December, I will hopefully be taking on other roles in the club and will no longer be doing the newsletter. After this one, I will have one more to do. I have thoroughly enjoyed doing this and have really appreciated all of the feedback I have received from everyone. I will continue to be involved with the newsletter and the web site as we start to create a cohesive brand to the club. We have a lot of new and energetic members who are willing to donate their time helping us move forward with the club. Being a member of the NCBA has become an important part of my life. As you can tell from the turnouts recently, it is for a lot of other people as well. We have been averaging over 50 members at a meeting. That is a big increase from even just 2 short years ago.

We are also hoping that bee school will be as successful this coming year as it was the past year. *(cont'd pg.2)*

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December 3, 2006 Meeting Very Important

Holiday Party

1. **Election of NCBA officers**
2. **Honey tasting** – bring your own honey and if you have or can find some exotic types bring those too.
3. **Member inventions and innovations.** Did you try something this year that worked or didn't and you want to share the story? Bring your stuff.
4. **Viewing Sister Bee Documentary.**
5. **End of year celebration. Holiday Treats and Sweets.**

Meeting Discussions

Since it has become part of our regular meetings to have a discussion about current beekeeping procedures and questions & answer sessions, we will be posting a writing of this on the web. They are too lengthy to incorporate into the newsletter. I will but a outline of what was discussed so that people can reference them when they go to the web. See page 3 for a list of topics at the previous meetings.

I hope that you are all putting out the word locally to help support the school and the club and will also volunteer to help be part of the “peanut gallery” of members who attend the classes and help out when needed. We can always use an extra set of hands.

As many of you know, this has been an incredible year for me as a beekeeper. I have learned so much just from my own hives, starting out with 2 hives; one died, the other weak, requeening, swarms, installing 2 new packages and having a record honey harvest. In addition, my experience with Andy Reseska has taught me so much about beekeeping. It has put a lot of things in to perspective for me when dealing with a multitude of hives, 100’s of honey supers and millions of bees. Andy has been a great teacher, and his knowledge of the industry and beekeeping in general is invaluable. I have learned how to pull honey supers by the 100’s and extract thousands of pounds of honey. Next year, hopefully, I will learn much more.

I also want to pay tribute to all of my fellow “part-time” beekeepers. Seeing everyone over the summer, sharing stories and experiences has been invaluable. My own experiences have been enhanced by my fellow beekeepers. Thank you.

One of the greatest gifts of being in the club is meeting the diverse members. We all know each other on the basis of beekeeping, but I have met so many incredible people with incredible lives. We have a wonderful group of very eclectic human beings.

I am waxing rhapsodic here and will stop. I am looking forward to our December meeting and also to the future growth of the club.

See you all soon.

Tony Lulek

Online Resources

This is just the beginning of a list of online resources. Please email if you find any or have any favorites.

Online Resources

- 1. YouTube.com - they some great little videos.**
- 2. www.beesource.com**
- 3. www.beemaster.com**
- 4. www.wikipedia.com**
- 5. www.gobeekeeping.com**
- 6. www.honey.com**
- 7. www.nhb.com**
- 8. www.beekeeping.com**
- 9. www.abfnet.org**

Online Bee Equipment sellers

- 1. www.dadant.com**
- 2. www.mannlaketd.com**
- 3. www.brushymountainbeefarm.com**
- 4. www.betterbee.com**

Magazines:

- 1. Bee Culture (Root Publications)**
- 2. American Bee Journal**

NCBA 2007-2008 Monthly Meeting Schedule

December 3
January 7
February 4
March 3
April 7
May 5

List of Meeting Discussions

October 2007

- 1. Caring for wax capings**
- 2. Cleaning honey supers**
- 3. Storing for winter**
- 4. Checking your**

hive weight
5. Organic bee-keeping update

November 2007

- 1. Planning for winter**
- 2. Feeding bees fondant candy**
- 3. Top bar hive presentation**



Another incredible photograph by Ed Karle 2007

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 "Non-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
jruyle@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!)



Sugar

Andy Reseska still has 80 lbs boxes of sugar for sale for \$24. Please contact him directly.

Raffle Table

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

Sweets for the Table

In light of the current increase in our membership, we are anticipating a large turnout again at the October meeting. If we could have some extra help with sweets, it would be appreciated. Please contact Susan Simmons at susanhsims@hotmail.com. We had about 18 new members at the club, so if we could get 2-3 people to bring stuff that would be great.

Souther New England Beekeepers Assembly 2007

Theme: Colony Health

Saturday November 17, 2007 8:30am – 5:00pm
Unitarian Society of New Haven
700 Hartford Turnpike Hamden, Connecticut 06517
Any questions, please visit www.sneba.com

TO REGISTER: Contact Becky Jones, 55 Wolf Pit Road, Farmington, CT 06032. Phone 860-677-9391. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO CONNECTICUT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

If you wish to carpool, Ed Karle will be attending. Please contact him directly.

A Taste of Honey



For People



Healthy Start

Pear and Honey Oatmeal (Serves 1)

- 1 Cup skim milk, plus more for serving (optional)
- coarse salt
- 1/2 cup old-fashion rolled oats (not quick-cooking)
- pinch ground cinnamon
- 1/2 pear, cored and cut into small chunks
- 1 to 3 teaspoons honey

1. IN a small saucepan, combine milk and a pinch of salt; bring to a boil. Add oats and cinnamon; simmer, stirring occasionally, until oats are tender, about 5 minutes.
2. Place oatmeal in a bowl, top with pear chunks and honey, and serve with more milk, if desired.

For the Bees

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 5 to 8 minutes before it reaches 242°F. Take it off the heat and stir it. You must continue to stir until it cools. It will get whitish in color and thicken up. Once this happens, then you can pour onto paper plates.

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

- 1½ cups granulated sugar
- ½ cup light corn syrup

Directions

In a 1-quart or larger microwave dish, mix thoroughly 1½ cups granulated sugar and ½ cup light corn syrup. 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. 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.

October 1, 2007 Meeting Minutes

The next association meeting at the Aggie School will take place on Monday, November 5th.

Attendance – 55 The large attendance again this month was great.

Table raffle was not done this meeting (as it was not at the September meeting) and the offerings held until November. While the offerings were very impressive, especially member honey, we need at least 12 items in order to have a robust raffle table, so please consider bringing an item for the table to your next meeting. For November we will have the goose feathers held over from September and pieces of homosote for winter hive insulation.

We had no door prize this month. The NCBA Executive Board has agreed to buy and stock items for the door prize offering.

The refreshment table was well stocked. Thanks to Sue Simmons for the coffee and others for the eats.

Meeting minutes:

1. 40 people have paid dues for 2007-2008 so far and an additional five paid at this meeting

2. At the November meeting we will present the Slate of Officer for the December elections. Kate Notman coordinated getting volunteers to run for offices.

All members current with dues will be allowed to vote. The new officers will begin managing the association and the meeting at the January meeting.

The terms are for two years: 2008 and 2009. All member current with dues may run for any of the positions, length of time in the club or beekeeping is not in any way a condition of eligibility or a prerequisite. We are looking for members interested in helping the club continue to grow and better its activities. We want officers who want to improve the club's activities and services to members and the communities.

The positions and current office holders are as follows:

President (Ray Hennessy)

Vice President (Norm Shaw)

Treasurer (Miguel Lessing) – Association finances and financial records

Corresponding Secretary (Tony Lulek) – web site materials and association notices

Recording Secretary (Ed Karle) - minutes

Librarian (Whitley Frost) – manage library and loaning of materials

Committees – Committee members choose their own committee chair

Bee School – Tim Sullivan

Fair Committee – Jeanette Ruyle

Education Committee – Tony Lulek

3. Library. At each meeting we will have a selection of library materials for members to borrow. The borrow term is until the next meeting, please remember to bring items back at the next meeting or notify the Librarian that you will be late. . If you would like something brought for your use please notify the Librarian in advance.

4. Personal eMail addresses. If you change email addresses please make sure that you inform the Corresponding Secretary, Tony Lulek, so that you continue to get notices. The mast list of emails is kept by Tony and the Treasurer, Miguel Lessing.

5. The club extractor. This is available to all members on a First Come First Served basis. Tony Lulek keeps central track of who currently has the extractor so that if you are looking for it you can contact him but the person with the extractor and the next person on the waiting list work out between them the hand off. Then the new person with the extractor manages future hand-offs. This hand off continues as long as needed and the unit gets back to Tony for the winter.

6. Mentoring. This seemed to work very well this summer. The sharing of advice between members of all levels of experience increased this year and hopefully better prepared us for the Fall planning. Each year is different with techniques to recall or learn anew so please keep in touch with other members to share happenings.

7. Beeschool. The scheduling for the classes, buying materials and planning has begun. Tim Sullivan and Howard Crawford are interested in volunteer to help

work with the school and classes. Suggestions for the school from all beekeepers are always welcome.

Please consider helping the beeschool. This is a great way to help new beekeepers and sharpen your own knowledge about beekeeping.

Tony Lulek distributed by email the Bee School Poster, Press Release and Student Registration form via email. The message also asked members to contact their town press for publication.

The cost for the class in 2008 will be \$50 for an individual or a family. The PDF version of the class text will be provided for free to students. If students (or members) want a published version the cost will be \$10.

8. At each meeting we will try and have a supply of business cards. These are great ways to advertise the association and the beeschool so take a few.

9. We are going to start a rebranding project for the NCBA. This will include the web site, committee materials for public display and logo items (hats, shirts, decals, etc.). We as all member for ideas and to try and design or suggest ideas for anything NCBA-related.

November meeting topics:

1. Planning for winter - insulation
2. Planning for 2008 - locations for new hives, equipment
3. Top bar Hive update from Tim Sullivan

November 5, 2007 Meeting Minutes

The next association meeting at the Aggie School will take place on Monday, December 3rd.

Attendance – 52

Table raffle was impressive. We had cut comb, honey samples, goose feathers for use as bee-brushes, honey buckets, a jewelry kit, sheets of homosote and a lovely book

The raffle raised \$112

We had two door prizes this month. A 3' x 4' LOCAL HONEY FOR SALE sign and a bottle of SUC-

RICIDE Veroa mite treatment.

The refreshment table was well stocked. Thanks to Sue Simmons for the coffee and others for the eats.

Meeting Minutes:

1. Election of NCBA Officers for 2008-2009
The Election Slate Committee of Kate Notman, Pam Crowell and Nikki Borman created the election slate for NCBA officers that will be voted on at the December meeting. The slate is as follows:

President Ed Karle
Vice President Tony Lulek
Recording Secretary Dave Lesco (Tim Sullivan if
Dave changes his mind)
Corresponding Secretary . Kate Notman
Treasurer Tony Lulek
Librarian Sue Osgood
Fair Committee (Open)
Program Committee Tim Sullivan

Please join us for the meeting. This is your club and your vote counts.

2. Club Roster. The NCBA Membership Roster will contain: 1) all active members current in dues; and 2) inactive members (those not current in dues) for two years after which they will be removed from the roster. The current NCBA Roster email list will have only type 1 and 2 entries.

3. Meeting Door Prizes. Rather than give out tickets and try to correctly manage who should get them we will manage the door prize raffle with name-tickets of members current in dues. This will start with the January meeting. The name-tickets will be reused and kept current.

4. Rebranding project: web site design and content, logo items contest. We have asked club member to present to the corresponding secretary their ideas for a club logo. After the elections, Kate Notman, Tony Lulek and Karsten Robbins will be working on redesigning the newsletter, web site and other items that will bear the club logo.

5. Beeschool Tim Bee School Poster, Press Release, and Registration form have been completed and email.

The cost for the class in 2008 will be \$50 for an individual or a family. The PDF version of the class text will be provided for free to students. If students (or members) want a published version the cost will be \$10.

6. Honey Yield Report: As I discussed in the meeting, our numbers over all were pretty impressive. There were a few exceptions that skewed the number, but in the end it balanced out. Here are the numbers. If you wish a more detailed list, I can email it to you.

People responding54
Average years beekeeping . .11
Total number of hives171
Total lbs of honey7644
Average per hive45

7. Soap Making Class. When: November 12, 6 pm to 10 pm. Where: Molly's Apothecary, 412 Washington Street, Holliston, MA 508-893-0100. The place is behind Bertucci's in the back. Who: Ann Fisher. What to bring: Please wear old clothes. You will not need to bring anything else. Cost: \$40 per person. Please send your check before hand to me and make it payable to Tony Lulek. There is still room in the class if you want to attend. But please contact Tony soonest.

8. Magazines subscriptions

We will try to have subscriptions for American Bee Journal and Bee Culture at the meetings. The subscription forms that we get offer a discount so please use them.

December meeting agenda:

- 1. Election of NCBA officers** – see slate above
- 2. Honey tasting** – bring your own honey and if you have or can find some exotic types bring those too.
- 3. Member inventions and innovations.** Did you try something this year that worked or didn't and you want to share the story? Bring your stuff.
- 4. Viewing Sister Bee Documentary.**
- 5. End of year celebration**



Ed Karle 2007

From: Tony Lulek
35 Dalton Road
Holliston, MA 01746

TO: