

the Norfolk Bee

FEBRUARY 2019 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NEXT CLUB MEETING

February 4, 2019

Norfolk Agricultural High School
400 Main Street
Walpole, MA

Social & snacks:
6:45-7:30pm
Presentation:
7:30-9:00pm

HONEY LAGER BEER BREWING

is returning to Barleycorn Craft Brewing in Natick! Wednesday 2/27, 6-8pm An email with sign-up info will be out soon.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

March 16, 2019

MassBee Spring Meeting

Topsfield Fair Grounds

For more info, visit: massbee.org

June 1, 2019

Langstroth Bee Fest

Greenfield, MA

June 15, 2019

Mass Bee Field Day

UMass Amherst

I am writing to you on the first of February, Saint Brigid's Day, or Imbolc (Gaelic beginning of Spring). That has significance because we are halfway to Spring solstice now, and if conditions are right in your colonies around this time, they will be increasing. The whiplash temperatures are not helping us this winter, but on good weather days you can do a quick insert of winter feed into your hives as needed, potentially making all the difference in helping them make it to spring.

At the next NCBA meeting February 4 at 7:30pm, Norfolk Aggie Administration Building, please welcome NCBA member, beekeeper Dr Gillian Kruskall DVM in her discussion of bee disease, beekeepers, veterinarians and how they interact when EFB, AFB and more rear their ugly heads. We will have our Library (new books and recordings!), no apparel or raffle this month but we have door prizes.

The MassBee November 2019 meeting will be hosted by the NCBA. Kathy Gasbarro is chairperson for organizing the event, and will work with members of MassBee and NCBA members on her committee — if you are interested in helping, please contact her. Ed Szymanski in his role at MassBee has been finalizing some great speakers. When we have a clearer idea of various things NCBA members can assist with, we will spread the word. More on this to follow!

We heard Ed Szymanski lecture in January on how seriously damaging Varroa Destructor is to our colonies (if you missed it, he will reprise the more comprehensive version of the talk in the spring at the Norfolk Library, date TBA). What we have not yet heard a lot about is Tropilaelaps, doing harm to *Apis Mellifera* in Asia, but not yet here. Of course, our arch enemy Varroa Destructor was not found in the US until the 80's, but just look at the situation now. Unfortunately, Tropilaelaps is an even nastier parasite. The NCBA has donated funding to the GoFundMe to support Dr. Samuel Ramsey in his quest to discover solutions to Tropilaelaps before we have to meet them in US hives. Our Board is strongly behind this effort and we challenge all of you to make a contribution to his efforts to find a solution to this problem. I believe in his research and have also donated. From Dr. Ramsey: "The cliff notes version is: Tropilaelaps have replaced Varroa destructor as the most dominant and destructive parasite in Asia. Tropilaelaps cause colonies to collapse more quickly than Varroa in part because their populations grow much faster. Researchers believe Tropilaelaps feed on hemolymph because we thought Varroa fed on hemolymph. My research has shown that Varroa actually feed on the bee's fat body (a vital organ much like the liver in humans). We need to determine if Tropilaelaps are doing the same or eating something entirely different. No pesticides are currently labeled for Tropilaelaps control. Tropilaelaps avoid the phase when they are most vulnerable to chemical control (the "phoretic phase") instead, spending most of their time under the cell capping where most pesticides don't penetrate. Tropilaelaps have been found in the Middle East and have already spread to Northern and Eastern Asia from their native range in Southeast Asia. Reports of Tropilaelaps in Tasmania and Africa are unconfirmed and likely are a result of mistaken identification. More research on the geographic/host range of this parasite is necessary."

Serious stuff indeed.



See you Monday,
Kathy Halamka,
President, NCBA



Saint Brigid by Martinique Louise Fisher



NCBA BOARD MEMBERS 2018-2021:

PRESIDENT

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VICE PRESIDENT

Janice Loving Janice.Loving@bfim.com

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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Colleen Neutra cneutra@gmail.com

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Carin Cohen
Alison Dempsey

NCBA BEE SCHOOL:

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David Shaner dashaner123@aol.com
Sue Robinson smrbus10@msn.com

ADMINISTRATOR

Dana Wilson dwilson831@gmail.com

COMMITTEES:

APPAREL

Susan Robinson smrbus10@msn.com

DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE

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EXTRACTORS

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MaryBeth Noonan
marybethnoonan@gmail.com

HISTORY

Tony Lulek tony@littlebeehivefarm.com

HOSPITALITY

TBD

IT/FACEBOOK

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LIBRARIAN

Janice and Mike Barczys
janice@barczys.com

PROGRAMS

Alison Dempsey
alison.dempsey@medwaycommunityfarm.org

VARROA CONTROL GROUP (VCG)

Eric Studer eric.studer.ma@gmail.com

News from the Landing Board

SPEAKING OF LANDING BOARDS... Our Librarians and Hospitality Helpers would GREATLY appreciate having use of the parking spots directly in front of the door to the Aggie Administration Building.

The February Meeting Agenda

Gillian Kruskal, DVM will talk about "Honey Bee Health from a Veterinary Perspective." Gillian will share the recent changes put in place by the FDA and how veterinarians are joining the fight to keep honey bees healthy and protected. She will be answering questions about new regs and what new research vets are pursuing to better assist Beekeepers.

A look ahead... Future Meeting Dates & Agendas

March 4 Beekeeping equipment and innovations for the 2019 season

April 1 Queen Rearing by Archie Acevedo

May 6 Pollinator Friendly gardening tips

June date TBD Annual Picnic, location also to be determined

Our Raffle Table

We host a Door Prize at each monthly meeting. Every other month, we host a Raffle Table. (September, November, January...) During the May meeting, we host a Plant Raffle. Please consider saving or getting bee-oriented items to donate to this great fundraiser for our club! This is a fun feature of our meetings and needs your support; please keep it in mind while shopping, crafting, and collecting gear. Contact our Door Prize/Raffle Coordinator with any questions or ideas: Kathy Varney at spencersmumkv@verizon.net

A Year of Beekeeping: One-night Intermediate Class

The next installment of Intermediate Bee School will be held Friday February 22, 7:00-9:00 PM at the Norfolk Public Library, 139 Main St., Norfolk. The topic will be "A Year of Beekeeping." I will go through the year and talk about what the bees are doing, what the beekeeper should be doing, and go in to as much detail about these tasks as time allows.

Now, if you know me, you know I'm not a proponent of beekeeping by the calendar. I believe in inspection, observation, and taking action based on what is going on in the colony. Still, there are time sensitive tasks, and it is helpful to know when to check for certain conditions and to know what the bees are doing, or should be doing, at different times in the year. Beekeepers of all experience levels are welcome.

Please confirm that you will attend so I can get a count.

— Ed Szymanski lunariafarm@outlook.com

Mentors Needed For 2019

With 96 students from 71 households, taking Bee School this year, there is a tremendous need for club members to step forward and become a mentor.

These 71 household could be responsible for bringing 142 new hives into Norfolk County. As these new hives peak in June, this will mean over 8.5 million new bees will be introduced into our neighborhoods. Over and over we have heard how bees migrate and affect the health of other hives. It is important that these new beekeepers be given the support and knowledge experienced club members bring to the table to ensure these new hives are healthy and in turn don't spread viruses to other hives.

You might be telling yourself that you don't know enough or have enough experience to be a mentor. That is not so. Even second year beekeepers have enough knowledge to become mentors. Most issues are easy to handle and questions are on the basic level. These questions include: is this capped honey or capped brood, when to add the second brood box, is my queen still in the hive, etc. If you do come across a problem beyond your capabilities, the board, advanced mentors, and bee school staff are ready and able to help.

An added bonus, many club members have discovered being a mentor has improved their own skills as beekeepers.

Last year 47 members signed up to be mentors. This year the board is looking for a minimum of 50. The goal, as has been in past years, is to assign no more than 2 mentees per mentor.

Send you interest in becoming a mentor to dwilson831@gmail.com. Include your First and Last name, address, best phone number to be contacted, and towns you feel you can cover and any restrictions you would like me to know of.

Thank you for participating as a mentor.

Dana Wilson,
Bee School Administrator

Bee School's "BeeNut Gallery"

Any member who would like to attend a Bee School class, held on Tuesdays, 7 to 9pm, is more than welcome (And encouraged!) to stop by.

Tony and Susan, the instructors, know it would be helpful to have seasoned beekeepers in the audience to share tips and anecdotes during the class.

The classes are held in the same location as our monthly Bee Meetings.



Monthly Board Meetings

The Board of Directors Meeting is the third Monday of each month (no meetings in June and July).

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

It's held 7:00-9:00pm at the Unity Farm Sanctuary, 17 Unity Lane, Sherborn.

You can read Minutes from the most recent meeting on page 7.

Resources for Members

EXTRACTORS

NCBA owns six extractors which can be borrowed by members for personal use. Contact Kathy Halamka at khalamka@gmail.com or MaryBeth Noonan at marybethnoonan@gmail.com to make a pick-up arrangement. Please be sure to return the equipment you borrow in a food-safe quality clean state. Also, be sure to report any issues with cleanliness or functionality to the Kathy or MaryBeth.

CHILDREN'S BEE SUITS

The Club has purchased three children's bee suits from Mann Lake in small, medium, and large sizes. They are available for members to borrow at anytime. Contact Kathy Halamka at khalamka@gmail.com to make arrangements. Please be sure to visit the Mann Lake website in advance of reaching out to Kathy, so you will know which size to request for your little apiary visitor.

OUR LENDING LIBRARY

With great thanks to Eric Studer for being the Club Librarian for six years, (yes, SIX!) the baton has been passed to Janice and Mike Barczys. Please be sure to stop by the book table at the next meeting and say "hello." Also, let them know if there is a book you would like added to the Library!

OUR MEMBERS-ONLY FACEBOOK GROUP

Our Facebook page, *Norfolk County Beekeepers Association*, is closed to the public. Members are added by approval only. This is a great place for members to ask questions, post articles, share pictures and stories. Several members of the club monitor the page. This is also a place that we will post notices, updates, and changes to club related events.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Members in good standing may place a classified ad in our newsletter for free. Please keep it simple and relevant to beekeeping, bee products, or home/cottage industries that would be of interest to other members. Email Colleen Neutra at cneutra@gmail.com with your artwork, a scan of your business card, or questions.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Are you showing at a fair? Have a table at a farmer's market? NCBA can provide you with brochures to hand out events.

Our brochure promotes our mission and encourages membership. If you are interested in receiving a bundle for your next event, please email Colleen Neutra at cneutra@gmail.com. Allow time for a reply and a way to coordinate brochure delivery.





RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Honey Suckers and Candy

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time
5 mins	15 mins	20 mins

Turn these into suckers or hard candies. They are addicting and pretty darn tasty!

Ingredients

- 1 Cup Sugar
- 2 Tablespoons Water
- 1/3 Cup Honey
- Cinnamon Essential Oil Or lemon
- Sucker Sticks Optional
- Candy or Sucker Molds Optional
- Candy Thermometer

Instructions

1. Have a cookie sheet ready with parchment paper. You can then place your candy/sucker molds on the cookie sheet for any spills or if you choose not to use molds you can pour circle dollops on your parchment paper for a freeform candy sucker.
2. Get all of your molds ready to go! You can put the sucker sticks in now or after you pour. It's all up to you! You can spray your molds with cooking spray too but I didn't find it necessary.
3. Add the sugar, water and honey to a pan. On medium heat stir constantly and get that sugar dissolved!
4. Once your sugar is dissolved then turn up the heat! Put in your thermometer, **DO NOT STIR** and let it boil. You want your temp to hit 300.
5. Once you hit 300 degrees on your candy thermometer then you can add 5-10 drops of cinnamon, vanilla, lemon ect if you'd like! Or you can do without. Gently stir your flavor once you've added it.
6. Remove from heat and let the bubbles settle down for a minute or two. This can get tricky because you don't want it to be too hot or too cool. Just a minute or two then you can start pouring in your molds!
7. Let you candy/suckers harden and cool. Then enjoy!

recipe and photo: www.beyondthehive.com

News from MASS BEE

Recent news:

Carolyn Dykema's pesticide regulation bill has been refiled as HD 3339, An Act to Protect Massachusetts Pollinators. Mass Bee's legislative committee will be working with legislators to get this bill passed this session. Please ask your Senators and Representatives to support this bill and help protect bees and other pollinators.

Here's some of what Mass Bee provides to the Beekeepers of Massachusetts:

- Support on legislative issues such as pesticide regulations, beekeeping regulations, honey labeling, and more
- Support for local regulatory issues such as city and town ordinances and beekeeping bans
- A strong voice in the state promoting beekeeping and the general health of pollinators
- Two meetings, one in Spring and one in Fall, with quality speakers, vendors, raffles, and the chance to talk and network with beekeepers from all over New England.
- A summer Field Day with live bee demonstrations and interactive presentations, along with the aforementioned vendors, raffles, and the chance to talk and network with beekeepers from all over New England.

- Quarterly newsletters and a website full of interesting and informative content
- Support to county beekeeping associations as needed
- Other educational opportunities in the works.

Mass Bee puts on 3 major events each year. Here's the lineup for 2019:

Spring meeting

Saturday March 16, 2019,
Topsfield Fair Grounds, Topsfield, MA
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Speakers:
Angela Roell of Yard Birds Farm – Apiary Planning and more;
Rick Reault of NE Beekeeping Supply, Carlisle, MA – Starting a bee business;
Dr. Robert Brucker of Rowlands Institute of Harvard University – Pathogens affecting honey bees
Kim Skrym – MDAR Chief Apiary Inspector

Also vendors, raffle, silent auction, lunch, Mass Beekeeper of the Year presentation.

Field Day

Saturday June 15, 2019, 8:00-4:00 PM
UMass Agricultural Learning Center, Amherst, MA. Rotating workshops in four time slots, some hands on, some with live bees. Lunch, vendors.

This column will report on timely news and information on the Massachusetts Beekeepers Association.



Fall Meeting

Saturday, November 16, 2019, hosted by NCBA, probably in Medway. Larry Connor, author and professional speaker will be one speaker, second TBA. Honey, cooking and photo show, Mass Bee membership meeting, vendors, lunch.

Please consider joining Mass. Beekeepers Association to help maintain this voice for Massachusetts beekeepers.

To get more info, visit www.massbee.org. To join, click the Membership tab.

— Ed Szymanski

Mass Bee's Board of Directors

President: Pete Delaney

Vice President: Mary Duane

Treasurer: Alex Rancourt

Recording Secretary: Alix Bartsch

Corresponding Secretary: Kitty DeGroot

Program Director/Webmaster: Ed Szymanski

Pesticide Director: Wayne Andrews



Minutes of Board Meeting 1/28/19

Board Meeting called to order at 7:09 by Kathy Haramka

In attendance:

- Kathy Haramka
- Ed Szymanski
- Marian Szymanski
- Mike Barczys
- Kathy Varney
- Dana Wilson
- Colleen Neutra
- Tony Lulek
- MaryBeth Noonan
- Kathy Gasbarro

Kathy H made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 and was seconded by Tony.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Gasbarro

Tony made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting, Ed seconded – motion passed.

Treasurer’s report – MaryBeth

- Using Quicken, had last year’s actual compared to this year
- Made subcategories to give more detail
- As of 12/31 there is a balance of \$17,936.44 (actual is \$19,516.44 with bills outstanding)
- Is in contact with the insurance company to update payment.
- Member update; 229 with 100 from bee school

Corresponding Secretary – Colleen

- Colleen will be in touch with Allison for details on meeting themes and will post in the newsletter and will add a blurb about the upcoming meeting
- Deadline for newsletter submissions is 2/1
- List of upcoming dates discussed, such as 6/15 for Mass Bee field day
- Review of door prize items by Kathy V. such as a swarm catching kit, queen making tool, sugar, etc. (no raffle items in Feb.)

Mass Bee meeting report – Marian

- Each county club can nominate a high school student to be “Honey Bee Ambassador” (replacing Honey Queen)
 - Bob Durant, a lobbyist is seeking donations to promote pollinator protection legislation
 - County clubs are invited to provide names for Mass Bee board members.
 - Discussion about a celebration for World Honey Bee Day on the third Saturday in August – they are asking for each county club to provide a presenter
- June 1 is the 10th Annual Langstroth Bee Fest, located in Greenfield, MA As part of the festivities, 8 large bee sculptures will be installed throughout the town and painted by a local artist. The committee is looking for sponsors.
- Sam Ramsey has a Go Fund Me page to work on research on the Tropilaelaps mite.

• Ed made a motion to donate \$300 to Beefest to be combined with other county clubs for Mass Bee to sponsor one of the bee sculptures.

• Motion was passed and Ed will get MaryBeth the address to make the donation.

• Ed made a motion to make a donation of \$500. to Sam Ramsey through Go Fund Me to support his important research. Colleen seconded the motion and the motion passed.

• There was discussion that NCBA could challenge other clubs to make donations as well and to promote the effort on Facebook.

Mass Bee update – Ed

- Ed referenced the winter newsletter (<https://www.massbee.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Winter-Newsletter-2018-FINAL.pdf>) that has upcoming events and meeting details.
- Ag Day on the Hill on March 27th
- Fall Mass Bee meeting will be sponsored by NCBA on 11/16/19. Registration to be taken care of by the Mass Bee registrar.
- Ed working on the schedule and the committee will create a brochure for attendees.
- SEMAP (Southeastern MA Agricultural Partnership) will have a conference at Bristol County Agricultural HS on 2/24 (<https://semaponline.org/2019-conference/>)

Bee School update – Tony

- Going well!
- Several Norfolk Aggie students are in attendance
- We should remind people that if they attended bee school, they are welcome back to sit in on a class
- Discussion about continuing intermediate classes.

Librarian – Mike

- Recording have been made from intermediate classes as well as bee school and will be available in the library
- NCBA received a donation of 14 books & a list will be made for the newsletter
- The library has been organized by topic with stickers and a key has been made for easy identification.

The Board of Directors Meeting is the third Monday of each month (except June & July). It’s held 7:00pm at the Unity Farm Sanctuary, 17 Unity Lane, Sherborn. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.



You Can Sponsor Research on a New Honeybee Parasite

From Sam Ramsey: "*Tropilaelaps* mites are destroying *Apis mellifera* colonies in Asia and spreading to other countries. Knowledge is power, so I'm turning to you, to help fund study of this parasite before it arrives in the US.

If you want to know more about *Tropilaelaps* mites, you can read this paper Dr. Chantawannakul (our Thai research partner) and I wrote together. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214574517300810>

We need to know everything possible about these devastating parasites eating honey bees around the world! We were pretty confident a decade ago that we had nothing to worry about here; *Tropilaelaps* mites couldn't establish themselves in the US because they couldn't survive in climates with long, cold winters. We were shocked by the revelation that they'd adapted to overwinter, sustaining large populations in the coldest reaches of China and Korea. They're not here yet but they're spreading the same way that *Varroa* did in 1977, just ten years before they were found in North America.

When *Varroa* got here, we knew so little about it. Most of the scientific literature was written in Russian and Chinese and we had to scramble to figure it out while it was spreading across the country. It's a major reason why we're just learning the fundamentals of how *Varroa* feed and how exactly they kill bees more than 30 years into this infestation. We had to rely on research we couldn't read or reproduce. My goal is to avoid having that happen a second time.

To fund Sam's research via his Go Fund Me page, visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/fundhoneybeeresearch>

Or to fund Sam's research via check, please mail it to:
Attn: Samuel Ramsey
10300 BALTIMORE AVENUE
BLDG. 306, RM. 315, BARC-EAST
Beltsville, MD 20705

Read a Bee Culture magazine interview with Sam here: <https://www.bee-culture.com/meet-samuel-ramsey/>



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Board Built as one piece instead of two separate pieces for stability. They are made with galvanized 1/8" screen and white plastic slide-in tray to count mites. Glued and screwed together for long lasting durability.

Slatted Racks Completely assembled, glued and nailed. This gives the bees more room in the hive on rainy days and when they are all in for the night making them less likely to think about swarming due to crowding.

Supers Made out of pine; with pre-drilled finger joints, and handles cut into boards, comes unassembled. Deep, Medium and Shallow available.

Inner Cover Ventilated, wooden inner cover.

Outer Cover covered with Tin Made from 3/4" exterior plywood, completely assembled, glued and screwed. Cover comes with tin cover to protect from outdoor elements.

Complete Hive Setup Includes screened bottom board, two deep supers, 20 frames with wax foundation, inner cover and outer cover.

Hive Frames-Deep, Medium, and Shallow Wooden frame, made out of pine, held together with 10 nails. (Does not include wire or foundation).