Shift your perspective and change your point of view. Just like the scout and field bees have to change the plans of their colony mates with waggle dances and more, sometimes everything looks different with a change in either your thinking or how you go about seeing things. For example, if you found on the warm days at the end of February that your bees were not flying, maybe your colony was lost — maybe that was not the first winter loss you had. Did you rethink your methods for the next time? Did you test for mites when you needed to? Did you do more follow up mite treatments, or try new treatments — ask for help — reach out to a mentor, or to the hive-mind of our NCBA Google Group or Facebook Group? Shift your perspective, persevere.

The goal of the amazing bee schools we have at the NCBA is to give you the basics, but then you will need to take that and make it your own as you go out there and become a bee keeper not a bee haver. Keep educating yourself. If you are losing colonies, work to try something different, to learn, to solve. We have so much knowledge with our club, don’t hesitate to avail yourself of that knowledge!

A great example of taking the time, doing more, will be the subject of our next meeting. Scott Mofford took the time, and put in the work to become a Cornell Master Beekeeper. I hope you will all be able to come to the March 2, 7:30pm Meeting and hear more about his experience gaining this knowledge. As always, come early (opens at 7:00pm at the Norfolk Aggie Administration Building) to ask questions, and check out the library. Don’t be afraid to arrive late if traffic is bad, or work keeps you long. We will have a chair ready for you!

We have our Raffle again this month along with the door prizes so please bring donated items that are the kind of items you would love to win yourself. Special news is that we have a very special extra raffle as well! There is a generous donation of a nucleus hive from Wetlands Apiary with a separate ticket sale from the regular raffle. It’s your unique chance to have some great bee genetics. In April we have the NCBA Apparel at the meeting again, and don’t forget that the May raffle is our special plant raffle. Everyone loves those bee-friendly plants!

We are very pleased to introduce Rose Thornton as the new Hospitality Chair. This month, she will provide the snacks. Say "hello” and see how you can help her out by volunteering to bring a few treats of your own to a future meeting.

I look forward to seeing you March 2nd.

Kathy Halamka, President, NCBA
NCBA BOARD MEMBERS 2018-2021:

PRESIDENT
Kathy Halamka khalamka@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Janice Loving Janice.Loving@bfim.com

TREASURER
MaryBeth Noonan marybethnoonan@gmail.com

RECORDING SECRETARY
Kathy Gasbarro gasbarro8@yahoo.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Colleen Neutra cneutra@gmail.com

MEMBERS AT LARGE
Carin Cohen
Alison Dempsey

NCBA BEE SCHOOLS:
INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Sue Robinson smrbus10@msn.com
Tony Lulek tony@littlebeehivefarm.com

ADMINISTRATOR
Dana Wilson dwilson831@gmail.com

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Ed Szymanski lunariafarm@outlook.com

COMMITTEES:

APPAREL
Lauralyn Smith lauralynsmith@gmail.com

DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE
Kathy Varney spencersmumkv@verizon.net

HOSPITALITY
Rose Thornton rthornton714@gmail.com

EXTRACTORS
Brianda Younie briflower@gmail.com

HISTORY
Tony Lulek tony@littlebeehivefarm.com

IT/FACEBOOK
Kathy Halamka khalamka@gmail.com

LIBRARIAN
Janice and Mike Barczys janice@barczys.com

PROGRAMS
Alison Dempsey alison.dempsey@medwaycommunityfarm.org

SPEAKING OF LANDING BOARDS... Our Librarians would GREATLY appreciate using the parking spots directly in front of the door to the Aggie Administration Building. If you can park further and walk, please do!

The March Meeting Agenda

Master Beekeeper Scott Mofford will speak about the Master Beekeeper Cornell University Extension Program. Our own Scott Mofford has graciously offered to share his experience working towards becoming a Master Beekeeper in MA. Scott will share the steps, challenges, and overall experience of the program. We are so lucky to have a Master Beekeeper in our club, we look forward to hearing all about his journey.

SPECIAL RAFFLE IN MARCH!
A nuc has been donated by Wetlands Apiaries. Wow! Each ticket is $5. All proceeds go to NCBA to help defray expenses of future programming. Delivery date to be determined. See all the wonderful things they do at wetlandsapiary.com

A look ahead... the April Meeting Agenda

April 6 "Monitoring your bee yard with technology" and “Mites 2020”
Peter Frykman from Game of Drones apiary will be presenting his set up for a fully monitored bee yard. Peter will share his techniques and recommendations for knowing all you can about your hive with the assistance of modern technology. Ed Szymanski will also present the most up to date treatment recommendations and procedures, to successfully treat your hives for varroa mites in 2020.

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
Mentors Needed For 2020

WE ARE DOING GREAT. WE NEED ONLY 10 MORE MENTORS!

Thank you for the huge response! I’m delighted to say we have 52 mentors lined up to help our newbies. We need 10 MORE. Please sign up!

Send your 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

Please give this idea some thought:

Our June Club Meeting, which is normally the Picnic, could be / should be / would be / better as a NCBA-sponsored day trip to the Mass Bee Field Day at UMass Amherst on Saturday June 13, 2020.

The NCBA Board is proposing a change to what we do for our June Meeting and we would like your input. Kathy will bring this up at the March meeting, so please give it some thought and share your input with the group at that time. A “rough sketch” of the idea is the Club hires a coach bus to take members to the Mass Bee Field Day; attendees pay approx. $10. (TBD) each for the bus; members BYOL (brings your own lunch); and spend the day attending Feild Day events and connecting with other beekeepers. We think fellow members will learn so many wonderful things from the speakers at Feild Day and still have quality time with each other during the bus ride.

Hey you, Honey Lager Brewers!

Your Bottling Night is...
March 5th, at 7pm.
Kells Beer Company,
21 Summer St., Natick

Please check your email for info from Kathy Halamka on how to prepare your custom label for bottling night. Do NOT wait until the last minute in case you have a problem before the 5th. You will want to label on the spot at Kells.

Questions?
Contact Kathy Halamka at khalamka@gmail.com
The 2020 NCBA Scholarship

NCBA offers a $1,000 academic Scholarship, to be given to one candidate who is an NCBA Club member in good standing. This includes a club member’s child.

Eligibility criteria is:
1. Open to a High School Senior or College Student (including seniors).
2. The scholarship will be awarded on blind merit (names redacted).
3. Prior award winner will be ineligible in subsequent years.
4. The member has to be in good standing with the club.

The 2020 application can be found at the end of this newsletter or through this link to the NCBA website: http://norfolkbees.org/files/Scholarship_Application_2020.pdf

Applications MUST be postmarked by April 30, 2020 to be eligible.

An all-day educational event  Worcester County Beekeepers is hosting a terrific meeting next Saturday. The agenda can be found in this newsletter on page 7. It’s too late to sign up for lunch but you can attend the event by becoming anWCBA member. Learn more about the club and the meeting at: http://worcestercountybeekeepers.com

Saturday | March 7 | All Day Conference

Knights of Columbus Hall, Manville Road, Leicester, MA, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

The WCBA brings in the top speakers in the country to advance your knowledge in beekeeping so we can all be better beekeepers. WCBA members are encouraged to attend this free conference and we invite members from other organizations to attend. This event is FREE for members, non-members pay $10 or may join the WCBA for $12.

The cupcakes are coming! The cupcakes are coming!

We are excited to share that Rose Thorton, has stepped up to be the Hospitality Chair. Our meetings have been lacking in the sweet and savory department. While a few of you may have personalities to match, we find that a good cookie or cracker goes a long way in sustaining a real conversation. Please consider helping out Rose with contributions of your own. She will be looking for volunteers. You can find her email on page 2 of this newsletter, in the Committees list.

Thank you, Rose!

Our Bee School is doing very well. We’d like to send a special “thank you” to the members who act as guest instructors/visitors and support the Bee School curriculum with their knowledge.

THANK YOU to Roger Q. Hill, Marian Pope, Kathy Gasbarro, and Kathy Varney.
Help Wanted: Ag Day on The Hill

NCBA will be representing MASS BEE, for the day at the Massachusetts State House on Wednesday March 25, 2020.

We need about 15 able-bodied folks to deliver jars of Honey to legislators and senators throughout the State House.

We begin around 9am. You can leave after you have delivered, or hang around and enjoy the day in Boston!

Please wear nice, casual dress clothes and comfortable shoes. Everyone that enters the State House must go through security. You must bring a photo ID.

If your interested or available, please email Susan Robinson at Smrbus10@msn.com. This is a fun volunteer event and an opportunity to be in a beautiful Boston building!

Resources for NCBA Members

EXTRACTORS
NCBA owns six extractors which can be borrowed by members for personal use. Contact Brianda Younie at briflower@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 Brianda.

CHILDREN’S BEE SUITS
The Club has three children’s bee suits from Mann Lake in small, medium, and large sizes. They’re available for members to borrow at any time. Contact Dana Wilson at dwilson831@gmail.com to make arrangements. Please be sure to visit the Mann Lake website in advance of reaching out to Dana, so you’ll know which size to request for your little apiary visitor.

OUR PROMOTIONAL BROCHURE
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.

OUR LENDING LIBRARY
Janice and Mike Barczys, our super awesome librarians have organized books by theme. Be sure to take a look at how they’ve done it. You just might discover your next great read. 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.
Minutes of Board Meeting 2/17/20

Financial reports were emailed, MaryBeth has a cold so she has graciously not shared with us and can be called for questions. She answered two questions: current bank account total, and the other question revolved around income on bee school, which might be a number that includes intermediate bee school. She will follow up.

Where we are for the website technical aspects (not the redesign): Tony and Colleen met and reviewed the current website and also what functionality is need going forward. Square/Paypal were discussed. Jot Forms/ Cognito Forms discussed, plus forms that might be build into a web platform. Donations are something we wish to be able to collect also on the website. We are less focused on having a webstore for the NCBA logo apparel/swag. Greg will join the committee as a technology voice. We are hoping to bring the website to increased functionality by summer.

Discuss a special raffle of a nuc donation from Wetlands Apiary. The consensus was to have a $5/ticket raffle for just the nuc at the March meeting.

Kathy Varney accepted group suggestions for her Door Prizes shopping.

Discuss upcoming NCBA scholarship for the newsletter: there will an article and the updated application form with be included.

A Donation of $150 was made in the memory of Terry Twombly, and it will made available to the Scholarship Committee to award to a student. A committee or three people needs to be formed.

Dana is close to having the number of mentors he needs 10 more mentors needed to cover a broad geographic range, he has 52 mentors now.

Brianda is hoping to add one more extractor to our inventory so that we can retire our oldest one for parts. https://www.mannlakeltd.com/deluxe-6-3-frame-hand-crank

$469.95 Unanimous vote to purchase one by summer, with a plan to seek out a discount opportunity. We need to stick with this model so that our spare parts align with all the extractors we own.

Programs update: Alison emailed that we are confirmed for Sean Kent in November. Sean Kent is from the Mass Audubon MUSEUM OF AMERICAN BIRD ART at skent@massaudubon.org. Sean is an accomplished native bee photographer who does fabulous presentations on native bees. Sean has an impressive portfolio of native bee photography and is very knowledgeable about the native bee species that we encounter here in Massachusetts.

We need to pin down Monthly Programs for September and October as soon as possible.

Heather Matilda (Wellesley College) was a name suggested for a future program. A presenter on Snelgrove boards from a WCBA meeting was suggested. Other suggestions are welcome, send them to Kathy H and Alison.

Education updates: Tony and Dana report that Intro Bee School is going well, and student retention is high. Intermediate bee school has 92 enrolled. Intermediate students: some are lapsed members and some are not members. Next year we will be clearer about membership requirements, but this year we will encourage lapsed members to renew, and new students to become members.

We need to select the location for the June Picnic if we wish to make a Trustees reservation for Rocky Woods. Motion passed for Kathy H to present to club members the idea of a charted bus for 40 to go to MassBee Field Day in June as an alternative to the local picnic at Rocky Woods.

Dana will meet with Kathy H about updates to Central Records Book (It is in the Sanctuary Library).

Deb Spielman is interested in coming on as a member at large of the board, and can be so assigned by Kathy H, (and the next president can choose do so as well.)

Rose Thornton has agreed to become Hospitality Chair now, and to continue into the next Board. She will coordinate with Kathy H for the next meeting.

Nominating Committee: will be ready to present a Slate at the April Meeting. Volition on the Slate will be at the May Meeting. Currently focused on finding a treasurer nominee, and building a programs committee.

Discussion ensued about splitting responsibilities to reduce the burden of Board Member positions. We explored possibly delegating some tasks to committees. The necessity to improve membership dues collection, google group email lists and Facebook group membership was established. It was made clear that improving our website and using technology for collection was achievable in a timely manner.
Saturday | March 7 | All Day Conference

SPEAKERS:

DR. JUDY CHEN, Chief Virologist for the USDA
DR. JENNIFER TSURUDA, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

AGENDA & TOPICS:

8:00–9:00  Free Coffee, Danish & Bee talk
9:00   WCBA President’s Welcome—Barb MacPhee
9:15–10:30  DR. JUDY CHEN (see bio sidebar to the right)
           An Overview of Honey Bee Diseases: Challenges and Solutions
           Dr. Chen will focus on the bee diseases including, the interrelationship of honeybees, varroa mites & bee viruses and the vectoring process & spread and the challenges & solutions as she sees them.

10:30–12:00  DR. JENNIFER TSURUDA (see bio sidebar to the right)
             Foraging Behavior and Associations with Reproductive Physiology
             Dr. Tsuruda will help us better understand the how, what, when and where of bee foraging which will help us better understand the processes and choices bees make in their foraging behavior which we can then use to help bees with our plant choices and hive placement.

12:00-1:00 Lunch (Register for lunch using the form on page 4, or bring your own)

1:00–2:15  DR. JUDY CHEN
           The Association Between the Parasitic Mite Varroa Destructor and the Deformed Wing Virus Causes Deadly Disease in Honey Bees
           Dr. Chen will focus in on the interrelationship of the varroa mite and the deformed wing virus that she discovered in her newest research and published paper with Jay Evans, which I found fascinating, about 4 mutations of deformed wing virus.

2:15–3:30  DR. JENNIFER TSURUDA
           Creating a Pollinator Paradise for Honey Bees
           Dr. Tsuruda will follow up on her first talk and present a plan to develop a pollinator paradise where bees can acquire a good balance of nectar and pollen to fulfill their nutritional needs. Whether it bee in your own yard, surrounding meadows and fields, along roadsides and medians or in entire communities, she will give us a game plan backed by her expertise and research.

3:30   Closing and Raffle

Meet our Guest Speakers:

Dr. Yanping (Judy) Chen is a Research Scientist at the USDA Bee Research Lab (BRL) in Beltsville, MD. Judy received her B.A. from Hunan Agriculture Univ., PR. China, her M.S. from Brigham Young Univ., and her Ph.D. from Texas A&M Univ. After completing her postdoctoral research at the Univ. of Maryland Medical School, National Institutes of Health, USDA-ARS Insect Biocontrol Laboratory, she joined the USDA BRL in 2002. Her current research includes investigation of the epidemiology, transmission and pathogenesis of honey bee viruses and the microsporidian Nosema, development of in vivo and in vitro systems for honey bee virus and Nosema propagation, identification of new emerging viruses in honeybees, characterization of the genomic structures of viruses and Nosema, and development of novel therapeutics for the treatment of honey bee diseases.

Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda joined the Univ. of Tennessee’s Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology in Feb. 2019 as an Asst. Professor and Apiculture Extension Specialist, with interests in bee health and management. Prior to joining UT, she was the Apiculture Specialist at Clemson Univ., a postdoctoral researcher at Purdue Univ. in Dr. Greg Hunt’s lab, and received her Ph.D. at UC Davis under the advisement of Dr. Robert Page. She has worked on associations between foraging behavior, sensory responsiveness, and reproductive physiology in honey bees, as well as breeding for and genetically mapping behavioral resistance against parasitic Varroa mites. In her current position at UT, Jennifer supports the beekeeping industry through the Master Beekeeping Program, field days and other Extension programming for stakeholders and agents, while also researching ways to improve honey bee health through beekeeper management decisions and foraging resources.

Learn more about this event on page 4 of this newsletter:
Conference Speakers

• **Ernesto Guzman**, Professor and Head of the Honey Bee Research Centre, University of Guelph, ON
• **Sue Cobey**, New World Carniolan Breeding Program, WA
• **Samuel Ramsey**, USDA-ARS, Bee Research Laboratory, Beltsville, MD
• **Cindy Bee**, Master Beekeeper, Certified Educator for the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective, WV
• **Sam Abban**, USDA-ARS, Bee Research Laboratory, Beltsville, MD
  • **Phil Craft**, Veto-pharma, ABJ contributor
  • **Jennifer Lund**, State Apiarist, Maine
  • **Kim Skrym**, State Apiarist, Massachusetts
• **Andrea Nurse**, Paleocoeology Research Associate, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine, Orono
• **Eric Venturini**, Pollinator Conservationist, Xerces Society & NRCS
• **Tucka Saville** • **Michael Young, MBE** •
• **Tom Seeley** • **Maggie Wachter** • and many more!

Short Course Tracks

Beginner • Intermediate • Advanced
Beyond Honey • Microscopy • Queen Rearing

Workshops

Pollen ID • Beeswax • Photography • Mead Making
Cooking with Honey • Recipe-to-Market • and more!

Kids & Bees Children’s Program
with **Sarah Red Laird**, “Bee Girl”

Special Events

Lobster Bake & Picnic • Story Concert
Field Trips to Swan’s Honey & Humble Abodes

Master Beekeeper Certification

Author Book Signings • Honey Show
Honey Exchange
Live & Silent Auctions • Open Hive Demos
and much more!

www.mainetourism.com

www.easternapiculture.org
2020 Honey Bee Education Days at State Apiaries

Join State the MDAR Apiary Program Bee Team to get a tour of live working honey bee colonies, hands-on demonstrations of hive management techniques, and exposure to the latest knowledge on how to best sustain healthy honey bee colonies. These events are free and open to the public, but focus on beekeepers. Registration is not necessary to attend. Participants must bring protective clothing as it will not be provided and is required to enter an apiary. The same program will be offered from 10am-noon on each date at both apiary locations, unless indicated otherwise. Alternate dates will be provided in the event of inclement weather.

For more information visit: https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mdar-state-apiaries.

MDAR State Apiary Locations

UMass Agricultural Learning Center (ALC) Farm
911 North Pleasant St
Amherst, MA 01002

Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School (Essex Aggie)
565 Maples St
Danvers, MA 01937

April 11th
Winter Evaluation

May 9th
Spring Management

May 16th
Queen Workshop I
[Amherst location only!]

May 23rd
Queen Workshop II
[Amherst location only!]

June 20th
Summer Management

July 11th
Pests, Parasites, & Pathogens

August 8th
Fall Management I

August 22nd
Honey Extraction
[10am-2pm, Danvers location only!]

September 12th
Fall Management II

October 10th
Winter Prep
Barker’s Beehive’s & Supplies
Stay Local, Support Local, Buy Local
Visit my Online Store
www.barkersbeehives.com
Email: barkersbeehives@gmail.com
(508) 797-7412 - Text or Call - Todd
http://facebook.com/oxfordfarms

We sell everything a beekeeper needs!
  Full Hives Setups
  Hive Kits & Starter Kits
  All Woodenware
    Frames
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    Feeders
  Protective Clothing & Gear
  Hive Tools
  Pollen Patties w/real protein
  Honey Jars
  Bee packages, Queens
  Medications & Treatments
  Onsite mentoring
  And more

You name it! I can build it!
I’m not only a Craftsman, also a Beekeeper
All wood is from a local mill
All Pricing is less than or Competitive
All Woodenware Nailed & Glued by hand
  no Nail Guns

Interested in beekeeping as your full time job?
The Best Bees Company is looking to hire experienced beekeepers to join our team in our mission to improve pollinator health.

Apply for a job or internship at bestbees.com/jobs

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@bestbees
Visit our fully stocked store in Lincoln, Rhode Island or visit our online store at:

www.WoodsBees.com
401-305-2355
info@woodsbees.com

Package Bees & Nucs 2019
We have three delivery dates for packages this spring. Multiple pick-up locations and delivery available for convenience!

5 Frame Nucs available in deep frame and medium frame options. Pick-up expected late May!

Hive Starter Kits
Assembled & unassembled complete hive kits available for new beekeepers and beekeepers adding a hive!

We also have:
Woodenware, frames, hive components & accessories, hive tools, extracting & bottling equipment, wide selection of protective gear, & much more!

Our store is run by experienced beekeepers who are ready to answer any questions you may have.
Come visit us today!

Franklin Honey Company, Inc.
BUY LOCAL
Custom Built Hive Equipment
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franklinhoney3@gmail.com

Custom Hive stand and Screened Bottom 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).