

the Norfolk Bee

OCTOBER 2021 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NEXT CLUB MEETING

OCT 4, 2021

7:30 to 9:00 pm

Hosted via Zoom Meeting

An email will be sent with a meeting invite. This will include a meeting ID # and a password.

In advance of the meeting, please download and install the free Zoom app to your computer, phone or tablet. If this is new technology for you, perhaps you can do a test meeting with a friend.

<https://vimeo.com/616977404>



Dear Fellow BEEkeepers,

Hope that everyone is doing well. The days are cooling off and so are the nights. It's time to really start the final stages of winter prep. All honey supers should be off at this point. Make sure your bees have a enough storied honey. You want to take off any feeding by the middle to later part of October to make sure they have time to cap everything. You want to make sure all your formic acid treatments are done. You will still be able to use OAV until November if you wish. Start thinking about whether to insulate or not. I've been all over the board with this one and this year I think am either going without or just tar paper. My hives all seem strong and honey and pollen stores are good. A good strong hive will do fine in the winter if there are enough bees and enough food. I will be putting on extra shims for feeding and homosote boards. All MOUSE GUARDS should be on by now. If not, make sure you check to see if any little mices have gotten into your hive. Also making sure that all the hives are secure and have solid footing on the ground. When the ground starts to freeze and then thaw it can disrupt the ground beneath your hives. Also start thinking about getting your candy boards or fondant ready as well. Before you know it December will be here. Some of you may want to get the thermal cameras to help with locating clusters in the hive. Those make a great gift for beekeepers. Also, you will want to make sure all your honey supers are stored properly for the winter and any brood frames as well.

I have included in this month's newsletter a snapshot of our financial status as of June 30, 2021 as that is the end of our fiscal year. Please let me know if you have any questions. I have also included this month a list of members and the year they joined.

As many of you know, due to Covid, we are not meeting in person for October and November. We are in the process of decide what to do for December. There will be a survey going out shortly, so please look for that. Hopefully we can all get together in December. I so do look forward to seeing everyone again.

Fondly,

Tony Lulik

Norfolk County Beekeepers Association Operating Statement 07/01/20 to 06/30/21

INCOME	
Intermediate Bee School	\$ 13,175.00
Introduction to Bee School	\$ 6,335.00
Donation to NCBA	\$ 450.00
Apparel/Bee Signs	\$ 110.00
Membership Dues	\$ 9,725.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 29,795.00

EXPENSES	
Intermediate Bee School Expenses	\$ 2,765.00
Introudction to Bee School Expenses	\$ 2,389.90
Club Equipment	\$ 1,047.17
Club Functions	\$ 2,756.63
Office Supplies	\$ 76.02
On-Line Sales Fee	\$ 738.26
Postage and Delivery	\$ 42.45
Regulatory Reporting	\$ 13.00
Scholarships	\$ 3,000.00
Software & website	\$ 1,750.38
Monthly Meeting Speaker Fees	\$ 1,150.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 15,728.81

NET INCOME	\$ 14,066.19
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News from the Landing Board

NCBA BOARD MEMBERS

2020-2022:

PRESIDENT

Tony Lulek

VICE PRESIDENT

Dana Wilson

TREASURER

Stephen Green

RECORDING SECRETARY

Edward Rock

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Kevin Keane

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Carin Cohen, Joel Richards,
and Jenna Tibbetts

NCBA BEE SCHOOLS:

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Tony Lulek

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Dana Wilson

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

DIRECTOR

Ed Szymanski

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Marian Szymanski

NCBA TECH GURU

Greg Rushton

APPAREL

Lauralyn Smith

DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE

Kathy Varney

HOSPITALITY

Rose Thornton and Carin Cohen

EXTRACTORS

Brianda Younie

MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE

Rose Thornton

Deb Spielman

LIBRARIAN

Janice & Mike Barczys

PROGRAMS

Ed and Marian Szymanski

The October 4th Meeting Agenda

David Saleh MA State Apiary Inspector (for the Cape and Islands) will be the speaker. Be sure to join in! The activities we do now will help keep our bees healthy and happy from October through March.



A look ahead... Future Meeting Agendas

October 6th: Intermediate Bee School. Last class will be Q&A forum

November: Ang Roell from They Keep Bees Apiary in Montague, MA

December We hope to have a year-end holiday party in person, provided Covid protocols will allow us to do so safely. The Board is looking into a larger, better ventilated venue. *Masks will be required.* The December meeting is different from other monthly meetings in that there is no speaker; fellow beekeepers sell and promote their bee wares, *and masks will be required.* The potluck dinner component will, of course, have to be replaced with an individual boxed meal option, but there will be plenty of door prizes, *and masks will be required.* There will be a survey sent out to members polling them whether to have the December meeting in-person or virtual.

Best Job in the Beekeeping World is Available

The board is seeking a member to take over the **Door Prize/Raffle Chair**. After 14 years of having fun, spending other people's money and giving away fabulous prizes and items, Kathy Varney is stepping down. Wouldn't you love to have that volunteer job? Contact Tony with questions or interest.

A cautionary tale about the NCBA Extractors

In mid-September a member returned an extractor that had honey in it. Unsurprisingly for people who know bees (all of us), this created a robbing frenzy at the door where it was left. It could also have spread AFB/EFB to the next apiary using the extractor, or to the bees robbing the honey.

It is unacceptable to leave honey in a club extractor. Club policy is to return the extractors clean and ready for next use.





More News from the Landing Board

Thank you 5, 10, and 15 Year Members

The NCBA board is happy to announce that they will be recognizing those members who had their 5th, 10th, and 15th year anniversary in 2021. This recognition will occur in December. It is because of members like you that make the club strong bringing a wealth of information and expertise to the club.

Renew your membership!



Can you imagine *not* being a member of NCBA? Perish the thought!

Happily, renewing your NCBA membership has never been easier. Simply go to our [website](#) and renew online. Membership runs from January to December.

Bee School is Coming

Enrollment is now open for Bee School 2022, and already more than a quarter of the seats are taken. It is still under discussion if classes will be all via zoom, in person, or a combination of the two. All classes will take place on Tuesdays. If you know a wanna-bee beekeeper let them know that they ought to sign up soon. Class dates for 2022 are: January 25; February 1, 8, and 15; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5.

Beekeeping 2021 – What a year (*and there's a little more left to go*)

Well, another beekeeping season is winding down. It was an exciting year for many people. There were reports of record honey yields early on, then the rains came and the bees couldn't get out. However, that rainfall seems to have produced some fall honey for the first year in many years.

Swarms were early and frequent this year because of the warm winter and mild spring. Nectar flows were big, and the colonies grew accordingly. Early packages had growth issues because of spring rains, but they caught up quickly. Hives needed to be inspected early and often for swarm control. Food supplies in the hives vary through the year, it's hard to predict, you need to observe. The lesson here is that bees always keep

you on your toes. You can't keep bees by the calendar; you have to do it by observing, inspecting, and "thinking like a bee". In order to be successful, a beekeeper must anticipate what's coming by observing and analyzing hive conditions and bee behavior. I think it's a lot more fun when you pay close attention to your bees and really get to know each colony. But you'll never have it 100% figured out. It never gets boring...

We met one of our biggest goals this year – increasing the operation without buying any bees. We in fact sold 4 nucs, while increasing our hive numbers. That's a good feeling. Honey production was our best ever by far. Now, there may be aggressive robbing going on if food stores are low and

feeders are on. Feeding may be needed now, but we need to be careful about having containers of syrup in the bee yard. It's best to act fast when filling feeders or swapping jars. Don't leave wet supers and extractors out in the open, you'll draw a frenzy.

Mite counts were all over the place this year. We did alcohol wash mite checks in June and July and got low numbers, from zero to two mites in 300 bees. Many other people reported similar results. Some people then noticed a sudden rise – we did alcohol washes in August got a counts of 20 on the first hive, so we treated them all with Formic Pro. When it comes to mites and viruses, think of your whole apiary as a superorganism.

(Continued on page 8)



Board Meeting Minutes 9/27/21

The Board of Directors Meeting is the third Monday of each month.

It's held at 7:00pm via a Zoom Video Meeting.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

NCBA BOARD MEETING

SEPT 27, 2021
7:30 to 8:30 pm

Attending:
Tony Lulek
Dana Wilson
Ed Szymanski
Stephan Greene
Ed Rock
Joel Richards
Kevin Keane
Greg Rushton
Kathy Varney
Rose Thornton
Janice Barczys
Brianda Younie

President's Update – Tony L

- Old & New Business
 - Minutes from previous meeting accepted
 - New scholarships for the 2023 Cornell Master Beekeeper program
 - Kathy Hamleka shared:
- Old Binders (historical material) old records – president holds the material
- Club as refractometer (older 3-5 years old) – should we add it to the lending program?
 - Kevin Keane – New Idea - Queen Program 2.0 – establish a late season split program throughout the club – pull a committee together to discuss (NUC sustainability program)
 - Kevin Keane - No breeders have requested payment yet.
 - Kevin Keane – Manhattan Bee Club in NY Times – good article – raises interesting questions about native species and sustainability

Vice President's Update – Dana

- Nothing new.

Treasurer Update – Stephen

- Bank balance \$37,441 as of 9/27/2021
- Three financial reports accepted.

Recording Secretary: Minutes – Ed R

- Nothing new

Corresponding Secretary – Kevin Keane

- Try to get the newsletter a week prior to Club Meetings

Committees:

- Programs – Ed S and Marion
 - Monday October 4th Club Meeting (ZOOM Meeting)
- David Saleh – MA State Apiary

Inspector (the Cape) will be the speaker

- Angela Rowe – November meeting
- Considering Bumble Bee session this winter
- Revisit for December meeting and shoot for it to be in-person – Shoot for a large venue (training arena at the Aggie)? Only the December meeting is being consider as “in person”. We’ll survey membership to see how people feel about an in-person meeting at this juncture – December 6th, 2021.
- Interest attending in-person Holiday meeting?
- How should we handle refreshments / food?
- Alternative is Zoom meeting with BIG holiday door prizes?
- Masks required for in-person – to attend.
- Intro to Bee School – Tony
 - Registration - 24 sign-ups so far
- With online registration form (no physical form this year – note – if unable to fill-out online form – we can provide a physical form)
 - Starts up January 25th, 2022 (Tuesdays) – 10 Classes
- Intermediate Bee School – Ed & Marion (FYI – First Class in 2021 starting in March – Zoom-Based)
 - September 22nd – Last Class for year

DID YOU KNOW?....

Tony Lulek planned on 3 hives but ended up with 13.

Kathy Varney has 22 hives.



(Board meeting minutes, continued)

- October 6th Q&A session
- Will probably opening Intermediate School registration at the end of December and start classes in March 2022
- **Extractors** – Brianda
 - Was an issue with a member leaving an extractor honey covered...and the bees were robbing it.
 - Note that extractors that are borrowed should ALWAYS be returned in a clean and working fashion.
 - We also need to find a new location to house the extractors due to this event.
- **Library** – Janice & Mike
 - Low library use in August – bringing it back book sharing in September / October
- **Door Prizes** – Lauralyn, Kathy & Greg
 - Kathy is passing the torch – so we need a new club volunteer to do the door prizes.
 - Place big notice in newsletter
- **Website** – Greg
 - Will share website statistics:
 - New Charge for maintaining our e-mail address
 - Looking at Google Work Space – they may have a non-profit version – look at switching to that version
- **Membership – Facebook – Google Groups** - Rose & Deb
 - 634 active members
 - Retention for NCBA membership info.
- Longest members have been with NCBA from 1982
- More detail to follow
 - Add blurb in Newsletter about renewing your membership (from Rose and Dana) – geographically spread out
- **Bee Apparel** - Lauralyn
 - Nothing New
- **Calendar Committee** – Jenna Tibbetts
 - Nothing New – updating in newsletter
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

About that NCBA website...

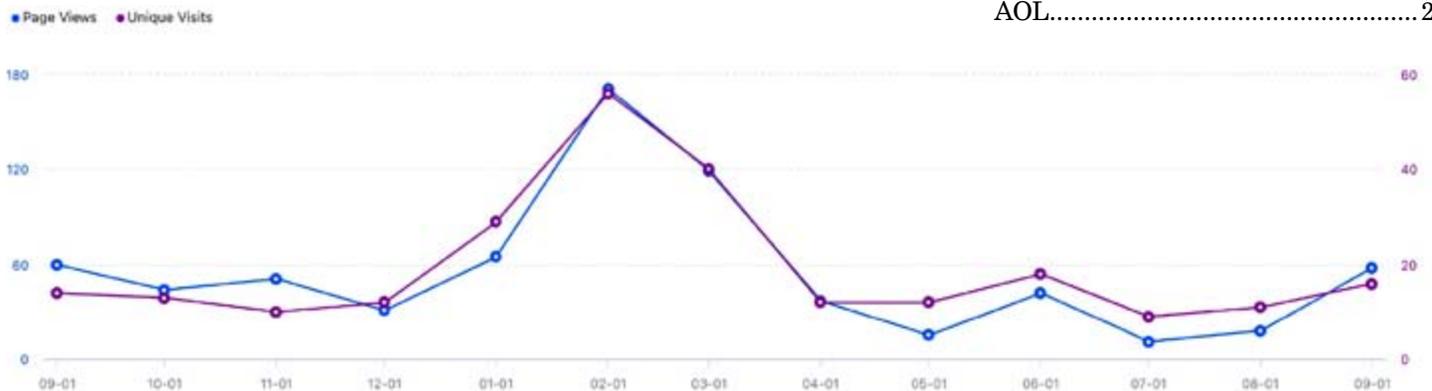
Thanks to NCBA Tech Guru, Greg Rushton, we have data on the activity of the NCBA website over the last year. The activity on the site mirrors the ebb and flow of the hive cycle, but with a big spike of interest in Beginner Bee School and Intermediate Bee School.

Over the last year:

Page vists	17,073
Unique visits.....	6,531
Online sales	577
Total sales value.....	\$20,025.00
Average order value.....	\$34.71

Referrals:

Google.....	132
Plymouth County Beekeepers.	31
Facebook.....	6
DuckDuckGo	5
Google UK.....	4
BeeCulture.com.....	3
SwelllesleyReport.....	2
Lappes Bee Supply	2
AOL.....	2





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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!

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All Pricing is less than or Competitive

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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).



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(Continued from page 3)

If one hive has a mite and virus problem, it will spread through the apiary as bees drift into other hives. This is especially true for a collapsing hive - the sick bees leave and find their way into other hives. An early September count, two weeks after the treatment ended, we got counts of 9 and 12 on the first two hives. We then treated all with Hopguard 3. Counts last weekend were 3 to 4. Finally under control, a late treatment will clean that up going into winter. Observe and react.

There's still a lot to think about and do this time of year. Keep feeding, weigh your hives, make sure they have enough food for the winter. Arrange the colony such that the bees are in the bottom of the hive and the food is on top. Mouse guards and robbing protection should be on now. Screen inner cover notches and ventilation holes. Put a shim on top of your top brood box for feeding with sugar patties/fondant. Think about adding ratchet straps if you don't have them already. Ours are on year-round. Do one more mite count and do a late treatment if needed. There are more options now with less brood and no honey supers to worry about. I will do an Oxalic Acid dribble mid-November on a 45 degree day. Remember - Healthy Winter Bees!

One more thing - When putting on escape boards in preparation for removing honey supers (or if you're removing the supers by other methods), make sure the queen is not in the super. I got a call from beekeeper a few weeks ago who had pulled supers and then found a queen in one. It happened to me just today - I checked the supers before putting escape boards on, and found brood. A queen was located and moved back to the hive. They do get through excluders. I don't know if they can negotiate escape boards, and I don't want to find out.

Best of luck over the winter.

- Ed Szymanski

You've come to the end of October newsletter, and the Door Prize/Raffle Chair is *still* available!

As mentioned on page 2, a once-in-every-14-years opportunity has opened up! The board is seeking a member to take over the **Door Prize/Raffle Chair**. Wouldn't you love to have this volunteer job? Contact Tony with questions or interest!