

# The Norfolk Bee

April 2024 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

APRIL 1ST, 2024  
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

In Person at the Aggie and  
via ZOOM

Spring Hive Management

Norfolk Agricultural High  
Conference Room

400 Main Street  
Walpole, MA

See the  
“Help Wanted”  
Notice on page  
3 of this month’s  
Newsletter  
and consider  
volunteering with  
NCBA



Crocuses are up but wild temp swings and rain mean extra attention is needed for your hives.

Dear Beekeepers,

I will be honored again to serve as president for the next 2 years, if that is the outcome of the May meeting (Please see slate of officers below). I’m working on some changes, updates and additions to several areas of the club which I will share at the May meeting. This club is only as good as its members, the ideas we all come up with, and the people that serve. WE NEED YOU!

Please see the help wanted ad in this April Newsletter There is plenty of room to help, to bring new ideas, and fresh perspectives.

I can promise the next two years will be filled with more great education, fun programs, and more chances to get together in person (not just club meetings).

This is an important time in beekeeping. As you all know, there is always something, from colony collapse in the early 2000’s to the vast problems with varroa mites today, trying to create a beekeeper culture of sustainability, and now, having the overall health of our bees being threatened by an increased incidence of AFB in MA. These are all important issues and I have some ideas about what we can do, but it will require the work of all of us together.

Your’s for 20 years in beekeeping,

*Tony Lulik*  
(The Bee Man)

## Varroa Mites and Treatments NCBA Meeting April 1, 2024



### At the Aggie & on Zoom

Nope-those insidious Varroa Mites aren’t just an April Fool’s Day prank. They are an existential threat to all of our bee hives in Norfolk County.

Join Mike Garvey, EAS Master Beekeeper April 1st at 7PM with all of your questions about Varroa Mites, Optimal Testing Techniques, Treatment Options, Efficacy of Non-Traditional Treatments, and Optimal Treatment Protocols. [Zoom Link to come via e-mail](#)



# Tidbits from the WCBA Spring Conference in March, 2024

## NCBA BOARD MEMBERS 2022-2024

**PRESIDENT**  
Tony Lulek

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Mohamad Khalil

**TREASURER**  
Brian McCafferty

**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
Edward Rock

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**  
Edward Rock

**MEMBERS AT LARGE**  
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**  
MaryBeth Noonan and Maureen Harrington

**DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE**  
Kara Sullivan

**EXTRACTORS**  
Brianda Younie

**MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE**  
Dana Wilson  
Deb Spielman

**LIBRARIAN**  
Michael Simone

**PROGRAMS**  
Ed and Marian Szymanski

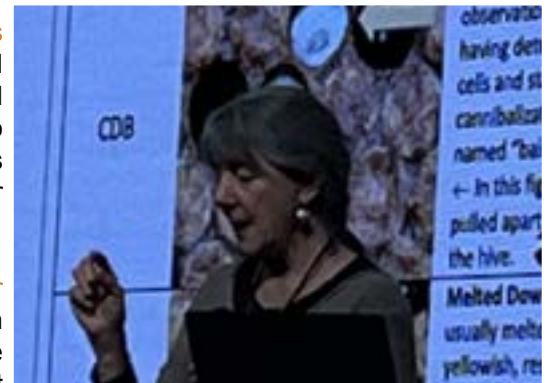
**SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS**  
Lara Davis

WCBA had a great crowd of over 400 folks enjoying Dr. Tom Seeley and Dr. Marla Spivak share their latest honeybee research.

A couple of sound bites were:

Spivak—**Propolis in a Tree Cavity Hive vs. Langstroth Hive**—she’s found that if the whole hive’s interior (propolis envelope) is propolized (not just the gaps) the massive propolis coverage provides a significant immune benefit—significantly less disease.

Spivak—**developing VSH Queens & Optimizing Genetics**—Most VSH bees are using odor from diseased pupae to identify which pupae to remove from the hive. She tests and treats for mites even in her strong VSH colonies



Seeley—**Optimizing Nectar/Water /Pollen**—Forager bees have an amazing ability to communicate through their waggle dance not only direction and distance to a nectar or pollen source, but the quality of that source. The more intensely and frequently they dance the waggle dance the better the resource is!

Seeley—**5 Amazing Bee-Haviors**

#1 Bees can provide very specific directions to important places to their hive mates; direction, distance, and quality of the resource.

#2 Foragers can call for help unloading nectar with a tremble dance - to optimize their time foraging - getting into and out of the hive asap.



#3 Through “Shaking Syndrome” a forager can “activate” more forager bees to get the heck out into the field to a really good nectar source.

#4 Bees struggle to groom the top of their thoraxes (can’t reach it) so they’ll throw their whole body left and right to “tell” another hive mate to groom their back.

#5 Bees have an amazing capacity for registering CO2 levels in the hive and can quickly go to the entrance and fan 1.5 quarts of air per second to quickly ventilate the hive.

Check in with Ed Rock, Mike Passmore, Alla Ostrovsky, or the Wetlands Apiary folks for more...

# Help Wanted

## The Club Needs Your Help!

The following positions are open for the next NCBA Board term July 2024 to June 2026. Volunteering for one of these positions is a great way to:

get involved with the club...meet folks who like bees...assure your voice is heard...make NCBA awesome!



### Committee Positions Available

- NCBA Bee Apparel - 1 or 2 People to support our MERCH “NCBA shirts, hats...”
- Calendar Committee - 1 person to own our online NCBA calendar of events
- Extractors (1 person) to coordinate scheduling of our club’s extractors
- Board Member-at-large (up to 4 positions voted on at the May meeting) that will serve as board members.

If you are interested in any of these positions or would like more information about any of the activities—contact me directly, Thanks, Tony (email at [tony@littlebeehivefarm.com](mailto:tony@littlebeehivefarm.com))

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

**MARCH 18, 2024**  
7:00-8:21PM.

Attending:

- Tony Lulek
- Greg Rushton
- Brianda Younie
- Mohamad Khalil
- Mike Simone
- Brian McCafferty
- J.J. Jett
- Roger Q. Hill
- Dana Wilson
- Alla Ostrovsky
- Jenna Tibbits
- Kara Sullivan
- Paul Reilly

#### President’s Update—Tony L

- Accepted minutes from the February meeting
- Noted that there were new prospective Master Beekeeper candidates from the club

#### Vice President’s Update—Mo K.

- Gave legislative update on bill number S-445 and now it’s at the Senate’s Ways and Means Committees.

#### Treasurer Update—(Brian McCafferty)

- Bank balance \$40,729.76 as of March 18, 2024
- Brian continues to update Quicken to correct labels for line items and reflect only the current fiscal year in reports
- Discussed income/bee school expenses
- Club is earning \$120/mo on CDs
- Temporary negative income item due to bee school refunds
- Dana inquired about soapmaking class expenses

- Tony would like to review FY23 numbers

#### Recording Secretary: Minutes—Ed R

- Discussion as to how to count a quorum at May meeting for Director and Officer voting. Decision was made to allow cumulative numbers of in-person and Zoom attendees

#### Corresponding Secretary—Ed Rock

- All articles and notes to Ed Rock by end of day 3/22/24

#### Committees:

##### Programs—Ed S.

- Upcoming
- April—Mike Garvey, Cornell Master Beekeeper—Varroa mites and treatment
- May—Peter Frykman, Cornell Master Beekeeper—This is a presentation about the impact of insulation vs. ventilation in beehives. This talk would focus on the work by Bill Hesbach and Derek Mitchell. It’s important for beeks to have at least

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(continued from page 3)

passing knowledge about these issues. The condensing vs. non-condensing hives topic has gotten a lot of attention lately and is not usually part of most intro beekeeping programs.

- The June meeting will be an outdoor event of some kind.

**•NCBA Intro to Bee School—Tony and Dana**

- Meet the mentors day will be on March 26

**• Intermediate Bee School—Tony**

- Update
- 36 students this year, which is slightly down from last year

**Extractors—Brianda Y**

- Noted that two extractors had been moved to a new home in Wrentham for greater accessibility around the county for club members

**Library—Michael Simone**

- No update

**Door Prizes—Kara S**

- Door prizes to remain the same at \$40, but will only be available a “big” meetings going forward, so no prizes at April or June meetings

**Website—Greg**

- Working on updating domain search engine optimization

- Trying to find a host for videos of previous meetings on the website -looking at Vimeo and Weebly

**Membership/Facebook/Google Groups—Dana**

- Dana noted 2-4 new members since February

**Bee Apparel**

- Tony recommended creating a bee apparel committee to explore how to handle NCBA apparel going forward

**Calendar Committee—Jenna Tibbetts**

- All updated through the end of June

**Nominating Committee**

- Recommended slate of officers is the same as the current slate of officers

**Scholarships and Grants—Lara Davis**

- Nothing new

**General Matters**

- Brian McCafferty formally proposed a Nuc program for the club, discussing options and challenges
- Recommended using the club’s Master Beekeepers to make up for deficiencies in coverage from MDAR

- Will survey potential participants
- Vote to start the program passed with 1 opposed and 2 abstentions
- Paul Reilly made recommendations for upcoming club meetings
- Lip balm making class
- How to use a solar wax melter demonstration
- Offered to run a survey re: overwintering results
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM



## Nominating Committee Slate of NCBA Officers

Every 2 years the NCBA nominating Committee develops a list of candidates for Board Officers from members who volunteer for those roles. The new term begins July 2024 and runs through July 2026.

There is also an opportunity to add up to 4 At-Large Board Members. The slate is presented at the April Club meeting and voted on at the May Club Meeting.

**This year’s slate of officer presented by the committee is:**

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| President:              | Tony Lulek       |
| Vice President          | Mohamad Khalil   |
| Treasurer               | Brian McCafferty |
| Corresponding Secretary | Edward Rock      |
| Secretary               | Mike Passmore    |

## NCBA Soap Making Class

If any of you were on the fence about taking this soap making class, I attended last week at Molly's Apothecary in Medway (163 main Street, Medway, MA) and would highly recommend it!

Ann Fisher talks you through everything you need to know and has everything ready and available to ensure you are successful with making your soap.



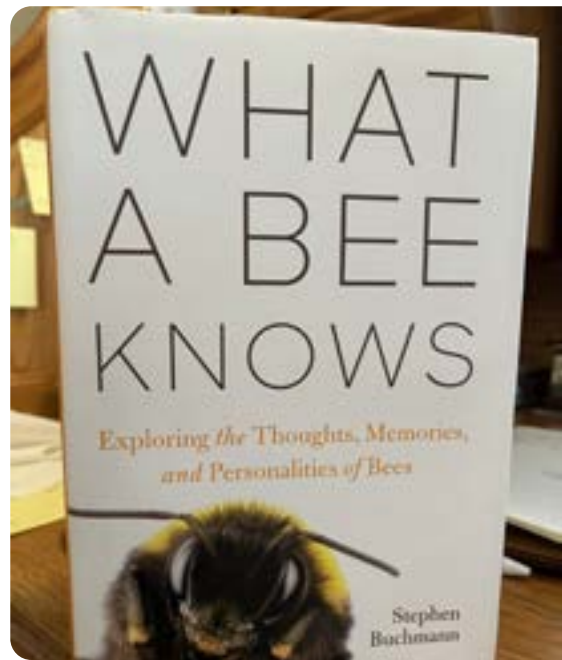
We didn't use beeswax in the soap but Ann has honey on hand that can be used as an additive and she teaches you the foundations of soap making that are transferable if you wanted to use beeswax (or other materials) in your recipe. On top of learning a lot about cold processed soap, it was just an enjoyable night out with good people!

[Click here to sign up for March 28th course \(there are a few spots still available\)](#). I hope those of you that did sign up have a great time!

Thanks for putting these together Tony! -  
A short testimonial from Lindsay McCarthy

## A Book Recommendation: What a Bee Knows - Exploring the Thoughts, Memories, and Personalities of Bees by Stephen Buchmann

...Only the eleven species of true honey bees make comb that is perfectly hexagonal. The average cell wall is .003 inches thick. The inner angles between the adjacent walls of the hexagonal cells are exactly 120 degrees. And the distance between adjacent parallel combs is .3-.4 inches (Bee Space).



Young bees, aged 12-18 days, have four paired wax-secreting glands underneath the last four segments of their abdomen. Each gland produces a tiny wax flake, about the size of a dandruff flake, for a total of about 8 flakes per bee per day. The bees make about 8,000 hexagonal comb cells out of .22 pounds of wax. That represents 125,000 individual wax scales. Honey is eaten by bees and metabolized to secrete wax. Each 2.2 pounds of honey eaten produced only 1.8 ounces of wax, roughly a 20:1 ratio...

**If you have a bee related interaction you'd like to share with the club make sure to let us know!**



# 2024 Nucs & Queens Available

**NortheastBees.com**

Archie Acevedo ■ Franklin Massachusetts

Nucs and Queens are our specialty. Nucs are the easiest way for beginners to establish new hives. We don't cut any corners.

The nucs that we sell you are the same as those that we produce for ourselves.

All of our nucs are Massachusetts raised and overwintered in our Medway, and Franklin bee yards. These are *not* southern-raised nucs. All queens have been reared from our overwintered northern stock and are better adapted to the New England climate. Each year our breeder stock is tested through a winter prior to grafting.

Our "nucs" are 5-frame mini-hives comprised of a marked queen, her daughters, pollen, nectar, and honey.



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- |                            |                               |
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