The Norfolk Bee

August 2026 • NORFOLKBEES.ORG

NCBA Meeting

The Next NCBA Meeting will in person at the Aggie September 14 @ 7PM

NCBA Board meeting August 17 7pm

Newsletter Contents

- President's Letter
- Mass Bee Save the Date 11/14
- Northeast Zoom meeting August 7
- No Board Meeting Minutes
- Pondville update

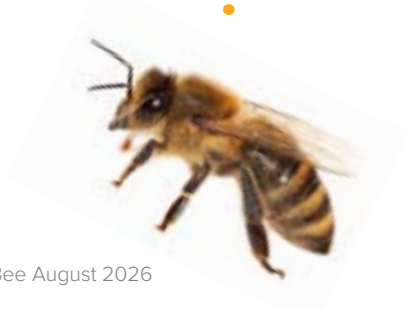
Midsummer Bees, not blues – a chance to look ahead and hone our skills. First, I wanted to take a moment and thank the many volunteers who serve our membership at so many levels – your contributions are the core of our community. NCBA's focuses on training and that will continue as we expand our programs. Another goal you will hear me talk about endlessly is sustainability. I would like to see a point where buying spring bees is an exception and not a rule. Varroa has been with us since 1987 and there are many treatments on the market to deal with this threat. Unfortunately, studies show that the majority or our winter losses are still attributed to Varroa destructor. The point is, no matter how much you feed, or insulate, if you do not have your mite levels under control in the coming months you will experience colony loss. The first step in any treatment is identifying the problem and unless you are testing on a regular basis you cannot identify problems.

However, sustainably goes beyond mite control. The three pillars of colony health are nutrition, disease control, and population management. Can the forage in your area sustain the number of bees that you have? Are you identifying and treating diseases? Finally, is the population enough to raise brood or it is so large that a swarm in imminent? Beyond health there is also planning and that means also planning for loss. If you lose 25% of your colonies every winter consider adding a resource colony or a NUC to overwinter in order to cover those projected losses. Preparing for overwintering should start now.

Knowledge – you can share it every day and never run out. Unfortunately, with climate change and new threats on the horizon, the old ways are not always the best ways. Beekeeping needs tend to be very regional, so great advice from a Texas beekeeper may be horrible advice for a Massachusetts beekeeper. Beekeeping is part art and part science, and new science and techniques are changing the way we should be managing our apiaries. This is what makes education so critical and why NCBA is so focused on education. We want our members to be successful. I would like to see colony survivability as a major goal for our membership. Honey bees should be the primary asset in our apiary and not a disposable commodity.

We plan to expand many areas of the club into committees to get more members involved. This will divide some of the tasks into bite-sized pieces for the folks that would love to be involved but also have busy family and professional commitments – stay tuned.

Warm regards,
Brian McCafferty
President, NCBA



Save the Date! November 14, 2026

NCBA Hosts Mass Bee Fall Meeting

For the second year in a row NCBA will be hosting Mass Bee. This year is at the Elks Lodge in Franklin, MA. It will be a full day of lectures, updates from state officials, honey judging, lunch and vendors. As hosts we will need lots of help to make this happen. Keep an eye out for volunteer signups soon here. and become a member @ Massbee.org

Northeast Lunch & Learn August 7

Follow the QR code to register.

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2026-2028

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Mike Passmore

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INTRODUCTORY BEE SCHOOL MENTOR

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Paul Reilly

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Mhamad Khalil & Mike Passmore

LEGISLATIVE & PESTICIDE
Mohamad Khalil & Michael Simone

AGRICULTURAL DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE
Alla Ostrovsky & Mike Passmores

NCBA has been working with the MA Department of Corrections on a beekeeping project at the Pondville facility

Here's an article on WBUR that you can use in the newsletter...Outside a Norfolk prison, a honey bee colony teaches patience and confidence | WBUR News

Note that many NCBA members have volunteered for this program;

- Susan Goldwitz donated an enormous amount of time, persisted through years and financed the pilot year herself to get the program approved.
- Carolyn Holmes, Brian McCafferty and I - delivered the classes, and Brian McCafferty modified our Bee School curriculum specifically for the Pondville Incarcerated Individuals.
- Kathleen Gasbarro, Dave Jolicour, Michael Simone, Megan Murphy, have joined in hive maintenence at Pondville, and many more NCBA members volunteered but we had to keep the numbers relatively low during this pilot year. Note that all volunteers at Pondville have to undergo a modest (2 day clearance) or detailed security check (for annual access) with the facility administration.
- Also, Archie Acevedo, NCBA member and Northeast Bees Queens donated a VERY viabrant hive.

In terms of hive status, there are three hives on the property for which I am coordinating care. All three hives are currently queen right, have mite counts below 2, and just contributed 22 frames of fully capped honey for harvest.

We'll be bringing the project to the NCBA Board in the coming months to decide whether we'd like to continue this project with MA Department of Corrections in future years.

-**Ed Rock**

Photos to share? Want to contribute an article? Feel free to send contributions to joejankovsky@yahoo.com Here's a photo from Maciej.

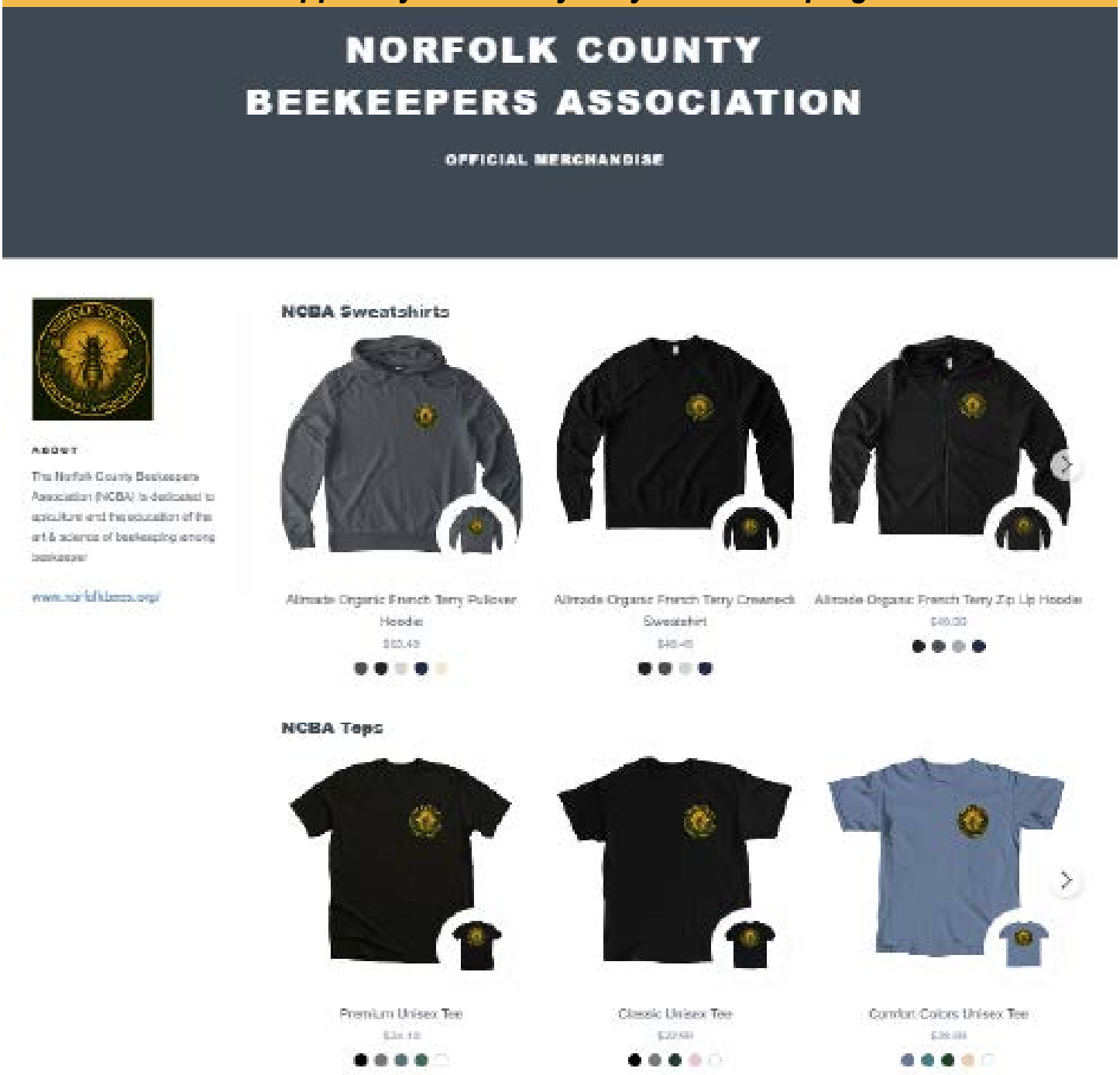
Mark was helping me yesterday with an inspection and the queen took a ride on his clothing between hives (a few hundred yards apart). Fortunately we noticed and walked her back. Here are the photos of her and the welcoming committee!

I thought this was pretty cool.

-Maciej

NCBA Apparel Store

Give a click here to check out the NEW and LIVE NCBA Apparel Store - it's all cool NCBA apparel you can buy for your beekeeping buddies.



From Hoodies to Fleece Zip-Ups, Water Bottles, cups and mugs, toddle wear and Ball-Caps - you'll be able to find something for every beekeeper in your "friend circle". Give a click here to check it out.

2026 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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Boston Honey Company Nucs

All our nucs are inspected by the state inspector and our nucs are **guaranteed** by us. Our Queen stock is grafted from Beeder Queens raised and selected by Mike Palmer of French Hill Apiaries.

Five frame Nuc with unmarked queen. Bee stock is a mix of Carniolan/Buckfast and (POL-LINE) Italian stock. Minimum of 3 frames sealed brood (avg. 4), all 5 frames drawn out. No frame exchanges.

Standard Pricing is : $220.00
All Club Members use code: "ClubDiscount"
Club Price 5 Frame Nuc: $210.00
Quantity Discounts are available for group purchases:

Buy 10+	**$15.00 OFF**
Buy 20+	**$20.00 OFF**
Buy 50+	**$25.00 OFF**

We also offer **BULK HONEY & BEESWAX** for those who are looking to supplement their honey crops if they had a short year. We have our Northeast wildflower honey available in 5 gallon buckets for only $270 at $4.50 per pound! Note - Discount for April - Bucket = $250. Beeswax is $7.75 per pound.

I'm more than happy to share more information about our bees, beekleeping practices, quick lessons on how to install a nuc, a package, and more.

Best,

Evan

Email: *evan@bostonhoneycompany.com*

WETLANDS APIARY

VSH Carniolan Queens and Spring Nucs

EACH TEACH OTHER QUEENS NUCS WORKSHOPS

WA

WETLANDSAPIARY.COM

Workshops

For details, please call (508) 587 - 2388

eMail: WetlandsApiary@gmail.com

Website: WetlandsApiary.com

We are located in the Brockton, Massachusetts area

Bee Keeping Online Resources

•***American Bee Journal*** - Beekeeping Resources, Research and Articles - https://americanbeejournal.com/

•***American Beekeeping Federation*** - Membership Organization with great resources and educational opportunities - https://abfnet.org/resources-for-beekeepers/

•***Auburn University Extension*** - Agriculture and Beekeeping related webinars and resources - https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/

•***At Home Beekeepers Series*** - Auburn University Extension Service - https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/bees-pollinators/at-home-beekeeping-series/

•***Bee Conservancy*** - Resources for beekeepers & supporting Pollinators - https://thebeeconservancy.org/10-ways-to-save-the-bees/

•***BeeCounted*** website accesses all the broodminder data (you don't need the sensors) rolling in so you can see nectar flow in your geography *https://beecounted.org/map*

•***BetterBee*** Beekeeping supply vendor with some nice "how to videos and resources- https://www.betterbee.com/instructions-and-resources/home.asp

•***Bee Informed Partnership*** Beekeeping Blog - https://beeinformed.org/blog

•***Cornell University Beekeeping Courses and Resources*** - https://ecornell.cornell.edu/certificates/beekeeping/

•***Dadant*** Beekeeping supply vendor with some nice "how to videos and resources- https://www.dadant.com/learn/

•***Eastern Apicultural Society*** - Membership organization for beekeepers in the Eastern United States - resources, education, conferences and research for beekeepers - https://easternapiculture.org/

•***Harbo Bee Company*** - A supplier of VSH Queens, this link is to their handbook on how to test queens for VSH traits - Click Here

•***Honeybee Health Coalition*** - resources and education for beekeepers - https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/focus-on-forage/

•***Honeybee Net -*** a great resource presented by NASA at the Goddard Space Flight Center website - https://honeybeenet.gsfc.nasa.gov/Honeybees.htm

•***Honey Bee Suite -*** a neat online resources of articles, blog posts and - https://www.honeybeesuite.com/

•***Mann Lake Blog*** news, information, and beekeeping techniques - many product related - https://www.mannlakeltd.com/blog/

•***Massachusetts Apiary Program***, hive inspections, information, support - https://www.mass.gov/apiary-program-honey-bees

•***Massachusetts Beekeepers Association*** - Resources and Programming for MA Beekeepers - NCBA is part of the state organization - https://www.massbee.org/

•***Norfolk County Beekeepers Association*** - https://www.norfolkbees.org/

•***North Carolina State University Apiculture Program*** - Resources, Educational Opportunities and Data to inform your beekeeping https://www.ncsuapiculture.net/

•***North Carolina State University Apiary Lab*** Beekeeping resources, videos, and more- https://www.ncsuapiculture.net/

•***Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center*** - Hosts monthly Zoom workshops on a variety of topics on pest management in beekeeping - https://www.northeastipm.org/ipm-in-action/the-ipm-toolbox/bee-breeding-and-ipm-for-better-pollinator-health/

•***PennState Extension*** - Beekeeper and Pollinator Resources - https://extension.psu.edu/insects-pests-and-diseases/pollinators/beekeeping

•***Planet Bee.org*** - Resources about pollinators, pollen providers, and bee friendly plantings - https://beescape.psu.edu

•***Pollinator.org*** is a resource for ecoregional planting guides for pollinators - https://www.pollinator.org/guides

•***Randy Oliver's Scientific Beekeeping*** website - research, resources, and data to inform better beekeeping - https://scientificbeekeeping.com/

•***Two Bees in a Podcast*** available anywhere you can subscribe to podcasts - it is free and very informative - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAQHmJyzKkpCKjAoFxcdmfENw0YpVEn8o

•***University of Massachusetts Bee Lab*** - Pollinator Resources - https://ag.umass.edu/resources/pollinators

•***University of Minnesota Bee Lab*** - featuring the work of Marla Spivak and others - data and research to inform your beekeeping - https://beelab.umn.edu/

•***USDA Bee Disease Diagnosis 60+ page PDF*** - https://www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/honeybeediseases/honeybeediseases.pdf

•***USDA Bee Disease Diagnosis Service*** - https://www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/beltsville-md-barc/beltsville-agricultural-research-center/bee-research-laboratory/docs/bee-disease-diagnosis-service/

•***USDA National Agricultural Library Apiculture and Beekeeping*** resources - https://www.nal.usda.gov/animal-health-and-welfare/beekeeping

•***Washington State University Honeybee and Pollinator Program*** - Resources and new research for beekeepers - https://bees.wsu.edu/