

The Norfolk Bee

December 2023 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NEXT CLUB MEETING

DECEMBER 4, 2023
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

In Person Only

Holiday Gifts / Food and Drink / Merry-making

Norfolk Agricultural High School Cafeteria

**400 Main Street
Walpole, MA**

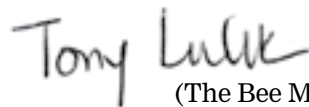
Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

The holiday season is upon us and soon the new year will be here. Always a time for reflection. Come this January, when bee school begins, I will be starting my 20th year of beekeeping. As I look back on the past 20 years, I am filled with nothing but gratitude. I have had quite a ride. From the many people I have met, been mentored by and mentor to, and to the friendships that I have been blessed to have, to all the positions on the board I have served on, it has been incredible. I have earned so much as a person and as a beekeeper.

I encourage you to get involved in the club in some way or another. There is always lots to be done. If you have an idea, bring it to the board. If you have an area of expertise that the club would benefit from, please step up and offer. As a board we work hard to bring you programs, ideas, scholarships, etc. We wouldn't have the queen program if it wasn't for a club member coming up with the idea. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me directly.

I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Yours in Beekeeping,


(The Bee Man)

Membership Dues

Hop onto the NCBA website and update & renew your membership right now!

It took me 1 minute 49.1 seconds

[Click here!](#)



Think about a final check and OA Vap or drip treatment before you tuck them in for winter.

NCBA Meeting December 4th

We'll be meeting at the Norfolk County Agricultural High School at 400 Main Street, Walpole, MA From 7-9 PM.

Note—we'll be in the cafeteria because we'll be having potluck, holiday food, and treats.

We're NOT zooming this meeting - its a time to physically get together for games, food and fun.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Aggie.

Don't forget to sign up to bring something:

[CLICK HERE](#)



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2022-2024**

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Edward Rock

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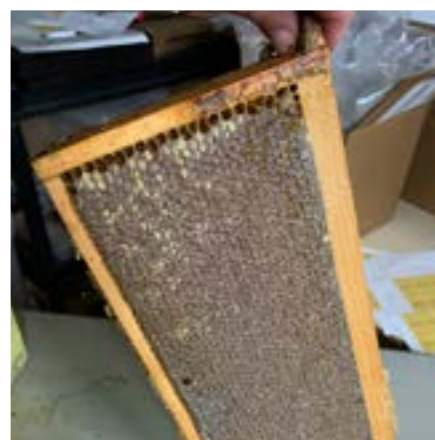
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Dana Wilson
Deb Spielman

LIBRARIAN
Michael Simone

PROGRAMS
Ed and Marian Szymanski

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS
Lara Davis



NCBA PROGRAM UPDATES

December 4th—Our holiday celebration. Vendors Barker's Beehives and The Photo Hive will have gifts for the beekeepers and nature lovers in your lives (and yourselves). We will taste members' honey and sample honey for moisture content. We'll have a show-and-tell of beekeepers' inventions. There's a potluck dinner, be sure to sign up to bring food to share.

Potluck signup link: [CLICK HERE](#)

January 8th—Paul Kelly from the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada will speak. Paul is perhaps best known for his talks on Single Brood Chamber Colony Management, but he has been working on breeding bees for Varroa resistance. He gave a great talk at the Fall Mass Bee meeting on the subject and I've asked him to do it for NCBA. This is a different approach from what Cory Stevens talked about last month.

February 5th—Mind Your Beeswax! Come learn about beeswax and candle making at a fun demonstration put on by Betterbee. Join Betterbee's Head Beekeeper, EAS-certified Master Beekeeper Anne Frey, for a night of beeswax whats, wheres, whys, and how-tos. See a live demonstration of candle making and unmolding, ask questions about how to get your bees to make wax and how to process it, and check out the one-night-only pop-up wax shop to buy wax, wicking, candle molds, and more. Betterbee will also bring pre orders if placed by February 2nd.

More to come! Ed Szymanski

**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

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Attending:

- **Tony L.**
- **Ed S.**
- **Kara S.**
- **Jenn J.**
- **Mike Simone**
- **Brian M.**
- **Roger Hill**
- **Deb S.**
- **Mohamad K.**
- **Dana W.**

NCBA Board Minutes

Meeting started at 7:10 p.m.

President: **Tony L.**)

- Recording Secretary (Ed R.) is away so asks Mo K. to write the meeting notes.
- Review meeting notes from last meeting and open for questions
- Brian makes motion to accept meeting notes from last time, Tony seconds.

V.P.: **Mohamad K.**

- Closed the 2 surveys for Nominations and awards have been ordered for December meeting.

Treasure Update: **Brian M.**

- Current checking account balance: \$19,387.81, additional monies in CDs.
- All accounts are in order. \$20,000.00 was moved to as CD's as approved by the Board at the October meeting. Ten Thousand was moved to a 12-month CD and Ten Thousand was moved to a 23-month CD (highest yield available). These are paying 4.9% APY.
- Mobile Deposits and Online Bill pay has been set up which allows Tony or Brian to deposit checks without driving to the bank. Checks will not be sent electronically making

it easier to share or transfer responsibilities due to illness.

- The annual Tax Return has been filed with the IRS.
- Outstanding – still need to file with the Secretary of the State with the change of Officers, Board, and Address.
- Changing Address to Brian's address since current address is no longer correct
- Reconciled the account by showing accounting correction for \$6,825.05
- Door prize costs are a concern and will need to be revisited after the End of Year membership numbers are finalized (~1/1/24).
- Dana motions to accept Treasurer's report & Roger seconds.

Newsletter Update:

- (Ed R. is away so Tony is handling the newsletter this month.)
- Alla O. and Mike P. wrote an article on EAS and submitted it to Tony.
- Ed S. will be submitting an article for the Newsletter soon.

(Continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

- Tony will be writing a Presidents Update.
- Looking for volunteers to help with Intro to Beekeeping classes.
- Advertise December meeting and potluck sign up.
- Add BetterBee flyer for member ordering. Free pickup at February meeting.

Programs: Ed S.

December Meeting:

- Vendors: only 1 signed up.
- Potluck style and Tony will send out sign-up sheet.
- Tony suggested Games: Honey samples/Honey tasting.
- Ed suggested bringing the club's refractometer (gray) which Tony has so members can test their honey.
- We will need supplies for around 50-60 attendees: Brian to purchase rectangular Table Clothes X 3, paper plates (large & dessert size), napkins, plastic cups and cocktail stirrers (preferably wooden for honey tasting).

January Meeting:

- Paul Kelly with University of Guelph, (Canada) will be talking about Breeding bees for Varroa Resistance via Zoom.
- February: BetterBee coming onsite for candle making class. They will

also bring any member online orders with them to avoid shipping charges and can be picked up at the February meeting.

Intro to Beekeeping: Tony & Dana

- 69 signed up.
- Looking for club members to volunteer to help with the Intro to Beekeeping Classes. Currently, Tony, Dana, Mo and Ed R are teaching/helping. Brian, Roger, Mike S. and JJ, are also interested in volunteering/helping. Mo to send out class schedule to them.

Intermediate Bee School: Ed S. & Marian S.

- Still early but registration opens in January.
- Cost will be fixed at \$50 for everyone.

Library: Mike S.

- Reached out and spoke with Bee Culture and American Bee Journal to get club discounts.
- Sell old books at December meeting.
- Mike will look come up with some suggestions for where to go with the Library for next board meeting.

Membership/Facebook/Google: Dana W. & Deb S.

- 299 renewed members
- 69 new beekeepers
- Deborah taking care of all Facebook correspondence

Website: Greg R.

- Need to upload latest newsletter
- Update Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter on About Us page

Calendar Committee: Jenna T. & Greg R.

- No new updates

Extractors: Brianda Y.

- Nothing new.

Scholarship Programs: Lara D.

- Nothing New.

Door Prize/Raffle: Kara S.

- No new updates

Other News

- Current Board term is about to end so we will need a New Board soon:
- Nominating Committee in February for April meeting, can have nominations from the floor.
- Committee submits their nominations at the April meeting only for the 5 Board positions.
- Should start promoting it in January newsletter.
- Vote occurs in May
- Tony/Ed will share NCBA's bylaws digitally to the Board Members.

Ed S. makes a motion to end the meeting and Tony seconds.

Meeting ended at 8:02 p.m.

WHAT DO YOU
CALL A BEE
HIVE WITH NO
EXITS?

UN-BEE-LIEVABLE



Stories for YOUR NCBA Newsletter

Each and every NCBA member has a great BEE story in them. It could something about a special treatment regime you use. It could be a funny anecdote.

A BIG THANK YOU to Mike Passmore and Alla Ostrovky for sharing their impressions of the Eastern Apiary Society Conference this past summer. Story on pages 5-8.

Send your stories to Ed Rock
(erock0616@gmail.com)



NCBA Member's Reflections on the EAS Conference 2023

by Mike Passmore and Alla Ostrovsky

How would you like to sit next to Dr. Tom Seeley and chat about the weather and bee-lining? Or discuss your current bee emergency with Kirk Webster and get his advice on a solution? Then meet, talk, and hang out with Dr. Samuel Ramsey, then have Dr. Sammy serenade your dinner? These one-on-ones were just some of the highlights of a week very well spent at EAS this past summer.

With one year of beekeeping under our belts we decided to take the plunge, cancelling our customary week of camping for a week at EAS. We are so glad we did and would highly recommend it to everyone. In addition to the five days of presentations there were EAS Master Beekeeper Exams, field trips to New England Apiaries, tourist areas, children's programs, honey and honey products judging, and the UMASS food service program (voted the best in the country).

We went for the full five days; that included two days of the Short Course and three days of the Conference. The Monday Short Course had tracks for Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, and Hive Products, with

Workshops for Bee Microscopy, Queen Rearing, Honey Show Judging. There were LIVE presentations at the EAS Apiary located right outside the venue which continued through the week. The real heavy hitters may come in for just the Conference, but the presenters and attendees at the Short Course were pretty awesome.

First day, first timeslot, I went to the Beginner presentation called "Fundamental Principles of Honey Bee Colony Management." When the presenter asked for a show of hands for experience level, I was amazed to discover that half the room had 10+ years of experience---and they're still showing up to learn more! My excitement level started high but shot up from there. The presenters during the Short Course were book authors, YouTube celebrities, academics, state regulators, and experienced beekeepers of every stripe, from commercial to backyard. We did not attend the

Microscopy and Queen Rearing Workshops because we thought they would be too advanced for us.

A few weeks later in our own backyard we realized how much we already knew but how much we could have benefitted from those workshops even this year. Next year we'll do more workshops for sure!

We quickly decided on a divide-and-conquer approach, but there were still more tracks than the two of us could cover. That first day we learned about "Feeding Through the Seasons" with David Burns and

"Early Signs of Trouble and What to Do About It" with Ed Carle. We learned about preventing and

initiating swarms, thermoregulation of hives, how to read frames, how to recover from laying workers, and of course something about record keeping--and this was just the first day!



The takeaway of this first day was from Erin Evans (MacGregor-Forbes) in her presentation called "Increasing Honey Production by Artificial Swarming." Her thesis was that a split's queenless box has more honey production because while they are raising a new queen there is no new brood to feed, therefore more time to forage. But what hit us between the eyes was her statement on hive management: "Denial is not a management strategy. Focus on developing your beekeeping skills, not 'silver bullets' or magical thinking." Wow! That changed our beekeeping forever.

As we all shuffled out the door at 5 o'clock there were a lot of glazed eyes on smiling faces. Dinner was on our own, but on-campus in the summer it seemed like every other person was a beekeeper. We were never alone for long. We stayed in the on-campus hotel. We could have stayed in quad dormitories for less money but decided to go with proximity to conference, yoga, zumba, running loop, and breakfast. We were not disappointed. The breakfast may have been pretty much the same every morning, but the speakers and attendees milling around the lobby every morning were an ever-changing

group of tired but excited beekeepers in their element--other beekeepers. Conversations led to contacts, led to friendships--and this was just breakfast!

The second day was even better because now we knew what to expect and were able to hit the ground running. Tracks on Tuesday included Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced-Business of Beekeeping. David Burns spoke about "Tips That Took Me a Decade to Master." Dr. Dewey Caron, a 50-year member of EAS, past president, and author of THE textbook for entomology students, spoke on "What Kills Bees." We also learned about maintaining disease-free hives, transforming from hobbyist to sideliner, managing small hive beetles, and "Educating the Next Generation of Beekeepers," a presentation by Dr. Cameron Jack. Deborah Klughers spoke on "Starting a Public Bait Hive Project," there was a Beginning Beekeeper Roundtable hosted by a panel of EAS Master Beekeepers, a baking class conducted by the UMass pastry chef, and several presentations and a Meet & Greet sponsored by Dr. Kim Skrym and MDAR. Speaking of MDAR, Paul Tessier conducted a special Photography Workshop at the State Apiary. What a day! And we're not even to the Conference yet.

Our personal takeaway today came from David Burns in his "Tips" presentation. To paraphrase David, "Be a citizen scientist!" He suggested keeping a small nuc for observation and experiments. That and a \$30 microscope and a notebook to record findings will put you on your way.

Dinner was at a variety of restaurants around town. In Amherst there is truly something for everyone, and being a relatively small town, we still met a lot of beekeepers as we strolled the sidewalks. Wednesday was the first day of the Conference, and it began with introductions and a keynote address by Dr. Tammy Horn Potter, a beekeeper, historian, and the Kentucky State Apiarist. Her address was titled "History of Bees in the U.S.," but there were plenty of takeaways for today's beekeepers. Then we went into our breakout sessions, which for today included topics such as Bee Health, Queens and Breeding/Rearing, and Apitherapy. This year's EAS theme was "Past, Present, and Beyond," so

there was a different track each day emphasizing those topics.

In the breakout sessions we learned about "Get Your Sting On" from Deborah Klughers, "The Russian Honey Bee" from Dan Conlon, and a double dose from Dr. Tom Seeley: "Colony Thirst" and "The Craft and Science of Bee Lining." There was also "Managing Varroa with OA" from Dr. Cameron Jack and "Raising New England Queens" from Leslie Huston, plus interesting presentations on old comb, drones, and a workshop where participants compounded their own healing ointments and wound dressings.

From where we sit and what we do everyday as beekeepers, the presentation that kept on giving was "Get Your Sting On!" by Deborah Klughers. Beestings as long-term prevention for anaphylactic shock gives us a lot to ruminate on even several months later.

One of the (un)foreseen highlights of the week was the Beekeeper Olympics just before dinner. There were contests open to all for smoker lighting, queen spotting, and the ever-popular drone spitting. Everyone had a lot of fun either watching or participating, and the standout group of the event, in matching shirts no less, was Bob Hickey and his merry band from Wetlands Apiary! Congratulations to all of you and thanks for the show. Dinner was a sit-down BBQ in the ballroom with entertainment by Marc Hoffman performing as Lorenzo Langstroth. Early to bed because by now we know how soon "class" starts in the morning and how alert we want to be. This is not like school—all of us want to be there every minute!

Thursday's keynote address was by Dr. Judy Wu-Smart, a professor and specialist at the University of Nebraska Bee Lab. She shared a personal story about her research encountering and trying to overcome Systemic Pesticide Pollution. Bottomline: it's frightening what can happen even with EPA protections. Our tracks for Thursday were Bee Health, Bee Behavior, and Queen Breeding/Rearing. In the afternoon there were repeat performances from the likes of Dr. Dewey Caron, Dr. David Peck, and Dr. Judy Wu-Smart. But then it was time for the rock stars. Dr. Tom Seeley led off with his workshop on Bee-Lining. We did not attend. At the time I didn't see the point of chasing bees through the woods;



it was not my idea of fun. I have since changed my mind and wish we had registered. But we did get to hear Kirk Webster talk about “20 Years of Commercial Beekeeping Without Treatment of Any Kind,” then “Evolution of Darwinian Beekeeping.” The day ended with Dr. Tom Seeley’s “Five Wondrous Behaviors of Honey Bees.” Small room, large crowd, and the perfect end to a perfect day.

On a day of heavy hitters and elevated conversations, what we remember most (besides receiving personal hive recommendations from Kirk Webster) was the presentation by Bob Binnie, a commercial beekeeper in Georgia. He convinced us of the merits of sugar syrup feeding, and his simple explanation was perfect: “Thin syrup in spring stimulates bees to forage; thick syrup in the fall is what bees need for weight gain.” We all know this (now), but his evidence- and literature-based explanation was just what we needed.

Dinner in the ballroom included live and silent auctions and the Honey Show Awards. Friday began, after breakfast and the usual conference updates, with Dr. Samuel Ramsey talking about “What’s Next?” The answer is another scourge on bee-dom, the tropi mite, but also several efforts to get ahead of it. Dr. Sammy was eloquent and entertaining as usual, then we all went to lunch and breakout sessions. Tracks today included Bees for Education, Apitherapy, and the long-awaited Beeyond. The momentum never stopped, so presentations included Deborah Klughers on “Drone Brood Homogenate,” Dr. Kaira Wagoner on the UBeeO Assay,” and a Speaker Panel of Experts with “Thoughts on the Future of Beekeeping.”

An unknown, unnamed audience member got our vote for unsung hero of the week. After the optimistic doom and gloom (oxymoron perhaps?) from our panel of experts, this you-and-me guy stood up and said something to the effect of, “We need to find solutions ourselves. We’re looking for the next Kirk Webster who can figure things out in his backyard and share it with the rest of us.” What a guy! That’s our takeaway for the week!

By this time everyone was getting a little giddy and a

lot tired, so after a packed house standing ovation, the panel adjourned, and we all prepared for the final Awards Banquet and Dinner.

Dr Samuel Ramsey was the Guest Speaker and Entertainer this year. After an emotional and sometimes humorous speech about how he attained his doctorate, Dr. Sammy began to sing! Not just karaoke style---he really sings! He sang a few R&B hits, then showed us a self-made video of him singing a love song duet in the Thai language---and he sang and dressed both parts! Seems he had some down time so learned Thai to help with his field research. Of course! Wouldn’t anyone?



And that was the end of this year’s EAS Conference. It was time to say our good-byes---exchanging hugs, contacts, promises to stay in touch, and even more promises to do it again next year. A spectacular event produced, directed, and mostly performed by MassBee but with a lot of help from next year’s site, Maryland.

We were first-timers at this event, but after the reception we received and the friends we made we can’t wait for next year to roll around. People, resources, ideas, energy---all in one place and all devoted to beekeeping. What a world!

See you in Maryland!



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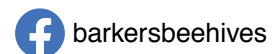
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Shipping / Pickup Options

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Pickup Location

Your Order can be picked up at our office.

- 1. Betterbee Store 8 MEADER RD, 12834-2734 (8 Meader Rd,)
- 2. EAS 2023, 01003-9243 (EAS 2023 Amherst, MA)
- Barrett Memorial Hall, 05070 (VBA Meeting 8/12)

Pickup Date (optional - click the calend

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