

The Norfolk Bee

December 2024 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NCBA December Activity

The NCBA Meeting will be December 2nd at 7PM.

This is an IN-PERSON meeting only.

Please join us for a honey dripping good time.

Dear Beekeepers and Club Members,

We are once again upon the holiday season. And I hope that everyone enjoys being with family and friends.

As some of you know, I have been through a very difficult time these past 6 months caring for my aging father and his wife, and losing my father in August. This has taken a toll on me. Among reducing other responsibilities in my life, I have decided to take a break from running the club for a few months as I need to take care of myself. My sangha (Buddhist Church) has their meetings on Monday nights and this is where I need to spend my time.

You will be in great hands as the board has all stepped up to cover all my responsibility until I return. A big thank you to Mo, Dana, Brian, and Ed, for making this transition easy for me. I will be back sometime in the spring.

There are some really good things happening for our club, so please read the newsletter.

With Loving Kindness,



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Attention: *Fellowship is a prime reason NCBA exists. Our Holiday Party offers a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones, and build lifelong connections with fellow beekeepers.*

December 2nd NCBA Holiday Party

WHO: All NCBA Members

WHAT: NCBA Holiday Party

WHEN: December 2nd at 7PM - 9PM

WHERE: In-Person

Only at the Norfolk County Agricultural High School Cafeteria

WHY: Fellowship, Sharing Our Passion for Bees, Shopping for Holiday Gifts, Good Food, and Fun



We have a BUZZING time planned for the upcoming NCBA Holiday Party Monday, December 2nd from 7-9PM.

To make the holiday party exceptional, the most important ingredient is YOU.

1. YOU!!! Join Us! Fellowship and Shared Interest in Honeybees and the Products of the Hive are what NCBA is all about.

2. SIGN UP TO BRING A DISH TO SHARE Our NCBA members are extraordinary cooks & bakers and we look forward, every year, to the rich array of foods everyone brings, from salads to pots of chili, to desserts, cakes and baklava. **Click the link to the sign up sheet ([Google Sign Up Sheet](#))**

3. EDUCATIONAL SHORT DIYS The club will have 2 exciting DIY sessions to begin our Holiday Party: **"Making Hand Cream"** and **"Making Tinctures"** by our very own NCBA Members - Brian McCafferty and Paul Reilly.



You'll be able to learn some great skills - take that knowledge home, and whip up some great gifts for family and friends.

4. HONEY TASTING

Bring a jar of your 2024 honey for fellow members to taste. Our hives, and their locations, imbue each of our honey's with a unique "terroir" or hyperlocal flavor. We'll also have a refractometer available if you'd like to test your honey's moisture content.

5. SELL YOUR STUFF -If you have holiday gifts to sell (ornaments, products of the hive, photos or other wonderful crafts) zip me a quick e-mail (erock0616@gmail.com) and we'll get a table set up for you to show & share your wares.



6. NCBA CLUB SERVICE DISPLAY We'll have a table showing the bee suits, extractors, scholarships, reference library, queen program and other resources NCBA provides our members!

7. A Final Holiday Party Raffle - We'll finish the evening raffling off several door prizes to bring our festivities to a happy and collegial end.





**NCBA BOARD MEMBERS
2024-2025**

PRESIDENT
Tony Lulek

VICE PRESIDENT
Mohamad Khalil

TREASURER
Brian McCafferty

RECORDING SECRETARY
Mike Passmore

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Edward Rock

MEMBERS AT LARGE
Amy Musante, Paul Reilly, Archie Acevedo

NCBA BEE SCHOOLS:

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Tony Lulek

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
TBD

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Joe Jankovsky

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
TBD

NCBA TECH GURU
Greg Rushton

APPAREL
TBD

DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE
Kara Sullivan

EXTRACTORS
Brianda Younis

MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE
Dana Wilson
TBD

LIBRARIAN
Michael Simone

PROGRAMS
Alla Ostrovsky

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS
Lara Davis

It's just \$25 for all of 2025.
***Renew your NCBA
Membership right now!***



It takes less than 2 minutes - Go to <https://www.norfolkbees.org/membership.html> and renew your membership on the club's secure website using your credit card.

RENEW NOW for 2025!

Thanks - Your membership committee - Tony Lulek and Dana Wilson

The NCBA Board of Directors Meeting is the third Monday of each month.
It's held at 7:00pm via a Zoom Video Meeting.
All NCBA members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**NCBA
BOARD
MEETING**

NOVEMBER 18 2024

7:00 - 8:02 PM.

Attending:

- Tony Lulek
- Mohamad Khalil
- Greg Rushton
- Dana Wilson
- Brian McCafferty
- Alla Ostrovsky
- Mike Passmore
- Brianda Younie
- Paul Reilly
- Joe Janakofsky
- Ed Rock
- Michael Simone
- Carolyn Holmes
- Ed Szymanski
- Debra Spielman
- Dave Deningeri

ALL ARE INVITED

Please remember that all NCBA members are welcome at each and every NCBA Board Meeting. As a matter of fact - we encourage as full a participation by our membership in the Board and Committees as possible.

Board Meetings are typically held on the third Monday of each Month. Just e-mail Tony Lulek and he will send you the Zoom Link for the meeting.

**NCBA Board Minutes
October 21, 2024**

President's Update – Tony

¶ Tony mentioned his recent e-mail to the Board indicating his need to step back from the duties of President until March due to the loss of his father and a related obligation on Monday nights. Mo, Dana, Ed Rock, and Brian have agreed to take the lead in various areas.

Vice President's Update – Mo

¶ Nothing new to report.

Treasurer Update – Brian

¶ Bank balance \$37,120.36 as of November 18, 2024
¶ Brian will resend financials that were sent with incomplete reconciliation.

Recording Secretary: Minutes – Mike P

¶ Minutes from the previous Board Meeting were approved.

Corresponding Secretary – Ed

¶ Newsletter items due to Ed by this Wednesday, 11/20/2024, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
¶ Ed reminded us that the Holiday Party is next month.

Committees:

¶ **Programs – Alla**

- o Upcoming
- ¶ December – Brian has volunteered to show us how he makes hand creams, and Paul Reilly will do the same for tinctures.
- ¶ January – Landi Simone (EAS Speaker) will present on Value-Added Beekeeping
- ¶ February – Better Bee has been asked, but they have not yet responded despite follow-up.
- ¶ March - Dr. Margarita Lopez-Urbe (EAS Speaker) will present on Synthetic, Organic, and Treatment-Free Beekeeping.
- ¶ April – Not yet scheduled.
- ¶ May – Not yet scheduled.

¶ **NCBA Intro to Bee School – Dana**

- o We currently have 52 enrollees for Bee School 2025.
- o There will be a Zoom meeting in December for the NCBA volunteers to discuss details.

¶ **Intermediate Bee School – Joe**

- o Joe is working on details of the new program and is hoping to involve some Cornell Master Beekeepers. Tony mentioned that registration begins in January and we may raise the price to \$60.
- o Ed Szymanski was able to provide background

- on Zoom, which began during Covid and resulted in presenters and enrollees from all over the country, and a lot of revenue.
- o Ed Rock will forward a related e-mail to Joe for information purposes only.

¶ **Extractors – Brianda**

- o No new equipment is needed. Steady use even over the past 2 weeks.
- o Please note: Per the instructions, extractors do not need to be disassembled completely for cleaning. When this happens the ball bearing is frequently lost
- o The revised Google sheet works fine, and Greg just made the Pickup Time field required.

¶ **Library – Michael S**

- o No updates at this time.

¶ **Door Prizes – Kara**

- o Not present.

¶ **Website – Greg**

- o Greg spoke with Mateo regarding the Swarm Management software. They appear to have a strong privacy policy, along the lines of Canada and the EU. It's a free service, but they ask for an annual voluntary contribution of perhaps \$50. This is because any text sent out by the software is charged to their company. Greg said he could have a preliminary version installed in 1-2 months.
- o Apparently there is nothing in the By-Laws about legal agreements, so a motion passed to authorize Greg to proceed but with no final submission until the Board votes.
- o Tony asked Mike Simone to add a legal agreements clause to the new draft By-Laws.

¶ **Bee Apparel – Vacant**

- o No committee. Tony suggested asking for volunteers in the newsletter.

¶ **Calendar Committee – Greg**

- o No updates this month.

¶ **Scholarships and Grants - Lara**

- o Not present.

¶ **Membership – Google Groups - Dana**

- o 206 members have renewed (out of 587) & 52 Bee School attendees so far.
- o In January or February Dana will remove all non-renewing members.

¶ **Facebook - Deb**

- o Nothing new this month.

Old Business:

¶ **Queen Program – Brian**

- o We've paid Archie, but we haven't heard from Bob yet. Carolyn mentioned that Bob is away.

¶ **By-Laws – Mike S**

(Continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

- o Mike will add the additional language before we discuss.

New Business:

▣ NCBA hosting Mass Bee Fall 2025 Meeting - Ed Szymanski

- o Event will take place either November 1 or 8.
- o NCBA has volunteered to host the meeting and will be responsible for planning, venue, speakers, speaker travel and accommodations, a Friday night dinner for speakers, and any upfront costs all of which will be reimbursed by Mass Bee. The two speakers should give two talks apiece, AM and PM, interspersed with updates from MDAR and UMass Extension.
- o Ed has a guideline from Pete Delaney that he will share with the chairperson, and the document will be especially important for the budget. Plymouth County has offered to answer any questions, perhaps with a Zoom meeting. Ed suggested a committee.
- o Tony interjected that a 4-5 person committee would be ideal, and suggested a call for volunteers in the newsletter. The chairperson will be invited to Board meetings as well as to additional meetings as necessary.
- o NCBA will handle registration, volunteers, and morning breakfast/afternoon snacks.
- o The Aggie may be able to accommodate us as they have larger rooms than the ones we use. We will need AV equipment and a good internet connection, adequate parking, and a private room for the honey show.

Holiday Party – Tony

- o Ed Rock summarized the discussion with the following bullets:
 - ▣ Food, with an Excel sign up sheet. Paper supplies and drinks will be provided.
 - ▣ Demonstrations by Brian and Paul.
 - ▣ Vendors.
 - ▣ Display items owned by the club: bee suits, extractors, refractometer.
 - ▣ Honey display and tasting.
 - ▣ Possible demo by Greg of swarm software.
 - ▣ Inventions by club members.
 - ▣ Possible silent auction.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM

NOVEMBER's NCBA Speaker Recording

Here is the link to the recording of our November Meeting: **Intentional Hive Management and Making a Personalized Action Plan .**
Zoom Link - [Click Here](#)
Passcode: e6&X#@Xn
Best Regards,
Alla Ostrovsky

Our 2025 Slate of meetings are as follows:

Save the following dates for NCBA Club meetings. And keep an eye out for the next newsletter for presenters and topics for these sessions:

- January 6th, 7-9PM - Landi Simone (EAS Speaker) will present on Value-Added Beekeeping
- February 3rd, 7-9PM - Better Bee hands-on workshop on "Products of the Hive" - Topic TBD
- March 3rd, 7-9PM - Dr. Margarita Lopez-Urbe (EAS Speaker) will present on Synthetic, Organic, and Treatment-Free Beekeeping.
- April 7th, 7-9PM - TBD
- May 7th, 7-9PM - TBD

NCBA Bee School

Bee School begins January 21st, 2025 and runs every Tuesday through April 1st from 7-9PM

If you're interested in sitting in the classes and sharing your beekeeping expertise with our students, you are welcome. Reach out to Ed Rock (erock0616@gmail.com) or Mo Khalil (MohamadKhalil@gmail.com) for more info.

Also, if you have friends or neighbors who are interested in beekeeping, refer them to NCBA Bee School. We'd love to have them. [CLICK to Register!](#)

Opportunities For Volunteering 1 - Bee Apparel

NCBA has developed and sold Club logo'ed hats, shirts and apparel to club members. If you're interested, please volunteer to join the "Apparel Committee". Contact Mo Khalil (MohamadKhalil@gmail.com)

2- Hosting MassBee Winter Meeting

In early November 2025 NCBA will be hosting the MassBee meeting in Norfolk County. We're looking for 4+ NCBA members volunteer to help plan and organize this event for the club. Contact Mo Khalil (MohamadKhalil@gmail.com)

Winter Feeding

There have been a lot of folks asking about Fall and Winter Feeding on our Facebook Page and Google Group. Here are some resources Amy Musante shared with the group.

Why syrup doesn't belong in a Bee Hive: <https://www.honeybeesuite.com/syrup-does-not-belong-in-a-cold-hive>

Why bees can eat solid sugar in winter: <https://www.honeybeesuite.com/bees-can-eat-solid-sugar-in-winter/>

A Quick Summary of the WCBA Fall Meeting

WCBA hosts a Fall workshop in October, bringing in prominent speakers and researchers. The two speakers this season were Dr. David Tarpy (NC State University) and Dr. Zack Lamas (University of Maryland & USDA Beltsville, MD)

The key learnings

Tarpy spoke about the impact of mites on winter prep and disease throughout the hive. Specifically that mites:

- Shorten the life of bees and sometimes cause deformities.
- Directly vector viruses into bees, and those viruses can then be transmitted through multiple routes within a bee colony.
- Affect the ability of foragers to forage efficiently and decrease brood rearing of nurse bees.

Tarpy also spoke about genetic diversity within queens

- Optimally, Queens mate with an average of 14.6 Drones
- Queens can use that diverse genetic material from multiple matings to enrich the colony's genetic diversity
- In a study of commercial hives, survival and overwintering were significantly better if queens had bred with multiple and diverse drones.



Lamas spoke about viral loads that mites deliver to honeybees and their colonies. Once a colony has a mite infestation, even though you're controlling the visible mite population with treatments, many bees have become infected with subsequent viruses, and then infect others within the colony even without visible mites.

- Mites prey upon drones early in the season (Spring) and shift to workers later in the season (Summer & Fall).
- Beekeepers should drive mite loads down early and

keep them low.

-Know that mites are a vector for many bee virus pathogens, and those pathogens are the true danger to the bee colony.

-That once a bee is parasitized by a mite - the mite's viral load is transferred to the bee, and those viruses multiply within the bee. That bee can then infect other bees in the colony with those viruses, and within the apiary due to drift.

-There is a clear distinction between mite free - asymptomatic - and mite-infested colonies.



Some things to consider in our beekeeping

****Sam Ramsey says, 'if you see one mite in a colony, there are 49 mites you can't see'.***

****Early season (spring) mites tend to be on Drones, later season (Summer and Fall) mites tend to be on workers - so we may want to adjust our sampling methods to accommodate for this fact to improve our sampling methodology.***

****Finally, both speakers emphasized developing an apiary-wide plan to assure that you were thoughtfully inspecting, testing, and treating for mites throughout the season. The main reason for this diligence was that while the mites do negatively impact bee health directly, the viruses they introduce into a hive are the true danger to whole bee colonies and apiaries.***

Resources:

North Carolina State University Apiary Lab - <https://www.ncsuapiculture.net/>

Dr. Lamas' Youtube presentation on Mites and Drone Sampling <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkI0YMUuW6o>



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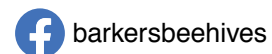
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Bee Keeping Online Resources

• **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/>

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

• **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/>

• **Honeybee Health Coalition** -

resources and education for beekeepers - <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/focus-on-forage/>

• **NEW 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/>

• **NEW 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 -

•**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/>

•**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/>

It is my hope to have NCBA members "YOU ALL" share any online Beekeeping references and resources you know if...and continually update this list as a once-a-month reference for all members.

Thanks in advance for sharing any resources you have that are your "Go To's" for beekeeping.

Ed Rock