

# The Norfolk Bee

February 2025 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

## NCBA February Activity

The NCBA Meeting will be February 3rd at 7PM.

This is a **IN-PERSON ONLY**

BetterBee is joining us for a presentation on Products of the Hive.

## Dear Beekeepers and Club Members,

Our next meeting is **IN-PERSON** only and in the Aggie Cafeteria. Better Bee will be coming to talk about Products of the Hive - and demo-ing some exciting Health & Beauty Aids made with Beeswax. **Note that if you place an order with BetterBee by PHONE by Saturday, February 1 by 1PM, they will bring your order to the Aggie Cafeteria for pick-up.**

Take a look at the volunteer opportunities with NCBA in the Newsletter this month. These are great ways to meet fellow beekeepers and form friendships that will last a lifetime.

We also wanted to alert you to a change in our processes. We'll no longer be publishing our financials in the Newsletter - it's too much of an opportunity for scammers and fraudsters. If you have any questions about the club finances, simply attend one of our board meetings or contact **Brian McCafferty - Treasurer**. We'll be happy to share the club's detailed financials with you.

We'll see you Monday!,

Your NCBA Board

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## February 3rd NCBA Meeting - In-Person Only

- WHO:** All NCBA Members
- WHAT:** Better Bee's Ann Frey on Honeybee Hive Products
- WHEN:** February 3rd from 7PM - 9PM
- WHERE:** Only In-Person at the Aggie Cafeteria
- 2-Part WHY:**
  - Part 1:** EAS Certified Master Beekeeper Anne Frey will demo
  - Part 2:** BetterBee will deliver any orders you place over the phone to be picked up at the meeting. **The deadline for placing the orders is 1:00pm on Saturday February 1st, 2025.**

**Warmer Weather Coming - Add Sugar Patties to Supplement Your Hive's Food Stores.**



**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,  
Carolyn Holmes

**NCBA BEE SCHOOLS:**

**INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL DIRECTOR**  
Edward Rock

**INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR**  
Dana Wilson

**INTRODUCTORY BEE SCHOOL MENTOR  
COORDINATOR**  
Archie Acevedo

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DIRECTOR &  
ADMINISTRATOR**  
Brian McCafferty

**NCBA TECH GURU & CALENDAR**  
Greg Rushton

**APPAREL**  
OPEN

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Kara Sullivan

**EXTRACTORS**  
Brianda Younie

**MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE**  
Dana Wilson

**LIBRARIAN**  
Michael Simone

**PROGRAMS**  
Alla Ostrovsky

**SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS**  
OPEN - Brian McCafferty

**DELEGATION TO MASSBEE**  
OPEN

**LEGISLATIVE & PESTICIDE**  
Mohamad Khalil

## NCBA Volunteer Opportunities+

The following are opportunities for you to engage with your club members and support beekeepers across the state.

### 1- Hosting MassBee Winter Meeting

In early November 2025 NCBA will be hosting the MassBee meeting in Norfolk County. We're looking for NCBA members volunteer to help plan, organize, and execute this event for the club. Contact Ed Rock (erock0616@gmail.com) if you're interested

### 2 - Open Board Committee Positions

**NCBA Bee Apparel** - NCBA has developed and sold Club logo'd hats, shirts and apparel to club members. If you're interested, please volunteer to join the "Apparel Committee".

**Scholarships and Grants** - NCBA offers a wonderful set of scholarships for students of NCBA members pursuing environment related degrees, scholarships for NCBA members who are pursuing Master Beekeeper certification, and the Jan Daniels Scholarship for an educator who is developing "honeybee related" educational materials for their students. Contact Mo Khalil (MohamadKhalil@gmail.com)

### 3 - Delegate to MassBee

NCBA needs to have a club member regularly attend the MassBee meetings - Contact Mo Khalil (MohamadKhalil@gmail.com)

### 4 - Ag Day @ The MA State House

March 18, 2025 - We are looking for a NCBA members to volunteer to support Ag Day at the State House. It's fun, meet your legislators, and mingle with fellow ag folks - Contact Mike Passmore (mpassmor@yahoo.com) or Carolyn Holmes (homz191@verizon.net)

### 5 - Beekeeper of the YEAR

Know an exemplary beekeeper in Norfolk County? Submit their name to Mo Khalil (MohamadKhalil@gmail.com)

### 6 - MA Honey Queen

Do you know of a young person who's passionate about beekeeping and products of the hive? Who'd like to promote honey and beekeeping across the state? It's a great resume builder. Pass names along to Mo Khalil (MohamadKhalil@gmail.com)

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**

**JANUARY 20, 2025**

7:00 - 7:40 PM.

Attending:

- Mohamad Khalil
- Greg Rushton
- Dana Wilson
- Brian McCafferty
- Alla Ostrovsky
- Mike Passmore
- Paul Reilly
- Michael Simone
- Ed Rock
- Kara Sullivan
- Archie Acevedo

**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 January 20, 2025

### President/Vice President Update – Mo

#### ▣ Mass Bee Meeting Results:

o NCBA is hosting the Fall Meeting, and our Committee is currently Mo, Ed Rock, Archie, Carolyn Holmes, Alla, Mike P, Marybeth Noonan, and Neil Kaiser and Bob Hickey.

o Mass Spring Field Day will be at Bristol County Aggie – 6/14/2025

o Ag Day on the Hill – March 18 – each club to donate 2 cases of ½ lb. jars of honey. Archie will pick up a tub of bulk honey from Western Mass. Mike P will coordinate Ag Day with direction from Carolyn.

o Beekeeper of the Year – we need one nominee from each club, then Mass Bee will vote. FYI, NCBA has Beekeeper and Mentor of the Year awards.

o NCBA needs an additional Rep to Mass Bee for monthly meetings.

### Treasurer Update – Brian

▣ Treasurer's report was approved by a majority of Board members. Citing confidentiality / Security issues, Brian suggested and the Board approved that we will no longer post our financial information in the newsletter or on the website, but this information is still available to all members by asking the Treasurer or by attending a Board meeting.

### Recording Secretary - Minutes – Mike P

▣ Minutes from the previous Board Meeting were approved.

### Corresponding Secretary – Ed

▣ Newsletter items are due to Ed by Friday, January 24 th .

### Committees:

#### ▣ Programs – Alla

o February – Better Bee – Products from the Hive – Aggie Cafeteria in-person.

o March – Dr. Margarita Lopez-Urbe

- (EAS Speaker) will present on
- Synthetic, Organic, and Treatment-Free
- Beekeeping.
- o April - Steve Repasky will present on
- Swarming.
- o May – Bob Hickey will present on Queen
- Rearing.
- ▣ Beginner Bee School – Dana
- o There are 76 students enrolled. Two
- nucs and two hives will be awarded at
- the end.
- ▣ Intermediate Bee School – Brian
- o Brian has solicited outside speakers in
- addition to NCBA Master Beekeepers.
- Steve Repasky has agreed to present on
- Single Brood Chamber Management.
- o Classes will begin in March.
- ▣ Extractors – Brianda
- o No update per Mo.
- ▣ Library – Michael S
- o No update.
- ▣ Door Prizes – Kara
- o Barker Bees will donate a package to
- raffle at our February meeting.
- ▣ Website – Greg
- o Swarm application is working but needs
- a bit more tweaking.
- o Minor changes for Beginner and
- Intermediate Bee Schools are working.
- ▣ Membership – Facebook – Google
- Groups - Dana
- o 423 members have renewed or joined,
- plus 76 Bee School attendees, making
- 499 members for this year compared to
- 579 last year.
- o Surveys sent to the 40 longer-term
- members who had not renewed had 2
- respondents. One had moved and the
- other had renewed recently.

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o Surveys sent to the 143 shorter-term members who had not renewed had 5 respondents. One had moved, 1 was not ready to begin beekeeping, and 3 had renewed recently.

▣ Bee Apparel – Vacant

▣ Calendar Committee – Greg  
o Up to date.

▣ Scholarships and Grants - Brian  
o Brian volunteered to take over since he writes the checks anyway.

Old Business:

▣ Queen Program – We will continue again this year.

▣ By-Laws – Mike P suggested that a few people get together to discuss the proposed bylaws before we vote. Michael S had already left the meeting so Mike will be in touch with Michael.

New Business:

▣ Club Perks – Alla suggested that we might do as other clubs and offer discounted items to members: jars, nucs, packages, etc. There was some discussion about competing with our commercial sponsors who have been very generous with us, bringing in non-local bees, and the delivery and storage of glassware. We also mentioned the club apiary in Holliston that was under-utilized. At the end it was thought that perhaps an arrangement similar to our queen program would work out to everyone's advantage.

▣ Summer Meetings – We also discussed the possibility of meeting in the summer. Perhaps information tables at our June meeting, regular meetings during

July and August, or just monthly hive dives all summer.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM



## Our Winter/ Spring 2025 Slate of meetings are as follows:

**February 3rd,**

**7-9 PM - IN-PERSON ONLY**

*Better Bee workshop on  
“Products of the Hive” - by  
Anne Frey.*

*Also, BetterBee orders  
places by phone before 1PM  
Saturday February 1, 2025  
will be delivered to the Aggie  
for your pick-up Monday  
night at the Meeting.*

**March 3rd**

**7-9PM - ZOOM ONLY**

*Dr. Margarita Lopez-  
Uribe (an EAS Speaker)  
will present on Synthetic,  
Organic, and Treatment-Free  
Beekeeping.*

**April 7th**

**7-9PM - ZOOM ONLY**

*Steve Repasky will  
present on Swarming*

**May 5th**

**7-9PM - IN-PERSON ONLY**

*Bob Hickey will present on  
Queen Rearing & NCBA will  
have our ANNUAL SPRING  
PLANT EXCHANGE &  
Refreshments / Social*

# Intermediate Bee School

Intermediate Beekeeping School is back for a sixth year! Classes will be via ZOOM-ONLY to allow us to present speakers from around the country.

This course is recommended for beekeepers with at least 1 full season of beekeeping. All students will need to be member of a local beekeeping association.

Classes are held every 2 weeks on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM via Zoom starting on March 5 th ,2025 and Tuition is \$60

- Wednesday, March 5, 2025 - Spring Management presented by Carolyn Holmes
- Wednesday, March 19, 2025-Swarm Control & Splits presented by Scott & Kari Mofford
- Wednesday, April 2, 2025 - Sustainable Beekeeping presented by Ed Szymanski
- Wednesday, April 16, 2025 - Single Brood Chamber Management presented by Stephen Repasky
- Wednesday, April 30, 2025 - Identifying Diseases of the Hive presented by Randy Oliver
- Wednesday, May 14, 2025 - Varroa Sensitive Hygiene (VSH) Bees presented by Kathleen Gasbarro
- Wednesday, May 28, 2025 - Other Colony Diseases & Tropilaelaps Mites present by Paul Tessier, MDAR
- Wednesday, June 11, 2025 - Winter Prep Starts Now – presented by Mike Simone & Brian McCafferty
- Wednesday, June 25, 2025 - Q&A session and Panel Discussion - Master Beekeepers Panel

<https://www.norfolkbees.org/intermediate-bee-school.html>

*Recordings will be saved for future viewing when allowed by the presenter.*

*Courtesy of NCBA Club Member Janice Loving*

## **Auburn University - Lawrence County Extention**

***This is your friendly reminder that the next session in the At Home Beekeeping Series will be **Tuesday, January 28, at 6:30 PM CT. We will have North Carolina State University Professor and Extension Specialist, Dr. David Tarpy, with us to talk about bringing your bees out of winter. You won't want to miss this presentation!*****

*There are two ways to join us for this free webinar:*

- Via Zoom (no registration necessary): <https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838>*
- Via Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension>*

*If you miss the live event, you can find the recorded video on our Facebook page. It will only be posted for two weeks, so don't delay! Learn more about this free VIRTUAL series, including a list of speakers and topics here.*

# NCBA's Introduction to Beekeeping First Night of Class

*A special thanks to NCBA members; Mohamad Khalil, Tony Lulek, Brian McCaffrey, Archie Acevedo, Greg Rushton, Neil Kaiser, and Carolyn Holmes for joining the bee school class and sharing their sage insights into beekeeping with our students.*



Tony Lulek presenting:

1 - Who NCBA is.  
2-What beekeeping is all about; the time, expense, and committment to the bees.

3 - Asking the students if they have what it takes!

A wonderful and diverse group of budding beekeepers packed the big lecture hall at Norfolk County Agricultural High School





# 2025 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.



[www.barkersbeehives.com](http://www.barkersbeehives.com)



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*We sell everything a  
beekeeper needs!*

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**To answer questions:  
[info@woodsbees.com](mailto:info@woodsbees.com)**



# Boston Honey Company Nucs

We are offering our standard nucs for the 2025 season, these come with established queens, 5 frames, and a jester box. All our nucs are inspected by the state bee inspector and our nucs are guaranteed by us. Our Queen stock is grafted from Breeder 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. All Nucs come in Jester plastic corrugated boxes that are reusable.

**Standard Pricing is : \$215.00**

**All Club Members use code: "ClubDiscount"**

**Club Price 5 Frame Nuc: \$205.00**

**Quantity Discounts are available for group purchases:**

<b>Buy 10+</b>	<b>\$15.00 OFF</b>
<b>Buy 20+</b>	<b>\$20.00 OFF</b>
<b>Buy 50+</b>	<b>\$25.00 OFF</b>



We also offer bulk honey 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!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me using my info below and I'm more than happy to share more information about our bees, beekeeping practices, quick lessons on how to install a nuc, a package, and more.

Best,

***Evan***

**Email: [evan@bostonhoneycompany.com](mailto:evan@bostonhoneycompany.com)**

**Phone #: 774-217-0000**



# 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/>

•**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/>

•**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 -

•**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**