

# The Norfolk Bee

January 2025 • [NORFOLKBEEES.ORG](http://NORFOLKBEEES.ORG)

## NCBA January Activity

*The NCBA Meeting will be January 6th at 7PM.*

*This is a ZOOM meeting only.*

*Landi Simone - Value-Added Products of the Hive.*

**Dear Beekeepers and Club Members,**

*Happy Holidays and all the very best in the coming New Year. The NCBA Board hopes you and your loved ones...including your bees, have a healthy and prosperous 2025.*

*Our Club has a rich educational Winter and Spring planned, with both Zoom and In-Person meetings coming up.*

*NCBA is also sponsoring and supporting the 2025 Fall MASSBee meeting. We're reaching out to our membership to ask for volunteers to help plan and execute this educational event. We'll be involved with selecting the presenters, gathering vendors to exhibit, identifying the location and planning the menu for the event. Any NCBA members interested in getting involved in this planning endeavour should reach out to either Tony ([tony@littlebeehivefarm.com](mailto:tony@littlebeehivefarm.com)) or Mo ([mohamadkhalil@outlook.com](mailto:mohamadkhalil@outlook.com)).*

*We look forward to sharing our love of bees and beekeeping with you all in 2025.*

**All the Best,  
Your NCBA Board**

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## January 6th NCBA Meeting - Zoom Only

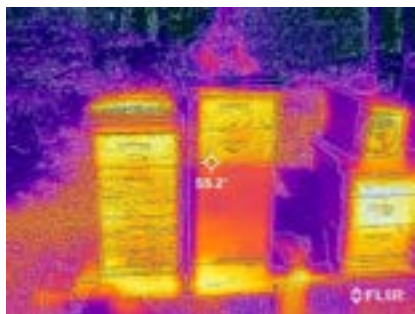
**WHO:** All NCBA Members

**WHAT:** Landi Simone

**WHEN:** January 6th from 7PM - 9PM

**WHERE:** Only Via Zoom - Link to be sent out before the meeting

**WHY:** The topic is - Value-Added Product of the Hive



**Infrared Photos are a good way to do a noninvasive check of your hive in winter.**

We have a Landi Simone is a small-scale commercial beekeeper in northern New Jersey. Owner of the Gooserock Farm LLC. She manages about 100 colonies, raises queens and nucs, and produces varietal honeys, artisan honey spreads, beeswax cosmetics and handmade beeswax soaps.

Landi has kept bees since 1997 and was certified as an EAS Master Beekeeper in 2004. She served as Chair of the Master Beekeeper Certification Committee for EAS or ten years.

- Landi is committed to beekeeping education and taught a local short course in beekeeping for twenty years, as well as being a frequent presenter at multiple venues. Landi's practical



approach to beekeeping stems in part from her background; she is a retired consulting civil engineer with degrees from Columbia University

- and Rutgers. She find her second career in apiculture every bit as challenging as engineering and a lot more fun.





**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 Younie

**MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE**  
Dana Wilson  
TBD

**LIBRARIAN**  
Michael Simone

**PROGRAMS**  
Alla Ostrovsky

**SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS**  
OPEN

**It's just \$25 for all of 2025.  
If you haven't - Please  
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:

- Mohamad Khalil
- Greg Rushton
- Brian McCafferty
- Alla Ostrovsky
- Mike Passmore
- Brianda Younie
- Paul Reilly
- Joe Janakofsky
- Ed Rock
- Kara Sullivan
- Carolyn Holmes
- Susan Golswitz
- Brian McCafferty
- Vijay Sharmai
- 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 December 16, 2024

December 16, 2024 – 7:02 PM - 7:47 PM

**Attending:** Mohamad Khalil, Greg Rushton, Brian McCafferty, Alla Ostrovsky, Kara Sullivan, Archie Acevedo, Paul Reilly, Brianda Younie, Ed Rock, Carolyn Holmes, Susan Golswitz, Vijay Sharma, Mike Passmore

### President's Update – Mo

o Tony will be unavailable on Mondays until the spring, but he is available all other days and times.

### Vice President's Update – Mo

o Lara will need to step down as the Scholarship Committee Chairperson. We thank her for an amazing job. Ed will place a call for volunteers in the newsletter.

### Treasurer Update – Brian

o Bank balance \$37,120.36 as of December 18, 2024

o Last month Middlesex Bank did a software conversion that created confusion with a mid-month statement. Accounts have since been reconciled.

o Our Board and Membership meetings are ill-timed to work with Square, resulting in a lot of work for Brian. Too late to change meetings this year, but we can discuss again in time for next year.

o Queen Program – Archie sold 47 queens this year, 33 last year. Bob sold 22 queens this year, 43 last year. Warm Colors and They Keep Bees are no longer part of the program.

### Recording Secretary: Minutes – Mike P

o Minutes from the previous Board Meeting were accepted.

### Corresponding Secretary – Ed

o Newsletter items due to Ed by Friday, December 20th.

o NCBA had an anonymous donor whom Ed will thank in the newsletter.

o Kara thanked Todd Barker, who intended to donate a package at our holiday meeting.

### Committees:

#### o Programs – Alla

o January – Landi Simone (EAS Speaker) will present on Value-Added Beekeeping.

o February – Better Bee's Dr. Peck has confirmed that they will present, but we don't yet have a name. This will be in person in the Aggie Cafeteria

- o March - Dr. Margarita Lopez-Urbe (EAS Speaker) will present on Synthetic, Organic, and Treatment-Free Beekeeping.
- o April – Not yet scheduled.
- o May – Not yet scheduled.

#### o NCBA Intro to Bee School – Mo

o Registration is up to 58 so far.

#### o Intermediate Bee School – Mo

o Joe will discuss his plans at a later date. Registration will open in January. When decided, all dates and times will be forwarded to Greg for inclusion on the website.

#### o Extractors – Brianda

o Brian offered grease to Jim in Wrentham. Later in the meeting Archie took care of it.

#### o Library – Michael S

o Michael not present.

#### o Door Prizes – Kara

o Still 2 door prizes at \$50 apiece for in-person meetings only.

o Baker's is offering a Bee Package as a door prize for one of our meetings - so THANKS to him.

#### o Website – Greg

o Installation of swarm software in progress. Free for a small donation or \$150 for reports.

#### o Membership – Facebook – Google Groups - Dana

o Dana not present.

#### o Bee Apparel – Vacant

o No update.

#### o Calendar Committee – Greg

o Added ABF Kentucky Expo, Mass Bee Spring Meeting, Mass Bee Field Day, and EAS to the calendar.

#### o Scholarships and Grants – Mo/Brian

o Brian issued a check for the Jan Daniels Fund \$500 scholarship (twice), but they were never cashed. Another scholarship check for \$400 was also not cashed. They have been cancelled.

#### o Old Business:

o By-Laws – Will revisit when Michael S is here.

o Queen Program – Already discussed.

#### o New Business:

o Pre-Release Bee Program – Susan Golswitz

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(continued from page 3)

- After 8 years of working with the Massachusetts Corrections Department, Susan has approval to start a beekeeping program in the pre-release population at Norfolk, inmates who are within 2 years of release.
- Susan is asking for volunteers from NCBA. Archie said he is willing to assist with queens. Kara, whose husband works a Corrections, said there are possibly other officers who are beekeepers and might be willing to help.
- Susan will forward a document to Ed for this or next month's newsletter.

#### o Mass Bee Fall Meeting – Mo

- We need a committee and chairperson as soon as possible. And many volunteers.
- Dates are either November 1 or November 8. All monies spent up front will be reimbursed by Mass Bee. We hosted the event in Medway several years ago. We need a location central to the rest of the state and able to accommodate about 150 people.
- More discussion next month.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM

## Mass Department of Corrections - Beekeeping Opportunity

After almost 10 years of applying for and receiving countless rejections, the Massachusetts Department of Corrections has approved my beekeeping pilot program for the Pondville Correctional Center in Norfolk beginning next spring.

This is a major forward thinking, proactive and visionary step for the agency, and I especially thank Superintendent Lisa Curto and Director of Treatment/Classification Joseph Salvucci of Pondville for their encouragement and support.

The program will begin

cautiously and slow, with two hives on site - no inmate, staff or public involvement at first - with the possibility of renewal and expansion into classes and participation of the incarcerated men at the facility. Everything is still in the planning stages.

I'm asking any interested Norfolk County Beekeeping Association members to send me an e-mail so I can compose a group list of folks who wish to receive occasional informational and progress reports- no further commitment needed from anyone as yet. Eventually, I'll ask for volunteers/suggestions for speakers, curriculum, mini bee school classes, and various and sundry as they appear, but that's down the road.

Happy to answer any questions or provide more information at this juncture.

Thank you,

Susan Goldwitz  
S10gold17@aol.com

## 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!](#)

## NCBA Opportunities For Volunteering

### 1- 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)

### 2 - 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)

## 3 - Scholarships

NCBA offers a wonderful set of scholarships for students of NCBA members who are pursuing environmental 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. Laura Davies has done an excellent job of promoting the scholarships and coordinating the committee for selecting scholarship winners. Unfortunately she has to give up this role.

We are looking for a NCBA member to volunteer to coordinate the NCBA Scholarship Committee - Contact Mo Khalil (MohamadKhalil@gmail.com)

*A bee friend shared this with me and I thought you might enjoy it.*

### **A Honey Bee's Christmas**

*'Twas the night before Christmas and throughout the Hive,*

*The Bees were all clustered making heat they did strive.*

*The Comb was drawn on the frames with great care,*

*In hopes that Saint Nicholas would soon "bee" there.*

*The Queen Bee had spent hours preparing nectar porridge,*

*To go with all the pollen the girls collected in forage.*

*In a field of snow their Hive stood majestic, alone,*

*The Bees were all buzzing except for one frozen Drone.*

*When all of a sudden there rose such a clatter,*

*The Guard Bees jumped up to see what was the matter.*

*One said she saw Santa's sleigh, only by chance,*

*And that's why she was doing her waggle-dance.*

*The Nurse Bees said "quiet! You'll wake up the Brood,"*



*The excitement continued, there was no change in mood.*



*Suddenly the top cover started to rise,*

*It became the focus of 40,000 eyes!*

*They hovered above.... for all to see.*

*A sleigh pulled by eight, were they "Rein-Bees?"*

*All the Bees were clustered and pretended to sleep,*

*The buzzing stopped, you could hear a peep.*

*Santa placed presents in all cells like a Queen,*

*It was the most presents anyone had ever seen.*

*The top cover closed and the Brood never woke,*

*One Bee said, "He opened our hive without any Smoke!"*

*As Santa prepared to leave to visit another,*

*One heard him say ... what is said by no other...*

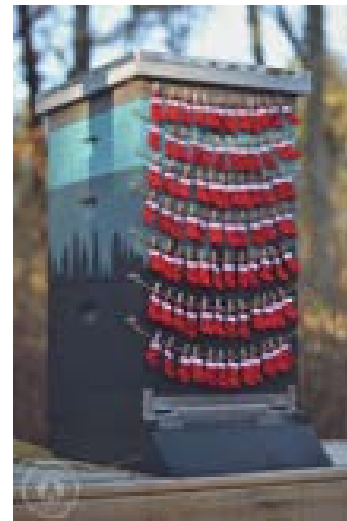
*"On Bridget and Bella, Beverly and Bette.*

*On Brittany, Bertha, Beth and Bernadette.*

*As the sleigh and Rein-Bees magically rose in the air,*

*Santa said, "Hive a Merry Christmas and a Honey of a New Year!!!"*

**Thom Ayers**



# NCBA's 2024 Holiday Party



*What a great time to meet new people and reconnect with old friends. We had around 60 NCBA folks meet up. Brian McCafferty and Paul Reilly hosted tables and shared bee's wax hand cream recipes and propolis tincture making processes. Lindsey McSharry and her daughter sold cotton candy gift packages for great holiday gifts. Members brought a huge array of holiday food. And our traditional honey tasting with a "highlight" of a special honey the bees make from lantern fly honeydew brought in from Pennsylvania by Mo Khalil.*





# 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.



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



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- |                            |                               |
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[info@woodsbees.com](mailto:info@woodsbees.com)**

# 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/>

• **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**