

The Norfolk Bee

January / February, 2024 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NEXT CLUB MEETING

FEBRUARY 5, 2024
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

In Person Only

Candle-Making

Norfolk Agricultural High School Cafeteria

**400 Main Street
Walpole, MA**

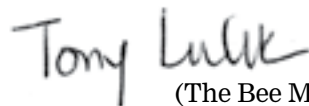
Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

Over the past few years our club meeting structure has changed, due to Covid in 2020. Since things have returned to the new normal, we have continued to have most of our meetings via Zoom. The in-person attendance has dropped to between 10-20 people (many are NCBA board members), while the Zoom audience has continued to have 50-60 people. Before Covid we had that many people in our in-person meetings. It is my opinion, and only mine, (there may be others on the board that agree or disagree) that this has changed the aspect of our club, and not for the good. The club meetings used to be a place to connect with your fellow beekeepers, to forge new friendships and keep old ones established. It was an opportunity to share your beekeeping with others, either before or after a meeting, catch up with your friends, have a snack, and enjoy a live presentation. Like the honeybees, we are social creatures and it is my belief that we need more in-person meetings. I know that many of you are now outside of Norfolk county and also that Norfolk county is big. There are always circumstances that discourage attending meetings in person (work, babysitting, travel etc.), but I encourage all of you to try and make more meetings in person. As a board, we are working on ways to make our club responsive to your needs.

I remember the days when I knew everyone by name or by face. I feel now that I hardly know who our club members are. I really do hope you will take this to heart, and those of you that can, will start to attend more meetings in person. The February 5th "candle-making" meeting is a great in-person opportunity. BetterBee is presenting and will also make it simple to order products and have them delivered the night of the meeting.

I hope to see many of you in February.

Yours always,


(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 checking your hives for food stores...add sugar patties if needed!

Beeswax & Candle-Making NCBA Meeting February 5th

7PM at the Aggie - in the Cafeteria

Club Members, Attached please find a link to let us know if you plan to attend the February meeting in person. We are scheduled to have Better Bee in person at the February meeting. We will not ask them to come from New York if the meeting will be sparsely attended.

You can place an order with Better Bee and the order will be brought to the meeting free of a delivery charge.

[Please RSVP to this e-mail survey ASAP so we can make a determination about the February meeting.](#)

Best,
Kara Sullivan



**NCBA BOARD MEMBERS
2022-2024**

PRESIDENT
Tony Lulek

VICE PRESIDENT
Mohamad Khalil

TREASURER
Brian McCafferty

RECORDING SECRETARY
Edward Rock

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Edward Rock

MEMBERS AT LARGE
Joel Richards,
and Jenna Tibbetts

NCBA BEE SCHOOLS:

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Tony Lulek

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
Dana Wilson

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Ed Szymanski

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
Marian Szymanski

NCBA TECH GURU
Greg Rushton

APPAREL
MaryBeth Noonan and Maureen Harrington

DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE
Kara Sullivan

EXTRACTORS
Brianda Younie

MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE
Dana Wilson
Deb Spielman

LIBRARIAN
Michael Simone

PROGRAMS
Ed and Marian Szymanski

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS
Lara Davis



Congratulations
Ed Szymanski - NCBA Bee-keeper of the Year 2024 with Tony Lulek and Mo Khalil



And the BEST Bundt Cake by Kara Sullivan - Wow it was GOOD!!!

Honey Tasting & Refractometer



Congratulations
Greg Rushton - NCBA Mentor of the Year - 2024 with Tony L. and Mo K.

NCBA Holiday

Party 2023

NCBA Folks Enjoying the Holiday Get-Together



NCBA - Possible Class

Soap Making

There has been some interest in soap making classes. If enough people are interested, I will schedule the classes. Classes are limited to 10-12 people and the cost is around \$80. All of this will be confirmed once I have an idea of how many are interested. Click here or use this link to the sign up sheet; https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1iWL3uMhIANI5HycRhm8UTaX55Fm-dKq_nh10P93P2x0/edit?usp=sharing

Tony Lulek



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 Lulek
- Ed Szymanski
- Ed Rock
- Greg Rushton
- Brianda Younie
- Mohamad Khalil
- Joel Richards
- Mike Simone
- Brian McCafferty
- J.J. Jett
- Roger Q. Hill
- Laura Davis

NCBA Board Minutes

January 15, 2024 – 7:10 PM-8:40 PM

President's Update – Tony L

- Queen Program – 76 queens in 2023. Planning to continue program for 2024
- NUC program is still under consideration – but the need for MDAR inspections could be a sticking point. Beekeepers who participate in NUC building, would need to have their bee yard inspected...NUCs from the inspected yard would be OK.
- Discussion of Meeting Location and Content. Vast majority of survey respondents wanted to have zoom meetings (convenience, recording available, distance to travel, driving at night...). Some respondents mentioned that we don't have "accountments" at meetings anymore (Food, apparel, library, vendors, raffles) so we need to include social times before and after speaker talks, involve audience more in presentations, consider frequent attendance awards...)

Breaking groups out by town to network with your "local" beekeeper friends even on Zoom

Our club expanded during COVID with folks from farther afield.

Hands-on type workshops (mead making, candle making, honey tasting, live bee presentations, outdoor

activities...) would get members more physically "out" to meetings

So the action item is to create an "education oriented" annual rhythm of meetings that also allows for strong member networking opportunities for the informal exchange of beekeeping ideas. Each board member and committee member will pitch an idea and we'll evaluate the "plans"

Speaker Honorarium Motion to quantify our speaker honorarium program and make it consistent across the NCBA events. Motion was accepted unanimously.

1. All speakers for NCBA monthly or special meetings will be awarded an honorarium. The exception will be that speakers who received a Master Beekeeper scholarship shall speak for their first meeting without compensation.
2. The base honorarium will be \$150. The Program Director shall have the discretion to provide up to \$300.
3. Any honorarium over \$300 will require the approval of the Executive Board.

(Continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

- Travel expenses will be paid, up to \$300 (total honorarium plus expenses) at the discretion of the program director. Total payments over \$300 will require the approval of the Executive Board.
- Speaker panels may or may not be given an honorarium, to be determined by the Executive Board.
- The Program Director shall submit a request to the Treasurer for payment to the speaker.

Vice President's Update – Mo K.

Purchase a bee vacuum for the club that members can borrow to help with bee removal and cutouts

Treasurer Update – (Brian McCafferty)

Bank balance \$39,685.08 as of January 15, 2024

We are typically running a \$6,000 annual deficit based on current budgeting

We need to review Introduction Bee School Expenses and Tuition.

Note that an additional revenue opportunity is charging for "Drawing Tickets"

Motioned – Accept Treasurer's Report – accepted unanimously

Motion to investing \$5K in a 3 month and \$5K in a 5 month CD – current rate at time of deposit - Approved unanimously

Recording Secretary: Minutes – Ed R

Note from November Board Meeting were unanimously approved

Corresponding Secretary – Ed R.

Newsletter deadline January 20th, 2024

Committees:

Programs – Ed S and Marion

o Upcoming

February 5th at 7PM Meeting at the Aggie –

Session Candle Making by Better Bee

March 4th TBA

April – Mike Garvey – Master Beekeeper

(NCBA member and Essex County Bee

School instructor) speaking on Mites and

Treatment Options

June 1 or June 8th Summer NCBA Get together

(Stonybrook or local or Jack's Abby)

NCBA Intro to Bee School – Tony and Dana

registration is closed with 88 registered

Dana has put the 2024 calendar of classes up

All classes will be in person this year

Mo K, Ed R, Tony and Dana will be instructing

this year

Intermediate Bee School – Ed & Marion

Planning starts for 2024

Marian and Ed are currently scoping out the course content and speakers

\$50 class fee for 2024 – no discounts for returning students

Extractors – Brianda Y

Nothing New

Library – Michael Simone

Still Have some books to sell

Door Prizes – Kara S

5 door prizes for onsite and 5 for Zoom audience

Website – Greg R.

o We're up-to-date currently

Membership – Facebook & Google Groups - Rose & Deb

430 Members have renewed PLUS 88 Bee School attendees

Need to consider the demographics of our membership and fit to our membership's needs

Bee Apparel – MaryBeth Noonan and Maureen Harrington

No update

Calendar Committee – Jenna Tibbetts

All updated through the end of February

Nominating Committee

Nothing new

Scholarships and Grants - Lara Davis

Working on some updates and outreach for the Jan Daniel's grants

WHAT IS
SMALL BLACK
AND YELLOW
AND DROPS
AND THINGS?

A FUMBLE-BEE



Stories for YOUR NCBA Newsletter

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

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



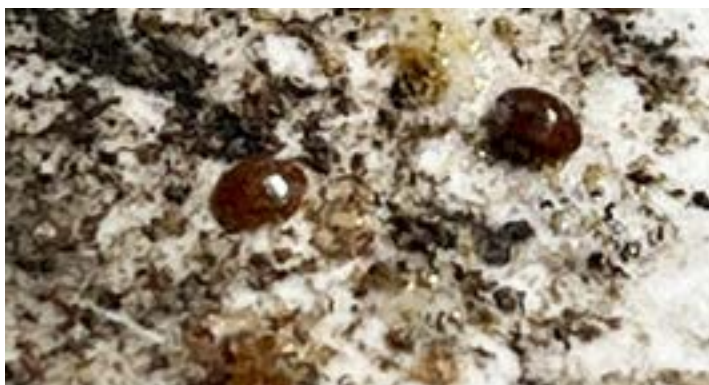
Climate Change and Beekeeping - How Can Bee Colonies and Beekeepers Adapt?

Ed Szymanski
lunariafarm@outlook.com



2023 was a challenging year for many beekeepers that I know. At first, everything looked well – the winter was on the mild side (for the most part), rainfall was good, nectar was flowing, honey supers were filling up, and mite counts were low. Then, as we got into late summer, things changed. Many days over 90 F made it harder to do inspections, challenged the bees to keep the hives cool and go about their usual business, and the humidity affected the rate at which the honey cured. Supers were stacked 4 and 5 high in our yard. Honey had been extracted earlier in the summer for a decent yield, but there was so much uncured nectar still on the hives. In mid-August, we applied our Formic Pro mite treatments even though counts were moderate. We feel that it's important to knock down the mite populations before the winter bees are raised. This meant keeping the hives closed for 2 weeks. In the meantime, it began to rain excessively. At the end of the treatment period, we went into the hives and found that many had pretty much run out of food. Honey supers were practically empty, and brood boxes were also short on food stores. The agitation in the yard during inspections was high, and fighting and robbing made it difficult

to inspect. Many colonies were given sugar syrup and entrances were closed up even more than the standard mouse guard/reducer that we use. Inner covers screened, everything we could do to minimize robbing at a time of year that is not usually a problem for us. Of course, our bees were probably off robbing other beekeepers' colonies as well, and who knows what the health conditions of some of those might be. And then, 2 weeks after the finish of the treatment, mite counts spiked to high levels. One colony, having had counts of 3 or 4 mites per 300 bees, spiked to 26! We had to treat again at that time. We did see a few cases of Deformed Wing Virus in colonies where it had not been seen earlier.



What happened?

AND

How did the abundant food supplies “dry up” so quickly?



I think there were 2 main factors - the number of days that it was raining affected the bees' ability to get out to forage, and when they could, I believe that the nectar had been diluted or washed out completely from the flowers. I had heard of this phenomenon, but never really experienced it until now. I recommend reading *The Effects of Rainfall on Plant-pollinator Interactions* (Lawson and Rand, 2019) a peer-reviewed paper available for download from Springer.

Why did the mite counts increase dramatically?

I heard this from several other experienced beekeepers. The reason that seems to stand out is that robbing dramatically increased because of the sudden decrease in nectar availability. We can put robbing protection on our hives, but we can't really stop them from going out to other yards in search of food. Unless, of course, we can be sure that they have enough at home.

Other climate-related issues we are bound to face in the near future include increased incidence of flooding, high winds, and temperature extremes. Some beekeepers in Massachusetts already have. And as Lawson and Rand point out, excess rainfall also affects pollen quality and availability. Pollen shortages will affect colony development and can cause great stress on the bees.

Let's start a dialog!

I don't have the solution to these problems.

I'd like to research the possibility that there are flowers that are less likely to be affected by intense rainfall. There are many other issues to consider as well. I think that we, the Massachusetts beekeeping community, need to find speakers and have discussions to address the issues around the climate's effects on honey bees (and other pollinators) and on beekeepers, some of whose livelihoods are directly affected by this.

I welcome any comments and discussion about this topic.

*Zip me an e-mail with your thoughts - Ed Szymanski
lunariafarm@outlook.com*





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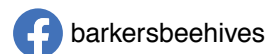
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Pickup Location

*Your Order can be picked up at our office:

- 1. Betterbee Store 01MADCR RD, 12804-2704 (0 Meader Rd, 0
- 2. E48 2023, 01008-9249 (E48 2023 Amherst, MA.)
- 3. Bards Memorial Hall, 05070 (VBA Meeting 8/12)

Pickup Date

(optional) - click the calendar

Save and Proceed

HOW TO PLACE A PRE-ORDER FOR SHOW PICKUP.

In the Shipping / Pickup Options select "Pickup at the Betterbee store or show" and then under Pickup Location select the show you are attending.

What you need to know:

- Norfolk County Beekeepers
- February 5, 2024
- Free Order Delivery
- Order by 2/2

CONTACT US

1-800-632-3379

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