



the Norfolk Bee

JULY 2022 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NEXT CLUB MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

7:30 to 9:00 pm

**Hybrid
In-person and via Zoom**

An email will be sent with a meeting invite. This will include a meeting ID # and a password.

In advance of the meeting, please download and install the free Zoom app to your computer, phone or tablet. If this is new technology for you, perhaps you can do a test meeting with a friend.

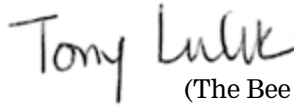
For those joining in-person, show up at the Norfolk Aggie

400 Main Street
Walpole, MA

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

Have a great summer. Enjoy your bees. Keep up your inspections and your mite counts. And enjoy any honey you harvest. We have had a great spring so far; one of the best I can remember. Remember to try and offer hive dives to connect with your fellow beekeepers. And I look forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting.

Always in beekeeping,


(The Bee Man)

Happy New Year!

August is the Beekeeper's New Year. This is the time to make late-season splits. Late season splits allow the beekeeper to carry more young queens through winter, hedging winter losses. In early April the late-season nucs are ready to explode and capture a June honey crop. Make your late season nucs before mid August.

Late August is the time to combine your weaker hives ("Take your losses in the Fall"). Better to carry a queen through winter than lose two weak hives in the winter. Deadouts in March can be so depressing.

The success of hives in spring and honey in June starts in August.

Winter is coming! Winter is coming!

With the 4th of July in the rearview mirror, the hives are pivoting towards winter prep. The flush of nectar and pollen sources is shifting to summer weeds and flowers, and hives start to respond. Hive populations settle and start to trim.

The hives may be less than two generations away from raising the generation that will raise the all-important winter bees.

But with hive populations declining, the bees have lost their advantage of simply out-populating their virus and mite

nemesis. It is therefore critical to test for mites and treat if necessary. And certainly one test/one treatment is not sufficient as mite numbers can flare and thresholds of bee and mite populations are in flux; it's important to test continually.

Adding to this confusion, drought conditions can exacerbate foraging, stress hives, and trigger robbing situations.

Understanding the longer game will help beekeepers manage their responses so that the bees can increase their odds of surviving winter.



News from the Landing Board

The September 12th Meeting Agenda

September: Meghan Milbrath - Winter Prep



“Beekeepers love to discuss winter hive protection — wrapping vs. insulation, upper entrances, quilt boxes or moisture boards, bee cozies, straw bales, and which way to turn the hole on the entrance reducer. Our hives may be the best protected hives in history! Our colonies, however, have the lowest rates of survival through winter. Whether a colony survives winter depends very little on what we did to the structure itself, and very much on the health

and size of the colony — the precious and wonderfully adapted generation of winter bees.” - *Meghan Milbrath*

NCBA BOARD MEMBERS

2022-2024

PRESIDENT

Tony Lulek

VICE PRESIDENT

Mohamad Khalil

TREASURER

Stephen Green

RECORDING SECRETARY

Edward Rock

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Kevin Keane

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Carin Cohen, 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

Lauralyn Smith

DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE

Kara Sullivan

HOSPITALITY

Rose Thornton and Carin Cohen

EXTRACTORS

Brianda Younie

MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE

Rose Thornton

Deb Spielman

LIBRARIAN

Michael Simone

PROGRAMS

Ed and Marian Szymanski

Extractors Ready for the Flow

With swarm season starting early we can only hope for a bountiful extracting season. That being said, here are some refresher guidelines for borrowing one of the club's six extractors.

- One must be paid up with yearly dues in order to borrow an extractor.
- One must pickup and return from the same location. There are three locations to borrow from: Canton, Franklin, or Sherborn.
- Please email Brianda Younie directly at briflower@gmail.com to

reserve an extractor.

- The extractors are loaned out for 5 days at a time, including pickup and drop off.
- They must be returned CLEAN with preferably a new bag and the outside sanitized. We will provide more detailed instructions when you sign up to borrow.
- Not adhering to the guidelines causes problems for the people that have generously offered their space to help our club. Thank you for your understanding.

There are no July or August meetings!

Enjoy your trashy summer beach reads guilt-free! There are no NCBA meetings this July or August.

Beekeeping has its share of trials and tribulations, and not getting together for a Bee Meeting is one

of them. We understand that this can be hard, but don't worry, September will be here before you know it! Hooray!



What's blooming

In July look for Linden (Basswood) trees, broadleaf weeds, raspberries, Mountain Mint, Agastache, and Cosmos.

In August Joe Pye Weed, Asters, Seven Sons tree, and Goldenrod are in bloom

Extractor Help Needed

NCBA needs a volunteer to help with housing a portion of the club's extractors. This person would work with Brianda Younie and orchestrate the signing out of extractors. It's a great opportunity to meet fellow beekeepers. No travel required.

Contact Brianda for more information.

Swag Czar Needed

NCBA needs someone to manage club apparel and other club-branded merchandise. It's a fun opportunity to help brand and promote the club. Inventory maintenance will be a thing of the past; the club is going to on-demand fulfillment system.

Please contact Tony Lulek if interested.

EpiPens and you...

by Colleen Neutra

As a former EMT here are some tips that I strongly urge you to consider if you carry an EpiPen into your bee yard. (These are my opinions based on my training and experience and are not offered to you as medical advice.)

1. The two-pack kits come with a practice applicator. I urge you to practice several times. When one uses an EpiPen you MUST remember to have all five digits AROUND the body of the pen. There are wild stories of people using the pens, having their thumb on one end, and shooting their thumb full of epinephrine, which can result in loss of the thumb.
2. EpiPens can't stay in a hot car. The liquid in the pens is sensitive to temperature. (I keep mine inside my yard

Things you might have noticed around your hives

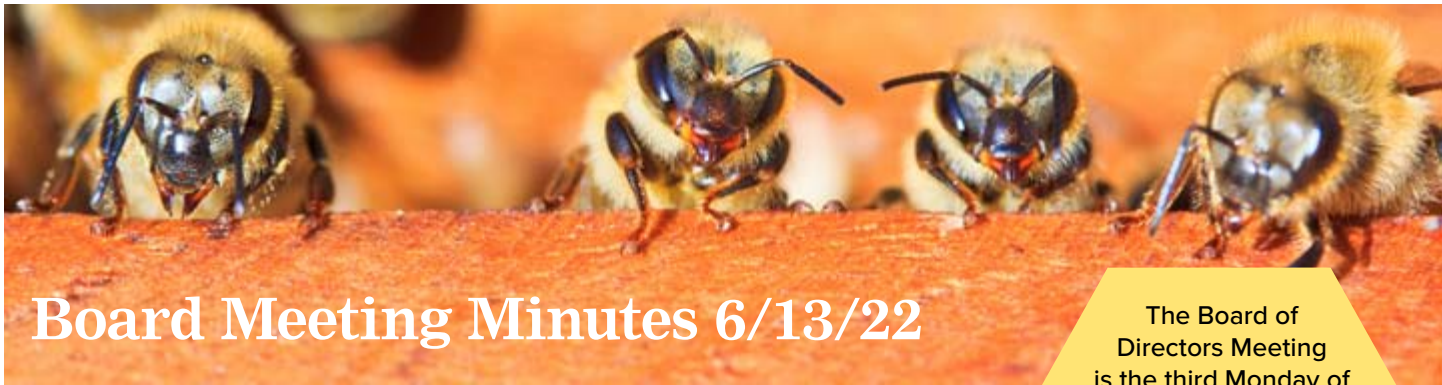
After hours in front of a blue monitor, it's nice to get outside and sit by the hives. Here are some things you may have noticed:

- ❑ Bees seem to leave the landing board in pairs. It may make sense; the bee dance of a returning forager isn't just for one. Many bees may see it.
- ❑ A smooth landing on the landing board may be more of a happy accident than skill. Bees can be curiously bad at landing.
- ❑ Some hives use the inner cover notch and some ignore it completely.
- ❑ Flight School happens roughly at the same time every day, but over the summer it seems to slowly shift to later in the day.
- ❑ Enjoying a beer (or any other beverage) while observing the hive would seem like a wonderful pastime, but it's hard to drink when wearing a veil (you *are* wearing a veil, right? Right!?). Besides curious bees may crawl into your bottle or can, and a bee sting in your mouth could be problematic. Best if we kept this pastime in the past.
- ❑ Identifying pollen sources on the bees' corbiculas is a lot of fun.
- ❑ Worker bees are like midsize cars; drones are like minivans.

boots, which are in my house, so I a) never forget the pens and b) they remain at a "shelf stable" temperature.

3. Please make sure before you use an EpiPen, you really are in anaphylaxis. Epinephrine, the active ingredient in EpiPens can raise blood pressure and pulse dangerously above normal. And if you use one because you're in anaphylaxis, still call 911 no matter what! Your reaction may not be fully over -- many people with anaphylaxis need additional treatment with epinephrine -- and EMS can assess and further treat you.

These are not tips to scare you, just to make you feel prepared under duress. Happy beekeeping!



Board Meeting Minutes 6/13/22

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

JUNE 13, 2022

7:10 to 8:15 pm

Attending:

Tony Lulek
Dana Wilson
Mohamad Khalil
Stephan Greene
Ed Rock
Greg Rushton
Tara Sullivan
Jennifer Jett
Rose Thornton
Lara Davis
Michael Simone
Ed Szymanski
Kara Sullivan

President's Update – Tony L

- Old & New Business
 - Nancy Minter – requesting “\$100 of Honey Sticks” to promote the club to this organization“. All American Junior Show at the Eastern Exposition Center.
- Club Name Tag
 - Have folks sign up if they want a new one. We'll make them available for pick up in September 2022 meeting at the Aggie.
 - And new name tags for bee school participants will be created as always.
- \$950 donation from Jan Daniels
- Scholarship Committee –
 - Only one application to date for the NCBA scholarship.
 - They are not going into an environmental field of study.
 - Motion made to grant the scholarship to this candidate
 - We'll not extend the deadline to attempt to receive more applicants
- Considering a Grant program to encourage youths (Middle and High School) to create apiaries or pollinator gardens or other agricultural activities). Lara will help develop some guidelines.
- Would like Board or Board members at large to attend Mass Bee meetings on behalf of the NCBA Club – we'll review this in August.
- Last board meeting for this season is in June 2022. We'll meet again in August (taking July off)

Vice President's Update – Dana

- Nothing new.

Treasurer Update – Stephen

- Bank balance \$42,210.70 as of 6/13/2022
- Financials Accepted.
- Tax filing due in June

Recording Secretary: Minutes – Ed R

- Meeting notes accepted

Corresponding Secretary – Kevin Keane

- Nothing new –
- Notes to highlight in the upcoming Newsletter

Committees:

- Programs – Ed S and Marion
 - Consider making the September, December, and May Club Meetings as Hybrid (with emphasis on face-to-face attendance) and October, November and other meetings set up a hybrid zoom/face-to-face at the aggie
 - Consider a door-prize incentive for face-to-face attendance
 - Also move the meeting into the auditorium
 - Add a social element to the face-to-face (pre meeting ice-breakers)
- Programs
 - September: Meghan Milbrath - Winter Prep
- **NCBA Intro to Bee School – Tony**

(Continued on next page)

NCBA Program Development

Want to learn and help with NCBA program development?

NCBA is looking for an organized and creative person to join Ed Szymanski as he plans and recruits speakers for the monthly NCBA meetings.

It's a great way to learn about and meet the biggest names in the beekeeping community (and they, in turn, learn about and meet you too). You will get a ringside seat into the latest trends and research about bees, plus you will help keep the monthly meetings informative and engaging.

If interested, please contact Tony Lulek.

Get involved with the NCBA

The NCBA runs on the interest and enthusiasm of its members. We encourage everyone to get involved with the club. Come to a board meeting.

Meetings restart in late August. The meetings last about an hour and we plan for the upcoming club meetings as well as for special events and the seasonal demands of the beekeepers' year. Meetings are on Zoom. Plus, we are very nice people. If you're interested, email Tony Lulek and he will send you a link to the meeting.

NCBA members get 50% OFF a new queen

Making your late-season splits, or just need to replace an underperforming queen? Go to the NCBA website and fill out a form (under Queen Program) to receive a coupon for

50% OFF a northern-raised, varroa-resistant queen from one of the club's four participating queen breeders. This is a great way to get improved genetics into your apiary.

(Board meeting minutes, continued from previous page)

and Dana

- Reviewing curriculum and editing for currency and accuracy
- Consider adding a supplemental session in February after their first season.
- **Intermediate Bee School** – Ed & Marion
 - Last Class this week until September – resuming in September.
- **Extractors** – Brianda
 - Looking for a volunteer to rehouse the extractors that Archie Acevedo currently houses.
- **Library** – Michael Simone
 - Considering updating a significant number of library titles
 - Next meeting a sale of the older titles to purge the library titles and then spend some money to update and upgrade the library.
- **Door Prizes** – Kara
 - For the meetings – we need to discuss how we'll differentiate door prizes for face-to-face attendee opportunities vs zoom attendees
- Motion accepted to spend \$400 for the September, October and November meeting door prizes
- Revisit plan for subsequent meeting in August Board meeting
- **Website** – Greg
 - Updating “about us” page and board will review the site for currency. Add a page for extractors.
 - Updating website with current activities and links
- **Membership – Facebook – Google Groups** - Rose & Deb
 - 582 members (members and bee school folks)
 - Dues \$25/year for membership
- **Bee Apparel** -
 - Don't currently have an apparel / Club material – Post note requesting volunteers in the newsletter
 - We're moving the process of apparel purchase to an on-demand process
- **Calendar Committee** – Jenna Tibbetts
 - No update
- **Nominating Committee**
 - na
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM

Did you know that NCBA members can get

50% OFF

a Northern-raised, Varroa-resistant queen?

It's true!

The NCBA Queen Program is a county-wide Darwinian approach to increase Varroa-resistance, health, winter survivability, and sustainability in our hives and apiaries.

We want to place evolutionary pressure, where it will do the most good: by encouraging our members to replace queens that exhibit no-to-low Varroa resistance.

The benefits of the NCBA Queen Program are:

- Remove Varroa non-to-low-resistant queens in Norfolk County
- Allow northern-raised, varroa-resistant queens to raise generations of drones that share the new queens' genetics
- Allow these improved drones to populate the county's DCAs and statistically drown out southern-raised drones
- Allow these daughter queens to extend Varroa resistant attributes into subsequent generations of workers, drones, and queens.
- Allow beekeepers to treat less and enjoy improved winter survival rates.

Fill out the form [HERE](#) and get your coupon!



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Built as one piece instead of two separate pieces for stability. They are made with galvanized 1/8" screen and white plastic slide-in tray to count mites. Glued and screwed together for long lasting durability.

Slatted Racks Completely assembled, glued and nailed. This gives the bees more room in the hive on rainy days and when they are all in for the night making them less likely to think about swarming due to crowding.

Supers Made out of pine; with pre-drilled finger joints, and handles cut into boards, comes unassembled. Deep, Medium and Shallow available.

Inner Cover Ventilated, wooden inner cover.

Outer Cover covered with Tin Made from 3/4" exterior plywood, completely assembled, glued and screwed. Cover comes with tin cover to protect from outdoor elements.

Complete Hive Setup Includes screened bottom board, two deep supers, 20 frames with wax foundation, inner cover and outer cover.

Hive Frames—Deep, Medium, and Shallow Wooden frame, made out of pine, held together with 10 nails. (Does not include wire or foundation).