

NEXT CLUB MEETING

JUNE 6, 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.

<https://vimeo.com/616977404>

For those joining in-person, show up at the Norfolk Aggie
400 Main Street
Walpole, MA

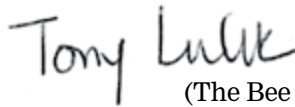


Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

June is here. There is almost no rain in sight. I think we might be in a drought. Let's pray for rain. The bees are bringing in wonderful spring nectar. Hives are busting and I am now at a loss of the splits I've made. I am officially out of frames.

I encourage everyone to do hive dives this summer. It is the best way to learn both for new and experienced beekeepers. We have our last meeting in June and hopefully as all goes well, we will continue with the hybrid style of meeting. We have so many members now, near and far, that it only makes sense for us to do this. And we can continue to have great speakers from around the country.

As everyone knows, a new board of directors was elected in May. I want to give a special thanks to Dana Wilson. He is stepping down as vice president. I want to thank him for all of the things he has done for me and for the club. He has been a guiding force behind many of the decisions the board has made over the last two years. He has been a voice of reason, a great listener, and has helped me work through many things. His gentle reminders about meetings keeps me on my toes. His attention to all the details has made my job as president a whole lot easier. Dana, from the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU.


(The Bee Man)

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.



News from the Landing Board

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

The June 6th Meeting Agenda

June: Tina Sebestyen, All About the Queen

Tina Sebestyen is founder of the Four Corners Beekeepers Association, vice-president of the Colorado State Beekeepers Association, and is currently working to produce the Colorado Master Beekeeping Program. She writes for the *American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture* magazines, along with some bee journals from abroad. Tina's presentations include All About the Queen and Fat Winter Bees.



June: Go to Mass. Field Day Pre-Covid, NCBA had a Club Social in the month of June (anyone remember Rocky Woods?). But this year we suggest that members go to the Massachusetts Beekeepers' Associates Annual Field Day. The big event will be on Saturday, June 11, from 9:00-3:30 at the MDAR State Apiary, 911 North Pleasant Street, in Amherst, MA.

A look ahead... Future Meeting Agendas

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*

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!



NCBA looking for writers

The NCBA is looking for writers who want to contribute their bee expertise and writing skills to the *Norfolk Bee* (the newsletter that you are reading right now). We welcome bee-related materials that advance the goal of the NCBA: building an informed community of beekeepers.

If technical tricks and tips are your thing, we'd love to read them. If essays about the quirks of raising bees is in your lane, please send them along. If your poems and sonnets about all things bee-related gets your iambic pentameter going, please share.

We ask that materials reflect best bee practices, and they must be original. We may hold publication if appropriate (an article submitted in April about winter

prep might be held until September). We reserve the right to edit and to decline publishing. There is no pay; no health benefits, but there is unlimited vacation time.

So please, if you love bees and love to write, the Norfolk Bee is the place to combine them! Submit materials to Kevin Keane at kevinkeane28@gmail.com.



Apply for the NCBA College Scholarship

Have a child who is going to college - or is already attending college? Apply for the NCBA College Scholarship.

The club will be awarding scholarships to candidates who most closely match our criteria. Go the NCBA website and fill out the form. The deadline has been extended to mid-June.

Mass Bee Field Day June 11, 2022

Register by June 7th for the 2022 Mass Bee Field Day.

The event is free and open to all at the MDAR State Apiary at 911 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA. Free parking too!

Visitors are asked to please bring your veil for protection

Schedule of events:

- Registration begins 8:30 AM
- Welcome Announcements 9:00-9:30 AM
- First Session..... 9:45-10:45 AM
- Second Session 11:00-12:00 PM
- LUNCH 12:00-1:30 PM

Smoker Contest

Win Great Vendor Prizes in Our Raffle

- Third Session 1:30-2:30 PM
- Fourth Session..... 2:45-3:45 PM



Apparel Blow-Out Sale at the June Meeting

Prepare to leave the June meeting covered head to foot in NCBA gear! We're having a Blow-Out Sale on all NCBA-branded clothing, so bring your money and spend, spend, spend!

The inventory is from our pre-Covid stockpile and the club is eager to move it along, especially as we transition to more on-demand ordering and sizing.

The holiday season is only six months away, and for those who can plan that far in advance, this is a great opportunity to whittle down the list and get it done at a fraction of the cost.



Board Meeting Minutes 5/16/22

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

MAY 16, 2022
7:10 to 8:15 pm

Attending:
Tony Lulek
Dana Wilson
Mohamad Khalil
Brianda Younie
Stephan Greene
Ed Rock
Joel Richards
Greg Rushton
Kevin Keane
Tara Sullivan

President's Update – Tony L

- Old & New Business
 - Scholarship Committee –
 - No applications yet...assure word is out for applicants in the newsletter.
 - Queen program
 - We have 5 requests so far.
 - Success of the local queens in overwintering was very solid (over 60%)
 - We're preparing to develop splitting and developing nucs so that NCBA members can generate new bee populations for club members.
 - Name Badges for Club Members – Tara is researching
 - Developing a set of guidelines for selling NUCs for club members.
 - 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 \$42,615.38 as of 5/16/2022
- Approval pending delivery of financial reports.

Recording Secretary: Minutes – Ed R

- Meeting notes accepted

Corresponding Secretary – Kevin Keane

- Nothing new – new newsletter material due 5/31/22
- Notes to highlight in the upcoming Newsletter
 - Looking for folks to write articles
 - Promote applications for NCBA scholarships

- Meeting Hybrid at Aggie June 6th
- Try to get a split video posted on newsletter asap

Committees:

- Programs – Ed S and Marion
 - Programs
 - June: Tina Sebestyen, All About the Queen
 - September: Meghan Milbrath - Winter Prep
- NCBA Intro to Bee School – Tony and Dana
 - Everything will go live for Bee School in September 2022
 - We're considering raising the Bee School Price to \$100
- Intermediate Bee School – Ed & Marion
 - In week #7 and everything is good
- Extractors – Brianda
 - No updates
- Library – Michael Simone
 - Considering updating a significant number of library titles
 - First Physical set up will be May 2nd – Make sure to have a blurb in the newsletter about the physical library will be OPEN FOR BUSINESS
- Door Prizes – Kara
 - All is well – Currently remote folks are getting gift cards and in-person folks

(Continued on page 7)

Flow Hive Review

by Tom Pilis in Bellingham, MA

If you are a beekeeper and have a profile on Facebook, there is a good chance that one of your Facebook friends shared a link on your feed to the Flow Hive (honeyflow.com). It has happened to me at least three times. Go to the Flow Hive website and you will see all kinds of photos and videos of families camping out directly behind their apiary harvesting honey with big smiles and no protective gear. The Flow Hive website alleges their Flow Hive will save you hours of back breaking work by not having to open your hive and not stress the bees by taking apart the hive to extract honey.

Flow Hive was invented by a father-son team in Bangalow, New South Wales, Australia, and they raised over 12 million dollars via crowdfunding when launched in 2015. The climate in the Bangalow area has yearly average lows of 54oF in July and yearly average highs of 82oF in mid-January. One other key point to make is Australia is currently the only inhabited continent in the world to be free of the varroa mite. A mild climate plus no varroa adds up to easy beekeeping in my mind. All the Flow Hive claims are true if you live in New South Wales.

A colleague of my wife was a 2015 crowdfunding investor and when the Flow Hive went into production in late 2015, he received a Flow Hive as repayment. His Flow Hive sat unopened in its original shipping boxes taking up space in his garage until March 2020 when they decided to sell their home and downsize. He knew I was a beekeeper through social media and offered me the unused Flow Hive for free.

What is a Flow Hive and what is in the box? It is an 8-frame system all made from cedar. Starting at the bottom, you get a fully assembled one-piece landing board and screened IPM bottom board similar in construction to a Nuc. The height of the front opening is smaller than a conventional Langstroth hive and there is also a step up. This was only apparent when I went to install a mouse guard and the holes in the mouse guard did not line up with the opening. I had to shop around until I found a mouse guard that would work.

Next is a standard finger-jointed 8-frame cedar 9 5/8" brood chamber. Included were 8 unassembled foundationless frames each with a one inch of wood comb guide to be positioned across the very top of the frame. The bees would build all-natural comb down to the bottom. A plastic queen excluder goes on next.

Now comes the component that make the Flow Hive unique. The honey super box is also finger jointed 8-frame cedar 9 5/8" deep body but with some modifications. One side has an observation window. It is a rectangular hole with a piece of Plexiglas inset from the inside of the hive body and a wooden door on the outside to cover the window when not in use. The back of the hive body is split into three sections. The top one-inch section and the bottom four-inch sections are removable. The center section is not removable. Contained in this hive body are six Flow Hive double sided plastic frames with plastic honeycomb. Each plastic honey cell is comprised of two pieces split down the middle. The split lines up in the normal position and the frame looks like plastic honeycomb. When a key is inserted into the very top of these plastic frames and turned to the extraction position, the two halves of the honey cell are no longer aligned, and gravity allows the honey to flow downward to a collection chamber at the very bottom of the Flow Hive frame and again gravity allows the honey to run out the bottom back of the frame when a plug is removed. The top one-inch section of the hive body provides access for the key. The bottom 4-inch section of the hive body provides access to the extraction plugs. There is only one extraction key provided so extraction is one frame at a time and gravity fed.

The last two Flow Hive components are an assembled standard 8-frame inner cover and an unassembled cedar gable roof.

I assembled the Flow Hive during the 2020/2021 winter and installed a new bee package last spring. Once the honey super was installed, there were quite a few bees visiting, but I did not find a single drop of pollen or nectar in any of the plastic cells. I am about to re-install the super

(Continued on page 6)

Reader Review (Continued from page 5)

and plastic honeycomb frames and I will see how it goes this season.

A conventional equivalent unassembled and unpainted 10-frame hive setup in pine (landing board/screened IPC bottom board, two deeps with unassembled foundationless frames, plastic queen excluder, telescoping cover with inner cover) from Mann Lake is under \$200. The price of the “Flow Hive Classic” which is what I had described in this article is currently at \$649. Is it worth the money? My opinion is no. If you live in New England, you will need to pull apart and inspect your hive many times over the season. Over-winter inspections to see how well your bees survived, weekly swarming inspections in the early

spring, monthly varroa inspections/testing over the entire season, capped honey inspections in early and late summer, and in most instances, you will need to remove the honey supers to prepare for winter. The Flow Hive website focuses on an easy solution to honey production and glosses over everything else about beekeeping. However, if you dig a little deeper into the Flow Hive website, they do state that harvesting honey with a Flow Hive reduces labor over a conventional hive, but most other aspects of caring for your colony remain the same. In the end, removing the honey supers for an extraction is not a big deal when compared with the overall yearly New England hive maintenance we all need to perform.

What does a hybrid Bee Meeting look like?



Photos from the first in-person meeting since the pandemic started.

May 2022 hybrid meeting.

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.

Last one will be in June and then we don't get to meet until 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. Plus, we are very nice people. If you're interested, email Tony Lulek and he will send you a link to the meeting.

Eagle Scout Grant

Last season NCBA gave a \$1,000 grant to Sebastian Wright's Eagle Scout Project which focused on building and apiary at the Milton Cemetery.



(Board meeting minutes, continued from page 4)

- received materials. Kara will build a "trove" of door prize gifts for in-person folks.
- Website – Greg
- Migration from current network(Network Solutions) to new network (Google Workstations and Google Domaine). Significant cost savings
- Updating website with current activities and links
- Membership – Facebook – Google Groups - Rose & Deb
 - 582 members (members and bee school folks)
- Bee Apparel - Lauralyn
- Shane Alexander may be helping with apparel in the future
- Announce in the newsletter – we're having an apparel "Fire Sale" at the June 6th meeting at the Aggie.
- We're moving the process of apparel purchase to an on-demand process
- Calendar Committee – Jenna Tibbetts
 - Jenna will be updating this week
- Nominating Committee
 - Joel managed the process successfully.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM



Massachusetts Beekeepers Association Annual Field Day

The Massachusetts Beekeepers Association is holding our annual FIELD DAY on Saturday, June 11, 2022. The event is hosted by Franklin County Beekeepers Association. The event is free and open to all.

We are returning to the UMASS AGRICULTURAL LEARNING CENTER on 911 NORTH PLEASANT STREET AMHERST, MA. Follow the Yellow Bee Signs!!

The AGRICULTURAL CENTER is a 70-acre "Living Classroom" located on the UMASS Amherst campus. The facility hosts the State's (MDAR) and UMASS research Apiaries and features Fruit / Vegetable, Vineyard, Landscaping designs, and Pollination Gardens. We ask that ALL bring your veil for protection. Free Parking on site.

Place your orders with your favorite vendor and enjoy FREE SHIPPING. Better Bee, Mann Lake, and Dadant will be exhibiting as well as local vendors and artists will exhibit in the open area located adjacent to the main tent where everyone meets. Morning Coffee / Muffins and a catered barbecue lunch will be available for purchase.

Mass Bee Field Day is FREE to All

Registration begins.....	8:30 am
Welcome Announcements.....	9:00-9:30 am
First Session.....	9:45-10:45 am
Second Session.....	11:00-12:00 pm
LUNCH	12:00-1:30 pm
Smoker Contest	
Win Great Vendor Prizes in Our Raffle	
Third Session.....	1:30-2:30 pm
Fourth Session	2:45-3:45 pm



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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).