

The Norfolk Bee

June 2024 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NCBA June Activities

There WILL NOT be a June NCBA Meeting. We're planning to host a number of hive dives in the month of June - so keep your eyes on the Google Group for announcements of times, dates and places.

Next in-person NCBA Meeting will be September 9th at 7PM at the Aggie

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It's clearly SWARM SEASON!

May 22, one day after an inspection showing no queen cells anywhere, and plenty of room for expansion, my wife said - "WOW it sure is loud by the hives"! Sure enough, that great, overwintered, vibrant hive had swarmed.

It nestled, beyond reach, about 50 feet up in a pine tree and leaving behind a still vibrant but slightly smaller colony.

Dear Beekeepers,

Spring is here and summer is almost upon us.

We decided as a club to forgo a June meeting. Everyone is busy this spring with lots of projects. We decided that the board members would all host hive dives during the month of June. And of course I encourage everyone in the club to do this. Just once, before you go into your hives, post on the google group email with a time and place. It is a great way to share your experiences with other beekeepers and to get to know your neighbors.

[Another highlight in June is Mass Field Day on June 15th. This is a wonderful event. There is a link in the newsletter for this event.](#)

The new board will reconvene on August 19th and all are welcome to attend. I will send out an invite email closer to the date.

I look forward to seeing you all in September. Enjoy the Summer.

Yours in beekeeping

Tony Lulik



Bee Tea for Bee Health

From the NCBA Google Group

This is a good treatment for cleansing your bee's gut, especially in the spring, especially if the colony is exhibiting some Nosema. This treatment is good as a cleansing treatment in the fall to prepare the bee's gut for the winter. It gets stored as processed honey and consumed in the winter.

This recipe makes two treatments, one for each of two hives. It can be given every one or two months, starting in early spring, and also fed a few times during

the fall feeding period.

Here's the recipe:

You'll store the mixture in two 1-quart jars

Bring 3 cups of water to boil, add the tea mix (see below for detail), let steep for 10 min.

Strain and add another 3 cups of water. Let the mixture cool down to lukewarm temperature.

Add 1 cup (1/2 lb) of honey (or sugar syrup) and stir well.

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I also add to this mixture, a teaspoon of apple cider vinegar, a pinch of Himalayan salt and a tablespoon of Honey-bee-Healthy.

Pour into the two 1-quart jars to feed to the bees (one jar per hive)

Tea Ingredients

1/2 tsp. of each:

Chamomile,
Yarrow
Leaves/stems of stinging nettle,
Peppermint,
Dandelion flowers

1/4 tsp of each:

Sage,
Hyssop,
Thyme,
Lemon balm,
Echinacea

1 pinch of rue (pyra)

Sometimes when the colony is sick with gut issues the bees will not take the syrup. If this is the case, you can spray each frame, bees and all, with a spray bottle to force them to take it through cleansing/grooming behavior. Only spray if the temps are in the 60s or higher. Also be careful not to start robbing (not a good idea to spray during a dearth)

(From Alla Ostrovsky)

I brew a Rishi mushroom tea (3 tsp of mushroom powder per quart of water).

I add that to the 2:1 sugar syrup mixture in the following proportion:

5lb sugar, 5 cups water, 1/2 quart brewed mushroom tea

If feeding with 1:1 mixture: I also add some mushroom tea to their water source (bird bath), or the spray bottle of sugar syrup if you using it during inspections.

The benefit to the bees is a boost to their immune systems.

(The credit for this mushroom tea goes to Mel Gadd of Drumlin Farm.)

New Boston Honeybee Rules

By Tiana Woodard, Globe Staff - May 30, 2024

Bee enthusiasts in every Boston neighborhood can now keep a few hives on their property for just a \$25 permitting fee.

For decades, the city's zoning code decided who could and couldn't legally raise bees based simply on what part of Boston the beekeeper lived in. Yet, several beekeepers, such as Hyde Park resident Val Mayo, kept honeybees in their homes without incident. Mayo, who's also vice president of the Boston Area Beekeepers Association, said she's relieved that beekeeping is legal citywide since she's invested countless hours and dollars into her apiary. "I guess I'm no longer an outlaw," she said.

The change is the result of a zoning code adjustment the Boston City Council approved in early March, and the Boston Zoning Commission greenlit earlier this month. "At the end of the day, this is not really just about bees," at-large City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, who first introduced amendments to the city's beekeeping regulations two years ago, told the Council before its unanimous vote earlier this year. "This is about government getting in the way of bureaucratic regulations and making things simpler for our residents." The change came nearly two years after the Globe first reported on Louijeune's proposal. To streamline the approval process, the Boston City Council moved beekeeping regulations from the city's zoning code to the Inspectional Services Department, or ISD, which enforces building and housing codes. With the newly approved fix, Louijeune said, "The only reason why you would need special permission is if you're trying to do something a little different or you need permission for more hives."

The new beekeeping rules include some guidelines. Beekeepers can't keep more than five hives on any lot or roof; hives can't be taller than six feet or 24 cubic feet in size; and there are strict parameters on how far apiaries can be from an abutting property, residential sidewalks, and doors and windows.

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**NCBA BOARD MEMBERS
2022-2024**

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
TBD

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
TBD

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DIRECTOR
TBD

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
Lara Davis



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An ISD spokesperson said in a statement the department is in the process of crafting a beekeeping permit application that “will be easier to apply for and place less regulatory burden on applicants.”

“The department expects our new regulations to be published in the very near future,” the spokesperson said.

For decades, Boston outlawed beekeeping under its aged zoning code, which traditionally associated beekeeping with the farming of other animals like chickens. Thus, it was only legal in parts of the city that housed large butcher shops, such as in Chinatown and parts of South Boston, West Roxbury, Allston-Brighton, and Dorchester. In broad sections of the Back Bay, South Boston, the North End, and downtown, beekeepers could operate with restrictions. In 2013, even after Boston revised its urban agriculture zoning to help residents better understand them, beekeepers still required a zoning variance in most neighborhoods.



Massachusetts
Beekeepers
Association

MassBee Field Day 2024

At the UMASS Agricultural Learning Center
911 Pleasant St., Amherst, MA

FREE and OPEN to ALL

Hosted by Franklin County Beekeepers Association and CoHosted by UMASS Amherst

FREE Preregistration is encourage
Lunch must be pre order at MassBee.org by June 10th (\$15)

4 presentation sessions across 6 sites & Smoker Contest with Ken Warchol

Raffle (Prizes include 3 MDAR NUCS and Donated product from Betterbee, Mann Lake, Dadant, Maxant, “the Photo Hive”, and many other vendors. Water Bottles and T-Shirts will be available for purchase.

For Safety Sake - Veils are Required for all Live Bee Demonstrations

NCBA Queen Program

The NCBA Queen Program is our 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. NCBA encourages members to conduct frequent mite testing and identify their most Varroa-besieged hives. Hives with high mite counts that need treatment should be considered to have weak queens, and we encourage beekeepers to requeen with a northern-raised Varroa-resistant queen.

To help incentivize beekeepers, NCBA will contribute 50% towards the purchase of a new queen from local queen breeders (currently: Northeast Bees Apiary, Warm Colors Apiary, and Wetlands Apiary). For this 2024 program, we will use a coupon system.

[Go to the NCBA Website to Fill-Out an Application.](#)

YOU MUST BE A CURRENT MEMBER WITH at least one year in the club or have taken our bee school this year. You will not be able to join this year and participate in this program.



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
MAY 20, 2024
7:00-8:30PM.**

Attending:

- Tony Lulek
- Edward Rock
- J. Jett
- Archie Acevedo
- Mike Simone
- Laura Davis
- Paul Reilly
- Amy Musante
- Greg Rushton
- Brianda Younie
- Mohamad Khalil
- Brian McCafferty
- Kara Sullivan
- Jenna Tibbits
- Dana Wilson
- Ed Szymanski
- Alla Ostrovsky

President's Update – Tony L

- oQueen program has really picked up this year with certificates (10-12) already sent out
- oEd Szymanski discussed MASSBee's upcoming Field Day and their 2025 Fall meeting
 - Motion that NCBA hosts the MASSBEE 2025 Fall meeting – motion passed
 - Ballpark of 100 attendees
 - MassBee arranges:
 - Vendors, speakers...
 - Club who cosponsors (pays for) arranges the venue and caterer
- oOur new Board Members At-Large are Amy Musante, Paul Reilly, and Archie Acevedo
- oWe need to have a detailed conversation about club communication (staying with e-mail / Google Group and expanding into social media). Perhaps form a committee to evaluate our communication strategies
- oWe need to make sure we carefully communicate how to manage member Google settings
- oOur next in person meeting is September 9th

- oOur next Board Meeting will be August 19th
- oJune is Hive Dive Month – as many NCBA members will host hive dives in June to build camaraderie and work on continuing education for club members.

Vice President's Update–Mohamad Khalil

- oNo updates
- Treasurer Update – (Brian McCafferty)**
- oBank balance \$37,592.83 as of April 30, 2024
 - Motion to accept was carried.
 - The three month CD is maturing – suggestion is to roll it over into a 6 month CD – Motion carried
 - Sue Jaffe – donated \$500 in memory of George Cofsky

Recording Secretary: Minutes – Ed Rock

- oNote from April Board Meeting were accepted
- Corresponding Secretary – Ed Rock**
- oAll articles and notes to Ed Rock by end of day Sunday, May 26th

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Committees:

Programs – Ed S and Marion

oUpcoming - TBD

oInstead of a June meeting, NCBA activities will be spread over several days in early June with members hosting hive dives for bee school and club members.

oStarting discussion of next season's programming:

oCore principles will be that ALL meetings will be zoom accessible, meetings will alternate face-to-face and academic in nature, and several will be practical / fun / make and take style.

oAnd we'll discuss whether we keep our club meetings at the Aggie (about \$182/ meeting) or move to another location

oNCBA Intro to Bee School – Tony and Dana - next year planning to start soon
•Archie A will be running the Mentor program for 2025 Bee School

oIntermediate Bee School – Ed & Marion
oWrapping up class in Two weeks June 27th

Extractors – Brianda Y

o Nothing New

Library – Michael Simone

o Nothing new

Door Prizes – Tara S

oOn hold and square away until August meeting to firm up for new year's meetings
•discussing door prize quantities for inperson and zoom participants

Website – Greg

oDomain shifting from Google to Square
oLooking into video (Vimeo archives) links on the website

oSetting up a form for checking out children bee suits, and also a form for Extractors from Brianda

oWe need to review whether there is an increase in charge for downloads from Vimeo through our club website

oWe also need to think through how we maintain a "member firewall" between the downloading / viewing of these videos to only our members

oCould be using the Club Facebook and/ or the Club Google Group

Membership – Facebook – Google Groups - Rose & Deb

o57 Members have renewed & 78 Bee School attendees

Bee Apparel – TBD

oGoing to look into some merchandise for the Fall

Calendar Committee – Jenna Tibbetts

oAll updated through the end of June

Scholarships and Grants - Lara Davis

•Caroline Beckman - \$1000 scholarship for the Aggie High School

•Moted and Approved

•Have 5 Current Applications

•Review for membership

•Selecting 2 awardees - \$1000 each

•Motion that the scholarship committee has a budget of \$2,500 to spread among the successful scholarship winners – in 2 x \$1000 scholarships and \$500 discretionary consolation scholarship

•Seconded and approved

•Motion to move the deadline to April 30th

•Moted and Approved

•Note that website info should be updated to emphasize the applicant should be a member in good standing prior to scholarship application

•Jan Daniels Grant Applications

•They are "not to exceed" \$500 awards

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM



Thank You!

We wanted to extend a special THANK YOU to all of the NCBA Members who volunteered their time and talent on the NCBA Board and Committees during the past 2+ years. Our Club is better today because of you!

****Stephen Green (1953 - 2023)***

Dana Wilson

Ed Szymanski

Marian Szymanski

Joel Richards

Jennifer Jett (JJ)

MaryBeth Noonan

Maureen Harrington

Deb Spielman

Roger Q. Hill

Jenna Tibbits

Rose Thornton

Carin Cohen

****In loving memory of Stephen Green, who will always remain in our hearts and memories."***

DIY Solar Wax Melter

by Steven Trieber

This is my version of a solar wax melter on the cheap (*Figure 1*). I considered buying one for \$200+ from one of the big beekeeping supply houses and within three seconds I came to my senses.

That may have been two seconds longer than it should have taken. I built mine for basically free and kept some items out of the landfill while doing it. Here is how I built it in ten simple steps.

Step 1: Obtain a Styrofoam cooler. I found mine in a recycling bin (free). It is from Omaha Steaks and measures 21" long x 16.5" wide x 12" high (excluding the cover - you won't need the Styrofoam cover for the melter).



Step 2: Grab a large black trash bag. This is wrapped around the Styrofoam to enhance the heating effect (*Figure 2*). Use some small binder clips



or tape to keep the black bag wrapped tightly around the cooler.

Step 3: Go to Savers, Goodwill or your cupboard and find a rectangular Pyrex-type glass baking dish that will fit inside the cooler. I found mine for a buck at Savers.

Step 4: The next time someone is tossing out an old window screen or screen door, grab it and cut out the mesh. Place the mesh so it sits atop the glass dish and overlaps the edges. Use two binder clips to secure the screen to the glass dish so it doesn't sag (*Figure 3*).

Step 5: Pour about one inch of water into the glass dish. This will allow the melted wax to float and will make it much easier to retrieve.

Step 6: Place a Bounty paper towel atop the screen. The paper towel filters out any unwanted debris and produces nice clean wax. Don't skimp, use Bounty, you'll thank me later.

Step 7: Cut a piece of clear Plexiglass a little bigger than the top of the cooler (*Figure 4*). Making it bigger provides space for weights and keeps insects out. I had some left over from an old project but you can get a piece from any big box home improvement store (an 11"x14" is under ten bucks).

Step 8: Place your collected wax atop the paper towel and keep it away from the edges of the dish. You want the wax to melt into the dish, not outside of it.

Step 9: Cover the cooler with the plexiglass, weigh down the corners with some rocks or bricks and place the cooler in a sunny location.

Step 10: Wait a couple of hours and collect the wax (*Figure 5*) to make some cool products from the hive (*Figure 6*) – one of my luminary candles.

The slumgum that remains on the paper towel can be used for a variety of purposes, but that's for another article.



Figure 3 - Binder Clips securing the screen



Figure 4 - Plexiglass over the cooler



Figure 5 - Clean Wax



Figure 6 - Luminary Candles



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Archie Acevedo □ Franklin Massachusetts

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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.

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