

# the Norfolk Bee

MARCH 2023 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

**MARCH 6, 2023**  
7:30 to 9:00 pm

**Hybrid  
In-person  
and on Zoom**

400 Main Street  
Walpole, MA



Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

Well, winter has finally arrived. I was feeling like we got robbed of a real winter. I love the snow and fires in the wood stove, and eating all sorts of comfort food when it's cold and snowy out.

Having steady winter temperatures and snow cover is good for everything. With these weird weather patterns this winter, this can put a strain on the bees; breaking clusters, eating up too many stores.

Time is very crucial right now. Keep an eye on your hive. Make sure they have plenty of natural stores or fondant and make sure it is easily accessible to them. We are not out of the woods yet. Remember also to drop in a bit of pollen patty. I usually start with like a 2" square. I know we had some pollen coming in last week, but they are going to need more. This crazy weather can also play havoc with the plants blooming. I swear I saw some maple trees already starting to bud out. The cluster that the queen is laying now is starting to get bigger. So keep a close eye on them.

See you on Monday.

*Tony Lulik*  
(The Bee Man)

## Our annual "Cleansing Flight" issue!

It's Judgement Month in the beeyard. Did your bees survive the winter? (We're using the term "winter" loosely).

Did you do all the prep last summer?

This is when we find out!  
Good luck to all...

## Massachusetts Beekeepers Association Spring 2023 Meeting

March 18, 2023 8:00AM • Topsfield Fairgrounds, 207 Boston St. Topsfield, MA 01983

Come join our meeting hosted by the Essex County Beekeepers Association, on Saturday, March 18th at the historic Topsfield Fairgrounds.

### Presenters

**Dr. Kim Skyrn** our Chief Apiary Inspector from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Apiary Program will be giving us an update on the Apiary Program's plans and events for 2023. MDAR

**Dr. David Peck** from BetterBee and Cornell University will be giving presentations on extended-release oxalic acid and varroa history, biology, and year-round management.

From Professor Lynn Adler's lab at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

**Dr. Jenny VanWyk** presentation is titled Wild bees in agriculture.

PhD student **Seanne Clemente** presentation is titled Self-medicative behavior in honey bees and bumble bees.



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2022-2024

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Ed and Marian Szymanski

**SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS**  
Lara Davis



# News from the Landing Board

## The March 6th Meeting Agenda



**Swarms!** Swarms: the panicked moment when you realize that you were not a beekeeper, but just a spectator in the life of a hive - and all your neighbors are going to wonder what the \$#@&! is going on. Why, oh why, didn't you split the hive last week?

Come learn the tips and tricks to avoid swarms and then how to capture them if you can.

**Chuck Wood of Wood's Beekeeping Supply will be this meeting's vendor** Buy more gear and equipment! Be ready with extra gear when the swarms start to, uh.... *swarm*. Chuck Wood of Wood's Beekeeping Supply will be available at the meeting at Norfolk Aggie. Browse his wares for a quick impulse buy, or, for the *really organized*, pre-order and pre-pay for supplies by Saturday, March 4th, and Chuck will bring it to the meeting.



## A look ahead... Future Meeting Agendas

**April: Mite control and EpiPen briefing** What spring ritual could be sweeter than the joy of vanquishing varroa mites? Join us for a discussion of spring mite control and how to knock down the population of mites to let your colony grow. Also, hear from a medical expert on the use of an EpiPen.

## Queen Survival survey coming

Whilst we continue to mourn the passing of Queen Elizabeth, we maintain a stiff upper lip and turn attention to the winter survival rates of our queens; the queens whose realms are their hives.

For the 36 of us who purchased a northern-raised, varroa-resistant

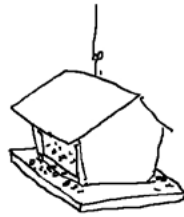
queen through the NCBA Queen Program, please keep an eye out for the NCBA Winter Survival Survey. We expect to email the survey by the end of the month.

For those who missed out on the Queen Program, it will be back this year!

# Types of birdfeeders



*Tube  
Feeder*



*Seed  
Feeder*



*Thistle  
Sock*



*Bee  
Feeder*

## Is it Spring yet? No!!

*by Ed Szymanski, Cornell MB 2022*

Well, February is now behind us and we've got the month of March, which always seems excruciatingly long, ahead of us. We can count on up and down temperature swings, hopefully not the March deep freeze of last year, but there will likely be warm days and cold days.

If your bees have made it this far, they should be past any mite or virus damage. The challenge ahead of you now is to make sure your bees don't starve. Last fall's drought left many colonies with insufficient stores to make it all the way until some nectar starts flowing. We need to stay on top of the feeding! Check regularly; add sugar patties or fondant when supplies get low.

It was great to see natural pollen coming in the last few days. A small square of pollen patty on top of the frames, next to the cluster will supplement the natural pollen when it's too cold to forage. Don't put too much on at once, maybe a 2 inch square, as too much can invite small hive beetles in.

Brood rearing should be picking up now, and both honey (sugar) and pollen will be consumed at a higher rate. It's nice to see them flying on a warm day, but all of that extra activity causes food to be burned faster too. Moderate temperatures will minimize food consumption and allow

the cluster to move around to food stores that they can't reach when it's cold.

When you do check or add food on a cool day, only open the hive top enough to do it and then close up. Nights can still get cold and you don't want the cluster to lose much heat.

I hope you all have lower losses this year than last. Some losses are inevitable given the challenges we face. The triple threat of pesticides, insufficient forage, and mites/viruses is hard to overcome. So if you lost bees, it doesn't mean you're a bad beekeeper. It means you should try to learn from the experience and beat the odds next year. Get an inspection from MDAR or at least from a mentor if you don't understand what happened. The best thing that can come out of your loss is that you learn something from it. Make sure you understand Varroa mites and the problems they cause, and what can be done about it. Monitoring is needed – treating by the calendar doesn't work anymore. Have a plan!

Don't let your bees starve!







# Board Meeting Minutes 2/20/23

## NCBA BOARD MEETING

**FEBRUARY 20, 2023**

7:11 to 8:15 pm

### Attending:

Tony Lulek  
Mohamad Khalil  
Ed Rock  
Roger Q. Hill  
Joel Richards  
Jenna Tibbetts  
Tara Sullivan  
Stephen Greene  
Ed Szymanski

### President's Update – Tony Lulek

- Nominating Ed S and Beekeeper of the year with Mass Bee
- NUC program is being planned – we're developing a list of NUC providers to bee school students – Jenna is developing list with Mike

### Vice President's Update – Mo

- EAS
  - Looking for donations of gift baskets, event sponsorship dollars,
  - Have club table / banners to promote our value propositions (Bee School, Intermediate Bee School, meetings and continuing education
  - Motion to budget \$1500 for any expenses for EAS (Banners, brochure, sponsorship, club table) (July 31 to August 4) – deferring vote and detail until March Board meeting
- MassBee – March at Topsfield Fairgrounds
- Wetlands Apiary – offered to do Nosema testing for NCBA

### Treasurer Update – Stephen

- Bank balance \$42,522.39 as of 2/20/23
- Financials accepted

### Recording Secretary: Minutes – Ed R

- Meeting notes accepted

### Corresponding Secretary – Kevin Keane

- Newsletter deadline 2/24/23
- Next club meeting 3/6/23

### Committees:

- **Programs** – Ed S and Marion
  - o Possible
- **March** – Swarm Control
- **April** – Mite Control & EpiPen Briefing

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 Intro Bee School** – Tony and Dana
  - 92 new bee school members
  - Going very well
  - We're doing hybrid classes for the next five sessions (Zoom and In-person)
  - May 16th – Possibly Ed S doing Mite and Management5 session
  - And we're adding an August class that will be Prepping for Winter and Q&A for their first few months
- **Intermediate Bee School** – Ed & Marion
  - o Starting March 1st, 2023
  - 60 signed up so far
  - All classes Online – Zoom
    - 1st class – Eve Rapaski – Spring Management
    - 2nd class – Year in Beekeeping
    - 3rd class – Single Brood Box Management
- **Extractors** – Brianda Y
  - o New Extractor purchased and will be sent to the Sherburne location
- **Library** – Michael Simone
  - o No update
- **Door Prizes** – Kara S
  - o Invite vendors (Barker, Woods...) in quarterly to our meetings (Club/

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Board meeting minutes, continued from page 4)

Member Vendor nights)

o Woods will be hosting a store at March meeting

o Tara will also reach out to Better Bee – we'll shoot for having them in the Fall

- **Website** – Greg

o Nothing new

o Check on if the scholarship forms have been enabled

- **Membership** – Facebook – Google Groups - Rose & Deb

o 428 members (members not including bee school) renewed

o Facebook OK

- **Bee Apparel** – MaryBeth Noonan and Maureen Harrington

o Nothing new

- **Calendar Committee** – Jenna Tibbetts

o Everything updated for March

o Adding MDAR dates and NCBA bee school also

- **Nominating Committee**

o Nothing new

- **Scholarships and Grants** - Lara Davis

o Also update with NCBA Master Beekeeper

Scholarships & Scholarship for Queen Program

- *Meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM*

## NCBA Scholarship

Are you or your child pursuing higher education?

Apply for a NCBA Scholarship! NCBA provides scholarships of \$1000 to members in good standing or their children. Applications are due May 31st, and can be found at [norfolkbees.org](http://norfolkbees.org). Please email Lara Davis at [scholarships@norfolkbees.org](mailto:scholarships@norfolkbees.org) for more information.

## Mentor Update

There has been a great response from club members willing to be mentors.

We are looking for mentors for students in Boston, Milton, Canton, and Stoughton. In addition we have students in Falmouth, Easthampton, Rocky Hill, CT. If you are willing to mentor any of these three, you are not expected to drive to their location. You can work with them by phone, email, and texting.

This is a great learning opportunity both for the mentee and the mentor. Please email [dwilson831@gmail.com](mailto:dwilson831@gmail.com) if you are willing to mentor any of these students.

## Jan Daniel's Educational Grant

The Jan Daniels Educational Grant aims to provide educational organizations project grants for the purpose of promoting and furthering education surrounding apiculture and healthy pollinator habitats. The grant is open to all educational organizations including, but not limited to, public & private schools, summer camp programs, Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts, municipal libraries, and community farms & gardens who host educational programming. Applications can be filled out at [norfolkbees.org](http://norfolkbees.org). Please email Lara Davis at [scholarships@norfolkbees.org](mailto:scholarships@norfolkbees.org) for more information.

WHAT DID THE  
HONEYBEE BECOME  
AFTER DRINKING MEAD?



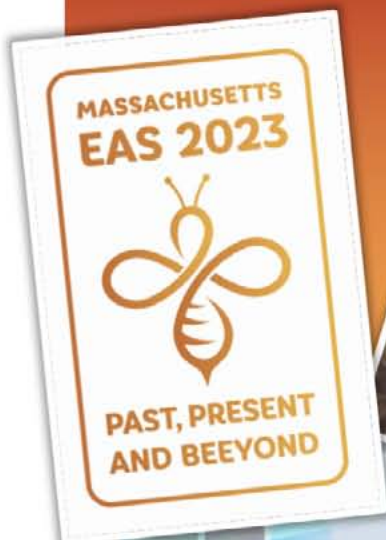
A BUMBLE BEE





# EAS MA 2023

July 31 – Aug 4, 2023



## 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Short Course and Conference\*

### University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA

#### Speakers:

- Dr. Samuel Ramsey
- Dr. Judy Wu-Smart
- Dr. Cameron Jack
- Dr. Tammy Horn-Potter
- Paul Kelly
- Dr. Tom Seeley
- and more...

#### Workshops:

- Honey Judging
- Bees Under the Microscope
- Lotions and Potions
- Cooking with honey

**EAS Master Beekeeping Program Testing & Certification**

#### Short Course Tracks:

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Queen Rearing and Colony Management
- Hands-on beekeeping in the State Apiary

#### Special Events:

- Field Trips
- Auctions
- Honey Show
- Bee Olympics
- Special Visit by Lorenzo Langstroth

**Major Beekeeping Suppliers and Artisans**



### Nature, Culture, Food and Entertainment

Flagship campus of the University of Massachusetts system and nationally ranked public research university.

Downtown Amherst - Walkable mile of cuisine, culture, art, and independent film at the center of legendary trail networks for biking, hiking, arts, and literature.

90 miles from Boston and 175 miles from New York City. 64 miles to Tanglewood summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.



*\*Watch for Updates on the EAS Website:*  
<https://easternapiculture.org/conference/eas-2023/>



## 2023 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.

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**PACKAGE BEES 2023 PICK UP DATES**

**Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>  
Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Protective Wear, Bee Tools, Beekeeping Kits  
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needs!**

**To answer questions:  
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