

The Norfolk Bee

March 2024 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NEXT CLUB MEETING

MARCH 4TH 2024
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**In Person at the Aggie and
via ZOOM**

Spring Hive Management

**Norfolk Agricultural High
Conference Room**

**400 Main Street
Walpole, MA**

TAKE Member Survey

[Click Here](#)

The FUTURE of YOUR Club
JUST 7 questions.

ONLY 25/528 members have
submitted responses.

LET's GET TO 100%!

Dear beekeepers,

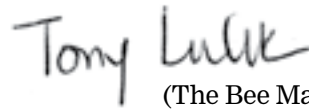
I loved the turnout at the February meeting! It was great to see so many familiar faces and new ones that I only see on zoom. I really enjoyed myself. I hope everyone had a good time. We hope to do a few more meetings like that throughout the coming year.

Please make sure you [fill out the survey](#) that the nominating committee has put out. Even if you don't want to run for any of the positions, or suggest anyone for a position, they will be using the input from the club to help guide the new board over the next two years.

This was a tough bee winter for me. I wasn't as diligent a beekeeper as I normally am, especially this past fall. My losses are only my fault. Life sometimes just gets in the way. And there is nothing you can do about it, except to learn and move on. This is my 20th year of keeping bees. No matter the failures I have had, hope springs eternal. So if you get discouraged, or want to give up, remember, that each and every single year is different. Life, weather, bees, and all sorts of situations (sometimes out of our control) determine our successes and our failures. Beekeeping is in my blood and I hope to be able to keep bees for another 20 years.

See you all at the March meeting. In person or on Zoom.

Yours fondly in beekeeping,


(The Bee Man)

Spring Hive Management NCBA Meeting March 4th

**7PM at the Aggie &
on Zoom**

**March 4th - Bill Hesbach,
EAS Master Beekeeper from
Connecticut.**

**This talk will focus on two
aspects of Spring management.**
**1. We will discuss hive events
that occur in succession after**

**a package or nuc installation,
and 2. the swarm biology of
an overwintered colony.**

**Participants will learn
colony behaviors that indicate
their bees are healthy and signs
that they are ready to produce
honey. SEE YOU THERE!**



Think about the weather...
queens will start laying now for
Spring...make sure your hives
are well fed!



**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

Candlemaking in February “What a Crowd!”



From Top Left Clockwise:
Anne Frey - Candlemaking
Consultant, Elizabeth
Warner - Better Bee Rep,
and a great NCBA Crowd



One key take-away was that the more cycles of melt and solidification beeswax undergoes, the less natural fragrance the beeswax retains.

NCBA Scholarship Opportunities

NCBA SCHOLARSHIPS

NCBA recognizes the importance of knowledge and learning in the field of beekeeping, which is why we are proud to offer the NCBA Scholarship to members or their children pursuing higher education!

The application is open to all members or their children, preference will be given to applicants pursuing a degree in fields of study that include beekeeping, entomology, agriculture, life sciences, environmental sciences, land management, or a field related to agriculture in its widest aspect.

We offer scholarships in the amount of \$1000 to be put towards educational costs. The application is simple, and can be found at: <https://www.norfolkbees.org/ncba-scholarship.html>. Applications are due no later than May 31, 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year. Please feel free to direct any questions to scholarship@norfolkbees.org.

JAN DANIELS EDUCATIONAL GRANT

The future of beekeeping and healthy pollinator habitats start with our youth, and there's no better time to invest in the future than now!

The NCBA is proud to offer the Jan Daniels Educational Grant, open to all educational organizations who are looking to include honeybee and pollinator programming in their offerings. Grants are provided up to \$500 per project for organizations within Norfolk County. Applications are considered on a rolling basis. For more information, and to apply, head to: <https://www.norfolkbees.org/jan-daniels-educational-grant.html> Questions? Email scholarship@norfolkbees.org !

Thanks - Laura Davis - Scholarship Committee

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

FEBRUARY 19 2024

7:10-9:10PM.

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
- Dana Wilson
- Alla Ostrovsky
- Jenna Tibbits

NCBA Board Minutes

President's Update – Tony L

- Queen Program – Planning to run it again for 2024 (cost in 2023 was \$1800)
- Master Beekeeping at Cornell is still open for 2025
 - o Cornell offers NCBA members \$300 discount and NCBA offers \$300 scholarship so out-of-pocket cost for NCBA membership is \$300.
- NUC program is still under consideration – Several suggestions - Tony will circle back with Brian on these challenges
 - o Add article about MDAR's inability to meet inspection need into the newsletter to club so reach out to legislators to add funding for more inspections
 - o Also – get MDAR Test kits we can distribute at club meetings
 - o Push to have NCBA club members ask for MDAR inspection of your yard

Vice President's Update – Mo K.

- Put Bee Vac on hold until expenses are sorted
- And - Roger Q. Hill will give a try building a couple of "models" for the club (the parts excluding the shop vac.)

Treasurer Update – (Brian McCafferty)

- Bank balance \$39,501.33 as of February 19, 2024
- We are typically running a \$6,000 deficit per year

(revenues vs expenses) based on current budgeting overview

- o just over \$30,000 in varying length CDs, and \$9,216.03 in the Club's liquid checking account
- o Action Item: Motion – revisit the financial statement after Brian has a chance to recategorize revenue and expense items. Emphasis on Bee School, Intermediate Bee School, and Club Meeting expenses. Rolling 12 months vs Fiscal YTD, and Current YTD...Motion Carried Unanimously

Recording Secretary: Minutes – Ed R

- Note from January Board Meeting were unanimously approved

Corresponding Secretary – Ed Rock

- All articles and notes to Ed Rock by end of day 2/23/24

Committees:

- Programs – Ed S and Marion
 - o Upcoming
 - March - Bill Hesbach, EAS Master Beekeeper from Connecticut. This talk will focus on two aspects of Spring management. We will discuss hive events that occur in succession after a package or nuc installation, and the swarm biology of an overwintered colony.

(Continued on page 4)

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- Participants will learn colony behaviors that indicate their bees are healthy and signs that they are ready to produce honey.
- April - Mike Garvey, Cornell Master Beekeeper - Varroa mites and treatment
 - May - Peter Frykman, Cornell Master Beekeeper - This is a presentation about the impact of insulation vs ventilation in beehives. This talk would focus on the work by Bill Hesbach and Derek Mitchell. It's important for beeks to have at least passing knowledge about these issues. The condensing vs non- condensing hives topic has gotten a lot of attention lately and is not usually part of most intro beekeeping programs.
 - o The June meeting will be an outdoor event of some kind.
 - NCBA Intro to Bee School – Tony and Dana
 - the registration is up now for Bee School 2024!
 - 78 registered currently...after drop outs
 - Everything is running well
 - Intermediate Bee School – Ed & Marion
 - o So far enrollment is around 35...
 - Need to review the enrollment “store” and not accept any coupons
 - o Intermediate Beekeeping School is back for its’ fifth year! Classes will be recorded. Tuition is \$50. All students will need to be member of a local beekeeping association.
 - o It will be done via Zoom only - this way, we can bring in speakers from outside of our immediate area, the recordings can be

- saved for future viewing, and we can invite beekeepers from outside of Norfolk County.
- There will be 8 or 9 classes, every other Wednesday night at 7:00 PM, starting March 6th (speaker availability may move the start to March 20th). Last class will be June 12th or 26th.
 - Sustainable Beekeeping
 - Spring Management
 - Landscaping for bees (and others)
 - Varroa Mites and their Control
 - Other Colony Diseases and Problems
 - Hive inspections – planning, what to look for
 - Practical Genetics for Hobby Beekeepers
 - Queen Rearing for Hobby Beekeepers
 - Climate change and the resilient apiary (pending speaker availability)
 - o Need to review Intermediate Bee School for next year
 - Extractors – Brianda Y
 - o Nothing New
 - Library – Michael Simone
 - o Need to pare down Library to one core box of very high quality titles for club circulation
 - o Continue checking on “club” subscriptions for key Bee periodicals
 - o Review options for donating the balance of our “obsolete” titles to the Aggie library or other organization, or ask a local library to “house and circulate” our collection
 - Door Prizes – Tara S
 - o No update at this time – currently 4 at \$40 for onsite and zoom each
 - o Revisit door prize expense in context of Brian M’s budget reconciliation at the March Board

- Meeting to see if we need to pare back on this expense
- Website – Greg
 - o We’re up-to-date currently
 - Membership – Facebook – Google Groups - Rose & Deb
 - o 450 Members have renewed & 78 Bee School attendees
 - Bee Apparel – MaryBeth Noonan and Maureen Harrington
 - o No update – no significant interest at this time – would need to revisit the committee members
 - Calendar Committee – Jenna Tibbetts
 - o All updated through the end of June
 - o Jenna will not be continuing on next year so we will need a new Committee Head for this
 - Nominating Committee
 - o Survey of club members
 - o Survey of current Board members for continued participation
 - o Need survey participation – announce in Newsletter & Facebook and resend from Greg and Tony – with PLEA for filling it out
 - Scholarships and Grants - Lara Davis
 - o Still working on outreach for schools in Norfolk County
 - o Consider the scholarship language to expand applicant pool to past applicants (of all ages)
 - Add expansion to newsletter scholarship blurb
 - Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM

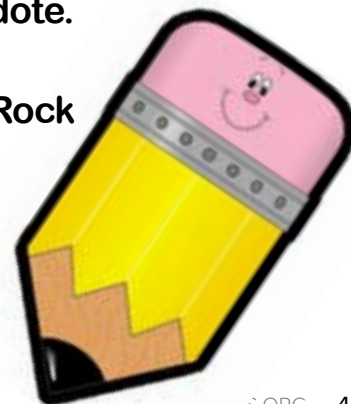
WHAT DO BEES SAY WHEN RETURNING TO THE HIVE? HONEY, I'M HOME!



Stories for YOUR NCBA Newsletter

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

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



Nancy Tella, NCBA Member presents to Hannah Adams Woman's Club in Medfield

Excerpted from Medfield Hometown Weekly by Riley Fontana

The Hannah Adams recently hosted a session titled "Bee Keeping with Nancy Tella." at the Church of the Advent in Medfield, aiming to educate its members about the



beekeeping hobby. Beekeeper and NCBA Member, Nancy Tella, with experience since 2011, shared insights into her journey as a beginning beekeeper and her learning process through the Norfolk County Beekeepers Association.

During the presentation, Tella emphasized the significance of education before purchasing a hive, and recommending beginners to start with two hives. She discussed the vital role of understanding bees and hive maintenance due to the intricate knowledge about bee hierarchy. Tella elaborated on the three types of honey bees - workers, drones, and the queen - each with specific roles in maintaining the hive's vitality, including honey collection, hive temperature regulation, and fostering new bees.

A key aspect highlighted by Tella was the hive's constant goal: survival through the winter while safeguarding against potential threats. Bees exhibit defensive behaviors by attacking outside bees, wasps, and perceived threats, posing a potential risk of stings to beekeepers, family members, and pets in close proximity to the hive. The interactive session encouraged audience engagement, with attendees posing questions about starting beekeeping, hive creation, honey collection, and more. Tella adeptly addressed queries, providing valuable information about the hobby. She expressed her satisfaction in sharing her hive with family and friends, emphasizing the significant commitment and challenges associated

with beekeeping, which may or may not be suitable for everyone.

The Hannah Adams Women's Club in Medfield concluded their meeting with enhanced knowledge about the life cycle and behaviors of bees. Members left the session well-informed on how to embark on their own beekeeping journey in suburban areas.

The Hannah Adams Women's Club exploration of beekeeping with Nancy Tella proved to be an insightful and engaging session. Members gained valuable knowledge about the intricacies of beekeeping, from hive maintenance and bee hierarchy to the challenges and rewards of this fascinating hobby. Nancy Tella's expertise and willingness to share her experiences left a lasting impression, inspiring club members to consider beekeeping in suburban areas. The event not only enriched their understanding of bees' life cycles and habits but also provided a foundation for those intrigued by the prospect of becoming beekeepers themselves.



Let Us Know What You're Up To!!

If you have a bee related interaction you'd like to share with the club make sure to let us know!



2024 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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| Feeders | And more |
| Protective Clothing & Gear | |
| Hive Tools | |

You name it! I can build it!

I'm not only a Craftsman, also a Beekeeper

All wood is from a local mill

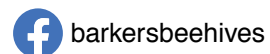
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