

the Norfolk Bee

MAY 2023 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NEXT CLUB MEETING

MAY 1, 2023

7:30 to 9:00 pm

**Hybrid
In-person
and on Zoom**

400 Main Street
Walpole, MA



Dear fellow Beekeepers,

It really is Spring. I know we had a couple of hot days that seemed like summer, but today, Tuesday April 25th, the weather is beautiful. Perfect for this time of year. My yard has more dandelions than I can ever remember. I'm going out this afternoon to pick 2 quarts of flowers to make dandelion wine. Should be fun in the making.

Along with Spring comes some unwanted things: Tick and Mosquito spray companies. If you see them spraying, please let them know that you have hives and want to protect them. Ask them to come back after you have had a chance to close up the hives (I use wet towels/cloths to cover the entrances and remove them an hour after they are done spraying). Also a few guidelines: They should not be sprayed if it is windy or raining. And, most importantly register your hives with MDAR and also for the no spray. It really does sadden me that so many people are afraid of insects.

I have not used anything, pesticide or fertilizers, in my yard for over 20 years. This year I had 3 blue birds at my feeders, a first for me, along with many other birds and my yard is full of insects already. Creating a pollinator playground is a lifelong endeavour.

Also, remember to keep up your inspections. You need to inspect at least every 7-9 days in order to make sure your wintered over hives do not swarm. And get your nucs ready to make splits. It's better to do inspections and act, than have to react after your hive swarms.

Good luck this Spring season,

Tony Lulik
(The Bee Man)

What to do when you get stung

The *Norfolk Bee* hosted a symposium among leading beekeepers to discuss what beekeepers should do when they get stung. The general consensus was to either swear or scream in pain.

"But try not to shriek. Shrieking makes you sound like an amateur."

"Absolutely - especially if there are people within earshot. That would be a disaster. It's important that people think we're cool."

The group couldn't decide if saying "Ouch" was appropriate. "I mean, if you say it ironically, you sound like a pro who is comfortable with the burning pain associated with stings. If you say 'ouch, ouch, ouch, ouch!' it sounds like the bees are winning."

But don't crow about how you won't get arthritis now that you've been stung. No one wants to hear it. However, we're all secretly hoping that it's true.

MASSACHUSETTS
EAS 2023



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AND BEEYOND

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**The Eastern Apiculture
Society (EAS)
Conference
is coming to
Massachusetts!**

Monday, July 31, to
Friday, August 4
in beautiful Amherst, MA



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Lara Davis



News from the Landing Board



May: Cindy Holt Owner of Little Rhody Beekeeping and an EAS certified Master Beekeeper and the current Eastern Apiculture Society director for Rhode Island. Cindy is the former newsletter editor for The Rhode Island Beekeepers Association (RIBA) and former manager of the RIBA apiary, which is part of the Bee Informed Partnership's Sentinel Apiary Program. She will discuss bee diseases other than mites.

A look ahead... Future Meeting Agendas

June Appetizers at the Aggie cafeteria. Jennifer Jett will discuss EpiPen use. There will also be a Q&A panel to discuss.... bees!

NCBA Corresponding Secretary

NCBA is looking for a new Corresponding Secretary. Our current CS, Kevin Keane, has to step back so he can spend *even more* time at work.

The primary responsibility of the CS is to attend the monthly Board

meetings and create and publish the monthly newsletter (the newsletter you are reading right now). The job is interesting, creative, and one gets to work with a great bunch of people.

Please reach out to Tony Lulek if you are interested.

What's blooming

It seems like everything is blooming now.

The spring ephemerals are winding down, but the first big nectar crop, dandelions, are in full vigor. *Make sure your supers are on by dandelion time!*

Apples blossoms are at peak, Flowering Quince, Mayflower (not the ship, but the state flower), Red Trillium (also know as Stinking Benjamin), Bloodroot. Once tulips lose their blossoms, blueberries will be blooming. Garlic Mustard is pretty much everywhere. It's invasive but the bees love it. White clover should be out by the end of the month. be ready with more supers!



Invasive Plants: our love/hate relationship

Invasive plants are terrible. They out-perform and compete with local, native plants. But invasives are also a windfall for bees - honeybees and native alike. Japanese Knotweed, for example, is an enormous source of nectar and pollen for all bees into the fall season. Despite the gain, the costs of losing natives are not

worth it. Cull these plants if they're growing in your yard.

Here's the list:

Garlic Mustard

Common Buckthorn

Bittersweet

Japanese Knotweed

Black Swallow-Wort Vine

Privet/Burning Bush

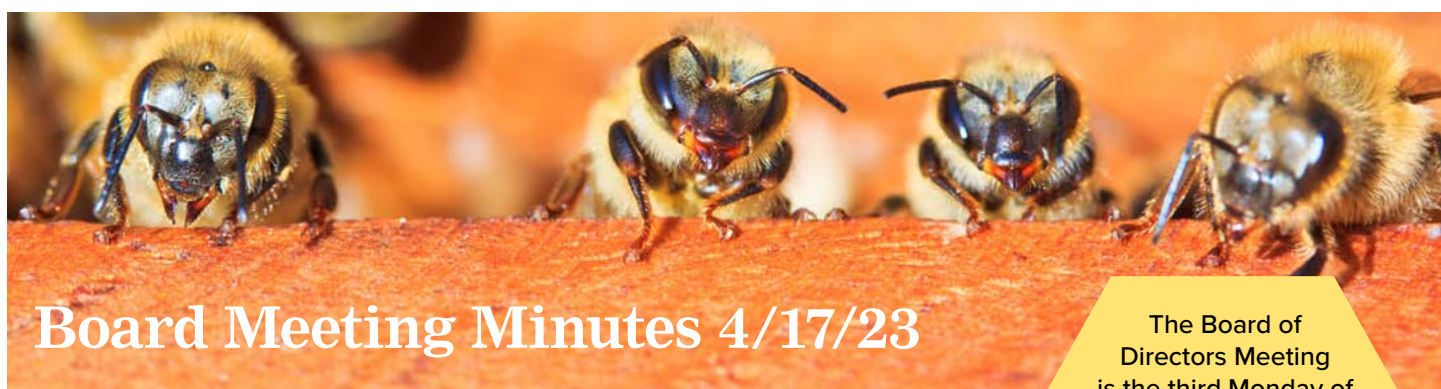
Tree of Heaven

Honeysuckle

Japanese Barberry

Goutweed

Japanese Yew



Board Meeting Minutes 4/17/23

NCBA BOARD MEETING

APRIL 17, 2023

7:05 to 7:58 pm

Attending:
Tony Lulek
Ed Rock
Dana Wilson
Stephen Greene
Ed Szymanski
Kevin Keane
Tara Sullivan
Mary Beth Noonan
Joel Richards
Jennifer Jett
Mike Simone
Val Mayo
Deb Spielman
Lara Davis

President's Update – Tony Lulek

- Queen Program – Kevin Keane is pulling together a survey of folks who have taken advantage of the program.
 - o Emphasize using the coupons
 - o Several requests have already come in for queen coupons
- Sue Robinson has been running Ag Day – Tony approved expenses Sue incurred (\$300+)
- Chris Delaney (honey show committee) from EAS – asking if we'd like to sponsor the honey show at EAS and we're also considering sponsoring other activities and events
 - o Motion to approve spending up to \$500 for EAS honey show
 - o Tony is getting more information
- Develop a Club position statement that discusses with nuance that Honeybees are competing with local bee species
- There is a company suing us for using

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.

a web-based image database.(\$1500 exposure) but the issue was resolved.

Vice President's Update – Mo

- Nothing new here

Treasurer Update – Stephen

- Bank balance \$41,601.49 as of 4/17/23
- Financials accepted

Recording Secretary: Minutes – Ed R

- Amended meeting notes accepted

Corresponding Secretary – Kevin Keane

- Newsletter deadline 4/27/2023
- Next club meeting 5/1/23

Committees:

(Continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

• **Programs – Ed S and Marion**

o **Upcoming**

- May 1
- Cindy Holc - Diseases other than mites (zoom)
- also PLANT and SEED exchange for members who come to the Aggie
- Confirming NCBA Club Meeting June 5th meeting (hybrid – face to face at Aggie and zoom also)
- shared appetizers at Aggie Cafeteria
- featuring Jennifer Jett walking club members through EpiPen Use
- Panel Q&A
- Considering Single Brood Chamber presentation
- **NCBA Intro to Bee School – Tony and Dana**
- Graduation for 55-60 folks. 40-45 folks weeded themselves out.
- Very positive feedback from graduates
- **Intermediate Bee School – Ed & Marion**

o **Update**

- Everything going well

• **Extractors – Brianda Y**

- o No update

• **Library – Michael Simone**

- o No update

• **Door Prizes – Tara S**

- o Everything is going well – all expenses submitted and up-to-date
- o Send an e-vite RSVP to the NCBA membership to gauge how many plants we need to bring in for plant exchange / raffle
- Authorize \$100 for spend on plants

• **Website – Greg**

- o Mo and Greg went over the resource page

• **Membership – Facebook – Google**

- Groups - Rose & Deb
- o Dana will check in with Rose and synch up membership list with Facebook group

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

- o Considering when to do another apparel sale in the summer (over

June-August) for members to order, and then deliver at the September meeting.

- o Need to find another member to take over apparel – both Maureen and Mary Beth are phasing out (place an announcement in newsletter to solicit a volunteer(s))

• **Calendar Committee – Jenna Tibbetts**

- o E

• **Nominating Committee**

- o Nothing new

• **Scholarships and Grants - Lara Davis**

- o Coupon is ready for the Queen program - NCBA Master Beekeeper Scholarships & Scholarship for Queen Program (Kevin K. handles this)
- o For Norfolk Aggie – voted and approved 2 x \$1,000 scholarships
- o For NCBA student scholarships - two applicants in so far
- o Lara is working on a flyer not solicit more applicants

• *Meeting was adjourned at 7:58*

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. Please email Lara Davis at scholarships@norfolkbees.org for more information.

WHAT DID THE
BEEKEEPERS DO WHEN
THEY WERE INSULTED?



THEY MADE VEILED
THREATS.



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.

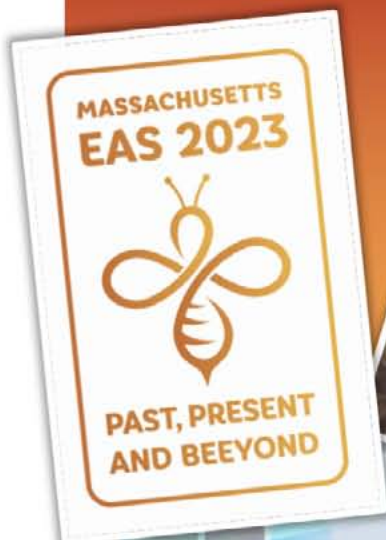
Meetings run every month from late August-June. The meetings last about an hour and we plan for the upcoming club meetings as well as for special events and the seasonal demands of the beekeepers' year. Meetings are on Zoom. Plus, we are very nice people. If you're interested, email Tony Lulek.



TO BEE...
OR NOT
TO BEE...

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68th Annual Short Course and Conference*

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



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