

The Norfolk Bee

May2024 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NEXT CLUB MEETING

MAY 6TH 2024
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

In Person at the Aggie with refreshments and via ZOOM

Hive Insulation & Ventilation Research

Norfolk Agricultural High Cafeteria

**400 Main Street
Walpole, MA**

Happy Spring,

It is always an exciting time of the year. Hives that made it through the winter are bursting, drones have already been seen, and queen making is already starting at our two favorite queen breeders ([Wetlands Apiary](#) & [Northeast Bee](#)). And our new beekeepers are getting their packages/nucs and are on their way to become real beekeepers.

There are lots of changes coming at NCBA. The new board is being elected at the May meeting, we have an in person appearance of our own Master Beekeeper, Peter Frykman, and our annual plant/seed raffle May 6th. The newly elected board will be sharing their vision of the future for our club. We have already made some changes and are looking forward to many more.

I want to give a huge thank you to Ed Symanski (and Marian too), for their hard work and dedication to this club. Ed will be stepping down as the programming director and handing off the reigns of Intermediate Bee School. The programs will now be handled by Alla and Jane, so we are in very capable hands.

I'd love to see more people having hive dives this year. If you are going into your hives, invite club members. Everyone will benefit from the experience and it will enhance our overall sense of community.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the May meeting, and for those that can't make it, we will have a zoom feed from the cafeteria.

Yours in beekeeping



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[Bee School](#)
[Honey Bee Health Coalition](#)



My bees were on the Grape hyacinths all week. Make sure to post bees on blooms to the iNaturalist App. Mo shared.

Spring Plant & Seed Raffle & Exchange, May 6th, 2024

At the Aggie Cafeteria and on Zoom

1. Peter Frykman, Cornell Master Beekeeper - reviewing research on the impact of insulation vs ventilation in beehives.
2. The **BIG** NCBA Plant & Seed Exchange and Raffle. Bring all the pollinator friendly plant materials

you have to share. We'll also raffle some additional horticultural resources.

3. Elect New NCBA Board
4. We'll have refreshments but feel free to bring a desert of your choice to share.

[Zoom Link to come via NCBA e-mail](#)

NCBA Thrives on Volunteers

The club needs your help!

While the main officer roles have been filled with volunteers, there are several positions that are still open on the NCBA Board. Take a look below to see these opportunities. Hopefully one of our many extraordinary members will choose to volunteer and get involved.

Only through the gracious volunteering of club members can Norfolk County Beekeepers Association continue to provide:

- *Educational programming like*
 - *Introductory Bee School*
 - *Intermediate Bee School*
 - *Monthly Continuing Education at our club meetings both face-to-face and via Zoom*
 - *Scholarships to NCBA members to Master Beekeeping programs*
 - *Beekeeping Library Resources (this is in a transitional period)*
- *Services like:*
 - *Our re queening program to help improve Honey Bee genetics in Norfolk County*
 - *Our new pilot program for facilitating state Apiary Inspected NUCs*
 - *Availability of club extractors to NCBA members*
 - *Availability of club bee suits for children*
 - *Scholarships for NCBA Members and/or their children for continuing ed*
- *Social connection - Beekeeping can be a solitary pursuit and NCBA brings people from all walks of life together with a common interest in Beekeeping. While we wear down our spouses and neighbors talking about bees, our friends and colleagues in NCBA never tire of talking about bees!*
- *Legislative advocacy - and we support strong legislation supporting pollinators across New England and policies that minimize pollution and the impact of pesticides on our environment.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Board Member-at-large (up to 4 positions voted on at the May meeting) that will serve as voting board members. Bring your creativity and ideas to the club!**
- **NCBA Bee Apparel - 1 or 2 People to support our MERCH “NCBA shirts, hats...”**
- **Calendar Committee - 1 person to own our online NCBA calendar of events**
- **Extractors (1 person) to coordinate scheduling of our club’s extractors**

If you are interested in any of these positions or would like more information about any of the activities - contact Tony Lulek directly, (*e-mail at tony@littlebeehivefarm.com*)



**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



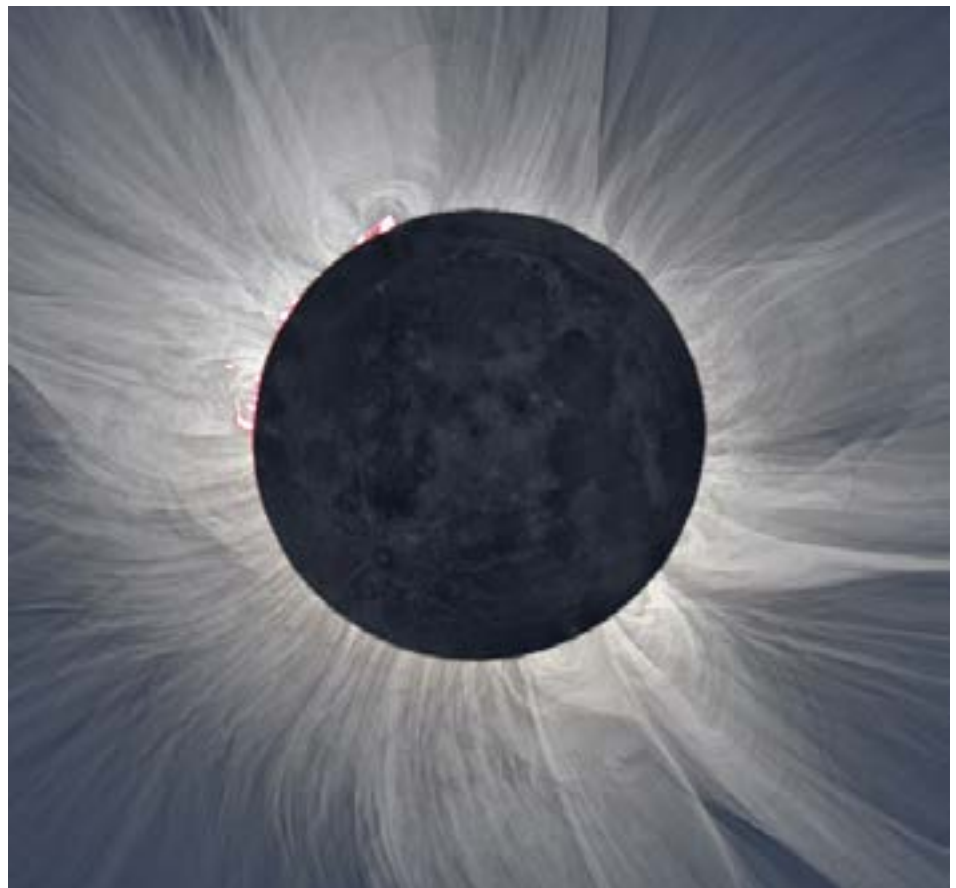
Bee Eclipse Behavior April 8th 2024

On April 8th, while most of us were enjoying the partial eclipse from our backyards, one of our NCBA members, Anthony Martucci, was observing his bees, and here's what he shared with the club.



- 3:10 PM EST normal activity exiting/returning- busy
- 3:20 PM EST exiting bees much less
- 3:25 PM EST no exiting bees, only returning ones
- 3:29 PM EST no activity (for 8 minutes)
- 3:40 PM EST exiting beginning again
- 3:50 PM EST normal activity

Do you have any observations to share?





Agriculture Day at the Statehouse

“Ag Day On the Hill” April 3rd is an event that is sponsored by the Farm Bureau and is held in the Hall of Flags at the Massachusetts State House in Boston. This year, the MassBee and Norfolk County Beekeepers Association table promoted “Protect All Pollinators” Bill S-445 and H-845. Honey was donated by beekeepers from Berkshire, Essex, Franklin, Norfolk and Worcester Counties

Thank you 2024 Volunteers! Susan Lenault, Anne Lenault, Julie Doran, Bob Hickey, Kathy Gasbarro, Carolyn Holmes, Barbara Stone, Sean Hickey, Roger Hill, the students of Woodside Academy, Mike Passmore, Mary Duane (President of Mass Bee), Carolyn Holmes, Kathy Gasbarro, Bob Hickey, Sean Hickey, Roger Hill, Julie Doran, Anne Lenault, Susan Lenault, Mike Passmore, and many more



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

APRIL 15 2024

7:00-8:35PM.

Attending:

- Tony Lulek
- Edward Rock
- Joel Richards
- Carolyn Holmes
- Mike Passmore
- Greg Rushton
- Brianda Younie
- Mohamad Khalil
- Brian McCafferty
- Kara Sullivan
- Roger Q. Hill
- Dana Wilson
- Alla Ostrovsky
- Jenna Tibbits

President's Update – Tony L

- Expenses paid for Ag Day
- Queens become available mid May – and our Queen program will become available in mid-May from Wetlands and Northeast Bees
- oPilot NCBA-MDAR NUC Program will be tested out of a Holliston Apiary
- oMore details to follow – start small and work closely with MDAR
- NCBA considers develop a special Committee that handles honeybee health

Vice President's Update – Mohamad Khalil

- Over Winter Survey – resending - evaluate any March losses
- AV for May Meeting
- Legislative Update – the budget is tight so much may not be done this year.

Treasurer Update – (Brian McCafferty)

- Bank balance \$37,951.58 as of April 15, 2024
- oMotion to accept treasures report was carried.
- Refining the subcategories of the charge line items
- The three month CD is maturing – suggestion is to roll it over into a 6 month CD – Motion carried

Recording Secretary: Minutes – Ed Rock

•Notes from March Board Meeting were accepted

Corresponding Secretary – Ed Rock

•All articles and notes to Ed Rock by end of day April 19th

Committees:

•Programs – Ed S and Marion

oUpcoming

•Agenda for May Meeting

•NCBA Slate of Candidates for Board

oAny nominations from the membership

•Peter Frykman, Cornell Master

Beekeeper - This is a presentation about the impact of insulation vs ventilation in beehives. This talk will focus on the work by Bill Hesbach and Derek Mitchell. It's important for beekeepers 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.

•NCBA Plant Exchange, and refreshments (club will provide some stuff – but folks can bring deserts)

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

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(continued from page 3)

- club members.
- oStarting discussion of next season's programming:
Core 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.
And we'll discuss whether we keep our club meetings at the Aggie (about \$182/meeting) or move to another location
- NCBA Intro to Bee School – Tony and Dana
Concluded April 2, 2024
Very positive responses from students
Thanks to all the NCBA members who shared their time and expertise with the students
- Intermediate Bee School – Ed & Marion
- oUpdate
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)
- oNeed to review Intermediate Bee School for next year – looking to NCBA master beekeepers to drive programming for this
- Extractors – Brianda Y
- oNothing New
- oWe're setting up a form on the newsletter
- Library – Michael Simone
- oNothing new
- Door Prizes – Tara S
- oWill be acquiring plants for the exchange from Russell's Garden Center with a \$150 range. Motion made and passed for the expenditure.
- o4 x \$40 gift cards for zoom and in person
- oPlant Raffle will be the May meeting give-away
- Website – Greg
- oNothing New –
- oDid talk with Bristol and Plymouth using Wild Apricot (it's much more expensive than our current program)
- oAdding request page for extractor on the NCBA website
- oNeed to update the swarm catcher list
- Membership – Facebook – Google Groups - Rose & Deb
- o556 Members have renewed & 78 Bee School attendees

- Bee Apparel – MaryBeth Noonan and Maureen Harrington
- oNo update
- oTR Miller is the past vendor (Walpole)
- oBrian M will look into it
- Calendar Committee – Jenna Tibbetts
- oAll updated through the end of May
- Nominating Committee
- oSurvey of club members - Done
- oSurvey of current Board members for continued participation - Done
- oSurvey participation – 42 of 400+ members responded
- Scholarships and Grants - Lara Davis
- 4 Applications
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM



Nominating Committee Slate of NCBA Candidates

Every 2 years the NCBA nominating Committee develops a list of candidates for Board Officers from members who volunteer for those roles. The new term begins July 2024 and runs through July 2026.

There is also an opportunity to add up to 4 At-Large Board Members. Currently there are 2 volunteers (Roger Q. Hill and Carolyn Holmes) so we'd love 2 more volunteers for those positions. The slate was presented at the April Club meeting and will be voted on at the May Club Meeting.

This year's slate of candidates is:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| President: | Tony Lulek |
| Vice President | Mohamad Khalil |
| Treasurer | Brian McCafferty |
| Corresponding Secretary | Edward Rock |
| Secretary | Mike Passmore |



Bee School Concludes

Starting with a group of over 90 and slowly evolving into a great group of 78 novice yet committed beekeepers, this year's introductory Bee School Class was highly engaged and full of practical questions and determination.

A special thanks to all of the NCBA members who joined class every week to share their time and beekeeping talent with the students. Last class was April



Varroa Management and the [HoneyBeeHealth Coalition](#)

Our April 1st club meeting enjoyed a great presentation on mite testing, treatment, and management by Mike Garvey, an EAS Master Beekeeper.

While Mike's presentation was engaging and deeply

informative, he also provided a ton of take-away resources on treatment and management of varroa mites in our hives. One neat resource for all NCBA members to be aware of is the [Honeybee Health Coalition](#). Head to their website to see:

1. Varroa Management Guide
2. Varroa Management Decision Tool
3. and some awesome Varroa Videos

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



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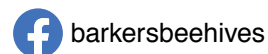
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