

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

**NOVEMBER 6, 2023**

7:00 to 9:00 pm

**Hybrid, In-person and on Zoom**

*VHS Queens*

Norfolk Agricultural High School

400 Main Street  
Walpole, MA

## Membership Dues

Hop on the NCBA website and update & renew your membership right now!

It took me 1minute 49.1 seconds

[Click here!](#)



Don't stop watching for mites this Fall. Saw devils these on the bottom board yesterday.

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

I can't believe it is almost November. The weather has been so warm and so weird. It really doesn't feel like fall. It took the leaves forever to turn and some have still not turned. I think as beekeepers, one of things we have to do is pay attention to the weather all year long. What is happening at any given time, tells us something about what the bees need. Like for right now, with warm weather, no nectar around, feeding your hives is important. Very Important, but then we are getting to the point, when to stop feeding? With these warm days are they still capping off honey? Has the queen stopped laying? Does the hive weigh enough! It seems it is getting hard to prepare for winter. And winter? What is that? Remember last year? Between the summer. drought, the winter drought and those cold snaps, so much damage was done to many trees and shrubs. From what I have heard, we are going to be getting a lot of snow, which in my opinion is a good thing. But are you prepared with feeding shims, quilt boxes, insulation, and starting to prepare any fondant you may need? Always so many things to do, all based on the weather. Let's hope this winter brings consistent cool temperatures and weather

Yours in Beekeeping,

Tony Lulik  
(The Bee Man)

## NCBA Meeting November 6th

We'll be meeting at the Norfolk County Agricultural High School at 400 Main Street, Walpole, MA.

Social time between 6:30-7PM.

Our meeting topic is Verroa Sensitive Hygenic (VSH) Traits and Selection by [Cory Stevens](#). [Click to check Cory out.](#)

We look forward to seeing you all at the Aggie or on Zoom screen.



NCBA BOARD MEMBERS  
2022-2024

**PRESIDENT**  
Tony Lulek

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Mohamad Khalil

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Brian McCafferty

**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
Edward Rock

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Open Position

**MEMBERS AT LARGE**  
Carin Cohen, Joel Richards,  
and Jenna Tibbetts

NCBA BEE SCHOOLS:

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**INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR**  
Dana Wilson

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL  
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Ed Szymanski

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR**  
Marian Szymanski

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Greg Rushton

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**DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE**  
Kara Sullivan

**HOSPITALITY**  
Rose Thornton and Carin Cohen

**EXTRACTORS**  
Brianda Younie

**MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE**  
Open Position  
Deb Spielman

**LIBRARIAN**  
Michael Simone

**PROGRAMS**  
Ed and Marian Szymanski

**SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS**  
Lara Davis



## A look ahead... Future Meeting Agendas

December 4, 2023 TBD

### TWO NEW NCBA AWARDS

**NCBA has approved two new annual awards for NCBA members:**  
**NCBA Beekeeper of the Year**

Many NCBA members contribute to our club to make it special, a place for bee education, support, the latest tips and techniques, and collegiality. Nominate one of your peers who exemplify service to the Club.

#### **NCBA Mentor of the Year**

Bee School participants are assigned mentors at the end of classes. Here's a chance for each mentee to share a positive story about their Mentor's support.

**Make sure to click on the award above. It will take you to a webpage where you can submit your nominations.**

*While observing bees drinking this summer I found that they took about 15 seconds to drink their fill at a water source before flying off. Who knew?*



## Asking for Club Members to Help with the NCBA Budget

Over the next several months the NCBA board will be going through a budgeting exercise to evaluate our current finances, identify club priorities, and set a budget for revenues (membership dues and class enrollment fees...) and expenses (queen program, speakers fees, scholarships for member continuing education and for students at the Aggie HS, supporting our holiday events, and many other board approved expenses...)

The NCBA Board wants to assure that our club's programming, activities, and support are directed toward things that club members, YOU, really want to support.

We are asking club members who are interested to volunteer to join us to help focus our activities on things that are of interest you YOU.

Contact Tony Lulek (tony@littlebeehivefarm.com) or Brian McCafferty (BrianFMcCafferty@outlook.com) if you are interested, and thanks.

# MASS BEEKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION Update

EAS 2023 Reflection by Mary Duane

A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who gave of their time and talents to make the conference a success. Please extend a thank you to the members of your county club who volunteered at EAS!

Total Attendees 629

United States 612 (from 38 states

Massachusetts 197 (Top US attendees)

New York 67 (Second in attendance)

Maryland 57 (Third in attendance)

International 17, including

Australia, Cameroon, Canada,

Ethiopia, Germany, Ireland, Spain,

Sweden, United Kingdom

The Legislation Corner:

Congressman Kelly Armstrong (R-ND) has introduced legislation this summer to address some concerns in our beekeeping industry. The legislation would require the creation of a standard of identity for honey and update the labeling requirements for honey.

You can find additional information about the Honey Identification Verification and Enforcement (HIVE) Act at the following link:

<https://www.congress.gov/118/bills/hr4764/BILLS-118hr4764ih.pdf>

Mass Bee Fall 2023 Meeting + Honeyshow

Date: November 4th @ 9 am—3:30 pm

Location: Bristol Community College in 777 Elsbree Street, Fall River, MA.

Price: Free to Mass Bee members, \$10 to non-members

Paul Kelly and Deb Klughers will be speaking at this event. Dr. Kim Skrym will be presenting as well.

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

OCTOBER 16TH, 2023

7:08 to 8:25 pm

Attending:

Tony Lulek

Ed Rock

Brianda Younie

Dana Wilson

Mohamad Khalil

Joel Richards

Gregory Rushton

Mike Simone

Alla Ostrovsky

Jenna Tibbits

Cara Sullivan

Brian McCafferty

### NCBA Board Minutes

#### President's Update – Tony L

- Queen Program – wrapping up for the year
- NCBA Beekeeper of the Year & NCBA Mentor of the Year – we're planning on having club members nominate and select a club member as NCBA Beekeeper of the Year & NCBA Mentor of the Year

o Mo will run survey, Tony will confirm criteria,

o Purpose is recognizing club members who are actively involved with our membership and promoting Beekeeping and the Club

#### Vice President's Update – Mo K.

- Legislative Update – MassBee
- o Synthetic Honey – from China – Brown Rice Syrup
- o Share with Club members via newsletter
- Legislative Update
- o Honey Identification Verification and Enforcement (HIVE) Act getting support from Mass Bee

o Share with Club members via newsletter

#### Treasurer Update – (Brian McCafferty)

- Brian and Tony got together and reviewed the club finances
- Brian got a Quicken license – and reconciled all club accounts through the end of August 2023
- Need to start having conversations about developing a vision for budgeting. Looking for volunteers from club to join us in these discussions.
- Bank balance \$35,398.46 of end of September 2023
- o We typically burn through about \$1,000 a month in expenses
- o We should (based on good accounting practices) keep \$10,000 or less of our finances in our club checking account
- o We should roll the balance into Certificates of Deposit (probably multiple certificates so

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- we're more liquid) so the club's cash isn't sitting idle and is FDIC secure
- o Do we need to have a post office box for the club or have Brian M's address be the address of record? Use Brian's Address: Brian McCafferty 46 Adelray Lane, Attleboro, MA 02703
  - Motioned –
  - o Install Brian M as a signatory on the club's account – seconded and unanimously approved
  - o Move \$20,000 of our club's funds into two \$10,000 CDs – seconded and unanimously approved

Recording Secretary: Minutes – Ed R

- Note from September Board Meeting were unanimously approved
- No new business
- Newsletter items due to Ed R October 23rd

Corresponding Secretary – Open Position

- Newsletter deadline September 26, 2023
- o All articles and notes to Ed Rock by end of day 9/26/23

Committees:

Programs – Ed S and Marion

November 6th at 7PM Meeting at the Aggie – VHS Queens - Cory Stevens  
Looking into a Mead Making and other "activities" in addition to professional development for Winter club meetings

NCBA Intro to Bee School – Tony and Dana

the registration is up now for Bee School 2024!

- 55 registered ytd

Dana has put the 2024 calender of classes up

All classes will be in person this year

Mo, Ed R, Tony and Dana meeting

soon to review school roles

Intermediate Bee School – Ed S &

Marion

- o Planning starts for 2024

- o \$50 class fee for 2024 – no discounts

for returning students

Extractors – Brianda Y

- o Slow usage this year

Library – Michael Simone

- o Considering disbanding the physical

library and looking for some online

resources we can use as a club

Door Prizes – Tara S

- o No update at this time

- o Door prizes for monthly club meetings 5 in person and 5 zoom winners - \$40 gift certificates each

Website – Greg

- o We're up-to-date currently

Membership – Facebook – Google

Groups - Open & Deb Speilman

- o 151 Members have renewed

- o Make sure to announce on Facebook and Newsletter

Bee Apparel – MaryBeth Noonan and

Maureen Harrington

- o No update

Calendar Committee – Jenna Tibbetts

- o Updates for Fall are current

Nominating Committee

- o Nothing new

Scholarships and Grants - Lara Davis

- o All applications are available on the

NCBA website

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

## Stories for YOUR NCBA Newsletter

Each and every NCBA member has a great BEE story in them. It could be serious about a special treatment regime you use. It could be a funny anecdote. It could be the bee story you tell to friends and neighbors at parties.

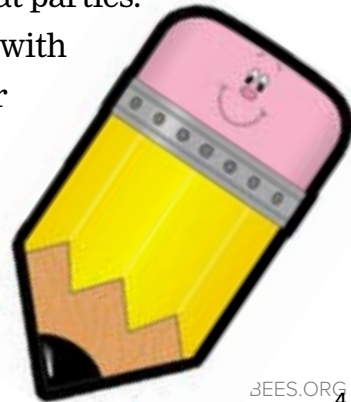
Well, it is time to share them with YOUR club. Write it down for posterity and we'll publish them in the newsletter.

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

WHAT DO YOU CALL A BEE THAT LIVES NEXT DOOR?



NEIGH-BUZZ!



# IS IT SPRING YET?

by Ed Szymanski

Well no, but now that we're in our beekeeping hiatus, we can think about garden planning for next year. Our bees will begin rearing brood by February - wouldn't it be nice to have some natural pollen available? These plants can be planted anytime as long as the ground can still be worked.

## WITCH HAZEL (*Hamamelis* spp)

Witch Hazels provide a glimmer of color on a cold winter day. The earliest blooming shrub in the Northeast, Witch Hazels can be a significant source of early spring pollen, if it's warm enough for the bees to get out and forage. Most of the other early pollen sources are bulbs, so when a spring snowstorm buries the bulbs, Witch Hazels are there for the bees on a sunny day as the snow melts. *Hamamelis* x *Intermedia* hybrids come in pink, purple and multi-colored. The purists prefer the straight yellow-flowered varieties.



Witch Hazel in February



Siberian Quill (Note the blue pollen)

provided pollen for 2 weeks. Siberian squill is one of just a few flowers that produce blue pollen. Newer beekeepers get a surprise during

## SPRING BULBS

Spring bulbs can provide early pollen just as brood rearing is starting. We

recently discovered Pushkinia, or striped squill (not Siberian Squill) and planted a quantity of the bulbs. They started blooming mid-March and

their early spring inspections when they find blue pollen in cells. It's always

great to see bees in the spring garden with their corbiculae packed in blue. Grape Hyacinths bloom from mid-April into May and provide both pollen and nectar. Each little "cup" that makes



Pushkinia



Grape Hyacinth

up the flower contains a small drop of nectar. Other significant spring bulbs are Crocus, Snowdrops, and Chionodoxa (Glory-of-the-Snow). Crocuses may need to be protected from



Honey Bees on Crocus

rodents, but the others are pretty much varmint-resistant.

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### HELLEBORE

Hellebore (*Helleborus* spp.), also called Lenten Rose, is the earliest flowering perennial in our area. In the right weather conditions, they can bloom in early to mid-March. They are frost tolerant, and can even be planted in light shade. They flower in a variety of colors from ivory to yellow to pink to a very deep red. For a perennial that provides early season pollen, you can't beat Hellebores.

### CATMINT

Catmint (*Nepeta* spp.) is another early spring perennial that will bloom starting in April and can go until October, especially if you shear off the spent blossoms. Honey bees and bumblebees can't leave it alone.



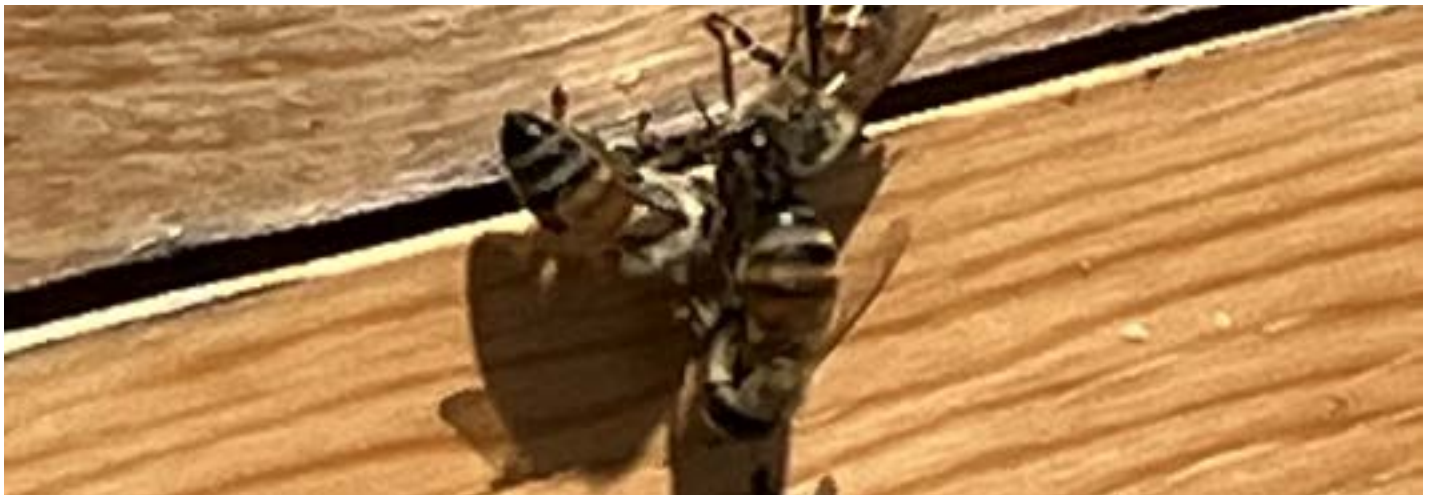
Catmint

An early Hellebore (mid-March)



Flowers are blue to purple and the foliage is an attractive gray-green color. Fassen's Catmint (*Nepeta Fassenii*) is particularly easy to grow from seed, even flowering the first year! Catmint will spread, but can easily be controlled. It can tolerate some foot traffic and works well in paths and between stepping stones. Catmint can also be planted in light shade, under trees and shrubs, and will still perform well.

There are plenty of times when food is abundant out in the bees foraging area – the flowering trees and shrubs provide a more than adequate food supply. But the early spring is one time when beekeepers can plant to really help our bees with nutrition when it is badly needed.



Bees propolizing gaps between boxes in preparation for winter



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