The Norfolk Bee

NOVEMBER 2026 • NORFOLKBEES.ORG

NCBA Meetings

The Next NCBA Meeting will be on Zoom November 2 @7pm

Mass Bee Fall Meeting Saturday November 14 8am in Franklin

NCBA Board meeting November 16 @ 7pm

Newsletter Contents

- President's Letter
- Mass Bee hosted by NCBA on Nov 14 in Franklin
- November Meeting
- Tim Cummings
- Membership Renewal
- Bee School signups are open-invite your friends
- October Board Meeting notes
- Special Session Bylaw meeting notes
- Clothing order form

President's Message:

Bees and Bee Buddies – Saving the world one bee at a time.

The old saying "Think Global Act Local" comes to mind for me when I think about our club and our bees. A lot is going on in the world that is well beyond our control. However, we know that 1/3 of our food supply depends on pollinators, so by educating the public about honey bees and pollinators we are doing our share to save the world. Get involved by doing a pollinator presentation.

For many of us, getting our bees safely through our New England winters has been the greatest challenge. NCBA has continued to bring our members new training and new techniques to tackle that problem. However, a large number of winter losses are still tied to Varroa Destructor. There are now many ways to control this threat, but the first step is knowing you have a problem. If you have not done a mite wash recently you need to do one now. Treatment options are limited this time of year but there are still plenty available. Test now and reach out for help if you are unsure. Enough said.

How about uniting to save the world?

Well, not quite so dramatic, but we did hold our first successful Bee Buddies group meeting for the South Central area. It was a great group discussion, problems were solved, ideas were exchanged, and in-person meeting were arranged. We are looking for leaders to get these groups started throughout our area. Reach out and we can help you get things organized in your area.

Finally – What do you want?

We have been working on a member survey, but there are so many topics, and we are trying to pick just 10 to get started. So, I am asking you, the member, please email me (President at Norfolkbees.org) and tell me the top 3 things you would like to see NCBA doing. We will pick the top 10 requests for the club-wide survey.

Bee Involved,
Brian McCafferty
President, NCBA

Register to attend! November 14, 2026

NCBA Hosts Mass Bee Fall Meeting

For the second year in a row NCBA will be hosting Mass Bee. This year is at the Elks Lodge in Franklin, MA. It will be a full day of lectures, updates from state officials, honey judging, lunch and vendors. As hosts we will need help to make this happen. Reach out to Mo Khalil to sign up.

To attend become a member and register @ Massbee.org

the online November 2 Club meeting will feature

Tim Cummings

Master Beekeeper & Community Mentor

Tim Cummings is a Cornell University Certified Master Beekeeper with over 11 years of hands-on experience in apiculture. Based in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, Tim's journey into beekeeping began in 2015 when he enrolled in the Bristol County Beekeepers Association (BrCBA) Beginner's Beekeeping class and joined the local Bee Club. His passion quickly evolved into a lifelong commitment to the craft.

In the Spring 2015, Tim established his first hives and has since maintained a thriving beekeeping practice. He has managed up to three apiaries comprised of up to 18 active hives as a dedicated hobbyist.

Tim serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors for BrCBA and actively mentors aspiring beekeepers in Dartmouth and Westport, sharing his knowledge and fostering growth in the local beekeeping community. His affiliations include:

- Bristol County Beekeepers Association (BrCBA)
- Massachusetts Beekeepers Association (MASSBEE)
- Cornell University Master Beekeeping Student Group
- Eastern Apiary Society (EAS)

Tim's commitment to sustainable beekeeping and community education continues to make a meaningful impact across southeastern Massachusetts.

NCBA BOARD MEMBERS
2026-2028

PRESIDENT
Brian McCafferty

VICE PRESIDENT
Edward Rock

TREASURER
Eboney Hobson

RECORDING SECRETARY
Mike Passmore

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Joe Jankovsky

MEMBERS AT LARGE
Carolyn Holmes, Vijay Sharma, Mark Bittenger, Margaret Elizondo

NCBA BEE SCHOOLS:

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Edward Rock

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
Dana Wilson

INTRODUCTORY BEE SCHOOL MENTOR

COORDINATOR
Archie Acevedo

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DIRECTOR & ADMINISTRATOR
Brian McCafferty

NCBA TECH GURU & CALENDAR
Greg Rushton

APPAREL
Kara Sullivan

DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE
Kara Sullivan

EXTRACTORS
Kate Klenk

MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE
Dana Wilson

LIBRARIAN
Michael Simone

PROGRAMS
Alla Ostrovsky

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS
Paul Reilly

DELEGATION TO MASSBEE
Brian McCafferty & Mike Passmore

LEGISLATIVE & PESTICIDE
Mohamad Khalil & Michael Simone

AGRICULTURAL DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE
Carolyn Holmes

Renew Your NCBA Membership!

Did you recently receive a remind email from Dana to renew? If yes, click below and cross that off your list!

This is the link to renew:
https://www.norfolkbees.org/membership.html

Share with your friends and neighbors!

Start Your Beekeeping Journey in 2027

Curious about keeping bees? Build knowledge, practical skills, and confidence to begin beekeeping safely and responsibly with guidance from experienced local beekeepers.

Registration opens in September 2026 at https://www.norfolkbees.org/bee-school.html

Reserve Your Seat Now!

Ten weekly, in-person sessions meet Tuesdays from 7:00–9:00 p.m. at Norfolk County Agricultural High School in Walpole, January 26 through April 13, 2027. Classes pause for winter & spring breaks. Snow-day sessions may move to Zoom.

What You'll Gain

- Hands-on experience
- Practical hands-on sessions in late March and April 2027, with live bees in real hives.
- Every Bee School student offered a mentor.
- Graduate with knowledge and confidence to become a responsible, passionate beekeeper who supports native pollinators, honeybees, and the pollinator friendly plants that sustain them.

Registration and Pricing

- Ready to learn about honeybees, pollinators, and practical beekeeping? Visit https://www.norfolkbees.org/bee-school.html to learn more and enroll today.
- Space is limited-this popular class fills quickly-reserve your seat ASAP.
- $100 for one participant; $125 for one participant plus a family member or beekeeping buddy & includes a NCBA Membership.

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

OCTOBER 19, 2026

7:01-8:03PM.

Attending:

Brian McCafferty
Ed Rock
Eboney Hobson
Joe Jankovsky
Carolyn Holmes
Vijay Sharma
Sany Burns
Mark Bittenger
Dana Wilson
Alla Ostrovsky
Kara Sullivan
Archie Acevedo
Paul Reilly
Kate Klenk
Greg Rushton
Mohamad Khalil
Mike Passmore

ALL ARE INVITED

Please remember that all NCBA members are welcome at each and every NCBA Board Meeting. As a matter of fact - we encourage as full a participation by our membership in the Board and Committees as possible.

Board Meetings are typically held on the third Monday of each Month. Just e-mail Brian McCafferty and he will send you the Zoom Link for the meeting.

(president@norfolkbees.

President's Update – Brian
• Brian called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.
Recording Secretary: Minutes – Mike P
• Minutes from the last Board Meeting were previously reviewed and approved by the Executive Board for publication in the newsletter. Tonight the Board voted and accepted the minutes as printed in the newsletter.
Treasurer Update – Eboney
• Eboney presented the report, noting that this month we have more money coming in from memberships and soap-making classes.
• The report was voted and accepted by the Board.

Vice President's Update – Ed • No update.
Corresponding Secretary – Joe
• Joe confirmed that our club meeting on November 2 will be remote. Our holiday party will be December 7.
Committees:
Programs – Alla
• Membership – Facebook – Google Groups - Dana
o 83 individuals, 53 families, and 8 individuals who used to be family memberships have renewed. Plus 3 new members give us a total of 147 members renewed for next year.
• Programs – Alla
o *November – Tim Cummings from Bristol County will present Expanding your Operation.*
o December – Holiday Party.
o The rest of our season is scheduled and was described last month.
• Beginner Bee School – Ed/Archie
o Archie said we have 12 families and 17 individuals so far, for a total of 41 seats.
o Ed will send out a template to last year's instructors, asking for updates to presentations between now and Thanksgiving.
o Ed asked Joe to put a notice in the newsletter to remind our members to make sure our friends and neighbors know about Bee School deadlines.
• Intermediate Bee School – Brian
o Brian is meeting tomorrow with some past presenters to discuss possible new topics, hoping to have a fixed curriculum to announce at the MassBee Fall Meeting.
o Zoom allows us to reach beekeepers outside our area, and the School is a good revenue source because of its fixed overhead. Last year we had 60-70 attendees.
• Website and Calendar – Greg
o ***T****he only update is that Greg has uploaded the most recent newsletter.*
o Brian mentioned that he had updated the Who We Are section to remove references to meeting locations in order to avoid future confusion.
• Extractors – Kate
o Nothing last week. Things are apparently winding down.
• Scholarships and Grants - Paul
o Nothing new until December/January.
• Door Prizes – Kara
o Recent door prizes *delivered.*
o Brian asked Kara if she would work on creative ideas for donations and door prizes at future meetings. Kara agreed to ask Better Bee, Maxant, Bella's Bees, and Dr. Bill for donations, and she will decide what to do with those donations given the short time before our next in-person meeting. Also on the table are item donations from members, vendor sponsorship of meetings, and any other ideas yet to be determined.
• State House & Pesticides – Mo
o Our legislation is stuck, but we have additional legislation about new chemicals.
o At the MassBee Fall Meeting the committee will summarize activities of the past years.
• Events – Mass Bee – Mo
o The Saturday meeting is at the Franklin Elks Club. We have 3 great speakers and a nice lunch. We're hosting, but with volunteers and a catered lunch it should be easier.
o The Friday night dinner at the Rail Trail in Milford sold out quickly. We raised the price this year so we hope to break even.
o Kim needs a screen for his presentation. Brian has been suggesting that the club buy a screen and wireless PA system since we came up short at the Aggie. After some discussion the Board voted an amount not to exceed $500 to purchase these items.
• Policies & Procedures – Michael S -No update.
• Soap Making – Brian
o This time we have 10 beginners and 7 intermediates. All tuition is a pass-thru.
• Training Apiaries – Brian
o For our insurance underwriter we need to write a description of activities we perform in each location, including who owns the bees and the equipment in each location. Brian will write the descriptions and forward to the leads at each location for review: himself at the Zoo, Ed and Archie at Medway, and Mo at the Aggie.
o Dealing with Sheila has been very difficult and confusing, so now everything is in writing. We've been with this agency for 15 years, but we may ask around at other county clubs and MassBee in hopes of finding an alternative.
o Brian and others went to the Zoo and moved the pads to a better location. When the fence goes up they will relocate the hives.
• Bee Suits – Sandy
o Suits are used nearly 10 times per season, including the kid sizes.
Old Business:
• Holiday Party
o Ed, Vijay, and Brian looked at the Medfield Unitarian Church. The room is cozy, fits 75 people, and is available 12/7. It is centrally located among our membership and costs $50/hour, $75/hour. It's a small parish and eager to host us.
o We voted to retain the church for our party. Brian will confirm tomorrow for 4 hours. We decided not to acquire a 1-day liquor license.
• Venue Search
o Brian suggested that we try 3 different locations for the next 3 in-person meetings. Central locations for our members could be Walpole or Medfield areas. Once we decide we could cancel the Aggie and have them apply the credit to our bee school rental.
o We will be trying the Unitarian Church in Medfield for the holiday party. We hope to try the Boggestowe Club in Millis for our February meeting; Sandy will arrange a visit to the venue with Brian. Then we can try either the Westwood Library suggested by Margie and Margaret or the church in Walpole previously discussed.
o Once we choose a location we may want to change some of our Zoom meetings to in-person, depending on the speakers, but it will not happen this year.
• Long-term planning – Member Survey
o This week Brian will devise a draft survey of perhaps 10 questions and distribute to the Board for review. One of the questions will be "Would you be willing to volunteer 4 hours if you were able to buy jars, nucs, or woodenware at a discount?" There may also be a question asking about general willingness to volunteer.
o After some discussion of how a jar program might work, we were reminded that we currently have three ways to buy jars through the Worcester program: become a member of WCBA, ask a member of

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October Board Meeting Continued

WCBA, or ask our president to be added to a club-wide order that would be submitted to WCBA. Having our own program would keep it local and convenient, and there would be some work involved, but it would benefit all members and encourage greater membership and member participation.

• **Northern Queen Program Requirements**

o Mo has a document outlining the supplier side of our Queen Program. There is some detail to the document, so Brian suggested we hold a separate Zoom meeting to discuss. Mo will check his schedule and suggest a date for interested Board members to attend.

o The question was asked whether we should limit the number of queens per household per year. It is a separate issue, but consensus seemed to be 5. No decision yet.

o Mo reiterated that his document only looks at the supplier side, not the recipient side.

New Business: None

General Discussion: None

Adjourned 8:03

NCBA SPECIAL MEETING

OCTOBER 5, 2026

7:03-7:07 PM.

Attending:

Brian McCafferty
Ed Rock
Eboney Hobson
Joe Jankovsky
Margret Elizondo
Alla Ostrovsky
Kara Sullivan
Paul Reilly
Michael Simone
Kate Klenk
Denise Landry
Jerry Godwin
Jill Bell
Kathleen Rezendes
Russ Holden
Marjorie
Noreen Cerqua
George Murold
Barabara
Janice Loving
Diane Chisholm
JKS
Stephen
Brad Boulanger
Steve Trieber
Kim
Mike Passmore

NCBA Special Meeting October 5, 2006

By-Law Revision

• An NCBA business meeting had been called 2 weeks in advance to discuss and vote on the newly revised by-laws, which had been distributed to club members in the same email. This meeting was scheduled as the first portion of NCBA's regular monthly meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 when we seemed to have full attendance.

• Brian noted that over the past several months the volunteer committee---primarily Michael Simone---had made changes to the document to bring it up to date with our current practices.

• That initial draft was presented to Brian and the Board for review and further revision, resulting in the document being voted upon this evening. Brian described some of those changes.

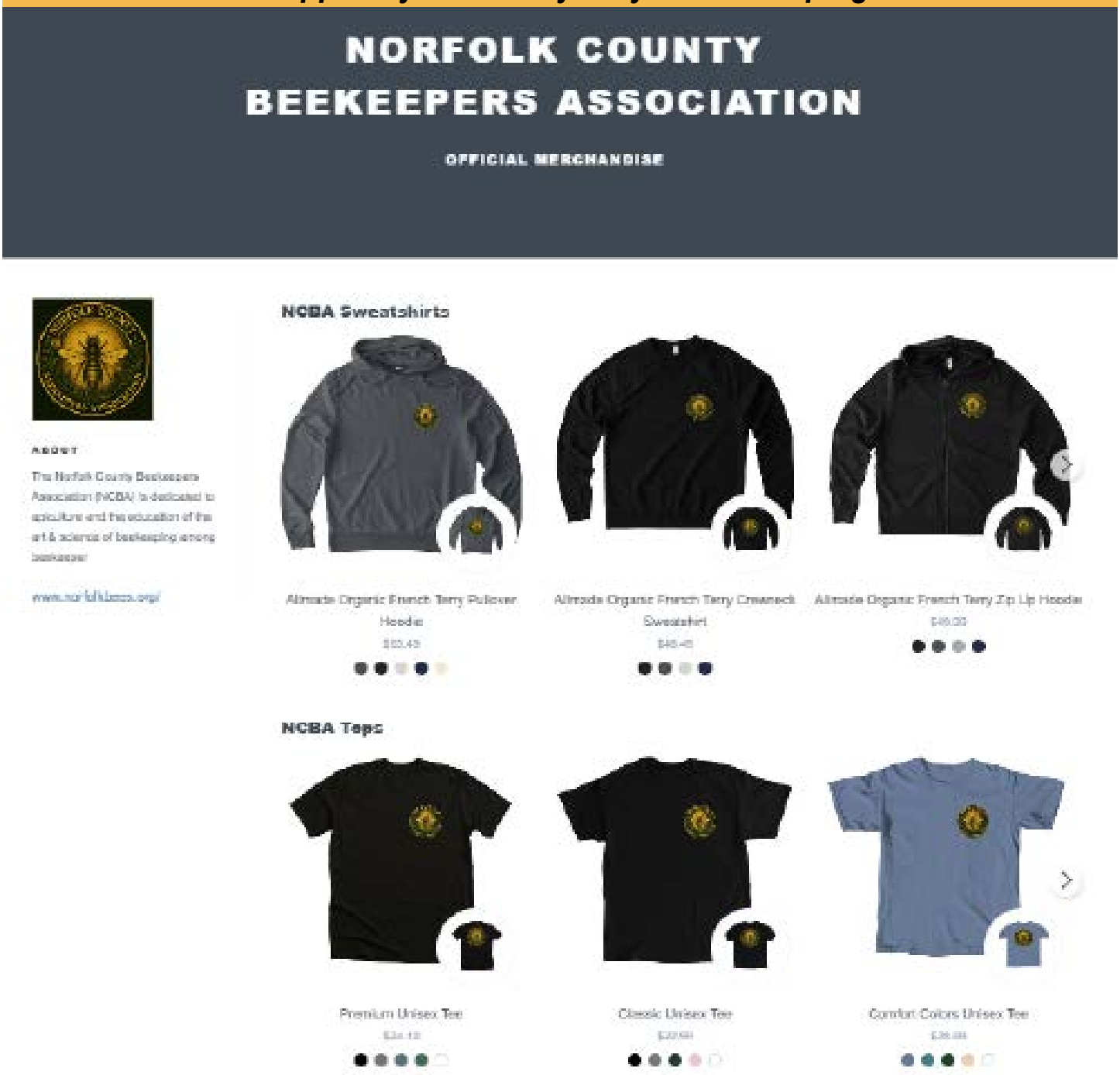
• After limited discussion a motion and a second were made to accept the revised by-laws.

• Because counting the ayes was more difficult with 28 members present, Brian suggested and it was agreed that we would call for nays (0), abstentions (0), then ayes (an assumed 28 with no statements to the contrary). The motion passed.

• A motion and second were made to adjourn this special business meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:07.

NCBA Apparel Store

Give a click here to check out the NEW and LIVE NCBA Apparel Store - it's all cool NCBA apparel you can buy for your beekeeping buddies.



From Hoodies to Fleece Zip-Ups, Water Bottles, cups and mugs, toddle wear and Ball-Caps - you'll be able to find something for every beekeeper in your "friend circle". Give a click here to check it out.

2026 Nucs & Queens Available

NortheastBees.com

Archie Acevedo n 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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To answer questions:
info@woodsbees.com

Boston Honey Company Nucs

All our nucs are inspected by the state inspector and our nucs are **guaranteed** by us. Our Queen stock is grafted from Beeder Queens raised and selected by Mike Palmer of French Hill Apiaries.

Five frame Nuc with unmarked queen. Bee stock is a mix of Carniolan/Buckfast and (POL-LINE) Italian stock. Minimum of 3 frames sealed brood (avg. 4), all 5 frames drawn out. No frame exchanges.

Standard Pricing is : $220.00
All Club Members use code: "ClubDiscount"
Club Price 5 Frame Nuc: $210.00
Quantity Discounts are available for group purchases:

Buy 10+	**$15.00 OFF**
Buy 20+	**$20.00 OFF**
Buy 50+	**$25.00 OFF**

We also offer **BULK HONEY & BEESWAX** for those who are looking to supplement their honey crops if they had a short year. We have our Northeast wildflower honey available in 5 gallon buckets for only $270 at $4.50 per pound! Note - Discount for April - Bucket = $250. Beeswax is $7.75 per pound.

I'm more than happy to share more information about our bees, beekleeping practices, quick lessons on how to install a nuc, a package, and more.

Best,

Evan

Email: *evan@bostonhoneycompany.com*

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VSH Carniolan Queens and Spring Nucs
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WETLANDSAPIARY.COM
WA
Workshops
For details, please call (508) 587 - 2388
eMail: WetlandsApiary@gmail.com
Website: WetlandsApiary.com
We are located in the Brockton, Massachusetts area

Bee Keeping Online Resources

•***American Bee Journal*** - Beekeeping Resources, Research and Articles - https://americanbeejournal.com/

•***American Beekeeping Federation*** - Membership Organization with great resources and educational opportunities - https://abfnet.org/resources-for-beekeepers/

•***Auburn University Extension*** - Agriculture and Beekeeping related webinars and resources - https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/

•***At Home Beekeepers Series*** - Auburn University Extension Service - https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/bees-pollinators/at-home-beekeeping-series/

•***Bee Conservancy*** - Resources for beekeepers & supporting Pollinators - https://thebeeconservancy.org/10-ways-to-save-the-bees/

•***BeeCounted*** website accesses all the broodminder data (you don't need the sensors) rolling in so you can see nectar flow in your geography *https://beecounted.org/map*

•***BetterBee*** Beekeeping supply vendor with some nice "how to videos and resources- https://www.betterbee.com/instructions-and-resources/home.asp

•***Bee Informed Partnership*** Beekeeping Blog - https://beeinformed.org/blog

•***Cornell University Beekeeping Courses and Resources*** - https://ecornell.cornell.edu/certificates/beekeeping/

•***Dadant*** Beekeeping supply vendor with some nice "how to videos and resources- https://www.dadant.com/learn/

•***Eastern Apicultural Society*** - Membership organization for beekeepers in the Eastern United States - resources, education, conferences and research for beekeepers - https://easternapiculture.org/

•***Harbo Bee Company*** - A supplier of VSH Queens, this link is to their handbook on how to test queens for VSH traits - Click Here

•***Honeybee Health Coalition*** - resources and education for beekeepers - https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/focus-on-forage/

•***Honeybee Net -*** a great resource presented by NASA at the Goddard Space Flight Center website - https://honeybeenet.gsfc.nasa.gov/Honeybees.htm

•***Honey Bee Suite -*** a neat online resources of articles, blog posts and - https://www.honeybeesuite.com/

•***Mann Lake Blog*** news, information, and beekeeping techniques - many product related - https://www.mannlakeltd.com/blog/

•***Massachusetts Apiary Program***, hive inspections, information, support - https://www.mass.gov/apiary-program-honey-bees

•***Massachusetts Beekeepers Association*** - Resources and Programming for MA Beekeepers - NCBA is part of the state organization - https://www.massbee.org/

•***Norfolk County Beekeepers Association*** - https://www.norfolkbees.org/

•***North Carolina State University Apiculture Program*** - Resources, Educational Opportunities and Data to inform your beekeeping https://www.ncsuapiculture.net/

•***North Carolina State University Apiary Lab*** Beekeeping resources, videos, and more- https://www.ncsuapiculture.net/

•***Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center*** - Hosts monthly Zoom workshops on a variety of topics on pest management in beekeeping - https://www.northeastipm.org/ipm-in-action/the-ipm-toolbox/bee-breeding-and-ipm-for-better-pollinator-health/

•***PennState Extension*** - Beekeeper and Pollinator Resources - https://extension.psu.edu/insects-pests-and-diseases/pollinators/beekeeping

•***Planet Bee.org*** - Resources about pollinators, pollen providers, and bee friendly plantings - https://beescape.psu.edu

•***Pollinator.org*** is a resource for ecoregional planting guides for pollinators - https://www.pollinator.org/guides

•***Randy Oliver's Scientific Beekeeping*** website - research, resources, and data to inform better beekeeping - https://scientificbeekeeping.com/

•***Two Bees in a Podcast*** available anywhere you can subscribe to podcasts - it is free and very informative - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAQHmJyzKkpCKjAoFxcdmfENw0YpVEn8o

•***University of Massachusetts Bee Lab*** - Pollinator Resources - https://ag.umass.edu/resources/pollinators

•***University of Minnesota Bee Lab*** - featuring the work of Marla Spivak and others - data and research to inform your beekeeping - https://beelab.umn.edu/

•***USDA Bee Disease Diagnosis 60+ page PDF*** - https://www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/honeybeediseases/honeybeediseases.pdf

•***USDA Bee Disease Diagnosis Service*** - https://www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/beltsville-md-barc/beltsville-agricultural-research-center/bee-research-laboratory/docs/bee-disease-diagnosis-service/

•***USDA National Agricultural Library Apiculture and Beekeeping*** resources - https://www.nal.usda.gov/animal-health-and-welfare/beekeeping

•***Washington State University Honeybee and Pollinator Program*** - Resources and new research for beekeepers - https://bees.wsu.edu/