

the Norfolk Bee

October 2023 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NEXT CLUB MEETING

OCTOBER 2, 2023
7:00 to 9:00 pm

**Hybrid
In-person
and on Zoom**

Norfolk Agricultural High
School
400 Main Street
Walpole, MA

Membership Dues

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

[Click here!](#)



Mouse Guards ON!

The Norfolk Bee • October 2023

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

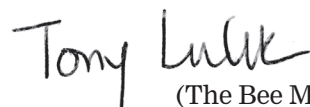
What a season we have had. Last year, no rain, no nectar. This year too much rain, some nectar. Hopefully there is a middle ground next year. And who knows what the winter will bring. I prefer snow and consistent temperatures. No 80 degrees in February please. It certainly has become a challenge to keep bees with all of these fluctuations in our weather.

As you know, we moved our meeting time to 7 pm. I hope this will encourage those that can, to attend in person. I miss seeing everyone. For me, beekeeping has always been about the community. I have made many great friendships over the years and cherish them.

Also, service to the club is important. There are many things that we do that require time from members who volunteer. The more who volunteer the easier it is on those that serve on the board.

And don't forget, dues are due for 2024. And I want to share with you some of the things that your dues goes to pay for: rental of the rooms at the Aggie, speakers fees for our meetings, NCBA scholarships, Aggie scholarships, Queen program, scholarships to other bee related programs, scholarships to Master Beekeeping Courses, membership in MassBee, our website, and grants for pollinator programs. And I am sure there are a couple of things I am missing.

Yours in Beekeeping,


(The Bee Man)

NCBA Meeting October 2nd

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

Social time between 6:30-
7PM and the meeting
"Managing Single Brood
Box" will run from 7-9 PM.

Ed Szymanski will host a
panel of NCBA beekeepers
who run Single Deep Hives,
so this should be a very
informative session.

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



NCBA BOARD MEMBERS
2022-2024

PRESIDENT
Tony Lulek

VICE PRESIDENT
Mohamad Khalil

TREASURER
Brian McCafferty

RECORDING SECRETARY
Edward Rock

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Open Position

MEMBERS AT LARGE
Carin Cohen, 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

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

October 2, 2023 Topic: Single Brood Box configuration

November 6, 2023 Topic: TBD

Memorial Walk for Stephen Green



Mohamad Khalil (top photo left), NCBA's Vice President, joined a host of "Friends and Family of Stephen Green" on September 23rd for a

nature walk in his honor at the Franklin and Bellingham Rail Trail. Stephen was a long time NCBA member and Club Treasurer.



Legislative Update

The Mass Bee Legislative/Pesticide Committee has been watching closely the information at the state house concerning the use of pesticides for mosquito control. Below is a letter written to the Environmental and Natural Resource committee by several environmental organizations including NOAF/Mass and Mass Bee. We encourage all Mass Bee members to reach out to their legislators to share your concerns over responsible mosquito management techniques. [Please let us know if you would like to join the Mass Bee Legislative team.](#)

"Dear Chair Rausch, Chair Cahill, and members of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

We want to draw your attention to a recent troubling news report that shows that certain [mosquitoes are becoming resistant to the insecticides](#) used in large scale truck and aerial spray applications.

We know from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources ([MDAR](#)) report regarding the 2019 aerial spraying events that mass spraying is not effective in killing the intended target - mosquitoes carrying diseases such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus. Instead, thousands of gallons of pesticides are sprayed across the environment with little ability to keep them from entering waterways, soils, and farms, with no way of knowing how many, if any, infected mosquitoes are killed.

Now that [mosquitoes are developing resistance to the pesticides](#) we use, we must

reconsider how we protect ourselves from mosquito-borne diseases. We do not want to simply switch to other pesticides. We urge the state to continue to prioritize and promote non-pesticide solutions as described on the Department of Public Health's "[Mosquito-borne disease prevention](#)" webpage.

As you deliberate the pesticide bills before you, please consider this new information and vote favorably for commonsense and ecologically-based pesticide regulation. You can find information about the bill we support here: An Act establishing an ecologically-based mosquito management program in the Commonwealth to protect public health ([S.445/H.845](#))" as well as on our attached Frequently Asked Questions."

You can become a Mass Bee member or renew your membership by visiting their membership page or by [clicking here!](#)

**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

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

7:08 to 8:25 pm

Attending:
Tony Lulek
Ed Rock
Mohamad Khalil
Joel Richards
Ed Szymansky
Gregory Rushton
Mike Simone
Lara Davis
Jennifer Jett
Alla Ostrovsky
Mike Passmore,
Jenna Tibbitts
Deborah Spielman
Brian McCafferty

NCBA Board Minutes

September 18, 2023 – 7:08 PM-8:25 PM

President's Update – Tony L

- Queen Program – seemed to be successful this year (currently 121 queens certificates to date)
\$3,025 cost to NCBA
Beekeeper experience averaged over 5 years

Vice President's Update – Mo K.

- Need to put on the agenda for October Board meeting – consider purchasing a bee vacuum for check out from the club
- Bee School Participants - current registration is at 38 participants
- Steven Green's Memorial Walk (coming Saturday 9/23, 2023 morning)
- Mass Bee – there are some new legislative initiatives that we'll share with club via newsletter

Treasurer Update – (Brian McCafferty – Covering Treasure's Roll as interim)

- Bank balance \$32,679 of end of August 2023
- Motioned – install Brian as the club treasurer – Motion by Tony Lulek, Seconded by Mo Khalil, Unanimously approved

- Tony L and Brian M are setting up a meeting to review the materials and connect with Bank

Recording Secretary: Minutes – Ed R

- No new business

Corresponding Secretary – Open Position

- Newsletter deadline September 26, 2023

All articles and notes to Ed Rock by end of day 9/26/23

(Continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

Alla O and Mike P have volunteered to support newsletter development

Committees:

- Programs – Ed S and Marion
Upcoming

October – Single Box Brood Chambers (Ed S., and Jenna T, Gregory R and others)

More details to come for later sessions

- NCBA Intro to Bee School – Tony and Dana

The registration up now for Bee School 2024!

38 registered

Dana has put the 2024 calendar of classes up

All classes will be in person this year

- Intermediate Bee School – Ed & Marion

Last Class this Wednesday 9/20/23

And then planning starts for 2024

- Extractors – Brianda Y
Slow usage this year

- Library – Michael Simone
Very Quiet so far this year - looking into online licencing of bee journals for club
- Door Prizes – Tara S
No update at this time
- Website – Greg
Some struggles getting to the NCBA website with http vs https...
In our e-mail list folks have been asking for a club related SLACK access - we'll evaluate the value versus management time and expense
We're up-to-date currently
- Membership – Facebook – Google Groups - Rose & Deb
Rose Thornton is stepping back. Mo is currently handling membership – set up as membership admin by Tony
Tony and Deb are working with the Facebook group
September starts our membership renewals
- Bee Apparel – MaryBeth
Noonan and Maureen Harrington

No update

- Calendar Committee – Jenna Tibbetts
Updates for Fall are coming
- Nominating Committee
Nothing new
- Scholarships and Grants - Lara Davis
Outreach - getting the word out, developing flyers and contacting schools
One application in so far for Master Beekeeper at Cornell
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

NCBA Scholarship

It's never too soon to start preparing! 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 DO YOU CALL
A BEE YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND?



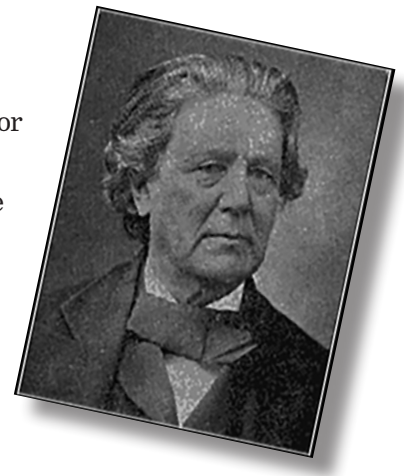
A MUMBLE-BEE



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.





2023 Nucs & Queens Available

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The nucs that we sell you are the same as those that we produce for ourselves.

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Our "nucs" are 5-frame mini-hives comprised of a marked queen, her daughters, pollen, nectar, and honey.

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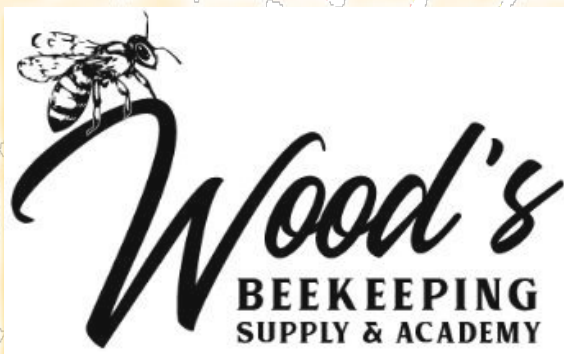
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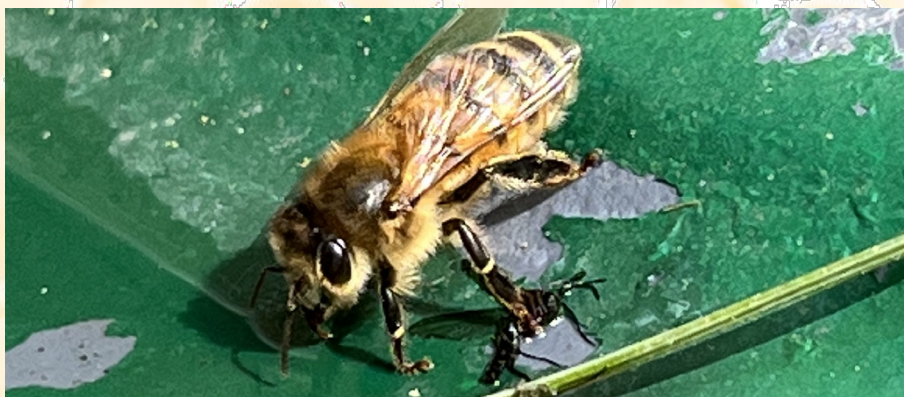
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**To answer questions:
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