

The Norfolk Bee

October 2024 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NCBA October Activities

The NCBA Meeting will be October 7th at 7PM.

This is a Zoom meeting ONLY - the link will be sent out 1 or 2 days before the meeting!

Join us remotely for an enriching evening of winter prep and strategic hive survival techniques!

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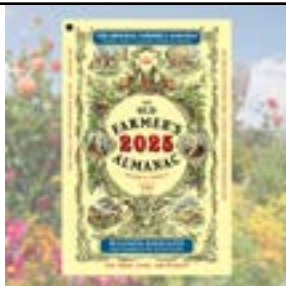
Dear Beekeepers,

Hope your summer went well. Fall is upon us and winter will be here before we know it. We have a short time to get our bees ready for winter. Be mindful of robbing and also that your bees have enough stores to get through the winter. You should be feeding syrup now if the bees need it. Two suggestions: put your feed on early in the morning or late in the day. This will decrease the chance of robbing, and put on a lot, not just a quart at a time, if you know your bees need more, give them a gallon at a time. They only have a short time to process and cap off the honey.

We have some fun meetings scheduled for winter 2025. We plan on having some mini workshops on how to make bee products. Stay tuned for the exact details. This will also give us a chance to see one another in person, which is vital to our clubs survival.

See you on Zoom October 7th on Zoom

Tony Lulke



It's Winter Feed SEASON!

Check your hives carefully to make sure they have enough food stores to make it through the winter. Note that the Farmer's Almanac is predicting a mild warmer and dryer winter than normal. That may mean that the bees will be more active and consume more food stores.

October 7th NCBA Zoom Meeting

Who/Speaker: Andrew Monkres - Vermont Bee Keeper's Association member and President

What: Winter Hive Preparation and Survival Strategies

When: October 7th at 7PM

Where: ONLY ON ZOOM - the link will be sent out to all NVBA

members prior to the meeting. Check your SPAM folder to make sure you receive the link.

Why: Sustainability is one of the key goals of NCBA, and anything we can do to help our hives survive over the winter is a GOOD THING.

A bit about Andrew's background follows on the next page...

Andrew has made great contributions to the Vermont Beekeepers Association, Vermont beekeepers, and the practice of apiculture in Vermont. It's not exaggerating to state that his experience and knowledge of the practice and politics of apiculture is encyclopedic. This makes him especially effective as an educational speaker and unquestionably credible in the broader political and state policy realm.

1. For many years, Andrew taught beekeeping classes at Green Mountain College.

2. He has been the guest educational speaker at literally dozens of places over the years. These include:

a. Local banks, senior centers, and similar organizations holding community talks.

b. Every organized beekeeping club in Vermont – often more than once.

c. Clubs outside VT such as the Capital Region Beekeepers (around Albany, NY) and the Southern Adirondack Beekeepers Association.

3. Andrew was instrumental in fashioning the state law that established two-mile radius buffers around commercial apiaries to reduce the likelihood of colony overcrowding and consequent exhausting of food resources leading to colony health issues.

4. He was part of the VBA team in 2019 that developed the wording in proposed legislation, H.205, that eventually led to Vermont getting its first full time State Apiculturist in more than 30 years.

5. He was part of the VBA team that helped update to the state statute in 2021 - Act 129 - that defined "local" and "raw" which included honey in those definitions for the first time.

6. He was also part of the VBA team dealing with Act 249 in 2021 that established the Agricultural Innovation Board looking at ways to reduce agricultural pesticide use (that affect our pollinators) and reduce waste streams from farms in VT.

7. Most recently Andrew has testified to the Vermont Agriculture Innovation Board in July 2022 and again in April 2023 on the impacts of neonics on honey bees (and other pollinators) and alternatives to those pesticides. This presentation was the most comprehensive, research based review of the impacts of neonics on honey bees that has been given in Vermont.

8. He was a key member of the VBA working group that established the VBA's first comprehensive training outline for new and



prospective beekeepers on the VBA website.

9. He has personally conducted or co-presented more than a dozen recent online VBA workshops via Zoom and more are scheduled.

10. He was instrumental in supporting the creation of the Vermont Bee Lab at UVM and continues to support their research efforts in his apiaries.

11. Andrew has supported preparation of a Long-Range Plan to guide VBA's initiatives in the past and coming years. This has moved the VBA into a position of both supporting beekeepers directly and serving as the primary advocate for apiculture interests in Vermont.

12. During his years in the VBA Board of Directors, Andrew has served the past three years as the VBA President and before that, three years as Vice President.

13. In his role as President, and in accordance with the priorities in the VBA Long Range Plan, he has helped the VBA establish strong working relationships with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets (VAAF) staff. In 2022, the VBA was awarded a Federal Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) to develop a statewide honey promotion campaign and to improve compliance by retailers and beekeepers with Vermont honey labelling laws and regulations. This campaign will roll out soon with Andrew

being the point of contact with the professional marketing company developing the program to be released this Fall through the 2023 holiday season. Although this is a federal grant, it is administered through VT AAFM which is where our good working relationships and professional communications have paid off for apiculture in Vermont. Andrew wrote and submitted the grant proposal. This required many sometimes-frustrating hours of his own volunteer time. That was the simple part. The Federal General Services Administration would not recognize the VBA as a viable entity even after proving evidence that the VBA has existed since 1886. The GSA would not assign Unique Entity Identifier to the VBA because it did not have a physical office location. Andrew spent countless frustrating hours and weeks providing supporting documentation to resolve the issue. If the issue was not resolved, the VBA could never obtain a federal grant. Finally, after involving our legislators in the process, his persistence paid off and this issue was resolved last Fall at the very last minute, so we were able to use the \$80,000 grant that had been awarded. This was a herculean effort with far reaching future benefits for the VBA.



**NCBA BOARD MEMBERS
2024-2025**

PRESIDENT
Tony Lulek

VICE PRESIDENT
Mohamad Khalil

TREASURER
Brian McCafferty

RECORDING SECRETARY
Mike Passmore

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Edward Rock

MEMBERS AT LARGE
Amy Musante, Paul Reilly, Archie Acevedo

NCBA BEE SCHOOLS:

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Tony Lulek

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
TBD

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Joe Jankovsky

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
TBD

NCBA TECH GURU
Greg Rushton

APPAREL
TBD

DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE
Kara Sullivan

EXTRACTORS
Brianda Younie

MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE
Dana Wilson
TBD

LIBRARIAN
Michael Simone

PROGRAMS
Alla Ostrovsky

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS
Lara Davis

REMEMBER TO Renew Your Norfolk County Beekeepers Association (NCBA) Membership

Fall is upon us and club activities are picking up again. Renew your membership for the coming year (2025) and encourage all your beekeeping friends to join us!

By renewing you will continue to receive:

- * **Informative monthly NCBA Newsletter**
- * **Access to monthly state-of-the-art Bee-Educational and Bee-Social in-person and zoom meetings**
- * **Unique NCBA re-Queening Program - HUGE discounts when purchasing queens**
- * **Access to the enormous wealth of beekeeping experience NCBA members have and share with fellow club members**
- * **Valuable discounts and important information**
- * **Access to numerous scholarships and grants (NCBA Scholarship, Jan Daniels Grant, Master Beekeeper Scholarship...)**
- * **Use of NCBA Extractors**
- * **FREE Bee Suit Rentals (Several Children's Sizes)**
- * **Special Discounts on unique DIY classes like Soap-Making**

So go to <https://www.norfolkbees.org/membership.html> and renew your membership on the club's secure website using your credit card. It will take you less than 2 minutes!

Don't wait until the last moment!
RENEW NOW.

Your annual membership will still run through December 31, 2025!

Thank you for your continued membership and support of the club

Your Membership Committee:

Tony Lulek and Dana Wilson

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**

AUGUST 27, 2024

7:05-8:10PM.

Attending:

- Tony Lulek
- Edward Rock
- Greg Rushton
- Archie Acevedo
- Mike Simone
- Caroline Holmes
- Dana Wilson
- Paul Reilly
- Mohamad Khalil
- Amy Musante
- Kara Sullivan
- Mike Passmore
- Alla Ostrovsky
- Susan

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 Tony Lulek and he will send you the Zoom Link for the meeting.

**NCBA Board Minutes
September 23, 2024
7:05 PM - 8:06 PM**

President's Update – Tony L.

- Welcome to Susan and Phil.
- Updates later regarding Programs.

Vice President's Update – Mo K.

- There's a free version of software to replace our current swarm management tool. Mo has looked it over and passed to Greg. Seems okay but there are still a few unanswered questions.

Treasurer Update – Tony in Brian McCafferty's absence.

- Account balances are about \$35K, down about \$5K, but in Tony's opinion we could spend another \$5K and still have a safe cushion of \$25K. We have fewer in-person meetings so we spend less for the Aggie.

- Financial report was accepted.

Recording Secretary: Minutes – Mike P.

- Draft minutes from last month's Board Meeting were distributed to Tony and Mo for approval, then sent to Ed for inclusion in the newsletter.

- Minutes were accepted.

Corresponding Secretary – Ed R.

- All articles and notes to Ed by Thursday or Friday, September 27, 2024.
- Ed will publish the newsletter on September 30, a week ahead of our October 7 club meeting.

Committees:

- Programs – Alla O.

o Alla reported that we have speakers lined up for October and November, with a holiday party scheduled for December. The new year is still tentative, but as requested she'll arrange for a Better Bee presentation in February or March.

o Tony asked Paul Reilly to give his suggestions, which involved NCBA members presenting on topics not

usually covered by guest speakers: making propolis tinctures, a wax melter, mead, lip balm, hand creams, furniture cream, creamed honey. Phil suggested winter activities such as inspecting and repairing frames. Dana suggested what to do with "extra" honey or wax. We have plenty of in-house experts, and all we need are volunteers to demonstrate for 15-20 minutes while club members mingle with refreshments.

o Dana will work on securing the Aggie cafeteria during our in-person meetings. Alla will send an email to club members soliciting volunteers. And depending on the response we could try to schedule presentations during our in-person meetings of December, February, March, and May. December and May already have holiday party and plant sale scheduled, but Tony suggested that perhaps we could squeeze in a presentation.

Alla said she would like to have a swarm management presentation in May, perhaps with Steve Repasky. Mo reminded us that's Zoom is difficult in the cafeteria, but he's willing.

- NCBA Intro to Bee School – Tony L.

o No report, but a date was set for an organizational meeting with Tony, Mo, Ed, Dana, Archie, and volunteers Carolyn and Greg.

- Intermediate Bee School – Jim J.

o No report.

- Extractors – Brianda Y.

o No report.

- Library – Michael S.

o No report.

o We can discuss Michael's draft Bylaws at our next meeting.

- Door Prizes – Kara S.

o There were no door prizes last month, and it seems we have decided to have

(Continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

door prizes only for in-person meetings.

▮ Website – Greg R.

o The swarm software has a contract in need of signature. The paid version allows for customization, but we may not need it. The free version may have club member privacy issues to investigate and resolve.

▮ Membership – Facebook – Google Groups – Dana W.

o We have 581 members, of which only 46 have renewed and that includes 25 first-timers.

o We have 31 Bee School enrollees so far.

o Website only accepts credit or debit cards. Greg explained that accepting PayPal or Venmo would incur an extra charge for the club so we decided against it. Also, personal checks are difficult to process.

▮ Bee Apparel – Vacant position

o No update.

▮ Calendar Committee – Greg R.

o Updated to reflect Mass Bee, Worcester County, MDAR, and AFB events.

▮ Scholarships and Grants - Lara D.

o No report.

New Business:

▮ NCBA Queen Program

o Tony analyzed data from the last two years and found that we've subsidized 121 queens each year. The majority of recipients have 3-7 years of experience, and the leading reasons for re-queening were splits and a lost queen. It was agreed that the program is successful, and there are no signs of abuse.

▮ Swarm software

o We will revisit next month.

▮ Vimeo and Zoom Archives

o Greg does not have access to stored vimeos, but when he gets it he will resume working with Michael on a digital library.

▮ Bylaws

o We will discuss next month.

▮ Holiday Party

o We should form a committee and announce in the newsletter.

▮ NCBA Nuc Program

o Tony would like to revisit when Brian is present.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM

Need Help Planning December Holiday Meeting

We're making the call out to all NCBA members for a few Volunteers who'd want to form a committee and plan the December Holiday Meeting, Social, & Party. If you're a party planner, a host / Hostess with the mostess, reach out Tony Lulek (tony@littlebeehivefarm.com) to volunteer...we need new ideas, games, and a true holiday party spirit.



“How To” Volunteers

As NCBA plans the Winter Club Meetings, we're looking for skilled club members to share 20+ minute “How-To...” sessions at our monthly meetings. These could be candle making, lip balm creation, skin cream blending... anything to do with products of the hive. We plan on having these sessions in the Cafeteria at the Aggie so we can make them as hands-on as possible for club members.

If you have a skill, talent, or product to share with the Club, let Tony Lulek know (tony@littlebeehivefarm.com) and we'll get you scheduled.



Let Your Friends and Neighbors Know About NCBA Bee School

NCBA's Introduction to Bee School registration is now open. [Sign-up is right on the NCBA website.](#) If any of your neighbors or Norfolk County friends are interested in the hobby of beekeeping and would like to enjoy an indepth 10 week hands-on class encourage them to sign up NOW! Spaces are filling quickly (already 35 folks registered).

Slumgum: The “Icky stuff” left over after wax rendering

by Steven Trieber

“Slumgum”, “slummm-gum”, “slum-gummm” - It’s not only fun to say but it has a myriad of uses. Slumgum is a dark residue, consisting of brood cocoons, pollen, propolis, and pheromones from the hive which is left over from the wax rendering process. Here’s how I maximize use of the remnants from this process. Say you just finished rendering your wax in my DIY solar wax melter (see the May 2024 NCBA newsletter) and now you’re wondering what to do with all that icky, brown, residue that is left over. DON’T throw it away! Some of the following suggestions are from other beekeepers but have been confirmed by me as viable uses. The information provided is for informational

purposes only and does not constitute a guarantee of success. *I disclaim any liability for outcomes resulting from the use of these ideas. That’s my way of saying enjoy the wonders of slumgum and have fun experimenting.*

Here’s A List of Ideas:

(1) COMPOST - Throw it into your compost. It contains nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), and potassium (K) so makes for a great compost enhancer.

(2) FIRESTARTERS - Having troubling lighting that smoker? Heat up some slumgum, stir in sawdust, place onto newspaper, roll it up and twist the ends like a Tootsie Roll. You can also place some inside of an empty toilet paper roll or into a cardboard egg carton which can be torn into individual fire starter pieces. It’s great for



starting bonfires and small rolls can be used in your smoker. Light the small roll ends and place your favorite fuel (I like to use pine straw) atop the roll.

(3) SWARMS - Looking to capture a swarm? Don't put an old frame of brood comb which can get infested with the Lesser Wax Moth (*Achroia grisella*), the Greater Wax Moth (*Galleria mellonella*) and/or Small Hive Beetles (SHB) into your swarm trap/bait hive. Instead, place a piece of slumgum on the opposite side of the trap entrance. Bees love the smell, will investigate, and hopefully will decide to move in. I've successfully captured swarms using this method with plastic foundation.



(4) Just bought some new equipment and want the bees to be more accepting of it? Rub some melted slumgum over the interior of new lids, bottom boards and woodenware boxes. The bees love the smell of "used" woodenware.

(5) Got hungry chickens or turkeys? They'll devour the raw slumgum. I often give some to one of my chicken-raising friends for his flock. They "gobble" it up.

(6) Looking to bag that bear that keeps

destroying your hives? Use slumgum as bait for bear hunting. I've given some to avid hunters and they swear by it. It gives off a unique odor that bears easily sniff out.

(7) And finally, I haven't done this one yet, but I've heard of other beekeepers who will heat up corners or portions of boxes that have holes (from knots, nails or damage from hive tool use) with a torch and add slumgum as a type of bonding agent to repair the holes and cracks. Once cool, the slumgum will reharden and create a watertight seal.

Here's Your Call To Action

If you have other unique uses for slumgum, whether it be in tinctures or something completely off-the-wall, let us know through Facebook or the NCBA Google Group, or e-mail Ed for inclusion in the next newsletter (erock0616@gmail.com) so we can all benefit.





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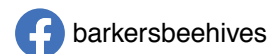
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Bee Keeping Online Resources

• **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/>

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

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

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

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

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

• **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/>

• **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 -

• **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/>

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

LifeCycle and Roles for Worker Honeybees



•**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 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/>

It is my hope to have NCBA members “YOU ALL” share any online Beekeeping references and resources you know if...and conti8nually update this list as a once-a-month reference for all members.

Thanks in advance for sharing any resources you have that are your “Go To’s” for beekeeping.

Ed Rock