The
Norfolk Bee

OCTOBER 2026 • NORFOLKBEES.ORG

NCBA Meetings

The Next NCBA Meeting will on Zoom Oct 5 @7pm

NCBA Board meeting October 19 @ 7pm

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President's Message:

Rebuilding Our Beekeeping Community -- Together

Let's face it, the COVID era changed the way we meet, learn, and stay connected. Virtual meetings helped us continue our work during a difficult time, and they remain a useful option. Unfortunately, we have learned that an online meeting does not build community the same as conversation before and after an in-person meeting, the exchange of practical experience, a welcoming word to a new beekeeper, and the relationships that develop when we work together on projects and committees.

We are working to rebuild that sense of community, and I encourage you to make our in-person meetings a priority whenever possible. These gatherings give us the best opportunity to share knowledge, ask questions, mentor one another, welcome newcomers, and renew the friendships that make NCBA a community. In-person meetings come with a financial cost and poor attendance coupled with increased rental costs caused us to cut back to only four in-person meetings a year. However, the cost to the fabric of our community from fewer meetings has far exceeded the financial cost. Ideally increased meeting attendance would lead to more in-person events.

While large meetings are a good way to share knowledge, small group meetings also help members connect when there is a shared interest, location, or task. This is the idea behind our new Bee Buddies program. This started with the Zoo Crew that gets together to tend our hives at Capron Park Zoo. The friendships made tending those hives developed into helping each other, sharing knowledge and equipment, and forming friendships that are hard to duplicate in a larger group.

Bee Buddies is for folks who live nearby to meet locally to share knowledge and ideas, support new beekeepers, share equipment (like oxalic acid vaporizers or extractors), plan an event like a Harbo Party, or simply compare notes over coffee. These groups can be informal, meet occasional or develop into regular meetings, it is really up to the group. Our plan is to help members get their local group started then let the members make it their own.

Many Hands Make a Stronger Association

During our September meeting we launched a number of committees. Committees are how good ideas become completed projects. We can share tasks, bring more voices into the discussion, and create more opportunities for members. Active committees also prevent the same few members from setting the tone for our club year after year. That is why I am asking each member to get involved, join a committee, attend a meeting, and let your voice be heard.

No contribution is too small. We don't need every member to join a committee, but we do need more members involved. With more members involved, leadership becomes more sustainable, and our association gains a greater capacity to educate, mentor, inform the public, and advance beekeeping throughout our communities. This is our opportunity to rebuild with intention—not simply to return to the way things were, but to become more connected, more welcoming, and more resilient.

Together, we can make NCBA a place where both our bees and our beekeepers thrive.

Bee Involved,
Brian McCafferty
President, NCBA

Save the Date! 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 October 5 Club meeting will feature

Trish Thompson
The Natural Medicine Cabinet of the Honey Bee

Trish Thompson is a North Carolina Master Beekeeper, apitherapist, and founder of Pollen Peddlers Apiary, where she manages over 150 colonies and oversees nationwide shipping of live bees for bee venom therapy. Since beginning of her beekeeping journey in 2018, she has specialized in the medicinal use of hive products - including venom, propolis, honey, pollen, and royal jelly - to support healing and wellness. As a Vice President of the American Apitherapy Society, Trish combines science, sustainability, and personal experience to educate others about the remarkable health benefits found within the hive.

Her work bridges traditional beekeeping with modern holistic health, emphasizing responsible hive management, sustainability, and the ethical use of bee products for medicinal purposes.

Updated NCBA Bylaws at the October 5 meeting

We made some updates to modernize our Bylaws and to bring them into alignment with the NCBA Board's vision of how the club ought to operate going forward. Notable changes include:

- clarifying the roles, terms, and duties of officers and directors;
- creating a process to replace officers and directors should one not be able to complete their term; and
- modernizing the list of standing committees.

We will be asking the club to adopt these updated bylaws at our monthly meeting on October 5, 2026 @ 7:00 pm EST via Zoom.

The new bylaws were mailed to the member list. If you have questions or would like to address a specific issue, please contact Mike Simone or Brian McCafferty.

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
Mhamad Khalil & Mike Passmore

LEGISLATIVE & PESTICIDE
Mohamad Khalil & Michael Simone

AGRICULTURAL DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE
Alla Ostrovsky & Mike Passmores

Renew Your NCBA Membership Now

Yes, it is that time of year. Summer vacations have come to an end, schools have started, and the NCBA renewal period for 2027 has begun. You can wait until 12/31/26 to renew, but why?

Renew now then sit back knowing you are all set for 2027.

a. $25.00 for individual membership
b. $30.00 for a couple of family living in the same household.

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

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.

NBCA Pondville program goes national!

The WBUR NPR story segment about the NCBA Pondville prison mentorship program has gotten wide cover across the country as a national story on August 4. Have a listen here. The NCBA Board has been drafting our proposal to continue and expand the program. If you would like to learn more or get involved contact Ed Rock or Brian McCafferty.

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

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

7:05-8:08PM.

Attending:

Brian McCafferty
Ed Rock
Eboney Hobson
Joe Jankovsky
Carolyn Holmes
Mark Bittenger
Margaret Elizondo
Vijay Sharma
Dana Wilson
Alla Ostrovsky
Kara Sullivan
Archie Acevedo
Michael Simone
Kate Klenk
Greg Rushton
Mohamad Khalil
Susan Goldwitz
Caroline SullicanTodd
Sandy Burns
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.

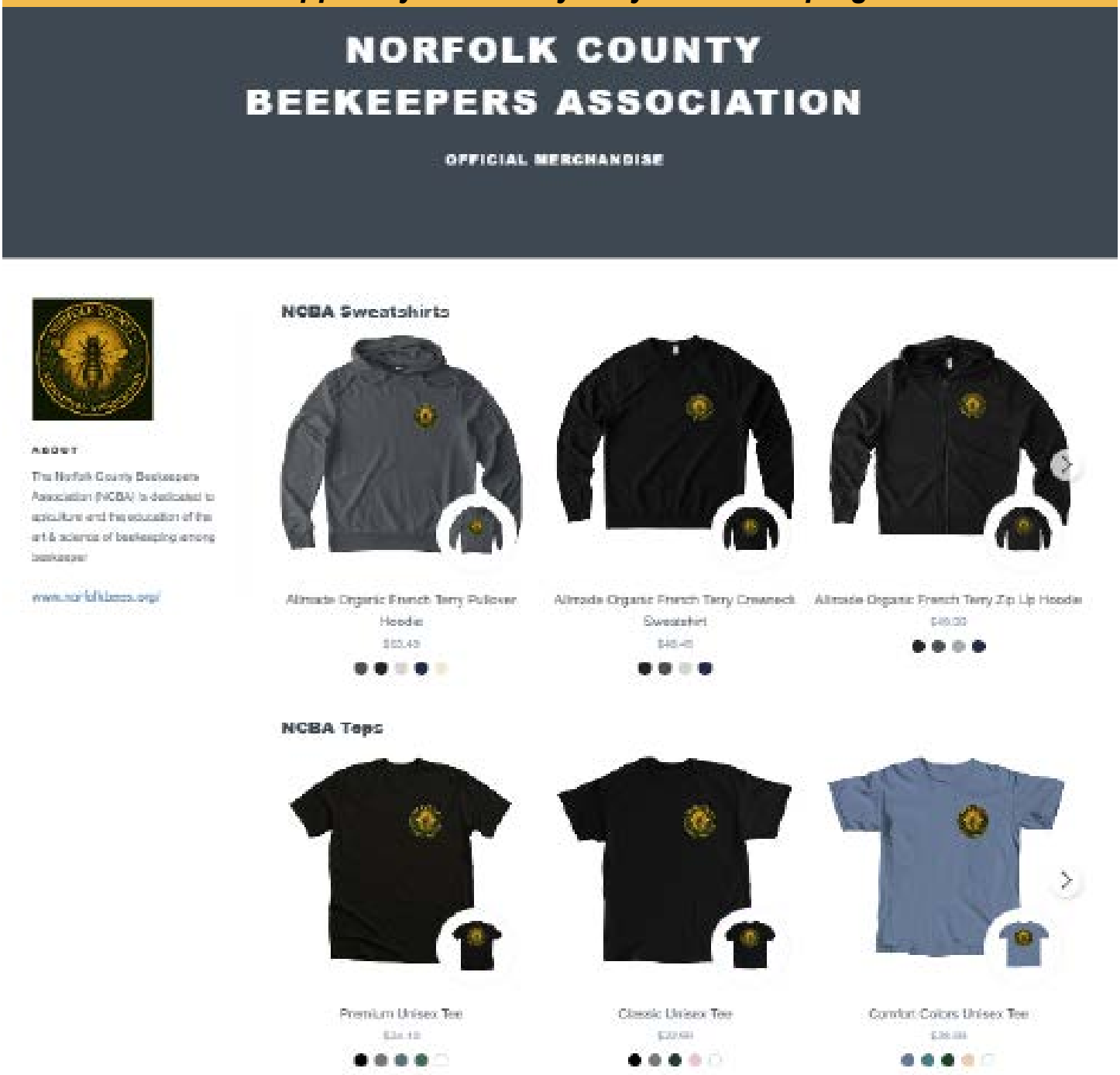
Board Meetings are typically held on the third Monday of each Month. Just e-mail Brian McCafferty and he will send you the Zoom Link for the meeting.

(president@norfolkbees.

President's Update – Brian
• Brian's items will be discussed within this meeting's agenda.
Recording Secretary: Minutes – Mike P
• Minutes from the last two Board Meeting were previously accepted by the Board and published in the Newsletter.
Treasurer Update – Eboney
• August accounts are reconciled, and the Treasurer's report was voted on and accepted by the Board.
We show a small net loss year-to-date, but that will disappear soon with membership renewals and bee class enrollment. Revenue from soapmaking classes will be a pass-thru.
Vice President's Update – Ed • No update.
Corresponding Secretary – Joe
•Newsletter items due to Joe by Friday evening.
Committees:
Programs – Alla
o February – Ed offered to fill this slot with an in-house queen-rearing program.
o April - Erin Evans, EAS Master Beekeeper from Maine, has accepted our invitation.
o Only May is without a speaker, and this month is usually an inhouse workshop.
o Monday the 28th there will be a winter prep Zoom session aimed at newer beekeepers.
Membership,Facebook,Google Groups - Dana
o Dana sent an email update stating that we currently have 112 households renewed: 64 individuals, 39 family, 2 new individuals, and 7 who switched from family to individual.
Beginner Bee School – Ed
o Archie reported that 24 seats are currently filled, 8 families of 2 and 8 individuals. Ed reported that all faculty from last year are returning, plus Sandy Solley, a student from last year who is active in Massachusetts Garden Clubs. Sandy will present on pollinator gardening and invite garden club members to share seeds. Slide templates will go out soon for faculty to update as needed. All meetings are at the Aggie.
Intermediate Bee School – Brian
o A committee has been formed to plan the curriculum.
Extractors – Kate
o Kate received replacement lid and fixed the Westwood extractor. Invoice sent to Eboney.
Scholarships and Grants - Paul oNo update.
Door Prizes – Kara
o Kara has contacted the two winners from our last club meeting.
State House & Pesticides – Mo
o Mo will present a full committee update at the MassBee Fall Meeting.
Events – Mass Bee – Mo
o Logistics are confirmed for the event at the Elks Club in Franklin. Registration has already opened, but we don't yet have a headcount. The Friday night dinner is tentatively planned for Rail Trail in Milford. Speakers are all set and will include Paul Tessier, plus Kim from MDAR on Friday night. The honey show needs advertising, and it would be great to have NCBA entrants. Carolyn will promote the event in the MassBee Newsletter.
Training Apiaries - Ed
o Reported later under Old Business.
•Library – Michael S
o No update as we no longer have a library function.
Website – Greg
o No update.
Bee Apparel – Brian
o Apparel is still available through our website.
Calendar Committee – Greg o No update.
Old Business:
By-Laws – Brian
o Final revisions to the draft by-laws have been made by the committee, so we'll submit to the membership at our forthcoming club meeting.
Long-term planning– Member Survey –Brian
o As promised, we will soon send out a survey to members. Brian is envisioning about 10 questions and is asking for suggestions on what to include.
Policies – Code of Conduct – Brian
o Brian has asked Michael to formulate a Code of Conduct for the club. Michael will begin the draft and report at our next Board meeting.
Insurance coverage for training apiaries –Brian
o The club has secured written confirmation that training apiaries are covered under the current club policy. The board is working to add specific addresses, including the Sherborn location, to the policy to ensure that individual beekeepers are personally covered if they have farm policies. Pondville is covered under a state policy.
Northern Queen Program Requirements – Mo
o Mo has drafted a 4-page document describing the NCBA queen program. He has passed it by Archie and Bob, and it will be finalized when reviews are complete.
New Business:
Pondville MOU – Ed
o The Board officially voted to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Pondville Correctional Facility program. It is a 12-session course (8 classroom, 4 in-hive) and a maintenance function supported by NCBA volunteers. The program is cash-neutral for NCBA; the Department of Corrections covers all equipment and treatment expenses. The pilot was highly successful and also garnered positive media coverage from WBUR. The Board hopes to double the number of cleared volunteers for the next cycle in order to distribute the maintenance workload.
Mass Bee Fall Meeting – Mo
o Volunteer names will be forwarded to Joe for inclusion in the Newsletter. Contact Mo to add your name or ask questions.
Venue Search – Brian
o Members have looked into a church in Walpole and the library in Westwood. We're comfortable in the Aggie, but at $215 per meeting of Club or Bee School we might enjoy a change. Please contact Brian or Ed if you have additional venues to consider.
Holiday Party - Brian
o Our next in-person meeting is our December Holiday Party, and we could either remain at the Aggie or switch to something more comfortable. If we switched we would not forfeit our money; we would simply apply it to our bee school obligation which is not due until January.
Jar Program- New Information from WCBA - Brian
o We discussed whether NCBA should launch a bulk jar purchasing program similar to Worcester County or maintain our current model where members continue to buy individually or join other clubs (Worcester/Bristol) for jar access. Without a dedicated warehouse and loading dock, the program does not appear viable. It also requires significant volunteer hours. While a bulk program could lower costs from $25 to $15 per case and potentially drive membership, the logistical burden is extreme. Worcester County moves two tractor-trailer loads (approx. 28,000 cases) and requires a dedicated warehouse. The initiative is tabled until a suitable facility with a loading dock is identified. There is concern that the "payoff" in membership may not justify the volunteer burnout.
New Committees Discussion – Brian
o No update.

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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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*

WETLANDS APIARY

VSH Carniolan Queens and Spring Nucs

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/