

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

7:30 to 9:00 pm

**Hybrid  
In-person**

**...but not Zoom**

400 Main Street  
Walpole, MA

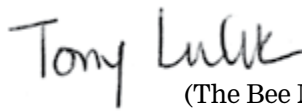
Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

From a severe drought through much of the summer to 3" of rain in two days; it's nature at its finest. I hope your bees all did okay. It was certainly challenging to keep bees this year. Hopefully your mite counts have been - and remain - low, and everyone is getting their bees ready for winter.

We are excited to see everyone in person next week. We plan on meeting three times in person and the rest virtually. We will see how this works out, though I personally prefer the in person meetings, there is nothing like sitting in your home, warm and cozy, on a cold winter night instead of driving in the snow.

Have a great September and "see" you again in October.

Always in beekeeping,

  
(The Bee Man)

## Late-Season Splits Program revived!

NCBA was hoping to launch the Late-Season Splits Program this summer, but life got in the way - and then the summer got away.

However NCBA Board Members Jenna Tibbetts, Mike Simone, and Mo Khalil have stepped up to revive the project.

Moving forward the group will seek to identify any club members who have made late-season splits and possibly connect them to Bee School graduates who would prefer a Northern-raised queen, a brood nest on the upswing, and the chance of a June honey harvest.

The cost would be standard market rate; a great way for club members to make money off their bees.

Hopefully next season more NCBA members can be in a position to create late-season splits, carry them through the winter, and then sell them to Bee School graduates by April.

Late-Season Splits are great way to repurpose weak hives and carry more queens through the winter. These nucs can act as a hedge against winter losses in your own apiary.

Late-Season Splits are also poised to grow with the Spring flush of dandelion and clover and, hopefully, create a honey crop. Spring splits are created by the the dandelion and clover rush, and usually are available in early to mid-June.





# News from the Landing Board

## The September 12th Meeting Agenda

### NCBA BOARD MEMBERS

2022-2024

#### PRESIDENT

Tony Lulek

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Mohamad Khalil

#### TREASURER

Stephen Green

#### RECORDING SECRETARY

Edward Rock

#### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Kevin Keane

#### 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

Kara Sullivan

#### DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE

Kara Sullivan

#### HOSPITALITY

Rose Thornton and Carin Cohen

#### EXTRACTORS

Brianda Younie

#### MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE

Rose Thornton

Deb Spielman

#### LIBRARIAN

Michael Simone

#### PROGRAMS

Ed and Marian Szymanski



### September: Meghan Milbrath - Winter Prep

“Beekeepers love to discuss winter hive protection — wrapping vs. insulation, upper entrances, quilt boxes or moisture boards, bee cozies, straw bales, and which way to turn the hole on the entrance reducer. Our hives may be the best protected hives in history! Our colonies, however, have the lowest rates of survival through winter. Whether a colony survives winter depends very little on what we did to the structure itself, and very much on the health and size of the colony — the precious and wonderfully adapted generation of winter bees.” - *Meghan Milbrath*

## NCBA Horoscopes

### Aquarius

*January 20 - February 18*

Blooming asters will signal the season is at a close. Testing will show that mites are in your future. Today would be a good day to treat. Goldenrod will figure prominently.

### Aries

*March 21 - April 19*

Goldenrod will figure prominently. Testing will show that mites are in your future. Today would be a good day to treat. Blooming asters will signal the season is at a close.

### Cancer

*June 22 - July 22*

Goldenrod will figure prominently. Testing will show that mites are in your future. Blooming asters will signal the season is at a close. Today would be a good day to treat.

### Capricorn

*December 22 - January 19*

Testing will show that mites are in your future. Today would be a good day to treat. Goldenrod will figure prominently. Blooming asters will signal the season is at a close.

### Gemini

*May 21 - June 21*

Goldenrod will figure prominently. Blooming asters will signal the season is at a close.

Testing will show that mites are in your future. Today would be a good day to treat.

### Leo

*July 23 - August 22*

Testing will show that mites are in your future. Blooming asters will signal the season is at a close. Today would be a good day to treat. Goldenrod will figure prominently.

### Libra

*September 23 - October 22*

Blooming asters will signal the season is at a close. Testing will show that mites are in your future. Today would be a good day to treat. Goldenrod will figure prominently.

### Pisces

*February 19 - March 20*

Testing will show that mites are in your future. Today would be a good day to treat. Goldenrod will figure prominently. Blooming asters will signal the season is at a close.

### Sagittarius

*November 22 - December 21*

Blooming asters will signal the season is at a close. Testing will show that mites are in your future. Today would be a good day to treat. Goldenrod will figure prominently.

# Bees and Poetry

by Susan Goldwitz

Lawrence Ferlinghetti, the “Beat” poet who died this February at the age of 101, wrote a long poem called “What is Poetry,” which included the line, “Poetry is all things born with wings/that sing.” He could have been talking about our bees. It’s my contention that our bees are living poetry, living poems.

We beekeepers know that our work balances on the edgy cusp of art and science — that even with all the interior hive data collection, analytic devices, mite counts, honey/pollen demographic ingredients and pesticide numerical loads, how to care for and shepherd our little charges takes grace and intuition in equal measure to charts, graphs and higher math.

Poets knew this, too. Bees have been symbols in poetry since there was poetry. Bees are the artists of the natural world, taking raw ingredients, some bitter and dry like pollen, and with their collected nectar, making sustenance for the whole hive community. Bees are one of the only creatures that think not only of themselves and filling their own bellies or only those of their offspring, but patiently work and create nourishment for the larger community, as art at its best, can.

Not only that, but bees have a myriad of attributes and characteristics, from deadly to compassionate, from robber to provider to martyr — they’ve always been a symbolic and metaphoric deep and endless well for human artists and poets to glean from. I once taught a class with about thirty students and asked each to think of a quality that bees have without repeat. We came up with thirty different ones and we could have found more.

There are bees in Homer and Rumi, the Koran and the Bible, and today there are bees in Carol Ann Duffy, Sylvia Plath, and Nick Flynn — who wrote a whole book, *Blind Huber*, about a blind beekeeper. Emily Dickinson, who wrote about 1779 poems in her lifetime, had about 100 of those poems reference bees in many forms.

Here are two of hers:

## #1755 (Johnson)

*To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee,  
One clover, and a bee,  
And revery.  
The revery alone will do,  
If bees are few.*

When Dickinson was writing, “prairie” meant the American West: an unexplored, vast and formless expanse

of endless and open possibilities. This little snippet of a poem is almost a recipe: Here’s how to make a prairie, it says, just three ingredients will make the “dish,” and if the first two aren’t available, one only needs the third. The third, “revery,” is of course imagination, which can supersede any concrete portions. In Dickinson, imagination and creativity eclipse the actual.

Note how Dickinson changes the proportions a bit: “... a clover and one bee” becomes “one clover and a bee.” She inverts her “ingredients” very subtly, as if to say in language that they are interchangeable, almost unessential and certainly less important than the third.

## # 1627 (Johnson - Version II)

*The Pedigree of Honey  
Does not concern the Bee -  
A Clover, any time, to him  
Is Aristocracy -*

First, I won’t fault Dickinson for not knowing that worker bees are females and calling one “him.” I’ve tried to discover whether that fact was known in the middle of the 19th Century and would welcome anyone’s knowledge to that effect. It is interesting to realize that Langstroth was working very close to Amherst while Dickinson was alive, when he invented his hive.

Here she is again doing a bit of inversion. Clover is the most abundant, least “aristocratic” flower one can think of, but a bee, according to the poem, cares not for wealth or status or regal standing. Gaining nourishment, doing her work is what is important, not the trappings of worldly wealth. One could parallel the bee’s situation here with Dickinson’s and her own ambivalent relationship with worldly fame.

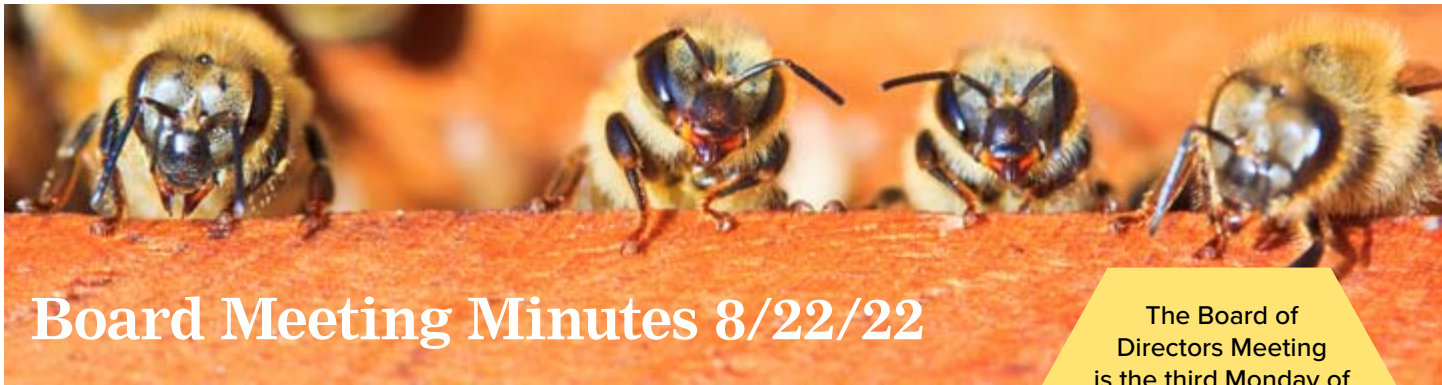
Knowing, learning about our bees and working with them is inspirational in so many ways. Some are objectively apparent; others are more ineffable. We often become more connected to weather, nature, cycles of life, grief and delight, empathy, focus and even fear and courage. Knowing that other cultures, religions and artists have suspected and reveled in these myriad of intersections adds new levels to our appreciation and commitment, and can hone our harmony with the wonderful melodies of those “with wings/that sing.”

*Susan Goldwitz is a NCBA member and prizewinning poet who has taught literature and writing courses on disparate levels from men’s and women’s prisons to undergraduate and graduate programs.*

*She recently gave a talk on “Dickinson’s Bees” at the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst, Massachusetts, and has been keeping bees for about ten years.*







# Board Meeting Minutes 8/22/22

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

**JUNE 13, 2022**  
7:09 to 8:26 pm

### Attending:

- Tony Lulek
- Jennifer Jett
- Lara Davis
- Roger Q. Hill
- Mo Khalil
- Greg Rushton
- Deb Spielman
- Mike Simone
- Stephen Green
- Jenna Tibbetts
- Kara Sullivan
- Brianda Younie
- Dana Wilson
- Kevin Keane

7:09PM

Minutes approved  
Mo K. all good  
Prices for BeeSchool

**Treasurer** \$40,855.13 in bank will run 5 year look-back report (but two years were pandemic years)  
Financial approved

**Newsletter** out by 9/2  
Meeting on 9/12

### Programs:

September Meg Milbraith in-person meeting  
Meeting will be in-person and with Zoom presenter NOT hybrid At AGGIE cafeteria  
Pick up name tags

Oct/Nov hybrid or all Zoom  
Ed will have more program info

**Door prizes** \$24-30 door prizes but no raffles  
Buy some respirators for prizes  
Kara will purchase \$500 worth of prizes

### Into to Bee School

Dana, Tony, Rock met will update materials and tests. Clean up website  
Registration starts 9/1 for Intro  
New price: \$80/pp \$100/per 2 family members  
Capped at 90  
Hybrid format. Several in person, Zoom in wintertime

### Intermediate Bee School

two more classes in September

Intermediate Bee School will launch next March, 2023

### Extractors

Keep extractors clean! Busy and ramping up. Repairs from wear and tear needed

### Library

Mike: library book sale at Sept Meeting

### Website: Greg

Migrating over to Google. Email is Gmail – now free (formerly Network Solutions)

Longer term plan to switch to Google Suite

### Calendar: Jenna

All up to date

### Scholarships: Laura

Just received a scholarship from May 31  
Will set up a revised system to manage scholarship requests. Dedicated email/ Weebly to be sent up . Will go straight to Lara Davis  
Seb Wright, applicant

Will set up an response form to applicants

*(Continued on next page)*

# NCBA Program Development

Want to learn and help with NCBA program development?

NCBA is looking for an organized and creative person to join Ed Szymanski as he plans and recruits speakers for the monthly NCBA meetings.

It's a great way to learn about and meet the biggest names in the beekeeping community (and they, in turn, learn about and meet you too). You will get a ringside seat into the latest trends and research about bees, plus you will help keep the monthly meetings informative and engaging.

If interested, please contact Tony Lulek.

## 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 restart in late August. 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 and he will send you a link to the meeting.

## No food or drink in Aggie Auditorium

Norfolk Aggie has done some renovations to the auditorium in the MCR. They have installed new carpeting and ask that we refrain from bringing food or drink during our meetings. Food and drink are permitted in the lobby.

*(Board meeting minutes, continued from previous page)*

to confirm that application has been received  
Board votes to award a \$1,000 scholarship.

### Grant program

\$880.00 Jan Daniels grant. For educators/school to advance bug/bee/pollinator/horticulture study. The Club will sustain.

Club may solicit funds to grow. To sustain educational horticultural projects with funding. Rolling application . Board will approve.

Board votes to approve Jan Daniels Grant Program.

### Dan Wilson

Cafeteria at Aggie set

Bee School sells out by mid-December

FB running smoothly

Membership renewals 9/1 (Rose, Dana, and Deb on deck)

## What's blooming

In September look for Joe Pye Weed, Asters, Sedum, Goldenrod, Japanese anemone, Jerusalem artichokes, pale persicaria (pale smartweed), and Artemisia vulgaris (common mugwort, sometimes know as Riverside Wormwood, Wild Wormwood, sailor's Tobacco, Old Uncle Henry (I can't make this stuff up!), or St. John's Plant) are in bloom

**African Beekeeper** - no updates

Mo and Jenn to be NCBA delegates to Mass Bee especially for EAS 2023

**Apparel** – need someone to run the apparel program.

Kara will set up online store and on-demand printing

NCBA branded beekeeping notebook

Up by November

Christmas gift opportunities? Kara and Tony will work

Mo: redesign logo for next year

**Late Season Nucs program:**

It's alive! Originally the Late-Season Nuc program was slow-tracked as life got in the way. But now Mike Simone, Jenna Tibbetts, and Mo to take over pilot program for late season nucs

Adjourn at 8:26PM

You know that  
good friend  
or relative  
who's  
intrigued  
about bees?

# Tell them about the NCBA Bee School 2023

Bee School fills up quick and it is the perfect opportunity to dip one's toe into the world of beekeeping.

Registration is now open. Best of all they can sign-up online!

[Sign-up online.](#)



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### Custom Hive stand and Screened Bottom Board

Built as one piece instead of two separate pieces for stability. They are made with galvanized 1/8" screen and white plastic slide-in tray to count mites. Glued and screwed together for long lasting durability.

**Slatted Racks** Completely assembled, glued and nailed. This gives the bees more room in the hive on rainy days and when they are all in for the night making them less likely to think about swarming due to crowding.

**Supers** Made out of pine; with pre-drilled finger joints, and handles cut into boards, comes unassembled. Deep, Medium and Shallow available.

**Inner Cover** Ventilated, wooden inner cover.

**Outer Cover covered with Tin** Made from 3/4" exterior plywood, completely assembled, glued and screwed. Cover comes with tin cover to protect from outdoor elements.

**Complete Hive Setup** Includes screened bottom board, two deep supers, 20 frames with wax foundation, inner cover and outer cover.

**Hive Frames—Deep, Medium, and Shallow** Wooden frame, made out of pine, held together with 10 nails. (Does not include wire or foundation).