



the Norfolk Bee

JUNE 2021 • NORFOLKBEE.ORG

NEXT CLUB MEETING

JUNE 7, 2021
7:30 to 9:00 pm

Hosted via Zoom Meeting

An email will be sent with a meeting invite.

This will include a meeting ID # and a password.

In advance of the meeting, please download and install the free Zoom app to your computer, phone or tablet. If this is new technology for you, perhaps you can do a test meeting with a friend.

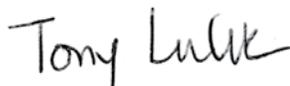
<https://zoom.us/>

Dear Fellow Beekeepers/Beehavers:

Some days I feel like I know what I am doing and other days I feel like I don't have a clue. Now let's talk about beekeeping. The same thing goes for beekeeping. This is often a very challenging time of the year. I have seen so many posts about swarming and missing queens and doing splits. The best piece of advice I can give anyone at this time of year is inspect, inspect, inspect. You need to take your time with inspections. If you don't go in every 5-10 days, you are going to miss a lot. Even for seasoned beekeepers, this is the best rule to follow. You are better off being proactive instead of reactive. Do your splits early, either walkaway (taking the queen) or creating a nuc and letting them make a queen. And feed and inspect. With your inspections, be very careful on those populated hives, you can damage the queen cells. Slotted racks will help a lot with queens being raised on the lower box.

Now let's talk about mites for a moment. I have seen a lot of emails and posts about mites, testing, and treatments. I want to point out a few guidelines that I always use regarding mite treatments and testing in general. Please see the rest of the newsletter for guidance on mite treatments.

Happy Spring,



Tony

New! The NCBA Queen Program

This year, NCBA is introducing a pilot program to help improve the genetics of our hives. The NCBA Queen Program is a county-wide Darwinian approach to increase Varroa-resistance, health, and winter survivability in our hives.

NCBA encourages members to conduct frequent mite testing and identify their most Varroa-besieged hives. Hives with high mite counts that need treatment should be considered to have weak queens, and we encourage beekeepers to requeen with a northern-raised Varroa-resistant queen. Beekeepers should continue to test their hives for mites and treat if appropriate.

We want to place evolutionary pressure where it will do the most good: by encouraging our members to replace queens that exhibit no-to-low Varroa resistance. To help incentivize

beekeepers, NCBA is contributing 50% towards the purchase of a new queen from four local queen breeders (Northeast Bees Apiary, They Keep Bees Apiary, Warm Colors Apiary, and Wetlands Apiary).

We ask that requests for a discounted queen be made only in cases where one will be deliberately killing their queen due to low-to-no varroa resistance, requeen a split, or to requeen a swarm.

For this 2021 pilot program, members should go to the NCBA website and submit their request. A form will be available on the website by Monday, May 3rd. NCBA will email a coupon which can then be presented to any one of the four breeders. This pilot program is limited to the first 100 participants, on a first come, first serve basis.



News from the Landing Board

The June Meeting Agenda

Bob Hickey will give a short presentation on catching and marking queens, and a panel will take general beekeeping questions and provide answers.

A look ahead... Future Meeting Agendas

July Randy Oliver, owner of "Scientific Beekeeping", bee biologist, and researcher. Topic: **Tips for Handling Bees** — tips from a lifetime of experience of working bees barehanded (and generally without any protective gear). How to understand what initiates the honey bee defense response and how to avoid it. What upsets bees, and what doesn't. How the bees perceive you. How to perform a hive inspection with minimal stinging.

Please see page 4 for upcoming Rhode Island Beekeepers Association (RIBA) Programs. **Sam Ramsey will speak this month!** We share our programming with them. All NCBA members are invited!

NCBA BOARD MEMBERS 2020-2022:

PRESIDENT
Tony Lulek

VICE PRESIDENT
Dana Wilson

TREASURER
Stephen Green

RECORDING SECRETARY
Edward Rock

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Colleen Neutra

MEMBERS AT LARGE
Carin Cohen, Kevin Keane, Joel Richards,
and Jenna Tibbetts

NCBA BEE SCHOOLS:

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INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
Dana Wilson

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Ed Szymanski

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
Marian Szymanski

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APPAREL
Lauralyn Smith

DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE
Kathy Varney

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Rose Thornton and Carin Cohen

EXTRACTORS
Brianda Younie

MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE
Rose Thornton
Deb Spielman

LIBRARIAN
Janice & Mike Barczyns

PROGRAMS
Ed and Marian Szymanski

Everyone is invited to the **Mass Bee Zoom Field Day**

Friday June 11th from 7-9:30 pm

It is free to everyone. You do not need to be a MassBee member to attend. There are three programs for Beginners, three for Intermediate Level, and a Miscellaneous Tract with three programs. We have speakers from Franklin County, Essex County, Worcester County, Plymouth County, Barnstable County, and Hampden County. Find more information and registration on the MassBee website: massbee.org

NCBA SCHOLARSHIPS:

Cornell Master Beekeeper Program

The board has awarded scholarships to the following beekeepers: Joseph Leonardi, Scott Williams, Kathleen Gasbarro, Janice Loving, and Ed Szymanski. Please keep us posted on your progress.

Queen Rearing Workshop

The board has awarded scholarships to the following beekeepers: Joseph Leonardi, Diane Miller, Tony Lulek, Peg Tamiso, Caroly Keane, and Mohamad Khalil. Good luck and have a blast.

HELP WANTED

A group of individuals are looking for one or two beekeepers to manage 12 hives located in 12 locations, from the Wellesley/Sherborn area to Marion and Osterville. They have purchased all of the equipment and bees. One of the individuals will be installing the packages and nucs in the coming weeks. There will be an hourly compensation as well as travel expenses and supply expenses. The purpose is to gain insight into beekeeping and pollination, creating jobs for beekeepers, and growing this in order to provide potential scholarships for students in the agricultural fields. If anyone is interested in this opportunity, please contact Tony Lulek and he will provide you with the contact information.



POLLINATOR SIGNS

Are again available for purchase at \$10 each. Please contact Tony Lulek to arrange payment and pick up!

UPCOMING RIBA PROGRAMS {ALL VIA ZOOM}

We share our programming with Rhode Island Beekeepers Association (RIBA). All NCBA members are invited! Ed Szymanski will email a Zoom link a few days before each event. There will be a unique link for each meeting.

Thursday, June 10, 7:00 PM

Sam Ramsey – Varroa Management:
How Mites Should Be Treated

We love publishing your bee and flower photos!

Please email photos for the newsletter to Colleen Neutra or post them on the NCBA Facebook page.



Resources for NCBA Members

OUR MEMBERS-ONLY FACEBOOK GROUP

Our Facebook page, *Norfolk County Beekeepers Association*, is closed to the public. Members are added by approval only. This is a great place for members to ask questions, post articles, share pictures and stories. Several members of the club monitor the page. This is also a place that we will post notices, updates, and changes to club related events.

OUR PROMOTIONAL BROCHURE

Are you showing at a fair? Have a table at a farmer's market? NCBA can provide you with brochures to hand out events. Our brochure promotes our mission

and encourages membership. If you are interested in receiving a bundle for your next event, please email Colleen Neutra. Allow time for a reply and a way to coordinate brochure delivery.



OUR LENDING LIBRARY

Books and DVDs from our library will be made available to members in good standing every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 8am to 8pm. A request form and inventory can be found on the NCBA website. All requests must be in by 9:00pm the Friday before. The books will be put in an old beehive for contactless pickup. Any returns may be placed in the same spot during these Saturdays. The East Walpole address will be given upon request.

CLASSIFIED ADS

As a benefit of paid membership, you may place an advertisement in the back of our monthly newsletter. There are three sizes, listed below. Please provide your ad ready-to-go. The ideal format is a pdf. Another option is a Word doc, however, any artwork embedded in it will be low-res. For the 8th page size, you can send a scan of a business card. Email your ad to Colleen and be sure to put "Member Ad" in the subject line.

Half page ad = 3.7"W x 9.75"H

Qtr page ad = 3.7"W x 4.75"H

8th page ad = 3.7"W x 2.25"H

Let's Talk about Mites for a Moment

by Tony Lulek

I have seen a lot of emails and posts about mites, testing, and treatments. I want to point out a few guidelines that I always use regarding mite treatments and testing in general.

1 Packages on new or drawn out comb. I would only recommend OAV for any package that is newly installed. I would wait a week after the queen has started laying to do an OAV treatment. This will give you open brood and a good chance of knocking down a lot of mites.

2 Nucs. I also recommend OAV as an initial treatment, even though there is capped brood. There is only a little bit and this too will knock down a lot of mites. Give them a few days to get adjusted to their new home, and then check for eggs to confirm she is laying currently. (Eggs means she has been there within the last 3 days.)

3 Nucs and Packages: I highly recommend that you DON'T use an alcohol wash for either a package or a nuc until they are a strong colony (2 deeps or 3 mediums) The hive is not strong enough to be able to withstand losing 300 bees. A nuc maybe, but a package, no. There is a big die off in the beginning until new bees start emerging. Give your hive a chance to get established and strong.

4 Testing: For new hives and new packages: There is no reason to test for mites until the hive is strong. Depending on when you got the package and whether you are using brand new foundation or drawn out comb, figure 6-8 weeks after you install.

5 Treatment for new hives: Once you have done your first test will determine if you will treat. You have 2 options that we recommend during the season (May to September-October): OAV or FormicPro (MAQS). Each one has its prescribed method of treatment. With OAV, no honey supers on, once a week for 3 weeks, then retest for mite. You can do this continually throughout the main season. With FormicPro you will want to do the 1 strip option. I highly recommend the 1 strip option. This may be done once or twice during the season, depending on your mite counts and at what times, i.e. August treatment, then again in late September or October with the 2 strip option.

6 Treatment for overwintered hives: You have the same options, but timing is going to be different, depending on the strength of your hive. With a strong wintered over hive, you are going to want to inspect and make splits. This will be one way to help with your mites. It gives a break in the brood cycle for either the hive or the nuc you create and your method of where the queen goes. With a strong hive, you can definitely do a mite test, and then you can definitely do a Formic Pro treatment with 1 strip. Or if you want you can also start a cycle of OAV once a week for three weeks. And then test again.

The biggest thing is try to assess the strength of your hive in any of the scenarios and determine what is best for the BEES. Each treatment can have drawbacks and different results. No situation is perfect, so you have to adjust. If you are causing harm to the bees, then



wait. If you think you might lose the queen from FormicPro, choose something different. There are a few other options out there like oxalic acid dribble, but that to me is when the hive is brood-less in the fall. There is ApiVar, but again this is usually for early spring or late fall hives (honey supers cannot be on). Other summertime options are ApiGuard, a thymol based, nonaggressive, treatment usually done in August.

AGAIN: THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING, and if you are not sure, ASK for help and guidance. If something doesn't seem right, wait, reassess, ask for help, and then take action.

Here some links to treatment procedures. (Please note these are pdfs that will download when you click on them. Only one will take you to a webpage.)

ApiGuard Treatment: <https://www.dadant.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/ApiGuard-QA.pdf>

ApiVar Treatment: https://www.mannlakeltd.com/mm5/graphics/pdfs/ApiVar_instructions_USA.pdf

Formic Pro Treatment: <http://nodglobal.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/2017-Formic-Pro-FAQS-North-America.pdf>

Oxalic Acid Dribble: <https://www.betterbee.com/instructions-and-resources/how-to-do-an-oxalic-acid-dribble-treatment.asp>

Oxalic Acid Vaporization: https://www.dadant.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/2011/09/Dadant-OxalicAcidVaporizer_QandA.pdf





Minutes of Board Meeting 5/17/21

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.

Board Meeting called to order at 7:10 by Tony Lulek.

In attendance: Tony Lulek, Dana Wilson, Ed Szymanski, Stephan Greene, Colleen Neutra, Ed Rock, Joel Richards, Kevin Keane, Greg Rushton, Brianda Younie.

Minutes from the April meeting accepted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ed Rock.

President's Update - Tony L

- Student Scholarship for the Norfolk Aggie - Tammy Quinn-Superintendent. (2) \$1500 scholarships. Aggie will give the names to us, we'll send checks to the students directly.
- Student Scholarship to NCBA club member's students
 - 1-3 student's rewarded & Minimum of \$1,000 each scholarship
 - Scholarship Application Page is live on website
 - Extend Due date is May 30, 2021 for applications as there was currently only 1 applicant
 - Must be a student of a member in good standing
 - Ed R, Kathy V, Jenna T are scholarship committee if needed
- Norfolk County RE-Queening Program - to improve our geography's BEE genetics
 - Plan and coupons are finalized
 - 20 people signed up so far (we're capping at 100).
 - We'll be promoting the program in newsletter and facebook.
- Master Beekeeping Program - Subsidize Cornell program
 - 8 applications (3 applicants don't meet the criteria for either experience or club membership)
 - Dana motioned - reaffirm criteria for scholarship - must be NCBA member for 3 years and have 3 years experience keeping bees - passed unanimously
- Queen Rearing Program Scholarship
 - 6 members received scholarships - \$150 each
 - Consider reviewing a "grant program" for HS and College students who are doing bee research and need some financial support for their project.

Vice President's Update - Dana

- Nothing new

Treasurer Update - Stephen

- Bank balance \$42,241.26, as of 5/15/2021; Three financial reports accepted.

Recording Secretary: Minutes - Ed R

- Nothing new

Corresponding Secretary - Colleen N

- Nothing new. Get notes & pieces to her by 5/20/21

Programs - Ed S and Marion

- May 20th 7PM - World Bee Day Event - THURSDAY NIGHT - Cindy Holtz - Process of engaging your town as a bee friendly city & Mike Palmer - (3) 20 minute topics - setting up a breeding program, brood management, & Swarm Control
- June 7th - Q&A Panel and Bob Hickey on Queen Marking

- June 10th, Sam Ramsey Rhode Island - How Varroa Mites should be treated
- August 2 - Angela Roell - Follow up on her Walk-Away Split research
- Consider resuming Norfolk Aggie in Fall
- In person, Zoom, or Hybrid
- Do we need A/V equipment & WiFi access to optimize the hybrid experience?
- Discuss at June meeting

Intro Bee School - Ed & Marion

- Nothing new
- Need to execute GoPro camera Purchase to facilitate our video library of bee skills

Intermediate Bee School - Ed & Marion

- Break at end of June and
- Return in September for a few more classes

Extractors - Brianda

- Nothing new

Library - Janice & Mike

- Yes - we are comfortable lending kid bee suits again.
- New baby - congratulations
- Library going well

Door Prizes - Lauralyn, Kathy & Greg

- Oxalic Acid Vaporizer and Medium Frames in bundles of 10, and 1 shallow with frames and one bee cozy in our stores for door prizes
- Kathy will be getting some gift certificates ahead of time

Website - Greg

- Take down Cornell scholarships and queen rearing scholarships - programs are complete for the year.
- Had a web outage in May - our supplier - Network Solutions
- May need to review our supplier and consider a replacement who's more reliable
- Swarm list going well

Membership, Facebook, Google Groups: Rose & Deb

- Nothing new

Bee Apparel - Lauralyn

- Nothing new

Calendar Committee - Jenna Tibbetts

- Nothing new



Visit our fully stocked store in Lincoln, Rhode Island or visit our online store at:

www.WoodsBees.com

401-305-2355

info@woodsbees.com

Package Bees & Nucs 2019

We have *three* delivery dates for packages this spring. Multiple pick-up locations and delivery available for convenience!

5 Frame Nucs available in deep frame and medium frame options.
Pick-up expected late May!

Hive Starter Kits

Assembled & unassembled complete hive kits available for new beekeepers and beekeepers adding a hive!

We also have:

Woodenware, frames, hive components & accessories, hive tools, extracting & bottling equipment, wide selection of protective gear, & much more!

Our store is run by experienced beekeepers who are ready to answer any questions you may have.

Come visit us today!

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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).



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You name it! I can build it!

I'm not only a Craftsman, also a Beekeeper

All wood is from a local mill

All Pricing is less than or Competitive

All Woodenware Nailed & Glued by hand
no Nail Guns



I work with professional marketers and communicators to help promote the companies and brands they work for.

Some of the services I provide are:



Branding services

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