



# the Norfolk Bee

MAY 2021 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

**MAY 3, 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.

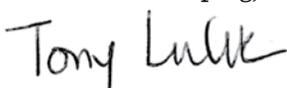
<https://zoom.us/>

Dear fellow beekeepers extraordinaire,

Spring is here, although it often still feels like winter. Hope your wintered-over hives are strong and doing well. Swarm season will be upon us at any moment. Please try and BEE proactive in making your inspections and splits. It's a lot better if you do it before they go into swarm mode. Don't go more than 5-7 days without an inspection. A lot can happen. And then you have to make decisions like culling out queen cells, starting emergency nucs, and more. INSPECT INSPECT INSPECT. And call your mentors or a fellow beekeeper if you need help.

Speaking of nucs and swarms, I am proud to announce our brand new, first-time-ever, pilot QUEEN program. After several months of working through the details, we are proud to announce a Queen program that will allow us to keep our bees local, replace queens that have high mite counts, and to do splits, all with locally raised queens. We have partnered with 4 different breeders. The club will be covering half the cost of purchasing a new queen. You will need to meet certain criteria and guidelines. Everything will be up on our club website with instructions on how this all works. (NOTE: This is not for beekeepers with packages that have lost their queens. Please contact your supplier for that.) This is for those that wish to have locally raised queens, increasing the drone population with good genetic queens, by managing your hives to produce good quality varroa resistant bees, and to do splits accordingly, so we have more control over the genetics. This is all part of sustainability in beekeeping. A big huge shout out to Kevin Keane for bringing this idea to the board and for working through all of the details.

Yours in Beekeeping,



Tony Lulek

## 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 May Meeting Agenda

**7:00 PM (note time change) Randy Oliver**, owner of “Scientific Beekeeping,” bee biologist, and researcher. Topic: **Concepts in Mite Management**. (We had originally planned “Tips for Handling Bees” but we feel that this is more timely going into mite season.)

### 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

# World Bee Day!

**THURSDAY**  
**May 20, 6:30 PM**  
**Special**  
**NCBA Event**

**Cindy Holtz** on the process of engaging your town as a bee friendly city and **Mike Palmer** with three 20-minute topics: setting up a breeding program, brood management, and swarm control.

### NCBA BEE SCHOOLS:

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
Tony Lulek

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR  
Dana Wilson

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DIRECTOR  
Ed Szymanski

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR  
Marian Szymanski

### COMMITTEES:

APPAREL  
Lauralyn Smith

DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE  
Kathy Varney

HOSPITALITY  
Rose Thornton and Carin Cohen

EXTRACTORS  
Brianda Younie

MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE  
Rose Thornton  
Deb Spielman

LIBRARIAN  
Janice & Mike Barczyns

PROGRAMS  
Ed and Marian Szymanski

## A look ahead... Future Meeting Agendas

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

**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. We share our programming with them. All NCBA members are invited!

## NCBA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

We offer College Scholarships to club members in good standing and their family members, as well as Norfolk Aggie students. The application info is on the website and is due **MAY 15!**

<https://www.norfolkbees.org/ncba-scholarship.html>



# 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!



The Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) conference in Massachusetts scheduled for this coming summer has been postponed due to the anticipated Covid-19 restrictions continuing well into the summer. The EAS board has asked Massachusetts to host the conference in the summer of 2023.

The State of Kentucky will host an abbreviated in person EAS conference. It will be at the Paroquet Springs Conference Center in Shepherdsville, KY from August 11-13<sup>th</sup>. The conference will be limited to 300 people. The EAS Master Beekeeper certification program will be run but the annual EAS Honey show will not.

Please stay tuned for registration and conference details by checking the [EAS website](#).

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

## NCBA 2021 Membership

Total members = 591

Massachusetts Counties:

Norfolk County = 496

Plymouth County = 26

Bristol County = 5

Middlesex County = 12

Essex County = 1

Worcester County = 17

Suffolk County = 23

Dukes County = 1

Other States:

Rhode Island = 6

Connecticut = 2

Delaware = 2

Florida = 1

**We are a robust group of  
beekeepers!**

There are some **GREAT ON-LINE EVENTS FOR GARDENERS** happening in May through Natick's Bacon Free Library. Check them out here:

<https://baconfreelibrary.org/events/2021-04/>



- Composting: Making Soil from Scraps with Zoe, the sustainability guru from the Natick Community Organic Farm
- Earthworms & Composting, presented by Hands on Nature

**Mass Hort** is also a source of great programming AND they have a Horticultural Library that is open with limited hours. A true treasure, right in our area.

<https://masshort.org/>



## Holliston Community Farm Apiary

Several years ago the club funded the building of an apiary at the Holliston Community Farm on Rogers Road in Holliston. If anyone is interested in having a spot in the apiary, please contact me directly. There are a total of 25 spots available, some of which the club already has access to as we were given 5 spots for building the fenced-in apiary. The cost for having one hive is \$25 a year. You can have more than one hive in the apiary.

## 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.

**Sunday, May 9, 7:00 PM**

Rachael Bonoan – Why Do Bees Like Dirty Water?

**Thursday, June 10, 7:00 PM**

Sam Ramsey – Varroa Management:  
How Mites Should Be Treated

## Get Growing! Virtual Gardening Class

Thursday Nights: April 15th-June 24th • 7-8PM on Zoom



**Learn to grow vegetables in  
your own garden!**

If you've been curious about starting a home vegetable garden but the process seemed daunting, this class is for you! Enjoy the rewarding experience of growing your own vegetables. This class will provide you with an overview of everything you need to know - including selecting a site, prepping the soil, determining the best vegetables, and maintaining them. The class is geared toward beginners/advanced beginners interested in starting a 4x4 or larger garden this season. **\$100**

[www.needhamfarm.org/virtualclass](http://www.needhamfarm.org/virtualclass)





# Minutes of Board Meeting 4/26/21

Board Meeting called to order at 7:12 by Tony Lulek.

In attendance:

Tony Lulek,  
Dana Wilson,  
Ed Szymanski,  
Stephan Greene,  
Deborah Spielman,  
Ed Rock,  
Joel Richards,  
Jenna Tibbets,  
Kevin Keane,  
Rose Thornton,  
Kathy Varney,  
Greg Rushton,  
Colleen Neutra.

Minutes from the March meeting accepted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ed Rock.

## **President's Update – Tony L**

- Tony following up this week - Student Scholarship for the Norfolk Aggie – they'd like a response by May 1st, 2021. Tammy Quinn-Superintendent – Suggest (2) \$1500 scholarships. Criteria – student should have interest in environmental studies. NCBA sends check directly to student winners
- Passed Unanimously; May 15th deadline
- Student Scholarship to NCBA club member's students
- 1-3 student's awarded; minimum of \$1,000 each scholarship
- Scholarship Application Page is live on website
- Due date is May 15, 2021 for applications
- Must be a student of a member in good standing
- Ed R, Kathy V, Jenna T are scholarship committee
- Andy Reseska – Boston Bee Company – reports some concerning behavior
- John Hoagland – looking for someone to manage 12-13 hives spread over a wide geography; probably place an ad in the newsletter.
- Continued refining the idea of creating a Norfolk County Re-Queening Program – to improve our geography's BEE genetics
- Kevin has set up the process and criteria (comments to his e-mail asap)
- Club will subsidize queen purchase – member buys from “approved list of local queen vendors” and receive the “club discount = 50% off” using our special Coupon program. Limit to 100 queens in this first year
- Announced in May newsletter and will roll out this program in May, 2021
- There are two beekeepers who are getting out of the hobby – they'd like to donate equipment

## **Vice President's Update – Dana**

- Nothing new.

## **Treasurer Update – Stephen**

- Bank balance \$42,514, as of 4/15/2021; Three financial reports accepted.
- Annual Filing – (fiscal filing MA and Fed) 2020 is due and 2021 by November
- Send request to club members to see if anyone can help with these filings.

## **Recording Secretary: Minutes – Ed R**

- Nothing new

## **Corresponding Secretary – Colleen N**

- Deadline is April 28th for newsletter – try to get Newsletter out on Friday before the meeting.

## **Programs – Ed S and Marion**

- May 3rd: Randy Oliver – How to Handle Bees (may be a pre-recorded talk)
- May 9th: Rachael Bonoan – Dirty Water
- May 20th: 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 – How Varroa Mites should be treated
- July 5: Angela Roell – Follow up on her Walk-Away Split research
- Results of the survey – anecdotal - heavy losses across MA and our Norfolk survey suggested heavy losses too

## **Bee School – Tony**

- Complete & Graduation
- Considering having an additional Q&A meeting
- Remind Bee School participants that the Regular June Club Meeting is a Q&A

## **Intermediate Bee School – Ed & Marion**

- Great discussions.
- 215 actual attendees last week

## **Extractors – Brianda**

- Nothing New

## **Library – Janice & Mike**

- Nothing New
- Door Prizes – Lauralyn, Kathy & Greg
- 10 for each club meeting (10 prizes @ \$25 each)
- Increase June meeting to 20 prizes @ \$25

## **Website – Greg**

- Need to update the swarm list
- Need to sort out the queen program on the website.

## **Membership, Facebook, Google Groups: Rose & Deb**

- 593 total membership includes bee school members as of April 2021
- Many members are joining our club through beginning bee school and intermediate bee school.
- We're seeing members from a number of counties in MA (Plymouth, Suffolk, etc.)
- Are there any implications we need to consider and discuss down the road about this?

## **Bee Apparel – Lauralyn**

- Nothing New

## **Calendar Committee – Jenna Tibbetts**

- No updates



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

[www.WoodsBees.com](http://www.WoodsBees.com)

401-305-2355

[info@woodsbees.com](mailto: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!

## Franklin Honey Company, Inc.



BUY LOCAL

Custom Built Hive Equipment

[www.franklinhoney.com](http://www.franklinhoney.com)

[franklinhoney3@gmail.com](mailto:franklinhoney3@gmail.com)

### 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).



## Barker's Beehive's & Supplies

Stay Local, Support Local, Buy Local

Visit my Online Store

[www.barkersbeehives.com](http://www.barkersbeehives.com)

Email: [barkersbeehives@gmail.com](mailto:barkersbeehives@gmail.com)

(508) 797-7412 - Text or Call - Todd

<http://facebook.com/oxfordfarms>

### We sell everything a beekeeper needs!

Full Hives Setups

Hive Kits & Starter Kits

All Woodenware

Frames

Foundation

Feeders

Protective Clothing & Gear

Hive Tools

Pollen Patties w/real protein

Honey Jars

Bee packages, Queens

Medications & Treatments

Onsite mentoring

And more

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

Logo design

Brand over haul

M&A rebranding

Brand audits

Brand management



### Print collateral design

Publication design

Annual report design

Campaign design

Research reports

Infographics



### Advertising & social engagement

Trade show booth design

Environmental graphics

Social media assets

Traditional advertising

Learn more at: [neutra-design.com](http://neutra-design.com)