



# the Norfolk Bee

SEPTEMBER 2021 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

**SEPT 13, 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 Beekeepers,

What a summer it has been! What a Year it has been! What a year 2020 was! I do hope that everyone is well and your bees are getting ready for winter. WINTER? What how did that happen? It's crazy. Time sure does seem to be flying by.

It's now been a year since the current board was elected. What a year it has been for our club. Despite Covid-19 and all the problems it has caused, as a club, we managed to not only survive but to thrive. A few of our major accomplishments this past year:

1. Complete revamping of our website.
2. Enabling membership and bee school applications to be done online.
3. Beginner Bee School was done completely virtual and was a huge success, with about 100 students. We were also able to assign mentors to our bee students, including those in different counties.
4. Intermediate Bee school was also a HUGE success with almost 300 students signing up from all over the state and beyond. This was also done completely virtual.
5. Revamped out entire membership list, including our Google group and our Facebook group. Bringing our current membership to over 600. We have had an influx of members from outside our county due the huge success of both of our bee schools.
6. Income, due to our success with bee school and intermediate bee school, we recorded more income this past year than ever before.
7. We gave out two \$1500 scholarships to the Norfolk Aggie.
8. We gave out two \$1000 NCBA scholarships.
9. We gave out several \$300 scholarships to those that are taking the Cornell Master Beekeeping Course
10. We gave out several \$150 scholarship to those from our club taking the Queen Rearing Program at Wetland's Apiary.
11. We gave out a grant to Sebastian Wright for creating an apiary as a Boy Scout Eagle project.
12. We created a Queen replacement program by subsidizing the purchase of locally raised queens through our new sustainability program.
13. Our club meetings virtually were a great success. Covid restrictions actually allowed us to bring in speakers from all over the country.

*(continued on page 3)*



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#### 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

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#### NCBA BEE SCHOOLS:

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
Tony Lulek

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR  
Dana Wilson

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DIRECTOR  
Ed Szymanski

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR  
Marian Szymanski

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#### 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 Barczys

PROGRAMS  
Ed and Marian Szymanski



## News from the Landing Board

### The September Meeting Agenda

**Ed Szymanski** will present on **Fall Management/Winter Prep**. This is the prime season to make sure our bees are ready to make it through the winter. The activities we do now, will help keep our bees healthy and happy from October through March.

### A look ahead... Future Meeting Agendas

**October** and **November** Stay tuned for future virtual programming.

**December** We hope to have a year-end holiday party in person, provided Covid protocols will allow us to do so safely.

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### NCBA Committee Opportunity!

The board is seeking a member to take over the **Door Prize/Raffle Chair**. After 14 years of having fun, spending other people's money and giving away fabulous prizes and items, Kathy Varney is stepping down. Wouldn't you love to have that volunteer job? Contact Tony with questions or interest!

## THE NCBA BOARD IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE 2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Tyler Bonin** is a graduate from the Norfolk County Agricultural High School. Tyler will work towards a Bachelors with an Individual Concentration (BDIC) in Entomology with a focus in Anthropods at UMass Amherst. After college, he hopes to research and study insects and anthropods and their relation to agriculture.

**Isabella Zaferacopoulos** is a graduate from the Blue Hills Regional Technical High School. Isabella will attend the University of Rhode Island and work towards her Doctorate in Pharmacology with a double major in Biology. She hopes to continue her career in research and development of pharmacology, given many pharmaceutical compounds have their basis in plants.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to all of our applicants in the coming academic year!"

(continued from page 1)

What an accomplishment! I want to congratulate our board members for all of the hard work we have done together over the past year. You have all made an amazing contribution to our club and our bees. And I personally want to thank each and every one of you for your ideas, commitment, and support. And we have some more exciting things happening for our 2020-2021 year and beyond. Stay tuned for the news!

I was so looking forward to seeing everyone in person, but the board was presented with a dilemma due to COVID. Since it is unknown right now where we are headed, the board has decided to put the health of our members as our priority. We decide at our last board meeting that we would continue with virtual meetings for September, October, and November, with the hope that we would be able to meet for a holiday party in December. We will keep you all posted on any changes or updates.

Fall is almost here. Work with your mentors or fellow beekeepers to insure that your bees are healthy and ready for winter. Pay attention to the weather as we may have a prolonged warmer weather going into late fall and winter and that can present a problem with mites and mite treatments.

And with all of that, read the newsletter. Lots of great stuff this month.

Be well and hopefully see you all in person in December.

Fondly,

Tony Lulek

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

# WINTER PREP CHECKLIST

by Ed Szymanski

*There's an old saying among beekeepers – "When should I start getting my bees ready for winter? In the Spring!" It's true, really, everything we do (or should be doing) with our bees all year, whether it's mite counts and treatments, food supplements, requeening, etc. will all have an effect on the bees' winter survival. However, there are certain tasks that need to be done in the fall to help give them the best possible chance of survival.*

- ❑ Mites under control – this is #1 - hopefully you've kept up with your mite counts and treatments when necessary during the year, and now, especially, you need to keep your winter bees healthy. Test at least one more time and apply one more treatment if needed. "Touch up" with an Oxalic acid vapor or dribble late fall/early winter.
- ❑ If you've taken care of your mites, hopefully colonies are free of disease (DWV, other viruses, PMS) at this point.
- ❑ Check to see if colonies are queenright, if not combine with a queenright colony.
- ❑ Check for good population – 8 -10 frames bees minimum, if not, dispatch the weak queen and combine with a stronger colony
- ❑ Build up winter food stores. For 2-deep box hives, we shoot for a total weight of 100+ lb for Eastern Mass. Feed 2:1 syrup until temperatures reach freezing. Be sure to have robbing protection on the hives as you feed.
- ❑ Frames of honey strategically located – food must be adjacent to and above the winter cluster. Bees and brood down below, food on top. The bees only heat the cluster, frames on the outskirts may be cold, and the bees will not break the cluster to get food stored too far away.
- ❑ Mouse guards should be put in place – temperatures are already reaching 45F at night, mice are looking for warm places to nest. Check to be sure no mice are in there already so you don't trap them inside.
- ❑ Feeding shims/candy boards – install soon before it's too cold to open the hives. Then you can slip patties in quickly when needed.
- ❑ Honey supers, queen excluders, escape boards off – let the bees have any honey collected from now on for winter. Minimizes the amount of the sugar syrup you'll have to feed them. And it's better for them.
- ❑ Upper entrance – make sure they have a way to get out when the bottom of the hive is buried in snow and it's warm enough for a cleansing flight
- ❑ Cut insulation board or homasote to fit under the outer cover. We had always used homasote to absorb any moisture that forms in the top of the hive. This year we're going to go with a piece of insulation cut to fit tightly inside the outer cover. This will eliminate a cold spot where condensation could occur and moisture will flow out of the top entrance.
- ❑ If you use quilt boxes, get those ready to install soon.
- ❑ Secure hives with ratchet straps (we have ours on all year).
- ❑ Slatted racks will keep the bees up further from the cold incoming air. Also keeps the wax away from the Oxalic Acid vaporizer (yes, it has happened).
- ❑ Wrap if desired – this is a matter of preference. A piece of tar paper or black plastic will provide extra protection against cold winds and will allow for some heat gain on a cold sunny morning. Be sure to leave entrances and ventilation holes clear.
- ❑ Protection from wind – if your apiary has no natural protection from cold north winds, a fence or pile of hay bales can help
- ❑ Once winter comes, be sure to keep entrances cleared of snow and sweep out the dead bees once in a while. Watch where the bees are in the hive – once they move to the top, it's time to put fondant or sugar patties on. An Infrared camera helps with that. Don't knock on the side of the hive to hear if they're still alive! It breaks their torpor and makes them consume excess food. Watch food stores all the way to April – don't lose a colony to starvation in the early spring!

***Did I mention mites under control?***



# Minutes of Board Meeting 8/16/21

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 Nuetra, Ed Rock, Joel Richards, Kevin Keane, Greg Rushton, Kathy Varney, Lauralyn Smith, Deb Spielman, Jenna Tibbitts

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ed Rock.

### President's Update - Tony L

- Need new member to take over for Kathy Varney who's stepping down. Candidate will need to attend NCBA board meetings. She's been working with NCBA over 14 years
- Student NCBA Scholarship Committee selections:
  - Tyler Bonin, Foxboro, MA
  - Isabella Zaferacopoulos Dedham, MA
- Sebastian Wright, senior in High School, Milton - he manages two bee sites; would like a grant for his Eagle Scout project at the Milton Cemetery (also an arboretum). Would like support installing and maintaining 2 bee hives at the Milton Cemetery.
  - Motion passed to grant \$1,000 in support of this
- Norfolk County RE-Queening Program: to improve our geography's BEE genetics
  - Plan and coupons are finalized
  - 35 people signed up so far (we're capping at 100).
  - We'll be promoting the program in newsletter and facebook.
  - Plan on surveying participants this Fall
- Kevin Keane: New Idea - Queen Program 2.0
  - ask a cohort of club members to raise late season nucs so that they would be overwintered in Spring and sell to Bee School graduates. Lot of discussion and thinking to do - to flesh out this program

### Vice President's Update - Dana

- Nothing new.

### Treasurer Update - Stephen

- Bank balance \$37,083.05, as of 7/31/2021
- Three financial reports accepted.

### Recording Secretary: Minutes - Ed R

- Nothing new

### Corresponding Secretary - Colleen N

- September newsletter will go out after Labor Day - deadline for submissions 9/5/2021

### Committees:

#### Programs - Ed S and Marion

- September maintain Zoom meetings for Bee Club meetings due to COVID surges with Delta Variant - NCBA decided in-person meetings continue to be suspended (September & October, November), and continue with zoom based monthly meetings
- Revisit for December meeting and shoot for it to be in-person. Only the December meeting is being consider airflow for cafeteria / outdoor / tent & heater meetings.
- September presenter TBD

#### Intro to Bee School - Tony

- Registration going up September 1, 2021
  - With online registration form (no physical form this year - note - if unable to fill-out online form - we can provide a physical form)

- Working out details on physical or zoom classes
- And may change the night (between Tues or Wed)
- Is it worth looking at possible spiral bound textbook for bee school for this coming year?

#### Intermediate Bee School - Ed & Marion

(FYI: First Class in 2022 starting in March, Zoom-Based)

- September 8 and 22nd - last two classes and possibly a final Q&A
- Considering in-person or virtual for next edition - currently leaning toward virtual
- May need to consider limiting the enrollment number to a more manageable size even if it's online.

#### Extractors - Brianda

- Nothing New

#### Library - Janice & Mike

- Nothing New

#### Door Prizes - Lauralyn, Kathy & Greg

- Kathy is stepping down from doing door prizes - need to explore new volunteers for this role.
- Planning 10 gift cards for September meeting - just generic cards - not Woods or Barkers specific.
- Plus Bob Johnson donated a number of beekeeping items that we'll also add to the door prizes.
- We need to decide how to deliver these items to the "winners"

#### Website - Greg

- Nothing New

#### Membership, Facebook, Google - Rose & Deb

- 634 active members, Add this to the newsletter
- Our memberships run January to January.
- When will solicitation for next year memberships start (start in September Newsletter)
- Confirming membership will be online for 2022 starting in September 2021.
- Social media is positive

#### Bee Apparel - Lauralyn

- Awaiting apparel - supply chain issues and delays on orders.
- May need to move order to larger organization

#### Calendar Committee - Jenna Tibbets

- Added events for MDAR and monthly maintenance tips



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### 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!

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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).