

the Norfolk Bee

JANUARY 2021 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NEXT CLUB MEETING

JANUARY 4, 2021
7:00 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/>

PLEASE NOTE:

Email addresses will no longer be provided in the newsletter. This decision was made to protect volunteers' privacy and help reduce scam emails.

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.



Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

Happy New Year! I think most of us are glad that 2020 is now hindsight, and we can move into 2021 with a renewed hope. I don't usually use New Year's Eve as a time to make resolutions, but this year is special. As a beekeeper, my goal each year is to learn more, spend more time with my bees, and in general try to be a better beekeeper. After 15 years, I can say that I still have my struggles. Each year brings its own set of challenges and I am sure this season will be no different. Just remember to try to do your best, ask questions, call your mentor, do intermediate bee school, or for that fact, come to beginner bee school again (no harm and no shame in going back to the basics).

I do want to give a big shout out to our board of directors. We have an exceptional group of people who are very dedicated to helping run the club. As you all know, I set out some big goals this past summer and we have achieved them; Facebook and Google Group both updated and a NEW website along with online membership renewal and now we have the intermediate bee school available online. So thank you to everyone that stepped forward to be part of this great team.

It is with great sadness that I mention that Sue Robinson is stepping down as co-director from bee school this year. Thank you, Sue for your years of dedication to bee school. You will be sorely missed. Who is doing to tell stories about triple deckers, keep the students on their toes, bring me my water, and share all your wonderful stories from over the years? I will probably miss you the most. You always had my back and were a great asset to bee school. Thank you again for all you have done.

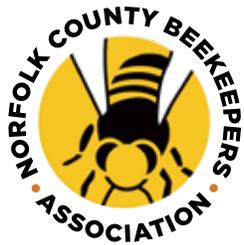
Happy new year!

Tony Lulek

HOT TIP OF THE MONTH

Do you have a DIY hack that makes beekeeping easier for you? If so, please email me your tidbit to be included in the newsletter. I thought this would be a helpful, collaborative way to share little tips that we only get to know by seeing how other beekeepers operate. Since that won't be happening for quite a while, thanks to COVID, I thought we can do it here. See page 5! — Colleen





News from the Landing Board

The January Meeting Agenda



Finding Queens in All the Right Places

with **Dan Conlon, Warm Colors Apiary**

A basic skill for all beekeepers is to keep colonies Queenright. This begins with finding signs of the Queen or confirming the colony is Queen-less. It is also important to know when to replace a Queen. Dan will suggest tips to make finding Queens easier, by understanding their behavior in the hive. He will also describe the signs indicating problems in the colony requiring replacement of the Queen. TOPICS:

- Signs of the Queens Condition - What are you looking at?
- Finding Queens - Where and when to look in the hive.
- Recognizing Problems - Is the Queen doing her job, failing, or missing and Why?
- Behaviors important in Breeder Queen Selection - Longer term decisions to build a sustainable apiary.
- Suggested Information about Queens - Books that will improve your understanding of beekeeping.

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 Tibbets

NCBA BEE SCHOOLS:

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Sue Robinson and Tony Lulek

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Dana Wilson

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Ed Szymanski

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Marian Szymanski

A look ahead... Future Meeting Agendas

February Dr. Lynn Adler, UMASS Amherst will speak about her work on how compounds in flowers help bumblebees fight diseases. Better description to come. She does not explicitly say, because she hasn't done the work, but much of this may apply to honey bees, too!

Mark your calendars with 2021 NCBA meeting dates!

February 1st, March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd.

2021 NCBA BEE SCHOOL

Due to COVID, all classes will be held via Zoom. Please spread the word to your family, friends, co-workers, and any social media you participate in. Full info is on our website: norfolkbees.org/bee-school
A special invitation is being extended to newbies in Plymouth County as their club will not be able to offer Bee School this year.

2021 INTERMEDIATE BEE SCHOOL

Dates are: 3/17, 3/31, 4/14, 4/28, 5/12, 5/26, 6/9, 6/23, 9/8, and 9/22.

Wednesday nights, 7:00 PM.

Read the article in the October newsletter for information.

Syllabus and registration info will follow soon.

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

What type of bees should I get?

(And where should I get them?)

by Ed Szymanski

I'm often asked this question or see it asked on Facebook. The type of bees you decide to buy is mostly a matter of personal preference, based on certain qualities or characteristics you'd like to have in your bees. What characteristics? They can range from color to mite resistance to honey gathering ability. In this article, I will outline the various races and strains of bees available in this country today, and the commonly held pros and cons of each.

There are three races of *Apis mellifera* found in the U.S. today – Italian, Carniolan, and Caucasian. There are various strains of bees within these races and their hybrids.

ITALIAN (*Apis mellifera ligustica*) Italians are the most prevalent honey bee in America today. Italians were first brought in to the U.S. in 1859, and Lorenzo Langstroth was one of the first to offer Italian queens for sale. They are produced in large numbers for pollination contracts, especially for almonds in California. They are well suited to commercial pollination because they build up rapidly at the first availability of pollen, without a high tendency to swarm. They also tend to overproduce brood into the summer, which can lead to overly large late summer colonies that consume too much of the food stores. This characteristic does make Italians well suited to the southern package bee industry – large colonies come back from pollination ready to be divided up into spring packages. They continue rearing brood into late fall and keep large colonies into the winter, a disadvantage here in the Northeast. They also tend to drift and rob among other colonies, which can spread mites and viruses. But they are readily available early in the season, are fairly gentle, and produce a lot of honey. Their biggest disadvantage is in the lack of tolerance or resistance to *Varroa* mites.

CARNIOLAN (*Apis mellifera carnica*) Carniolan bees originated in the part of Europe now known as Slovenia. They are darker than Italians, are quite gentle, and overwinter with small populations and therefore consume less honey. They build up rapidly in the spring flow, but have a propensity for swarming. As such, they are not as well suited for pollination or honey production without a lot of management. Carniolan bees are available from a large number of suppliers in the northeast.

CAUCASIAN (*Apis mellifera caucasia*) Caucasian bees are originally from the Caucasus region of eastern Europe, near the Black Sea. Caucasians are darker, like Carniolans, and are very calm and gentle. They build up slowly in the Spring and as a result are not good honey producers in colder climates.

They fell out of favor because of that and also because they use a lot of propolis to stick hive parts together, to the point of making them hard to inspect. Caucasians are still available but are hard to find.

OTHER STRAINS OF HONEY BEES

CORDOVAN A variant of the Italian bee, Cordovans are a light honey color. The legs and head, normally black, are instead a brown color. Some people find them to be very pleasing to look at and queens are easier to find in the hive. They are quite gentle, but have a tendency to drift and rob other hives. They are still Italians so you have to stay on top of the mites.

BUCKFAST The Buckfast bee is an Italian/Carniolan hybrid developed by Brother Adam of Buckfast Abbey in the UK, as a project to breed bees that could help to overcome an epidemic of tracheal mites in the 1920s. They build up quickly in spring, so they produce large honey crops, are resistant to tracheal mites, but tend to do a lot of robbing. There are several breeders of Buckfast hybrids in the Northeast. Our Buckfast hybrids have been some of the best bees we have ever had.

SASKATRAZ Saskatraz bees were originally developed by Meadow Ridge Apiaries in Saskatchewan, Canada. They were bred from 35 diverse colonies of VSH, German, and Russian bees. The breeders selected for honey production, cold climate wintering, mite tolerance and disease resistance. These breeder queens are then crossed with diverse stock from Northern California by Olivarez Honey Bees. These Saskatraz hybrids show hybrid vigor, fast spring buildup, and excellent honey production, which I can personally attest to.

MITE RESISTANT STRAINS

VARROA-SENSITIVE HYGIENIC (VSH) – this includes Minnesota Hygienic and what were once called Suppressed Mite Reproduction (SMR) bees. VSH behavior is where workers can detect brood cells eliminate most of the mites exposed, preventing reproduction. They do not uncap cells with no mites or with non-reproducing mites. They were developed by Dr. John Harbo and Dr. Jeffrey Harris at the USDA bee lab and Dr. Marla Spivak in Minnesota. It is important to note that the VSH genes are additive, so VSH daughter queens can open mate and still retain some level of hygienic behavior. VSH bees are American bees, likely Italian-Carniolan hybrids. There are many sources of VSH bees and queens. (*Continued on next page.*)

RUSSIAN Russian bees from the Primorsky region of Eastern Russia have been living with and tolerating mites for 100 years, since they co-exist with the Asian honey bee (*Apis Cerana*), the original host of the Varroa mite. Pure bred Russian bees raised by the Russian Honey Bee Breeders Association (RHBA) show the following traits: dead mites collected from Russian colonies show damage to legs and bodies, suggesting that the Russians are biting the mites (a trait referred to as Varroa Sensitive Grooming); exhibit a high level of hygienic behavior, and regulate brood production based on resources available. They will shut down brood production in times of dearth, overwinter with small clusters and are frugal in winter food consumption. Pure Russian bees are produced by the RHBA under closely controlled conditions, maintaining purity will be difficult for the average hobbyist. RHBA breeders suggest maintaining all-Russian yards to preserve the desirable traits.

VARROA-SENSITIVE GROOMING (VSG) The bees known as Purdue ankle biters, or Indiana mite-biters, were developed at Purdue University. These bees chew the legs and mouth parts off of the mites, and they fall off the bees and die. Tests are showing mite populations reduced significantly, along with increased survival rates. Not much is said about these lately, they seem to have fallen off the map. I'll try to get an update.

CONCLUSION

My opinion is, if you're going to maintain just two or three colonies, VSH is the way to go. When you split, or a swarm or supersedure occurs, the new queens will open mate but the hygienic traits will carry on. Occasional requeening with outside VSH stock can replenish the hygienic qualities over time. If you will run a larger number of hives, you can have] a base population of hygienic bees, say, 50% of your colonies, and then mix in genetics with other desirable traits, such as the frugality of the Russians, gentleness of the Carniolans, fast development and honey production of the Buckfast and Saskatraz, etc. – whatever you'd like to mix in. The hygienic traits will carry on, especially if occasionally replenished. And remember, even resistant bees must be monitored and treated if necessary. Over time, you'll end up with an interesting mix of genetics.

MY FAVORITE SUPPLIERS

Many nuc suppliers start taking orders on Jan. 1, and some of them sell out fast. It's hard to know whether you'll need bees at this point, but if you want to bring new genetics into your yard, now's the time to order. You can also buy some "insurance" bees just in case you lose a couple. Last year, we went into

winter with six colonies and ordered a nuc for insurance/genetics. All six colonies survived, we got another nuc that suddenly became available, and made two splits. Presto, 10 colonies! We are not ordering bees this year. But if we need bees or a queen, this is who we go to. There are many suppliers of bees out there. Here are a few that I know and trust and have had good luck with:

Northeast Bees, Franklin, MA – NCBA member Archie Acevedo will be supply a limited number of nucs and an abundant supply of queens this year. These bees are Buckfast hybrids started from Mike Palmer breeder queens. I have worked with Archie and know he cares about quality. We have had very good luck with these bees. northeastbees.com

Wetlands Apiary, Brockton, MA – NCBA members Bob Hickey and Roger Hill run a queen rearing class and sell queens all through the season. They usually have several strains available and it's always fun to go and hang out while buying a queen. Contact Roger Hill through Facebook or wetlandsapiary.com

Barker's Beehives, Oxford, MA – NCBA member Todd Barker will be selling nucs and packages. Todd prides himself on his excellent customer service. barkersbeehives.com

Cedar Lane Apiary, Sterling, CT/Greenwich, RI – Glenn Lawton and Tom Chapman, RI friends of mine, will be selling packages from Northern California with a choice of queens (Italian, Carniolan, Saskatraz) and also Carniolan and Saskatraz queens. Good people, good bees. cedarlaneapiaries.com

Full Bloom Apiary, Franklin, CT – many NCBA members, ourselves included, have purchased Carniolan nucs and queens from Alan Holmberg. fullbloomapiaries.com

Warm Colors Apiary, South Deerfield, MA – Dan Conlon is a very good friend who has spoken to NCBA several times. Dan is the President of the Russian Honey Bee Breeders Assn., and he specializes in pure Russian nucs and queens. A bit of a ride, but a great place to visit. warmcolorsapiary.com

They Keep Bees, Montague, MA – Another good friend from Western MA, Ang Roell has spoken to NCBA and will again soon. They are raising queens from Anarchy Apiaries stock crossed with local northern survivors and including them in Southern packages. Remember Erin Forbes' research that she has shared with us? It works. theykeepbees.com

Dave Lewcon Apiaries, Uxbridge, MA – Dave sells packages and nucs and also queens of various breeds We got a Saskatraz queen from Dave and I hung out and talked bees for a while. davelewconapiaries.com ●

HOT TIP OF THE MONTH

I keep a spare hive tool "hidden" in my bee yard for emergency backup use. Several of my hives are on a low, heavy-duty, wooden table and other hives are around it on cement blocks. I banged a nail into one of the inner legs of the table to hang a hive tool, year round, out of the weather. It's always there for a quick grab when I need it. Although I walk out to my bee yard with a bucket of supplies, I frequently misplace my primary hive tool. — Colleen

This first tip is easy and obvious, please send me your better ones!



Welcome to new Members At Large

NCBA club members, Kevin Keane, Jenna Tibbets, and Joel Richards have joined the Board as Members At Large. Any NCBA member is welcome to attend the club board meetings and contribute in ways that interest them and benefit the club. Our success as a club is based on the ideas and energies of our membership. You are always welcome to get more involved in our hive!

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.

POLLINATOR SIGNS

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



The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (MRVM) is working with the Massachusetts Beekeepers Association to develop options for a MA state license plate that supports pollinators in the Commonwealth. Please see page 7 of this newsletter for information on how to submit a design.

The Library is Back! The books and DVDs from the NCBA library will be made available to members in good standing every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month 8am-8pm. There is a request form and inventory on the NCBA website. All requests must be in by 9:00pm the Friday before. The books will be put out in an old beehive for contactless pickup. Any returns may be placed in the same spot during these two Saturdays. East Walpole address will be given upon request. — Janice and Mike





Minutes of Board Meeting 12/21/20

Board Meeting called to order at 7:06 by Tony Lulek.

In attendance: Tony Lulek, Dana Wilson, Greg Rushton, Ed Szymanski, Stephan Greene, Deborah Spielman, Ed Rock, Joel Richards, Janice Loving, Kathy Varney, Colleen Neutra, Jenna Tibbets, Kevin Keane, Brianda Younie

Minutes from 11/16/20 meeting accepted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ed Rock.

President's Update / Tony L

- MBA Beekeeper of the year – nominate an NCBA member – get club recommendations
- MBA designing the Bee License plate
- Jenna Tibbets – official Calender committee
- Reached out to Plymouth County Bee Club President – have not heard back yet (reach out to Clifford Youst, Ken Pearl...)
- Ed S. – speakers NCBA and RI speakers – coordinating speakers and sharing – Scott Langley – Pres of RI Bee – is asking for New England folks to take part in a collaborative virtual series of club resource sharing.
 - o Had 8 or 9 folks from the area – now a Google Group to share ideas and resources and collaboration
 - o May 20th – World Bee Day – have a virtual event (10 people 5 minutes to promoter bees – talking about what their clubs and states are doing with bees) – set up an evening virtual event – Pecha Kucha, a Japanese way of presenting (20 slides for 20 seconds each)
 - Joel R, Jenna T., Kevin K. were nominated as members at large; motioned by Tony, seconded by Dana, approved unanimously.

Vice President's Update / Dana

- Nothing new

Treasurer Update / Stephen

- Bank balance \$29,480.85
- Three financial reports accepted
- Membership income working well online – between Deb, Rose, and Stephen

Recording Secretary: Minutes / Ed R

- Nothing new

Corresponding Secretary / Colleen N

- Deadline for Newsletter Dec 28th
- Add “Bee Hacks” as a section of the newsletter

Committees:

Programs / Ed and Marian S

- o January and February speakers are finalized.
- Intro to Bee School – Tony and Sue*
 - o 52 are currently signed up
 - o Setting up a separate google group for bee school for questions / answers / and in-school communication
 - o Sue will be stepping down from bee school for this year. This year Tony and Dana and Kathy Varney and Kathy Gasbarro. Also, Check Woods and Barkers Bees

- o Add special “Thank You” for Sue Robinson (gift and recognition) for her service to bee school
- o Post Bee School (as sharable) on Facebook to pull in a broader audience

Intermediate Bee School – Ed & Marion

- o First Class in 2021 starting in March
- o Start date will be middle Wednesday of March – starting with Swarm prevention, getting more folks as presenters
- o Getting Feedback from prior year classes – what changes – what new topics...
- o Inviting RI beekeepers
- o Offer second year intermediate school attendees a 50% discount

Extractors – Brianda

- o Nothing new
- *Library – Janice & Mike*
- o Nothing new

Door Prizes – Lauralyn, Kathy & Greg

- o Gave out the holiday prizes; folks came early; about 8-9 people didn't show; save the leftovers for bee school prizes.
- o Have 100 medium foundations – will bundle them in tens and put in frames for future door prizes. Motion for \$238 to get assembled frames (Tony motion, Colleen second – unanimous).
- o Pollinator Bee Signs from Tony - \$10 a piece – put in newsletter

Website – Greg

- o Posting Intermediate Bee School up on the website (like membership) with updated application
- o Adding calendar work with Jenna
- Membership / Facebook / Google Groups - Rose & Deb*
 - o Everything seems to be working well between Rose, Deb, and Stephen for Membership dues.
 - o Paring Google Lists January 2nd - eliminating non-paying members before club meeting in January
 - o 353 paid members plus bee school = over 400
 - o 775 down to member number

Bee Apparel - Lauralyn

- o Nothing new

Calender Committee – Jenna Tibbets

- o She needs intermediate bee school dates
- o How loaded – should she add RI bee activities (YES)
- o Adding some bee maintenance reminders over winter (Kevin Keane – feed to Jenna)

This article, by Ed Syzmanski, is a reprint from the January 2020 newsletter. Now that we *definitely* have more time to indulge in winter reading, I thought it was worth including in our newsletter again. I believe we could benefit from a meaningful distraction during the dark days of our COVID-19 winter. So grab your honey tea and dig in!



What Do Beekeepers Do In The Winter?

It's December, your bees are well fed, healthy, and tucked in for the winter. Honey is extracted and bottled, candles and soaps are made. You'll put off equipment repair until early spring. You're longing for something bee-related to occupy the time between now and Spring. What's a beekeeper to do?

Read!

Winter is the perfect time to catch up on reading and learning about honey bees. I have put together a list of my favorite books in a variety of subject categories for your winter reading enjoyment. There are many, many books out there, and we don't have them all, but we do have a good assortment (see photo). I can read about bees for the rest of my life.

This list represents my opinion of the best books in the categories mentioned. It is not intended to be a comprehensive list and you may not agree with me, but you will get an unbiased, no-sales-strings-attached review of some of the books available, before you buy too many. Oh, right, you can't have too many....

TEXTBOOK

Honeybee Biology and Beekeeping (Caron/Connor) – Dewey Caron has taught classes on Honey Bees and Beekeeping in the Entomology program at the University of Delaware for many years. This book is used as a textbook in those courses. The book covers the essence of all of it and lets you decide where you want to concentrate your future learning.

The Beekeeper's Handbook (Sammataro/Avitable) – This is a good book for a Bee School or even an intermediate class. Great illustrations.

The Beekeeper's Bible (Stewart/Tabori/Chang) – Besides being an absolutely beautiful book, it's full of good info, covers everything from history to technical to plants to recipes. The “feel” of the book, cover, and page design are wonderful.

HONEY BEE BEHAVIOR

The Lives of Bees (Seeley) – Tom Seeley is the authority on honey bee behavior. This book explores honey bee behavior in the wild, and encourages us to let the bees be bees. It serves as a counterpoint to excessive management and helps beekeepers understand how bees manage themselves.

Honeybee Democracy (Seeley) – Another Seeley masterpiece, this book goes into great detail about how the bees make collective decisions, especially relative to swarming, and helps us to understand why bees do what bees do, which can only help us with our management.

HONEY

Two Million Blossoms (Traynor) – A guide to the medicinal benefits of honey. Covers history of medicinal use of honey, mechanisms of healing, and practical applications for medicinal honey use. You can hone your farmer's market sales pitch by explaining the wonders of honey to prospective customers, or just learn for your own edification.

The Honey Handbook (Flottum) – Looks at honey differently than the book above. Covers honey plants, how bees process honey, extraction, bottling, sales, and more.

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STORIES ABOUT BEEKEEPING

Beeing (Thomas) – The story of a woman’s excursion into beekeeping after making a life change and how the bees further change her life forever. A switch from the “technical” reading.

Bee Time (Winston) – Mark Winston is a scientist and professor, but wrote this collection of stories that thoughtfully embrace our relationship with our bees. A favorite of mine.

BEE PLANTS

Victory Gardens for Bees (Weidenhammer) – We have most all of the bee plant books, and this one is our favorite. Information about different types of bees, planting guides, and garden planning.

Garden Plants for Honey Bees (Lindtner) – A field guide and reference manual of bee plants with ratings as to suitability and preference as nectar and pollen sources for bees. Full of photographs.

The Bee Friendly Garden (Frey/LeBuhn) – How-to guide to planning and creating pollinator gardens.

TEST PREP

Honeybee Biology and Beekeeping (Caron/Connor) – Dewey Caron puts together the written tests for the EAS Master Beekeeper program, enough said.

What Do You Know (Collison) – Clarence Collison is a Professor of Entomology. He put together this book of tests on every aspect of honey bees. It would be more aptly named “What Don’t You Know?” because that’s what it demonstrates. Answers with explanations at the end of each chapter. Absolutely essential for Master Beekeeper test prep.

BIOLOGY/GENETICS

Mating Biology of Honey Bees (Koeniger/Ellis/Connor) – The comprehensive bee sex manual. Good distillation of very complex material.

The Biology of the Honey Bee (Winston) – a comprehensive explanation of honey bee anatomy and physiology. Very technical but also readable.

FUN

Queenspotting (Kearney) – A Christmas gift I loved. 48 fold-out pictorial pages of queen spotting challenges, increasing in difficulty. People have also found varroa mites, yellowjackets, and possibly multiple queens. It’s a blast.

What Do You Know (Collison) – In case you like taking tests just for fun.

FOR NEWBEES/REFRESHERS

Bee-Sentials (Connor) – A field guide to all things beekeeping.

Queenspotting (Kearney) – In between the picture puzzles, there’s a lot of good basic info about bees and queens in particular.

SWARMING AND PREVENTION

Swarm Essentials (Repasky) – Steve Repasky is a Master Beekeeper, great speaker, and swarm catcher. Great guide to swarm prediction and management

JOURNALS

There’s also the journals - Bee Culture and American Bee Journal, state and county club newsletters, and Kirsten Traynor’s new quarterly magazine, also called Two Million Blossoms.

This should get you through the winter. Remember, NCBA has a well-stocked library so you don’t have to buy them all. Books may be borrowed at monthly meetings.

Happy reading!
– Ed Szymanski



Are you artistic and creative?

DESIGN CONTEST

The Massachusetts Beekeepers Association will be developing a specialty license plate focused on honey bees and other pollinators.

As part of that effort, the Massachusetts Beekeepers Association is in need of a

GRAPHIC DESIGN for the license plate.

Examples pollinator license plates:



The DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION is February 28, 2021.

Design submissions must follow the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (MRVM)

Design Specifications:

- All Massachusetts passenger license plates have a white background, with “Massachusetts” in blue and the registration numbers in red. These colors cannot be changed.
- Special plates have up to six characters in the registration number. The first two characters are letters, which are displayed vertically and designate the plate series, e.g. “CI” for the Cape & Islands plate (see example).
- 3M (MRMV contractor for design and manufacture of license plates) uses Process Color Printing technology. Pantone color references should be provided for color matching, if necessary.
- 3M’s preferred high-resolution file formats in order of preference are: eps, ai, pdf, & psd.
- All digital images (photos, scans, etc.), must be at least 300 DPI at actual size. All fonts must be provided with artwork or outlined within artwork.
- Design elements that are dark in color must be at least ¼ inch away from the registration number on the plate.
- When it comes to the design of license plates, simple is better!

Please submit your entry to the [MBA Corresponding Secretary](#). Any questions should be directed to this email address.

The winning submission will be announced at the MBA Spring Meeting and will **receive a life-time membership in MBA and a t-shirt!**

2021 NCBA MEMBERSHIP FORM



NEW MEMBER RETURNING MEMBER

LAST NAME:

FIRST NAME:

CURRENT ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

YEAR JOINED (BEST GUESS):

YEAR WENT TO BEE SCHOOL (IF AT ALL) & WHERE:

- Dues are \$25.00 (single or family membership) per year.
- Please make checks payable to NCBA.
- Membership runs from January 1 to December 31.
- Dues are due prior to the new year.
- Please mail form and payment to:

Stephen Green
Norfolk County Beekeepers Association
PO Box 303
Franklin MA 02038

ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS IN SAME HOUSEHOLD:

LAST & FIRST NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

LAST & FIRST NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

- **Do not use this form to apply for Bee School.** Use the bee school application found at www.norfolkbees.org.
- The Bee School fee is \$80. (This fees cover attendance at Bee School and the cost of NCBA membership for the year you take the class.)
- An additional \$20 fee applies if one family member, from the same household, wishes to attend with you.

Remember to check the club's website at www.norfolkbees.org for date changes, weather cancellations, and other information.

2021 NCBA Beginner Beekeeping Course



This course is designed for people who wish to gain an understanding of beekeeping practices to begin the fascinating art of beekeeping. Those who are just curious or unsure about beekeeping are encouraged to enroll.

- The ten classes are held Tuesday nights, beginning at 7:00 pm and ending between 9:00 and 9:30 pm.
- Classes are held at Norfolk County Agricultural School in the **AKC Ring, 400 Main Street, Walpole, MA.**
- Classes run from January to the first week of April.
- If you are a club member in good standing and took bee school previously, you can take the class as a refresher for free.
- **Dates for 2021 Bee School are:** January 26; February 2, 9, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; and April 6.

STUDENT INFO:

LAST NAME:

FIRST NAME:

CURRENT ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS IN SAME HOUSEHOLD:

LAST & FIRST NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

If after having attended the first two classes you feel that beekeeping is not for you, your tuition will be refunded in full. To receive a refund, email the Bee School Administrator dwilson831@gmail.com by **Friday February 5, 2021**, stating your intention to withdraw.

- The Bee School fee is \$80. (This fees cover attendance at Bee School and the cost of NCBA membership for the year you take the class.)
- An additional \$20 fee applies if one family member, from the same household, wishes to attend with you.
- Space is limited. The class is limited to 100 students or 65 households, whichever comes first.
- Bee school frequently sells out by the end of December.
- Registration forms received after class capacity has been reached will be will be placed on a waiting list. Checks will be returned if you are not accepted.

- Please make checks payable to "NCBA."
- Mail your check and form as soon as possible and prior to December 31, to:

Stephen Green
Norfolk County Beekeepers Association
PO Box 303
Franklin MA 02038

Check the club's website at www.norfolkbees.org for class schedule, date changes, weather cancellations, and other information.



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

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Package Bees & Nucs 2019

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

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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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