

# the Norfolk Bee

NOVEMBER 2020 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

**NOVEMBER 2, 2020**

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 fall bee and flower photos!

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



Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

I hope that everyone is doing well and staying safe. The holiday season is upon us and this year is certainly going to be different. I hope that everyone will be able to enjoy their families and friends in a safe and healthy way.

Hopefully all your bees are prepared for the winter. The talk about town is for a very snowy winter, which is actually good for the bees. Let's hope we don't have huge temperature swings and things are consistent. Remember to check on your bees to see where they are in the hive. If you have done a good job, and the bees have enough stores, hopefully you won't have to feed them, at least until January. Also remember that the queen will start laying at the end of January, so keep a close eye on their honey stores.

Bee Well and Bee Safe,

Tony



**I'M MISSING THIS WEATHER ALREADY! — COLLEEN**

## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

We are now offering two ways to pay your members dues:

1. [Go to norfolkbees.org](https://norfolkbees.org) and [download the membership application](#) form, fill it out and send it along with your check to our post office box listed on the applications.
2. [Go to norfolkbees.org](https://norfolkbees.org) and [renew online](#) on our secure website using a credit card.

It is important that you renew your membership before December 31, 2020. **We will be cleaning house on our Google group email list and our Facebook page.** You must be a paid member to be included in both of these groups going forward.



# News from the Landing Board

## November Meeting via Zoom: **Monday 11/02**

### 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

Alison Dempsey

### 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

### 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

Angela Roell will discuss more efficient methods of queen rearing.

Angela Roell owns They Keep Bees Apiary in Montague, Mass. Angela started in beekeeping in Boston and is one of the founders of the Boston Area Beekeepers Association. Wintering in Florida, they raise queens from overwintered Northeast survivors from Harbo and Comfort lineage. They are currently working on a more efficient method of raising queens and have some results to report. There will be time for Q&A as well.

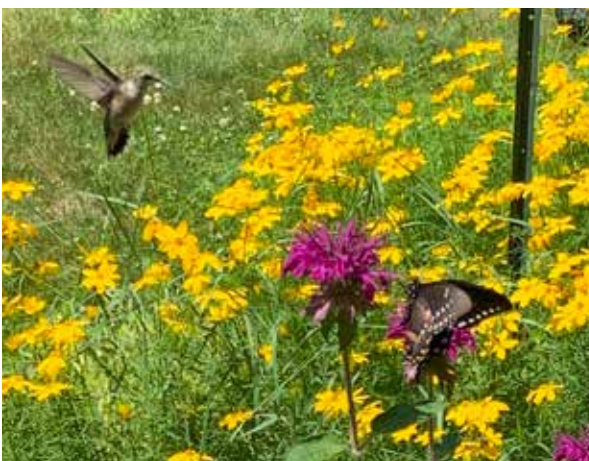
- We will again have special **DOOR PRIZES** for members in good standing who attend!

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

**December** We're all disappointed that we can't have our usual December meeting, with games and the Holiday Vendor fair, and of course, the food. Well, we've decided to bring the meeting virtual — you'll have to supply your own holiday food — but we will have a beekeeping trivia quiz and vendors will show their wares and websites via Zoom, with information on how to order items and take delivery. Hopefully, we'll be able to get back to our regular format next year.

Enrollment is open. Please use the form-fillable pdf found on the NCBA website or the one found in this newsletter. Mail your form and check to the address on the application! We have over 30 students enrolled so far, please spread the word to interested friends!

## 2021 NCBA Bee School



# A few tips going into winter..

As November begins, our bees should be “tucked in” for the winter, and we don’t have that much to do with them for a while. This is a tough time for beekeepers. As a Rhode Island Beekeepers member recently commented on Facebook, “And at this point there’s not much you can do but cross your fingers and wallow in dread until spring”. We worry about our bees making it through the winter. We put so much effort into keeping them healthy, we want to see them thriving in the spring. Sometimes the desire to see if they’re still alive causes them more harm than good.

Try to avoid making these mistakes that could hinder your bees’ chance for survival:

Checking for activity on a cold day by putting an ear to the hive and knocking – in the cold, honey bees go into a suspended state called torpor. The bees

are just barely active, keeping the cluster at the minimum temperature needed to survive, and conserving food supplies. A knock on the side of the hive produces a “buzz” that tells you they’re alive, but it also causes them to break their torpid state, raise the cluster temperature, and thus consume more stored food.

Splitting hive bodies to see where the cluster is – sometimes, on a day warm enough to check or replenish sugar patties or fondant, you notice no bees on the top frames. The hive seems quiet. Are they dead or just clustered in the bottom box? A quick split of the hive bodies will tell you, but it may be quite harmful to them. The cluster may be actually spanning the two boxes and you’ll split it, causing them to lose all of their stored heat, and they may be unable to build it back up by the time the cold of night sets in. Even if they’re fully in the bottom box, the

insulation provided by the honey frames above will be broken and valuable heat will be lost from the cluster.

Opening the top for too long – even if you are only checking or adding to fondant stores, opening the top of the hive can be detrimental to the cluster warmth. Try to open the top only if temperatures are above 40 degrees, preferably in the sun. If the colony seems to be on the brink of starvation, go ahead and open it to add fondant on a colder day, but act fast – you should be able to lift the inner cover and throw a slab of fondant on in 15 seconds (or less).

If you really want to know if your bees are alive, and know where in the hive the cluster is located, invest in an infrared camera like the FLIR One, and check on them without disturbing them. Or just keep food on top and wait until spring to check on them.

– Ed Szymanski

## Resources for NCBA Members

### EXTRACTORS

NCBA owns six extractors which can be borrowed by members for personal use. Contact Brianda Younie to make a pick-up arrangement. **PLEASE BE SURE TO RETURN THE EQUIPMENT YOU BORROW IN A FOOD-SAFE QUALITY CLEAN STATE.** Also, be sure to report any issues with cleanliness or functionality to Brianda.

### 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

Janice and Mike Barczys, our super awesome librarians have organized books by theme. Be sure to take a look at how they’ve done it. You just might discover your next great read. Also, let them know if there is a book you would like added to the Library!

### CLASSIFIED ADS

Members in good standing may place a classified ad in our newsletter for free. Please keep it simple and relevant to beekeeping, bee products, or home/cottage industries that would be of interest to other members. Email Colleen Neutra with your artwork, a scan of your business card, or questions.



# Minutes of Board Meeting 10/19/20

Board Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Tony Lulek.

In attendance: Tony Lulek, Ed Rock, Dana Wilson, Stephen Green, Rose Thornton, Gregory Rushton, Colleen Neutra, Ed Szymanski, Deborah Spielman, Pete Delaney, Mike and Janice Barczys, Lauralyn Smith, Kathy Varney, Brianda Younie

Minutes from September meeting accepted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ed Rock.

### President's Update / Tony L

- Pete Delaney from MassBee & EAS - July 26, 2021 – do we want to support sponsoring a speaker (John Lundgren). Pete shared his request. Noted in general, states don't pay for speakers. But this is special arrangement (\$3000 total for his fee – Blue Dasher Farms) He has a foundation/Blue Dasher Farms; funds go to the foundation.)
- Motion to provide \$300 (Dana motioned – seconded by Gregory), 10-3 in favor

### Vice President's Update / Dana

- Nothing new

### Treasurer Update / Stephen

- \$22,925 current Bank Balance
- Budget sheets attached (3)

### Recording Secretary: Minutes / Ed R

- Nothing new

### Corresponding Secretary / Colleen N

- deadline for November 2nd meeting newsletter (ideally by Friday October the 23rd)

### Committees:

- Programs / Ed and Marian S
- Dan Conlin will talk about "Finding queens in all the right places: evaluating queens" on January 4th for NCBA (on Jan 17th – he'll do another session for Rhode Island Beekeepers)
- February 1st: Lynn Adler, Plant Pollen and Medicinal Benefits: on bee health (bumble bees)
- Bill Hesback (sp): talk topic and date to come
- December holiday thoughts: possible holiday craft sharing/product/website/virtual vendor fare, trivia game or some fun stuff (Kahoots)/prizes, door prizes
- Intro to Bee School / Tony and Sue
- 22 signed up so far and looking at virtual school vs. physical class at the Aggie, due to surge in COVID cases
- Secondary Bee School / Ed & Marian (FYI: April 21, 2020 was first class)
- 10/14 is last intermediate bee school class; 11 classes total; 107 enrollment and Ed is working on a plan for 2021-2022

- Checks starting to come to Stephen for next year.
- Thinking of planning how to introduce and offer Intermediate school to nearby bee associations
- Extractors / Brianda
- Extractors – going well; getting proof of membership before lending out
- 6 functioning extractors split between three locations; extra tops for the three sites; working on one rusting shaft
- Library / Janice & Mike
- Library page with checkout capacity on the NCBA website: Janice following up with Greg; set up on website by November; links for book titles and capable to check out; Janice will do blurb about the process; ziplock the books
- Door Prizes – Lauralyn, Kathy & Greg
- Door Prizes for November (list of donated stuff)
- Lauralyn will have a list of club apparel inventory, perhaps use apparel (10-15) pieces as door prizes. Plenty of resources, totes
- Apparel – maybe selling club apparel on the club website
- Holiday bee stuff for kids (Beekeeper Barbie...)
- Website / Greg
- Membership is only thing selling on website right now. Rose needs export of detail of membership info (from Tony?)
- School fees will soon be put up on website. Dana would like a two week update on sign-ups (from Rose); move to every week reporting
- Membership, Facebook, and Google Groups / Rose & Deb
- Membership applications forms are getting sent to Rose every two weeks.
- Tony, Stephen, Rose, Deb get together to hone the process of data routing for membership
- Note about membership: place notice in newsletter that our membership list will be "purged"
- Tony: walk attendees through membership registration at the next Zoom club meeting – let them sign up right then and there.





## Interested in beekeeping as your full time job?

The Best Bees Company is looking to hire experienced beekeepers to join our team in our mission to improve pollinator health.

Apply for a job or internship at  
**[bestbees.com/jobs](http://bestbees.com/jobs)**

617.445.2322

   @bestbees



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[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!

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[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).

# 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.norfolkbees.org) for class schedule, date changes, weather cancellations, and other information.