

# the Norfolk Bee

SEPTEMBER 2020 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

**AUGUST 31, 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,

Since we don't usually have a newsletter in the middle of the summer, I am going to make this as short as possible.

I want to give a big thank you to Kathy Halamka and her entire board for doing such a great job over the past 2 years. The club is in great shape and they accomplished a lot of wonderful things and had fun doing it.

This year has been challenging due to COVID and it looks like it will continue to be challenging well into 2021. The new board is working hard to make sure that we stay connected as a community. We have some great projects underway: a new web site (complete with membership sign up and bee school applications processed right online) which we are hopeful will be ready to launch by the end of the summer; we are completely updating our membership list and in the process updating our Google Group and Facebook memberships. So stay tuned for notifications about that.

I hope that everyone's bees are doing well. As always, aside from COVID, each year brings its own challenges. We seem to be all over the place, from too many swarms, pesticide kills, diseases in the hives, requeening a lot and that dry spell we had in June. Now the hot of summer is here, but the bees seem to be thriving albeit drinking lots of water. As many of you know I had a situation in my hive. We are still unsure of exactly what is happening. The inspectors have been out twice. Once the final word is in, I will do a complete write up on what happened. Paul Tessier has been amazing as well Ken Oaks from the Pesticide department at MDAR was awesome to work with. Unfortunately due to COVID, the labs are backed up, but we should have final results soon.

Bee School & Intermediate Bee School was a topic of our last board meeting. We were going to be working on a COVID plan that may allow us to have some classes in the Science Center at the Aggie. Otherwise, we will be doing our classes via Zoom, which worked out really well and enabled us to have more participants in the Intermediate Bee School than we originally planned.

Our first program of the fall will be on August 31st this year. And again, due to COVID, we will be doing a Zoom presentation. See the sidebar to the left for details.

Lastly, I am honored to again be President of the Norfolk County Beekeepers Association again. We have a great new board in place with a lot of new faces. So I am very thankful for everyone that stepped up. If anyone is ever interested in getting more involved or wants to attend a board meeting, please contact me directly so I can put you on the email list. We encourage people to get involved. If you have an idea about a project, please come share it with us. We have learned over the years that we can accomplish great things as a club when we all work together.

Sorry, this turned out to be a lot longer than I had planned. Have a great summer everyone and see you at the Zoom meeting on Monday, August 31st.

Yours in Beekeeping,

Tony Lulek



# News from the Landing Board

## September Meeting via Zoom: **Monday 8/31**

Labor Day is mucking up our calendars, so our monthly meeting will be held the last day of August. Please "attend" our September meeting via Zoom from 7:00 to 9:00pm on 8/31. An emailed Zoom meeting invite will be sent out prior. If you do not receive one, please contact Tony or Ed S. via email.

- **Erin Forbes** will talk about her SARE grant research on requeening packages and creating a sustainable Northeast apiary management plan.
- We will again have special **DOOR PRIZES** for members in good standing who attend!

### 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

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

**October** Please note change of time to 6pm. Kirsten Traynor will be discussing all aspects of honey: chemistry, properties, uses, and specific bee management for honey production. But she will do it from Germany, so we'll have a 6pm Zoom event to accommodate her time zone.

**November** Angel Roell will discuss more efficient methods of queen rearing.

## NCBA 2021 MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL



September is membership renewal time for existing and new members to sign up for the following year. (Memberships are by the calendar year.) You can find the **2021 Membership Form** in this newsletter and on the NCBA website. Please mail your form and check to the address listed in the 2021 form! Please don't wait to get this off your "honey-do list! *Thank you!*

## 2020 NCBA Scholarship Recipients

This year, NCBA had five highly qualified applicants for NCBA scholarships. It was a daunting task for the Scholarship Committee to choose a recipient. The awardees are:

**Casey Frommer**, Norfolk MA, will attend Worcester Polytech Institute  
**Meghan Kasper**, Walpole MA, will attend Mass College of Art



# Minutes of Board Meeting 6/15/20

Board Meeting called to order at 7:06 by Kathy Halamka.

In attendance:  
Kathy Halamka  
Tony Lulek  
Ed Szymanski  
Ed Rock  
Kathy Varney  
Janice Barczys  
Janice Loving  
Paul Tessier  
MaryBeth Noonan  
Lauralyn Smith  
Kathy Gasbarro  
Deb Spielman  
Stephen Green

Motion – accept meeting minutes from May 18th – Ed S. motioned, MaryBeth N. seconded, unanimously accepted

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Ed S., seconded by Tony L., all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM

**Kathy Halamka notes:**

- Tony L will need to modify/update the Facebook welcome page from the incoming President
- MaryBeth N – treasure report – Mass Sec of State has granted NCBA 501-3c status. This was a very time-consuming process taking almost 6 years to process and have accepted.
- Kathy H – just a note – there will be an outstanding payment to the Aggie for next year’s (Fall 2020) meeting space in or around August. That is the only big expense outstanding at this time.
- Kathy H and others - The suggestion was that when and if face-to-face meetings resume, we maintain concurrently broadcasting & recording them via zoom to improve accessibility to the meetings for all members. Also, if group meeting protocols get put into place again, we will need to maintain the Zoom backup plan.
- The community Apiary – The green hive is strong but not enough to be split. The Blue hive died in March - Pete could use a swarm to re-populate

**Tony Lulek notes:**

- Since Intermediate Bee School did not need a physical site but just Zoom and Vimeo, some club money was saved. Also, nice income from Intermediate Bee School and Regular Bee School this year. Kathy H noted that if anyone asked, she gave them a scholarship to attend Intermediate Bee School, once the attendance size was removed due to being presented via Zoom.
- We’ll probably have a board meeting in July
- Ed S and Marion have committed to coordinating the club’s programming for the next 2 years
- Pesticide Poisoning – he experienced two hives suffering a substantial die-off, had MDAR come (they did a very rigorous inspection, collected tons of samples, and felt they’d have some results in about two weeks). They didn’t see any signs of viruses and felt it could have been brought into the hive from a tainted pollen source.

**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.**

- Joe Holland – passed away last month. Wife is looking to sell off his equipment, some is usable and much of it is in questionable condition. Suggestion was that the club could support the family in evaluating and cleaning out his old supplies. Possible club interest in the large number of 1 and 2 pound bottles (100+ cases). Also – might be able to grab his bees and transfer to the community apiary. Deb S suggested helping the family clean stuff out, and maybe involve wetlands apiary since they are nearby.
- MDAR -no inspections yet, but they are planning to restart them in July.
- Another MDAR Note – Paul Tessier mentioned that with the scarcity of alcohol for mite washes, MDAR has been researching alternatives. They found that winter automobile washer fluid (the orange color) was actually more effective than alcohol for mite washes.
- And Tony wanted to thank the old / outgoing board members for their hard work and welcome the new members to what he hopes is a very productive term... and a special Thanks to Kathleen G. for the tireless note taking AND her amazing effort that made the MASS BEE meeting hosted by NCBA a huge success and a first class event. It was spectacular! We could gather to hear two national speakers, lunch & learn from fellow beekeepers, honey judging with awards, vendors with order delivery, book signings, new technology demo by M.I.T. students and raffles. It was a grand finale for an era.

*Continued on next page*

### June Board Meeting Minutes: Continued from previous page

- MaryBeth N and others noted that NCBA Bee School was a great value in terms of comprehensiveness, number of classes, and quality of instruction compared to other bee schools at surrounding clubs.
- MaryBeth N and Ed S. noted that NCBA is supporting, through donations, Sam Ramsey's research. Perhaps we can secure him for a significant workshop in the near future and host some type of event similar to the Worcester County Bee Club's Saturday event and invite surrounding bee club members.
- MaryBeth N – treasurer transitional items
- Kathy H is sending her PO key to MaryBeth and they are closing that PO Box
- MaryBeth N and Steve G are having a series of Zoom meetings to review treasurer transition checklist items.
  - Need to send new officer list to MA Sec of State and then
  - Need to schedule a day and time in early July to meet at Middlesex Bank – Walpole to do all the new signature cards and update the account with new officers.
  - She'll get Tony L a digital Bank statement, so he knows the starting point (June 30th Balance)
  - We are currently receiving about 6 memberships a week
- Deborah S. will work on assuming responsibility for membership supporting Steve G this summer, and also coordinate the Facebook page and Google Group clean up (updating with current member list), and facilitate moving the membership process to an online procedure to streamline it and automate renewals
- Brianda requires an updated member list as she lends out the extractors

### Librarian's update :

- Janice just received new copy of Increase Essentials for the library. Thinking through a way for club members to access the library resources – perhaps checking out online and picking up at Janice's. Details to be worked out within the next month or so and announced via Facebook page and Google Group

### Ed Szymanski notes:

- Intermediate Bee School update – one more class and then a wrap up Q&A session with all the presenters from the whole class all done on Zoom. Possibly a session in late June on “acquiring bees – with an emphasis on sustainability”.
- Would like to continue video hive dives live and suggestion was to ask Wetland

Apiaries to do a tour of their facility and possibly a little queen rearing teaser.

- Tony L – let's run with these ideas, but table live hive dives until July.
- Janice – commented to not do back to back live hive dives – too long – spread them out. We also need to highlight to membership that the videos of these are available for review in the next newsletter before next formal club meeting.

### Other Business:

- Kathy V – digital door prizes seem to be working well
- Lauralyn S – Apparel - sales are suspended until there is an online store and/or in-person meetings resume. Purchases of new apparel will not proceed before sales can resume. Once sales can resume, we will continue new practice of alternating opposite the months when raffles are held, with hopes it helps participation (i.e., members won't have to pick one or the other).
- Paul – Advertising for NUCs within the club to promote sustainability and sharing of NUCs within and among club members – there was a feeling that we'd need some guidelines (inspections...) to do something like this. Paul will draft some and share with Ed S and Tony for review next month.
- Janice L – Wanted to make sure all members were aware of the Bee Informed Mite-a-thon coming in August. They're planning to collect mite data from Canada, Mexico, and the US and develop a huge database of mite data to support beekeepers. We need to make sure to announce the initiative on the club Facebook page and Google Group. •

## NEW ENGLAND HONEY BEE UPDATE

Join the New England states Apiary Inspectors to get the latest update on honey bee health in our region. They will also discuss management reminders and provide tips for ensuring healthy colonies.  
Come with questions to ask the inspectors!



### Friday, August 14th, 2020

### 2:00pm-4:00pm ET



Zoom Meeting ID: 971 7296 4155; Password: 733171  
<https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/97172964155?pwd=K0ZOS3dVYXVuRGFLbUhuMUxqa0lUQT09>

One tap mobile: +16468769923,,97172964155#

Contact Info: bees@mass.gov

Apiary Inspectors of America



# Minutes of Board Meeting 7/20/20

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

In attendance:  
Tony Lulek  
Greg Rushton  
Ed Szymanski  
Ed Rock  
Kathy Varney  
Colleen Neutra  
Rose Thorton  
Deborah Spielman  
Kathleen Gasbarro  
Dana Wilson  
Stephen Green  
Sue Robinson  
Brianda Younie  
Carin Cohen

Motion to accept meeting minutes from June 15th: Ed R. motioned, Ed S. seconded, unanimously accepted

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ed Rock.

## Current Club Business

- Report on Club Funds from Stephen G.
  - \$22,195.21 in Club Checking Account
  - Transition of accounts between treasurers is going smoothly
  - Federal Taxes have been filed
  - Tony L Would like to see current club assets and expenses for each board meeting, and some comparison to prior year and heads up on outstanding expenses

## Newsletter / Colleen

- Colleen has started drafting the next newsletter
  - August 5th deadline for submissions – Distribution targeted on August 10th promoting the August 31st Club Meeting
  - Also wants to include Kim Skyrms info on Hive inspections, and info on Mite-a-Thon
  - Ed S. – he'll get a blurb to Colleen N about Erin Forbes presenting on August 31st club meeting
  - Greg R will reach out to Shawn Kent (Audubon Society) to connect him with Ed S.(some miscommunication there about presenting for the club)
  - And of course, membership info
  - Tony L – can we scrub the officer e-mails from the newsletter – seems to be “inviting” spam

## Membership Committee

- Dana W – How will we be honoring long term club members – in September – with no in-person meeting and via zoom? Dana will get back to the group with some ideas.
- Tony L & Rose T – membership lists will be merging/fusing (from old versions to new formats) with hopes of capturing all member data, including “join Date”

## Bee School 2021 Committee

- Tony L and Sue R – Shooting to get registration for Bee School up on website in September.
- Deborah S – should we discuss classroom options in COVID context for Bee School this Fall?

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## Intermediate Bee School / Ed S.

- Did 9 classes face-to-face before moving to zoom meetings every week and canceled outdoor practical meetings due to COVID.
- Surveyed participants:
  - Attendance was around 103, with an average of 80. Live attendance fell off a bit once we made folks aware of the presentations being available on video.
  - Mixed feedback regarding summer classes, so we'll start back up in Fall.
  - Very rewarding responses when participants when asked how the classes influenced their beekeeping practices – many sustainability responses (queen rearing, splits, more frequent inspections...)
  - Some feedback from participants on excluding new Beekeepers from these classes, but the initial thinking was there wouldn't be room for intermediates if new beekeepers were allowed to enroll – assuming face-to-face classroom. With an unlimited attendance zoom meeting option, class size limit isn't an issue, so limiting attendance to just experienced beekeepers was moot.
- Colleen N - Note that Kristen Traynor video is available on RI Beekeepers Association web site

## Door Prizes / Kathy V. and Greg R.

- Continue with door prizes of gift certificates, but consider having specific items shipped directly to winners via amazon or from bee vendors.

### Website / Greg R.

- We'll soon have the commerce module up and running to sell memberships on the web site. Target for "go live" is September. Everything transitioned over but the Resources section.
- Slack (a collaboration app) was required to work on the website, it is available for folks if they'd like to use it as a collaboration tool. Check with Greg for sign-on info
- We need to upgrade our Weebly website host account to "pro" level account for \$144 / year. Also need \$20/year for domain hosting fee
- We're also looking at how to automate the membership database
- Rose T – should we be looking at purchasing a membership "commerce flow" for communication, accounting...tool?
- Colleen N asking about membership solicitation waiting on website availability – answer – Yes, let's include the membership solicitation, the website will be ready in September.

### Other Club Business

- Colleen N. recommended acquiring 2 Million Blossoms magazine subscription for our library
- Tony L – Mentoring – some feedback has come in on current mentors accessibility to their mentees – while it could always use improvement – make sure to pass any feedback along to Tony and Dana
- Rose T – maybe we can look at creating "lead Mentors" within county regions who can provide back up for the existing mentors and offer beekeepers an alternative to their assigned mentor if needed.
- Tony L – Update on the club supporting Joe Holland's wife as she cleans out Joe's beekeeping supplies
- Made huge headway in helping her, the club bought \$300 of new

unassembled frames and assorted hive materials that we can use for door prizes.

- Others have purchased a bunch of other stuff from her.
- Tony L – Selection of outgoing board member gifts approved unanimously
- Bee Inspections – Pesticide analysis – Tony L had a hive suffering from dying bees and had MDAR and The Pesticides Bureau inspect his hives. Shared positive comments about both groups and the thoroughness of their review
- Paul Tessier from MDAR collected samples from every frame in his hive and sent them to the National Agricultural Genotyping Center (South Dakota) for analysis. The report card was very complete, suggesting a host of pathogens and viruses that, while not in levels to cause actual disease outbreaks, were present (some were troubling in their presence)
- Final conclusion is TBD, but it looks like Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus. Its symptoms mimic some pesticide poisonings, and treatment is typically requeening.
- Tony L will write up this experience and share in the newsletter
- Tony L and Ed S. – starting to do some more collaborating with other MA county and state organizations on educational programming
- with Zoom, presenters are more easily booked and much less expensive when travel and lodging are removed from the equation.
- Dana W – we'll be sticking to the 3rd Monday in August for our next board meeting
- Colleen N – we'll deliver an early August newsletter to arrive before the September meeting (being held early on 8/31 because of the labor Day holiday Monday). •



Please participate in the **North American Pollinator Partnership Mite-a-thon Event** this August 15-30, 2020. More details and results from the last three years' surveys can be seen at: [www.pollinator.org/miteathon](http://www.pollinator.org/miteathon).

This is an three country effort: Canada, USA and Mexico.

Mite-A-Thon will collect mite infestation data to visualize Varroa infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a two week window; creating a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

Their Varroa monitoring data will be uploaded to [www.mitecheck.com](http://www.mitecheck.com).



## Joe Howland Reclamation Project

Joe Howland, a long time beekeeper, and club member, passed away on May 6, 2020. His lovely wife, Georgia, contacted

me about helping sort through all of his bee equipment. With the help of some very wonderful club members, we were able to sort through and make sense of many years of beekeeping. So a big thank you to Brianda Younie, Greg Rushton, Kathy Varney, Phil Pitha, Mike Barczys, Peg Tomiso, and Neil Kaiser for making this a good day.

— Tony Lulek



# 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.

# Thank You to Our 5-year, 10-year, and 15-year NCBA Members!

The NCBA board would like to thank the members who had their 5th, 10th, and 15th year anniversary in 2020. It is because of members like you that make the club strong bringing a wealth of information and expertise to the club. In the past awards and certificates were handed out at the Club meeting in September. As we all have experienced this year is different. Even though we will not be meeting as a group and the board will not be able to personally thank you, the board still wanted to recognize these members.

## 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

### having joined in 2016:

Brian & Amanda Bettle  
 Karen & Jerry Brothers  
 Kim Cabot  
 Katie & Sam Campbell  
 Susan & John Carney  
 Douglas Charette  
 Carin Cohen

Edward Foley

Maria & Brian Garrity  
 Kathy & John Halamka  
 Barbara Farrington & Glenda Hazard  
 Rita Nethersole  
 Colleen Neutra  
 Russell Palmer  
 Kim & Michael Simone  
 Frank & Brianda Younie

## 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

### having joined in 2011:

Kathleen Clapp & Thomas Chaput  
 Kim DeMers  
 Robert & Sean Hickey  
 Scott & Kari Mofford

## 15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

### having joined in 2006:

Kathleen Gasbarro  
 Lauren & Roger Trahan

**MASSACHUSETTS NATIVE PLANTS AND POLLINATORS**  
 Partners in Nature

**Worker honey bees must visit 2 million flowers to make 1 pound of honey**

**88% of the world's flowering plants require an insect pollinator for pollination**

**Insect pollinators increase the fruit or seed set in 75% of crop plants, and are responsible for 35% of global food production**

MA has a rich diversity of native insect pollinators, including an estimated 380 species of bees and 120 species of butterflies

**Illustration by:** **MDAR** Bee a steward and create a pollinator-friendly garden. Partners in Nature Series

**Find a local honey producer near you:**

**Plants and Pollinators shown:**  
 EASTERN BLACK SWALLOWTAIL (*Papilio polyxenes*)  
 GOLDENROD SOLDIER BEETLE (*Chauliognathus pensylvanicus*)  
 HONEY BEE (*Apis mellifera*)  
 PECK'S SKIPPER (*Polites peckius*)  
 FLOWER LONGHORN BEETLE (*Judolia cordifera*)  
 GREAT SPANGLED FRITILLARY (*Speyeria cybele*)  
 MONARCH CATERPILLAR (*Danaus plexippus*)  
 MONARCH BUTTERFLY (*Danaus plexippus*)  
 PURPLE JOE-PYE WEED (*Eutrochium purpureum*)  
 GOLDENROD (*Solidago* spp.)  
 SHORT-TOOTHED MOUNTAIN MINT (*Pycnanthemum muticum*)  
 COMMON MILKWEED (*Asclepias syriaca*)  
 HUMMINGBIRD CLEARWING (*Hemaris thysbe*)  
 BLAZING STAR (*Liatris scariosa*)  
 NORTH AMERICAN CRANBERRY (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*)  
 TWO-SPOTTED HUMBLE BEE (*Bombus bimaculatus*)

If you would like a high-res version of this **Massachusetts Native Plants and Pollinators poster** to print and share in your community please click here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-native-plants-and-pollinators-poster/download>

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

# Mint & Stone Fruit Herbal Shrub

The shrub is a traditional beverage made with fresh fruit, honey (or sugar), and vinegar, which combine to create a uniquely zippy drink to enjoy during the hot summer months. It's kid friendly and makes a great substitute for sugary soda or cocktails at a summer picnic or for relaxing at home.

Starting with a classic recipe featuring two of my favorite summer fruits—peaches and strawberries—I gave this shrub an herbal twist by adding two very cooling and calming medicinal herbs: lemon balm and mint. If you don't have lemon balm, just double the amount of mint.



- 1 quart-size mason jar with a reusable plastic lid
- 6–8 ripe organic strawberries, hulled and sliced
- 1 or 2 ripe yellow peaches, sliced (skins on, pits discarded)
- ¼ cup fresh mint
- ¼ cup fresh lemon balm
- 1 cup high-quality apple cider vinegar (such as Bragg's)
- A splash of good-quality balsamic vinegar for depth of flavor (optional)
- ½–1 cup raw honey

Clean and sterilize a quart-size mason jar and set aside. Wash fruit and herbs well and pat dry.

Prepare the fruits by slicing them directly into the mason jar. If you slice the peaches on a cutting board, be sure to capture and add all the juice to the jar as well.

Roughly chop fresh herbs and add to the fruit in the jar. Using a muddler or other mashing tool, crush the fruit and herbs.

Add vinegar and honey to the jar, stir to combine, and cover with a plastic lid. Label with the date and ingredients and store in the fridge for 1 week, shaking every few days.

Once the mixture has fermented slightly, strain out solids and store remaining liquid in a clean mason jar with a plastic lid. You can store this shrub in the fridge for 1–2 weeks. As is the case with all fermented foods, use your best judgment when preparing, and if mold appears or scent becomes off in any way, discard and start over.

To serve: Add 1–2 tablespoons of your shrub mixture to a glass, top off with sparkling water, garnish with a fresh sprig of mint, and voilà!

**Anna Marie Beauchemin** is a trained herbalist, educator, and writer based in Martinez, California. She works throughout the SF Bay Area offering herbal consultations, workshops, and trainings. She loves writing about the intersection between the culinary and medicinal worlds, creating seasonally relevant herbal recipes. Learn more at [eastbayherbals.com](http://eastbayherbals.com).

## Do you need help with your hives? Going on vacation and looking for a Bee Sitter?

I have been approached several times from club members that need help with their hives. This goes beyond the normal mentoring. This may happen due to someone being injured and can't work their hives, or they may be going on vacation, or any number of personal reasons. We discussed this at the last board meeting.

While the club cannot get involved in any kind of paid services, we do welcome this if someone reaches out. We only ask that any fees that you might charge for this be fair and equitable to all parties, and it might be good to put things in writing.

We are here to help each other as beekeepers and as a community. If anyone has any questions, please contact me directly. If you want to be considered or let people know your willingness/availability to help others send an email to Dana with your information in order for us to build a list of available people. As well if you are looking for someone to help with your hives, please

contact Dana.

— Tony Lulek



# MEMBERSHIP FORM 2021

Returning Member YES or NO

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: (Please Print Clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Did you attend a bee school: \_\_\_\_\_

If so, when and 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. If a family membership please list family member's name and email address below. (Family members must live in the same household)

If you plan to attend Bee School, please fill out the bee school application found at [www.norfolkbees.org](http://www.norfolkbees.org). A Bee School fee of \$80 for one attendee from a household applies. An additional \$20 if one more family member, from the same household, applies if they want to attend. These fees cover attendance at Bee School and the cost of membership in the club for that year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail form and payment to:**

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

Our club meetings are held monthly (usually the first Monday of the month) from September through June at Norfolk Aggie, 400 Main Street, Walpole, MA. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm.



# 2020 Honey Bee Education Days at State Apiaries

Join State the MDAR Apiary Program Bee Team to get a tour of live working honey bee colonies, hands-on demonstrations of hive management techniques, and exposure to the latest knowledge on how to best sustain healthy honey bee colonies. These events are free and open to the public, but focus on beekeepers. Registration is not necessary to attend. Participants must bring protective clothing as it will not be provided and is required to enter an apiary. The same program will be offered from **10am-noon** on each date at both apiary locations, unless indicated otherwise. Alternate dates will be provided in the event of inclement weather.

For more information visit:

[https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mdar-state-apiaries.](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mdar-state-apiaries)

## MDAR State Apiary Locations

UMass Agricultural Learning Center (ALC) Farm  
911 North Pleasant St  
Amherst, MA 01002

Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School (Essex Aggie)  
565 Maples St  
Danvers, MA 01937

**April 11<sup>th</sup>**

W  
Canceled!

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**

Sp  
Canceled!

**May 16<sup>th</sup>**

Qu  
[Am  
Canceled!

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Qu  
[Am  
Canceled!

**June 20<sup>th</sup>**

Sum  
Canceled!

**July 11<sup>th</sup>**

Pe  
Canceled!

**August 8<sup>th</sup>**

Fa  
Canceled!

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

H  
Canceled!

Danvers location only!

**September 12<sup>th</sup>**

Fall Management II

**October 10<sup>th</sup>**

Winter Prep



## Interested in beekeeping as your full time job?

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[info@woodsbees.com](mailto:info@woodsbees.com)

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[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).