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ba



Barnstable County
Beekeepers Association

buzzwords

<http://www.barnstablebeekeepers.org>

April 2019

Upcoming Meetings

7:30 pm at the West Barnstable Community Building on Route 149.

And keep those snacks and nibbles coming!!

Tuesday, April 9

**Dr. James Crall Harvard University
Department of Organismic and Evolutionary
Biology**



Dr. Crall has done research on the [effects of neonicotinoids on bumblebees](#).

A postdoctoral fellow working in the lab of Benjamin de Bivort, the Thomas D. Cabot Associate Professor of Organismic and

Evolutionary Biology, Crall is the lead author of a study that shows exposure to neonicotinoid pesticides (the most commonly used class of pesticides in agriculture) has profound effects on a host of social behaviors.

Whether it's foraging for food, caring for the young, using their bodies to generate heat or to fan the nest, or building and repairing nests, a bee colony does just about everything as a single unit.

While recent studies have suggested exposure to pesticides could have impacts on foraging behavior, a new study, led by James Crall, has shown that those effects may be just the tip of the iceberg.

**Tuesday, May 8
Mary Beers**

Mary is an educator who will present on native pollinators.

**Tuesday, June 11
Cape Bee**

Bee Package Pickup

BEES ARE COMING!!

We have received confirmation at this time that the packaged bees will be back in Massachusetts as scheduled. They will arrive on Cape Cod on **Wednesday, April 3rd!!!!** Best you bee ready!!

Demonstrations of installation of the bees will take place **ONLY on WEDNESDAY, THE 3RD AT 5 PM AT THE TWO LOCATIONS NOTED BELOW.**

We are doing this to accommodate those folks who are working. Picking up your packages will also be entertained at that time.

This week, you new folks, make sure your hives are ready, set up in your location so they can air out. Close the entrance to prevent mice looking for a new home. Please remember these are living creatures just raring for a new home and cannot just sit around til you are ready.

You must make arrangements if you cannot pick them up at this time.

For the demonstration of installation, please bring your veil!

Lower Cape - Residents East Of
The Yarmouth-Dennis Town Line:

Wednesday, April 3rd At 5 PM Only

Bill's Bog at 1150 Harwich Road,
Brewster

Directions: Take Route 6 to Exit
10 head north on Route 124 for
approximately 2 miles. Bill's bog
is on the left side of Route 124.
PARKING is on the RIGHT side of
Route 124. NO vehicles are allowed
on Bill's bog.

Andy Morris and his harem will be
there with your bees.

Upper Cape - Residents Of
Yarmouth And West

Pick Up On Wednesday, April 3rd
From 2 PM To 5 PM.

Demonstration Of Installation At
5 Pm.

186 Old County Road, East
Sandwich

Directions: Route 6 to Exit 4,
head north off the ramp on Chase
Road for about a half mile.

Left on Old County Road.

186 is the first driveway on the
left BUT PLEASE PARK ON
THE STREET AND WALK IN
UNLESS HANDICAPPED.

From The Board

As the days grow longer and overwintered bees venture out of their hives, it is beginning to feel like Spring. Spring is my very favorite time as a beekeeper because it is filled with much excitement and anticipation. When I think about spring from the perspective of a beekeeper, I think about those finishing up bee school and preparing to fill their new hives with bees. I can remember being so nervous, excited and intimidated all at once! Some folks are celebrating successful over-winterings, while other members strategize and learn from the loss of their hives over winter. As spring keeps us beekeepers busy outside the hive, the bees are just as busy on the inside. The queen has already begun laying new brood. They will continue to require feeding until the nectar begins to flow. Strong overwintered hives will require splitting to prevent swarming. There is so much to do! We are very lucky to have such a large and robust beekeeping group on Cape Cod.

Our BCBA is like a hive, if you think about it. This spring, I would like to challenge all of us to buzz around at our meetings and introduce ourselves to those we don't know around us. We have welcomed many new families from bee school. You may even want to find out which beekeepers live near you. Rely on one another as resources and working together is often handy with hive inspections, varroa treatments and honey harvesting. If you have questions, would like to learn about a particular topic, or wish to have a specific speaker attend, we'd love to know. We are also always looking for members of BCBA to assist in our local towns and communities across the county. I hope that you too will find that excitement of spring through the eyes of a beekeeper. Hope to see you at our next beekeeping meeting. Happy Spring!

Melissa Caughey

Annual Meeting

Per our club by-laws, our annual meeting and election of officers is held at the April meeting each year. Listed below is the slate of officers and board of director members who have agreed to serve. We have four members that have agreed to come onto the board and we thank them!

SLATE FOR 2019 and to be presented at our April 9th meeting:

OFFICERS FOR RE-ELECTION:	BOARD OF DIRECTORS:	NEW VOLUNTEERS TO BE ELECTED:
President – Michael Smith Vice-President – Maria Cashdollar Recording Secretary – Deb Carmel Corresponding Secretary – Claire Desilets Treasurer – Lynn Heslinga	Marthe Ayers John Beach Todd Cashdollar Melissa Caughey Peter Cooper Olga DiSavino Edward Hegner Mary Anne Mann Andy Morris Brian O'Donnell Lisa Sheehy Donna Tompkins Miguel Zamora	Phyllis Bayer Jennifer Cattin Louise Hopper David Whalley

Forage

[Problem with elephants?
Call the beekeeper.](#)

[Discovering The Critical
Role Of The Honey Bee Gut
Microbiome In Health And
Defense Against Parasites](#)

[If you are looking for some
informative beekeeping
videos, check out this site](#)

Check out the BCBA Facebook page for shared links, photos, and questions/answers! Join the conversation!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BarnstableCountyBeeA/>

New Bee Grad April Duties

Remember with hive top feeders, no inner cover is used

1. After installation, check in 3 to 5 days that your queen has been released and remove the queen cage. If she is not out, wait a few more days and recheck. If using an elastic, leave it on the frame.
2. Check syrup every 5 days and never let it run out!!
3. Day 8 to 12, remove feeder and carefully remove the outer most frame. Slowly move frames toward the outer edge until you get closer to the cluster of bees. Again, slowly pull a frame or two out checking for newly built cells with freshly laid eggs. If noted, place
4. all frames back in the same order, add feeder and cover and smile to yourself as all is well in your hive.
5. Check again every 7 to 10 days for eggs, larva and soon capped brood.
6. Once the bottom deep is 80% with drawn frames and covered with bees, add the second deep, moving the feeder up and continue to feed syrup until nearly all 20 frames are drawn or the bees stop taking the syrup.

Claire Desilets

Classified

Cherry wood frames for sale
9 Frames for \$50.00
Or \$5.50 Each
Contact Traci harmon-hay
At traciharmonhay@gmail.com



Have You Ever Heard Of Honey Dew?

Here are a couple of photos showing a bee collecting honeydew on an oak leaf in New Zealand and scale insects:

<https://pbase.com/peterbray/image/106271602>

<https://pbase.com/peterbray/image/168914612>

Honey Dew is really an exudate from some insects such as aphids. It is collected and stored by honey bees. In some countries, it is considered a delicacy and is harvested just as our honey.



The 10th Annual Greenfield Langstroth Bee Festival

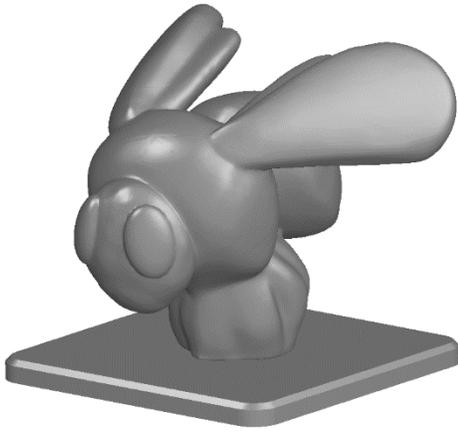
Saturday, June 1st 2019 (9:00 am – 12:00 noon).

As many of you know, Lorenzo Langstroth spent much of his life in Massachusetts. From 1836 to 1839, Langstroth resided as Pastor of the South Congregational Church in Andover. Also in Andover, Langstroth was the principal of Abbot Academy, the first incorporated educational institute for girls and young women in New England.

In 1839, Langstroth moved to Greenfield, MA and became Headmaster of the Greenfield School for Girls. In 1843, he was installed as pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Greenfield. Langstroth developed the moveable frame beehive and in 1852 he received the patent on the “Langstroth Hive”. In 1853, Langstroth wrote the instructional beekeeping manual “The Hive and the Honey Bee” which was first published in Northampton, Ma.

To honor Lorenzo Langstroth’s life, each year Greenfield and other Franklin County towns celebrate Bee Week. This year is the tenth annual Greenfield Langstroth Bee Festival, which will be held at Second Congregational Church in Greenfield on June 1 from 9 a.m. to noon.

This year an Arts grant was received to produce six large scale Fiberglas bee sculptures which will be installed on the downtown Greenfield sidewalks. You may have seen downtown permanent public art installations such as Cows in Vermont cities, Sneakers near the Springfield’s Basketball Hall of Fame or Clam Shells on Cape Cod. The bee sculptures will rest on a three-foot cubic bases, their height will be exceed five feet tall. The bee sculptures will be professionally decorated by local artists.



To alleviate costs, a sponsorship campaign was designed. The \$2500 sponsorship covers the cost of creating the sculpture, commissioning the artist and sidewalk installation.

In an effort to support Langstroth's legacy, we are looking to execute an "Umbrella Sponsorship" having Massachusetts Beekeepers Association and County Bee Clubs contribute the needed monies towards one sponsorship. Each participating County Club will be recognized as a supporter and named on a plaque on the base of the bee sculpture in perpetuity. Attached is a 3D-printed mock-up of the unpainted bee sculpture.

It was requested from BCBA for a donation to help with this project. The BCBA unanimously voted to donate \$250.00 toward the sculpture. So if you are ever in Greenfield MA make sure to look for the honey bee sculpture.

Mike Smith

Czarina of Falmouth

I went into my hives today as it was warm in my sheltered corner at the nursery. Very disappointed to find my special russian queen hive dead. If you look closely you can see the one surviving be on the pollen. They were alive two weeks ago but in a small cluster which is how Russians go through the winter. Even with all the sugar bricks on top of the frames it looks like they starved. I am going to send a sample to Bethesda.

This is a Russian queen that I have had for 4 1/2 years. This hive was used for the hive openings along with the split I did in May from it. Several mite tests were done during the season with few mites. I did the oxalic acid treatment Oct 15th to go through the Winter. March 11th I added a 2" piece of a pollen patty in the center of the cluster and moved the sugar bricks closer. March 24 I was going to add another pollen patty and discovered it was basically dead. One sole bee on the pollen can be seen. I have sent a sample to Bethesda for testing. I think it starved with all the sugar on top. The bees were clustered just under the top of the wood of the frame. Maybe with the cold nights after such wonderful warm days they could not move back up to the sugar. The majority of the bees were on the bottom but about a 1/2 cup full were on two frames. Some with their heads in the cells with the remainder clustered together. There was no brood but they would have eaten that when starving. So sad to loose my Russian queen. I know, I KNOW, five years is a long time to have her survive but she was still laying nicely.

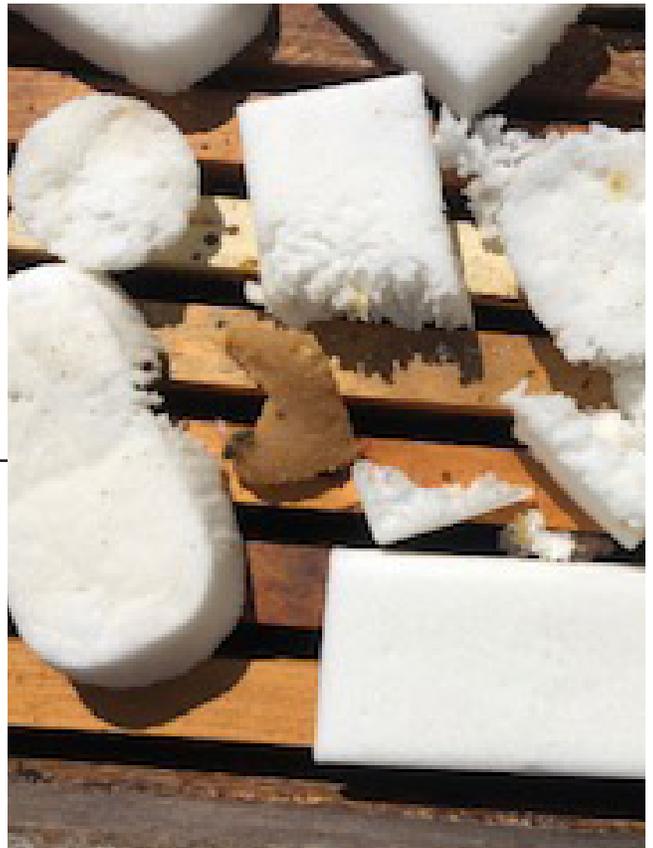
Marte Ayers

And Here Is Another Reason To Swap Out That Old Brood Comb:

As reported in the March, 2019 issue of Bee Culture, Jennifer Berry of the University of Georgia conducted a three year study comparing new comb to old, dark, heavy comb for brood rearing. She and her team found "on average, colonies with new comb produced a greater area of brood, a greater area of sealed brood, and higher weight of individual young bees. And "bees reared in old comb may weigh up to 19% less than bees reared in the new comb" (Berry, 2001).

A good plan is to change out TWO brood frames per box per year. Mark them with the queen color of that year. 2019 queen color will be GREEN.

Claire Desilets



Science For The Sake Of Bees

Silver bullet? stake in the heart? PhD candidate Samuel Ramsey challenged 50 years of assumptions about varroa biology to show that, rather than feeding on blood, the mites feed on a specialized fatty tissue in the honeybee abdomen, the fat body. Sam presented his research at a BCBA meeting last season, but if you missed his presentation, here's the link to his award winning three-minute summary of his research:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fyfyj-2O47Q>

In a recent letter in Bee Culture magazine, a reader uses this finding to suggest varroa can't be the problem since even hives with low mite counts can still die. The writer mistakenly assumes that viruses are spread only by blood sucking parasites. In fact, varroa carry and spread 10 infectious bee viruses. Most importantly, he ignores the critical roles of the honeybee fat body in bee development, including hormone regulation, immune response and pesticide detoxification. Ramsey's research shows that most of the varroa damage is done to capped larvae. This is particularly damaging to the larvae that will develop into the overwintering bee population. Thus, Ramsey recommends treating hives in late summer to protect the larva from varroa damage. If you'd like the full story, here's his published research:

<https://www.pnas.org/content/116/5/1792.long>

Sticky is good. Want to know how to get more of the goo we love to hate into your hive? I'm talking propolis here. No, I'm not kidding. Multiple studies have shown the beneficial effects of propolis on honeybee health and defense against pathogens, including chalkbrood and American foulbrood. Building on this research, a recent report suggests that we roughen the inside of our deeps with a wire brush or, better yet, use unplanned wood to construct hives (rough side inside). Honeybees respond to these textured surfaces by depositing more propolis. Read about it here:

<https://academic.oup.com/jee/advance-article/doi/10.1093/jee/toy363/5199372>

Several BCBA members have proposed getting together to build hives from locally sourced wood. Stay tuned!

Mushroom cure? As we mentioned above, varroa disseminate 10 honeybee viral pathogens. This is the kiss of death since there currently is no treatment for viral infection.

But wait! Have the honeybees figured out how to treat themselves?

New research shows that bees feeding on a secretion from tree fungus mycelia (the hairy equivalent of roots) have reduced viral loads. Field trials using purified mycelial extracts fed in sugar syrup to free flying bees have proven effectiveness against several viruses, including deformed-wing virus, an infection commonly seen in our hives. Read the amazing research here:

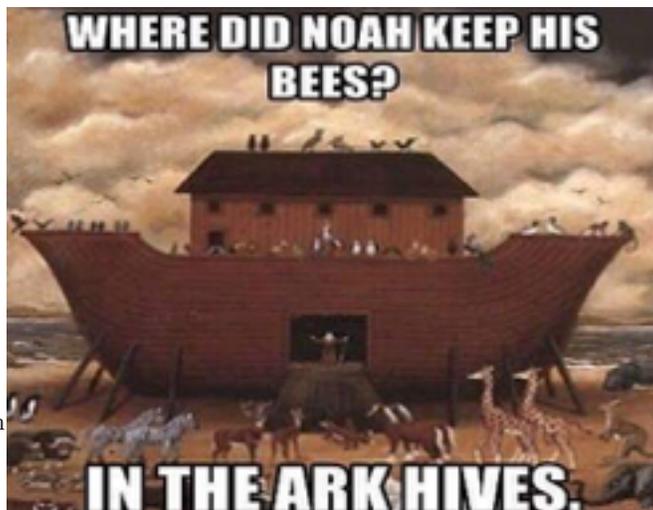
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6172205/>

Work is underway to commercially produce the extract.

Mary Anne Mann

Feeding Stimulants

Recently, we came across an article in the Spring 2019 copy of BEEKeeping by Ross Conrad of Vermont. The topic was spring feeding and one subtopic was "Feed Stimulants". His comments centered around the fact that sugar syrup fed to our bees lacks a significant odor because of the refinement of the cane sugar. In order to encourage our bees to take up their syrup faster he has suggested that some folks add an emulsification of lemongrass and spearmint essential oils. This imparts an extremely pleasant odor to the syrup. In addition to this odor, there is a claim that the product has powerful antimicrobial properties preventing the growth of mold in the sugar syrup and "an association with reducing colony diseases and helping to improve colony health." Check out www.honeybhealthy.com for more information.



If interested, Honey B Healthy, one of these feeding stimulants, will be available BEFORE and AFTER the April and May meetings. See Claire and bring along a \$20 bill or check to Claire Desilets for a 16 oz jug.

Keep in mind that it should not be used during a dearth or robbing later in the season.

Claire Desilets

Spring 2019 Legislative Update

In January Representative Carolyn Dykema re-filed her pollinator protection bill from last session, H.4041. The new bill, [H.763 - An Act to protect Massachusetts pollinators](#), was co-sponsored by an unprecedented 153 legislators and Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, easily surpassing the 135 cosponsors that H.4041 received in the previous session. The bill has been assigned to the [Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture](#) (ENRA).

H.763 is essentially the same bill as its predecessor, H.4014, with a couple of minor changes. It limits the use of the neonicotinoid class of systemic pesticides to licensed pesticide applicators only. It also contains a disclosure component that gives consumers the information they need to opt out of purchasing pesticide application services where neonicotinoids are used. The states of Maryland and Connecticut have already passed similar legislation and it is common sense legislation whose time has arrived.

As a result of the increasing public awareness of the negative environmental effects of pollinator habitat loss, neonicotinoids and glyphosate, there are at least nine bills that either directly or indirectly impact pollinators if passed.

There are three bills that specifically target pollinators.

- [H.763 - An Act to protect Massachusetts pollinators](#). Representative Carolyn Dykema.
- [H.818 - An Act to protect pollinator habitat](#). Representative Mary Keefe.
- [S.463 - An Act protecting pollinators by eliminating harmful products](#). Senator Jamie Eldridge.

There are also several other bills that, while not specifically targeting pollinators, could have a positive impact on pollinators if they pass.

- [H.776 - An Act empowering towns and cities to protect residents and the environment from harmful pesticides](#). Representative Dylan Fernandes.
- [H.791 - An Act relative to improving pesticide protections for Massachusetts schoolchildren](#). Representative Carmine Gentile.
- [H.792 - An Act relative to the prohibition of the transfer or use of glyphosate in the Commonwealth](#), [S.432 - An Act to restrict the use of pesticides around children](#). Senator William N. Brownsberger
- [S.447 - An Act empowering towns and cities to protect residents and the environment from harmful pesticides](#). - Senator Julian Cyr*. S.447 is a companion bill filed to demonstrate support for H.776.
- [S.499 - An Act relative to the use of glyphosate on public lands](#). Senator Jason Lewis.
- Representative Carmine Gentile.

All these bills have been assigned to ENRA.

To learn more about the Massachusetts legislative process please refer to [How An Idea Becomes A Law - Massachusetts Legislature](#).

Bill	Legislator
H.763 - An Act to protect Massachusetts pollinators .	Rep Carolyn Dykema
H.776 - An Act empowering towns and cities to protect residents and the environment from harmful pesticides .	Rep Dylan Fernandes
H.791 - An Act relative to improving pesticide protections for Massachusetts schoolchildren .	Rep Carmine Gentile
H.792 - An Act relative to the prohibition of the transfer or use of glyphosate in the Commonwealth .	Rep Carmine Gentile
H.818 - An Act to protect pollinator habitat .	Rep Mary Keefe
S.432 - An Act to restrict the use of pesticides around children .	Sen William N. Brownsberger

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S.499 - An Act relative to the use of glyphosate on public lands.	Sen Jason Lewis
-	-
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture	-

Cliff Youse

Let's Continue the Conversation

I was very appreciative of Claire Desilet's article in the March Buzz News titled, "Let's Get Serious!!" Claire discussed the issue of varroa and other problems effecting our honey bees. The most significant take away for me was the importance of each beekeeper having a management plan about varroa. I am told we all have varroa in our hives. If that is the case, then every beekeeper must determine how they will address the issue. Doing nothing is not an effective plan. Like you, since I became a beekeeper, I have read many books, watched more hours of beekeeping lectures on You Tube than I can count, asked other beekeepers what they are doing with regard to varroa, studied different beekeeping practices including winter preparations, drone comb removal, feeding, using frames without foundation, etc. Really, the list is endless. But I have come away with information that each year makes me a better beekeeper.

For a number of reasons, in my home apiary, my management plan does not include adding organic or synthetic chemicals, in the hive, to control varroa. However, I am adamant about assessing my hives on a regular basis, including performing sugar shakes or alcohol washes, skewering the drone larva to look for varroa, and using a sticky board to count varroa in a 24 hour mite drop. Additional considerations are visual inspections for deformed wing virus, signs of a good laying queen, evidence of hygienic bees and signs of problems in the hive. The age of the hive can also make a difference in the varroa count so I work on keeping good records for each hive. Once these and other procedures take place the collected information will allow me to put my management plan into practice. Because I don't use chemicals, every hive is managed individually. Management can include creating an extended brood break by caging a queen, queen removal and letting the hive raise their own queen or installing a Cape Queen in a queenless hive. I also make nucs and splits, or allow swarming with the hope of catching the swarm in my own swarm boxes which are located not only in my yard but my neighbors, with their permission, of course. This is just a sample of factors that go into my management practice.

Like beekeepers who use chemicals I am not one hundred percent successful each winter. But I have never lost a hive in the spring, summer or fall. Winter losses have occurred because of moisture issues, so I prepare my hives differently going into winter and moisture has not been an issue since. Winter losses have, unfortunately, occurred because some hives did not have enough stores for winter. I now carefully weigh my hives in the fall and if they need to be fed I prefer honey, but when that's not possible I use sugar syrup, carefully making sure I am not over feeding, but allowing the necessary space for the queen to lay fall bees. Winter losses have also occurred because the colony was just too small to make it through winter and should have been combined with another hive in the fall. And I have lost hives due to varroa.

I would certainly like to hear about your management practices. Think about writing an article for Buzz News so that other beekeepers can learn from you.

As Claire says, "So, let's get serious and all be better beekeepers!!" and I say "Make a management plan to address the varroa in your hives!!"

Lynn Heslinga

MY HIVE MANAGEMENT IN APRIL

7. Start feeding sugar syrup when temperature steadies at 50 deg F during the day. Beginning recipe is 10 pounds of sugar with 8 pints of hot water.
8. Unwrap and remove winter insulation when night time temperatures are above 40 deg F.
9. Mid month – dandelions begin to bloom check the top deep on a 60 deg+ day for solid brood pattern. Note the strength of the hive (how many seams of bees) and their stores of honey and pollen.
10. Check the frames in the bottom deep that is usually empty. Replace old and damaged frames. Clean bottom board, brushing the screen clean and scraping all corners of debris.

11. Rotate deeps so queen and her brood are now on the bottom board. Add the second deep feed 1:1 sugar syrup if stores are light. If nights remain cool (40 deg and below), leave the white sticky board in for another week to prevent chilling the brood.
12. At this time, in all overwintered hives, no varroa treatment is planned. Sugar shakes are planned for May with alcohol washes to follow in June.
13. NOTES WILL BE MADE AFTER EACH AND EVERY VISIT!!

Claire

Recipies

Orange Honey Glazed Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1 Tablespoon minced garlic
- optional: 1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger
- 1 lb medium uncooked shrimp, peeled & deveined
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- optional: chopped green onion for garnish

Directions:

Whisk the honey, soy sauce, garlic, and ginger (if using) together in a medium bowl.

Place shrimp in a large zipped-top bag or tupperware. Pour 1/2 of the marinade mixture on top, give it all a shake or stir, then allow shrimp to marinate in the refrigerator for 15 minutes or for up to 8-12 hours. Cover and refrigerate the rest of the marinade for step 3.

Heat olive oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Place shrimp in the skillet. (Discard used marinade.) Cook shrimp on one side until pink- about 45 seconds- then flip shrimp over. Pour in remaining marinade and cook it all until shrimp is cooked through, about 1 minute more.

Serve shrimp with cooked marinade sauce and a garnish of green onion. The sauce is excellent on brown rice and steamed veggies on the side.

RESOURCES

The following officers and directors are a great resource to answer questions and requests for assistance.

Officers		
President	Michael D. Smith	michaeldgetsmail@gmail.com
Vice President	Maria Cashdollar	winter64@aol.com
Corresponding Secretary	Claire Desilets	beekeeper@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Deborah Carmel	deborahcarmel429@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lynn Heslinga	lynnheslinga@gmail.com

Directors

Marthe	Ayers	mfoura32@aol.com	Edward	Hegner	edward.hegner@gmail.com
John	Beach	john.a.beach@comcast.net	Mary	Johnson	mrj9922@msn.com
Deborah	Carmel	deborahcarmel429@gmail.com	Mary Anne	Mann	hummann@outlook.com
Todd	Cashdollar	thruheavenseyez@aol.com	Joseph	McClure	joegetsmail@gmail.com
Melissa	Caughey	pcmc2000@msn.com	Andy	Morris	andymorris02553@gmail.com
Kathy	Clobridge	clobridge@comcast.net	Brian	O'Donnell	bjmdod98@gmail.com
Kimberly	Concra	klconcra@msn.com	Lisa	Sheehy	lisasheehy@msn.com
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Claire	Desilets	beekeeper@gmail.com	Miguel	Zamora	zamorasmiguel@gmail.com
Olga	DiSavino	ack_olenka@yahoo.com			