



Buzz Words



www.barnstablebeekeepers.org

Barnstable County Beekeepers Association

February 2016

FEBRUARY MEETING

The next meeting of the club is Tuesday, February 9th, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Barnstable Community Building, Route 149, West Barnstable. The evening's guest speaker will be BCBA Member, Kimberly Condra, LDN, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension's director of Nutrition Education and Food Safety will present "Honey for the Health of It". She will be exploring both the nutritional and medicinal aspects of honey. A little bit of science and tasting opportunities will also be included. See you at the West Barnstable Community Building and perhaps you might include a snack to share using a bit of your honey harvest!! Refreshments will be served. Please feel free to bring a tasty treat along to share with your fellow beekeepers.

FROM THE BOARD

Did you know that William Shakespeare died in April of 1616? That means we are approaching the 400th anniversary of his passing. Interesting, but how does this merit mention in Buzzwords? Well, let me tell you.

Revisionist literary historians have discovered a little known fact: Forget Langstroth and all of them, Shakespeare was actually writing about bees 400 years ago! Remember the line: "To be or not to be." What do you think he meant by that? I think he was verbalizing what many of us ask after a year of losses, "Does beekeeping make sense? Should I continue 'beeing'?" And he writes on: "Whether 'tis nobler to bear the slings and arrows of an outrageous fortune (I think he was talking about varroa, starvation, nosema, and the like) or take arms against a sea of troubles and by opposing (maybe by treating for same, requeening in a timely manner, etc.) end them."

If we choose "to be," then there is much we can do to avoid such a comedy of errors.

- * Come to the monthly meetings.
- * Observe best practices.
- * Treat for mites in whatever way works for you.
- * Be sure you have a healthy queen.

- * Work with your mentor or mentee.
- * Be sure to feed in the fall and spring.
- * Maintain a bee friendly yard.
- * Ventilate to avoid moisture buildup.
- * Change foundation every few years.
- * Split in a timely manner.
- * And the list goes on.

But having done all that, each January, what I like to call the ‘winter of my discontent,’ I, like many of you, am confronted with the same Hamlet-like dilemma, “To order (new packages) or not to order, that is the question.” Will my hives make it through the winter or do I need to beware the ides of March and order a new package or two? While this year it is much ado about nothing as our 300 club packages are all claimed, Shakespeare, if you read real carefully, weighed in on this dilemma too; “Neither a borrower nor a lender bee,” he asserted, should inhabit his hive. That is, if we all take care of our hives then we will not need to borrow or lend packages, nucs, etc. Your love’s labor will not be lost and your winter’s tale will turn into a mid-summer’s night dream!

Shakespeare also had a sense of humor regarding bees. Scholarly researchers have recently discovered the following:

- * What did the queen bee say when placed in a package? “All the world’s a cage.”
- * What did the marked queen say when trying to hide in the bottom of the hive? “Out, out damned spot.”
- * “Something’s rotten in the state of Denmark.” Scholars think he was really talking about European foul brood.

Well, thankfully that’s all I got this month. Hopefully all’s well that ends well!

-----*John Beach*

BCBA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have not yet paid your annual dues, please see the form attached to the end of this newsletter.

BEE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 4th – Occupants of the hive

Thursday, February 18 – Spring and Summer Management

MENTORS NEEDED

MENTORS NEEDED FOR OUR 42 NEWBEES TAKING OUR CLASS

I know we have mentioned this before and "A Few Good WO-MEN" came forward to volunteer.

We seem to go through this every year asking members to step up to help in this part of our beekeeping course. YA know Claire and I will be phoning or emailing you as we go down our membership list so why don't you make it easier for us and sent us an email that you will volunteer.

We try to assign the newbie within a few miles of your location so we are not traveling all over the Cape. For the most part the newbie would be watching you when you are working your hive, explaining what you are doing and why, and asking you questions. There is always the phone or emails for communication when an actual visit is not necessary. You already know how to identify brood, honey, pollen to show these newbees what they are looking at when they pull that first frame with something on it. Also what they should be looking for and doing down the road, what they should to be prepared to do. It's not that difficult to share your love & enthusiasm for beekeeping, and the pleasure of eating your own extracted honey. It's not a hand holding situation; these newbees have completed our course, . They will be encouraged to continue to read books, use the Whelden Library which has our complete video library that our club donated and is available through the CLAMS program, and of course there is the Internet.

So please contact by email either Claire or myself to offer your knowledge of beekeeping to a new beekeeper for this year. Of course, if you wish, you can continue the relationship after the first year. We want to have this project completed by the middle of February. Thank you ahead of time for volunteering.

Claire's email is beekeeper@gmail.com and mine, Marte Ayers, is mfoura32@aol.com. We are also listed at the end of our newsletter in the Board of Directors.

-----Marte Ayers

SPRING BEES

As you know, we have sold the reserved order of bees for this spring. If you have reserved a package or 2, **we will need payment by mid-February along with your 2016 dues.**

As of this writing, our scheduled delivery date is Saturday, May 14th, 2016.

HIVE SURVEY 2015- PLEASE HELP BY CONTRIBUTING

To date, we hear of a poor response to the survey noted in the January newsletter. This is a disappointment when our new inspector is attempting to lay some excellent ground work for honey bee health in Massachusetts. We do hope BCBA members have taken the few minutes to complete the survey. If not, it is MA Hive Survey (<http://goo.gl/forms/PrnZ5s5oQa>) !!

AND

Kim Skyrn, our Apiary inspector is hoping to revise the state apiary regulations and is looking for two representatives from each county organization to assist in this revision. Are there two members out there that would like to assist? Email Claire as soon as possible.

HIVE OBSERVATIONS

1. Continue to check for food stores by hefting and peeking. Dry sugar and fondant directly over the cluster is in order on sunny days with little wind.
2. And while the cover is off for those brief few minutes, begin to evaluate the strength of your hive. How many seams of bees are there? It is never too early to think swarms.
3. Although we will have little snow the rest of the winter (I HOPE!!) you should keep the entrance clear of ice, dead bees and snow for the best ventilation.
4. Mid-February you could start feeding pollen patties as now that the days are longer, you queen should have started laying small clusters of eggs. How exciting!!

-----Claire Desilets

HELP WANTED

Looking for a few individuals to serve on board of Barnstable County Beekeepers Association. Help guide the growth of this soon-to-be non-profit as it serves local beekeepers. Duties include attendance at 3 board meetings yearly and assumption of other tasks as your time and skills permit. Opportunity for advancement to officer positions! No experience necessary but energy, humor and interest in working with a great group of people are definite plusses. Please contact John Beach at john.a.beach@comcast.net . Deadline March 31.

UPDATE: BEEKEEPERS BALL 2016



The Beekeepers' Ball committee met in January. The next meeting will be on February 10 in Marstons Mills. We'll keep on discussing the over-arching themes of food and drink, music, exhibits, vendors, raffles, and more. Several large honeybee supply companies have pledged new hives and equipment as prizes. The 4-H Advisory Council met in January and confirmed that a theme at the Barnstable County Fair for children's exhibits will be honeybees, in cooperation and conjunction with the Beekeepers' Ball 2016! The goal of the event is to raise awareness of the honeybee while having a great time. The current goals of the committee are to agree on a timeline of events, confirm those events, and make a solid operating budget.

Thank you,
Kalliope
Chair, Beekeepers' Ball 2016

IN THE NEWS

Neat idea for a nice looking bee waterer in your garden:

CC: <http://www.newsline.com/diy-bee-waterer/#.VnsZxfs2Iik.mailto>

---- Maria Murphy

TRIVIA

1. Sales of Mason jars have doubled since 2001 and risen nearly 25% in the last few years. They were invented in 1858 by John Lantis Mason of Philadelphia, a tinsmith.

2. And did you know that the varroa mite population doubles every 3 weeks? A mere 30 mites in January, conceivably could be 2000 in July and with no IPM intervention will be 8000 in September which is certain death of the hive. We must be better stewards of the hobby!
3. The survival rate of a swarm 12 months from issuing is only 24%. Perhaps requeening is in order?

RECIPE

The following recipe goes back to 1978 when my three youngsters were in elementary school. "Hey Ma, What's Cooking" was a PTA fundraising cook book that I still use today for family favorites. Since then I have only used this banana bread recipe but adapted to use honey and not sugar. Best with those old brown bananas and doubled to tuck one away in the freezer. Taste test on 2/09/2016. ---Claire

¼ cup butter
2/3 cup honey
2 eggs beaten
3 mashed bananas
2 cups flour (gluten free? Swap with Bob's Red Mill 1:1 GF flour)
½ tsp baking soda
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt

Cream together butter and honey. Add eggs and beat well. Add bananas, mixing well. Add dry ingredients (I never sift!!) Pour into greased loaf pan. Lining with waxed paper helps easy removal to cool. Sprinkle with a little cinnamon sugar and few walnuts over batter before baking. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 45 minutes depending on oven til toothpick comes out dry. Enjoy with a slather of labneh (type of yogurt) in place of cream cheese.

A FINAL THOUGHT

Wintering

This is the easy time, there is nothing doing.

I have whirled the midwife's extractor,

I have my honey,

Six jars of it,

Six cat's eyes in the wine cellar,

Wintering in a dark without window

At the heart of the house

Next to the last tenant's rancid jam

and the bottles of empty glitters –

Sir So-and-so's gin.

This is the room I have never been in
This is the room I could never breathe in.
The black bunched in there like a bat,
No light
But the torch and its faint

Chinese yellow on appalling objects –
Black asininity. Decay.
Possession.
It is they who own me.
Neither cruel nor indifferent,

Only ignorant.
This is the time of hanging on for the bees – the bees
So slow I hardly know them,
Filing like soldiers
To the syrup tin

To make up for the honey I've taken.
Tate and Lyle* keeps them going,
The refined snow.
It is Tate and Lyle they live on, instead of flowers.
They take it. The cold sets in.

Now they ball in a mass,
Black
Mind against all that white.
The smile of the snow is white.
It spreads itself out, a mile-long body of Meissen,

Into which, on warm days,
They can only carry their dead.
The bees are all women,
Maids and the long royal lady.
They have got rid of the men,

The blunt, clumsy stumblers, the boors.
Winter is for women –

The woman, still at her knitting,
At the cradle of Spanish walnut,
Her body a bulb in the cold and too dumb to think.

Will the hive survive, will the gladiolas
Succeed in banking their fires
To enter another year?
What will they taste of, the Christmas roses?
The bees are flying. They taste the spring.

(*Tate and Lyle is a brand of golden syrup, a sweetener used in Britain that is a light version of molasses.)

– *Contributed by Julie Lipkin*

CLUB RESOURCES **(accurate as of 2/16)**

The following officers and directors are a great resource to answer questions and requests for assistance. (All area codes 508 unless another one is indicated.)

President	John Beach	362-2054	john.a.beach@comcast.net
Vice President	Kalliope Egloff	617-962-3315	kalliopeegloff@yahoo.com
Secretary	Claire Desilets	888-2304	beekepr@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lynn Heslinga	774-994-0648	lynneheslinga@gmail.com

Directors

Marte Ayers, 539-1774, mfoura32@aol.com
Peter Cooper, 398-2891, brpbcl@gmail.com
Paul Lefebvre, 524-0403, lefivr@gmail.com
Julie Lipkin, 566-0904, julie.lipkin45@gmail.com
Rebecca Matarazzi, 774-722-1183,
rebecca.matarazzi@gmail.com
Joe McClure, 685-2124, joegetsmail@gmail.com

Andy Morris, 274-5714, andymorris02553@gmail.com
Brian O'Donnell, 367-9097, bjmdod98@aol.com
Melissa Sanderson, 774-216-1260,
melissa@capecodfishermen.org
Lisa Sheehy, 428-8280, lisasheehy@msn.com
Mark Simonitsch, 945-2496, fishweirs@capecod.net
Miguel Zamora, 444-2059 zamorasmiguel@gmail.com

Barnstable County Beekeepers Association
2016 DUES ARE DUE!!

Membership for all club members resets on 1/1/16. Please use the form below when paying whether at a meeting or through the mail. Dues are \$20 per household. If you are registered for 2016 Bee School, your dues are included.

Mail to:
BCBA, P O Box 808, East Sandwich 02537

NAME

MAILING

ADDRESS _____ **TOWN** _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

CELL _____

EMAIL _____