



Buzz Words



www.barnstablebeekeepers.org

Barnstable County Beekeepers Association

December 2016

JANUARY MEETING

The next meeting of the club is Tuesday, January 12th, at 7:30 p.m. at the West Barnstable Community Building, Route 149, West Barnstable. This month Kalliope Egloff presents **Honeybees in Art, Myth, and Legend**--Learn about honeybees and their history through art, myth, and legend. For many thousands of years, honeybees have shown up on cave and temple walls, on cartouches and canvas, and are intertwined with the Mother Goddess of many religions across the globe. We'll touch upon the royal, spiritual, and religious significance of the honeybee and explore where honeybees show up in the art world. Refreshments will be served. Please feel free to bring a tasty treat along to share with your fellow beekeepers.

BEE SCHOOL CLASSES 2016

Thursday, January 7, 2016 7:30 pm - Introduction to Beekeeping

Thursday, January 21, 2016 7:30 pm – Equipment Workshop

FROM THE BOARD

Getting right to the heart of the matter, 2015 was a bee season we all dream of as spring arrives. Not too often do we see new hives with April packages build to full strength in 6 to 8 weeks. All pieces and parts fell into place perfectly including weather, timely package arrival, spring blossoms oozing with nectar and healthy bees and queens. The extractors have never been so busy and harvests of 50 to 75 pounds of honey per hive were the norm. Such a wondrous process!

And then, then fall arrives and reports come in of some empty hives and missing bees. Empty hives? When a hive is lost, it is disheartening, maddening, sad and so frustrating. An educated guess can be made of the loss, but with so many factors involved, there are times we just do not know. Poor queen or queen loss, starvation or high varroa count would be at the top of the list. If you find a hive dead with the cluster of bees intact, do take the time and send a sample to the Beltsville disease laboratory. Instructions can be found on the website :

www.barc.usda.gov/psi/brl/directs.htm and soon we may have the services of labs at U Mass, Amherst!

Generally speaking, when the bees abscond (leave en masse) and the hive is empty with but honey and brood, it is ruled the varroa count was excessively high. Varroa destructor is the number one enemy of the honey bee and the mite is gaining ground accordingly to the literature and researchers. Please forgive me but I again offer the site for “Tools for Varroa Management”. Find it, print it, add it to your text books and refer to it often. It can be found at www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa. It was developed after 5 years of survey and will be updated when more information becomes available. There is no magic bullet to date, but using a combination of controls, we CAN keep the varroa count down to a level the hive can handle and survive.

Every one of you that harvested honey this season now has a piece of equipment that will trap varroa to cull out of the hive. Remember that varroa love the drone brood for replication when it is available so we can use this as a tool. Take a honey frame from your shallow (reduce it to 9 frames and properly spaced you will get more honey!) mark this frame so as to easily identify it and move it to your deep brood box in the #2 frame position. It is best placed in the top deep where it can be easily accessed every 3 weeks. The workers will draw drone comb in the vacant space attached to the bottom of the frame. Once capped, you can cut off the drone brood removing a good percentage of trapped varroa from your hive. And your chickens will love the extra protein! You can even use 2 frames but you must keep good notes and you MUST harvest this drone brood on schedule or you will be multiplying the problem. Very simple and very effective but just another piece of the solution.

Monitoring is critical and must be done monthly beginning in June and extending through September. Your sticky board gives only a small sample so we must move on to sugar shakes or alcohol washes for an accurate level of infestation. Those instructions are found in the “tools” article.

Requeening with a hygienic queen could also help but breaking the brood cycle by removing the queen for 1 to 2 weeks also helps knock down the varroa count. With no new brood, there can be no new varroa mite. And here is a thought. Remove your queen and a couple of frames of young brood with bees into a nuc box (Cape bee has them for \$10) and do this around late June, early July and let the original hive raise their own queen – again, a break in the brood and now if all goes well, you have learned how to make a split and have another hive for back up for winter loss if needed. If it does not work, you can always add the nuc back into the mother hive.

Lastly, we do have effective organic measures when the varroa counts become elevated. Formic acid, oxalic acid (hoping it will be registered soon in Massachusetts) and a new biochemical miticide just approved by EPA (from the hop plant) are available. We really can do a better job of monitoring and mentoring and keeping our bees alive.

And please do take the time to include your hive activity in the state survey to benefit all.

Claire Desilets

MASSACHUSETTS HONEY BEE HIVE SURVEY 2015

You are invited and encouraged to fill out the form Massachusetts Honey Bee Hive Survey - 2015. To fill it out, visit:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11FPmEOK9F0zKLgS9tNhrPCRM_qVqNJxhg2nPeKF-8M/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link

Beekeepers willing to submit photos documenting 2015 hive health issues should send them via email to: massapiaryprogram@gmail.com. Photos will be reviewed and responses provided in a timely manner. If you have specific questions that you want addressed, please include that information in the email.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey and provide feedback on the health of your hives!

ATTN: NEWBEES 2015

I had a conversation with a 2015 Newbee at our Christmas party who mentioned he/she would be purchasing a package of bees to increase their hives this Spring. I just wanted to remind all of you that when your hive survives the winter, you WILL be making a divide from that hive in probably May. Most surviving hives have to swarm because they will have too many sisters in their home with a normal increase buildup in the spring that is their natural behavior to multiply and survive. Sooo in May you are to remove 2 to 4 frames of brood with bees attached to a new hive or you will lose half (yes half) of your hive to a swarm with probably no extra honey stored for the season for you. They can make their own queen or you can purchase a queen to add to the hive. I usually wait for them to raise their own "locally raised" queen.

We will be covering this subject again at a Spring meeting plus you can again monitor our winter class being given to the 2016 newbees scheduled for March 17, 2016. See our web site barnstablecountybeekeepers.org for more details. Happy New Year beekeeping!

Marte Ayers

NEED BEES???

BEES AVAILABLE FOR 2016

Attached is the form for packaged bees to arrive in April, 2016. There are a limited number and are available to current members only. The 2016 Bee School class will have first dibs for their new hives if they so chose.

HIVE OBSERVATIONS

It would be so sweet if our observation hives mirrored the activities of the hive nestled in the back yard. The girls indoors have a simpler life especially come cold weather. There is no room to create a tight cluster. They do seem to “bunch” together in a corner opposite the entrance but with a single frame and little space, the workers are only able to huddle and cuddle. Considering the air temperature averages 650, it works for them.

So, when we see the queen laying mid-January when day light increases, is this the activity in the back yard hive? Too early to pull frames so we wait til April with hope.

Managing stores in the observation hives is the challenge. Too many stores during the brood season will cause swarming but too few stores at any time during the season will cause the demise of the hive. So it seems my girls are real slackers. Great queen completing her second season and an over achiever when laying in the spring. But as far as collecting nectar for storage, not a priority, it seems. At times perhaps, there are just too many mouths to feed. Three times this fall, a frame of honey had to be exchanged for an empty one and just two weeks ago, again the cupboard was bare. How do you feed in December? Well, when making sugar bricks, there was some slushy sugar left and it was pressed into the cells of an empty drawn frame and left to dry. That frame was exchanged for the empty frame on a warm day.

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was some slushy sugar left and it was pressed into the cells of an empty drawn frame and left to dry. That frame was exchanged for the empty frame on a warm day.



Upon replacing the hive back inside, the bees literally swarmed to the sugar frame. Next, as you can see to the left, the workers began pulling the hardened sugar out of the cells and so it continues to pile up on the floor of the hive. Interestingly though, there is now stored liquid in the top frame. It must be from the feeding jar but why was it not there before? Here is hoping it will stave off hunger until spring. Do you suppose this crunchy sugar frame might work in a top bar or standard hive?

Shared by Claire Desilets

A Note from our Chief Apiary Inspector:

Hi All: I wanted to check in about the Honey Bee Health Symposium that I have chatted with you about during recent meetings. We need to start planning and I want to be sure that you all are involved in this process to ensure that your needs are met. Please present the following questions to your members and send back a group response.

1. What are some good options for dates? I am thinking sometime in March/April - during a weekend?
2. What location would be best? I am thinking central Mass - Worcester area perhaps??
3. What topics would you like to see discussed?

Based on feedback here is a list that I have compiled:

- a. Current status of MA honey bee health - annual summary from MDAR based on apiary inspection data
- b. Whats new with Varroa Mite control? Nosema? Tracheal mites?

c. What is the status of Oxalic Acid? - Program by MDAR Pesticide Group about how pesticides are registered in the state; current list of registered chemicals for hive use

d. New and emerging honey bee pests/parasites - What to watch out for in the future

e. Workshop on bee pathogen/parasite identification

f. How to control and prevent bear attacks

g. Land opportunities for bee forage and holding yards for MA beekeepers

h. Hive registration and Apiary inspection - how will we do this in 2016

i. Hive feeding

j. Winter prep

k. Evaluating hive health - how to do your own apiary inspection

l. How to manage bees with success using treatment free methods

m. Latest research advancements on status of honey health at national level

n. MA queen breeding update

o. Other????

4. Is anyone from your group interested in presenting on these topics or others?

5. Does your organization wish to have a booth/table?

6. Anything else that you think would be of interest to consider in planning this event? Please share widely in case I have missed any organizations - I do not want to exclude any groups from having input. Also, if I do not have the correct contact information for your group, please correct and send back to me so that I can update my list.

Best wishes, -Kim Kim Skyrn, Ph.D. Chief Apiary Inspector/Apiary Program Coordinator

BEEKEEPERS BALL 2016
Save the Date!

September 17, 2016
Cultural Center of Cape Cod
5:30-9:30 pm

Fun for people of all ages! Exhibits, Dance, Art, Music, Food, Vendors, and more.



IN THE NEWS

Robobees are soon to be a reality for crop pollination with Harvard leading the way.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/harvard-robobees-closer-to-pollinating-crops-2014-6>

Shared by Miguel Zamora

INCREDIBLE PHOTOGRAPHY!

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=6-tqiaPoS2U&feature=youtu.be>

Shared by Bobby Waldron

Is Mead the answer?

<http://wtop.com/health/2015/06/swedish-scientists-say-mead-may-be-the-key-to-fight-antibiotic-resistant-pathogens/>

Shared by Leslie Lichtenstein

ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Check out the club's page

[Facebook page - https://www.facebook.com/groups/BarnstableCountyBeeA](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BarnstableCountyBeeA)

HONEY RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Lemon Poppy Seed Salad Dressing

1/2 cup frozen lemonade concentrate, undiluted
1/3 cup honey
2 tbs oil
1 tsp poppy seeds

Combine all in a mixing bowl. Beat with rotary beater until smooth. Serve over fruit salad.

Shared by Marte Ayers

Check out [Alton Brown's Squash Soup with Honey](#)

Shared by Lisa Sheehy

CLUB RESOURCES (accurate as of 1/16)

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	beekeeper@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lynn Heslinga	774-994-0648	lynneheslinga@gmail.com

Directors

Marte Ayers, 539-1774, mfoura32@aol.com
Peter Cooper, 398-2891, brpbc1@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

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 _____