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Barnstable County
Beekeepers Association

buzzwords

<http://www.barnstablebeekeepers.org>

January 2020

Upcoming Meetings

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

Refreshments are back!!!

We'd love to have some holiday nibbles!! Bring goodies to share!

New beekeepers and 2020 bee school attendees welcome to attend!!



January 14

Dr. Bruce Gordon

Bee sting allergies & reactions: our own Bruce Gordon, MD. Dr. Gordon has spoken with us before, and was so well received, we've asked him back. His lecture is not to be missed. Bruce is an expert in the field as a Director of AAOA Basic & Advanced Allergy Courses, a clinical instructor in Laryngology & Otolaryngology at Harvard and a Senior Teaching Faculty member at Mass. Eye & Ear Infirmary, Boston.

Bee School

**West Barnstable Community Building
2377 Route 149, West Barnstable (large room)
7:30 to 9 pm**

Thursday, January 15th, 2020
Introduction to Beekeeping

Thursday, January 23rd
Equipment workshop

Administrative Matters

Packaged Bees For 2020!!

The deal has been completed and attached is the order form for packaged bees for the spring of 2020. This year the queens will be marked and guaranteed for 60 days. Orders are taken from members of record (2019-2020 dues paid) on a first come, first serve basis. The February date is NOT the last day to order date, but when full payment is due. This is a club function and for members only.

Bee school folks need not order at this time as we have packaged bees reserved for you.

Dues Are Due For 2020!!

The Barnstable County Beekeepers' year begins on January 1 so attached is our membership form. It has been changed requesting more information thus we would appreciate you using the forms.

Claire Desliets

Newsletter Submissions

Please send Buzzwords submissions to [David Whalley](mailto:david.a.whalley@gmail.com) david.a.whalley@gmail.com.

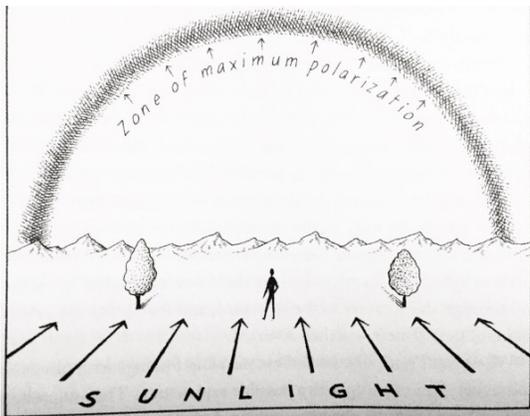
We are looking for good stories, photos, links, news about talks and presentations you've done or seen, book and movie reviews, and items for sale or free to good home! PDF, scanned document files, and hard copy submissions are not acceptable. You can create files in Word, Pages, Notepad, TextEdit, etc. for articles.

From the Board

Supernavigators

I hope this new year finds you and your bees settled in, safe and warm. For me, it's a great time to snuggle up with a good book and a hot cup of tea. My current find is "Supernavigators" by David Barrie, A Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigation, who explores the surprising mechanisms many creatures, including our precious bees, use to navigate without sextant, map or GPS.

Like many of us, I knew that bees use the position of the sun to track and communicate the location of resources and to find their way home. But what do they do on overcast days or when the sun is obscured by trees or buildings? Turns out they can read the polarization patterns, or "e-vectors", in the sky. Hmm...? How does that work? As so often happens with facts about bees, one answer leads to many questions, and a deeper dive. So here's a quick look at what our winged sisters might see.



Supernavigators, p42

even on overcast days. The structure of the bee UV photoreceptor cells and the way they are arranged provides a "solar compass" specialized to detect the direction, or axis, of polarization.

In "The Dancing Bees" Tania Munz recounts how Karl von Frisch, who discovered the honeybee waggle dance in 1927, was puzzled by bees' ability to navigate on overcast days. Using polaroid foils given to him by Edwin Land on a visit to the Polaroid Company, he constructed a model bee eye based on the recently discovered radial arrangement of eight photoreceptor cells around a central nerve in each ommatidia, the little "bumps" that make up the bee eye.

A page from his lab notebook shows the arrangement of eight wedges of polaroid film corresponding to the photoreceptor cells. The axis of polarization of each wedge is parallel to its base. He used his "star foil" eye to observe the blue sky and recorded the results, shading the wedges to indicate the different degrees of light and dark. He carefully noted the cloud cover, time of day, and direction the star foil eye was pointed. At different times of day, and as he moved the eye, the pattern of shading changed.

To see a one minute video using a similar "star foil" eye showing how bees use polarized light to locate the sun, go to youtube, "Show Me some Science! Polarization of the Sky", <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TP5JOfPguQ>.

Of course, Barrie and Munz discuss more navigation mechanisms that our bees employ, such as time sense, distance estimation, and magnetic sensing, to name just a few, giving us more ways to enjoy the wonder and delight of bees all year round.

Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy New Year.

Mary Anne Mann

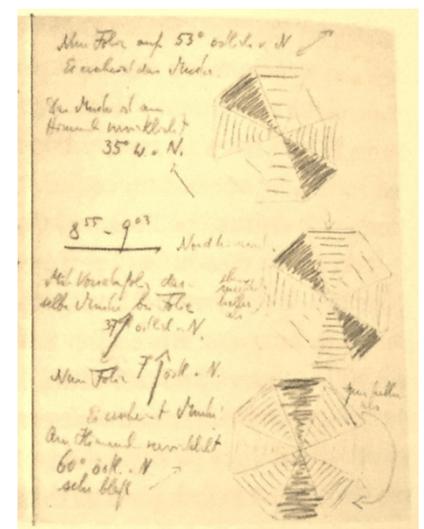
Forage

[Giant Asian Hornet](#)
[But don't panic yet!](#)

Barrie suggests putting on your polarized sunglasses and standing with your back to the sun on a clear morning. By looking up at the sky you should detect a dark bar, similar to the arc of a rainbow, but only gray, running from horizon to horizon.

Light waves emitted by the sun are filtered as they pass through the earth's atmosphere. Close to the sun they are weakly polarized and are most strongly polarized at 90 degrees away from the sun. Thus the location of the arc will be perpendicular to the position of the sun. Cool! Of course, we have to put on sunglasses and use the sun to point us toward the polarization pattern. But how do the bees use the direction of polarization to locate the sun, and without sunglasses?

The secret lies in the photoreceptor cells in their compound eyes. Our photoreceptor cells are specialized for red, green, and blue light while those of bees detect green, blue and ultraviolet (UV) light. And since UV light passes through cloud better than other colors, it provides a reliable source of polarized sunlight



The Dancing Bees, p 186

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

Winter Market

Well, the weather outside was frightful but, true to the song, the crowd and vendors inside were delightful. I am of course referring to the holiday sale at our December monthly meeting. It was not a pleasant night weather-wise but that did not deter the crowd nor the vendors. Knitted items, greeting cards, beeswax candles, honey, botanicals, and creams and balms seemed to be flying off the shelves (or tables) and I imagine many a holiday gift will include what our BCBA members crafted. Let me give a shout out to Sweet as Can Bee honey, Gales Golden Girls, Cape Cod Apiary and Botanicals, Rocky Bottom Apiary, Bridges Associates, Ayers Apiary, as well as the BCBA club table for their creative offerings. Not to mention there was live holiday music and a special thanks to all those who brought holiday snacks. So, as you start to mark things down in your 2020 calendar, all you holiday shoppers and talented crafts people, circle in red Tuesday, December 8, 2020 when we will do it all again!

John Beach

Book Reviews

Looking for a little light reading this winter, ladies? You might look for Queen Bee by Dorothea Benton Frank, available through CLAMS and on LIBBY. It is easy to get totally absorbed in this book of fiction and all the comments about Holly's bee hives in the back yard are true and accurate. Two neighborhood families survive thanks to each other's relationship. A bit sad with loss of life but the story is so true of many households these days. Maybe a bit sappy in parts but you are always waiting for the next visit to the hives. And an interesting title for the book as the Queen bee is who? Good relaxing read with a cup of tea and honey before bed.

And for Christmas I received Bees, A Honeyed History by Polish author and illustrator Piotr Socha. A big book (literally 11" x 15") is perfect for the young ages 8 to 12. A bit whimsical and humorous but laden with perfect illustrations for youngsters to understand the life of the honey bee. Did you know Sherlock Holmes upon retiring as a detective became a beekeeper? I didn't!! And lots more great information even for big kids like me!

Claire

Seasonal Tips

Winter months have to be the least enjoyable times in beekeeping. We so want to know what is going on in the hive. Are they alive? Do the bees have enough to eat? Did we treat sufficiently to combat those dreaded varroa mites?

What can be done to contribute to the well being of the hive is to periodically remove the mouse guard and scrape out the dead bees. These dead bees are normal in small quantities. And it helps the hive to remain well ventilated.

On a sunny day with little wind, a quick peek maybe made under the cover to check the sugar treats. It is a shame to lose a hive to starvation. With our current above normal temperatures, food stores can be consumed quickly. "When temperatures are just below 50 deg F, the cluster is most efficient because it can maintain warmth without expending too much energy" (ABJ, Jan, 2020 Meghan Milbrath) We have been above this off and on now for many days which could be cause for concern.

Watching the bees fly on these warm days is so encouraging. Not only do we know the hive is alive, but enjoying a cleansing flight is important to their wellbeing. And as the temperature drops, they should recluster close to their stores.

Snow? Hope not but do remember to clean off the front stoop for good ventilation.

Dead out? Sad and frustrating but do not just clean out and close up the hive. Try and figure out the reason for the loss. Bag some of the dead bees and add alcohol or better yet, do an alcohol wash to count varroa. Sometimes, we just cannot figure out why we lost the hive but at least we can give it a try. Available at the January meeting are state test kits with instructions which can be mailed off to Beltsville for help with your loss.

Claire

Check This Out!

What you see pictured is a custom hive utilizing standard deep brood frames. The frames will be finished with standard wax foundation. There is a total of 40 frames and the hive is or can be divided into two individual colonies. The cover can be flipped back to work the hive and you might note the insulation in the hive top.



The benefits of this hive are to save the back of the beekeeper with little bending and little lifting. Since frames are standard, they may be interchanged with the Langstroth hive.

Management will be similar to the top bar hive as the cluster moves from the front to the back.

Stay tuned as to how well it will work. Ken from Cotuit



One Book, One Town 2020

Some of you are aware of the program that the Brewster Ladies Library is sponsoring this January, but for you out of towners, you might be interested in picking up the book *The Bees* by Laline Paull. The entire town of Brewster has been invited to read this book and a number of our members will be presenting various programs around town all related to honey bees and this book. You are welcome to attend the programs.

Pollination Ecology -

How Can We Help Bees? presented by Larry Dapsis

Friday, January 17, 2:00 p.m.

Join Barnstable County entomologist Larry Dapsis in the auditorium for his presentation “Pollination Ecology – How Can We Help Bees?” Honeybees, both locally and nationally have been suffering catastrophic losses. This program will review honeybee biology and the factors responsible for this problem. In addition, we will review the state of wild pollinators like bumblebees and the things residents can do to help them.

Let’s Learn about Honeybees!

Saturday, January 18, 2:00 p.m.

Families are invited to a presentation on honeybees. Led by two wonderful volunteers from the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History “Let’s Learn about Honeybees!” is a fun program that will be great for your whole hive! Stick around once the presentation is done to make a buzz-worthy craft to take home.

Honey Candle Company Field Trip

Wednesday, January 22, 2:00 p.m.

Please join us at the Honey Candle Company at 37 Main Street in Orleans on Wednesday, January 22 at 2 p.m. Owner, Agostino Di Bari, will explain the process of turning raw beeswax into beautiful candles. Along with being able to enter into our gift basket drawing, a 10% discount will be given to any candle purchases made that day. Please note we will be meeting at the store.

Beekeeping 101

Thursday, January 23, 6:30 p.m.

Buzz on back to the Library on Thursday, January 23 for our “Beekeeping 101” presentation! Join us to hear from a local beekeeper about the tips and tricks of keeping bees and harvesting honey.

Evening Book Group

Thursday, January 30, 6:30 p.m.

And finally, we encourage everyone to join us for a special meeting of our Evening Book Group. The Brewster Ladies’ Library Evening Book Group will “bee” discussing the 2020 “One Book, One Town” title, *The Bees* by Laline Paull.

(Click on the title above or the cover below to find an available copy in CLAMS!)

Perhaps someone might like to write a review for our February Buzz Words? Claire

And Another Great Book For Your Library

And I know this book had been featured on Facebook a few months past, but it is another book that I received for Christmas. As I work my way through it, I have discovered it is a perfect book for our new beekeepers. Each few pages are just loaded with good information as to what goes on in the hive but I found it to be the perfect book for you folks that can never find the queen. Get this book as it has page after page of frames of bees with a queen in each section. There is a cheat sheet in the back if you really need to throw in the towel but what great practice to work your way back and forth and down the frame of bees searching for the queen. Oh, by the way, the name of the book is *QueenSpotting* by Hilary Kearney. It is available in CLAMS.

Claire Desilets

Cape Bee Update

As many of you know, the club’s apiary at the county farm will be moving due to new construction of county office buildings. Also planned are a few acres of demonstration, research and pollinating planting. All very exciting once the project begins and moves forward.

The new apiary will be located directly opposite from the current location in the eastern corner. We have been provided with a large building to store our equipment. Hives have yet to be moved as we are waiting for a stretch of freezing weather so the bees will stay home.

And to add to the above activity, we have received a grant from the Gertrude Pomeroy Charitable Foundation of Brewster. This unsolicited grant of \$4000 will be used for new educational devices and equipment. Yet to be determined specifically, these devices will create data available on the web to all members. This data should provide help to members as to nectar flows (weight gains) and well laying queens (temperature increase). We are ever grateful!! Stay tuned!!

Claire Desilets

Recipes

- Tips for baking with honey from Milk Street Magazine, Jan/Feb 2020
- Honey is sweeter than sugar, so ½ to 2/3 cup of honey can substitute for dry sugar.
- Since honey is a liquid, reduce other liquids in the recipe by 2 Tablespoons for every ½ cup of honey used.
- Cookies may not have other liquid ingredients, so just substitute honey as above. The cookies will be chewier and will brown more quickly.
- Honey caramelizes more quickly than sugar, so the flavor may intensify during baking.

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	lynneheslinga@gmail.com

Directors

Marthe	Ayers	mfoura32@aol.com		Louise	Hopper	lvh2925@comcast.net
Phyllis	Bayer	pbayer@IFAW.org		Mary Anne	Mann	hummann@outlook.com
John	Beach	john.a.beach@comcast.net		Andy	Morris	andymorris02553@gmail.com
Todd	Cashdollar	thruheavenseyez@aol.com		Brian	O'Donnell	bjmdod98@gmail.com
Jennifer	Cattin	jencattin@gmail.com		Lisa	Sheehy	lisasheehy@msn.com
Melissa	Caughey	pcmc2000@msn.com		Donna	Tompkins	donnatomp@comcast.net
Peter B	Cooper	brpbcl@gmail.com		Dave	Whalley	David.a.whalley@gmail.com
Olga	DiSavino	ack_olenka@yahoo.com		Miguel	Zamora	zamorasmiguel@gmail.com
Edward	Hegner	edward.hegner@gmail.com				