



bcba

Barnstable County
Beekeepers Association



buzzwords

<http://www.barnstablebeekeepers.org>

July 2019

Upcoming Meetings

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

And keep those snacks and nibbles coming!! We can always use help setting up and assistance with bringing noms and noshes. Coffee is provided. Please avail yourself of it. If you would prefer just hot water to add instant coffee or for tea, please let us know at the meeting.

No Meetings In July And August

Due to all the summer activities and the fair, our club does not meet again until September. Enjoy your summer and we hope your harvest is aplenty!!!

Hive Openings

**Saturday, July 13th , 9 am – Barnstable, Brewster, Wellfleet
10 am – Falmouth**

All members are welcome to attend any of the locations. Please remember this is a hands-on event and protective equipment is required. We will be opening and evaluating over wintered hives. For the new folks, all stages of brood will be available and how best to evaluate a brood pattern.

Tick season is upon us - so dress appropriately!

Barnstable –

**Cape Cod Organic Farm,
3675 Route 6A**

Proceed to the top of the hill and bear right in front of the office buildings

Head toward the big barn watching for “BEE” signs. (Lynn and Claire)

Brewster –

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History 869 Route 6A

Park in lot across from the museum.

(George Muhlebach and many, many more!)

East Falmouth –

**Soares Nursery, 1021
Sandwich Road, Hatchville**

One-half mile from the intersection of Route 151 and Sandwich Road. Drive between two greenhouses and park behind, not in the customer lot. (Marte Ayers).

Wellfleet –

**Narrowland Farms, 60
Narroland Road**

Take Route 6 in Wellfleet, past all the turnoffs for Wellfleet center/Harbor. Opposite Moby Dick Restaurant, turn right on Gull Road. Travel one half mile, take left onto Chris Drive, bear right at top of hill onto Mayblower Drive. About 200 meters at bottom of hill take right onto dirt/gravel road (John Portnoy)

From the Board

It's funny how things work out. I was thinking about beekeeping and parenting. They have a lot in common. Plenty of books out there about each. A million questions and a million and a half answers about each. Both beekeepers and parents share the goal of raising healthy and productive progeny. In each case we can do it by the book but not always get the results we anticipated. And in each case we can ad lib and get similarly unpredictable results.

Beekeeping and parenting converged for me maybe 15 or 20 years ago. My daughter, the younger of my two children, was graduating high school and heading off to college. This would mean less parent time for me and more myself time for me. And more myself time ended up being joining the BCBA and becoming a beekeeper. But despite my enthusiasm with this new avocation, my daughter remained singularly unimpressed, and things only went downhill from there.

My first hive swarmed in the spring of its second year. Fortunately, it landed in a bush just off the ground. Low hanging fruit, even for a novice like me. After consulting *Beekeeping for Dummies* I was reassured that swarms are generally not aggressive and indeed can be captured without any protective gear. Reassured with this knowledge, I asked my recently returned from college daughter to hold a white bucket which I would shake the swarm into, a real father-daughter bonding experience I thought. This was not, however, a text book swarm and, all too many stings later, we both retreated to the house, without capturing the swarm and certainly not with the bonding experience I anticipated. Instead, if my daughter had any notions about the merits of beekeeping, they were clearly squelched.

Fast forward many years. Today my daughter is ensconced in Connecticut and she and her husband keep several hives, harvest more honey than I do, and are active members of their local beekeepers' association. When we speak the conversation is punctuated with, "How are your bees?", "This is what I saw today" and "Let me send you a picture of..." So what happened? Like the reasons bees either thrive or not, sometimes you just don't know. But it sure is funny how things work out.

John Beach

Forage

[Bees in a Cello](#)

[How To Stop Bees From Attacking You](#)

Barnstable County Fair



Thank you to all 51 of you volunteers who signed up to take a shift at the fair. Attached is a copy if you are interested to see with whom you will be sharing a shift. Thanks for making this easy by filling all the shifts early and I have the tickets.

We will be having the "work day" on Sunday, July 14th at 10:00 AM. Bring your garden gloves, a rake and a pot luck dish for lunch. Our reward after the hour or so of clean up in and around the building is to sit under the tree and enjoy each other's company. The club provides the plates and ice tea/water. We always have such a wonderful array of dishes to share.

The tickets will be handed out for the fair. Those who cannot attend, the club will snail mail to you.

You will have the privilege of setting the price for the sale of your honey. OH, make sure you have your name and either address or phone number on the label. The jars should be filled to the bottom rim of the cap with no space showing. AND NO sticky jars please. Crystallized honey is not acceptable but creamed honey is. There is a difference. There is a small group of people who ask for comb honey and jars with a strip of filled comb in the honey is acceptable along with boxes of comb honey. So make your products to sell which can be brought in on "work day" or anytime the fair ground is open as long as you know the combination to the lock. Phone me if you don't. You must work a shift to sell your product(s).

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

Thanks for all the volunteers!

Marte Ayers mfoura32@aol.com 508-274-8754

Bee Trivia Thanks To Mass Audubon

370 Approximate number of bee species that live in Massachusetts

100 the number of species you might find within a mile of your yard. But it does depend on how many and what kinds of flowers you have growing there.

90+ The number of species of native bees that can occur in an apple orchard during full bloom.

4X How many more bee species there are than bird species in North America.

400% How much more pollen native bees can deposit on apple blossoms than honey bees?

Mass Audubon

In The Bee Yard In July

As we move into the summer months, beekeeping and hive management almost becomes boring. All our hives have settled in with laying queens, honey shallows are filling nicely but soon we will be in a dearth. Oh, you say, I see flowers in bloom everywhere! But most are annuals and will attract some activity but our important nectar flows have passed. We now wait patiently for sweet pepper bush (clethra) late July followed by goldenrod and aster. Some leave this honey for the bees' winter food.

What is important for our hives in July will be that varroa count with your hive at its peak population. Now is the time to sacrifice 300 of your nurse bees in an alcohol wash. Protocol and miticide discussions are best found on www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org/ varroa. Three or more varroa in 100 bees will require some intervention and treatment. Cleaning up your bees at this time will help establish the building of healthy winter bees. Come August, yes winter in the hive starts in August.

Consider:

- Low varroa count
- Nice brood pattern
- Pollen stores
- Honey stores building in the brood boxes.

The club does have in inventory both Formic Pro (2 hive dose) \$15 and ApiGuard (one hive) \$10. Both are temperature dependent (50 to 85 deg) so pay attention to the weather when considering their applications.

Queen rearing is slowly coming to a halt as fewer drones are being laid and strong nectar flows have passed. However, we do hope to provide a few mated local queens as we move into July. And we will have another week of virgins if you are considering building a nuc to help offset a winter loss. Easy and fun to try. July hive openings will also provide some instructions.

As we enter July and you are still feeding sugar syrup, be aware of robbing. With few nectar sources available, scout bees are always on the look out for an easy take. Best to not add any form of feeding stimulant as Honey B Healthy. You might even consider feeding dry white cane sugar right on the frames to be safe.

Enjoy your summer on Cape Cod!!!

New Bee Grad July Duties

Most of you now have hives that are filled with bees and some have honey shallows on. At this point, you can refer to the above information as your duties are now similar. If you are happy with your laying pattern and stores available, you can consider inspections every 2 weeks or so. Some of us find our hives have an attitude with no nectar arriving at the door so do not be surprised if you have to light your smoker.

Claire

Classified

Andy Morris has an extractor for sale.
Contact Andy for information 508-274-5714
andymorris02553@gmail.com

Marte Ayers has odd pieces of used frames and boxes. Brood frames and medium size frames and boxes.
mfoura32@aol.com 508-274-8754

Smattering Of 2018-2019 Survey.

Thanks to Miguel Zamora who compiled all the data from our recent survey. And thanks to you folks, all 190 of you, best response EVER! who took the time to answer the survey questions. Over the next few months, we will try to give you an idea of the results.

- Of the total respondents, 80% have taken a bee school.
- Regardless of years' experience, just 40.85% purchased club packages in the spring of 2018
- Another nearly 20% purchased packages elsewhere.
- 25.5% of responding members started 2018 with their overwintered hives. 40% of members with 10 or more years' experience started with overwintered hives.
- 20% of all respondents stated they did NOT monitor for the varroa mite. Do you believe this?
- 63.2% of all respondents lost hives between November, 2018 and March, 2019
- Take a minute to digest these figures and decide just where you fit in.

More to come in August.

Claire Desilets & Miguel Zamora

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - EXTRACTORS AND HONEY JARS

The club has three EXTRACTORS available. They are located at:

Jan Rapp, Hyannis 774-832-4317 janrapp@hotmail.com
Claire Desilets, Sandwich 508-888-2304 (h) beekeeper@gmail.com
Marte Ayers, Mashpee 508-274-8754 (c) 508-539-1774 (h) mfoura32@aol.com

CAPE BOTTLE CO

21 Hedge Pond Rd
Mamomet
508-833-6307

Exit 2 off Route 3 (Cedarville exit also)

Howie has #1 queen line glass jars, plus a supply of other sizes and shapes at competitive prices. This is where I purchased my cosmetic jars for years. He is a nice person to work with also.

Marte Ayers

Handy Hint For Installing A Nuc Having Many Bees

Stephen Daniel and his wife Marybeth and I keep at least two nucs side by side in Chatham throughout the summer to have spare queens. A 24 hour old BCBA caged virgin queen was purchased and placed in our thriving five frame nuc on Tuesday 25 June. To be conservative we did not open the candied tube immediately in order to protect the virgin queen from being rejected and killed before her pheromones were more fully developed.



Unknown to us the queen in the adjacent and well-populated 7 frame nuc had expired. On 28 June the bees in the 7 frame nuc could not resist the pheromones of the virgin queen located next door to them any longer. As many bees as possible from the 7 frame nuc quietly squeezed inside the already well populated five frame nuc with the new virgin queen.

The inside of the five frame nuc was pitch black and totally jammed with bees. We took the bee-heavy nuc to our Harwich bee house to install in an empty Slovenian hive. A small work table was installed in the rear of the hive's lower level. We carefully transferred all five frames from the nuc into the full sized hive. These bees filled ten frames!

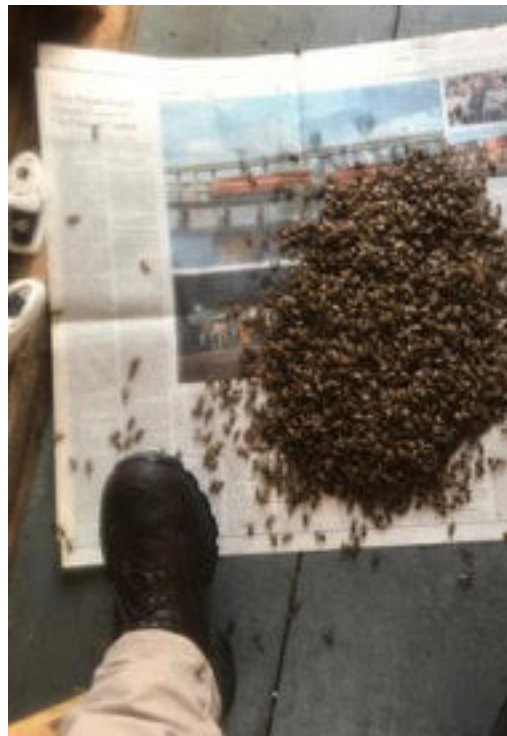
A large amount of bees remained inside the nuc box on the walls and in the corners. What to do with the bees remaining in the nuc?

First we spread an opened newspaper on the floor of the bee house. Next we misted the bees remaining inside the nuc with water to prevent anticipated chaos from the next step. Turning the nuc upside down (without frames) we bounced it on the newspaper previously laid on the floor (Photo 1). The bees formerly inside the box rested in a pile on the newspaper (Photo 2). Picking the sagging newspaper up by the edges we spilled the bees onto the work table (Photo 3). Immediately the bees began scurrying into the hive to join the still caged virgin queen and sisters.

Mark Simonitsch



Nuc without frames is bounced on the floor of the bee house to dislodge the misted bees.



Dislodged and previously misted bees are on the newspaper.



The bees from the newspaper have been spilled on to the work table. Attracted by the queen's pheromones and hive fragrances the spilled bees calmly walk themselves into the hive past the white and smoking wood stick.

Recipes

Honey Banana Bread

Ingredients

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup sugar free applesauce
- 3/4 cup honey
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3 mashed overripe bananas

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x5 inch loaf pan.

In a large bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, mix together applesauce and honey. Stir in eggs and mashed bananas until well blended. Stir banana mixture into flour mixture; stir just to moisten. Pour batter into prepared loaf pan.

Bake in preheated oven for 60 to 65 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into center of the loaf comes out clean. Let bread cool in pan for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack.

Maria Cashdollar

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

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