



bcba

Barnstable County  
Beekeepers Association



## buzzwords

<http://www.barnstablebeekeepers.org>

July 2020

### Upcoming Meetings

*See you in  
September!*

Tuesday, September 8  
7:30 pm  
TBA



### A Tale Of Two Queens

Well, you will just have to take my word on this little epistle as most textbooks tell us that each hive has but a single queen. Somewhere, I have heard Larry Connor of WicWas Press comment that 51% of all hives have more than one queen. This does seem a stretch but when you consider that many hives supersede, conceivably you have a mother/daughter relationship for a short period of time.

And here I have a hive that came through the winter on but two frames /three seams of bees. Hives of this size really never build during the season without adding frames of brood and bees. This particular hive was ignored except to feed as it was a disappointment yet was in great use in 2019 as a cell starter for our queen rearing. Upon inspection on April 29, I found the queen but looking further on **THE SAME FRAME**, there was a second queen but three inches apart. Both appeared to be laying so I put the hive back together after taking a few pictures. The hive



Queen 1



Queen 2

### 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.

was reduced to a single deep with a division board feeder. Four frames of open brood have been added weekly after grafting to see how the hive would build.

And here we are on June 12th with the same two queens laying independently. So which do you suppose the mother queen is and which might be the daughter or wait? Might they be sisters? Doubt we will ever know but I will continue to monitor on a weekly basis. Currently I am on the fence whether to add a second deep or just a shallow as they build. Neither queen is laying up a storm and wonder why? It seems as if one would out produce the other if it were a mother/daughter situation. I will be sure and check one more time before this newsletter is issued so we will have an update. And maybe even continue the story as the season progresses. Isn't beekeeping a wonder, fascinating and yet a challenge?

PS, July 1<sup>st</sup>, one queen in the deep and one laying in the shallow above!! You go girls!!

Claire Desilets

## Forage

[UMass extension recently published several new fact sheets. Check them out here](#)

[How honeybees perform queen duets](#)

## Ya Just Gotta Be Patient!!

The following is the result of a "hive full" of emails and lost queens!

We are such an impatient society! Where is that Amazon Prime order? How come the contractor is late? Meat still frozen for dinner, etc? And so it is with beekeepers and beekeeping.

When you come across a queen cell capped, it is hard to tell how old it is at this point. A capped cell is capped for 7 to 8 days. Upon emerging, a virgin is short and stubby and oh, so fast! She is not very east to spot for sure. Once out of the cell, the virgin runs on the frames with very little pheromone. Come day 4/5 and weather permitting, she orients herself to the location of her hive and takes off with a bevy of workers to a drone congregating area (DCA). This is usually over 2 miles away. Once mating with 12 or more drones (we hope), she returns to the hive. The next 3 days she struts around the hive expelling up to 80 to 90% of the impregnated sperm. And we understand her pheromone increases which is not critical for her spreading harmony throughout the hive. FINALLY, she will begin to lay. Do not panic if you find multiple eggs in some cells to start. This is normal for the first few days.

So, if you tally up all these days and events listed above, wait time from first seeing a queen cell til that first egg can range from 12 days to 21 days.

One important concern we all have is when we find/have no queen for an extended period of time, will we soon have laying workers of drone brood. Consider a hive queenless for 28 days (21 for all brood to emerge and seven days without brood) to develop laying workers. The brood pheromone keeps the worker's system in check. But once gone, trouble can set in.

As one can see, records and notes are most invaluable.

Claire

## Did You Know?

A queen lays her own body weight of eggs every day!

Queen larva receive 10,000 feeding visits during development!

## How Your Virgin Came To Bee!!!

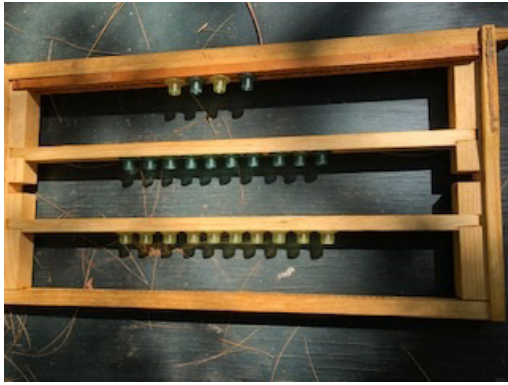
To me, there is no bigger "rush" with beekeeping than to pull a cage of queen cells on Sunday morning to see a bunch of frisky virgins having emerged in their cages. To think that a mere 12 days ago they were but a tiny "," floating in a pool of royal jelly and voila!! we have a virgin!! Pretty cool for sure.

And a number of you have asked just how this all comes about so below is a quick walk through of what Lynn and I work with each week that grafting is done.

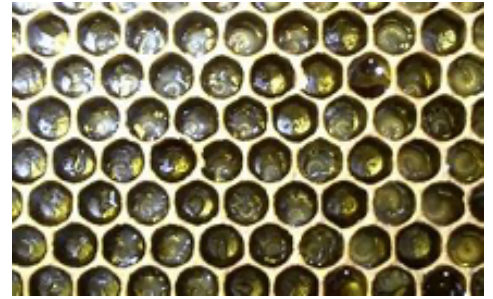
To start, we use a bar lined with cell cups to which is added a 24 hour old larva shaped as an apostrophe.

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





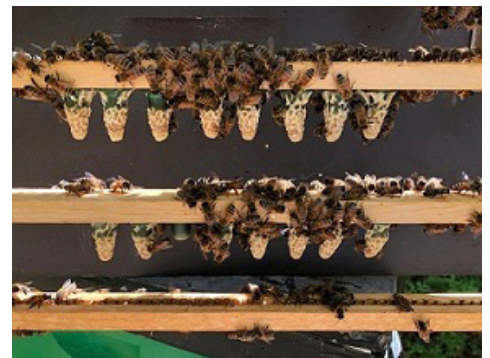
Each cell cup is dabbed with a bit of royal jelly in order that the tiny larva can be slipped off into the cell cup. It cannot be flipped or the larva will drown and be removed by the workers.



Prior to grafting, a strong hive is prepared. The queen is moved to the bottom deep and a queen excluder is added. Next a second deep is added with a feeder, frames of pollen and honey/nectar and frames of open brood. Extra syrup is fed and a pollen patty is added.

This is left for 24 hours before the grafted bar is installed. Pretty amazing that the bees think they are queenless even with the mother queen below. Withing 24 hours after inserting the grafted bar with larva, the young workers begin to feed the grafted cells copiuos amounts of bee food and royal jelly. We can tell withing 48 hours just how many cells have been accepted as the workers have not only increased the level of royal jelly but have started to draw down the cell cups with very yellow wax to build the queen cell.

The larval stage for a queen is just 5 short days so come day 9 from when the original egg was laid, we have the gorgeous capped queen cells as you see to the right. If for any reason, the workers build a supersedure cell with the inserted open brood frame, all cells will be torn down. What a disappointment!!



Once the queen cell is capped, it is placed directly into a California cage which has a dab of queen candy at the bottom. This way the virgin has something to eat upon emerging from the cell. The cages are placed in a special rack with screen facing out This is the longest wait. The virgin will emerge in 8 days. So from egg to adult it is between 15 to 16 days. Cell cups are color coded so we can tell the heritage of each virgin.

And once we see the frisky virgin queens in the cages have emerged, we add a sugar plug to the open end. This candy plug must be taped or our queen bank bees will eat through the candy releasing or killing the virgins. Again, we color code each cage with different paper tape to tell the heritage. This queen bank is awesome as every virgin is covered with workers even though the virgin expresses very little pheromone at this stage.



Check out the “coverage” the virgin above right is receiving from the workers in the hive. Do they know something we don’t? Is she being smothered in love?

Here again, this queen bank is queen right meaning that in the bottom deep is a laying queen. Above the first deep is a queen excluder and then we have a honey shallow as the hive is so strong,

they needed a place for all the nectar coming in. The shallow could be placed on



the top of the second deep over the queen bank but this creates much more lifting for the beekeeper each time a virgin is sold.

So taking all this into consideration, \$10 for each virgin is a bargain but the genetics are priceless!!

And here is one of our mated queens just laying up a gorgeous brood pattern. She is of Carniolan race and mated at the club's apiary. These are daughters of overwintered hives and some of the Mother queens are now in their fourth season!! There will more of her sisters available soon for \$30 each and they will be marked when ready for sale.

---

**And More On Varroa!!**

Here are a couple of good Youtubes for just how to do an alcohol wash before treating for varroa. If alcohol is hard to find, Randy Oliver of scientificbeekeeping.com suggests that 1 to 2 tablespoons of Dawn Ultra dish detergent works just as well when doing an alcohol wash. Do not shake vigorously but swirl the jar to release the varroa off the workers. And

it is now known that it is not necessary to find a frame of open brood for the testing but a frame of bees just outside the brood nest is just as accurate on your count.

Check out:

<https://youtu.be/36oHVU3INA>

[https://youtu.be/oiu\\_dIZu7Uk](https://youtu.be/oiu_dIZu7Uk)

Clifford Youse

---

**RESOURCES**

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

<b>Officers</b>		
<b>President</b>	Michael D. Smith	<a href="mailto:michaeldgetsmail@gmail.com">michaeldgetsmail@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Maria Cashdollar	<a href="mailto:winter64@aol.com">winter64@aol.com</a>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Claire Desilets	<a href="mailto:beekeepr@gmail.com">beekeepr@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lynn Heslinga	<a href="mailto:lynneheslinga@gmail.com">lynneheslinga@gmail.com</a>

**Directors**

Marthe	Ayers	<a href="mailto:mfoura32@aol.com">mfoura32@aol.com</a>		Louise	Hopper	<a href="mailto:lvh2925@comcast.net">lvh2925@comcast.net</a>
John	Beach	<a href="mailto:john.a.beach@comcast.net">john.a.beach@comcast.net</a>		Mary Anne	Mann	<a href="mailto:hummann@outlook.com">hummann@outlook.com</a>
Deborah	Carmel	<a href="mailto:deborahcarmel429@gmail.com">deborahcarmel429@gmail.com</a>		Andy	Morris	<a href="mailto:andymorris02553@gmail.com">andymorris02553@gmail.com</a>
Todd	Cashdollar	<a href="mailto:thruheavenseyez@aol.com">thruheavenseyez@aol.com</a>		Brian	O'Donnell	<a href="mailto:bjmdod98@gmail.com">bjmdod98@gmail.com</a>
Jennifer	Cattin	<a href="mailto:jencattin@gmail.com">jencattin@gmail.com</a>		Lisa	Sheehy	<a href="mailto:lisasheehy@msn.com">lisasheehy@msn.com</a>
Melissa	Caughey	<a href="mailto:pcmc2000@msn.com">pcmc2000@msn.com</a>		Donna	Tompkins	<a href="mailto:donnatomp@comcast.net">donnatomp@comcast.net</a>
Peter B	Cooper	<a href="mailto:brpbcl@gmail.com">brpbcl@gmail.com</a>		Dave	Whalley	<a href="mailto:David.a.whalley@gmail.com">David.a.whalley@gmail.com</a>
Olga	DiSavino	<a href="mailto:ack_olenka@yahoo.com">ack_olenka@yahoo.com</a>		Miguel	Zamora	<a href="mailto:zamorasmiguel@gmail.com">zamorasmiguel@gmail.com</a>
Edward	Hegner	<a href="mailto:edward.hegner@gmail.com">edward.hegner@gmail.com</a>				

