



bc  
ba

Barnstable County  
Beekeepers Association



## buzzwords

<http://www.barnstablebeekeepers.org>

September 2020

### Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, September 8  
7:30 pm  
TBA

**TBA**

Like anything else in this pandemic, nothing goes according to plan. We're trying to firm up details, and we will pass them along as soon as possible. Watch your email for updates!

### From the Board

#### In The Eye Of The Beholder



As a novice vegetable gardener, I managed to let the cilantro bolt at the end of June. Since the flowers attracted bees from the hives by the Community Garden, I let them go. All through July I had a buzzing row of pretty white flowers, and now thanks to the bees, I have seeds for next year's garden

Yep, I let the arugula bolt, too. The four-petaled flowers aren't as pretty, but the bees are still happily at work, the leaves are somewhat spicier, and seed pods are forming



Likewise, I mistakenly thought a tomatillo plant would grow like a tomato plant. Wrong. I now have



a bush-like plant about three feet tall and about five feet across that has been covered with yellow flowers and bees since late June, and is still abuzz, with a few tomatillos forming among the flowers. The nursery didn't mention that you need two plants for full fruiting (but not for full buzzing).

### 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.

So, three beginner mistakes producing one happy gardener and a lot of happy bees!

Mary Anne Mann

## Wax Moth Comb Protection

<https://www.vita-europe.com/beehealth/news/new-biological-wax-moth-control-for-usa/>

At this point, this product has not been approved for use in Massachusetts. We will work on this and keep you folks updated as to when available for use here.

Claire Desilets

## Forage

[Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research study finds honeybee venom rapidly kills aggressive breast cancer cells](#)

[NYTimes: A Honeybee's Tongue Is More Swiss Army Knife Than Ladle](#)

## SMALL HIVE BEETLE



Unscented Swiffer strips work just as well as this Brawny microfiber material found in the Mann Lake Ltd catalog!

All of you with textbooks can review this pest but it always amazes me how we see so little of this critter all summer and then come August, there they are. They are fast and can be easily squished with your hive tool. A few on your inner cover are really of no concern unless your hive becomes weak. The adult beetle will waste no time in laying eggs and multiple pretty quickly in failing hives. Those of you near cranberry bogs may see an increase after the migratory hives arrive. Just recently, one very strong hive had an increased number of adult beetles and it finally came to me that this hive was used for queen rearing and fed pollen patties as a steady diet in the cell starter. The beetles must have been increasing in the cluster without notice. The hive remains strong with a new queen but you can see the number of SHB caught with tangled feet in the microfiber strip. I counted 19 beetles in just 3 days!!

Unscented Swiffer strips work just as well as this Brawny microfiber material found in the Mann Lake Ltd catalog! The bee chases the beetle onto the material and the beetle gets its legs tangled, starves and dies!!

## Cape Bee Update

From time to time, it is important that you members are aware of what is going on in the club's apiary in Barnstable. It is unfortunate that we have not been able to have monthly hive openings this season to "show off" what some members have been able to pull together on the club's behalf. The apiary is meant to be an educational facility on county property where 8 to 12 members meet every few weeks to work the hives and take monthly samples for varroa and nosema levels. These hives are not different than yours having



There are over 25 small hive beetles snared in this picture!! The fiber works VERY well!!

## Did You Know?

The honey bee is the only insect that produces food eaten by humans!

some overwintered, some new packages and some purchased nucleus colonies. To date, we have 10 standard Langstroth hives either in single or double deeps and 3 nucleus colonies.

We have noted before that we are utilizing the equipment purchased from BroodMinder and includes temperature probes and a hive scale. This is all part of their global citizen science project and can be found at [www.beecounted.org](http://www.beecounted.org). One other piece of equipment we use on a weekly basis is the Nectar detector scale from BetterBee. The readings are taken weekly on each hive and as you can see from the chart below, we can tell whether the hive is losing weight or gaining weight in preparation for winter. We can easily tell which hives will need continual feeding with sugar syrup before winter begins to set in. As you can see, we have a bit of feeding to do to build up the stores. The current losses are realized due to the dearth we are encountering and the hive consuming their stores to carry on life and brood rearing. There is hope that

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

Date	Hive 1	Hive 2	Hive 3	Hive 4	Hive 5	Hive 6	Hive 7	Hive 8	Hive 9	Hive 10	Hive 11	Hive 12
1/31/2020	127					81	85	90	93	72	49	59
5/8/2020	115	54	64	85	58	63	54	86	106	68	N/A	N/A
5/21/2020	106	32	62	98	63	83	45	60	33	72	N/A	N/A
5/30/20	103	53	56	116	55	81	54	55	35	80	N/A	N/A
6/4/20	105	49	55	117	56	77	55	56	32	81		
6/11/20	118	57	63	136	65	99	60	45	37	89		
6-17-20	119	58	69	135	65	99	65	44	36	89		
6-25-20	119	84	99	144	96	114	78	46	32	94		
7-5-20	87	92	106	167	98	133	81	45	30	93		
7-9-20	79	86	107	158	102	128	91	44	30	95		
7-15-20	79	84	107	157	107	147	77	72	30	85		
7-23-20	80	85	111	174	106	160	80	74	33	83		
7/30	74	89	114	154	104	138	74	66	25	85		
8/06	74	88	109	147	102	156	71	66	26	84		
8/15	70	92	119	152	109	160	73	66	27	89		

  

Date	Hive 1	Hive 2	Hive 3	Hive 4	Hive 5	Hive 6	Hive 7	Hive 8	Hive 9	Hive 10
8/20/20	47	96	113	153	105	165	72	65	N/A	96
8/26/20	73	85	104	96	93	123	67	60	N/A	87

the goldenrod surrounding the apiary might help restore some of the stores for the winter.

You can see the drop in weight in just a week. The larger changers showed hives with honey shallows removed or a shallow added to a single deep. Hive #6 has the BroodMinder scale below and if you check the beecounted report, you will see that the two reports are pretty close. (123 versus 119). Of note is that there remains a shallow with uncapped nectar yet to be harvested.

Claire Desilets

## Varroa – A Plan For Next Season

It should be evident by all our beekeepers that there is no “silver bullet” to battle the varroa mite at this time. We do have a few miticides and a number of effective Integrated Pest management methods which work in combination to drive the number of mites down in your hive and keep them below a destructive level. And again, we offer the site of [www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa](http://www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa)

for videos and suggested miticides.

We offer one easy method of culling varroa on a monthly basis. This is drone comb removal. This cannot be used in a new hive with undrawn foundation. However, now that all you new beekeepers have two full brood boxes of nicely drawn frames, next season you might consider trying this. By adding a honey frame in your top deep box, as the hive increases in size and the number of bees increases, the empty space created from the bottom of the honey frame to the top bars of the brood box below will be found filled with drone comb as you have violated the bee space in the hive.



The space between the two arrows, represent the amount of drone brood that will be available to cull out in a single frame

The queen will lay drone in these cells and every 3 to 4 weeks, you can cull these capped brood. What happens is the varroa “appreciate” drone brood due to its

longer life cycle. The mated female mite will crawl into these cells more often than in worker brood leaving you with a “captive audience”! Removing them on a monthly basis will reduce your varroa count. By how much? We do not know but each mite eliminated is one less that will not be able to multiply. And those of you with chickens, they will love the extra protein.



So you might consider adding this management technique to your program next season.

Claire Desilets

## Last Minute Tips

There are but six short weeks left for our hives to work on their winter preparation. Mid October is the goal to finish feeding sugar syrup so the bees will have time to cure it for winter use. Feeding 2:1 sugar syrup as often and as much as they will take might be needed.

The need for pollen is now as the hive raises its winter bees. Lots of articles on why we need “fat bees” going into winter. Some of our hives might need a supplement of pollen patties and others have considerable amounts already stored.

And of course, our varroa counts need to be low or the hive will rarely survive beyond late fall. Hoping the goldenrod is full of rich nectar as we head into September.

Claire Desilets

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### EXTRACTOR FOR SALE

I have a Dadant Electric Extractor for sale. It's the “Little Wonder” model, 4+ frames – Excellent condition; retails for about \$750. Asking \$400.

Best number to reach me is: 508-430-8962.

Mike Doyle

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## Recipe

### Honey BBQ-Marinated Chicken Drumsticks

(you could also use the wing drumettes)

- 1 pound chicken drumsticks
  - ½ cup ketchup
  - ½ cup honey
  - ¼ cup vegetable oil
  - 2 tablespoons soy sauce
  - 2 teaspoons lemon juice
  - ¼ teaspoon crushed peppercorns
  - ¼ teaspoon hot chili sauce
  - salt, to taste
1. Place chicken in large shallow dish or large plastic bag.
  2. Combine the rest of the ingredients and pour over chicken.
  3. Refrigerate for 1 hour.
  4. Prepare to grill; then grill to desired doneness.

## 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:beekeeper@gmail.com">beekeeper@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lynn Heslinga	<a href="mailto:lynneheslinga@gmail.com">lynneheslinga@gmail.com</a>

<b>Directors</b>						
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:humann@outlook.com">hummann@outlook.com</a>
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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>
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