

Essex County Beeline

The Newsletter of the Essex County Beekeepers' Association,
an Internationally Acclaimed Award-Winning Organization

Keeping Bees Since 1923

February 2008

The Essex County Beeline is published eleven times a year and is a benefit of membership in the ECBA.

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and she always does a thorough job, so we are in great shape for 2008.

We have a great line up for future meetings. Dr. Sandy Gillespie will speak about bee research at the U of Mass. at our Feb meeting which will also feature our spaghetti dinner. We supported Sandy's summer research last year. Our March meeting will feature Michael Palmer from St Albans Vt. who has perfected over wintering nucs. We will have our annual banquet in April and if you have not attended one of our banquets you missed a really great time. Glenn Magneault who did an excellent job last year has offered to chair the banquet committee again this year, but we need someone to help out and learn the ropes. Please see me or Glenn to lend a hand.



Club Business

Presidents Message

To Pete Delaney and the 2007 Board of Directors we owe you a great deal of thanks for the all the work and leadership over the last few years. They even put on this year's ham and bean dinner which was a big hit. The good news is, they are not going away, so we can lean on their experience. Pete Delaney and Dan Phillips will remain on the BOD so we can still count on their expertise. Our new V.P. Larry Goldstein has a lot of great ideas for the club and he is a real doer. Linda Boylan is our new financial-membership secretary

At the last meeting Jane Wild talked about having a hands on seminar on raising summer queens. This fits in nicely with Michael Palmer's technique of over wintering of nuclei. A show of hands indicated there was enough interest to proceed. We need to plan this now so we can secure the experts to lead the seminar.

The Fair committee is off to an early start with Kathy Sample at the helm and the Bee School is on track. There is a lot going on so join in the fun. One last thing, since there are other groups also using the bee building, be sure to let Chris Delaney know when you plan to use the building to avoid conflicts.

Hope your bees are snug and cozy in their snow covered hives!

Dave Meldrum

January Meeting

Jane Wild gave a SNEBA meeting update. Although 2003 through 2006 showed extraordinary hive losses the silver lining however has been the increased public awareness.

Queen breeding believes importing queens dilute the stock.

Organic screen bottom board used to get ride of Verroa mites dusted with powdered sugar covering the Verroa feet preventing the mites from being able to climb.

ECBA members showed an interest in an all day queen rearing class.

Sir Edmund Hillary, 88, Beekeeper and mountaineer who conquered Mount Everest, died January 11 in Auckland, New Zealand. Hillary was an Honorary Member of ECBA.

The drawing for a free 2009 membership for those members that paid before 12/31/07 was Richard Killam

Door Prize winner Steinbach Nutcracker was G. Guerin.

BOD Annual Meeting Feb 4th @ 7PM

Larry Goldstein was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a mild concussion.

This year's EAS meeting will be held on August 4 - 8, 2008 at Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky

January Bee Culture Magazine includes a calendar. The month of November pictures a tattered winged bee.

Next Mass Bee meeting in March 29th @ the Topsfield Fair Coolidge Building

Chris Delaney noted that it is time to sign up for 2008 Topsfield Fair. Fair Volunteer sign up form will be included in the February newsletter and due during the March meeting.

President Peter Delaney started the meeting by asking the body to accept the minutes of the December meeting as published in the January newsletter. They were accepted.

The floor presented a motion to amend the Capital budget line to be increased. Motion was second and approved.

Cynthia Croteau introduced Jason Sample, who volunteered many hours during 2007. Jason presented an overview of his year as Honeybee Ambassador which included Agway presentation, bee school, and the Topsfield Fair plus interviews and escorting the Honeybee Princess.

New Honeybee Ambassador for 2008 is John Capodilupo.

Library Committee Report - Barbra Milhender

There were lots of volunteers this year as well as busy. The library was open at each and every meeting, including the mobile meetings, and every night during bee school. We had 2 tea parties. Barbara said they continue to investigate electronic cataloging for the clubs collection.

Treasurers Report – Chris Delaney Standing in for Jan Gaglione who is visiting ABF and American Honey Board, Chris presented for approval the monthly expenses by line item. A motion came from the floor to make payment on those expenses listed. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Motion was also moved to accept the treasurer's report this too was approved.

Website Update - Dave Meldrum

The site now as the capability to search and is now registered on Google. ECBA website has 39 new visitors each day.

Scholarship Committee – Elly Hoover
Committee met and awarded a total \$4500 in scholarships.

Fair Update - Dawn Watson
See page 3 for details. Workshops will be starting soon, check the next newsletter for dates and times.

Motion to accept the action of the 2007 BOD members was presented and approved.

Peter Delaney thanked the out going BOD; Joan Price, Eric Josephson, Phil Watson, Dan Phillips, and lastly Peter are stepping down.

New Business

Dan Phillips asked the club to thank the out going President Delaney and presented the newly elected ECBA officers:

President: Dave Meldrum
VP: Larry Goldstein
Member Secretary: Linda Boylan
Directors: Peter Delaney & Dan Phillips

Dave Meldrum took the reigns at 7:38 PM.

Bee School needs volunteers for both the committee and help during classes.

Sandy Gillespie is scheduled to speak at February's meeting. Mike Palmer from Vermont will present over wintered nucs during the March meeting.

Motion to close the meeting at 7:43 PM was moved.

**FAIR COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 20TH
7:00pm @ Bee Building
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME
This is a great chance to get
involved in the fair!!
No experience necessary**

Fair Committee Meeting Minutes – Jan 16, 2008

Attending: Kathy Sample (Chairman), Stan Sample, Jason Sample, Dan Phillips, Dawn Watson, Roberta Swift, Dave Meldrum, Chris Delaney

The Premium Book changes were completed and will be submitted to the Fair after the Division Chairpersons are confirmed. Chris D will make calls this weekend. If not all positions are filled the Chairpersons will be left out of the book. Dan Phillips came forward to chair the Honey Division.

The challenge recipe was chosen by “samples” which were made by Dawn W. and Kathy S.

There was some very good discussion about the judging procedure of the honey that comes in for exhibit. It is possible that we need to replace the hydrometer. Dan Phillips brought some information on a possible new one and will bring more options to the February meeting. He will also get some information on a honey color grading chart/stick. It is important the judging is done properly and while not overextending the volunteers. More discussion will follow.

We will need to make some decisions regarding the candy, honey stick and wax order soon.
Next meeting; February 20th, 7:00pm

Fair Committee Recap

The 2007 fair has come and gone with wonderful success. Congratulations to Chris Delaney on her first year as Superintendent. And thanks go out to Bill Wiley for his efforts in the transition. We are grateful that so many of you volunteered to give time to support our efforts at the fair. People never cease to be amazed at the honeybees and their many accomplishments. It was not a great year for honey and once again we sold out.

Although it seems the 2007 Topsfield Fair just ended, it is time to begin organizing ourselves for 2008. Attached to this newsletter is a form for you to indicate areas where you might be willing to assist. Why not change it up a bit and try a committee you haven't worked on before. If you're a newcomer, this is one of the ways you can get involved, meet your fellow club members and help out with our biggest educational exhibit.

We ask that you fill out a form and return it to Chris Delaney by our March 8th meeting. Why so early? We have to submit a list of the Beekeeping Committee members to the fair office by April 1st. There is a lot of pre-fair planning that has to take place and the committee list is very important. We have met to make the changes to the premium book and will finalize them at our meeting on January 16th, as this has to be into the fair office early as well.

As of this date, we have not found a new supplier for honey candy. One company is trying to come up with something similar and we will be looking into that, but we may have to do without. If you have any suggestions or sources, please bring them to our attention. Also, remember, any changes, deletions or additions to products sold on the counter must be made by the May meeting.

Kathy Sample will be taking over as Chairman of the ECBA side of the fair. I hope you will give her your support and assistance. If you have any questions about any of the committees, please call Chris at 978-887-5726 or Kathy at 978-372-5672. Additional meetings will be held as time goes on. I hope you can attend. Let's hope the bees have a very productive year also.

Let's have a great 2008!
Dawn Watson

Calendar

February 4, 2008, 7 PM
BOD Meeting

February 9, 2008, 7 PM
Monthly Member Meeting,
Spaghetti Dinner, 6pm

February 13, 2008, 7 PM
Bee School Committee Meeting

February 15, 2008
Newsletter Deadline

February 26, 2008, 7 PM
Bee School registration 6:30pm

March 8, 2008
Fair Volunteer Form Deadline

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for getting information into the next newsletter will be **February 15, 2008**. Please make submissions to Candy Leva by email at: Candice.leva@avnet.com

Library Committee Notes 2007

Another year has quickly passed by. The library had so much help this year; I want to thank everyone for his or her help. As the library grows, we appreciate everyone's time and effort to keep the library moving forward. During 2007, the Bee Library was open at each monthly meeting in 2007 and also during each week of bee school. The library was very busy during Bee School. Many students joined the club to be able to take advantage of our resources. At the end of bee school, we packed up the library and boxed up the library on wheels. The library on wheels transported over three boxes of books, CDs and DVDs to each outdoor meeting. The highlight of my library year was opening my garden and bees for the Historical Society of Old Newbury 28th annual Garden Tour. The club got great publicity. Early Saturday morning, during the soft rain, Chris and Pete set up the huge club tent. Will Graves transported Bill Denhard's observation hive to my

site. There was a swam of club members pouring in as the skies opened up. Everyone and everything stayed dry. Garden visitors hung out under the Big Top and watched the bees do their thing, and asked many questions.

The committee held two tea/work parties this year. Getting into the spirit, three different teas were brewed in teapots and we sipped tea out of china cups before we sat down to work.

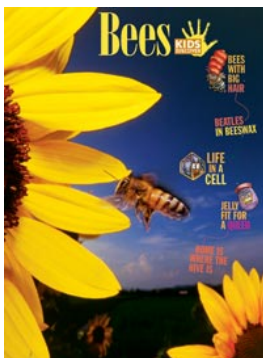
At the first tea party, we covered and repaired books. Our second tea party came in the fall. We unpacked the library, took a complete inventory of materials and set up the library. I may say the caffeine helps the time go by quickly.

The committee continues to research electronic cataloging. We hope at some point to have the capability to get this electronic catalog on line on the club's web site. Members came up to the plate with suggestions for new library materials this year. New books, DVDs and materials were purchased from our budget. The new edition of ABC XYZ of Bee Culture and Eva Crane's History of Bees have arrived.

Also, Nature's DVD on the Silence of the Bees is in house. (Fabulous!)

We now have three copies of Kids Discover Series on Bees. These pamphlets are

amazing. Come check them out and let us know if we should order more copies for schools!



We hope to have all new materials catalogued, covered and ready for the library by the February meeting.



Bee School Committee Minutes

The bee school committee met on Jan. 17 in the bee building. The meeting was well attended. We are making great progress on the "to do" list. We have scheduled the next meeting for Wed. Feb. 13 at 7:00PM in the bee building. This is an important meeting and volunteers are needed to complete the following: Collate and put together the hand-out packets, prepare the room for bee school including hanging the educational materials, and prepare the frame kits. All the help we can get will be much appreciated. Finally I would like to thank everyone for the thoughtful get well card. I am doing well and the card was very much appreciated.

Larry Goldstein

Web Site Report – 2008

<http://essexcountybeekeepers.org>

If you have not visited the ECBA web site in the last year, it has undergone many changes. We re-hosted the web site to a cheaper and more reliable provider this summer and the content has been updated and made more uniform. A way to search the web ECBA web site has been added to the home page. The site has been registered with Google, Yahoo & MSN, so that our site

shows up when people use search engines and this is where many of our visitors come from. We try to keep the Calendar up to date, and if meetings are canceled because of weather, they will show up in orange as canceled. Have you subscribed to the "ECBA News List" which allows you to ask and talk about local activities? About 40 of the most active members participate. The traffic is quite light, so you won't be swamped with lots of mail. It is a great place to ask quick questions or post news activities. Of course if you want the entire club to know of something please email Candice Leva <Candice.Leva@avnet.com> so she can put it in the News Letter.

Some interesting statistics: We get an average of 39 different visitors every day. This goes up prior to and during Bee School and the Fair. Popular pages are: Calendar, Swarms, Bee School, Library, & For Sale, The most common search keywords: Essex, beekeeping, school, honey & Massachusetts. A lot people end up at our site while searching Google for beekeeping books.

If you have any suggestions or comments please email contact@essexcountybeekeepers.org We are always looking for improvements. Also if you have some pictures you wanted posted, let us know.

HONEY PROCESSING EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Maxant 2 frame extractor, uncapping tank, fork, and knife; Two 80 gallon honey tanks and plastic double sieve. Five years old in like new condition. \$300 best offer Phil 978-948-5118

The Topsfield Fair Committee needs volunteers for the following committees to operate the Bee Department and E.C.B.A. activities during the 2008 Topsfield Fair. ALL **ARE ENCOURAGED TO SIGN UP**. If you are interested in participating, please indicate which committees you would be interested in participating by order of preference. (1st, 2nd choice, etc.) We will make every effort to accommodate your first choice.

Please sign and mail or give this form to Chris Delaney so that she receives it by the MARCH regular meeting of E.C.B.A. I know this sounds early however the committee list needs to be submitted to the Fair by April 1

- * Exhibit Registration: Assists in registering all incoming competitive exhibits Sept 19, 20, 24, 25, _____
- * Division 1 Assistants: Assists Chairperson. Includes receiving & setup for all honey exhibits, arranging of exhibits after judging. Must be available days and or evenings Sept. 19, 20 & 21 _____
- * Division 2 Assistants: Assists Chairperson. Includes receiving , setup of all beeswax exhibits and arranging of exhibits after judging. Must be available days and or evenings Sept. 19, 20 & 21 _____
- * Division 3 Assistants: Assists Chairperson. Includes receiving , and setup of beekeeping arts & crafts exhibits after judging. Must be available days and or evenings Sept. 19, 20 & 21 _____
- * Division 4 Assistants: Assists Chairperson. Includes receiving & setup of all cooking with honey exhibits after judging. Must be available days or evenings Sept. 24, 25, 26 _____
- * Committee Person: Assists Chair with duties of his/her department: I would like to serve on the following committee: Div. 1 ___ Div. 2 ___ Div. 3 ___ Div. 4 ___
- * Honey Grading: Color classifies competitive honey entries & takes moisture content of exhibits. (Will be done on Sat. Sept. 20. Must _____
- * Trophy Committee: Selects trophies to be awarded and have properly engraved. Assists in building set up & display and places ribbons & awards after judging. _____
- * Parade Committee: Assists in designing/building a float for the opening day & fair parades _____
- * Shift Supervisor: Supervises one shift of volunteers as scheduled. Takes shift attendance, assists in stocking selling area, makes sure building is cleaned for next day. _____
- * Beeswax/Honey Registration: Registers all incoming beeswax/honey products to be sold at fair & tracks sale & Registration and returns of seller products (not exhibits). Done on Sept. 13 & 14. & Oct. 11 _____
- *Honey Quality Control: Quality controls honey products to be offered for sale (not exhibits) _____
- * Beeswax Quality Control: Quality controls beeswax products to be offered for sale (not exhibits) _____
- * Volunteer Recruitment: Schedules volunteers to staff building during fair, arranges for photo I.D Badges for admission & parking passes where necessary _____
- * **Volunteer:** Assists in setting up before, staffing our building during & clean up after the fair _____

Our intent is to encourage more E.C.B.A. members to become involved with the operation of the Beekeeping Building in 2008 including those who have served in past years.

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

The 2008 Topsfield Fair Committee will be made up from those submitting this form by MARCH 8, 2008.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2008



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