

Essex County Beeline

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

Keeping Bees Since 1923

April 2008

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

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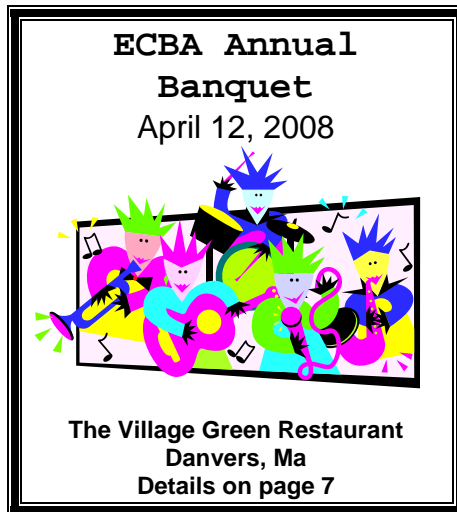
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March Meeting

President Dave Meldrum opened the meeting by thanking Kate, Janet, and Abby for the meal they prepared. Motion was presented to accept the February meeting minutes as published in the March newsletter, motion passed.

Bee School Committee -
72 paying student with a total of 100 people attending the class.

Fair Committee -
Chris Delaney stood in for Kathy Sample who could not be at the meeting. March 24 is the next scheduled meeting. Summer workshops are coming soon to prepare for the fair and will be held, as usual on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. It is time to place the candy and honey sticks orders...a notice will be in the newsletter for those members interested in ordering some.

Banquet Committee -
Joan Price recapped the event that is being held on April 12 @ The Village Green. Dinner will be the Village Buffet consisting of roast beef or fish. There will be an orchestra and dancing.

Library Committee -
Lots of new books please stop by.

Queen Breeding Class -
Pete Delaney, stood in for Jane Wild, the class is scheduled for July 18 &

Club Business

Presidents Message

"Sorry got lost in the mail"

But Dave sends spring greetings from his vacation in Florida and asked that I convey the following:

Thank you to Kate and Janet (plus all the assistants) for preparing the delicious corn beef and cabbage dinner.

Please volunteer to host a hive opening for the Bee School students in April. See page 2 for details. Don't forget to sign up for the banquet and enjoy a night out dining and dancing.

Dave Meldrum

19, Dr Larry Connor presenter. Class cost is not set yet but will be approximately \$65-\$100. There are 30 openings. Sign up with Jane Wild, dead line is March 31st.

Mass Bee -

Next meeting will be held at the fair grounds on March 29th from 9AM to 4PM. Cost of the meeting is \$10 or \$20 with lunch. Become a Mass Bee member for \$15, <http://www.massbee.org/membership.shtml> and the year's future workshops are free. ECBA is looking for help with set up for the meeting that morning @ 7AM. An informal dinner will be held Friday night at Carrabba's, in Peabody, costs \$19.95.

Committee to research the cost and make recommendation on the investment of a teaching kit for the club was established consisting of Charlene Bleem, Mary-Margret Kearney & Kathy Sample.

Treasurers Report -

Jan Gaglione read the club report. See report on page 3 for details.

Motion to accept the report as read and to make payments to the listed expenses after pending audit is made. Motion passed.

New Business

President Dave made a recommendation to the members that the club invests in a Dishonestly Insurance policy for the 5 Principal Board Members; Cost is approximately \$1k for 3 years. The insurance will cover dollars not received after any litigation. Motion was presented and approved to invest in the Dishonesty Insurance. It passed unanimously

Grant Committee -

Joe Donnelly volunteered as chair person. Please see Joe if interested in helping.

Worth noting, that Bob Ross is among us at tonight's meeting.

Vinny Gaglione suggest that we take the EAS membership registration (\$50) and put it towards honeybee research as the club no longer has any voting privileged in EAS. A decision pursued. Motion was presented and approved with one nay to use the money for honeybee research through Dewy Caron.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM

Door prize of a package of bees was won by Jim Mandry.

**Bee School is looking for
hive opening sites for the
students on April 19th**



**~Multiple sites needed~
Contact Larry Goldstein
larrygoldstein@hotmail.com**

Rain date April 20th

Library News!

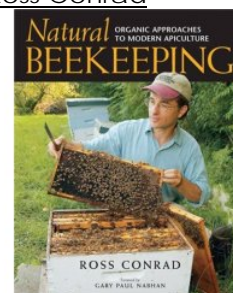
Vinny Gaglione has donated to the library The 40th Apimondia International Apiculture Congress 2007 Program and a 40 brochure on Commercial Beekeeping in Australia by the Australian Government-Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. Thanks MATE!

Ed Cassano has donated the following books:
Bees and Beekeeping by Irmgard Diemer

The New Complete Guide to Beekeeping by Roger A. Morse
Honey Bees & Beekeeping-A Year in the Life of an Apiary by Keith S. Delapane (The University of Georgia)
Anatomy of the Honey Bee by R.E. Snodgras
The How-To-Do-It book of Beekeeping by Richard Taylor
Beekeeping a Practical Guide by Richard E. Bonney

Thanks to both Vinny and Ed for their donations!

New Book at the Bee Library:
Natural Beekeeping: Organic Approaches to Modern Apiculture (Paperback) by Ross Conrad



Amazon.com's review:
"Beekeepers face new challenges in keeping bees alive and healthy but until now there's been no holistic orientation on beekeeping. NATURAL BEEKEEPING: ORGANIC APPROACHES TO MODERN APICULTURE offers up an alternative to chemical practices and delivers a program of natural hive management using nontoxic methods to control mites, eliminate common bee diseases, and produce naturally resistant, healthier hives. Both novices and neopros receive tips on everything from genetics and breeding to pests and harvesting, with chapters coming from one who learned from world-

renowned beekeeper Charles Mraz. Any collection strong in organic gardening, harvesting or beekeeping needs NATURAL BEEKEEPING."

The Bee Library is open every Tuesday night during Bee School. Come take out some books or drop off your library books. Come in and say hi to Barbara, Abby or Marilyn.

Guest Speaker Notes

Mike Palmer of French Hill Apiaries, St. Albans, Vermont presented his theory on "Over Wintering Nucs"

The reasons for bee loss are many; *starvation, dysentery, Nosema, Tracheal, and Verroa mites.* Replacement ideas include, collecting swarms (limited availability), buy packages or purchase nucs (expense factor).

Mike suggests over wintering nucs on top of your weak colonies. That's right, quite different from what the books recommend; to re-queen or to make splits from strong hives. However these steps do not guarantee a productive hive nor does it compensate for the cost and the potential honey production loss. Don't spend time working these non-productive hives (duds) instead use them to produce your own nucs and that it can be done with only 4 combs. Mike reminded us that BROOD is our most valuable bee resource, in reserve!

Consider these odds; if you have 10 colonies and start 10 winter nucs and it is NOT a good winter and you loose 50% of everything, you would still have 10 colonies. Nucleus colonies are the foundation of successful beekeeping.

You can use wood or Styrofoam nuc boxes with a removable or permanent dividers, it is what's inside that count. Make it work. In the spring: the hive will be productive right

away. Strength of the future of any hive is the brood.

Basic steps
Disassemble a strong hive box in to the nuc box with a frame of honey, frame of brood, one mixed with pollen brood and then an empty frame. Give them a ripe queen cell or purchased caged queen. Cover with seed cloth. Then manage the nuc to prevent swarming.

Mike Palmer has challenged many of the standard ideas of beekeeping and suggests an alternative to buying packages of southern bees every year by raising some home grown winter nucs.

Calendar

March 24, 2008, 7 PM
Fair Committee Meeting
Bee Building

March 31, 2008
Queen Breeding Seminar Deadline

April 1, 2008
Banquet Deadline

April 12, 2008, 6-11 PM
Banquet - The Village Green

April 18, 2008
Newsletter Deadline

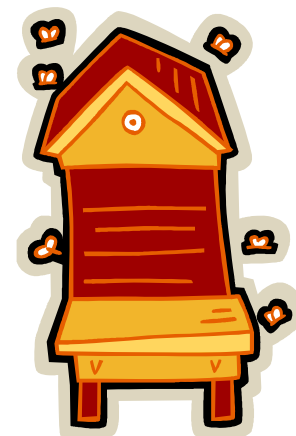
May 12, 2008, 7 PM
BOD Meeting

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for getting information into the next newsletter will be **April 18, 2008**. Please make submissions to Candy Leva by email at: Candice.leva@avnet.com

The Honey Candy and Beeswax Sheets Club Buy Deadline is April 30, 2008.
Honey Candy is \$47.56 a case (29#) plus shipping. Flavors include: Assorted, Strawberry, Lemon, Apple, Orange, and Honey.
Beeswax Sheets price depends on

quantity ordered. 2007 price was .89 per sheet. Some colors can be ordered by sheets, all Colors can be ordered by Case of 96 sheets. Email with order the forms will be sent out to all members, or contact Kathy Sample at 978-372-5672 or samplebee@gmail.com





Bee Involved With Your Club

Thinking about getting more involved with Essex County Beekeeper Association? Consider running for a club office. Over the next few newsletters we will feature the club offices available, their duties/tasks and length of terms.

The principal officers of Essex County Beekeeping Association are a president, a vice-president, a recording secretary/clerk, a financial/membership secretary, a treasurer, and four directors. Election of recording secretary/clerk, treasurer and two directors shall be held in even-numbered years and the election of president, vice-president, financial/membership secretary and two directors shall be held in odd-numbered years. Elections are held in November and terms for all officers and directors are held for two years.

Up for election November 2008 are the following positions:

Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Two Directors

This month we will highlight:

Recording Secretary:

The Recording Secretary is the clerk of ECBA and he/she keep the minutes of both the monthly member meeting, (11 per year) and the board of director meetings (4 per year/quarterly). The recording secretary also prepares the newsletter for publication which is done using a Microsoft Word Newsletter Template. The minutes are posted in the newsletter along with other information that is forwarded to the recording secretary by other board members, committees and club members. Other duties include sign or countersign all instruments that require his/her signature, including the annual filings required by the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (filling out a form). The recording secretary may appoint assistants to help and act under his/her supervision. This may include taking meeting minutes in the recording secretary’s absence and or preparing the newsletter. ****The actual distribution of the newsletter is the duty of the Member Secretary****

Current Recording Secretary is Candy Leva, elected 2006, term expires January 2009.

If you have any questions regarding this position email Candice.leva@avnet.com or let’s talk at the banquet or May meeting.





**Essex County Beekeepers Association, Inc
2008 Scholarship Application**

This application must be completed by applicant. It is due **May 7, 2008**. Applications received after that date may not be considered. Please include a letter of recommendation from a current instructor, school counselor, or employer. If currently a student, please include a copy of your most recent grades.

To apply, complete this form and type the information requested on a separate piece of paper.

1. Name and Address of college you plan to attend. List alternate schools, if necessary. What year do you expect to graduate? What is your planned course of study? List your options, if undecided. How might your intended career relate to beekeeping?
2. List your recent activities, school-related, community service, sports, music, clubs, or other relevant interest.
3. Are you, a relative, or friend a member of ECBA? How have you and/or your family participated in ECBA?
4. **How do you plan to finance your education? Be as specific as you can about costs, personal and family resources, and your anticipated need for financial assistance. Are there any special circumstances that will affect your costs or need for assistance? If so, explain.**

Send this completed application to:

Essex County Beekeepers Association, Att: Scholarship Committee, PO Box 10, Topsfield, MA 01983-0010

Name: _____

Date of Birth _____

Home Address: _____

Father's name _____

Mother's Name _____

<p>Provide an estimate of your financial need:</p> <p>Tuition: _____</p> <p>Room & Board: _____</p> <p>Books, etc: _____</p> <p>Total: _____</p>

An ECBA scholarship is a gift, not a loan. Candidates will be notified of their selection and amount of award by June 7 and will be invited to attend our annual picnic on July 13, 2008. Checks will be sent payable to the applicant, to their home address upon successful completion of the fall semester after the scholarship is granted. If you are awarded a scholarship, you need to send a copy of your fall grades to the scholarship committee. This application is confidential. The only information released is the name of the scholarship recipients, their respective colleges and the award amount.

Massachusetts Beekeepers' Association 2008 Spring Meeting

- Who:** Dr. Tom Seeley - "House hunting by honey bees: a study of effective decision making" and "Forest bees and Varroa mites"
Dave Simser - Tick Biology and Bite Prevention
- When:** Saturday, March 29, 2008 at 9:00 AM; Registration starts at 8:30 AM.
Informal Friday night session at 7:00 PM at Carrabba's Italian Grill, 1A Newbury Street, Peabody (next door to the Holiday Inn). Dinner reservations must be made through Larry Goldstein, larrygoldstein@hotmail.com.
- Where:** Coolidge Hall, Topsfield Fairgrounds, Topsfield, MA.
Take Route 95 North to Exit 50. (Rte 1). Follow Route 1 north to the fairgrounds on right.
- Hotel:** Holiday Inn, Rte 1 (Northbound Side), Peabody (15 minutes from Fairgrounds).
The rate is \$89 when you mention "MASSBEE". Call 9789-535-4600 for reservations.

For those members who want to arrive early and spend a leisurely Friday night before the meeting on March 28 we have arranged a package. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn, on the northbound side of Rt. 1 in Peabody, MA. In addition, we have also arranged for dinner at Carrabba's Italian Grill, which is next door to the Holiday Inn. The price is \$19.99 per person with your choice of a number of entrées, beverages and soup or salad.

We will have commercial exhibitors as well as a raffle and a silent auction to benefit the association. You are asked to bring an item for the Silent Auction (not necessarily bee-related), and are invited to bid on items. A Saturday deli luncheon buffet will be provided and must be reserved in advance. There will be coffee and tea available Saturday morning. **We are asking for contribution of Honey-baked goods for the morning break. Thank you!**

Lunch reservations must be received by Saturday, March 22

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Members: # attending ____ @\$10 ____ @\$0 ____ Total\$
Advance Registration: Program & Lunch per person Program only

Non-Members: # attending ____ @\$20 ____ @\$10 ____ Total\$
Advance Registration: Program & Lunch per person Program only

Please send this form with payment to: MBA c/o Andrea Desilets, 16 Pond St. #3, Ayer, MA 01432

****Please make checks payable to MBA****

ECBA 2008 BANQUET

Saturday, April 12, 2008

6:00 to 11:00 PM

The Village Green Restaurant

Route One North

Danvers, MA



Social Hour 6PM

Dinner 7PM

Awards following

Entertainment music and dancing

Dinner includes the “Village Buffet” at \$20.00 per person

Contact Banquet Committee members if you have questions:

Glen Migneault at 978-535-4729, glenm84@yahoo.com or

Joan Price at 781-631-7056, joan-price@comcast.net

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Please detach and send with your payment, no later than **April 1, 2008** to:

Glen Migneault
9 Radcliffe Rd.
Beverly, MA 01915

Guest Name _____ # Attending _____

Make checks payable to **ECBA**
\$20.00 Per Person



ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 10
TOPSFIELD, MA 01983-0010

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

April 2008



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