

Essex County Beeline

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

Keeping Bees Since 1923

May 2008

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

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Member Meeting
May 18, 2008
2:30PM



Hive Opening 1:30PM
Brooksby Farms
Peabody, Ma
Details on page 4

Speaking of awards, our Peter Delaney was the recipient of the Mass Bee "Beekeeper of the Year" award! Good going Pete.

Anyone interested in being an ECBA photographer? If you are interested, I have worked out a way to pool the photographs. I often see people taking pictures, but we don't get a chance to share them. If this is done by several people, we'll get a lot of coverage. We can set up a shared directory (folder), where people can upload their photos. They will remain private until someone uses them in the newsletter or on the web site. See me if you are interested in participating.

Club Business

Presidents Message

Thank you Joan Price, Pam Marcaurette, Glen and Mary Mignault for doing an excellent job on the Banquet. The food and entertainment were great. Attendance was off this year and I would be interested in hearing reasons why not as many people participated this year.

Jan Gaglione and Chris Delaney were this year's recipients of the president's award for their outstanding hard work in sorting out the treasury records and establishing a sound bookkeeping system. Thank you Jan & Chris

Some Upcoming events:

The May meeting will be held at Brooksby Farm May 18th. Vin Gaglione will be doing a Hive opening and Bill Denhard will talk about two queen hives. The June meeting will feature this year's Bee School Alumni. I hope many of you will turn out to help answer questions and share your experiences. It will be held at the lovely Emery House in West Newbury. July will feature our annual picnic. And a week later will be the Queen rearing class.

Experts are advising treating with Fumagillin this spring to fend off a virulent strain of Nosema, called Nosema Ceranae. The bees ingest

the Nosema spores which blossom into a fungal disease in the mid gut. Normally Nosema weakens the hive, but rarely kills the hive. This more virulent form can bring a hive to collapse, especially in the late summer. The west coast is experiencing a lot of losses from Nosema this year.

At the Mass Bee meeting, Tom Sealy talked about bee lining or bee hunting and referenced the book "The Bee Hunter" by G. H. Edgell. I read the book and it sounds like it could be a lot of fun. Basically you need a bee lining box and a few other pieces of equipment and head off to a meadow where there are bees on flowers. After capturing a few bees, you can release them and follow their path to a hive. Other than reading up on how it is done, I think the two major hurdles is to build a bee lining box and finding a location where you can walk the property without being shot at by the owner. Ideally it would be open meadow terrain and not woods so it is easier to see the bees fly. Someone at the banquet thought it would be a lot of fun to get a bunch of people together and try it some afternoon. I will be donating the book to the club library, and it is a short read.

My wife, Sandy, and I were at dinner party the other night and the host asked me if I knew of Charles Mraz. In case you are unfamiliar, Charles Mraz was a very well known beekeeper in Middlebury Vt. And my dinner host was also from Middlebury. He proceeded to then tell me this story:

A family from Middlebury Vt. went to Germany for a six week visit. Just to make the story easier to tell I will call them the Beasleys. Now while in Germany, the Beasleys were talking to one of the local beekeepers when they mentioned they were from Middlebury Vt. The German then asked the

Beasleys if they knew Charles Mraz, and they replied that they did. The excited German then said he was in correspondence with Charles and wanted to get a honeybee queen to Mr. Mraz. Would they carry a queen back to Charles when they returned to the USA? The Beasleys accepted the task and when the time came, Mrs. Beasley put the queen in her pocketbook and got on the plane. Obviously this story takes place before 9/11. Now an important part of this story is that the plane was seriously delayed and arrived in Logan hours late. The plan had been that some the Beasley's friends would meet them at the airport and take them home. However, since the plane was so late, the Beasleys' friends had given up and left the airport. When the Beasleys cleared customs and arrived outside the international terminal there was no one to meet them... no one except Charlie Mraz! Charlie wanted that queen!

Now that's the end of the story, but as beekeepers I think you get the point and see how it demonstrates our loyalty to the bees... sometimes more loyalty than some people show toward their friends. There is a genuine effort to go the extra step to support the bees and beekeeping. It is that extra step that makes this group so great.

As I am writing this it is hive opening weekend, and the weather is great. It is really energizing to see the enthusiasm of the new brood of beekeepers.

Dave Meldrum

April Meeting

As per tradition, President Meldrum suspended the business portion of the meeting until the May.

Mass Bee Association

"Beekeeper of the Year"

Peter Delaney



Front L-R, Eric Josephson, Pete Delaney, Andrea Desilets, Back L-R, Dan Conlin, Phil Watson, Larry Goldstein

During the March meeting held in Topsfield, Mass Bee awarded its coveted "Beekeeper of the Year" to our very own Peter Delaney! Peter was nominated by members of ECBA for his over 15 years of unselfish dedication and work toward promoting beekeeping. Peter's other noted accomplishments were: ECBA President for the last 4 years, Served on the Bee-School committee and was chairperson for 3 years. Established the mentoring program at Bee-School, mentored many fellow beekeepers and hosted many hive openings. Organized and promoted ECBA participation in the Topsfield Fair Parade from 1993-2005, Supported many honey shows by entering his honey and wax products. Organized and promoted beekeeping by supporting and attending educational activities as well as securing many guest speakers. Lastly Peter has encouraged many of those who would otherwise fall to the wayside to become involved and standup and be heard. Congratulations Peter, this award is well deserved.~

Bee school



April 22 will mark the graduation of almost 90 students from another successful bee school. The class was very enthusiastic and interactive, asking many questions of the various speakers. At this time I would like to thank all of the speakers who volunteered their time, it was much appreciated by all. And I would like to thank the bee school committee members, whose help made for another successful school year.

Larry Goldstein

Bee Library News!

Spring is here and so is Earth Day. So, here are a few web sites that are fun, educational and of course, about Honeybees.

Check out Haagen Dazs's web site and see how eating ice cream will help the bees! Their web site all about new vanilla honeybee ice cream with a touch of honey and about Haagen Dazs' funding research to project disappear honeybee populations.

This web site will entertain and educate ice cream lovers about The Honey Bee Crisis, Why an ice cream maker cares about Honey Bees, How you can help, Make and send a Bee to spread the word, and a Bee Store. Ok, they had my attention with ice cream. But, I love this site. Check it out at:

www.helpthehoneybees.com

From California Public Television Station KQED is the video:

Better Bees: Super Bee and Wild Bee

California farmers depend on bees to pollinate the state's multi-million dollar fruit and nut crops, but last season thousands of bee colonies disappeared around the country. Meet two Northern California researchers looking for ways to make sure we always have bees to pollinate our crops.

www.kqed.org/quest/television/view/434

This web site is a great site about bees. Can you imagine putting on a bee suit in space? No, this site is down to earth and about bees and climate change.

www.honeybeenet.gsfc.nasa.gov/index.htm

The Library is putting on its wheels for the spring and summer meetings. If there are any titles, or subjects that you would like to be in the Library on wheels...please email me at

mybaku2000@yahoo.com

Barbara



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for getting information into the next newsletter will be **May 24, 2008**. Please make submissions to Candy Leva by email at:

Candice.leva@avnet.com

Calendar

May 12, 2008, 7 PM
BOD Meeting

May 18, 2008,
Member Meeting
Brooksby Farm, Peabody

May 24, 2008
Newsletter Deadline

June 8, 2008
Member Meeting
Emery House, Newburyport

July 13, 2008
ECBA Member Picnic
Topsfield Fair Grounds

July 18-19, 2008
Queen Rearing Class

Bee Hives Wanted

My name is John Donovan, I own a farm in Essex MA and am hoping to find a beekeeper that would like to keep some hives at my property.

The property has many crabapple trees, pear trees, apples, etc. and I am preparing to plant more fruit trees as part of a small orchard for myself. (also I would be open to add more plants/clover/etc to add to the bee habitat)

I don't have the time yet to keep bees myself, but I think that my property would be a great place for a bee hive.

Call John @ 617 820 7673

BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

New woodenware, foundation, division board feeders, hardware & supplies. Best Offer. Used hive top feeders, medium and shallow supers, smoker, embedding board, bee escape boards in good condition, FREE.

Call Phil 978-948-5118.

May ECBA Monthly Meeting
Sunday, May 18, 2008
Brooksby Farm, 38 Felton St.
Peabody, Ma.

http://www.essexheritage.org/sites/brooksby_farm.shtml

1:30 Hive opening
2:00 Meeting

Speaker: Bill Denhard
Topic: Establishing a two queen hive.



Directions:

Brooksby farm is very near the North shore Mall.

From Route 114 in Peabody turn south west onto Prospect St. This is a one way street. Go past the mall and turn right onto Felton St.
Brooksby is at the end of Felton St.

From Lowell St. in Peabody, turn north east onto Prospect St. Turn left onto Felton St.
Brooksby is at the end of Felton St.

Armenia 2007 Beekeepers

By ECBA Member Jeffrey Bilezikian

My Wife, Nancy, I took a trip to Armenia this June to go back to my native land where my grandparents fled from in 1920. We went to visit the country and seen the place of my heritage.



We got to spend a few days in the country to see the small villages and agricultural communities. As we headed North out of Yerrivan the world looked bleak with suburban development and bad roads and utility lines. As we got further away from the city, we slowed down because of larger potholes and jagged switchbacks going up mountainsides. I felt bad for the people who lived out here. We spend a night at a hotel in a small village on Lake Sevan. After spending a night in the country, I woke up refreshed and began to appreciate the beauty of the land and the slow pace of life. I saw what looked like beehives from the road on the way to our remote hotel. We went for a walk along the road and saw a mobile home/trailer and some bees. Since we were in a foreign country and not knowing the language, we just walked away.

The next morning curiosity got me and we went to visit the trailer. There was a family there who invited us in and gave us some coffee and honey. We wrangled our way through a discussion of beekeeping. Their hives were home made but the same as other we saw. They use a 12 frame format. It looked like there was a super or a feeder on top of each hive. It was a cover with a pillow on top. He was keeping this in the winter and the summer as insulation. It just sat there on top of the 12 frames. Since this was mid-June, I asked if they were putting supers on yet, it was too early, the cold season was just ending and the short season of honey production, July and August, was just around the corner. His supers were ready to go but it wasn't time. I asked about his bees dying. He said there were losses, he thought it was Nosema. It was hard to communicate with him about medications. He new the name Apistan and it seemed like he has used it before and he referred to Monsanto and something else I did not know.



It was nice to see some other beekeepers in another country just enjoying their summer and bees. Nancy and I assumed that they kept their honey for themselves and sold some or traded for other goods in the winter.

For the next few days we saw many beekeepers dotting the countryside. We had a chance to visit a few more. Most homes in the rural areas had about 6 to 10 hives on stands at least 12 inches high, to keep out of the snow. I asked a few families with only two of three hives, why so few. They did not want to split the hives and not get honey that year, it made me sad to hear that. It seemed they would be a year or so away from no honey.

We learned that there is an abundance of Linden trees around and the hills were dotted with lots of fresh flowers before they burn up in the hot August sun. Great sources for the bees. Also, we are working with the Armenia Tree Project, reforesting some of the country with Walnut, Apricot, Pear, Apple, Oak, Ash, Peach, and a few other native tree varieties to restore what was cut after the fall of the Soviet Union. These efforts are going strong in the rural areas. This was a great unexpected part of our trip.





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:

Club Treasurer:

The Treasurer has custody of all moneys, funds, and securities of ECBA. The Treasurer prepares monthly balance sheets, (treasurer’s report) and book of accounts, which are open to inspection by each director. The Treasurer deposits the moneys as directed by the Board of Directors and renders financial and fiscal records of the club as required by the Board of Directors. He/she shall sign or countersign checks, stocks, securities, bonds, contracts, mortgages, deeds of trust, leases, deeds and other instruments that require his/her signature, and submit all financial records for audit annually or as required. The duties of the Treasurer may be discharged and the books and records kept by assistant Treasurers under his/her direction but may be subject to limitations imposed by the Board of Directors.

Current Treasurer is Jan Gaglione, elected 2006, term expires January 2009. If you have any questions regarding this position email jgagli1646@aol.com or strike up a conversation with Jan during the 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.



ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May 2008



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