

Essex County Beeline

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

Keeping Bees Since 1923

August 2008

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

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hands that helped out such as Phil Watson, Kathy Sample & Chris Delaney.

I will be away to EAS for the August meeting, and Candy Leva will be running the ECBA meeting, so I hope you give her your full support. The Meeting will be at the "King Tree Farm" in west Boxford, and Pete Delaney is going to demonstrate how to measure your mite load.

Probably by now all of you have heard that Paul & Joan Price had an incident while moving bees that made the news. It was an accident that could have happened to any of us and some bees got loose. What struck me is how well Joan and Paul handled the situation. When I first saw it on the news, there was Joan delivering honey to all the neighbors. Here is where being a good neighbor really pays off. Of course Joan & Paul's good nature was on their side and the neighbors took the incident in good style, and I don't think beekeeping took much of a black eye. Most of the news reports were reasonably mild.

I am hearing mostly favorable reports on the spring honey crop; however a few areas are not doing to well. I am doing pretty well, but the bees have not capped the honey and it looks a little wet. I just hope they don't take it all back during the July and early August dearth.

Dave Meldrum

Member Meeting
Sunday, August 10, 2008
King Tree Farm



Mite Evaluation Demo 1PM
Meeting Time 2:30 PM
Route 133
West Boxford, MA
Details on page 4

Club Business

Presidents Message

The July picnic was just great. We had great weather, golf, softball, smoker contest, food, silent auction, a door prize of two ECBA directors' chairs, and everyone was just having fun. Of course the highlight was awarding our scholarships to Rachel Orłowski, Jamie Coleman, Anna Josephson and Sarah Croteau. Congratulations students! Mrs. Essex County (Karen Moniz) attended the picnic and had some very nice words to say. We will be seeing more of her during the Fair. Many thanks to the Board of Directors for putting on the picnic. Also thanks to the many additional

July Meeting

We had perfect weather for our July meeting – and delicious variety of food!

President Dave Meldrum opened the meeting at 2:30 p.m., and asked for a motion to have the minutes of the last meeting accepted as published in the newsletter. The club moved, seconded, voted to accept the minutes.

Mrs. Essex County, Karen Moniz, greeted us and said she'll be seeing us at the Topsfield Fair!

Jan Gaglione read the treasurer's report. Club moved, seconded, voted to accept, subject to audit.

Pete Delaney said he was looking for a couple of convertibles to be driven in the Topsfield Fair opening day parade, and also needs help to get the float set up.

Kathy Sample said Fair workshops have begun on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. at the Bee Building; help is needed with candy and wax.

Jane Wild said the queen-rearing class can ONLY be attended by those who enrolled (no spouses or other family members allowed to "audit").

Stan Sample spoke on behalf of the Building Committee – floor of the Bee Building needs painting; proposed that the club provide a sum not to exceed \$200 to cover the expense of paint (if Topsfield Fair does not cover the expense). Club moved, seconded, voted to do so.

Michelle Bailey and Stephanie Williams, representing the Scholarship Committee, said there were four applicants for scholarships this year, so each applicant received a scholarship (of varying amounts). This year's recipients were:

Rachel Orłowski (friend of the Gagliones, she is studying to be a veterinarian)
Jamie Coleman
Anna Josephson
Sarah Croteau



(L-R J. Coleman, A. Josephson, R. Orłowski)

All but Sarah were present for the photo opportunity; a total of \$5000 was awarded.

Michelle, as outgoing chairman, thanked Stephanie Williams and Joe Donnelly (her fellow committee members).

Chris and Pete Delaney and others will be providing ECBA information and a beekeeping demonstration at the Lowell Spinners game.

The August 10th meeting will be held at King Tree Farm in Boxford. At that meeting, the club will accept nominations for two members of the Bee School committee.

Jan Gaglione won the door prize, two director's chairs with ECBA logo embroidered on the back.

Candy Leva and Jamie Coleman were the "silent auction-eers" – money raised from the bids on donated items will be applied to the scholarship principal. GREAT JOB!

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Boylan

Smoker Contest Winners:

Senior & Overall Winner:
Stephanie Williams \$20
Junior: Jason Sample \$10



Meeting was adjourned @ 4:05PM.

Library News

I just finished reading The Beekeeper's Pupil by Sara George. If you enjoy history, scientific discovery and honey bees this book is for you. The book is about Francois Huber and his painstaking experiments on honey bees prior to the French Revolution. What makes this a fascinating book is the fact that Francois Huber did most of his research after he became blind. He trains his man servant to observe in his place and together they document their astonishing findings.

It so happens that Beekeepers and Doctors do have something in common-their handwriting. I am sorry if any names are misspelled. If I can't read the name...well you get my point.

Outstanding Library Books:

Janet Brink: A Murmur of Bees, Great Masters of Beekeeping, Opening and Manipulating a Hive-Video, Ulee's Gold-Video, Tales from the Hive-Video, Basic Bee Posters (5), Sweetness & Light-The Mysterious History of the Honey Bee, Letters from the Hive-An Intimate History of the Bee, Honey, and Humankind, Lifecycle of the Honey Bee-Wall Poster, The Beekeepers's Yea

Theresa Cayndy: Traditional Candlemaking

Kindra Clineff: A Year in the Beeyard

Eileen Guerin: Beeswax Crafts

Barry Allen: The Secret Life of Bees, Tales from the Hives-DVD

Lucas Bradley: Cooking with Kids

Martha Keller: City of Bees-Video

Yssibel Marren: Robbing the Bees-A Biography of Honey-The Sweet Liquid Gold seduced the world, The Backyard Beekeeper

Karen Percival: The Country Diary Book of Creating a Wild Flower Garden, Good Bugs for your Garden, Wildflowers across America, The Natural Habitat Garden, Audubon Field Guide to New England

Michael Ryan: Langstroth’s Hive and the Honeybee, The Secret Life of Bees

Gary DuBois: Requeening & Colony Division Made Easy, Finding the Queen: When you Must-Video

Gretal Clark: Let’s Find Out About Bees, Insects and Gardens-In Pursuit of a Garden Ecology

Marilyn Graves: Wildflowers, Beeswax Craft

Will Graves: Beekeeper’s Educational Series-Hive Spitting & Honey Extracting& Bottling, Candle Making for Everyone-Video, Free Bees for You-Video

Phyllis Gifford: Photo Album-Almosta Farm

Candy Leva: Bee Culture-Nov. 07, Dec. 07

Kathy Sample: 21st Century Complete Guide to Bee-USDA – CD Rom

C. Meehan: Installing a Package-DVD

Mary Obrien: Silence of the Bees-DVD

I am always amazed at the library’s varied subject matter.

Coming soon to the library!



National Audubon Society-Field Guide to Insects & Spiders

A Spring without Bees - Michael Scacker

The Buzz about Bees: The Biology of a Superorganism - Jurgen Tautz

Uncle Buzzy’s Big Fat Book of Bee Cartoons - Lela Dowling

Little Bee-Finger Puppet Book -Chronicle Books-

“Give your baby his (or her) taste of storytime magic with this finger-puppet book.” Parenting Magazine

Fair Workshops

Continue every Tuesday’s & Thursdays nights in July from 7 – 9 PM at the Bee Building. Come in and be a part of the MOST visited exhibit during the Topsfield Fair. All are welcome. Any questions please contact Kathy Sample 978-372-5672 or email: samplebee@gmail.com

Calendar

Tuesdays & Thursday in July
Summer workshop

August 10, 2008
Member Meeting, 2:30PM
Kings Tree Farm - W. Boxford

August 15, 2008
Newsletter Deadline

August 18, 2008
BOD Meeting, 7PM
Please note new date

September 14, 2008
Member Meeting, 2:30 PM
Bee Building - Topsfield

Did you know...

ECBA members receive discount subscriptions to bee magazines? Yes they do, please contact the club librarian at the next meeting for details.

Bee Demonstrations

Lowell Spinners
Saturday, August 16th, 5:00 PM

Sunday, August 17, Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Story hour 2:30 - 4:30PM

Newsletter Deadline

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

Where Can I Rent an Extractor?

There are several club members that are willing to lend the use of extractors. I also know that Vinny Gaglione (Crystal Bee Supply, 978-535-1622) and Nancy Mangion. (Beekeepers Warehouse, 781-935-6090) rent them. I am not sure about Rick Reault (New England Beekeeping Supplies, rick@nebees.com). Those are your 3 local dealers.

~Stan Sample

ECBA Silent Auction

Thank you to all those that donated items to the silent auction during the July picnic. Auctioneers, Jamie Coleman & Candy Leva appreciate the high bids and everyone that helped us move the items and tables into the building! The event proved to be very successful as \$396.50 was received and will go towards the scholarship principal! Bravo!



August Meeting

Sunday, 8/10/2008

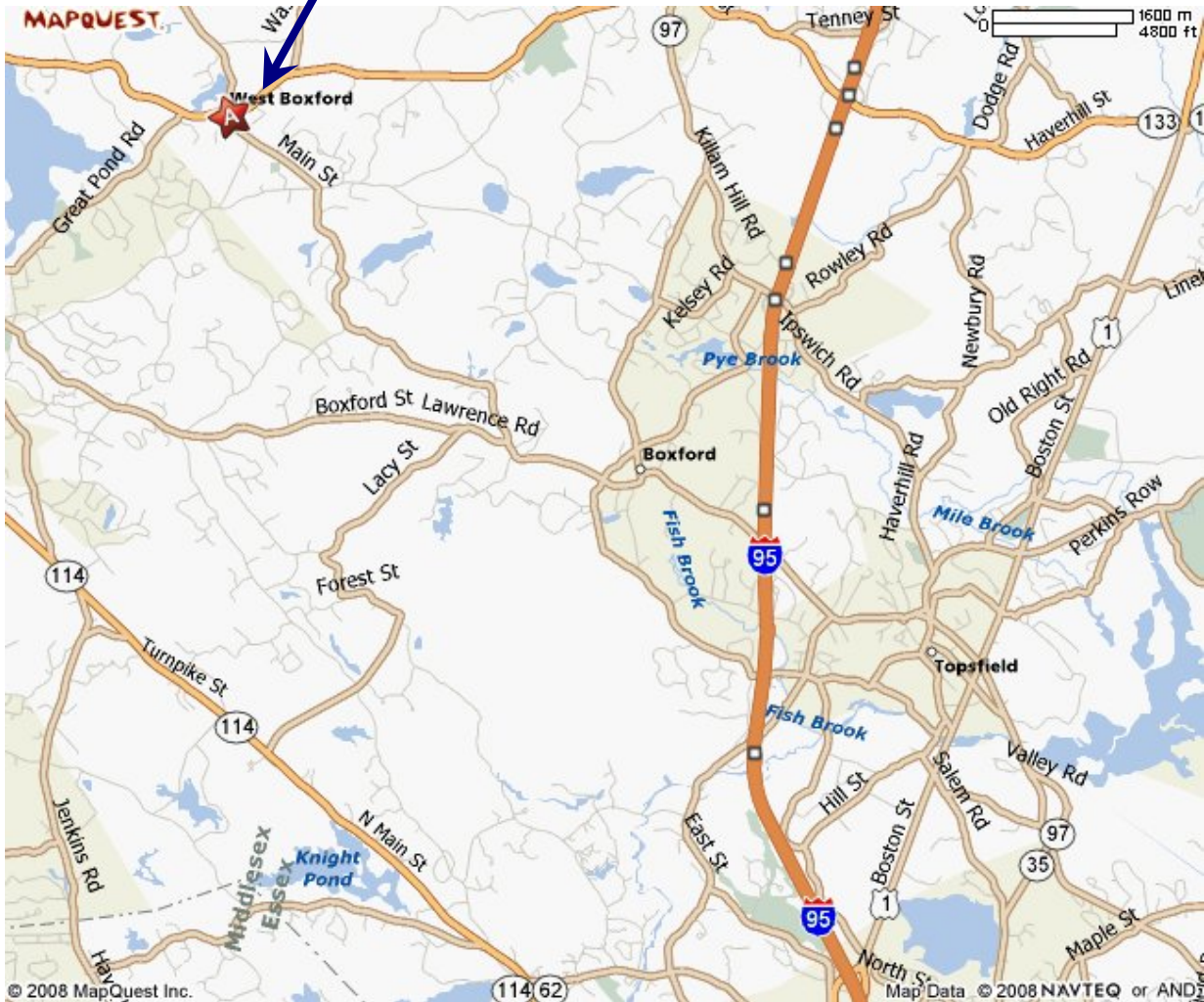
King Tree Farm & Nursery

Your Hosts: Chris and Peter Delaney

Route 133
978-352-6359

Hive Opening 1:00 PM
Demo: checking hive for mites
Member Meeting 2:30 PM

Bring your lawn chairs, snacks, refreshments and items for the raffle table!



Fair Committee

Reminder: The fair is right around the corner and we are asking that everyone pitch in and help with the preparations. The work parties are every Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the bee building until we finish. We need to package candy, package candle kits, cut wax for the candle table, and fold brochures. Please try to give one night or as many as you can. The more help we have the faster we finish! This is the club's fund raiser and we need every members help. No experience necessary. To check that we are working contact Kathy Sample 978-994-2746 or samplebee@gmail.com

In order to be a seller at the Topsfield Fair you must be an ECBA member as of March 2008 and have obtained a seller's guide and seller's number on or before 9-13-08. To request a Seller's Guide and number see Phil Watson 978-388-0775 or email: bkeepers@verizon.net

Dates to Remember:

Wax and Soap products for sale: Saturday 9-20-08 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Honey for sale: Sunday 9-21-08 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Exhibits Take In:

Division 1, 2 & 3: Friday 9-26-08 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Saturday 9-27-08 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Division 4: Wednesday 10-1-08 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Thursday 10-2-08 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

→Remember to sign up for Staffing the Building during the fair. See Staffing/Volunteer Form below.

Opening Day:October 3, 2008

Nominating Committee

The committee would like to remind all club members that there are still positions open and ask that you please help your club by volunteering to work on the board of directors. Nominations will be announced in September and voted on during the November meeting. Positions available and their duties, as listed in the Essex County Beekeepers' Association By-Laws, are below:

ARTICLE IV- Section 4:

The **Recording Secretary/Clerk** shall serve as Clerk of the Corporation, have custody of the Corporate Seal, prepare the newsletter for publication, issue notices of all regular or special meetings of the membership and of the Board of Directors and keep the minutes thereof in books provided for that purpose. Said books shall remain the property of the Corporation and therefore remain in the Beekeeping Building of the Topsfield Fairgrounds at all times. He/she shall keep and make available to the Board of Directors, at least semi-annually, a record of the securities, contracts, mortgages, deeds of trust, leases, deed records, publications, and other property belonging to the Corporation. He/she shall sign or countersign all instruments that require his/her signature, including the annual filings required by the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He/she shall prepare the notices of meetings and assure posting in time to be received at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting date. He/she shall keep proper records of all appropriations and authorizations of expenditures made at meetings of the membership or the Board of Directors. The duties of the Recording Secretary/Clerk may be discharged by officer assistants acting under his/her supervision.

ARTICLE IV- Section 6:

The **Treasurer** shall have custody of all moneys, funds, securities, contracts, mortgages, deeds of trust, leases and deeds of the Corporation, and shall keep proper books of accounts thereof, which books shall, at all times, be open to inspection by each

director. The Treasurer shall deposit the moneys and conditions as the Board of Directors may direct, and when so deposited, the Treasurer shall not be personally responsible for their safe keeping. The Treasurer shall render such reports relating to the moneys, funds, securities, investments, and fiscal affairs of the corporation as may be required of him/her from time to time 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 as require his/her signature, and submit all financial records for audit annually and at such other times as may be required, i.e. a change of office; and shall perform all duties incident to his/her office or that may be required by the Board of Directors. Subject to such limitations as the Board of Directors may impose, the duties of the Treasurer may be discharged and his/her books and records kept by assistant Treasurers under his/her direction.

ARTICLE IV- Section 7:

Directors shall represent the Corporation before other organizations, as the President may direct, and report to the membership all activities of those organizations. If a Director is unable to act as a representative, he/she shall notify the President in time to permit appointment of a replacement.



On Lorenzo Langstroth

by Dave Meldrum

Sandy and I spent a few days at Cayuga Lake camping... Well we were in a platform tent, set up by our friends if that is considered camping. I have an interest in Lorenzo Langstroth and the Phillips Library at Connell has a huge collection of Langstroth's writings. So I made an appointment with Linda Stewart who is the prime curator for the collection. Linda showed me how to search the catalog and I chose a few items to look at. One was "Remembrances" which was written by many of Langstroth's friends, and another was his personal memoirs that were hand written, and probably transcribed by his wife Anne. The librarians put me in a special room to read the papers and took away my pens so I would not accidentally markup any of the documents. I had to wash my hands ahead of time and obey some very strict rules about how to handle the documents,

I found the experience exhilarating. I have read Langstroth's biography by Florence Naile, but there were so many more details in the notes. The details were not really significant in themselves, but they just put you in the moment of his life. The man really was a genius. He took up beekeeping while living in Andover. While visiting one of his parishioners he noticed an upside down glass globe filled with honey comb. It was a practice at that time to bore a hole in the top of a hive and place a glass globe on top so the bees could go up into the glass. When the globe was filled with honey comb, you used a knife to sever the globe from the hive and cover the opening with a piece of glass. The parishioner, had five hives in his attic and by the end of the day, Langstroth took two of the hives home with him. They were Huber hives but he didn't even know enough to use smoke when working the bees. He said "the lack of training was a help to force me to learn". You can find notes where he puzzled out that unmated queens produced drones. Now that fact was known in Europe, but not to him, and he figured it out by himself. His diary had items like "added Italian queen to hive, but bees crowed around queen in a ferocious manner. I re-caged queen and introduced queen three days later". He learned his craft well. One section that I thought was very interesting was that in his later years he chided himself for not being brighter. He had seen clothes spun in a centrifuge to ring out the water and had even squirted water into frames which still contained pollen and honey and then swung them around to shake out the water, but never thought of using a centrifuge to extract honey. He was also irritated that someone beat him to the patent office with a top bar that encouraged bees to grow comb straight. He used a triangular piece of wax at a specific angle. Apparently there is a very specific shape and angle of the wax that will encourage the bees to draw out perfect comb.

I get the sense he had a Santa Clause like personality. An excellent chess, player he would laugh and laugh if a child beat him at chess. A truly terrible business man, he lived hand to mouth and received virtually nothing for his patent on his hive. He did get some royalty for his very successful book "Hive and the Honey Bee", but lived a very impoverished life.

I always thought that Langstroth's life was a great story with all its ups and downs. Turns out Charles Albert Haigh also thought so and has written a screen play called "King of Bees". I just finished reading the screen play which is a work of fiction, but contains many true items about Langstroth's life, and the bee culture is quite accurate. Of course how can any Hollywood movie exist without adding a murder and torrid sex scenes?

Staffing/Volunteer Form

NAME(S): _____

PHONE: _____
(day and evening required)

NAME(S): _____
(please print)

I/We are willing to work any shift as needed - please call

Please place your initials in the boxes below corresponding to the blocks of shift times which you would like to work. Include the initials of any other adult or adult children who are members of your family, wishing to volunteer his/her time. Shifts will be filled on a first come first served basis, with 12 persons per shift maximum! Please provide alternate times in the event your first choice is not available.

	10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. 2:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. (10/13)	4:00 P.M. – 10 P.M. (10/3) 6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.
Friday, October 3 rd			
Saturday, October 4 th			
Sunday, October 5 th			
Monday, October 6 th			
Tuesday, October 7 th			
Wednesday, October 8 th			
Thursday, October 9 th			
Friday, October 10 th			
Saturday, October 11 th			
Sunday, October 12 th			
Monday, October 13 th			Closing Nite POTLUCK Party 7:30 P.M.

I would like my name added to a publicly accessible list of beekeepers who sell apinary products after the closing of the fair.

Please list those products you intend to sell:

Please list your address and phone number which will be included on the list to be made available to the public.

Address: _____
(please print)

Phone: _____

Signing up for a shift entitles you to admission for each day that you volunteer your time. Topsfield Fair Management requires all volunteers to wear in plain sight at all times, a Photo ID that will grant admission and parking. These will be issued sometime in September of 2007, only to the individual whose photo appears on the ID.

Complete the above form and return it to **Kathy Sample** by the September meeting or mail it to: **Kathy Sample, 40 Center St, Groveland, MA 01834-1001, no later than September 29th, 2008.** If you have any questions please call her at 978-994-2746.



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

August 2008



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