

# Essex County Beeline

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

*Keeping Bees Since 1923*

**September 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**  
**Sunday, Sept 14, 2008**  
**Preparing for the Fair**



**Bee Building, Fair Grounds**  
**Meeting Time 2:30 PM**  
**Details on page 3**

of participants which just could not be helped. We should make every attempt to make these types of activities as inclusive as possible. I expect more to come next year. Finally you just have to give lots of credit to Jane Wild for championing this. These are the kind of activities that make the club interesting and strong. Also thanks to Gretel Clark for hosting the class. She let us go through her apiary stealing frames and re-arranging colony stores as well as being a very gracious hostess at her lovely place. Finally Chris Delaney, Kathy Sample and Carol Johnson put on a great feed plus the cooking expertise of chef bee Tom Beaton. Thank you so much folks.

I have just returned from EAS in Murray Ky. Sandy and I took a long road trip to get there, stopping at Amish country, Gettysburg battle field and Nashville. I also set up a visit at the Penn State Dept of Ag Bee Lab where Mike Andee showed me their techniques for measuring Nosema and Tracheal mites. They were very accommodating and I got a lot of good pointers. One of which was how to sample for field bees. I was trying to catch them with a glass jar at the mouth of the hive. What Mike does is to hold a piece of screen across the hive entrance and wait for about 15-20 bees to land on the screen. Then shake them in a pan of alcohol.

On to EAS where the weather was very very hot and attendance was

## Club Business

### Presidents Message

As you probably have heard the queen rearing class was a huge success. I thought the educational content was excellent thanks to Larry Connor and Rollie Hannan. There were good lectures and lots of hands on experience. It was also a great time to just hang out together. Interestingly, while at EAS, several groups that also did a similar course came to the conclusion that queen rearing takes several years to perfect and that these classes are basics, and early practice needed to do queen rearing, but you have to put in an enduring multiyear effort to make it a success. About the only negative was that we had to limit the number

low. The hot weather broke on Thursday so the apiary was livable. One benefit from the low attendance was that it was easier to talk with people and ask questions. No crowding in the vendor area. One of my observations was that each year there seems to be another CCD suspect. Last year it was viruses with Nosema becoming a new suspect. This year it was Nosema, with Neonicotinoids becoming a new suspect. Still no smoking gun but everyone is certain it is some combined effect. At one point when there were about 120 people in the room a presenter asked how many people experienced CCD. Only seven hands went up. On the other hand large commercial operations were reporting very large losses. I am also seeing a change in the definition of CCD where some people seem to accept any sudden colony collapse as CCD. Previously there were definite symptoms that were needed, such as, no dead bees, brood, and no robbing of the dead out. I think most everyone has seen a colony collapse quickly, usually because of Parasitic Mite Syndrome, which I would not have called CCD. So the mystery continues, but I do see an increase in sophistication of the research being done.

There was a good representation from New England considering how far away the convention was held. From our club alone there was Nancy Magion, Doug Tilney, Vin & Jan Gaglione along with myself.

For me this is an important time of year bees wise. I am making up my mind which hives will be merged to go through winter. I need to get the honey off by Labor Day to get any mite treatment on and I want the bees to be in a stable condition so they can organize their Fall configuration. At EAS a lot of people mentioned they are putting pollen patties on in the early fall to encourage fat bees to go through the winter. I have never

done that, but it is so easy to do, why not.

Dave Meldrum

### August Meeting

Director Peter Delaney started the meeting as chairperson pro tem after the members voted him in at 2:36pm. Peter reviewed the hive opening and the observation of the mite count on those hives. Mite count of 3 or more in a sampling of 300 bees require treatment to give the over winter bees a good chance to make it through the winter. A count should be done for an entire month.

Hosts Dick and Eva King

The members accepted last month's meeting minutes as published in the newsletter. The motion was so moved.

Boxford Public Access Television filmed today's hive opening/meeting and will appear on the station at a point in the future.

Treasures report was read by Chris Delaney....A motion was passed to approve the report, subject to audit and to pay this month's expenses in the amount of \$229.79.

Miscellaneous expenses that occur during today's meeting will be reviewed and paid at the Aug 18<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting.

#### Committee Report

Fair Committee: Kathy Sample thanked all those that attended the summer workshops. One more workshop is needed this week on Thursday from 7-9PM, to finish up. Please make note of the Wax, Honey and Exhibit intake dates. This month's newsletter contains the order form for labels. Contact Phil Watson for seller's number.

Library Report: Present and accounted for. Remember to please return all late books~

Nomination Committee: Peter Delaney reported there are still positions needed to be filled, i.e. Directorship and Vice President for the one year balance of the term.

Building Committee: Stan Sample reported a very productive 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. The fair agreed to pay for the paint needed to redo the bee house floor. Plans are to do the floor August 28 & 29 @ 6PM. Need 10-12 volunteers on Thursday night, 8/28, to prepare the building i.e. move table/chairs, clean, sand floor, fill cracks and prepare paint. Friday night, 8/29, volunteers 8-10 people, will mix paint, paint and cutting in the edges. 7AM Monday morning, 9/1, 10-12 volunteers are needed to return everything back into the building and set up honey room. Please call Stan or the Delaney's if you plan on attending. Food provided both Thursday and Friday night. Stan Comment: We do not get charged rent by the fair for the building...this is our way of paying for the building by maintaining it. If you have suggestion please talk to a board.

Queen Rearing Class: Recap by Phil Watson. Salem News had a nice article on the August 1, 2008. After the class 6-8 queen cells had survived; the rate a bit disappointing but could be due to the students being novice. Phil indicated they vowed to have the class again next year.

ECBA Baseball cap and T-Shirt were presented to the King's our host for today's meeting. Dick King spoke briefly stating he had been working the farm since 1973 and started with Christmas trees @ 55 years old. Over the years they added other trees and plants. The green house building the meeting was held in was built in 2000 and it allows them to grow vegetable during the winter as well as force flowering for flower shows, like blueberry's and Lilacs. Peter Delaney called King's Tree Farm

“Our Garden in the Woods in Boxford and a great place to have a meeting” Eva said they have 76 varieties of Hostas and carry wet land and native plants. King’s also make and uses their own compost with just a little bit of sand.

Dave Meldrum appointed Chris Meehan to fill in Larry Goldstein’s absence from the bee school committee until the November election. The club appointed and nominated Vinny Gaglione to fill in Will Graves’ position in bee school.

Bee Demo

Lowell Spinner Saturday, Aug 16 @ 5PM. Contact Dave Meldrum if interested. Remember the Spinners donate \$100 to the club for each demo.

Peabody Essex Museum Story Time still looking for volunteers to help telling children about bees 8/17, 3-4PM Call Barbara or the Delaney’s. The Boxford Garden Club is looking for a speaker to talk about bees and how they pollinate on Feb 20 @ 10AM

Georgetown Garden Club has called looking for a speaker for a future meeting.

Hagan Daaz has requested the club do a bee demo in conjunction with their ice cream demo during the Topsfield Fair.

Chris Meehan is our IT specialist.

Next member meeting, is on September 14.

New Business...

10k Bear Collars a 3 years supply is on order and motion to the floor to allow an expeditor of \$1300 from free cash was presented and approved. BOD will confirm that the free cash is available. We may want to look at using label on a flat front bears instead of the collar. Motion to bring this discuss to the fair committee and bring it back to the members in spring was moved.

News on Members - Mike Bayko’s sister passes away.

Fill out the volunteer slips ASAP and send to Kathy Sample. Fair tickets can be purchased through the fair office M-F 9-4PM at a substantial discount.

Door prize winners The Delaney’s

Meeting Adjourned @ 3:25.

**Calendar**

**September 14, 2008**

Member Meeting, 2:30 PM  
Bee Building - Topsfield

**September 20, 2008**

Newsletter Deadline

**October 3-13, 2008**

Topsfield Fair

**November 3, 2008**

BOD Meeting, 7PM

**November 8, 2008**

Member Meeting, 7:00PM  
Pie & Cider Night  
Bee Building - Topsfield

**December 13, 2008**

Member Meeting, 7:00PM  
Potluck Dinner  
Bee Building - Topsfield

**Cleanup Help Needed**

LOOKING FOR CLEANUP CREWS FOR THE FALL AND WINTER MEETINGS...PITCH IN AND HELP CLEAN UP AFTER THE DINNERS.



**Bee Demonstrations**

**Boxford Garden Club**

February 20, 09 10:00 AM

**Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for getting information into the next newsletter will be **September 20, 2008**. Please make submissions to Candy Leva by email at: [Candice.leva@avnet.com](mailto:Candice.leva@avnet.com)

**September Meeting**

**GETTING READY FOR THE FAIR**  
Topsfield Fair grounds – Bee House  
2:30 P.M.

**Refreshments Needed**

Call Linda Boylan if you can bring refreshments @ (978) 887-3917

→ A refractometer and color grader will be available during the meeting for people to get their honey checked ←

Door Prize: Screened bottom board, deep, inner and outer cover

**Remember to bring**

\*\* Items for the raffle table \*\*



## Fair Committee

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](mailto: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**

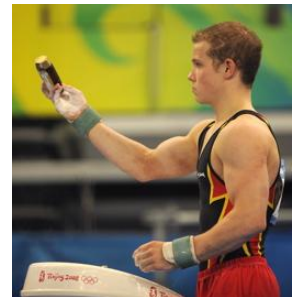
**Thursday 10-2-08      9:30 AM to 11:00 AM**

Saturday, Aug 16, 2008 2:11 pm EDT Yahoo! Sports

The mystery of the honey-toting gymnasts

By Chris Chase

When it comes to loving honey, Winnie the Pooh ain't got nothin' on Olympic gymnasts. Eagle-eyed viewers of NBC's gymnastics coverage have noticed the consistent presence of a honey bottle in, or around, the gymnast's chalk bucket. Collectively, they'd like to know what a kitchen staple is doing amongst pommel horses, uneven bars and Martha Karolyi.



Knowing where to turn with Olympic-related queries, the inquisitive readers flooded the comments sections of [Fourth-Place Medal's Investigative Unit](#) requesting -- nay, *demanding* -- an answer. As usual, we exist to serve. So without further adieu, FPMIU solves the mystery of the honey-toting gymnasts.

Contrary to an apparent widely-held belief, the honey is not consumed to provide a quick energy boost. There are virtually hundreds of better energy boosting options that exist (and aren't as sticky) and, frankly, somebody who is about to execute precise movements while holding onto a thin, reinforced composite plastic bar probably doesn't need to be hopped up on sugar.

The honey is actually used like Stick-um; to provide a better grip on certain elements in "hanging" events. We always see gymnasts chalk up both their apparatus (to make it easier to swing on) and hands (to prevent cracks in the skin). By placing a little honey on either their fingertips or palms (or both) gymnasts can get an even better grip on the rings or bars while swinging.

Mystery: solved. (Still unsolved; why it appears to be a [German bottle of honey](#).)

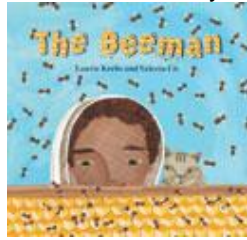
*Fourth-Place Medal's Investigative Unit likes a little honey on our English muffins. If you have an Olympic mystery you would like solved, please leave a comment below.*

Photo via Getty Images

Related: [Olympic Mystery Solved](#)

## Library News

Big thanks go to club member Elly Hoover for her donation of a wonderfully delightful children’s book called The Beeman by Laurie Krebs and illustrated by Valeria Cis.



Book and puppet are available on line from: [www.barefootbooks.com](http://www.barefootbooks.com)

”Told from the viewpoint of a child whose Grandpa is a beekeeper, this rhyming text offers an accessible and engaging introduction to the behavior of bees, including: where they live, how honey is made, and what a beekeeper does. Children will love learning about the vital role of bees in the ecosystem, and will be delighted to find a delicious muffin recipe on the final page!

The book opens with a bee poem by Aileen Fisher:”

### Bees

There wouldn't be sunflowers  
Wouldn't be peas,  
Wouldn't be apples  
On apple trees,  
If it weren't for fuzzy old,  
Buzzy old bees  
Dusting pollen  
From off their knees.

The book ends with:

### Grandma's Apple and Honey Muffins:

- 2 cups sifted flour
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- ¼ tsp. nutmeg
- 1 cup whole wheat or bran cereal flakes
- ¼ cup finely chopped walnuts (optional)
- ½ cup raisins
- 1 cup grated apple
- 2 eggs
- 2/3-cup honey
- ½ cup milk
- ¼ cup vegetable oil

Sift flour with baking powder, salt and spices. Add cereal, walnuts, raisins and apple. Beat eggs well: add honey, milk and oil. Add liquid mixture all at once to flour mixture, stirring just to blend. Grease muffin cups and fill 2/3 full. Bake at 400 degrees for 18-20 minutes. Makes 18 muffins.

Enjoy this wonderful book and share the muffins with the little ones. Stay tuned for news on Library Tea Work Party.



**ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION****LABEL ORDER FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

All labels are sold in packages of 25. Please make checks payable to ECBA. Mail to Dan Phillips, 19 Highland Road, Kensington, NH, 03833-5818 or hand deliver at a meeting. Orders processed and available for pickup at a meeting.

<b>Qty</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Price per 25 items</b>	<b>Total</b>
	Oval Label	2.00	
	Large Round Label	2.00	
	Small Round Label	2.00	
	Box Comb Label	0.50	
	4 x 4 Cut Comb Or Ross Round Label	2.00	
	Rolled Candle Label	2.25	
	Dipped or Poured Candle Label	2.25	
	Soap Label	2.25	
	Bear Collars	3.00	
	Candle Dividers	1.30	
	Plastic Sleeves	0.52	
	White Paint Marking Pens	2.75/each	
<b>Grand Total</b>			

All labels are blank and need to have the actual weight or size marked on each label. Labels are for the exclusive use of members offering items for sale at ECBA sponsored activities such as the Topsfield Fair. Any other use or offering is prohibited.

**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 <sup>rd</sup>			
Saturday, October 4 <sup>th</sup>			
Sunday, October 5 <sup>th</sup>			
Monday, October 6 <sup>th</sup>			
Tuesday, October 7 <sup>th</sup>			
Wednesday, October 8 <sup>th</sup>			
Thursday, October 9 <sup>th</sup>			
Friday, October 10 <sup>th</sup>			
Saturday, October 11 <sup>th</sup>			
Sunday, October 12 <sup>th</sup>			
Monday, October 13 <sup>th</sup>			<b>Closing Nite POTLUCK Party 7:30 P.M.</b>

I would like my name added to a publicly accessible list of beekeepers who sell apiary 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.  
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## September 2008



### What's in this month's issue?

<b>President's Message</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>August Meeting Report</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Calendar</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Bee Demonstrations</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Treasurers Report</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>August Meeting Details</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Fair Dates to Remember</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Library News</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Label Order Form</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Staffing/Volunteer Form</b>	<b>7</b>