

Essex County Beeline

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

Keeping Bees Since 1923

February 2009

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 Saturday, Feb 14, 2009 Spaghetti Supper



Bee Building, Fair Grounds
Dinner Time 6:00pm
Meeting Time 7:00 PM

about various hive disorders and how to look for them.

Lauren Lesinski has volunteered to coordinate the March dinner. This is the dinner that the members put on and the board of directors gets to sit back and enjoy. I expect all the members to pitch in and give Lauren a hand. I think she already has some good ideas.



Mass Bee is sponsoring a bulk irradiation of hive equipment. This is a procedure where your hive equipment is irradiated with strong radiation that kills any Foul Brood, Nosema or viruses in your equipment. The charge will be between \$8-9 per box. At the meeting there was some confusion about the size of the boxes to be irradiated. The dimensions are 24"x18"x10" which is large enough to hold a deep hive box. The box may be packed with frames or other items to be irradiated. The boxes must be delivered to Steris Isomedix in Worcester on March 9th 2009. I am asking Gary Du Bois to coordinate equipment for ECBA members. Gary does not

Club Business

Presidents Message

The January meeting was fun. The weather was a bit worrisome, but never became a problem. There was a great ham & bean dinner along with brown bread and hot dogs. A real New England favorite. Many thanks to all the hands that helped with the meal, including Chris Delany, Tom Beaton and Jane Wild. Ken Warchol did a great job talking

have email, but you can call him at 978 927 4094. If you participate, it is expected you will help out with the effort. Members of ECBA will deliver all the boxes as one delivery. In other words, it will look as if there is only one person dropping off and picking up the boxes. Make sure your name is on the box. Cardboard boxes can be purchased. They are about another \$1 and can be reused in future years. This is really a good deal if you have contaminated equipment.

February is a good time to go through your equipment and get it cleaned up and organized for spring. It's funny that in the fall I always think I will clean the propolis off of the queen excluders in the winter when the propolis is brittle and easy to break off. Then when winter comes, I think it's too cold to go out and knock off propolis, but somehow the job does get done. I also find this is a good time of year to build frames. I know I am century behind the times, using wood and wax, but I find a glass of wine on a Sunday after noon can get me through about ten frames. It is good to have plenty of foundation available in the spring to get them drawn out during the flow. I also like to do two frames of comb honey, but I don't put the wax in until just before I place them in the hive, however cleaning up the frames can be done now.

January meeting

After a pleasant dinner, this month's speaker was Ken Warchol, who has been the Apiary Inspector for Worcester County/Middlesex County for 35 years. He gave a very interesting power-point talk on abnormalities of the hive. A very lively speaker (he is a recently retired schoolteacher), he recounted several entertaining stories of his experiences as a beekeeper, which began when, as a small boy, his father gave him one hive with a reward if he made it a success. Today he manages fifty hives. His motto seems to be "Don't be a bee-haver, be a bee-keeper". During his main talk on hive disorders, he mentioned various problems and how to go about solving them.

Ken mentioned one tip which many beekeepers are following nowadays, which is to remove honey supers when still wet, place in large black trash bags, seal these, store through the winter and then they are ready for use in the spring.

President Dave Meldrum opened the meeting @ 6:30PM

A motion was presented to accept the minutes as published in the last newsletter, which was approved.

The Treasurer's December report was read by Chris Delaney. Motion was presented to accept the report as read, subject to

audit. Bills were read and a motion was presented to pay those listed, which was approved.

ECBA received a thank you note from the Heifer Foundation. There was also a thank you for the grant money.

Kathy Sample reported on a proposed expenditure for a coffee maker, a unit with accessories costing \$400. Motion presented and passed.

Annual Reports

Fair Committee – Kathy Sample

The 2008 Fair came and went with wonderful success. It was wonderful to see so many volunteers and exhibitors who help to make this building one of the most interesting and well-visited ones at the Fair. Kathy invited everyone to enter something into this year's Fair, saying that it can be a learning experience and a lot of fun.

Committee forms are due by March 1, 2009. The next Fair Committee meeting is Wednesday January 21st and new members are very welcome, as it is a great way to get involved.

There is a Club buy order of Candy, Honey Sticks and Rolled Beeswax. If any member would like to jump in on the order please contact Kathy. 2008 prices were:

- Honey sticks, 2000 to a case @ \$100.00
- Candy 29# per case @ \$47.86
- Wax 96 sheets per case @ \$83.52

(prices subject to change depending on total order and shipping prices.)

Kathy thanked all those who volunteered their time for the fair workshops. These are held every Tuesday and Thursday evening starting the first week in July and go until all the wax has been cut, all the honey sticks bundled and all the candy bagged. Volunteers are always needed and it is another way to get to know members in the club, as beekeepers like to socialize while working. Any amount of time people can offer is a big help, whether it is one or many nights.

Bee School – Stan Sample

2008 was a great year for Bee School but there were too many people to accommodate. This year we are on track as pre-registrations are in the mail. Volunteers are needed to help with refreshment coordination.

The syllabus is being worked on – bees must be ordered earlier this year so there has been a suggestion to switch session 4 with session 2. There was a motion to make said change, which was passed.

Scholarship Committee – Stephanie Williams, not present.

Honey Bee Ambassador – Cindy Croteau, not present.

Library Committee – Barbara Milhender, not present.

Website – Dave Meldrum

Anyone interested in managing the website please see Dave. There are currently 50 to 60 hits a day.

New Business

The new officers have now officially taken over their new duties. Peter Delaney thanked all the old officers for their hard work over the past years.

Further meetings – we need new volunteers. Jane Wild said that it is really easy and encouraged people to try, saying all you need to do is pick a theme and you can get other people to help you.

Banquet committee – need help here too. We have a few ideas, need someone to put it all together.

Mass Bee: 2 items.

- a) Anyone interested in the offer for box irradiation should see Gary because we need to get them down to Worcester as a unit. The cost will be about \$8 per box.
- b) Dan Conlon has been trading emails about using the Bee Building for the Mass Bee meeting, with the understanding that ECBA would pay for the coffee. They have lined up some good speakers.

Winners - The lucky members who received free membership for another year were those of the Josephson family of Ipswich.

Bee Culture magazines -Diane Severin’s company published two beekeeping books which she has donated to the library. She asked if anyone could save the Bee Culture magazines for her. Dave Meldrum said that he would.

March meeting - There was a bit of confusion about the March speaker. Chris and Randy are supposed to be doing a powerpoint presentation about queen-rearing, but if they are unable to do it, Alan Wilkins is willing to do his Alaska talk for the meeting.

Fliers for Bee School have been printed up and may be taken for distribution.

Door prizes – two this month:

4 passes to the Peabody-Essex Museum, won by Becky Reeves

A hive lifter made by Eric Josephson, with a spring-levered screen to use to prevent robbing etc. won by Mark Andrew. (Eric’s tip for moving hives was to button up the night before, cover and then move hives the following morning.)

The meeting was adjourned at 8.35pm.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for getting information into the next newsletter will be **February 21, 2009**. Please make submissions to Anne Bouwer by email at: anne.bouwer@gmail.com

2009
ECBA Calendar

February 14
Spaghetti Dinner 6:00pm
Member Meeting, 7:00pm
Bee Building – Topsfield

March 14
Members Choice Chili Competition Dinner 6:00pm
Member Meeting, 7:00pm

April 11
Banquet?
Member meeting 7:00pm

May 4
BoD

May 9 (Sunday)
Venue to be announced

June 14 (Sunday)
Venue to be announced

July 12 (Sunday)
Picnic (Venue to be announced)

August 3
BoD

August 9 (Sunday)
Venue to be announced

September 13 (Sunday)
Venue to be announced

October 2 – 12 (Topsfield Fair)

November 9
BoD

November 14
Bee Building

December 12
Bee Building

Honeybees and healthcare

What: Psychiatrist and beekeeper Theo Cherbuliez will discuss the practice of apitherapy. He will also give a brief natural history on how hives work.

Who: Cherbuliez is a physician in South Freeport, as well as the vice president of the American Apitherapy Society.

When: 7pm Feb 2

Where: Maine Audubon Center, 20 Gilsland Farm Road, Falmouth

What else: no cost, all welcome

To learn more: Go to www.apitherapy.org or call Maine Audubon at 781 2330



Pull out your best Chili Recipe for our March Member Meeting!

ECBA will be hosting a Chili Challenge!

Prizes will be awarded. Details to follow in the March Newsletter.



February Meeting Details

Dinner will be served @ 6:00 PM!

Spaghetti Sauce Contest.

Submit your sauce entry for prizes.

Please bring items for the Raffle Table to support the scholarship fund!

Business meeting starts promptly @ 7:00 PM

Speaker: Randy Johnson

Thanks in advance to our February cleanup crew!

Candy Leva,
Linda Agersea,
Cheryl Connors
and Diane Sellars



Clean up volunteers are always needed after our meetings.

Please consider lending a helping hand.

Fair Committee Meeting January 21, 2009 Minutes

Members present: Chris Delaney, Kathy Sample, Diane Severin, Lauren Lesinski

The Fair Committee has or will confirm chair persons for all four beekeeping divisions. The committee will also attempt to recruit co-chairs for each division.

CD attended a post-fair meeting with the Fair Office in November. The Fair Office will not print premium books this year. The information will be posted and available on the Fair Website. The Fair Office will accommodate requests for printed material for those that may not have computer availability.

The first draft of the Beekeeping premium was forwarded to the Fair Office in January. The final draft will be provided to the Fair Office no later than April 2009.

Ribbons and Honey Queen/Ambassador sashes were ordered in January.

Sign order requests and building maintenance requests must be submitted to the fair office no later than July 15th.

The Fair Office has requested feedback on the 2008 Fair. Please provide comments to CD via email by April 1st (rigby100@verizon.net). CD will consolidate ECBA comments and provide to the Fair Office.

CD and KS have and/or will contact sponsors to verify awards for 2009 fair.

CD will order US mint sets for youth awards.

CD will update daily program for the Fair Office once information from the Honey Princess is available.

Fair Committee requests that ECBA member reproduce a bee-related DVD for viewing during the fair. The DVD shall be educational and approximately 4 hours in length. The DVD shall be a consolidation of existing movies/programs, not an original production.

The Fair Committee requests that ECBA member take lead on new ideas for fair trophies. The Fair Committee will provide guidance to new volunteer.

The Fair Committee will order hang tags, recipe cards and bags in May.

New products for sale at the fair must be presented to ECBA for approval at the May meeting.

The volunteer form has been revised and finalized with new dates. The volunteer form will be published in the next two newsletters. Volunteers are asked to complete the form and return to the Fair Committee no later than the March ECBA meeting.

The Fair Committee will be organizing a club purchase of honey sticks, wax and candy. Members interested in the club buy should contact Kathy Sample prior to the deadline via email at samplebee@gmail.com.

Item	Quantity	Price	Deadline	Notes
Honey Sticks	2,000 per case	\$100	March 1 st	
Wax	96 sheets per case	\$83.52 (ship included)	April 1 st	Contact KS for available colors
Candy	29 pounds per case	\$47.56 (ship included)	April 1 st	Available flavors include honey, lemon, orange, apple, strawberry and assorted.
*Prices listed are for 2008 purchase. Final 2009 prices should be comparable, but will depend on final club quantity ordered and shipping costs.				
**Non-ECBA members must provide payment to KS in advance of deadline.				

The next Fair Committee meeting will be held at the Bee Building on March 18, 2009 at 7:pm. The objective of the meeting will be to review and revise the seller's guidelines and to determine the quantities of honey sticks, wax and candy for purchase. All members are welcome.

The Topsfield Fair Committee needs volunteers for the following sub-committees in order to operate the Beekeeping Building during this years fair. If you are interested in participating please indicate which position you might be interested in. If you have more than one interest please mark 1st choice and 2nd & 3rd choices.

Please sign and mail / give this to Chris Delaney by the ECBA March Meeting.

Exhibit registration: Assists in registering all incoming competitive exhibits Sept 25,26,27 &28

Division 1 Chairperson/ Assistant Chair: Includes receiving & Setup for all honey exhibits, aranging of exhibits after judging. Must be available day and or eves Sept 25, 26 27

Division 2 Chairperson/ Assistant Chair: Includes receiving, Setup of all beeswax exhibits and arranging of exhibits after judging. Must be available days and or eves Sept 25,26 & 27

Division 3 Chairperson/ Assistant Chair: Includes receiving, setup of all art & crafts exhibits and arranging of Exhibits after judging. Must be available days and or eves Sept 25,26 & 27

Division 4 Chairperson/ Assistant Chair: Includes receiving, setup of all Cooking with honey exhibits and arranging of Exhibits after judging. Must be available days and or eves Sept 30 & October 1st

Committee Person: Assists with Div 1 _____ Div 2 _____ Div 3 _____ Div 4 _____

Photographer: Takes pictures of competitive exhibits and volunteers for album

Trophy Committee: Selects trophies to be awarded and have properly engraved. Assists in building setup and placing ribbons and trophies for display.

Parade Committee: Coordinate / Assists in design/ building of a float for the opening day parade and small weekday parades. Enlists participants

Shift Supervisor: Supervises shift of volunteers as scheduled. Takes attendance, assists in stocking selling counter and candle rolling table. Makes sure building is ready for next shift.

Beeswax Honey registration: Registers incoming honey & beeswax products to be sold at the fair. Track sales and return any remaining product to sellers. Sept 19 & 20

Honey Quality Control: Quality controls honey quality to be offered for sale. Sept 20

Beeswax Quality Control: Quality controls of Beeswax to be offered for sale. Sept 19 _____

Volunteer Recruitment: Schedules volunteers to staff building during the fair, arranged for Photo ID badges for admission passes. _____

General Volunteer: Assists in any aspect of setting up, operating and cleaning up after the fair. _____

Setup/Building Prep & Cleanup: Assist in set up prior to fair Sep 30, Oct 1 & 2nd. _____

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____