

Essex County Beeline

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

Keeping Bees Since 1923

March 2009

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

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President (08-10):
Dave Meldrum
978-474-8700

Vice-president (08-10):
Phil Watson
978-388-0775

Recording Secretary (01-11):
Anne Bouwer
978-233-4107

Membership Secretary (08-10):
Linda Boylan
978-887-3917

Treasurer (01-11):
Dianne Sellars

Directors (2008-10)
Chris Meehan **Eric Josephson**
978-887-5726 603-394-0130

Beeline Editor:
Anne Bouwer 978-233-4107
e-mail: anne.bouwer@gmail.com

Essex County Beekeepers' Assoc.
P.O. Box 10
Topsfield, MA 01983-0010

Telephone: 978-887-6100

Website: essexcountybeekeepers.org

Pizza and Movie! Saturday, Apr 11, 2009



Bee Building, Fair Grounds
6:00pm
Meeting Time: after movie

Phil Watson's recap of the queen rearing session was great.

It was nice to have Al Carl talk to us about the bee inspector positions that are open, I urge anyone interested to contact Al (413-253-2414) or me. If we do not fill these positions within the state we may lose the positions permanently.

This year's Banquet meeting has morphed into a pizza and movie night. A Pizza party at 6PM followed by a short business meeting including the President's award and highlights of the year. The movie is "The Secret Life of Bees". We expect popcorn. It should be a fun night, so I hope to see many of you there.

I just got back from the Spring Mass bee meeting. As you know ECBA hosted a reception on Friday night as well as the meeting in Coolidge Hall at Topsfield Fair. Mass Bee had its problems going into the meeting with the featured speaker cancelling because of a budget crisis in Florida. However, Rick Reault and Phil Watson stepped in and filled the void with excellent talks. Actually the whole program was very good. I was especially impressed with the work that John Burand is doing at the U of Mass. Too complicated to go into

Club Business

Presidents Message

Dave Meldrum

Wow, what a great job Lauren & Vinny Lesinski did on members' meeting night. Thank you and to all of the helpers who pitched in. Also,

here but suffice it to say he and his colleagues are making great progress in the field of Bee viruses. John told me that our grant of \$5K last year went a long way to helping his research. Also our own Stan Sample was awarded the “Mass Bee “Beekeeper of the Year” award. Congratulations Stan!



Stan Sample receiving his “Beekeeper of the Year” award from Mass Bee’s Recording Secretary Paul Desilets.

Finally let me say thanks to all the ECBA members who pitched in to help pull this off. As usual you made ECBA look good.

I saw in the paper that Michelle Obama has started a vegetable garden on the White House lawn to encourage children to eat healthy local food. What I find exciting is that it will also include two bee hives! One of the White House staff-members is a third year beekeeper and will oversee the hives. Look for an article in an upcoming issue of Bee Culture.

March meeting minutes

The meeting opened at 7.05pm
Phil Watson gave a wonderful talk on the queen-rearing class of last summer, accompanied by an excellent Power point presentation.

President Dave Meldrum opened the business end of the meeting @ 8:30 PM

Motion was presented to accept minutes as published in the last newsletter and was approved.

The Treasurer’s December report was read by Diane Sellars. A 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 passed. Diane reported that the Board had

decided to appropriate \$2000 from the scholarship foundation and change it to \$5000. \$800 would be taken for unbudgeted free cash and \$1200 for Bee School.

The Fair Committee report was read by Kathy Sample. This Wednesday’s Fair committee meeting, will discuss Fair Seller’s guidelines. Candy deadline still till 28th.

The Bee School report Stan Sample
Classes are going well, and it is the first time in Essex county history to have bee schools back to back.

Venues are needed for hive openings. A paper circled the meeting for volunteers to sign up to host hive openings and/or to mentor new beekeepers.

Stan reported that they had compressed some modules and that everything was going smoothly except for the snow day. It is a continuing learning experience because of having two classes.

Nominations: Eric Josephson
There will be many vacant positions in November, for president, vice-president, etc. We are looking for volunteers, so anyone interested please see Linda or Eric.

Scholarship Committee – Stephanie Williams - Not present

Honey Bee Ambassador - Cynthia Croteau has been ill and nobody has applied.

Library Committee - Barbara Milhender
There are a couple of new books worth checking out.

New Business

Mass Bee meeting
We are the hosts and we always do a good job, but we need volunteers again for Friday night and Saturday morning! For Saturday morning we need a lot of carriers. ECBA is providing coffee, soup bowls, creamers, and salads.

Phil is going to be filling in again with his queen rearing. Other speakers are Heather Matille from Wellesley college, John Burand and Rick Reault .

Bee Inspector
There is a job offer for a bee inspector in Essex county if someone would like to volunteer. The amount of foulbrood found in the state is very low, but the inspector’s job is to educate first and second year beekeepers especially. It is a summer job with two openings, if anyone is interested please see Dave and he will forward you to someone else at the state.

Next meeting

There will be a pizza and movie night instead of the annual banquet. The movie “The Secret Life of Bees” will be shown, and Chris and Pete will set up for the meeting on April 11.

Correction

The meeting for May is the third Sunday, not the second, which is Mother’s Day.

June meeting

We need someone with a hive from last year and who is installing a new one this year. Perhaps Anne Bouwer, who volunteered to host, but any other volunteers would be welcome as well.

Building committee: Stan Sample

Stan reported that there is a proposal to get rid of the book-handling in the front and the entire front to be redone. This has to be checked out with Topsfield Fair. A good color scheme is needed for this and also in the committee room. It is proposed to change the lighting in the main hall and that the copier should be locked up when other people are around etc. There will be a written proposal for the body to ask for appropriation of some money for the project.

Stan pointed out that we do not pay rent or electricity for this building. We are able to store all of our stuff and the club enjoys a great relationship with Topsfield Fair. We are extremely fortunate, as Jane Wild pointed out that this is the only club in the entire state which has its own place to meet. We need to appreciate it and do whatever we can to support Topsfield Fair so that we can continue to call this home. The spokesperson for Topsfield Fair, Jamie, has indicated that he is open to ideas and that they are willing to help. It won’t all get done at once. A lot of volunteers will be needed of course.

Bee school extra money

Much discussion around the issue of the amount of money which had been decided to give to Bee school, \$1200, there were questions as to why not \$1500. After much discussion, Stan pointed out that under the bylaws, when money is assigned, it can’t be changed, and it is not possible for the Board to determine a change. The final suggestion then was for the Board to reconsider budget balancing from December. A motion was passed to reapportion the budget. The line item for the amount of money to be given to the scholarship principal would be reduced and that money re-assigned to the Bee School (\$1200) and free cash (\$800).

Membership Dues

Membership dues must be paid at this meeting to ensure the ability to sell at the Fair.

Airborne pesticides

An aerial sprayer emailed Phil Watson to find out where bees are so that he would try not to spray within a three mile radius of the beehives so that he wouldn’t be endangering anyone’s bees. It was decided that the location of all our beehives was not for public knowledge. Someone suggested that he be asked to become a member, then we can put up a map of Essex county and each member can put x’s where their beehives are. It was pointed out that we have 400 members and therefore everyone will be within 3 miles of one another. It was suggested that he be advised to spray at night, if he has to spray at all.

Craft Kits for sale

Diane has many too many projects like candle kits, stuffed bears etc, that she will never be able to finish. If anyone is interested in buying some of these kits they should see Diane.

Dave lastly pointed out that tonight’s dinner was done by members, and it had turned out to be an unbelievable night of delicious food, thanks to Lauren Lesinski and her helpers.

Winners of chili competition

- 1st - Glenn Doherty - Mexican Beanless Chili
- 2nd- Chris Delaney - Smoked Turkey Chili
- 3rd - Bob Pasquele - Hot and Spicy Meat and Bean Chili

Door prize:

Gretel Clark: Candlemaking kit including wax.

The Meeting adjourned at 9.30

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for getting information into the next newsletter will be **April 18, 2009**. Please make submissions to Anne Bouwer by email at: anne.bouwer@gmail.com

2009
ECBA Calendar

April 11

Pizza and Movie night

May 4

BoD

May 17 (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

Glenn Doherty's MEXICAN CHILI RECIPE

(Inspired by an old James Beard Recipe)

Ingredients:

- 3-4 lbs of Beef and/or Pork cut into 3/4" cubes
- Flour
- 3-4 Onions (chopped)
- 3-4 Tablespoons of Olive Oil
- 3-4 cloves of Garlic (chopped)
- Salt
- 3-4 Tablespoons of Chili Powder
- 1 pinch of Peach-smoked ground Habanero (Scotch-Bonnet) Peppers
- 1 teaspoon Oregano
- 1 teaspoon Cumin
- 1 1/2 cups of Tomato Puree
- 1-2 cups of Wine or Beer
- 2-3 cups of stock, Chicken or Beef
- Sesame Seeds
- 1 oz of Chocolate – unsweetened

Directions:

1. Sauté onions in Olive Oil.
2. Dust Beef/Pork with flour.
3. Brown Beef/Pork in Olive Oil.
4. Add Stock, Wine/Beer, Tomato Puree, Chili, salt, pinch of Habanero Pepper if you dare! CAUTION-USE CAREFULLY.
5. Cook for 1-2 hours or until meat is tender. Add chocolate & Sesame Seeds.
6. Cook for an additional 1/2 to 1 hour.

Bee Jokes

Q: What does the bee Santa Claus say?

A: Ho hum hum!

Q: Why do bees hum?

A: Because they've forgotten the words!



The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

The Secret Life of Bees is the story of Lily Owens, a girl who has shaped her life around one devastating memory—the afternoon her mother was killed, when Lily was four. Besides her harsh and unyielding father, Lily’s only real companion is Rosaleen, a tender, but fierce-hearted black woman who cooks, cleans and acts as her "stand-in mother."

Set in 1964 in South Carolina, a place and time of seething racial divides, violence explodes one summer afternoon, and Rosaleen is arrested and beaten. Lily is desperate, not only to save Rosaleen, but to flee from a life she can no longer endure. Calling upon her colorful wits and youthful daring, she breaks Rosaleen out of jail and the two escape, into what quickly becomes Lily’s quest for the truth about her mother’s life.

They are taken in by three black bee-keeping sisters, May, June, and August Boatwright, and Lily is consumed by their secret world of bees and honey, and of the Black Madonna who presides over this household of strong, wise women. Lily’s journey is one of painful secrets and shattering betrayals, all of which ultimately enable her find the thing her heart longs for most.



Sue Monk Kidd

Excerpt from interview with the author
http://us.penguin.com/static/rguides/us/secret_life_bees.html

Did you know anything about bees and beekeeping before you wrote the novel? How did you learn so much about bees?

I knew that bees could live inside the wall of a bedroom in your house. Other than that, I didn't know much at all. I began my bee education by reading lots of books. There's a mystique about bees, a kind of spell they weave over you, and I fell completely under it. I read bee lore and legend that went back to ancient times. I discovered bees were considered a symbol of the soul, of death and rebirth. I will never forget coming upon medieval references which associated the Virgin Mary with the queen bee. I'd been thinking of her as the queen bee of my little hive of women in the pink house, thinking that was very original, and they'd already come up with that five hundred years ago!

Books couldn't tell me everything I needed to know, so I visited an apiary in South Carolina. Inside the honey house, I sketched all the honey-making equipment, trying to get a handle on how they worked. There seemed to be thin veneer of honey everywhere, and my shoes stuck slightly to the floor when I walked, something I could never have learned from a book. When the beekeepers took me out to the hives, I was unprepared for the rush of fear and relish I experienced when the lid on the hive was lifted. I became lost in a whirling cloud of bees. So many, I could hardly see. The scent of honey drifted up, bee hum swelled, and the smoke meant to calm the bees rose in plumes all around us. Beekeeping, I discovered, is a thoroughly sensual and courageous business. I got through my bee education without a single sting. The first time August took Lily to the hives, she told her, "Don't be afraid, as no life-loving bee wants to sting you. Still, don't be an idiot; wear long sleeves and long pants."