

Essex County Beeline

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

Keeping Bees Since 1923

April 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

781-862-1995

Directors (2008-10)

Chris Meehan **Eric Josephson**

978-887-5726 978-356-0449

Dan Phillips 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

**May Meeting
Sunday, May 17,
2009**



**Dave Meldrum's House
Hive Opening: 1pm
Meeting Time: 2.30pm
For directions and more info, see
page 3.**

President's award for all the hard work she put into the Fair. She spent a lot of hours and the results showed it. Carol & Randy also received a President's award for being at all the events and constantly helping out with an upbeat attitude. Whenever there was something to be done, this couple was there. Congratulations Kathy, Carol and Randy.

As I write this Bee School is winding down and hive openings will occur this weekend. I just went out to prep my apiary for a hive opening and discovered small hive beetles on my bottom board. Hhmmm well I guess there is something else I'll have to learn about.

I just heard of two bear incidents; one in Middleton and the other in Andover. Jan Brink (Andover) had two hives, but a bear only knocked over one hive and ripped apart the frames. On the second night the bear repeated the performance, but only slightly moved the remaining hive. Interestingly the bear did not eat everything, but left some honey behind. We moved her still intact hive to my house hoping to get it away from harms way. Jan & Mike tied down the hive that had been attacked to a pallet hoping the bear could not tip it over or open it. That didn't work. The bear lifted the pallet and hive up and turned it over the next evening. He then twisted the boxes open and got the last of the honey. This is very discouraging to

Club Business

Presidents Message

Dave Meldrum

The Banquet morphed into a Movie night turned out well. Considering that it was between Good Friday and Easter, the turn-out was good and people had a good time.

Just in case you missed the meeting, we reviewed some of the highlights for the past year (see below). I was pleased to award Kathy Sample a

say the least. I know the bears have been moving east.

The May meeting will be at my house, where I plan to sample a hive for older foraging bees. We will then grind them up and look at the extract under a microscope to check for Nosema.

April meeting minutes

After delicious salad, pizza, and desserts.....and with the aroma of popcorn wafting through the air, courtesy of Phil Watson, president Dave Meldrum called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

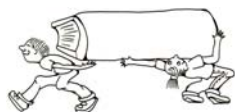
Dave dispensed with all business until next meeting, except asked for a motion to approve payment of outstanding bills. So moved, so voted.

Dave reviewed our 2008 Year In Review and also noted we have received lots of interest in having members speak to groups about beekeeping (in keeping with our mission statement of educating the public).

Mass Bee held their spring meeting at the Fairgrounds. Dave commented that Larry Goldstein had done a lot of work behind the scenes, and members came forward to speak in place of the planned speaker (who was unable to attend due to Florida's fiscal crisis and resulting ban on travel for state employees). Congratulations to Stan Sample, Beekeeper of the Year!

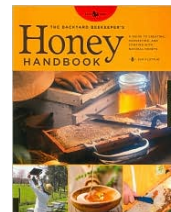
Next meeting will be at Dave Meldrum's home, May 17th.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m., and we settled back to watch the movie "The Secret Life of Bees".



Bee Library News

The Bee Library has been very busy at the two current Bee Schools, meeting new beekeepers and members. This recipe is from The Backyard Beekeeper's Honey Handbook by Kim Flottum and is available to take out of the Bee Library. I think this recipe would be great on the grill!



Mango Chicken

- ✚ 4 chicken breast fryer quarters
- ✚ ¼ cup white wine vinegar
- ✚ 1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
- ✚ ¼ teaspoon salt
- ✚ ¼ cup brown sugar
- ✚ ¼ cup honey (use dark & strong summer or fall wildflower - the darker the better)
- ✚ 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- ✚ 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ✚ 2 tablespoons finely chopped onion
- ✚ 2 ripe mangoes, peeled and coarsely chopped

Place the chicken in a large glass bowl. In a measuring cup, mix together ½ cup of the vinegar and the thyme and pour over the chicken. Cover and let marinate in the refrigerator for 2 to 3 hours, turning 3 to 4 times. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Remove the chicken from the marinade and arrange in a shallow baking dish. Sprinkle with salt. In a small saucepan, combine the brown sugar, honey, ginger, garlic, onion and the remaining ¼ cup vinegar.

Add the mangoes and bring to a boil over medium heat. Pour over the chicken, and bake for 50 minutes, or until tender. When done, remove from the oven but keep warm.

Drain the juice from the baking dish into a saucepan (or reuse the saucepan you used earlier) and stir over medium heat for 3 to 5 minute, or until thickened. Pour over chicken.



Outstanding Bee Library Books:

If you have any outstanding library books, videos, or DVDs please be sure to return item in a timely manner.

Following books are due:

Barb Morehouse	<u>Candle Making for Everyone</u>
Barb Morehouse	<u>Making Candles & Potpourri</u>
Barb Morehouse	<u>Beekeeping for Dummies</u>
Janet Brink (Video)	<u>Opening & Manipulating a Hive</u>
Janet Brink	<u>Ulee's Gold (Video)</u>
Janet Brink	<u>Tales from the Hive (DVD)</u>
Elizabeth McCrank	<u>The Weekend Beekeeper</u>
Theresa Cagodry	<u>Traditional Candle Making</u>
Kindra Clineff	<u>A Year in the Beeyard</u>
Eileen Guervin	<u>Bees Wax Crafts</u>
Dave Mansure	<u>The Comb Honey Book</u>
Isabel Maner	<u>Backyard Beekeeper</u>
Mike Ryan	<u>Langstroht's Hives</u>
Barry Allen	<u>Tales from the Hives</u>
Ruth Ann Sneider	<u>City of Bee</u>

Thank you!

2009
ECBA Calendar

May 4
BoD

May 17 (Sunday)
Dave Meldrum’s house

June 14 (Sunday)
Anne Bouwer’s house

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

ECBA May Meeting

Location: Dave Meldrum's House.
287 South Main st. Andover, Ma.
01810
tel: 978 - 474 8700

Directions:

Located 3/4 mile south of Andover center on Rte 28.

From I495 take exit #41 south on Rte 28 (Main St.). Proceed south through the village of Andover. Continue up the hill past Phillips Academy. Dave is located 1/2 mi south of Phillips Academy. It is a gray Cape with periwinkle doors.

From I93 take exit #41 (Rte125 north-west). go about 1.5 miles and turn north onto Rte 28 (So Main st). Continue north for about 2 miles. Dave is located at mile marker 144. A gray Cape with periwinkle doors.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for getting information into the next newsletter will be **May 24, 2009**. Please make submissions to Anne Bouwer by email at: anne.bouwer@gmail.com

AFB found in South Africa

The Plant Protection Research Institute (PPRI) of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) has recently been surveying honeybee colonies and retail honey in South Africa for the presence of American foul brood (AFB), an extremely serious brood disease of honeybees, as a project for the national Department of Agriculture (DoA).

This disease, caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Paenibacillus larvae*, has thus far never been reported in sub-Saharan Africa. In other parts of the world AFB has caused large-scale colony losses and as it is extremely contagious and very difficult to eradicate, has been the subject of extensive eradication and control programmes. This is the major reason why honey and other honeybee products entering South Africa are required by law to be irradiated, in an effort to prevent the disease from entering the local honeybee population.

Unfortunately, AFB has now been found in some colonies and apiaries in the Western Cape. At present it is not known exactly how serious or extensive the disease outbreak is, but there may be the potential for a full scale AFB outbreak in South Africa, so the Department of Agriculture may have to act accordingly and take the necessary precautionary measures to prevent this.

Accordingly, the Department of Agriculture will conduct an urgent yet extensive delimiting survey of the Western Cape to determine how widespread the AFB infection is and particularly, whether it is also present in the wild honeybee population. This survey will be conducted in collaboration with the ARC-PPRI, relevant Department of Agriculture role players and beekeepers.

Once the extent and distribution of the AFB presence is known, the Department of Agriculture in consultation with organized beekeeping and other stakeholders in SA will decide on the appropriate course of action to be followed.

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And to end
on a happier
note...

It's Spring again!



Spring

(to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

Spring, spring is coming soon,
Grass is green and flowers bloom,
Birds returning from the south,
Bees are buzzing all about,
Leaves are budding everywhere,
Spring, spring is finally here!
