

Essex County Beeline

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

Keeping Bees Since 1923

July 2009

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

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Annual Picnic Sunday, July 12th, 2009



**Bee Building
Topsfield
Fairground**
(see minutes for more info on
times etc.)

good discussions. Beekeeping has gotten a lot more sophisticated over the last few years and you can't just learn all this stuff on your own. You need to keep in touch with other beekeepers and share the knowledge and techniques. This really became apparent at the Mass Bee Field Day held in South Deerfield June 20th. There were many demonstrations on identifying and controlling hive problems. If you are like me you won't adopt all of the techniques, so you have to pick your weapons. That's what is so good about talking to other beekeepers. They are also picking the techniques that work for them and help you compare things that work best for you. On top of that every year brings some new theory or technique to consider. We are at an interesting time in beekeeping where things are changing at a very rapid rate.

As I write this, weather is on everyone's mind. A very cool spring and not a lot of flying days for the bees, and the bad weather seems to encourage swarming. On the other hand, the cool weather keeps the blossoms in bloom longer. It will be interesting to hear how everyone is doing.

Our annual picnic is July 12th. This is my favorite meeting. We will have golf, softball, smoker contest, silent auction, Scholarship awards, Honey Ambassador appointment and of course great food. If you feel you

Club Business

Presidents Message

Dave Meldrum

It was great to see new students at Anne's house last month. The weather was grey, but the bees were cooperative considering the weather. There were lots of questions and

don't know a lot of members, this is a great meeting, because you get plenty of time to meet and talk to new people. All you have to say is "how are your bees?" and the conversation is started.

June Minutes

The meeting began at 2.55pm
There was some general discussion about how the bees are doing. It was mentioned that in some of the trees bees are collecting toxic pollen, although there is controversy surrounding this, eg. In Worcester they have an infestation of the long-horned beetle and the chemical treatment used on the remaining trees which have not been cut down, might be harmful to bees. The debate is whether to save the trees or to save a few bees.

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

Treasurer's report

This was read by Diane Sellars. Motion was presented to accept the report as read subject to audit. Bills were read and a motion was presented to authorize expenditure to pay the bills.

Committee Reports:

Fair Committee – Peter Delaney
The next big thing will be the workshops in July.

Scholarship Committee – Joe Donnelly

The Scholarship Committee, Joe Donnelly, Stephanie Williams, and Jane Wild, met on May 23rd to consider scholarship applications. It based awards on merit, club involvement of both applicant and family members, and field of study. The committee unanimously decided on 6 awards totaling \$5000 to:

- Jessica Antos
- Jamie Coleman
- Melanie Jessel
- Anna Josephson
- Laura Josephson
- Jason Sample

All have been invited to join the club at the summer picnic in July.

All of last year's awardees (Jamie Coleman, Sarah Croteau, Anna Josephson, and Rachel Orlovski) have written to ECBA to express their gratitude for our support in the 2009 academic year.

Honey Bee Ambassador - Cynthia Croteau Not present and if anyone can help her with this it would be appreciated.
She has selected someone already and he has accepted.

Library Committee - Barbara Milhender
Library on wheels, two carts present at the meeting, there is a large variety and people should take out books. (See library news on page 4)

OLD Business

Mass Bee is June 20th, any people who want to carpool? There are 10 or 11 different topics and activities, such as queen rearing, hive management, etc. lunch must be reserved or bring your own.

Internet proposal

For a DSL internet connection at the bee building, the slowest one, but cheapest, is only an additional \$5 per month. The bill is \$45 now and so will go up to \$50. There is a \$14 one-time charge for a router and another \$50 to do the wiring. If you have a laptop, you can have a password etc. for wireless internet.

There was a motion not to exceed \$100 to set up the internet connection and the proposal passed.

New Business

EAS (Eastern Apicultural Society of North America)
1st week in August, South of Buffalo, New York. Could be fun to get a busride out there, could do a sidetrip to Niagara Falls, etc. Dave hasn't heard from anyone yet. It would require a minimum of 30 to 35 people to book the bus. If fewer, could rent a van and a bus-driver.

It is always a worthwhile event and it is very close this year, just over the border in New York State, about 8 hours' drive. There are always lots of

commercial beekeepers, suppliers etc. There will be a side-trip to see a honey-extracting plant etc.

July 12th meeting:

The Annual Picnic is always an exciting and enjoyable event! There will be golf, a softball game, scholarship awards, a smoker contest etc.

Silent Auction reminder

Please remember to bring items for the silent auction, bring in something that is saleable, have a figure in mind as to what the value is and put the minimum on the sheet. All proceeds go to benefit the scholarship fund.

If you are interested in the golf tournament, please contact Peter Delaney to register before the day. Softball starts at 11.30

August meeting

This was going to take place at Bill Turner’s place in York, Maine. Just a few doors down from Bill is a new member, Elizabeth, who has offered to host. She has 4 colonies, so there will be a hive opening and she has a barn in case of inclement weather.

Member news:

It’s a girl! Stephanie Williams and Dave have had a baby girl, Miss Camille Irene, 7 pounds, born June 19 @ 3:23am! Congratulations to the newest ‘bebe’!

Door prize: 6 lobsters and 5lbs of steamers, in a rolling cooler. Very happy winner: Marilyn Graves

Meeting adjourned at 3.30pm

2009 ECBA Calendar	
July 12 (Sunday)	Picnic (Bee Building Topsfield Fairground)
July 27th	BoD
August 9 (Sunday)	York Maine
September 13 (Sunday)	Venue to be announced
October 2 – 12 (Topsfield Fair)	
November 9	BoD
November 14	Bee Building
December 12	Bee Building

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for getting information into the next newsletter will be **July 19 2009**. Please make submissions to Anne Bouwer by email at: anne.bouwer@gmail.com

Great recipe!

Honey Yogurt Bagel Spread

Ingredients

- 3 cups Stonyfield Fat Free French Vanilla Yogurt (to yield 1 cup yogurt cheese*)
- 2 tbs. honey
- 1/4 cup finely chopped walnuts
- 1/4 cup currants or raisins
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon

Directions

***For yogurt Cheese:**

Using a yogurt cheese maker or layered cheese cloth, strain the whey from 3 cups of yogurt for 3 - 6 hours in the refrigerator. This should yield 1 cup of yogurt cheese.

In a food processor or blender pulse together honey, walnuts, raisins and cinnamon until well mixed. Place in a small bowl and fold in yogurt cheese.

Place in an airtight container. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving. Keep in the refrigerator for 5 days. Makes approximately 1 cup.

Yields

8 Servings

Nutrition Facts

Suggested serving size, 2 tbsp. Calories 80; Calories from Fat 20; Total Fat 2.5g; Saturated Fat 0g; Cholesterol 0mg; Sodium 10mg; Total Carbohydrate 11g; Dietary Fiber 0g; Sugars 9g; Protein 3g; Vitamin A 0%; Vitamin C 0%; Calcium 4%; Iron 2%

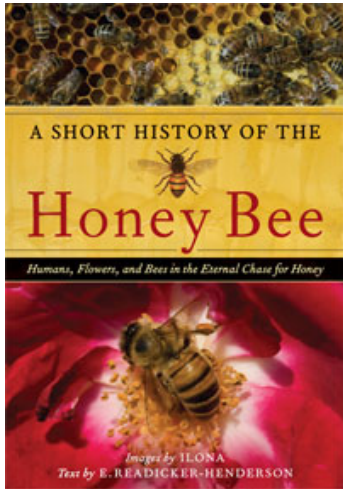
Library News



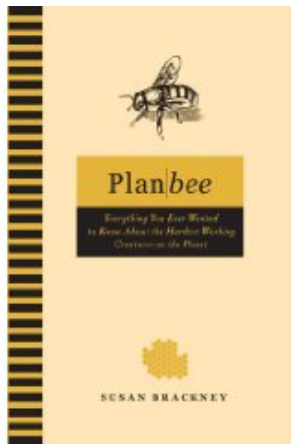
Library News from the library on wheels:

The library has been busy going on a shopping spree! It is like Christmas in July!

Here are the new books.



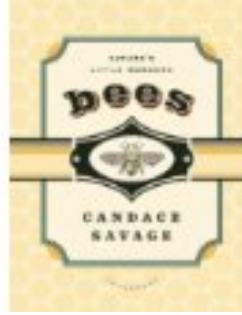
A Short History of the Honey Bee is a beautiful small book with fabulous photographs of honey bees and beekeepers. This small book is a wonderful addition to our Bee Library. E. Readicker-Henderson is a bee keeper who also is an award winning writer. This book will charm you.



Plan/bee

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the Hardest-Working Creatures on the Planet is amusing book about a woman who decides to have chickens, but, in the end turns out to be a beekeeper. Her topics range from bee history, to candle making, and girl power. She adds a comic touch to each

subject. Who knew why Sting the singer earned the nickname Sting?



Nature's Little Wonders Bee is filled with Bee history, poems to the noble honey bee, and wonderful old graphic drawing beekeeping. Chapter one starts with this quote: *"The life of bees is like a magic well. The more you draw from it, the more there is to draw."* Karl Von Frisch 1886-1982. I found this book rather charming.



Finally, Bees! is written by the Editors of Time for Kids. It is rated for beginning readers. This small and inexpensive is a great find for your new readers. The book has large print and large pictures that will charm young readers. Bees! also would be a great book to bring along for bee talks with young children.

Don't forget to return your library books to our July meeting or mail them directly to:
Essex County Beekeepers Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 10
Topsfield, MA
01983-0010



BEARS DESTROYING HIVES in central MASSACHUSETTS

Some images of the bear which recently destroyed the hives of member **Alan Wilkins**, who also recently became a celebrity!

10,000 bees crowd wing of plane at Mass. airport

AP Associated Press

Wed Jun 3, 1:15 am ET

DANVERS, Mass. – Maybe these bees were too tired to fly for themselves. A gang of honeybees landed on the wing of a plane used for flight school training at Beverly Airport. At first, the 10,000 or so bees swarmed over the left side of the aircraft, then landed on top of the left wing. The owner of the flight center called police, who said to call local bee removal expert Al Wilkins.

Wilkins used a specially designed vacuum to suck the bees off the plane, and then relocated them to hives where they will produce honey.

Wilkins guessed that the queen may have stopped to rest on the plane, and the other bees congregated around to protect her.

Information from: Gloucester Daily Times, <http://www.gloucestertimes.com>

