

Essex County Beeline

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

September 2010

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

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**September Meeting
Sunday September 12th
2010**



**Hosted by Rick &
Susan Reault**
See page 11 for details

this effort, and a special thanks to Kathy Sample and Lauren Lesinski for heading up the committee and organizing the workshops. Additionally the Building Committee has been working hard since the completion of Beeschool renovating and sprucing up the appearance of the building entrance and Seller's area. Many members have helped out removing ceiling tiles, installing new paneling and trim, painting, staining and installing new ceiling tiles. The best feature of this project is the addition of removable front access panels beneath the exhibit counter. No more climbing in and out through the top. Thanks to all those who helped out and a special appreciation to Stan Sample, Pete Delaney and Eric Josephson for spearheading this effort. If that wasn't enough Chris Delaney worked with the Fair to get our electrical system updated, AMEN! The Fair has replaced all of the lighting inside and outside the building with new electronic florescent lighting for a brighter, cleaner and more uniform light. The Fair is almost upon us and there is still a lot of work to be done. The building needs to be cleaned, the Fair exhibit areas and spaces organized after all these renovations, before we can start accepting exhibit entries. Seller take in is just around the corner and many hands will be needed in the coming month.

President's message

Phil Watson
 What a dry summer it has been! Hopefully you find the bees have stored a surplus honey crop with enough to bring and sell at the 192nd Topsfield Fair. It has been a very busy summer at the Topsfield Fair's Beekeeping building! For the month of July and the first few weeks of August, members have bundled honey stix, packaged candy, cut wax and assembled candle kits. Much appreciation and thanks to all who were able to contribute to

There is the old 80:20 rule – 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people. If you haven't been involved in any of the above activities or all of the above is unfamiliar to you, then you may be in the 80% group. This is your club and for whatever reason you joined the club, whether it was for the camaraderie, be able to sell at the Fair, share in the beekeeping knowledge, or just get the newsletter, it is not fair to assume that the "active" 20% will provide for you. My goal over the next year and half is to get more participation from this "80% group". I think a lot has improved in this area over the past few months to a year. Attendance at the Tuesday and Thursday workshops has been up despite the hot weather, and the turnout on Saturday the 14th to remove ceiling tiles was awesome! Everyone has some skill or talent they are good at, we can even help you find it ;>) Please take the time to come forward and help us out.

That said and without stealing from the nomination committee's article that appears later, nominations for club offices must be presented at the September meeting. Frank Cordima has done a great job of preparing for this milestone, but the committee still needs help. A number of people came forward at the August meeting but I know there are still few open positions. Please consider stepping up to help change the 80:20 rule!

Member meeting minutes

The meeting began at 2:40.

Phil spoke about the BOD meeting, how there had been a long discussion about speakers for meetings. He stated that ECBA has pared itself down over the past number of years to have a speaker for about 3 or 4 months of the year. What was decided was to encourage more speakers coming in for the November and December meetings too. It will mean something to look forward to in the winter months, whereas summer meetings will concentrate a little bit more on talking about bees.

General Beekeeping discussion

Phil asked if the swarming has stopped yet? Al has pictures of swarms. He got a swarm from a church in Salem. Bees seem to like churches, as Phil received a call with honeybees in another church structure, although they were looking for someone to remove them for free.

Barbara said it's the worst year she's had. Both were new packages, also changed the foundation. One hive lost their queen too, she had to replace that. As she quipped, "It's never easy, but always fun!".

The question was asked "How much time do you give them to raise a queen?" Early in spring is good, but nowadays you need to requeen as soon as possible because it is too late to let them do it themselves – 16 days to hatch, 4 - 6 days to mate, then start to lay eggs, then they take 21 days to hatch, so you've lost 6 weeks altogether.

Stan – sometimes it takes even longer to raise a queen, sometimes it could be two weeks before she starts laying. And when it's hot and humid, bees just hang off the front of the hive. You can lose two months actually.

Speaking of honey crops, Phil went in last weekend, had a bunch of supers on, only two supers to extract. A lot isn't capped, and the extended dearth isn't helping.

A question was asked that when it is very humid, do the bees postpone their capping so that the honey doesn't absorb too much moisture.

Someone else said that this might cause them to cap a little too soon.

A word of caution was offered: once the honey is capped, don't let it sit around, uncap it right away, cappings are not impervious.

"What happens if the moisture content is too low?" It crystallizes.

Chris Meehan pulled off 5 hives, extracted 70 frames, best year they've ever had – only hive didn't pull he put on two supers.

Came through winter with 6 hives, one was a swarm. Exceptional year. Wetlands nearby, they can get water easily. Purple looestrife around, he expects to extract again in the fall. The only thing he doesn't know is if the moisture content is high or low.



“If you’ve pulled the honey,” a word of caution from Stan, “they must have stores, and you need to feed if necessary.”

A member asked if she should continue to give her bees pollen. If they’ve taken it, then carry on, but Phil has seen a lot of pollen in the hives.

Minutes approved and seconded.

Treasurer’s report

Diane read the treasurer’s report. Motion was presented to accept the report as read subject to audit. Bills were read and a motion was presented to pay those listed passed.

Committee Reports:

Building Committee Stan Sample

It had been so hot that they hadn’t worked, although it needs to be done by Labor day. There is sanding and staining to be done. The work in the hall needs volunteers for Tuesday and Thursday evenings 7 – 9pm and the next two Saturdays. Peter and he will be there from 8 o’clock in the morning. Don’t assume someone else is going to do it, please come and help. Many hands make light work, the more the merrier, please help. Still a lot to do!

Fair Committee – Chris and Kathy

Building managers had a Fair meeting with Jamie. They have installed a new roof and lights on the arena, there is a new alarm in the Bee building and in Coolidge Hall.

There is a new firebox on the kitchen wall, in the worst place possible. Chris has received id badges and passes. If you work 4 days you get a photo id badge which is good for the whole fair.

The CORI form needs to be completed by all volunteers 18 and over. Chris Delaney will need a photocopy of license of other photo ID.

It is imperative that a few people come in early on the first day October 1st at 3pm. The Fair has installed surveillance cameras so that they might discourage and stop theft of flowers etc. The Mounties are going to be there. Chubby Checker’s going to be there, and it is the 50th anniversary of “The twist”.

The committee members have lists for each weekend after Labor Day until the Fair, which will be upon us before we know it.

Chris D put out a request for people to think about entering an exhibit for the fair. New beekeepers always do well, as they have a tendency to be more meticulous and do things better than the more experienced beekeepers because they are still fussy and extra careful.

On Tuesday and Thursdays help is still needed!

to help wrap up the building renovations and clean the building to get ready for take-in of product and exhibits.

Bee School – no report

Scholarship Committee – Vinnie – nothing much happening there yet as they have just awarded the scholarships.

Library Committee Barbara Milhender

Had a wonderful meeting. The general view was that certain people have abused the system, new beekeepers come and take things out and never give them back. Library is packed, please use normal library procedures. Don’t keep books forever.

Nomination committee Frank Cordima

There are still many positions available. There have been a number of volunteers for Bee School. Frank asked people to send him or Linda an email if interested in a position. Frank apologized for sounding like a broken record, but once again pleaded with people to volunteer . He urged people to talk to some members who have served in these capacities, noting that the nomination committee would dearly like to see folks put their names in, otherwise there is always a scurry at the end to get

people. There's a lot of experience here so if new volunteers need help, it is always readily available.



Phil spoke about the ease of volunteering for the Scholarship committee and Bee school committee, as you come in with three elected members already there who can help you execute your duties.

In the **Scholarship committee** – you see many different kinds of applications, you have to pick and choose from the people who have applied. The **BOD** has two positions to fill. Phil pointed out that he and many others within this core group, have served many times in different capacities. Remember though two members of the same family can not serve on BOD at the same time.

Recording secretary takes minutes – Diane Sevrin set up the current newsletter format. The new secretary has the editorial privalidge of changing the format to their liking. The way it should work is that every committee should write something down and then hand it to the recording secretary (preferably email it).

Club doesn't function without the board, if you take a position you always have a lot of help. Some clubs make it so that you have to serve in a position as part of your membership. The **Director's** position is a fairly simple position to hold.

Frank Herschede volunteered to be on the BOD.



Other business

Diane Sellars mentioned one more expense for Eric Josephson, \$39.50 for the door prize. Seconded and passed.

The September meeting is at the house of Rick Reault. There will be a hive opening and a demonstration on honey extraction. (See page for directions and map)

Danny has labels and sleeves for anyone needing them.

Barbara has been working in a kitchen at a retreat. The chef there tells her that honey is the next big push in the cooking world – all she needs is your name and address and what is growing in your garden, and he wants a little smidgeon of spring honey and summer honey.



Stan Sample had samples of pure honey from Prince Edward Island, made into honey candy. One student at Bee school got some. The hard candy is in two flavors, one pure honey, one with added lemon. Everyone should get a piece and try it. His sister is going back up this fall and he is going to try to get case lots. He also had a pamphlet if anyone wanted to look at it.

Door prize thanks to Eric.

Mike Grenier got the door prize of bottles.

No other business, the meeting adjourned at 3.25pm

The meeting re-opened for some other business.
Other business:

Rick Reault had a queen to sell – he donated the money to the club. \$25

The parade – Peter Delaney is looking for some additional help for the float. The parade has expanded from one parade to a few times during the Fair (Tues and Thurs nights). He would like to have some young people involved who could also ride on the float.

Members with grandchildren etc. could take part. If anyone has any ideas, the theme is “proud to be giving back”. Bee-related ideas.

Two weeks prior to the fair, members get together to paint stuff and put the float together. Pete needs assistance with ideas and with putting the stuff together – contact Peter at home, through email etc. Peter pointed out that the club has participated since 1990, and that we need to continue the tradition. We also need people to come down dressed as



beekeepers, with their smokers etc.

Kathy also mentioned one more thing – that they have run out of club’s cookbooks, the National Honey Board has some cookbooks, a motion was made and approved for an appropriation to buy 50 cookbooks for \$300 from free cash. Try them and see how they go over. The motion was seconded and passed.

Tom Beaton thanked Peter and Chris for bringing their canopy.

A member mentioned that there has been wholesale spraying for mosquitoes because of EEE, but that in her town they called her, as they still had her name on file to see where they could spray, which she was impressed by. So members should make sure they are on the list for DO NOT SPRAY in their town.

A second motion to adjourn passed at 3.40pm

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for getting information into the next newsletter will be **September 19th, 2010**. Please make submissions to Anne Bouwer by email at: anne.bouwer@gmail.com

Calendar

September 12th - Sunday Monthly meeting at the home of Susan and Rick Reault.

1.30 Hive Opening

2.15 Honey extraction demonstration

2.45 Member Meeting

November 8th Monday

BOD meeting

November 13th – Saturday

6pm Dinner

7pm Monthly meeting

December 12th - Saturday

6pm Dinner

7pm Monthly meeting



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, email beehive1224@comcast.net or hand deliver at a meeting. Orders processed and available for pickup at a meeting.

Qty	Description	Price per 25 items	Total
	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	
	Soap Bags (each pkg contains 100 bags)	2.25/100	
	Bear Collars	3.00	
	Candle Dividers	1.30	
	Plastic Sleeves	0.52	
	White Paint Marking Pens	2.75/each	
Grand Total			

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: _____
(please print) (day and evening required)

NAME: _____
(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 child 16 years or older who are members of your family, wishing to volunteer his/her time. For purposes of satisfying Seller’s obligations, all person(s) must be age 16 or older. 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. (Oct 11th)	4:00 P.M. – 10 P.M. (Oct 1st) 6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.
Friday, October 1 st			
Saturday, October 2 nd			
Sunday, October 3 rd			
Monday, October 4 th			
Tuesday, October 5 th			
Wednesday, October 6 th			
Thursday, October 7 th			
Friday, October 8 th			
Saturday, October 9 th			
Sunday, October 10 th			
Monday, October 11 th			Closing Nite POTLUCK Party 7:30 P.M.

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, phone and email to be included on the “Seller’s List” available to the public upon request.

Address: _____
(please print)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signing up for a shift entitles you to admission for each day that you volunteer your time. Topsfield Fair Management requires all volunteers to complete and return a Coriform, and those working 4 or more separate shifts, 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 2010, only to the individual whose photo appears on the ID.

Complete the above form and return it to **Lauren Lesinski 72 Hillside St, Rowley, MA 01969-1616**, no later than September 24th, 2010. If you have any questions please call her at **978-432-1300**.

TODAY,

WHAT'S WORTH A MILLION DOLLARS??

YOUR EFFORTS FOR THE CLUB...

Have FUN...Be CREATIVE...Be OUR REPORTER...

All it takes is some basic computer skills and you can!!

The club needs someone to record and report our meeting minutes and any reports and memos from the club committees, etc. in a suitable format in the club's newsletter. You can be as creative as you want to be!! If necessary, HELP is available, but you can pretty much apply your efforts as you see fit.

Please let Frank Cordima or Linda Boylan know if you're interested...**THANKS!!**

SWARMS & Queens!

Marty Jessel read that one of the reasons for swarming is that the queen is failing. He would like to start a dialogue with people to see who has requeened a swarm they have captured and compare with those who did not requeen. What are the successes and failures with such swarms?

Library News

A new library policy will go into effect the next meeting after the Topsfield Fair. We will be limiting the length of time materials are checked out of the library, and also limiting the number of library items being checked out by members. We are taking these actions to protect our resources and to make sure that all members will have equal access to all our materials. In addition, we will be implementing late fines for over due materials.

New Bee Library Policy:

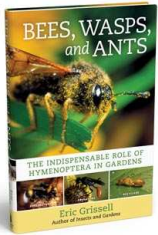
1. A limit of 5 items can be checked out of the library by members.
2. Items from the library can be checked out for **no longer** than to two months.
3. If any item is out longer than two months, members will be subject to a fine of \$5.00 per item per month up to a \$25.00 and library privileges will be suspended until all items are return and fines are paid.
4. Any damaged items must be reported to the librarian. A fine may be assessed if the damage can not be easily repaired. If the damage is beyond repair, a replacement fine will be assessed.
5. Library items can be returned at monthly meeting, during bee school or can be mailed to Clubs mailing address:
 - Essex County Beekeepers Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 10
Topsfield, MA 01983-0010

(Please, do not return our library books public libraries.)

6. Graduating new members from the Bee School will have privileges to take out items from the library at their first Bee Meeting.

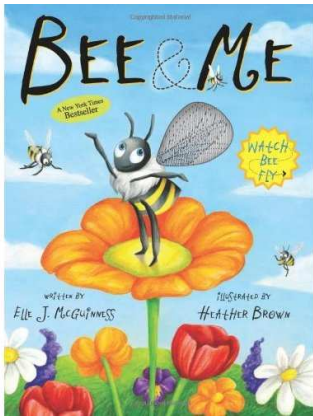


Coming soon to the Library:



New book by Timber Press [*Bees, Wasps, and Ants: The Indispensable Role of Hymenoptera in Gardens*](#), entomologist Eric Grissell presents many excellent reasons why you should welcome these insects into your garden. Not only do these creatures have fascinating life cycles; they also perform many essential tasks in the garden, some of which are roughly analogous to the roles of more familiar animals.

A New York Times Best Seller:



When a young boy discovers a bee trapped in his bedroom he hides for fear of being stung. But when the amiable bee frantically explains all that bees do, the boy comes to understand how good things come in different packages: "Bees make honey. That much we know. Bees also spread pollen, which makes all things grow." The subject of honeybees' mysterious dwindling population throughout the world has been a growing concern in the news in recent years. *Bee and Me* brings the critical importance of bees to light for young children through the innovative, full color process of ANIMATION in an engaging story of friendship and understanding. *Bee and Me* will charm readers while providing valuable information about how important bees are to sustainable agriculture. *Bee and Me* is sure to fascinate, entertain and engage readers of all ages.

*Unique animated windows on almost every spread enhancing the action of the story. * Enchanting full color illustrations. * Special appendix full of fun and important bee facts.

And finally,

John Muir and Beekeeping is a charming book about the founder of the Sierra Club and Bees. Sweet!