

The Connecticut Honey Bee

www.ctbees.org

President's Message

As beekeepers, our goal is to maintain our honeybee colonies. Most of us have experienced what can seem like an endless cycle. Every winter, we suffer colony losses and every spring, we purchase new bees to replace those losses. This provides a good business model for the package sellers, but is there a better way for beekeepers?

At SNEBA this year, Mike Palmer presented his model where he tries to break this vicious cycle. He calls it "The Sustainable Apiary". He describes the process of creating nucleus colonies during the summer in order to over-

winter them, giving him additional flexibility in the spring.

If we harvest the surplus honey, and make nucs from the strongest hives, there is still time to prepare the parent colonies and the nucs for winter. In the spring, the nucs can be used to replace any colony losses, expand the number of hives, or the nuc can be sold.

This is a management practice that can be used by the hobbyist beekeeper. If you have two colonies and make a nuc, you increase your chances for maintaining your colonies by having a ready-made replacement.

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Meetings

February 13 9am-3pm

CT Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Featured speaker: Aaron Morris

Morning session: "Growing a Hobby into a Successful Sideline"

Afternoon session: "Nucs and Splits"

Please bring your favorite dish for the pot luck luncheon. Beverages will be provided.

April 16 9am-3pm

CT Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Featured speakers: Betty Menucucci & Carl Jurica

Morning sessions: "27 Years of Beekeeping and Lessons Learned" and "Practical Queen Production in the North (part1)"

Afternoon sessions: "The Importance of Record Keeping, Making it Quick and Simple" and "Practical Queen Production in the North (part 2)"

The April meeting will also include the election of office for the Association for 2016-2017. Please bring your favorite dish for the pot luck luncheon. Beverages provided.



The Connecticut Beekeepers Association
Volume 89, Issue 1: Winter 2016



Vice President's Message

In 1891 Benjamin Harrison was President of the United States. According to the website onthisday.com, many other noteworthy things happened that same year. American Express Travelers Cheques were issued for the first time, Thomas Edison patented a motion picture camera, the first gasoline-powered car debuted in Springfield, Massachusetts and hail killed 6 horses in Rapid City, SD.

And on May 13th 1891 the Connecticut Beekeepers Association was organized at the home of Edwin E. Smith in Watertown.

To commemorate the 125th anniversary, the CBA is planning a big celebration at Lockwood Farm in Hamden. Be sure to mark Saturday, June 4, 2016 on your calendar!

Details are still being ironed out, but we will need help from our members to ensure that this event is a success. Can you help with marketing beforehand or assist with different aspects of the event on the day of the celebration? Please raise your hand and let us know how you can help when the time comes.

2016 will also bring great speakers for our regular meetings, some additional workshops and at least two Bee Schools. There will be plenty of opportunities to share your knowledge as well as learn from others about bees and beekeeping. We're hoping to see you a lot this year!

Gosia Liedlich



President's Message (contd.)

Using newly raised local queens acclimated to our northern climate in your nuc, your chances of success increase. You have created a sustainable apiary.

To make a nuc requires a queen, a few frames and a nuc box. Alternately, you can buy a new package. It's your choice. It is not my place to dictate your beekeeping practices, but rather to share information so you can make the choices that are best for you and your apiary.

Successful beekeeping is all about continuous learning. Together with proper beekeeping practices (proper winter stores, proper nutrition and mite monitoring) you can increase your success and contribute to the overall health of honeybees in the state. We can provide the training. We can provide workshops to teach you how to make nucs and manage them. There are Connecticut queen breeders that can provide you with quality queens.

Year after year, people give up beekeeping because their bees die. They find it too difficult. They buy bees year after year and aren't successful. You need to decide what you will do to increase the likelihood of your bees survival.

Steve Dinsmore

Treasurer's Note

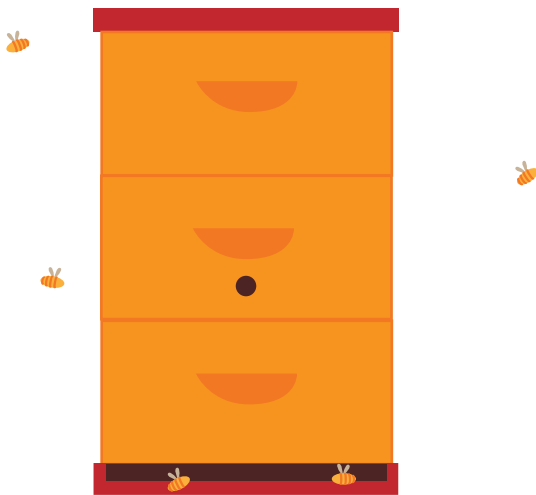
As the CBA enters 2016, we find ourselves in relatively good financial condition. The board is mindful that the funds are primarily dedicated to the mission of the association, which is the education of its members. Over time, we hope it is apparent to members that the expenditure of dues and other income is achieving the goal of imparting useful information that can improve their beekeeping skills and understanding of the honey bee.

Traditionally, the CBA has not issued payment confirmation. CBA now accepts dues payment through PayPal which

provides members with an email payment confirmation which will serve as proof of membership in the event we make a mistake and we do make mistakes. Additionally, a member does not need to have a PayPal account to use this payment method. PayPal provides for the use of a credit card through their system and is similar to any online purchase. Any member who is unsure of their membership status can contact me at treasurer@ctbees.org or the CBA secretary at secretary@ctbees.org.

CBA Treasurer,
Mike Campion

Carey's Beehives



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Our beautiful, handcrafted 10-frame Langstroth hives are made with care in Oxford, CT. All hives are fully assembled and available in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. Each hive includes:

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We provide free delivery in Connecticut, west of the Connecticut River. There is a nominal delivery charge to other areas based on distance.

Great for beginners and seasoned professionals alike! Carey's Beehives is a proud member of the Connecticut Beekeepers Association!



Connecticut Beekeepers Association Welcomes New Members to Bee School

Connecticut Beekeepers Association held two sessions of our annual Bee School this year. Experienced club members presented information on many aspects of beekeeping for beginners. Topics ranged from how to install a package of bees to recognizing pests and diseases and beyond. The sessions were held at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven and were very well attended. We would like to welcome all of our new members! We hope you will mark you calendars and join us throughout the year for our meetings and workshops.

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UConn Beekeeping Club Officers Attend SNEBA Conference

The UConn Beekeeping Club was fortunate enough to have two student officers, Elizabeth Fontaine and Arielle Sherman, attend the 2015 SNEBA Conference as a learning experience for the young club. The vendors engaged in conversation with officers of the relatively new club and experienced beekeepers. Becoming familiar with many different companies provides excellent resources that the organization can benefit from both now and in the future.

The speakers were the most helpful, discussing many new beekeeping topics. Of particular interest was Michael Palmer's session on how to over winter bees. This helped to further develop and support plans for overwintering club colonies. Other presentations expanded on additional beekeeping techniques such as varroa mite management and queen rearing. Even though UConn Beekeeping Club does not rear their own queens, learning about how one starts and completes that process was eye opening. The experience overall attending SNEBA was very much enjoyed and appreciated including the opportunity to interact with veteran beekeepers. UConn Beekeeping Club wanted to especially thank CBA and Dadant for sponsoring the attendance of the two members and making it possible to be present at the conference.

Eastern Apiculture Society Announces 2016 Conference



July 25-29, 2016
Stockton State University
Galloway, New Jersey
by Timothy McMahon

Have you ever considered taking a "Beekeeping Vacation"? Well now is the time to make your plans as EAS 2016 will be taking place at Stockton State University outside of Atlantic City, NJ. EAS (Eastern Apiculture Society) is one of the largest noncommercial beekeeping organizations in the United States and one of the largest in the world. Every summer EAS conducts its week long Annual Conference of lectures and workshops in one the 26 member states or Canadian provinces. This year's EAS conference will be held at Stockton State University in Galloway, NJ, from July 25 to July 29. The conference usually brings in about 600 to 800 beekeepers from around the world to attend.

The conference is made up of the Short Course, running from Monday to Wednesday, and the conference proper, running from Wednesday to Friday, with Wednesday the overlap day. Normally about half of the attendees stay the whole week with the other half coming just for the conference. The Short Course will contain classes for beekeepers of all levels and special events such as an open apiary with Langstroth, Warre' and Top Bar Hives, a microscope workshop on bee anatomy, a Honey Show for you to enter your bee products, and classes on all aspects of beekeeping. The conference proper will consist of over 100 different talks about all aspects of beekeeping including classes on Queen rearing, Mead and Beer brewing and on IPM (Integrated Pest Management).

I first attended EAS several years ago in Boone NC, and the experience was so great that I became a life time member. I've not missed an EAS conference since. Every year I go with a set of questions in mind that I then try to find the answers to from the best minds in Beekeeping. You can't get much better than that. Maybe the best thing about the week-long EAS is that I get to talk "bees" all week long and no one says that they have heard enough (normally my family asks me to shut-up after the first 2 minutes or so). You can find out all about the specific topics covered and how to sign up at the EAS webpage here: www.easternapiculture.org. I hope to see you there. EAS 2017 is scheduled for Delaware, 2018 in Virginia. Come and join the fun!

John C. Baker, EAS Director for CT



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Connecticut Beekeepers Association Officers:

President: Steve Dinsmore
East Lyme, CT
President@ctbees.org

Vice-President: Gosia Liedlich
Southbury, CT
VicePresident@ctbees.org

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Prospect, CT
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Secretary: Karen Parker
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Program Chair: Al Avitabile
Bethlehem, CT
Program@ctbees.org

Publications and Publicity Chair:
Susan Lydem
Newsletter@ctbees.org

Member at Large: Richard Moore
Canton, CT

Spotlight On Our Speaker

Aaron Morris will be the guest speaker at our meeting on February 13, 2016 at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. See page 1 for more details!

Aaron has been keeping bees since 1976. He is currently a sideline beekeeper running 150 hives specializing in nucleus colonies, package bees, honey production, beeswax candles, and private in-hive instruction. He is the sole proprietor of Double A's Bees.

A certified Master Beekeeper with the Eastern Apicultural Society of North America, Inc. since 2000, Mr. Morris is the past president of both the Southern Adirondack Beekeepers Association and the Empire State Honey Producers Association, Inc.

A retired Systems Programmer/Analyst from the University at Albany, Mr. Morris is the owner/editor/moderator of BEE-L@community.1soft.com – the oldest, continuously running internet discussion group dedicated to "Informed Discussion of Beekeeping Issues and Bee Biology".

Inspired at age 6 by a swarm that settled in his yard, he continues five decades later to be fascinated by the magnificent honey bee!

State Beekeeping Officials:

Deputy Entomologist
Victoria Smith
State of CT
CT Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington Avenue
New Haven, CT 06504
203-974-8474

State Apiary Inspector
Mark Creighton
State of CT
CT Agricultural Experiment Station
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Eastern Apicultural Society Master Beekeeper Mann Lake Scholarship

This scholarship, sponsored by Mann Lake Ltd. and created and administered by the EAS Master Beekeepers, was established to encourage worthy young individuals to pursue an interest in honey bees and beekeeping. The Scholarship will provide financial assistance for the selected candidate to attend an annual EAS conference. In addition to the waiver of registration fees by EAS for the short course and the main conference, the Scholarship will provide up to \$1,000 to the successful candidate to offset other conference expenses.

For more detailed information and the application, please visit the [Eastern Apiculture Society website](#).

Advertise With Us!

The Connecticut Honey Bee is the Official journal of the Connecticut Beekeepers Association, Inc.

It is published four times a year prior to the meetings in February, April, June, and October.

Advertising Rates:

Full page: \$50

Half Page: \$25

Quarter page: \$15

Eighth Page: \$8

Send all news articles, announcements and advertisements to Newsletter@ctbees.org

Workshop at Massaro Farm: Package Installation

Saturday, March 26

Two Sessions:

9am-10am or 11am-12pm

In addition to post-winter inspections of the hives in the apiary, the workshop will include instruction on "live package" installation, as well as colony feeding. This hands-on workshop should be of great interest to new beekeepers.

Our workshops are open to the public. Donations are accepted at the apiary site. We invite you to join our Association and become a beekeeper. Our annual membership dues are \$20 for the calendar year and you can join online.

The workshops are offered at Massaro Farm, 41 Ford Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525. Appropriate attire is required: long trousers and long sleeve shirts. Veils will be available or bring your own bee suit. Participation is limited to 20 per session. Preregistration is required. Visit our website to sign up: www.ctbees.org/workshops

Mentors Wanted!

At Bee School, the number one request of new beekeepers is to be able to find a mentor in their area. You remember what it was like to start out. So many questions. We can keep more people in beekeeping if we give them the opportunity to talk to someone. The more opinions they can get the better, so its great if we can have multiple people in a given area. If you're willing to help a new beekeeper in your area, sign up at the next meeting on February 13th or email us at info@ctbees.org. Also stress to them the importance of coming to meetings! See you then!

Meeting Minutes

CT Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT • October 24, 2015

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 11:43am – STEVE DINSMORE, PRESIDENT

- Minutes from June meeting approved
- We are planning to have additional programs at Massaro Farm, to be posted on the website.

EAS REPORT - JOHN BAKER

- EAS will be in New Jersey, July 25-29, 2016. Information can be found at: www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2016.html
- ABF will be held in Jacksonville, Florida, January 5-9, 2016. abfconference.com.

TREASURER'S REPORT - MIKE CAMPION

- Report accepted. See Mike Campion if you have any questions.

PROGRAM CHAIR REPORT - AL AVITABILE

- Next year CBA will celebrate its 125th anniversary. It is one of the oldest beekeeping clubs in the US. The celebration will be held on June 4, 2016 at Lockwood Farm in Hamden, Ct. Dr. Larry Connor and Dr. Diana Sammataro will be our speakers. Al explains "This organization has sent out two swarms, which went on to become Backyard Beekeepers and Eastern Ct. Beekeepers".

BEE INSPECTOR'S REPORT - MARK CREIGHTON

- Know your mite counts. Varroa mites are the #1 killer of our hives. Check mite counts 4-8 times a year. Check counts pre and post treatment. Checked with Ted Jones and Rollin Hannan, two of the largest commercial beekeepers in the state. Both men said they are seeing very high mite loads this week. The low being 38, the high 80. Still many frames with eggs. Call Mark if you need help.
- Hopguard has been approved in Ct.
- Please register your hives! This is important for many reasons. Registration shows the USDA that we are a serious beekeeping state and will give more grants for studies we would like to do. If there is a health concern for the bees, we can contact you, AND It's the law. Jack Grimshaw said the list is available to pesticide applicators. They would then be able to contact you prior to spraying an area.
- A \$10,000 grant has been approved to bring beekeeping opportunities to minority youth at inner city schools. Sound School and Urban School in New Haven will be participating.

NEW BUSINESS

- We acknowledge Mr. Francis Bowen of Yonkers, NY, past secretary of CBA.
- Thank you to George and Sharon Rowe for their wonderful organization and skill in the kitchen. They keep everything going smoothly!
- Bee School will be held January 16, 2016
- We have gone to an electronic newsletter but some servers are locking out delivery. Please let us know if you haven't been receiving newsletters.
- Please let Steve know if you are interested in the Queen Rearing Program.
- There are currently 1,500 beekeepers in the state, yet, only a fraction belong to CBA. We want to provide the types of programs you would like to see. Please contact us with your ideas.
- The extractor program will end this year. The grant expired on 9/15. We are currently looking into options on how to move forward. We will keep you posted.
- The number one question to CBA is for speakers at various schools and organizations. We would like to develop an outreach portion of CBA to speak at various venues. If anyone is interested, please leave your contact information with us.
- SNEBA is Nov. 21, 2015 in Groton, Ct. For information and registration, go to wicwas.com.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 12:10pm