



# *The Connecticut* HONEY BEE



## Upcoming Meetings

### October 24, 2015: Meeting

*Location:* CT Agricultural  
Experiment Station,  
123 Huntington Street  
New Haven

*Time:* 9am-3pm

*(See p.2 for Meeting Topic)*



## **President's Message**

Another fall is upon us and another bee season winds down. But is it really time to rest? First, are your bees ready for their long winter nap (this is figurative, not literal)? Are they packed with honey they will need to eat to generate heat for the long winter? Did you treat your bees for mites early enough so that they could produce a strong population of winter bees before the queen shuts down for the winter? Do they have enough ventilation to reduce the likelihood of dysentery? It's a balance between too much air and not enough. When you have your hives in the best possible condition you can, sleep in and have an extra cup of coffee. While you are having that second cup of coffee, pick up those back issues of the American Bee Journal or Bee Culture that have sat unread all summer, and start reading up on the latest advice and research. Self-Education in beekeeping is a process that never stops. The winter is also the time to build your new equipment for the spring. Locate sources for bees and think about more bee yards.

This summer, I was a bad beekeeper. I was away for a good part of the summer and trying to catch up at home when I wasn't. I had bee yards that disappeared in the weeds. It was a great honey year and I missed a lot of it. The lesson here is don't bee me. I have straightened out my problem hives and next year will be the year. I've said that before. And I will continue to say it until life allows it to happen. We can't ever give up. The bees need us. And I'll say I need them. There is something satisfying about being with the bees.

In the coming year, we will be implementing some changes. One of the recently implemented changes is membership renewal through Paypal. This will provide you an electronic record of your renewal and give us the correct information including your email. A challenge has always been interpreting the handwriting of some of the membership signups. We get many people each year who say "we paid our dues but haven't heard anything." Hopefully this will solve that problem. Next year, we also hope to have more hands on workshops, more public outreach and our 125th celebration. We can always use people willing to pitch in, if only for a few hours. It's your organization. Tell us what you want for programs, workshops and meetings! See you all at the meeting in October and at SNEBA in November.

Steve Dinsmore



**A CLEVER BEE-THEMED  
PUMPKIN CARVING FOR YOU  
TO CONSIDER THIS YEAR!**

## CBA Officers

**President:** Steve Dinsmore  
East Lyme, CT  
[President@ctbees.com](mailto:President@ctbees.com)

**Vice-President:** Gosia Liedlich  
Southbury, CT  
[VicePresident@ctbees.com](mailto:VicePresident@ctbees.com)

**Treasurer:** Michael Campion  
Prospect, CT  
[Treasurer@ctbees.com](mailto:Treasurer@ctbees.com)

**Secretary:** Karen Parker  
Old Lyme, CT  
[Secretary@ctbees.com](mailto:Secretary@ctbees.com)

**Program Chair:** Al Avitabile  
Bethlehem, CT  
[Program@ctbees.com](mailto:Program@ctbees.com)

**Publications and Publicity Chair:** Briana Benn-Mirandi  
Madison, CT  
[Newsletter@ctbees.com](mailto:Newsletter@ctbees.com)

**Eastern Apiculture Director:** John Baker  
Litchfield, CT

**Member at Large:** George Rowe  
Windsor Locks, CT  
[ghr4@hotmail.com](mailto:ghr4@hotmail.com)

### ----- State Beekeeping Officials:

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

**State Apiary Inspector**  
Mark Creighton  
State of CT  
CT Agricultural Experiment Station  
123 Huntington Street  
New Haven, CT 06504  
203-974-8474



### The Connecticut Honey Bee

Official journal of the Connecticut Beekeepers Association is published four times a year prior to the meetings in February, April, June, and October. The Honey Bee is e-mailed to all members of the Connecticut Beekeepers Association.

**Advertising Rates:** Full page: \$50, Half Page: \$25, Quarter page: \$15, Eighth Page: \$8

Send all news articles, announcements and advertisements to [newsletter@ctbees.com](mailto:newsletter@ctbees.com)



### Need an Extractor? Want to Help Your Fellow Beekeepers?

The USDA grant that funded our fantastic Honey Extractor Rental program ended on September 30<sup>th</sup> this year BUT the program itself will continue much the same as before this year. We will then own all the equipment without any restrictions from the grant proposal.

We will be looking at different options to continue the program after this season and will report back to the membership in the winter.

### CBA Membership Dues Renewal Dues are due by January 31<sup>st</sup>

You can now renew your membership online using your credit or debit card. Visit our [Membership](#) page for details.

### CBA Meeting Topic

**October 24, 2015: Meeting**

**Time:** 9am-3pm

**Location:** Jones Auditorium at the Connecticut Experimental Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven

**Our speaker** is Christina Grozinger, Professor of Entomology and Director of the Center for Pollination Research at Penn State University

**Morning Topic:** Honey Bee Health: From Genes to Eco- Systems

**Afternoon Topic:** Cooperation and Conflict in Honey Bees.

We will have a potluck luncheon, so please bring something to share - main dishes and salads are always appreciated. Also, please bring something for our Silent auction. We will also have a 50/50 raffle!

## Secretarially Speaking...

*Minutes from the Most Recent CBA Meeting*

### CONNECTICUT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Lockwood Farm  
Hamden, Ct  
June 6, 2015

Meeting called to order:  
1:05 – Steve Dinsmore  
(President)

Minutes from April meeting approved



### REPORTS

John Baker – EAS will be in Ontario Canada from August 10-14, 2015. Passports needed.

Information can be found at:

<http://www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2015.html>

ECB will be held on June 27-28, 2015 in Vernon, Ct. Speaker – Randy Oliver.

<http://webpages.charter.net/nectar/ECBA/index.html>

Backyard Beekeepers will hold a queen rearing class on June 7. Check out their calendar of events at

<http://backyardbeekeepers.com/wp/workshops/>

Ct. Queen Breeders program is now a 501(c)3. For information please email [ctqueenbees@yahoo.com](mailto:ctqueenbees@yahoo.com).

Treasurers report – Accepted

### BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR

We are proud to award the Beekeeper of the Year to Al Avitabile for his years of commitment to the world of beekeeping and his continued mentorship and encouragement to all beekeepers.

No New Business

Meeting adjourned: 1:18

## Vice President's Message



In September, my husband and I traveled to Poland to visit my family. One of the highlights of the trip was visiting an apiary. It was special to me

because it introduced bees and beekeeping to my niece and nephew. The owner of the apiary in the small town of Lipka, Dariusz Serafiński, has kept bees for several years and has several hundred hives. But in May of last year he decided to share his love for bees with school children. He created “The Educational Path – Honey Bee World” – a small apiary by his house with about 10 modern working hives, a few empty historical hives, a patch of bee-loving plants, honey extractor, large pictures of different pollinators and beekeeper suits to fit small bodies. The kids and their teachers learn about the honey bee life cycle, hives, beekeeping history, and, those who come at the right time, can witness honey extracting. One hive is built with Plexiglass walls and removable wood covers, so the inside of the hive can be viewed from outside. Mr. Serafiński said he enjoys watching kids thrilled to have drones crawling at them, especially after learning that they won't sting. At the end, everybody can taste different kinds of honey that Mr. Serafiński's bees produce. For that reason, schools from the area and beyond organize trips to visit the apiary in Lipka throughout the season. Mr. Serafiński also travels to schools with a demonstration hive and gives presentations. (There's a small fee for both.)



When we showed up unannounced at his apiary he had just finished with one school group but was more than happy to open a hive for my niece and nephew. Mr. Serafiński's passion for bees and sharing that passion made them remember that day.

(Continued on page 7)

## EAS Report

Well, you folks missed a real good one! The Canadians went out of their way to make this summer's conference a special one.

There were 570 attendees, but only a handful from Connecticut; shame on you.

Aside from the excellent seminars, we toured the countryside visiting two of Ontario's largest commercial apiaries, the Niagara Butterfly Conservatory, the Rosewood Estates winery and meadery, Niagara Falls and a BBQ in a honey house.

We also elected a new set of officers:

- Chairman - Erin McGregor-Forbes from Maine
- Vice Chairman - still looking
- Treasurer - John "Jacky" Hildreth from Maine
- Secretary - Carol Cottrill from Maine
- President - Jeff Burd (2016) New Jersey
- Vice President - Dr. Deborah Delaney (2017) Delaware

Next year's conference will be in New Jersey at Stockton College on July 25-29, 2016. This is west of Atlantic City.

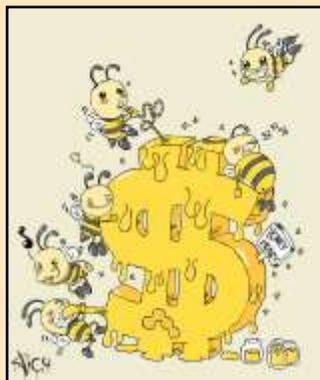
Don't miss this one!

John Baker  
EAS Director for Connecticut



## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Connecticut Beekeepers Association

Next year will mark 125 years since we were founded and we're still going strong. We are trying to plan a special celebration and hope to have more details during the Business meeting or at SNEBA.



## Treasurer's Report:

Recently, a CBA PayPal account was finally established and has already been used by members to renew their memberships. Members are

encouraged to use this method of payment which affords better member data accuracy, instant payment receipt and reduced administration. The easy 3-step process for making a membership or donation payment via PayPal with a credit card is detailed on the CBA website under "Membership". Although I hold the title of Treasurer, much of the work in establishing the PayPal account is attributable to Gosia Liedlich, CBA Vice-President, whose computer skills and good nature were invaluable.

The CBA operating/checking account as of the end of August stood at \$11,407. Year to date, the balance has been enhanced for several reasons, but a significant contributing factor was the decision, more than a year ago, to distribute newsletters, such as this one, electronically rather than by conventional mail with the attendant costs of printing, handling and postage. I am aware some members miss the hard copy, but the savings and benefit to the club are substantial.

Mike Campion  
Treasurer

## HONEY BEE REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE

Contact Mark  
Creighton at  
203-974-8474 or  
download the form  
from the CAES  
website!





## News From American Beekeeping Federation

The conference this year will be January 5th to 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Sawgrass Marriott Ponte Vedra Beach, Jacksonville, Florida. The theme this year is Healthy Bees there will be speakers and workshops on many topics for the beginner beekeeper to the commercial beekeeper. There will also be a Trade Show with many vendors. For more info go to [www.abfconference.com](http://www.abfconference.com).

Remember last winter? Here's your chance to get away and attend a great Beekeeping Conference with beekeepers from all over the country. Hope to see you there.

*Here is a chance to check the webinars for free. See below. One of the many benefits you get as a member.*

*Ted Jones ABF Delegate*

### **Primetime with Honey Bees: Beekeeping, Honey Bees and More! - Part Three**

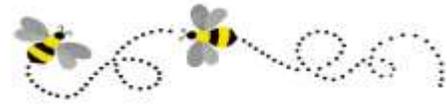
**Wednesday, November 11, 2015**  
**10:00 p.m. ET / 9:00 p.m. CT / 8:00 p.m. MT /**  
**7:00 p.m. PT / 6:00 p.m. AKST / 4:00 p.m. HST**

### **Gene Brandi, ABF Vice President and owner of Gene Brandi Apiaries**

This last session is on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, at 10:00 PM ET. ABF Vice President Gene Brandi shares challenges that beekeepers face and the effects of pesticides on the honey bee population. Beekeepers are losing 30-50% of their hives each year, so this is a pressing issue for all who are interested in the population. Gene will update us on everything that ABF board members and leaders are doing to help reverse the trend, and provides insight into how everyone can lend a helping hand.

**[Register Now!](#)**

Look on our ABF Home Page [www.abfnet.org](http://www.abfnet.org)



# SNEBA 2015

## Don't Miss This One!

Sothern New England Beekeepers Assembly (SNEBA) will be on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. We have an amazing program this year.

Michael Palmer is a commercial beekeeper from Vermont. His practical beekeeping advice about how he manages his hives, creates nucs and generates tons of honey will have you wondering, why haven't I done this before?

Steve Repasky of Meadow Sweet Apiaries is another commercial beekeeper who has faced every problem that can be thrown at you. Practical solutions for practical beekeeping.

Larry Connor rounds out our panel with his time tested experience.

SNEBA will be at the Groton Inn and Suites again this year with twice the space! The hotel has set aside a block of rooms for us at only \$89.00 per night if you mention the conference rate when booking. So come the night before, and have a leisurely breakfast. Or stay an extra night and visit the sites around southeastern Connecticut.

Registration is \$50/pp before October 31<sup>st</sup>. After October 31<sup>st</sup>, it goes up to \$75/pp, so register early. This includes lunch and breaks. We will have a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction, so bring something for the auction and try to take a few gems home!

You can find more information at:  
[http://wicwas.com/2015\\_SNEBA](http://wicwas.com/2015_SNEBA) or at  
<http://www.SNEBA.com>



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## HONEY EXTRACTOR RENTAL PROGRAM

Although we've had a late start to the beekeeping season, the workers are now busily packing away frames and frames of delicious black locust, dandelion, and tulip poplar honey. Your mind turns to thoughts of your first honey harvest. You don't have to buy an expensive extractor, tank, pails, or filters and then wonder where to store it all.

The Connecticut Beekeepers Association has it all – available for you to rent for just \$25. Yes, I said just \$25!



So, plan on taking advantage of this fantastic cost-saving service in 2015.

Call Sharon Rowe @ 860-817-0125 or e-mail her at [ghr4@hotmail.com](mailto:ghr4@hotmail.com) to arrange your rental when you are ready to extract that delicious local honey.

*Funding has been provided by the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program of the Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, awarded and administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.*

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 Member; Connecticut Beekeepers Association

## Vice President's Message, Contd.

Walking around that apiary I was thinking of the frequent emails that our Association receives

asking for speakers at Connecticut schools and nature centers. Sometimes we can find an interested beekeeper to give a talk but most often not. If you would be interested in giving such talks, please contact us. If you're interested but not sure what the talk should cover, please contact us as well. We're thinking of starting a program for future speakers, to provide them with PowerPoint presentations and basic equipment for show-and-tell. There's a huge interest in bees these days and introducing beekeeping to school children might help to raise a generation that is aware of pollinators' needs and problems they face, and that generation might do something about it. If nothing else, maybe they'll learn the difference between a honey bee and a yellow jacket.

Gosia Liedlich



**Gosia's Photos of Apiary in Lipka, Poland**



## A Couple More Pictures from CBA



Our own bees at Massaro Farm in Woodbridge, CT

Mark Creighton representing Connecticut's honey bees and their beekeepers at The Big E in Massachusetts.



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