

The Middlesex ee

The Middlesex Bee is the official newsletter of the Middlesex Beekeepers Association, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

June-July 2016

“For the bee, unlike the human, the future is all: the next generation is the singular purpose of their every motion, their every decision. Not for *Apis mellifera* the ethical struggles of individual versus community rights, the protest against oppression, the life-long dedication to perfecting an individual’s nature and desire. For the hive, there is no individual, merely the all; no present, only the call of the future; no personal contribution, only the accumulated essence of great numbers.”

Sherlock Holmes,

*Practical Handbook of Bee Culture, With some Observations upon the Segregation of the Queen**

Saturday, May 28th, 2016 MCBA Outdoor Meeting and Bee Talk

Tom Fiore opened the meeting by thanking Kathy Martin for hosting the meeting. Staying with tradition, Tom asked that brand new members, or anyone attending for the first time introduce themselves to the group:

- Deb and Andy from Roslindale, said that she inherited a beehive from someone who moved to Texas. She installed a new package, and has been feeding them. Andy said that the woman who previously had the beehive taught us a little, we’ve been

doing our research, reading, meeting people at work that keep bees. Tom said that a veteran member of our club, Mike Bayko says “Books are great, but the bees never read the books, and they only get you so far.” Tom said that joining a local club is always helpful to new beekeepers, and welcomed Deb and Andy to the meeting.

- Jen G. from Framingham, she started beekeeping a year ago.
- Amy K. from Sudbury received her bees just two weeks ago.

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Save the Date

MCBA Outdoor Meetings and Hive Openings

07/23, 1-3pm, 60 Foster Street, Littleton
08/27, 1-3pm, 520 Lexington Road, Concord
09/24, 1-3pm, 8 Crescent Avenue, Bedford

MCBA Indoor Meetings and Bee Talks

First Religious Society Hall, 27 School Street, Carlisle, MA
10/28, 7-9pm, Topic/Speaker: TBD; Annual Auction
11/25, 7-9pm, Topic/Speaker: TBD; (Annual FAT meeting)
12.12 (Tentative), Saturday, 6:30-9pm, Holiday Dinner
01/27, 7-9pm, Topic/Speaker: TBD
02/24, 7-9pm, Topic/Speaker: TBD
03/24, 7-9pm, Topic/Speaker: TBD
04/28, 7-9pm, Topic/Speaker: TBD

➤ Aldo from Revere said that he got a nuc last Monday, he's been feeding them sugar water to get them started. He set up a bird bath where they can get water, and wants to see how they're doing so he will be going into the hive on Memorial Day.

A member said that they were **surprised to see different sizes of bees, tiny bees, medium ones, and big ones**. The big ones are probably drones, while the small/medium ones are most likely workers. The smallest may be workers that just from their cells, and are just getting started.

I have a question, **should I get a package or a nuc?** I already have drawn-out comb, and prior to receiving a package, I went through the

frames to inspect for mold and removed any that were questionable. The Best Bees company people also went through the frames, some of which were brand new. What is the actual structure and arrangement of your boxes? We put the second box onto the hive this past week. It now has 20-frames. How many of those 20-frames are drawn out comb? Maybe 5. Where are those 5 drawn frames located? Are they in the bottom box, in the middle? No, they're all on one side. You should move the drawn comb in towards the middle of the bottom box. Now, with your second/top box, we typically don't advise adding a second box of undrawn comb until 80% of the frames in the bottom box are drawn.

To facilitate drawing out comb in a colony, you should insert an undrawn frame into the middle of those original 5-nuc frames (2 drawn, 1 undrawn, 3 drawn), so the colony can focus on drawing that frame out and giving the queen more room to lay. The bees' natural propensity is to move up, and with a second box on there they may draw out the frames above them rather than moving outwards. Your main focus this year is getting 20-frames drawn out and filled. This is not for you, it's for the bees – you want the bees to make it through winter and hit the ground running next spring. If the colony makes it through the winter they will be in position to make honey for you next year. You should say to yourself that “Honey isn't my goal, keeping them alive is my goal.” Here in Middlesex County we recommend 2-Deeps (or

their equivalent if using medium boxes) worth of bees and honey. By the end of the season in the fall your goal is to have a dome of honey above and around the brood and bees in the lower box. Right now we are in nectar flow, but in mid-to-late June the flow will probably drop off and those of you with new packages or freshly installed nucs will probably need to start feeding again. Very little is happening (in terms of blooming plants) in July and August. Your goal is 20 frames of nicely drawn out comb for the colony to pack with fall honey.

When should I begin feeding? You should only feed the bees now if you are trying to get them to draw out fresh comb. With a new hive, you may need to feed through July and into August because there isn't naturally occurring nectar. You may need to feed again in the fall to prepare the hive to winter over, especially if in late September and early October the hive is not bringing in nectar and they are light in terms of stores.

Does feeding depend on where you are located? *Editor's Note: of course! All beekeeping is local, most areas are having a good nectar flow right now – but we've been having pretty dry weather and your hive's neighborhood may be lacking...* Charlotte said that last year she started a package and only gave them a single bottle of sugar water, and they did fine. Feeding is dependent on location and the weather. We had a really good fall flow, and lots of hives still had a lot of honey left over from last year – but the previous year someone said that they had to feed a couple of gallons of sugar syrup. The point is that while you're trying to get drawn comb, and if they need syrup give it to them. If the bees in your hive don't take the syrup, then don't try to continue feeding.

Does anyone know what the wait time is for hive inspections? A member said that she filled out the form two weeks ago, and Tom Steffanini showed up this. When informed that the member filled out a form for a fall inspection, Tom said that the will come back at a later date.

Do you need to be present for the inspection? No. Inspectors will come out when they're available. There is a report sheet that they fill out and leave a copy for you.

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Model: LYSON2019N
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Lyson Radial 12 Frame Extractor
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Free LTL shipping in the lower 48.
Manual Hand Crank Model: \$695
Electric Motor Model: \$895
Electric Motor Upgrade Kit: \$275

Lyson 20 Frame Premium Radial Extractor
Holds 20 medium or 8 deep frames. Easy to use digital controller for the 350 watt (~1/2 HP) DC motor. Made for a lifetime of extracting and includes a five year warranty.
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Free Bottling Valve included.
50L Model: \$850
70L Model: \$950

Bee Magazine Discount

MCBA members receive a 25% discount off subscriptions to *American Bee Journal*.

For a copy of the ABJ Association Member Subscription form, visit the *Club Business & Important Links* section of the MCBA members-only website:

membership.middlesexbeekeepers.org

think that it's worth it. Editor's Note: I've heard a state inspector mention that back in the day, AFB could be found in 1 out of every 5 colonies in the state. Until the irradiation program is restarted, **the club's position is that you shouldn't use unknown equipment.**

Is it true that you need to individually mark your hives? Yes. According to 330 CMR 8.04 section 2 of the Apiary Inspection Regulations, All hives shall be marked with the name of the owner, either inside or outside, to be easily found by the inspector. Branding or stencil marking or broad ink pen lettering is recommended. It's generally a good idea so that they can contact you if something happens. **If anyone is interested in learning more about the Massachusetts Bee Laws, our internal members-only section of the website has all of the Massachusetts Laws**

There is a law on the books, hives have to be registered? The law says that the Commissioner, by way of regulation, may require beekeepers to register their hives; As of today, there is no formal registration requirement. The hive inspection form is a way to tell the State/ Inspectors who you are, and if you want to get your bees inspected. **Does the club encourage members to register their hives and have their bees inspected?** Yes. Bee inspection is like public health evaluation not only for your bees, but all of the bees around yours. The whole point for Apiary inspection program is have someone keep an eye on bee health, on more than just your hive(s) and those in your neighborhood. Diseases (like American Foul Brood) can spread. Look, why would bees go and visit millions of flowers for nectar when they can go down the road and take honey from a weak or dead-out hive. Contaminated honey spreads disease, so it is important to get your bees inspected. Once something like AFB takes root, bee colonies can begin falling like

Join us on Facebook

Our Facebook Page has updates about meetings (delays/cancellations in Winter), and articles about bees - so the next time you're online, come visit!

dominoes. That being said, it is also extremely important for the Apiary Inspectors to tell to tell clubs so that they can spread the word about finding diseases.

I lost hive to mites, is the honey good? Is there a chance that there's foul brood (AFB/ EVB), or some sort of fungus left behind? There are some diseases where a strong hive can push through and others that you need to be concerned about. If an elderly beekeeper begins to pay less, and less attention to their hives, and if that person passes on, then those neglected hives could get sick/weak and then can become foul brood generators. So, even though it may seem like a good deal to buy used equipment, if that equipment comes from unknown sources you shouldn't put it back into service. **If you have any question where that equipment came from, or what was the condition of the bees that were last in it, then before using it you should get it irradiated.** The state didn't do it this year, but in past years, the Worcester club ran an irradiation program. The last year it ran there was not a lot of participation, and it became not cost effective to do it again this year. The State's new Chief Apiary Inspector is trying to take over the irradiation program, but it hasn't happened yet. **If you're interested in this program, please contact Dr. Skyrmm at Kim.Skyrm@state.ma.us**

Until the irradiation program is restarted, is there another option? While there are "medicines" for foulbrood it only suppresses the disease, but it doesn't eliminate it. We don't

BEE HUMOR



Biologists Discover Billions Of Missing Bees Living Anonymously In Sacramento

NEWS IN BRIEF (via *The Onion*)

May 11, 2016

VOL 52 ISSUE 18

Local · Science

SACRAMENTO, CA—Putting to rest a mystery that has confounded scientists for a decade, a team of biologists from the University of California, Berkeley announced Wednesday that billions of bees believed to have died in recent years were discovered living anonymously in a quiet neighborhood in Sacramento.

“Over the years, the scientific community has come up with a number of theories to explain the unusual disappearance of bee populations throughout the world, but it turns out they’ve been in Sacramento the whole time,” said Berkeley Department of Entomology director

Lucinda Ronan, who admitted that she and her colleagues had “never thought to look” for the millions of colonies’ worth of flying insects in the sleepy, tree-lined Northern California city and eventually came upon them in an out-of-the-way subdivision entirely by accident.

“Our working hypothesis is that they may have been burned out from the incessant task of pollination, or felt too much pressure to produce honey. Regardless, they up and left without any notice, opting for a low-key, simple lifestyle in a nice, peaceful community, completely out of the limelight. It really seems to suit them.” Residents of the unassuming housing development where the bees have evidently lived for the past several years described the immense swarm of insects as “reserved,” “polite,” and dedicated to providing a nice, clean hive for their larvae.

and Apiary Inspection Regulations, along with the Massachusetts Beekeepers Association’s Best Management Practices.

The Apiary inspection regulations are undergoing revision as we speak, triggered by Governor Baker’s Executive Order 562, which called for an examination of all regulations. The Department of Agricultural Resources March/April meeting, took public comment about the existing regulations, and went off and drafted revised regulations that are now being reviewed by the Attorney General’s office. After the review, MDAR, will publish the new draft regulations for public comment, and then hold a hearing of the draft regulations. What will the draft regulations say? How will things change? We don’t know, but when they do come out – we will, as a club, review and comment on them. If this is something that interests you, we will talk about these issues in future meetings, and if you can’t make those then the minutes will be in the newsletter – because depending on what these regulations say, it can have a significant impact on how we keep bees.

I thought the only regulation was in regards to hives needing moveable frames? The statutes lay out powers of the Apiary Inspector, which are essentially public health powers. Tom said that he is watching to make sure that that power doesn’t get watered down, because it opens up for individual cities and towns to take over in an area where they don’t have expertise.

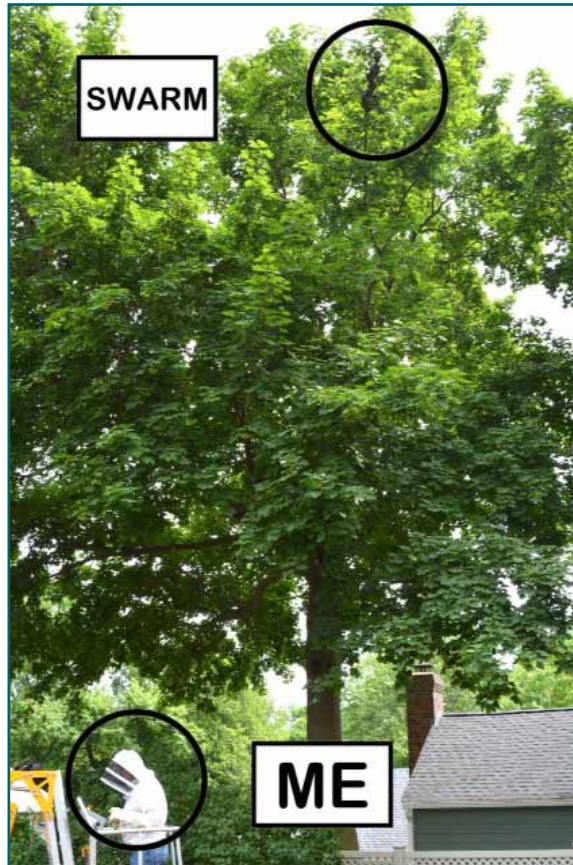
I purchased a nuc and installed it in 8-frame equipment. ***I checked the hive last weekend***

Swarm List

Swarm List

Alix often gets calls about honey bee swarms in a tree, and if you are interested in having a swarm (*and who isn't? If you're not, you should be!*) contact Alix. When she gets a call about a swarm, Alix said that she sends out an alert by email and/or text saying something like "There's a swarm in Concord right now, that's 8' up in an Apple tree. If you want it, email me." All things being equal, Alix gives the swarm to the first person to respond, but she does try to distribute available swarms around to different members so it's not only one person reaping the rewards.

If you are interested in adding your name to the swarm list, email Alix Bartsch: swarms@middlesexbeekeepers.org your Name, Email, Cell Phone Number, and the name of your Cell Phone Carrier. If you want to be on the list, but do not want to receive either an email or text (*you have to accept at least one*), that's okay too, just let Alix know.



Membership Coord. Rick Ressijac catching a swarm



Tony Pulsone trapped a swarm

and it was so sealed up that I could hardly get it apart. The Inner Cover was filled with burr-comb that I had to scrape away, and the frames were coming out with it when I tried to take it off. You should put on a honey super straight away – this time of year the bees can draw comb and fill a honey super in a single week. The nectar flow went from nothing to 200%, so give them something else to do, and see if that helps with all the extra burr comb. New beekeepers should go in every week and see what's going on. There are times that you need to keep giving them undrawn frames to expand out as well as up.

Charlotte said that she received a call from someone that was having an emergency – their bees were going to be arriving tomorrow, and that person asked if Charlotte could install bees. Charlotte was willing to help, but that person **was insistent that Charlotte follow her instructions to install the bees**, place a sheet of wire mesh over the top box and provide a can of sugar water. She was then to seal the hive up entirely for a week... Charlotte asked “Has anyone ever heard of doing something like that?” No one had. John L. said that he thought it was a horrible idea, the bees could overheat, and that they would need to take cleansing flights. An install in April might need it's entrance closed down for defense of the hive, but sealing the hive at this time of year? Placing a gallon can of sugar water over the inner cover, with a deep box around that will allow bees to access the syrup without external threats... It was thought that the person that had

called Charlotte was on the receiving end of the ‘Telephone Game,’ and that some piece of advice had been morphed into their present request – doing anything like that now is just crazy.

Has anyone caught a swarm? I did! In Wilmington. It was very easy, the swarm was on the ground so I used a snow shovel to scoop them up into a medium box with holes in it. I closed it off and drove, close. It was in an Azalea bush. I put on a suit, and just kept scooping and scooping them into the box. I gave them two frames of honey, and waxed up some foundation. It was getting dark, and they began walking into the box when the homeowner asked me to not lean on their Tulips? So here

it is getting dark and I am leaning over and scooping! It was completely pitch dark when I pulled up behind my house and put the box onto a stand. There was some water, and they had honey so I figured they'd be okay. The next morning, I unsealed the box to take a look and they were buzzing around. I then got a call from Alix that had heard from the homeowner saying that I had left 20% of the bees behind when I left! It was dark and I was trying to avoid their Tulips, so I dutifully went back only to find maybe 20 bees total flying around. I put out a nuc box for them, but I said to the homeowners that I was sorry, but I can't catch flying bees... The caught swarm is now bringing in pollen.

Planting for Pollinators



This is **May Night Salvia**. It's the longest blooming salvia and if you deadhead it will rebloom. It is a perennial and comes up every year. The more sun the better.



This is **White Allium** which is a bulb you plant once in sunny, well draining soil and it will multiply every year. It also comes in purple. Always plant at least three of these together.

Cheryl Mandler

Annual Auction

Have some extra frames? Don't like your Hive Tool? Think about donating unused or un-needed equipment to the club to raise money at our October Meeting & Annual Auction.

They've moved in fine and have a queen. Five days later I opened them up and they're still nestled in the corner, but even without a marked queen I spotted her, and she's laying already! Nancy at Bee Warehouse came over and she said that it was a 4-frame sized swarm. I had picked up a nuc from Rick and in similar equipment the caught swarm was not so much lighter than that. It is very interesting to see the 2 hives (swarm and nuc) and I see why people say to get two so that you can compare and contrast!

I have story about not catching a swarm. I overwintered a hive in 3-Deeps, and it was full of bees and honey. During my last inspection there were at least ten swarm and supercedure cells. I did a split with the old queen and thought that I had got rid of swarm cells, but two weeks ago at noon time, the bees swarmed. The swarm went 15-feet high, and luckily my neighbor let me try to cut the branch down. I put the box down, and when I cut the branch the swarm fell, then reorganized and flew

higher up into the tree! The question I have is **with a queen supercedure cell, and capped swarm cells, could there possibly have been a queen in there even though there was no brood at all?** Yes, you could have had a queen in there. Tom said that when you see capped queen cells, you have to wait at least a month before the queen starts laying. If the bees are acting normally, and not angry then they're probably queenright. When I say "Angry," I mean not like they're over-caffeinated. Let it go at least a month. You can look up the timing in a book, 14 days before hatching, then it may take a week while she settles and takes her mating flights, then another week before laying. Whatever your best calculation is, Tom thinks it takes longer than that before you see brood.

Tom relayed a story about a queen, after recently making a split. The queen was relatively small, but it was too early to tell whether she was a good queen or not, whether he had made a bad split or if she had poor mating flights. She was in the hive with no brood, but Tom decided to leave her alone and give it time. A week later she was much bigger – and today there's 4-5 frames capped brood in the hive. **It takes a long time for a queen to get going.** In the interim the colony may start putting nectar into cells which previously held brood, and the hive gets to a situation where it's been a month since you last saw a queen, or you observe the process of supercedure going on, and everything is getting back filled with nectar, a lot of beekeepers begin to think that they may need a queen. But even

when a queen is getting established (and still in the queen cup), the hive will know she's getting established, out getting mated, etc. They'll be acting normally. So when you pull out frames which previously held brood but they're empty except for a crescent with nectar, they're bringing in nectar in anticipation. **If the hive is acting normally, and not agitated then most likely there's a healthy queen associated with that hive.** Just let it go, and see what happens.

If I'm in a situation like that, should I transfer a frame of brood into the hive? It all depends. You can do that if you're concerned with the overall population of the colony. Adding a frame of capped brood to a hive is called a "Bee Bomb," because you'll see an 'explosion' in the bee population. Tom said that he has had hives that swarmed, that had also gone on to produce a honey crop! With a swarm, half the foragers and nurse bees go off with the queen while the remaining population stays – and continues to forage before the queen begins to lay.

When a colony makes a supercedure cell, and after the queen comes out do the bees get rid of that cell? Yes, they may tear it down.

What about the size of the entrance? I have a weak hive and want to keep it small, but I'm concerned about ventilation. Tony said that he uses a strip of galvanized hardware cloth, that he folds into a "V" and places into the entrance of his hives. He monitors the strength of the hive and increases the opening as the hive gets stronger by folding the screen

back onto itself and shortening it. However, even with his strongest hives, Tony said that he limits the opening to half the width of his hive bodies. What size of mesh are you using? Tony answered that he had a bunch of No. 8 (which is 8 wires to the inch), but you could use metal window screen. The mesh keeps out bees/pests but provides ventilation.

What should I do about Treatments? Some people do X and some people do Y. Surveys of beekeepers have reported that Mite-Away quick strips, and Formic Acid are relatively effective. You should do a sugar roll or alcohol wash before and after a treatment to monitor mite levels. Tom said that all treatments to some extent are not 100% effective, and that you are exposing mites to treatments that some will survive. You SHOULD NOT just be treating your hives prophylactically. Commercial beekeepers have hundreds hives, so there's a reason that they do what they do.

I have a question about Formic Acid, should I use one pad or two? Tom admitted that he wasn't up on the current recommendations for Formic Acid, and suggested the member contact John Cheetham as he has more experience with that treatment.

Ken Warchol is the apiary inspector in Worcester County, and he's very excited about the high survival rates out in Worcester. He said that the peak mite time is in August, and that beekeepers out there have had good success with a 1-2 punch of a Mite-Away Quick Strip application followed by an Apiguard treatment

DID YOU KNOW ?

WHAT'S IN HONEY?

Honey is a supersaturated sugar solution with approximately 17.1% Water. Fructose is the predominant sugar at 38.5%, followed by glucose at 31%. Disaccharides, trisaccharides and oligosaccharides are present in much smaller quantities. Besides carbohydrates, honey contains small amounts of protein, enzymes, vitamins and minerals. Honey is known to be rich in both enzymatic and non-enzymatic antioxidants, including catalase, ascorbic acid, flavonoids and alkaloids. Although appearing only in trace amounts honey also contains about 18 different amino acids.

Crane, E. 1976. "Honey: A Comprehensive Survey," International Bee Research Association/Heinemann
Berenbaum, M., Robinson, G. and Unnevehr, L. 1995-1996. *Antioxidant properties of Illinois honeys*. Univ. of Illinois.

HONEY CHARACTERISTICS

Each variety of honey has characteristics that make that each one unique. Some of the main characteristics are:

- > Color
- > Granulation
- > Moisture Content
- > Levlose (fructose sugars) levels
- > Dextrose (glucose sugars) levels.

Honey color is always graded with a number. A low number indicates a light color and the higher the number the darker the honey.

Granulation is also given a number value to rate at which point the honey tends to crystallize or granulate.

Levlose, dextrose and moisture levels are based on a percentage.

in September. In terms of following up with the reports of lost hives last fall, of seemingly robust hives suddenly disappearing: one possible explanation is that even with a treatment in the fall, beekeepers didn't do follow up measurements to see if that treatment had desired effect. Mite loads still may have been high and may have contributed to otherwise very high losses. ■

I taste a liquor never brewed,
From Tankards scooped in Pearl;
Not all the Vats upon the Rhine
Yield such an Alcohol!

Inebriat of Air am I
And Debauchee of Dew,
Reeling, through endless summer days,
From inns of Molten Blue.

When 'Landlords' turn the drunken Bee
Out of the Foxglove's door,
When Butterflies renounce their drams,
I shall but drink the more!

Till Seraphs swing their snowy Hats,
And Saints to windows run,
To see the little Tippler
Leaning against the Sun!

Emily Dickinson

Extractor



MCBA maintains a hand-operated Maxant 3100-series 9-Frame Honey Extractor for rent by current members. Rental includes everything you need to extract your honey, including:

- Electric hot knife for uncapping honey frames
- Uncapping Fork
- Uncapping Tank

Terms:

- This extractor is available on a first-come, first-served basis to members only.
- The extractor is easy to transport in an SUV or Pickup, and is capable of being moved by one person with ease (however 2 people are helpful)
- \$15/day. Extensions may be available depending upon scheduling. Contact the Extractor Coordinator at extractor@middlesexbeekeepers.org for information.
- The Extractor must be cleaned WITH COLD WATER before returning to the club.
- Any and all damage and/or maintenance issues MUST be reported to the Extractor coordinator immediately.

To reserve, contact Kathy at: extractor@middlesexbeekeepers.org or by phone at: 617.549.7460

What's Blooming Now?

Common Name	Scientific Name	Value	Plant Type
June			
Alfalfa	Medicago Sativa	Nectar	Perennial
Alsike Clover	Trifolium Hybridum	Nectar & Pollen	Perennial
Asparagus	Asparagus Officinalis	Nectar & Pollen	Perennial
Bittersweet	Calastrus Officinalis	Nectar & Pollen	Vine
Blackberry	Rubus spp.	Nectar & Pollen	Shrub
Black Locust	Robinia Pseudo-acacia	Nectar & Pollen	Tree
Carrot	Daucus Carota	Nectar & Pollen	Biennial
Catalpa	Catalpa Speciosa	Nectar & Pollen	Biennial
Cranberry	Vaccinium Macrocarpon	Pollen & Nectar	Vine
	Var. Howes	Pollen & Nectar	Vine
	Var. Early Black	Pollen & Nectar	Vine
	Var. MacFarlin	Pollen & Nectar	Vine
Devil's Paint Brush	Hieracium Aurantiacum	Nectar	Perennial
Elder	Sambucus Canadensis	Pollen	Shrub
European Linden	Tilia Europea	Nectar & Pollen	Tree
Fox Grape	Vitis Labrusca	Pollen	Vine
Hollyhock	Althaea Rosea	Nectar & Pollen	Annual
Lavendar	Lavandula Vera	Nectar	Perennial
Lupine	Lupinus ssp.	Pollen	Annual or Perennial
Magnolia	Magnolia Virginiana	Nectar & Pollen	Tree
Mignonette	Reseda Odorata	Nectar	Annual
Mints	Labiatae (many species)		
Privet	Ligustrum Vulgare	Nectar & Pollen	Shrub
Rose	Rosa spp.	Pollen	Climbing Shrub
Sage	Salvia Officinalis	Nectar	Annual
Snowberry	Symphoricarpos Albus	Nectar & Pollen	Shrub
Staghorn Sumac	Rhus Typhina	Nectar & Pollen	Shrub
Sweet Mockorange	Philadelphus Coronarius	Pollen & Nectar	Shrub
Tulip Tree	Liriodendron Tulipifera	Nectar & Pollen	Shrub
Vetch	Vicia Cracca	Nectar & Pollen	Perennial

Common Name	Scientific Name	Value	Plant Type
Viper's Euggloss, Blue Thistle	Echium Vulgare	Nectar & Pollen	Biennial
White Clover	Trifolium Repens	Nectar & Pollen	Biennial
White Sweet Clover	Melilotus Alba	Nectar & Pollen	Biennial or Annual
Yellow Sweet Clover	Melilotus Officinalis	Nectar & Pollen	
July			
Aster	Aster Acuminatus	Nectar & Pollen	Herbaceous Perennial
	Aster Novea Angliae	Nectar & Pollen	Herbaceous Perennial
	Aster Preatlus	Nectar & Pollen	Herbaceous Perennial
	Aster Viminus	Nectar & Pollen	Herbaceous Perennial
Basswood	Tilia Americana	Nectar & Pollen	Tree
Bee Balm	Monarda Punctata	Nectar & Pollen	Perennial
Buckwheat	Fagopyrum Esculentum	Nectar	Annual
Butterfly-Bush	Buddleia Davidi	Nectar	Shrub
Buttonbush	Cephalanthus Occidentalis	Nectar & Pollen	Shrub
California Poppy	Eschscholtzia Californica	Nectar & Pollen	Annual
Canada Thistle	Cirsium Arvense	Nectar	Perennial
Clematis	Clematis Virginiana	Nectar & Pollen	Herbaceous Perennial
Corn	Zea Mays	Pollen	Annual
Cucumber	Cucumis Sativa	Nectar & Pollen	Annual
Dogbane (spreading)	Apocynum Sativa	Nectar & Pollen	Perennial
Dwarf Sumac	Rhus Copallina	Nectar & Pollen	Shrub
English Ivy	Hebera Helix	Nectar	Vine
Fireweed	Epilobium Angustifolium	Nectar & Pollen	Perennial
Golden-Rain Tree	Koelreuteria Paniculata	Nectar & Pollen	Tree
Goldenrod	Solidago ssp.(many species)	Nectar & Pollen	Herbaceous Perennial
	S. Graminifolia	Nectar & Pollen	Herbaceous Perennial
	S. Rugosa	Nectar & Pollen	Herbaceous Perennial
	S. Speciosa	Nectar & Pollen	Herbaceous Perennial
Hardhack	Spiraea Tomentosa	Nectar	Shrub
Marjoram	Origanum	Nectar & Pollen	Perennial

Common Name	Scientific Name	Value	Plant Type
Meadowsweet	Spiraea Latifolia	Nectar	Shrub
Milkweed	Asclepias spp.	Nectar & Pollen	Perennial
Jersey-tea	Ceanothus Americanus	Nectar & Pollen	Shrub
Jewelweed	Impatiens Biflora	Nectar	Annual
Onion	Allium Cepa	Nectar	Biennial
Purple Loosestrife	Lythrum Salicaria	Nectar & Pollen	Perennial
Purple Vervain	Verbena Hastata	Nectar & Pollen	Herbaceous Perennial
Rhubarb	Rheum	Nectar & Pollen	Perennial
Rock-rose	Helianthemum Canadense	Pollen	Annual
Smooth Sumac	Rhus Glabra	Nectar & Pollen	Shrub
Swamp Loosestrife	Decodon Verticillatus	Nectar & Pollen	Perennial
Sweet Pepperbush, Clethra	Clethra Alnifolia	Nectar & Pollen	Shrub
Thyme	Thymus Serpyllum	Nectar	Herbaceous Perennial
Wild Cucumber	Echinocystis Lobata	Nectar & Pollen	Annual
Winter Squash	Cucurbita Maxima	Nectar & Pollen	Annual

August

Bachelor's Button	Centaurea Cyanus	Nectar	Herbaceous Perennial
Boneset	Eupatorium Perfoliatum	Nectar & Pollen	Herbaceous Perennial
Burdock	Arctium Minus	Nectar & Pollen	Biennial
Bur-marigold	Bidens Laevis	Nectar	Perennial
Goldenrod	Rudbeckia Laciniata	Pollen & Nectar	Perennial
Heart's Ease	Polygonum Persicaria	Nectar	Perennial
Joe-Pye Weed	Eupatorium Purpureum	Nectar & Pollen	Herbaceous Perennial
Regweed	Ambrosia Arensiifolia	Pollen	Annual
Virginia Creeper	Parthenocissus Quinquefolia	Pollen & Nectar	Vine



***Sherlock Holmes Quote**

Taken from Laurie King's *The Language of Bees*, 9th in the Mary Russell & Sherlock Holmes series which begins with *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*.



Honey

So many blossoms!
 So many flowers!
 So much flying-
 Hours and hours!
 So much nectar
 Needed to eat
 So honey
 All will end up sweet!

Douglas Florian



Information for **What's Blooming Now?** was taken from **Nectar and pollen plants of Massachusetts as observed in the central Connecticut Valley region** Special circular #27, Revised F.R. Shaw, Department of Entomology, University of Massachusetts, 2-2-56





Middlesex County Beekeepers Association

Membership Form

\$15 Annual dues per family, **payable to MCBA**. Mail this form and payment to: Rick Ressijac, 7 Coolidge Road, Ayer, MA 01432 *OR* bring it with you to a meeting.

Please print CLEARLY.

Name _____

Family Members' Name(s) _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

How did you hear about us? _____

How many hives do you have? _____ Renewal or New Membership

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Vice-President

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