

The Middlesex ee

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

“APES DEBEMUS IMITARI.” (We should imitate the bees)

Seneca

September 24th MCBA outdoor meeting and hive opening

Tom Fiore opened the meeting by thanking Birgit DeWeerd for hosting the final outdoor meeting of the season. He announced that given the drought and the fact that Birgit recently condensed her hives (and is feeding them), the bees are especially protective and we won't be having a hive opening today.

As is our tradition, Tom asked those that were joining us for the first time to introduce themselves and let us know where they are from, how many hives they have, and how long they have been keeping bees.

- Willow from Bedford was given a hive early in the summer, but the hive died out because it was infected by wax moths. She had started with semi-used frames and foundation along with a nuc. She said that she is eager to start again, and wants to do research so that these problems don't happen again.

- Miro from Framingham was here with his father Daniel (who has been keeping bees for 41 years). He is starting to look around for rules and regulations for keeping bees around here. Tom said that the rules vary town to town, and as he recalls Framingham has a limit of 2 hives by right, and if you want more than 2 you need to notify Framingham's Board of Health. Tom said that you can check that online, and he doesn't recommend calling town hall and to ask. The information is probably under the health code or zoning code, and if nothing is listed than there are probably no restrictions.
- Brenda, Jeremy, and Heather from North Reading. They want to start a hive, and are doing research before getting the hive in the spring. Tom took the opportunity to mention that for people just starting out, or thinking about starting beeping – that a

October 2016

1 | **September Meeting**
Minutes

6 | **Fall Cleaning**
How to clean your tools

12 | **MCBA By-Laws**
Motion to amend the constitution

- 2** Meeting & Events Calendar
- 3** BetterBee
- 4** Join us on Facebook
- 4** Bee Magazine Discount
- 5** Annual Auction
- 6** Poem
- 7** Extractor
- 8** What's Blooming Now ?
- 9** Help Wanted
- 11** Lexington High School
- 13** Seneca Letter 84
- 16** Club Officers
- 16** Membership Form

Save The Date

Topsfield Fair

First Religious www.topsfieldfair.org

09/30-10/10, Largest Beekeeping Exhibit of any fair in North America

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, Dan Conlon, Russian Bees

12/12 (Tentative), Saturday, 6:30-9pm, Holiday Dinner

01/27, 7-9pm, Dr. Elizabeth Farnsworth (NEWFS), Plant Physiology

02/24, 7-9pm, Kim Skyrn, Bumblebees & Mass. Apiary Program

03/24, 7-9pm, Topic/Speaker: TBD

04/28, 7-9pm, Topic/Speaker: TBD

Massachusetts Beekeeping Association (Mass Bee) Meetings

11/12, 8am, Fall Meeting

Knights of Columbus on Rt. 139 in Pembroke, MA

03/18, 8am-3pm, Spring Meeting

Topsfield Fairgrounds, Topsfield, MA.

06/24, 9am, Field Day

UMass Agronomy Farm, South Deerfield, MA

number of our members present beekeeping courses over the winter, which touch upon everything you need to know to keep bees. John Cheetham's course is at Newton Continuing Education, Rick Reault has courses in Tyngsboro, and Acton-Boxboro. Information about our beekeeping classes usually gets posted sometime in late November, and the classes usually begin sometime in January/February and run through March. One of the advantages of taking a class is that while you can order bees or beekeeping equipment and tons of other stuff online - stuff that looks really cool... but a lot of it is 'junk' or simply stuff you really don't need to get started. Finally, you can come to our meetings; beginning in October we meet monthly indoors on the fourth Fridays in Carlisle.

- Andy from Acton; he became exposed to beekeeping last year when he took a class at Mass. Audobon's Drumlin farm, and he will have a couple of hives next spring. Tom said that if for some reason the courses we offer are filled up, or fall on a night/location that is inconvenient to you, all of the surrounding county beekeeping associations hold classes. Worcester's class is at UMass Medical, Essex County holds theirs at the Topsfield Fair. There are lots of ways to ease into beekeeping, but taking a class is really the way to go no matter how much you read or watch on youtube, because there is no comparison with interacting with other

people that actually do it. You hear other people ask questions that you may not even have thought of yet.

- Doug from Stow, has 2 hives, one of them is a caught swarm. He's a second year beekeeper. Tom announced that the club has a swarm coordinator. Once you have your equipment and are established, a quick and easy way to increase your holdings is to get on our swarm list. In May, June, and sometimes July you'll receive a text and/or email message saying there's a swarm available at such and such, who wants it.
- Jerry from Newton, took the Newton Adult-Ed class with John Cheetham. He started in May and is here for a refresher on what to do for fall/winter prep.
- Jerry from Bedford, has been keeping bees for 4 years, has 6 hives in Mt. Auburn Cemetery
- Jillian from North Reading, has 1 hive.
- Cassie, has 2 hives at a school in Belmont, and 1 hive at home. She just took some honey and is interested in learning more.

Bee Talk

I'm concerned that there's very little honey in my hive, and the brood is a little spotty. The queen is in there, but she's not laying much. How large is the hive? There are 10 frames in 1 deep box, and there's a medium super atop that. Do you have a queen excluder on? No. So basically you have 1.5 deeps. Does the medium super have drawn comb? Stow. We've had a [nectar] dearth, the plants aren't producing nectar and the bees will not do anything at this point until you feed them. Feeding them [sugar water] acts as an artificial nectar flow, and you want to turn queen back on. Put a feeder on, and maybe a pollen patty. John Cheetham said that you want to have the queen laying, especially now. You always want queen to lay as late into the fall (even in November!) as possible. If possible, you should see 4-frames of capped brood as late as you can. A rough estimate of 7,000 bees/frame. The hive right next to it is doing great though. **Wait, how many frames are there drawn in your weaker hive?** The super is mostly undrawn. John: "I take back what I said." We had assumed all of the deep and medium frames were drawn out. You should take off the

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medium super, and feed that hive like crazy. Forget trying to get the bees to draw out that medium, you need them to draw out and fill that deep. Additionally, you should probably plan on wintering the weak hive atop the stronger hive.

I have 6 frames of capped brood on my strong hive, can I borrow one to give to my weaker hive? If you take 1 frame out of a strong hive, you need to replace it; this time of year the replacement needs to be a fully drawn-out frame so that the strong hive's queen can lay in it immediately. Earlier in the season may have been able to use the strong hive to draw comb for a weaker hive, but not now, it's too late in the year.

One thing to think about, is why did that happen? Why is the weaker hive in that condition? If the queen isn't strong and is not producing, Birgit said that she would be tempted to get rid of the poor queen and combine the two hives. **How would I combine two hives?** Birgit said she would remove the

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!

weak queen and pinch her or freeze her for show and tell. Then she would shake all of the bees from the weaker hive down into a single deep box. On the good/strong hive place a piece of newspaper over the brood box and place that single deep box with bees from the weak hive atop the news paper and then close up the combined hive. The time that it takes the bees to eat through newspaper is enough for the pheromones of the two colonies to combine and for the bees from both to get used to one another and for the weaker hive's bees to adapt to the new queen. Tom said that you could put a "razor slit" or two to help the process. **One sheet of newspaper?** Yes, one is enough. Since there's not much in the top deep, once they combine (especially this time of year) it will get cold and all of the bees will go down and cluster in the cool of the morning, and Birgit takes this opportunity to remove the third deep off. Birgit did mention that when you do the combine that the top deep should have some honey to hold the weaker hive over until they combine.

What is the typical way to feed? It depends on the time of the year, and there are different sugar water combinations to consider as well.

What about a 'Boardman Feeder?' The club recommends against feeding with Boardman Feeders (as they are typically used at the entrance). Birgit said that she feels the best way to feed this time of year is not to use a front entrance feeder. She recommends instead to use an empty deep over atop your inner cover and fill a 5-pound jar full of 2:1 sugar water

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

(half-gallon mason jars also work) – simply punch punch holes in the lid using a small brad nail. **Couldn't we feed the bees fondant?** In warm weather, when the bees can get out and fly, ingesting sugar water and nectar keeps their digestive (and excretory) system going. This is the type of feed they would usually be accessing now, so that's what you should use. In the winter time if your bees have gone through their stores of honey, then you can feed them (straight sugar, candy boards, sugar bricks, or fondant). But right now you want to feed the bees to get through the winter. Your goal is to have 70-90 pounds of honey on your hives... the point is that you are going to need a lot of honey stored for bees to have a reasonable chance of making it through winter to the spring. If they don't have that amount stored,

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.

then you will need to start thinking about the dried feeds mentioned above. We have recipes on our members-only website and there will be some in the newsletter as well. You can also find lots of recipes online website, lots of recipes online. It's these 'dry' solutions that serve as emergency feed during the winter – not the liquid because the bees will be unable to fly out and relieve themselves. **When would you put those dry feeds on?** Towards the middle of winter, but for now keep feeding them syrup as long as they'll take it. A member said that he has had good success with bag feeding – fill a zip-top bag with syrup, lay it on it's side and poke a few holes in the top side. Squeeze out any air inside the bag and you're good to go. The weight of the bees will help bring syrup up to the holes and the bees empty the bag.

What's the best way to put fondant on the hive? There are sugar boards, which act as big inner covers which replace the wood with a layer of sugar so the ceiling of the hive is entirely candy. Alternatively, you could use a 1-3" spacer rim or shallow box atop the cluster, between the hive boxes and your inner cover. **Couldn't I just put the fondant on the inner cover?** No, you want the fondant right up next to the bees, and not separated away from them. The fondant should be below the inner cover, and that spacer rim provides a little space to do that. Later on in the winter the bees will move up into the top deep and they will cluster over and into the fondant while eating away at it. The spacer rim, called

an Imrie Shim, provides a warm space to the bees while they are accessing the fondant (or candy board, sugar bricks, or whatever you're using). **Why can't I just put the fondant atop the frames?** That's exactly what you do, but you want a shim to provide space for the dry feed itself.

As long as we're talking about winterizing hives, Tony talked about moisture control... The one thing that you absolutely need to do for winterizing your hives is that you'll need some sort of way to control moisture. Wrapping your hives in tar paper, insulating them, providing wind breaks are all optional. Moisture control is not. Honey is the bees carbohydrate source, and it is the fuel for the furnace [beating their wings] that heats their cluster. They need energy to shiver, which creates heat. Metabolizing sugar creates moisture as a byproduct of this process, and you need a way for that moisture to escape from the cluster. Moisture can create problems, and without a control measure the moisture will condense on the bottom of the inner cover and drip back down onto the bees. One moisture control is to use some sort of absorbent material above your the cluster to capture excess moisture. Tom said that he uses a sheet of homasote, which is a pressed fiber material used to deaden sound. You can find sheets of this at Home Depot, and it can be cut down to the size of your boxes. In addition to the shim under the inner cover that creates a space for fondant/dry feed, Tom said that he adds another above the inner cover itself to create a little attic below the homasote. Birgit took the opportunity to show the members present a piece of homasote, and asked those present to notice how quickly bees come along to explore it. Anything with the merest hint of a hive, or honey will draw bees now because there isn't much around for them.

Can you feed your bees honey? If it's excess honey that's already in the comb, then yes. But please don't go out to a store and buy honey to feed your bees. If it's your own honey, you know where it comes from, that it is disease and pesticide free. The stuff in the store? You don't know what's in there.

When should I put on a mouse guard? Two weeks ago. With the colder weather, mice are out looking for their winter homes. Don't let them make mischief in your hives! Get entrance reducers on now.

Do you wrap your hives with tar paper?

Some people do, and some don't. Tom said that his hive stands are high (the bees are two feet off the ground!), so he will skirt the long legs of his hive stands with black plastic bags and use a staple gun to staple the bags to the stand's legs. John said that if you prepare your hives for winter, whether you wrap or not doesn't seem to matter greatly. With healthy bees, most of time the hives will make it through, but sometimes they don't.

What's keeping the homasote from siding around? The weight of the telescoping cover helps, but so does the weight you use atop that. Remember that conventional wisdom is that your hive weights at the top shouldn't have direct contact with your outer cover during the winter. The weight can and does act as a heat sync, so you should use some wooden sticks or something to slightly suspend the weight off of your outer cover. When do you do this wrapping? Add shims to your inner cover, and sticks to the weight? Around Thanksgiving.

This was the world and I was king;
For me the bees came by to sing,

Robert Lewis Stevenson

Should I reverse the 2 brood boxes if the bees are in the top one, and the bottom is empty?

It would be better for them to fill down and work their way to the bottom. John C. mentioned that if you reverse the boxes you could have a problem, as the bees have a tendency to go up and if that top box isn't filled then they could starve with plenty of honey down below them. Birgit suggested trying to think like the bees are thinking now. They have set it up, in your hive(s) like they would a tree in nature. They store things overhead and work their way down clustering below the honey stores. Birgit suggested that if you are going to reverse the boxes, that you should do the switch in the spring. The top box is full of the honey and bees, and I have a super on... **The conservative course would be to leave medium on and remove the queen excluder.** John made the announcement that everyone should take their queen excluders off now! Back to that medium, even if the bees work their way through the stores and end up in the medium, so what? The queen may lay some brood up there at the end of the winter, but it's not a problem – just put the queen excluder back on in the spring when you see her laying down below (make sure she's down there...). Once the excluder is on any brood up there will hatch out, and in the meantime it may encourage them to build comb and put honey in there.

If there's honey up there, and you're not desperate to take some, just start winter with

Cleaning your tools and Smoker

This time of year, my tools are covered with wax and propolis - but no need to worry!

All you need is boiling water, a piece of steel wool, a pair of tongs, a disposable aluminum pie plate, some oil, and a plumber's torch.

Boil some water, fill the pie plate and soak your tool(s) for a minute or two. CAUTION, your hive tools will now be **HOT**, so use the tongs to pick up the tools up out of the hot water. The sticky mess on your tools will easily wipe off with the steel wool. I finish by oiling my tools with coconut oil.

Depending on usage and fuel source, the inside of your smoker may be coated with a layer of creosote, which you can remove easily by burning it off with a plumber's torch.

2 deeps and a medium (after taking the queen excluder off).

Another feeding method, that John Cheetham advocates is using empty paint cans. They're plasticized on the inside and they won't rust out. Put a couple of holes in the lid with a

brad nail. It holds a gallon; **You can put it on a hive and leave it on for quite awhile, so you don't need to worry about it running out.** Tom said that it's probably the easiest and cheapest way to deliver gallon of syrup to the hive. John said that a hive will sometimes empty a gallon of 2:1 syrup in 3-4 days. He doesn't bother putting it above the inner cover and instead puts it right atop of the frames. He figures that a gallon of 2:1 syrup is about 10-pounds of sugar. A deep will hold about 50-60 pounds of honey so John can put four 1-gallon cans on a hive at once. The bees will drag it right down. John said that due to the vacuum, he has seen bees crush cans from the suction of taking it so fast. How big should the holes be? Just use the tip of the brad... John admitted that he uses a 1/16th inch drill bit, and suggested using a spacer so the bees can access the can from beneath. John took a moment to reemphasize the point that **No one should have a queen excluder on right now. If you do, take it off. And 'Feed your bees!'** We've had a dearth. There's little to no nectar out there. Please feed your bees, get liquid feed on there

John said that this time of year you have to be really careful when you work your hives. Go in real fast, do what you need to do, and get out. Robbing is a very real possibility now. A robbing situation is not something that takes a long time to happen. Don't leave your hive vulnerable to attack because you've left it wide open. That's why we're not inspecting Birgit's hives today.

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?

Nothing... feed your Bees. *In a normal year...*

Common Name	Scientific Name	Value	Plant Type
September			
False-chamomile	Boltonia Asteroides	Nectar & Pollen	Perennial
Japanese Bamboo	Polygonum Cuspidatum	Nectar	Perennial
October			
Witch Hazel	Hamamelis Virginiana	Pollen	Shrub

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

Is it too late to do a mite treatment? I was thinking of using MAQS (Mite-Away Quick Strips). How strong is your colony, and how bad are your mites? I'm thinking of doing it prophylactically. You should do a mite count – Birgit suggested placing a sticky board underneath the screened bottom board with grease on it and do a count on an overnight mite drop. If you have an overnight mite drop of 5-10 mites, Birgit said she would treat the hive. If you decide for whatever reason to treat, know that treating is a big stressor on a colony. You have to ventilate, and **make sure to read the instructions CAREFULLY.** Every mite treatment has temperature range for using the product. John said that he teaches

his students that they need a baseline to know whether the treatment worked or not, so do an alcohol wash or sugar roll, and then another 10-12 days after the treatment, because you need to know that it worked. John said that he has at times needed to repeat a treatment to make sure it works. There is a lot of literature and research lately on "Mite Bombs." This occurs when you might only have a single hive in your apiary with a mite problem – or in a neighbor's apiary, and that hive will pass it's problems along to every other hive in the vicinity. The industry standard for commercial beekeepers is that if you have a single hive with a mite problem then they treat all of them. John looks at the situation in this way, the mites will kill them or the treatment might... Can you treat and feed at the same time? READ THE INSTRUCTIONS! It depends upon the treatment you select.

What's wrong with Screen Bottom Boards (SBB)? Screened Bottom Boards are part of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and researchers have begun to look whether some of these management practices are actually effective, and apparently there is no correlation between decreased mite counts and SBB usage. However, SBB do have other uses, and there is potentially a ventilation advantage for using them in your hive(s). However, please be aware that different mite treatment products have different protocols (hive must be totally closed, et cetera). When SBB were introduced there were different mite treatments in use at the time, and now we have less destructive options than we did then. For instance, Oxalic Acid (OA) – a member of our Club, Ottavio Forte vaporizes OA and that is highly effective against phoretic mites (mites that are on the bees themselves and not in the cells with larva). Because OA vaporization targets phoretic mites, you need to repeat treatments weekly for 3-weeks to make sure you get through an entire brood cycle.

What about other IPM options? Some people are getting away from drone frames because the beekeepers are getting mite control with OA or FA (Formic Acid).

Birgit said that she has not been seeing many mites at all, while John C. reported that he indeed had some. Birgit said that when removing frames you sometimes scrape open drone cells and you don't need a

decapping tool to do so, and you can check for mites then. In the past she has seen lots and lots of mites, but not as many this year. The reason Drone Removal from Drone Frames used to be recommended is that drones take longer to develop than worker bees, so mites would preferentially target drone larva – however John C. said that has been debunked. One reason that it is better to tear up drone larva is that you need your worker brood.

What do mites look like? They're reddish/brown little sesame-seed like dots on bees. They're almost like ticks – if you happen to tear up a drone cell look at the larva... How often should you check your hive for mites? The club recommends twice a year. Remember, the mite population follows behind the overall population of the hive. Around here, the hive population usually peaks in July, and after our nectar flow we have a dearth. Beekeeping is farming, and sometimes we pull our honey supers off in June, and sometimes the end of July. John said that when he pulls his supers off, he'll do some sort of assessment of the mite count in the hive. All hives have mites, the object not to totally eliminate the mites because you'll never accomplish that. What you want to do is to be able to help the hive by keeping the overall population of mites low enough so that the mites don't adversely affect the health of the hive in the long run. Think about what the mites do. They are parasites and suck the bee's hemolymph and feed off the bees like a mosquito or like a tick. Besides weakening the

bees by draining their 'blood,' the mites are also a vector for diseases. A tick that bites and feeds off of you, or your dog won't kill you, but it could be carrying Lyme Disease... So the population of mites within the hive could compromise the overall health of the hive.

Think of hive overall as organism and not just a collection of single bees. When you weaken a hive, it affects the ability of bees to forage, defend itself, raise young, to do all of the things worker bees need to do to keep the hive healthy.

I have extracted some frames and the bees have cleaned them out – what's the best way to store them to prevent wax moth damage? Wax moths aren't attracted to all wax things, for example wax foundation. They're after any comb that has brood in it, because they're interested in the cocoons that are left behind. If you have any frames that have worms, you should get rid of it and replace the foundation. There is less at risk with drawn and dried honey supers. Birgit said that for honey supers / honey comb that has been licked clean, she'll stack the supers in her honey house separating them with newspaper and moth crystals (Paradichlorobenzene) and stack them up. She cautioned members that Naphthalene is another moth powder altogether, and that you definitely shouldn't use Naphthalene! Alix asked Birgit where she purchases the Paradichlorobenzene moth crystals, and Birgit said "Stop and Shop."

A member asked about Small Hive Beetles (SHB) and extracting. Birgit said that she spins

her frames out right away, otherwise SHB could be a problem by working their way through comb leaving a trail of slime. If, when you open your hive and you see a little black something scurrying, Tom said that you should squish it. SHB have become a bigger problem in recent years around here. Besides squishing, there are a variety of beetle traps – some SBB have trays that you could fill with mineral oil or soapy water, and there are traps which fit in between frames that you fill with oil...

Are wasps a threat? They're more of a nuisance. They're scavengers, and a strong hive of bees will take care of them. With a weaker hive or nuc, you can really reduce then entrance so that a single bee (or only a few bees) can pass

Help Wanted

Tony Pulsone is stepping down from his position of **Director** and the club needs a replacement.

A **DIRECTOR** is the club's delegate and representative to the Massachusetts Beekeepers Association, which meets several times each year.

If you are interested in becoming one of the two MCBA delegates to MassBee, please contact Tom Fiore at: president@middlesexbeekeepers.org

at a time, so that the guard bees can police the area and protect the hive. How do we reduce the size of the entrance? Use an entrance reducer! There are lots of different styles available – Tom recommends having some push pins in your tool box as they’re great for keeping these things in place. Sometimes they fit under the opening, with others they’ll sit out front. Tony said that he uses metal screen – the mesh prevents unwanted visitors but still allows for ventilation.

Do the bees look different now? Some of mine look “Older” and “Fatter.” Probably not on the outside; the bees that are being raised now are the ones that will make it through the winter (or they’ll be raising the ones that will). Internally they’ll have more fat bodies and somehow their biological clocks are set so they will not die in 34-35 days. They won’t need to fly to forage, and their Vitellogenin stores are different from summer bees. Some researchers theorize that it’s this compound that helps bees last through the winter. That’s a talk for another time...

What can we do about the mosquito sprayer trucks? It’s a real problem. There’s a way to remove your address from the city/town spray list, but you need to submit notice by March 1st. Unfortunately that doesn’t do much because they’ll stop spraying at your property line and then begin again once they reach your neighbor’s on the other side – but that doesn’t address the other problem posed by these private companies, and there’s nothing to do about those.

Alix Bartsch, the club’s Swarm Coordinator suggested that members take advantage of the bee exhibit at the nearby Topsfield Fair (which runs 09/30-10/10). It’s 17 miles up Route 95, and it has the best honey/beekeeping house at any fair in the U.S. Alix said that the Essex County Beekeeping Association kills themselves setting the fair up and put on a really good show.

Alix is our defacto legislative liaison, and she said **there are a lot of regulatory nightmares going on** – Cambridge is proposing some really horrific ordinances (e.g. your smoker must adhere to EPA regulations, et cetera). Alix said that it is unfortunate that Cambridge is doing this, and we have to be aware of what’s going on because other towns may try to push through things as well. She said that public comments will be accepted until Mid-October, and the officers will be meeting to decide whether we should comment on the Cambridge ordinances as a club, individuals, or both. Tom said that as he reads the ordinances, they’re a regulatory solution in search of a problem. He said that no one in Cambridge reached out to our organization for feedback or input, and he’s concerned. Tom offered that he is an environmental lawyer, and the EPA Emissions Regulations are concerned with power plants and mobile sources (cars and trucks) – no one wrote air emissions regulations with bee smokers, or backyard barbecues in mind. He cautioned that we should be involved, because this is happening in Cambridge today, it could very well come to your city or town tomorrow.

Alix said that in addition to the Cambridge ordinances, we are looking at Draft Apiary Regulations proposed by the State. Here in Massachusetts we have Massachusetts General Laws on beekeeping. By statute, the state bee inspectors have powers to target American Foul Brood and other diseases. The state is looking at revamping those regulations and imposing mandatory registration, labeling of hives, and other things.

Alix said that beekeeping should be completely free and legal everywhere. Ironically, now that the bees are facing mounting challenges, cities and towns like Boston, Cambridge, and Watertown are imposing terrible regulations to make it that much harder on the bees and beekeepers. Please be vigilant on what’s going on in your town. Alix mentioned that New Bedford is the one town in the state that prohibits beekeeping by an ordinance in the 1970’s. She said that some of us working to get that ordinance overturned, or at least replaced with something that allows it. Alix said that every town has a nuisance law, that should be plenty with regards to beekeeping and beekeepers. She said that every city and town health department has powers which come from state law, and those powers are very broad. If there is a particular problem, it should be addressed case by case by the health department – all of this regulation serves no purpose at all.

continued next page

On a positive note, **Alix announced that she is now an Eastern Apicultural Society certified Master Beekeeper.** She said that passing the 4 associated tests (Field, Lab, Written, Oral) was as difficult as passing the bar exam. She said that Massachusetts needs more master beekeepers, as we currently only have two – Alix and Mary Duane (president of Worcester County Beekeepers Association) now that Ed Karle has moved to Rhode Island. ■

Lexington High School Bee Club

Anastasia Bartsch & Annie Fiore (*daughters of MCBA's Swarm Coordinator and President respectively*) have started a beekeeping club at Lexington High School!



Nancy Dellarocco discovered this on a recent visit to Lucca, Italy. She said it looks like the homeowner was trying to get the bees out of the wall!



A motion to amend the club's By-Laws

To better clarify the officers and their roles, at the October meeting Tony Pulsone, as a member in good standing, will submit a motion to amend the club's constitution with the following changes:

Article III – Officers

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Clerk, a Treasurer, **a Recording Secretary**, and two delegates to the state organization, who together shall constitute the Board of Directors. The President, Vice-President, Clerk, the Treasurer, **the Recording Secretary**, and the two delegates shall be chosen by ballot at an annual meeting and shall hold their offices for two years.

Article IV – Duties of Officers

Section 3. The Clerk shall ~~keep an accurate and permanent record of the meetings of the Association, shall maintain an accurate record of all current members of the Association, and shall provide notice of annual meetings, and shall conduct all regular correspondence, as directed by the President or the Board of Directors. The Clerk or his/her designee shall be responsible for the newsletter and any publications of the Association.~~ **The Clerk, Treasurer, or another member appointed by the President shall collect all dues.**

Section 4. The Treasurer shall collect all moneys due the Association, and keep an accurate and permanent record of all financial activity, **and provide a monthly report of that record to The Association.** The Treasurer, **Clerk, and/or** another member appointed by the President shall collect all dues. The Treasurer shall present all bills to the members for their approval, and pay all properly approved bills drawn on the Association.

~~Section 5. Any officer, delegate or committee member who cannot attend a meeting shall arrange with a member to perform his or her duties pro-tem.~~

Section 5. The Recording Secretary shall keep an accurate and permanent record of the meetings of the Association, shall provide notice of normal meetings, and shall conduct all regular correspondence, as directed by the President or the Board of Directors. The Recording Secretary or his/her designee shall be responsible for The Association's newsletter and any other publications of the Association.

Section 6. Any officer, delegate or committee member who cannot attend a meeting shall arrange with a member to perform his or her duties pro-tem.

Seneca Letter 84

SENECA LUCILIO SUO SALUTEM:

ITENERA ISTA QUAE SEGNITIAM MIHI EXCUTIUNT ET VALITUDINI MEAE PRODESSE IUDICO ET STUDIIS. QUARE VALITUDINEM ADIUVENT VIDES: CUM PIGRUM ME ET NEGLEGENTEM CORPORIS LITTERARUM AMOR FACIAT, ALIENA OPERA EXERCEOR; STUDIO QUARE PROSINT INDICABO: A LECTIONISBUS NIHIL RECESSI. SUNT AUTEM, UT EXISTIMO, NECESSARIAE, PRIMUM NE SIM ME UNO CONTENTUS, DEINDE UT, CUM AB ALIIS QUAESITA COGNOVERO, TUM ET DE INVENTIS IUDICEM ET COGITEM DE INVENIENDIS. ALIT LECTIO INGENIUM ET STUDIO FATIGATUM, NON SINE STUDIO TAMEN, REFICIT. NEC SCRIBERE TANTUM NEC TANTUM LEGERE DEBEMUS; ALTERA RES CONTRISTABIT VIRES ET EXHAURIET (DE STILO DICO), ALTERA SOLVET AC DILUET. INVICEM HOC ET ILLO COMMEANDUM EST ET ALTERUM ALTERO TEMPERANDUM, UT QUICQUID LECTIONE COLLECTUM EST STILUS REDIGAT IN CORPUS. APES, UT AIUNT, DEBEMUS IMITARI, QUAE VAGANTUR ET FLORES AD MEL FACIENDUM IDONEOS CARPUNT, DEINDE QUICKQUID ATTULERE, DISPONUNT AC PER FAVOS DIGERUNT ET, UT VERGILIUS NOSTER AIT

. . . LIQUENTIA MELLA STIPANT ET DULCI DISTENDUNT NECTARE CELLAS.

DE ILLIS NON SATIS CONSTAT UTRUM SUCUM EX FLORIBUS DUCANT QUI PROTINUS MEL SIT, AN QUAE COLLEGERUNT, IN HUNC SAPOREM MIXTURA QUADAM ET PROPRIETATE SPIRITUS SUI MUTENT. QUIBUSDAM ENIM PLACET NON FACIENDI MELLIS SCIENTIAM ESSE ILLIS SED COLLIGENDI. AIUNT INVENIRI APUD INDOS MEL IN HARUNDINUM FOLIIS, QUOD AUT ROS ILLIUS CAELI AUT IPSIUS HARUNDINIS UNOR DULCIS ET PINGUIOR GIGNAT. IN NOSTRIS QUODQUE HERBIS VIM EANDEM SED MINUS MANIFESTAM ET NOTABLEM PONI, QUAM PERSEQUATUR ET CONTRAHAT ANIMAL HUIC REI GENITUM. QUIDAM EXISTIMANT CONDITURA ET DISPOSITIONE IN HANC QUALITATEM VERTI QUAE EX TENERRIMIS VIRENTIUM FLORENTIUMQUE DECERPserINT, NON SINE QUODAM, UT ITA DICAM, FERMENTO QUO IN UNUM DIVERSA COALESCUNT.

SED NE AD ALIUD QUAM DE QUO AGITUR ABDUCAR, NOS QUOQUE HAS APES DEBEMUS IMITARI ET QUAE CUMQUE EX DIVERSA LECTIONE CONGESSIMUS SEPARARE (MELIUS ENIM DISTINCTA SERVANTUR), DEINDE ADHIBITA INGENII NOSTRI CURA ET FACULTATE IN UNUM SAPOREM VARIA ILLA LIBAMENTA CONFUNDERE, UT ETIAM SI APPARUERIT UNDE SUMPTUM SIT, ALIUD TAMEN ESSE QUAM UNDE SUMPTUM EST APPAREAT. QUOD IN CORPORE NOSTRO VIDEMUS SINE ULLA

OPERA NOSTRA FACERE NATURAM (ALIMENTA, QUAE ACCEPIMUS, QUAMDIU IN SUA QUALITATE PERDURANT ET SOLIDA INNATANT STOMACHO, ONERA SUNT; AT CUM EX EO QUOD ERANT, MUTATA SUNT, TUM DEMUM IN VIRES ET IN SANGUINEM TRANSEUNT), IDEM IN HIS QUIBUS ALUNTUR INGENIA PRAESTEMUS, UT QUECUMQUE HAUSIMUS NON PATIAMUR INTEGRAM ESSE, NE ALIENA SINT. CONCOQUAMUS ILLA; ALIOQUI IN MEMORIAM IBUNT, NON IN INGENIUM. ADSENTIAMUR ILLIS FIDELITER ET NOSTRA FACIAMUS, UT UNUM QUIDDAM FIAT EX MULTIS, SICUT UNUS NUMERUS FIT EX SINGULIS, CUM MINORES SUMMAS ET DISSIDENTES COMPUTATIO UNA COMPRENDIT. HOC FACIAT ANIMUS NOSTER: OMNIA QUIBUS EST ADIUTUS, ABSCONDAT; IPSUM TANTUM OSTENDAT QUOD EFFECIT. ETIAM SI CUIUS IN TE COMPAREBIT SIMILITUDO QUEM ADMIRATIO TIBI ALTIUS FIXERIT, SIMILEM ESSE TE VOLO QUOMODO FILIUM, NON QUOMODO IMAGINEM. IMAGO RES MORTUA EST.

“QUID ERGO? NON INTELLEGETUR CUIUS IMITERIS ORATIONEM, CUIUS ARGUMENTATIONEM, CUIUS SENTENTIAS?” PUTO ALIQUANDO NE INTELLEGI QUIDEM POSSE, SI IMAGO VERA SIT; HAEC ENIM OMNIBUS QUAE EX QUO VELUT EXEMPLARI TRAXIT FORMAM SUAM IMPRESSIT, UT IN UNITATEM ILLA COMPETANT. NON

Seneca Letter 84 (TRANSLATION)

VIDES QUAM MULTORUM VOCIBUS CHORUS
CONSTET? UNUS TAMEN EX OMNIBUS REDDITUR;
ALIQUA ILLIC ACUTA EST, ALIQUA GRAVIS,
ALIQUA MEDIA. ACCEDUNT VIRIS FEMINAE;
INTERPONUNTUR TIBIAE. SINGULORUM ILLIC
LATENT VOCES, OMNIUM APPARENT. DE CHORO
DICO QUEM VETERES PHILOSOPHI NOVERANT;
IN COMMISSIONIBUS NOSTRIS PLUS CANTORUM
EST QUAM IN THEATRIS OLIM SPECTATORUM FUIT.
CUM OMNES VIAS ORDO CANENTIUM IMPLEVIT ET
CAVEA AENATORIBUS CINCTA EST ET EX PULPITO
OMNE TIBIARUM GENUS ORGANORUMQUE
CONSONUIT, FIT CONCENTUS EX DISSIONIS.
TALEM ANIMUM NOSTRUM ESSE VOLO: MULTAE IN
ILLO ARTES, MULTA PRAECEPTA SINT, MULTARUM
AETATUM EXEMPLA, SED IN UNUM CONSPIRATA.

“QUOMODO,” INQUIS, “HOC EFFICI POTERIT?”
ADSIDUA INTENTIONE; SI NIHIL EGERIMUS NISI
RATIONE SUADENTE. HANC SI AUDIRE VOLUERIS,
DICET TIBI: RELINQUE ISTA IAMDUDUM AD
QUAE DISCURRITUR. RELINQUE DIVITIAS, AUT
PERICULUM POSSIDENTIUM AUT ONUS. RELINQUE
CORPORIS ATQUE ANIMI VOLUPTATES; MOLLIUNT
ET ENERVANT. RELINQUE AMBITUM; TUMIDA REST
EST, VANA, VENTOSA; NULLUM HABET TERMINUM,
TAM SOLLICITA EST NE QUEM ANTE SE VIDEAT
QUAM NE QUEM POST SE. LABORAT INVIDIA ET
QUIDEM DUPLICI; VIDES AUTEM, QUAM MISER SIT,

SI IS CUI INVIDETUR ET INVIDET.

INTUERIS ILLAS POTENTIUM DOMOS, ILLA
TUMULTUOSA RIXA SALUTANTIUM LIMINA?
MULTUM HABENT CONSTUMELIARUM UT INTRES,
PLUS CUM INTRAVERIS. PRAETERI ISTOS GRADUS
DIVITUM ET MAGNO ADGESTU SUSPensa
VESTIBULA; NON IN PARERUPTO TANTUM ILLIC
STABIS, SED IN LUBRICO. HUC POTIUS TE AD
SAPIENTIAM DERIGE TRANQUILLISSIMASQUE RES
EIUS ET SIMUL AMPLISSIMAS PETE. QUAE CUMQUE
VIDENTUR EMINERE IN REBUS HUMANIS,
QUAMVIS PUSILLA SINT ET COMPARATIONE
HUMILLIMORUM EXTENT, PER DIFFICILES TAMEN
ET ARDUOS TRAMITES ADEUNTUR. CONFRAGOSA
IN FASTIGIUM DIGNITATIS VIA EST; AT SI
CONSCENDERE HUNC VERTICEM LIBET, CUI SE
FORTUNA SUMMISIT, OMNIA QUIDEM SUB TE QUAE
PRO EXCELSISSIMIS HABENTUR, AASPICES, SED
TAMEN VENIES AD SUMMA PER PLANUM. VALE.

SENECA GIVES GREETING TO HIS LUCILIUS:

These journeys, which cast out the
sluggishness from me, I judge to be useful for
my health and studies. You see how they help
my health: since the love of literature makes me
lazy and neglectful of my body, I am worked-
out by the labor of someone else; I will reveal

how they are useful for study: I will recede not
at all from the readings. They are, however, as
I think, necessary, first lest I am not content
with myself alone, then in order that, when I
will have thought about the things sought out
by others, then may I judge the discoveries and
think about the things that will be discovered.
The reading nourishes the talents and restores
the fatigued from study, not without study.
We ought not to only write nor only read; one
thing depresses and drains men (I speak about
writing), the other will loosen and refresh.
Alternatively, it must be gone back and forth
from this to that in turns, so that whatever is
collected by reading, the stylus may render in
form. We should imitate the bees, as they say,
which wander and pluck suitable flowers to
make honey, then carry whatever, they arrange
and distribute through the honeycomb, just as
our Virgil said:

... they pack close the liquid honey and fill
the storehouse with sweet nectar.

It is not well established concerning the bees
whether they make the juice from the flowers
which becomes honey at once, or whether they
change anything they have collected into this
flavor by means of a certain mixture and the
property of their breath. For it is pleasing to the

Seneca Letter 84 (TRANSLATION)

writers that knowledge of honey-making does not belong to the bees, but the knowledge of collecting does. They say that honey is found among the Indians in the leaves of reeds, which either the dew of that sky or the moisture of the sweet, rather rich reed itself produces. Likewise, they say that the same force is in our grass but less manifested and notable, which an animal born for this purpose collects and certain people maintain that the things which bees pluck from the most tender of the greens and flowers are changed into this state by means of arrangement and preservation, not without a certain fermentation, as I might say, by means of which the bees put together different things in one thing.

But let me not be led away to something other than what was being discussed, **we should imitate the bees** and also separate whatever we have collected from different readings (for things that are separated are preserved better), then to combine with the care and ability of our mind having been applied these various offerings into one flavor, so that even now if it is apparent from where it was acquired, yet it is apparent that it is something other than from where it came. That which we see nature doing in our body without any of our labor

(nourishments, which we accept, as long as they endure in their own state and swim as a solid in the stomach, they are burdens; and when they have been changed from that which they were, then at last they cross into energies and into the blood), may we maintain the same thing in these by which our minds are nourished, with the result that we not permit whatever we have taken in to be whole lest they be not part of us. May we consider this well; otherwise they will go into memory, no into the mind. May we welcome these faithfully and may we make them ours, so that something becomes one from many, just as one number is made from each, when one calculation bind together the lesser and differing sums. Let our minds do this: let it hide everything by which it is helped and let it show only that which it has produced. Even if a likeness will be evident in you of someone whom admiration will have fixed rather highly for you, then I wish that you are similar just as a song, not just as an image. An image is a thing for the dead.

“What then? Will it not be understood whose speech, whose argument, whose thoughts you will imitate?” I think that sometimes it cannot be understood, if the copy is real; indeed, this impressed its own form on all

from which the image drew just as from some copy, so that these meet in unity. Do you not see how the chorus consists of the voices of many? Nevertheless one chorus is rendered from all the voices; there a certain voice is high, another is low, another is in the middle. Women are added to men; the flutes are introduced. There the voices of each person escape notice, the voices of all are evident. I speak about the chorus which the old philosophers knew; in our celebrations there are more singers than there were spectators in theaters at one time. When the row of singers filled up all the aisles and the arena was surrounded by trumpeters and from the stage sounded every kind of flute and instrument, harmony results from dissonance. I wish our mind was such: many skills in this, much having been taught, many examples from the ages, but many plots in one. Goodbye.

Lucius Annaeus Seneca (often known as Seneca the Younger or simply Seneca; c. 4 BC – AD 65) was a Roman Stoic philosopher, statesman, dramatist, and in one work humorist, of the Silver Age of Latin literature. Works attributed to Seneca include a dozen philosophical essays, one hundred and twenty-four letters dealing with moral issues, nine tragedies, and a satire.



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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