The "BEELINE" LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB, INC.

Keeping Bees on Long Island Since 1949



Volume 29: Edition 12



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December 2020

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Next Meeting: No Meeting

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Neal Wechsler,Lindenhurst	631-957-7136

*EAS and Cornell Master Beekeepers Program

Master Beekeepers are certified beekeepers who have a detailed knowledge of honey bee biology, expertise in the proper practices of beekeeping, and can present this information to the beekeeping and non-beekeeping public in a detailed, accurate, clear and authoritative manner.

Master Beekeepers provide education and assistance to beginning beekeepers and serve in other capacities in the community as experts in beekeeping. The Master Beekeeper program was developed by Dr. Roger A. Morse at Cornell University. The program has been expanded by the Eastern Apicultural Society of North America to other areas.

You can learn more about the Master Beekeeper Program by visiting the Eastern Apicultural Society

website: <u>http://www.easternapiculture.org/master-</u> beekeepers/certification.html

2

From the Editor's Desk

Conni Still



Dear Beekeepers, I hope you all are well with the increase of the terrible pandemic. Hopefully the vaccine will be available for us older folk quickly and we will be able to meet together soon. Then the numbers should decrease and we will return to normal living soon. Somehow I feel like a queen in a hive infected with AFB, seeing the devastation around me and not being able to do anything about it except trying to stay clean and tell my workers to stay away from any bees that aren't wearing masks!

I hope you all have a safe and Happy Holiday and Healthy New Year!

STAY SAFE and WASH YOUR HANDS and WEAR YOUR MASKS!

Annual dues are \$35.. PLEASE send a check payable to LIBC to Conni Still at 82 Stephen Road, Bayport, NY 11705, go to the club website Longislandbeekeepers.org and use PAYPAL,

Any member who does not pay their dues will not receive future newsletters nor have free advertising in future newsletters, Also please update your copy for your ads. Send your information to Moira Alexander at ramoi@aol.com and put LIBC classified ads in the subject line.

LIBC Meeting Schedule for 2020

NOTE: The meetings are the fourth Sunday of the month at announced location.

December NO MEETING- NO HOLIDAY PARTY DUE TO COVID H

January 24, 2021- St. Joseph's Convent we hope!

Three club... 2 frame extractors are available for \$10 rental for honey extraction.call Moira or Rick-

PRESENTATIONS....WEBSITE SUGGESTIONS....

Those new members or first year beekeepers can still sign up for the 101 class that is being held 1/9...Please contact Grace at gracemehl@aol.com

The safety of our membership is of the utmost importance to the LIBC Board...Stay safe...Mask up...Keep your distance and use the next 2 months to catchup on the reading of a good bee book or two.

Please do not hesitate to contact members of the board or the JJC Team with any questions that you may have about overwintering your colonies...

Moira Alexander SCIENCE

Bees Paint Animal Poo on Their Homes to Repel Giant Hornets

What at first seems like terrible housekeeping turns out to be a clever ploy to fend off huge predators, which can otherwise easily destroy a hive.



PHOTOGRAPH: MARC ANDERSON/ALAMY

INSECTS DON'T COME much cuter than the humble honeybee. Those fetching stripes, the "waggle" dance they do to tell each other where they've found nom-noms, that thing where they smear buffalo crap all over their hives.

Excuse me—the more scientific term is *dung*. But whatever you call it, the fact remains that the Asian honeybee species *Apis cerana* flies around collecting bird and water buffalo poo not with its hind legs, like it does with pollen, but with its mouth. Back at the colony, it applies the dung as "spots" around the entrance to the hive. That might seem like bad housekeeping, but scientists just showed that there's a brilliant method to this scatological madness: Heavily spotted colonies repel the bees' archenemy, the giant hornet *Vespa soror*, a close cousin of the infamous *Vespa mandarina* or Asian giant hornet (colloquially dubbed the "<u>murder</u> <u>hornet</u>") that's invaded the US.

If you knew what *Vespa soror* was capable of, you might not be so quick to judge these bees. At nearly an inch and a half long, the hornet wields massive mandibles that quickly guillotine Asian honeybees, which are about a quarter of its size. When one of them finds a nest, it slices up any workers that mount a defense and releases pheromones that tag the colony for its compatriots to find. Soon, reinforcements swoop in, the formidable air force gnawing at the small opening of the nest to fit their outsized bodies through.

Once they're in, it's like a human army breaching a castle's walls: Things are going to go downhill quick. The hornets snag the honeybee larvae and carry them off to their own nest to feed to their young. "They're hunters, so this is like a bonanza for them," says Wellesley College biologist Heather Mattila, lead author on a <u>new paper</u> in *PLOS One* describing the insect war. The bees that survive end up retreating, knowing they're now powerless to stop the looting. "The poor Asian honeybees, they are just plagued by a suite of really relentless hornets," says Mattila.

Joining Vespa soror in the torturing of these bees is Vespa velutina. Instead of infiltrating the nest, this smaller hornet just hovers around the colony "hawking," picking off victims on the wing. The bees, though, aren't entirely defenseless. They'll actually hiss at the hornets. More famously, they perform "<u>heat balling</u>," in which the diminutive bees form a swarming mass of bodies around a hornet, raising their temperatures until the invader literally cooks to death.

Honeybees will also perform a hypnotic behavior called shimmering, in which large groups of the insects coordinate their movements to send dazzling waves across their massed bodies. This could serve to confuse hornets. Alternatively, it could be something called an "I see you" signal. "When an animal's looking to defend itself against a predator, sometimes it's valuable to the animal to let the predator know that it's been spotted," says University of Colorado Boulder social insect biologist Michael Breed, who wasn't involved in this new research. "That actually subverts a predator's attempt to be stealthy."

Still, often that's not enough for the Asian honeybee. It's apparently been under such predatory pressure from vicious hornets that it's evolved to weaponize other animals' crap. And Mattila and her colleagues have now experimentally shown just how effective that unconventional tactic is.

Working with Asian honeybee hives in Vietnam, the team first of all had to collect dung from pigs, chickens, cows, and water buffalo. (Because: *science*.) They placed the material near an apiary and snagged the bees that came to collect it, painting the foragers so they could track them once they returned to their hives. Because the researchers were working with multiple hives with varying intensities of spotting around the entrances—they classified them as light, moderate, and heavy—they could actually quantify the effectiveness of the defense.

"The dung spotting around the entrances greatly reduces the time that the hornet spends landed at the entrance and really reduces the amount of time that they're chewing on those entrances," says Mattila. In fact, they found that the giant hornets spent a whopping 94 percent less time on highly spotted hives than on control hives. "They can still be outside, hunting individual bees and carrying them away, but they're not able to execute that next step, which is the really lethal step of getting into the colony," she says.

Furthermore, the team confirmed that the bees dung-spot the entrances to their hives in response to the presence of the giant hornets. When they exposed colonies to the pheromones that the giant hornet uses to mark hives for attack, the bees performed more spotting than at a control hive where the bees were not exposed to the hormone. In other words, it's not that the bees like decorating their homes with animal dung, which hornets just happen to hate—this appears to be a deliberate, reactive countermeasure, and it works very well to ward off a coordinated attack by the hornet menace.

The big question now is: How? "It could be that the poop itself is repellent," says Mattila. Since the hornets are so big they have to gnaw their way into the colony, they would end up getting a mouthful of dung if the entrance is heavily spotted. "And certainly a lot of animals use feces as a way of kind of grossing out predators and keeping them away," she continues.

Let us count the ways, shall we? The larvae of the tortoise beetle <u>build shields</u> <u>of their own poo</u> and smack their predators with them. Badgers dig rectangular pits <u>to use as latrines</u>, which signals other badgers to back off. Skipper caterpillars have a different problem: Ants are attracted to their dung. So they increase the blood pressure in their bums in order <u>to fire their turds</u> 40 times the length of their bodies, thus keeping the ants at a distance.

In the case of the honeybees, there may be a specific chemical in the borrowed dung that repels the hornets. "It could be something that is plant-based, but is going through an herbivore first, essentially, and is then being foraged on by the bees," says Mattila. Intriguingly, scientists have observed that Asian honeybees in Japan spread chewed-up plant material around the entrances of their hives, rather than poop. So it could be that the bees in Vietnam are getting the same benefit from some sort of plant compound, only in a rather roundabout way. But scientists still aren't sure which plant or chemical compound it might be.



COURTESY OF HEATHER MATTILA

Still another theory is that there's something in the poop that interferes with the pheromones at play between hunter and prey. "It could be masking the smell of either the colony itself, or masking the pheromone that [the hornets are] depositing as a marker for targeting that colony," says Mattila. "All of these are kind of open hypotheses that we would need to figure out."

Once scientists do figure out what's going on here, it could well have implications for the welfare of western honeybees in the US. This species has not evolved alongside the giant, voracious hornets that menace Asian honeybees, so they're not equipped to put up as strong of a defense. And in late 2019, the Asian giant hornet <u>landed in North America</u>. (The first nest found in the US was <u>removed</u> this October.)

It's not like scientists can breed this poospreading behavior into western honeybees. But if they can isolate a particular compound, or variety of compounds, that make animal dung so repulsive to hornets, perhaps beekeepers in North America can apply it to hives, should the Asian giant hornet begin spreading here. "I think that's the most immediate, obvious application that could come out of this groundbreaking research," says University of British **Columbia biochemist Leonard Foster**, who studies the giant Asian hornet but wasn't involved in this research. "If that compound can be discovered or identified, then for sure, it could be used

as a way to ward off the Asian giant hornet."

Now for a more philosophical question: Is this dung spotting actually considered tool use for the bees, as the authors of the paper claim? That's wading into fraught territory, as biologists fight constantly about what's considered a "tool." The authors say the dung spotting meets four criteria put forth by one definition of tool use: The bees *employ* an environmental object (the poo), they alter another object (their home) with the tool, the bees manipulate the tool (with their mouths, unfortunately), and finally the bees *orient* their tool by spreading it around the hive entrance. "Thus, collection of feces and other filth materials from the environment and their application to nest surfaces for the purpose of defense by A. cerana meets current conceptions of tool use," the authors write.

Foster notes that the poo-spreading is actually similar to another alreadydocumented behavior in honeybees, in which they collect plant resins to use as antibiotics for the colony. "Where you draw the line in what's a tool and what's not a tool seems like a little bit of a semantic argument to me," says Foster. "For sure, this is extremely interesting behavior. Whether it's the equivalent of a human chipping a rock to make an arrowhead, or something like that, I think is not yet agreed upon by the whole community." From Bee-L Digest.

Begin Survey

CLASSIFIED ADS



Ads are complimentary for members of LIBC in good standing

<u>CLASSIFIED ADS DO NOT CONSTITUTE</u> <u>ENDORSEMENT BY THE CLUB.</u> <u>THEY ARE PRINTED AND SHARED AS</u> <u>INFORMATION ONLY.</u> <u>BEEKEEPING EDUCATION</u>

EAS Master Beekeeper Rich Blohm 102 class, Monthly Zoom Format, Huntington, September Start, 631 271 7812 or Beebiz44@gmail.com

EAS Master Beekeeper Moira Alexander 101 Class, 11 - 2hr sessions, Brentwood, September 2nd Start, 631 664 6810 or Ramoi@aol.com

EAS Master Beekeeper Debbie Klughers 101 Class, Zoom Format, East Hampton, November Start, 631 377 1943 or debklughers@optonline.net

Package Bees for Sale

Updated 12/20 Hi Beekeepers, I am now taking orders for three pound packages from California. They include a young, mated Saskatraz carniolan queen. \$175 each I have a tentative arrival date of Saturday, April 3rd. Pickup is in the afternoon at my house, 30 Cherry Lane, Huntington, you can send a check made out to me. If you'd like to pay via PayPal to this email address you must add 2.9% to cover their fee. Your order will be added to the list as soon as payment is received. The price may go up after Dec 31st. So, get your order in soon. Thanks.

I am sure you're curious about the Saskatraz bees. The breeder queens come from a breeding program conducted by a group of commercial beekeepers in Saskatchewan Canada. They are selected for honey production, wintering, varroa tolerance, disease resistance and show increased hygienic behavior. They have a high percentage of Carniolan genes. Select breeder queens are then sent to Olivarez Apiaries in California where their offspring are open matted and those queens are added to the packages. I've gotten lots of good feedback from those who ordered Saskatraz packages in past years. All packages must be picked up Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning, NO EXCEPTIONS.

You can also order Queens at \$40 each, for pick up on the same day.

PS Please include a cell phone number when you respond. Thank you :-) Rich Blohm 30 Cherry Lane Huntington, NY 11743 H 631 271-7812 C 516 658-5333 beebiz44@gmail.com

Rich Blohm - 631-271-7812 <u>beebiz44@gmail.com</u> Wally Blohm-(Queens County) 718- 380-0829 <u>beevenom@verizon.net</u> Steve Chen - 646-625-9910 <u>stevechenbees@gmail.com</u> Deb Klughers- 631-377-1943 <u>debbie@bonacbees.com</u> **Wayne Vitale- 516-680-3020** <u>wayne@spycoastbeefarm.com</u>

Nucleus Hives for Sale

(Maybe in deep or medium frames) Updated 02/10/20 Rich Blohm - 631-271-7812 <u>beebiz44@gmail.com</u> Joe Magnoli- 516-724-4468 earliestspringnucs@gmail.com

Brendan O'Regan 917-689-9854 authentichoneyofnewyork@gmail.com

Donal Peterson - 631-827-1810 <u>3BeesApiary@gmail.com</u>

Tom Tyrell - info@TomsHoneyAndBees.com

Wayne Vitale-516-680-3020 wayne@spycoastbeefarm.com Dale Williams - 631-475-8315 https://southbayapiaries.com

Queens for Sale Updated 02/10/20

Rich Blohm - 631-271-7812 <u>Beebiz44@gmail.com</u> Steve Chen - 646-625-9910 stevechenbees@gmail.com

Joe Magnoli- 516-724-4468 earliestspringnucs@gmail.com

Donal Peterson - 631-827-1810 <u>3BeesApiary@gmail.com</u> Tom Tyrell - <u>info@TomsHoneyAndBees.com</u>

Plants for Sale Updated 02/10/20 Sayville-Liz Marcellus 631-439-1487<u>ECMflowers@yahoo.com</u>

Organic bee-loved trees, shrubs, & perennials Patchogue – David Tifford 631-475-7118 <u>jdtifford@optonline.net</u> Organic bee friendly annuals and perennials.

Insurance/Beekeeping Liability Updated 02/10/20 Farm Family – Vincent C Daley 631-277-7770 State Farm – Jim VonEiff 718-899-8985

Local Honey for Sale

Updated 02/10/20

Bronx

Brendan O'Regan 917-689-9854 authentichoneyofnewyork@gmail.com

<u>Queens</u> Queens - Walter Blohm, 718-380-0829 – <u>beevenom@verizon.net</u>

<u>NYC</u>

Nick Hoefly-_352-875-5642 nick@astorapiaries.com

Suffolk/Nassau

Amityville - Rich Meyer - 917-681-1706 <u>rjmeyer1423@aol.com</u> Bay Shore - Donal Peterson - 631-827-1810 <u>3BeesApiary@gmail.com</u> Brookhaven - Dale Williams - 631-475-8315 <u>https://southbayapiaries.com</u>

Calverton/Muttontown- Joe Magnoli- 516-724-4468 <u>earliestspringnucs@gmail.com</u> Huntington - Rich Blohm - 631-271-7812 <u>beebiz44@gmail.com</u>

Laurel- Tom Tyrell -<u>info@TomsHoneyAndBees.com</u> Nassau - Carl Flatlow - 516-510-6227 <u>carlthebeekeeper@icloud.com</u> Rocky Point - John Hardecker - 631-744-9531 <u>hardecker@aol.com</u>

Smithtown - Moira Alexander - 631-265-8249 ramoi@aol.com

Southampton-Michele Passarella-516-567-1181

<u>micheleTpassarella@gmail.com</u> Stony Brook, Setauket, Old Field - Bill O'Hern -631-938-6233 <u>OHoneyBeeFarm@gmail.com</u> Setauket - Wayne Vitale 516-680-3020 <u>wayne@spycoastbeefarm.com</u>

Wading River- Roy Baillard- 631-375-0962 <u>rbaillar@optonline.net</u>

West Hills – Walter Scott – 631-549-2546 wscott380@gmail.com

Wedding Favors

Updated 2/10/20

Roy Baillard- 631-375-0962 rbaillar@optonline.net

Carl Flatow- 516-510-6227 carlthebeekeeper@icloud.com

Nick Hoefly-<u>352-875-5642</u> nick@astorapiaries.com

Joe Magnoli- 516-724-4468 <u>earliestspringnucs@gmail.com</u> Bill O'Hern 631-938-6233 OHoneyBeeFarm@gmail.com

Donal Peterson 631-827-1810 – <u>3beesapiary@gmail.com</u>

Hive and Wax Products Updated 02/10/20 Bee themed gifts/jewelry - Lorraine Leacock at the Beetique 516-459-0140 Lorraine@bluepointbee.com Bee themed gifts/jewelry/wax- Nick Hoefly-_352-875-5642 <u>nick@astorapiaries.com</u>

Wax- Fred Munzer – 631-243-3512 – munzer39@verizon.net

Candles-Bill O'Hern 631-938-6233 OHoneyBeeFarm@gmail.com

Wax- Donal Peterson 631-827-1810 – <u>3beesapiary@gmail.com</u>

Wax/Pollen/Propolis – Tom Tyrell – <u>info@tomshoneyandbees.com</u> Wax/Pollen - Dale Williams 631-475-8315 <u>https://southbayapiaries.com</u>

Lip Balm, Creams Skin Care

Updated 02/10/20 Lip balms, cream skin care-Nick Hoefly-_352-875-5642 <u>nick@astorapiaries.com</u>

Lip balm-Bill O'Hern 631-938-6233 OHoneyBeeFarm@gmail.com

Lip balm/body care products-Wayne Vitale- 516-680-3020 <u>wayne@spycoastbeefarm.com</u> Equipment Updated 03/16/2019 Ernest Herrington – <u>dmherri@gmail.com</u> Custom Beekeeping wooden ware

Joe Magnoli- 516-724-4468 earliestspringnucs@gmail.com Wax dipped boxes

The Mohawk Valley Trading Company: 315-519-2640, <u>info@tenonanatche.com</u>

Fort Schuyler Trading Company: info@unundadages.com

Fred Munzer – 631-243-3512 – <u>munzer39@verizon.net</u> Glassware, frame spacers Donal Peterson 631-827-1810 – <u>3beesapiary@gmail.com</u> glass, woodenware, frames, smokers Cliff Struhl <u>http://info@beesmartdesigns.com</u> Hive stands, covers, robbing screens, Bottom Boards, Frame grippers, feeders Dale Williams – 631-475-8315-<u>https://southbayapiaries.com</u> Wooden ware and

foundation Patrick Gannon-718-757-1699 beekanzi@gmail.com "BeeSmart plastic hive stand for 8 frame hive

Used in very good condition

\$50.00 I will deliver

Wally Blohm-718-380-0829

Beevenom1@gmail.com

Maxant 16 Gallon Bottling Tank \$800. Pick up in Queens

- Bee-Line News
- <u>Membership</u>
- For Sale: Honey, Wax & Hive Products, Bees, Plants, Equipment and Insurance
- Problems with Bees? Honey Bee Swarm Collection & Removal
- Member Services

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Swarms/Bee Removals

NYC Nick Hoefly-_352-875-5642 <u>nick@astorapiaries.com</u> Queens Hillcrest: Walter Blohm**, 718-380-0829, Licensed & Insured <u>beevenom@verizon.net</u> Nassau County Western Nassau North Shore: Richard Blohm**, 631-271-7812 <u>beebiz44@gmail.com</u> Oceanside, South Shore Nassau, Garden City: Carl Flatlow*, 516-510-6227 <u>carlthebeekeeper@icloud.com</u> Merrick to Montauk-Joe Magnoli*-516-724-4468 <u>earliestspringnucs@gmail.com</u> Al Gruenthaler*516-433-7035 alsbees@gmail.com Justin Colon, 631-334-3888, justincolon@gmail.com

Suffolk County

Amityville: Richard Meyer*, 917-681-1706, rjmeyer1423@aol.com Brookhaven: Dale Williams**, 631-475-8315, southbayapiaries.com Dix Hills/Deer Park: Fred Munzer, 631-243-3512 munzer39@verizon.net All Suffolk County: Donal Peterson**, 631-827-1810 3beesapiary@gmail.com Eastern Suffolk: Deborah Klughers-Bonac*, 631-377-1943 Debbie@bonacbees.com Huntington and Western Suffolk North Shore: Richard Blohm**, 631-271-7812 beebiz44@gmail.com North Shore, Western Suffolk: Andrew Hulley**, 631-561-9021 ajhulley1@gmail.com All Suffolk County: Donal Peterson**, 631-827-1810 3beesapiary@gmail.com All Suffolk County: John Hardecker, 516-383-1583 Miguel Valentin*: 516-313-6967,631-583-6102 Chris Kepert, Middle Island 631-291-85912631-291-8537

Western Suffolk, Justin Colon-631-3334-3888, justincolon@gmail.com Justin Colon- Swarm removals Nassau and Western Suffolk

Dear Beekeepers: Here is another listing that I could not fit properly into the newsletter. The email listings are not complete but you will find them properly under the Ad Columns. Sorry for the inconvenience. Editor.

Hey beeks!

Hope all are well and your bees are ready for winter. If you think you will want more bees next Spring and are thinking about ordering packages, nucs or queens, this is the contact info for people bringing in packages or selling bees. You can also order directly from some dealers who will either ship, or you can drive and pick them up from their locations. The people below pick up the packages and distribute them locally on Long Island. This is first come first serve and ordering/paying early may get you a discount in some cases. The club is providing this information to assist new beekeepers in finding bees. However, we don't make any endorsements or recommendations.

Not everyone sells packages, nucs and queens. So, we are listing what they sell. The code

is: P=Package, N=Nuc, Q=Queen, H=C omplete Hive

Rich Blohm	631.271.7812	<u>beebiz44@</u>
Walter Blohm	718.380.0829	<u>beevenom</u>

Steve Chen	646.625.9910	stevechen
Deb Klughers	631.377.1943	<u>debklugh</u>
Wayne Vitale	516.680.3020	<u>wpvitale@</u>
Joe Magnoli	516.724.4468	<u>earliestsp</u>
Brendan O'Regan	917.689.9854	Authentic
Donal Peterson	631.827.1810	3BeesApia
Tom Tyrell		<u>info@Ton</u>
Dale Williams	631.475.8315	<u>nordstar(</u>

Bee supply houses also sell bees in some cases. These three do sell bees. The same code as above applies. Betterbee.com (P, N, Q) <u>Mannlake.com</u> (P) <u>Dadant.com</u> (P)

If you are looking for packages for your upstate locations, Moira has a contact that she will share if you email her at <u>ramoi@aol.com</u> or call her cell at 631-664-6810.

Grace