

# The "BEELINE" LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB, INC.



Keeping Bees on Long Island Since 1949

## January 2022

Volume 31: Edition 1



**Next Meeting: January 23, 2022**

**1PM-3PM**

**ZOOM**

Go to LIBC website for zoom link

*Board Meeting: February 15, 2022, via ZOOM  
7 PM*

### Executive Board

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**BEELINE Editor: Conni Still, 631-472-1760**

**Webmaster: Nick Hoefly,**

**Librarian: Tom Whelan**

**Club Photographer Phyllis Stein**

Visit the club web site at: [www.LongIslandBeekeepers.Org](http://www.LongIslandBeekeepers.Org)

### **MASTER BEEKEEPERS LIST**

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**Peter Bizzoso, Manorville.....631-874-4750**

**Rich Blohm, Huntington.....631-271-7812**

**Steve Chen\*, Holbrook.....646-625-9910**

**Carl Flatow, Oceanside.....516-510-6227**

**Walter Goldschmidts, Lloyd Harbor.301-613-0001**

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**\*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: <http://www.easternapiculture.org/master-beekeepers/certification.html>



## LIBC Board

## From the Editor's Desk

Conni Still



Happy New Year Dear Beekeepers! I'm so sorry I didn't get a December newsletter out, but the holiday preparations kept me very busy. My son and his family came from California and it was the first time we had been together in two years. My grandchildren have grown so much! They enjoyed looking at the bees and had lots of questions and were very happy to find my

special lip balm in their stockings. You can see our family photo on my Facebook page.

I hope your bees are cozy and clustered with enough stores. The temperature may be a little warmer next week. Time to check them.

## **Check your account on the website every month to access the newsletter!**

*STAY SAFE and WASH YOUR HANDS and WEAR YOUR MASKS!*

*Annual dues are \$35. Go the website and pay using PAYPAL or your regular credit card or. PLEASE send a check payable to LIBC to Conni Still at 82 Stephen Road,*

*Bayport, NY 11705, go to the club website Longislandbeekeepers.org.*

*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](mailto:ramoi@aol.com) and put LIBC classified ads in the subject line.*

### *LIBC Meeting Schedule for 2022*

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

## **Hey Beeks!**

I hope you had a great Holiday Season so far! I hope your bees are doing well. Beekeepers are reporting that they are feeding their hives more this year than other years. So, take note and check your hives for food.

We just passed the Winter Solstice on December 21st. That means our days are going to start getting ever so slightly longer and it is believed that this is the trigger that signals the queen to start laying again. Although the queen may start laying, there are a few other requirements for the bees to raise brood. One of the most obvious is that the bees need food. The queen may lay, but if there is not enough food, the bees will eat the eggs rather than raise the brood. They need honey/carbs to survive and to make heat. They also need pollen/bee bread to make brood food. They also need a bit of moisture to thin the honey and for the brood to be healthy and the eggs hatch.

Bees can run out of food in the winter and you will never know unless you check. Some beekeepers weigh their hives. They feed to a target weight and check the weight through the winter, feeding when the weight gets to a certain point. Most of us have to check for bees at the top by looking through the vent hole in the inner cover. The bees move up through their honey stores, and if they run out of

honey, they will be at the very top of the hive. If you wrapped and insulated, this means you must lift the insulation (I use newspaper, which can be rolled back to look in the vent hole) and check for bees at the vent hole. The best time to do this is in the morning while it is still quite cold. When it warms up, the bees may break cluster and move around the hive. But, first thing in the morning while it is still cold, they will be in cluster. If that cluster is near or at the vent hole, you should feed the bees.

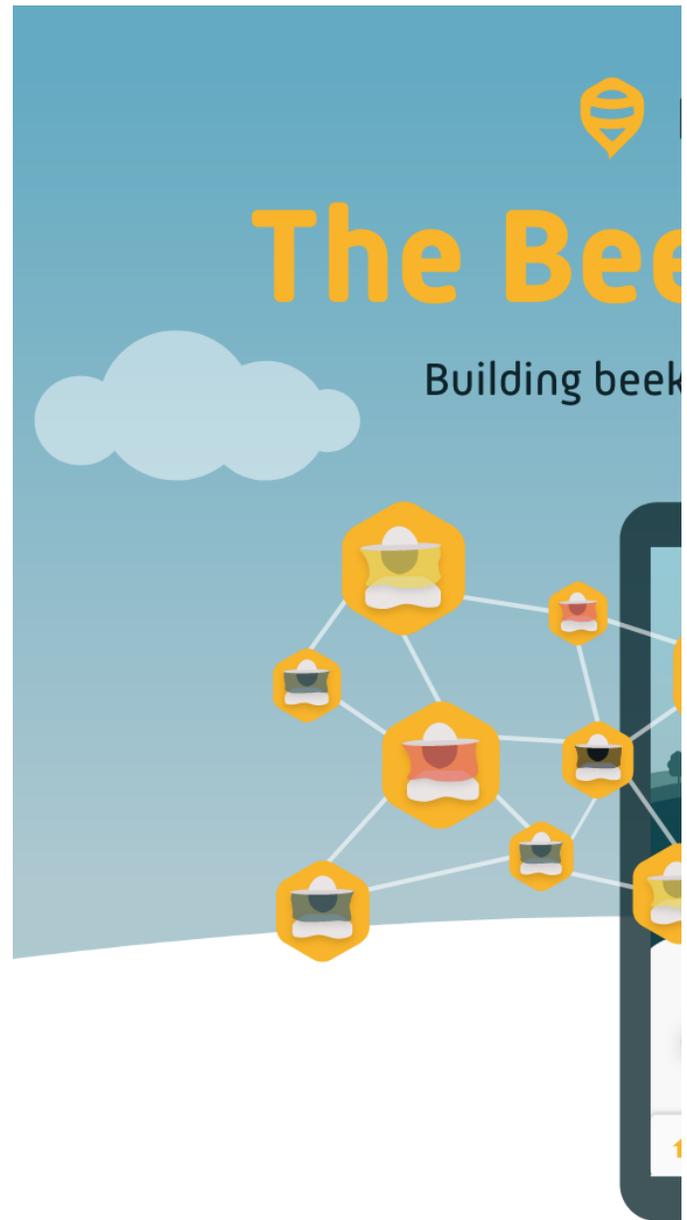
Feeding in the winter is different from feeding in Spring and Fall. You want to use a solid type food for several reasons. First, you don't want cold syrup dripping on the bees. Second, syrup crystalizes and the bees may be hesitant to take it when it is cold. Lastly, syrup will stimulate brood production, and it is a little too early in January and February to stimulate too much brood production. So, feed winter patties, candy boards, fondant, or sugar on top of a single piece of newspaper (Mountain Camp method). All of these should be on top of the top bars of the frames, under (or in the case of the candy board, replacing) the inner cover. The food needs to be in contact with the bees. **DO NOT PUT IT ABOVE THE INNER COVER!** They won't go into that cold space to get it in most cases.

If you are not sure, or will not be around to check for 2 weeks or more, then play it safe and feed.

The pollen is usually not a problem on Long Island, especially for an established hive. You should have seen them socking this away in the fall. It is often in the lower box. If in doubt, a bit of a pollen pattie can be added, usually no earlier than late February. Small Hive Beetles (SHB) love to breed in pollen patties, so replace the small piece with a fresh one every 7 days or so. Wrap and discard the old one in your trash.

Moisture can be recycled in the hive in the winter. You don't want it dripping down on the bees from a cold hive top. That is why it is recommended to insulate the hive top. The bees will use the recycled moisture to thin the honey and also keep the brood moist. They can get more water from the landing board if snow melts there. You will see them gathering water first thing in the Spring from grass and any other water source. By March, you should have your water source in place.

I hope these reminders are helpful to you and wish your a great bee year in 2022! --Grace



## Bee Diseases Survey Results & Quiz Time!

Hi, Constance!

**Our last Beek Collective survey looked at confidence levels in spotting signs and symptoms of everyday honey bee stressors, particularly Diseases and Pests.**

**We pooled the results, and here are a few things we learned:**

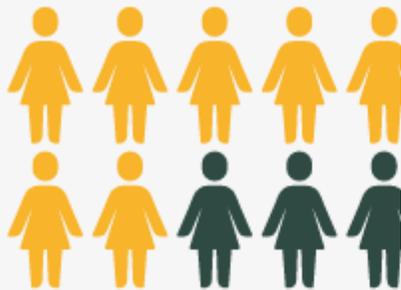


# Honey Bee

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## THE VARROA M

83% of surveyed beehive owners listed Varroa mite as their biggest concern.



**Interesting, right? That's it for today. Thanks  
again for being a part of the Beek Collective!**



January 2022 Edition



(far left) participated in a panel at the Hive Life Conference in Sevierville, TN on January 7-8, 2022.

## It's a Fresh, New Year

with a bang, heading to two conferences on two sides of the country before we even had time to clean up all the confetti from our

n, Dr. David Peck, made it down to the Hive Life conference in Sevierville, Tennessee on January 7th and 8th. At the Betterbee booth, we had some of the best products that you can't find anywhere else (like [BetterComb](#) and the [Colorado Bee Vac](#)). He also escaped the booth a few times so he could head up to the stage to give a presentation with [Gregory Stevens](#). Dr. Peck also tapped into his training as an academic researcher to deliver a lecture on varroa mite biology and mite evolution. "The arms race" of parasite-host coevolution, he hopes everyone came away with a better understanding of why varroa mites aren't likely to

Lyson, Nicole Kraft, and Marketing Manager, Quinn Brown, took on ABF 2022 in Las Vegas from January 5th through the 8th. Representing Betterbee, we showcased our new equipment, including our new wax rendering equipment. As the [U.S distributor for all things Lyson](#), Betterbee cross-promoted Lyson at our own booth by offering a special discount on Lyson equipment, and to see familiar faces as well! See you at ABF 2023 in Jacksonville!

yet? We're quickly selling out of our infamous overwintered nucs, so hurry and get your order in! [Click here to shop](#) all of our nucs.

beekeeping for the first time or just want to dust up on your skills, take a class fully online with Dr. David Peck. Check out all of our

we're still seeking your photos of pesky honey bee pests and diseases! If your photo wins, you'll earn a Betterbee gift certificate. [Click here](#)

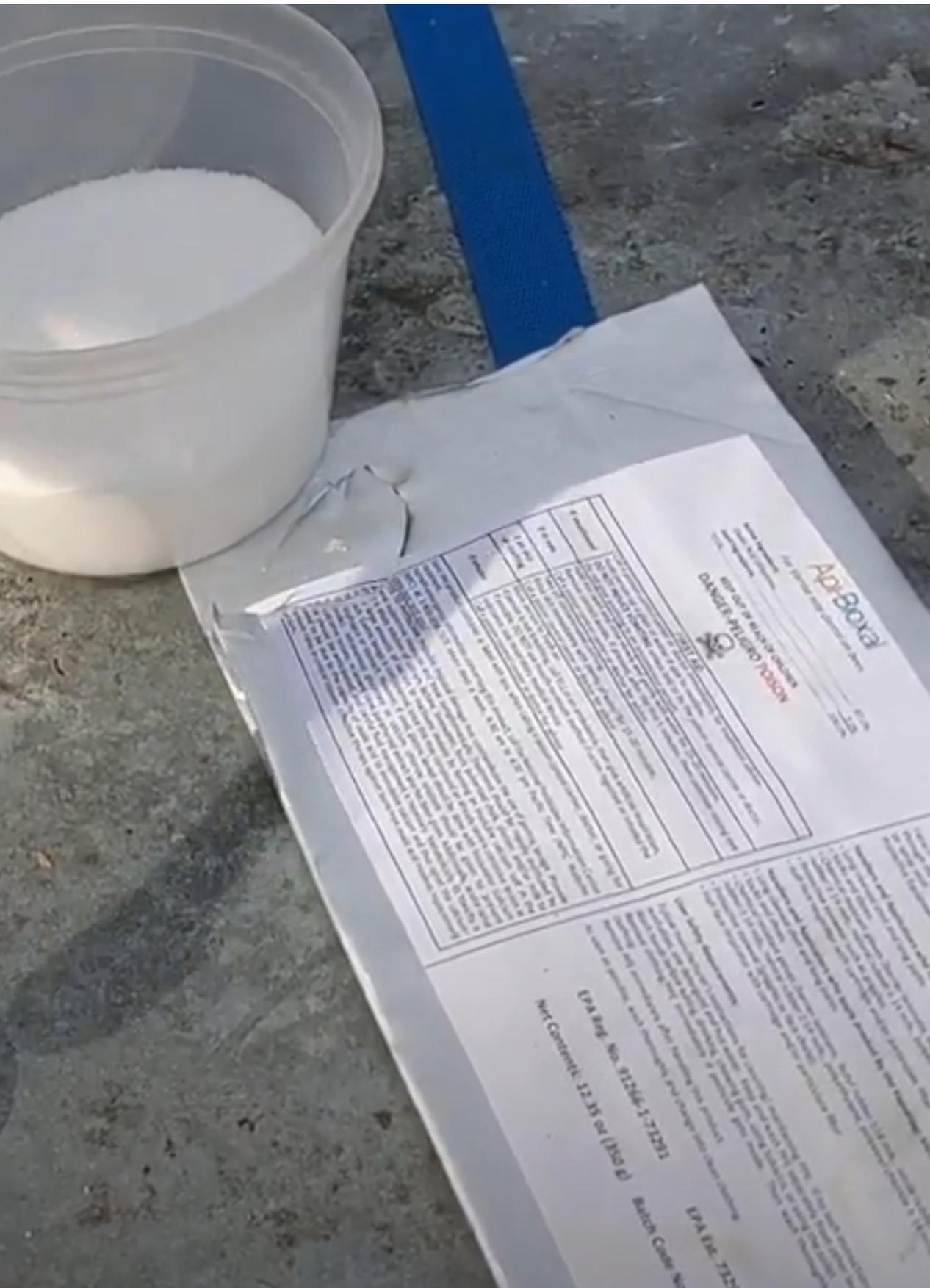
newsletter articles, or just to say hello!

**Seasonal Updates and Information**



gear, where to place your hive, and much more... but don't forget about ordering the bees

(a small, 5 frame, established colony) or a 3 lb. package of bees with a mated and marked



For using oxalic vaporization to kill the mites riding on your bees: using a Varrox wand and a ProVap Commercial

**how to clean up remaining parasitic varroa mites during the broodless period in winter, and start spring right!**



**colony's health through the cold,**

**off, including: various colors of  
n help you understand how your**

I'm forwarding our Dyce Lab winter newsletter so that you can share it with any club members who may be interested. It contains some helpful links, as well as our winter promo code for our Beekeeping Essentials certificate course.

If any of your members wish to sign up for our newsletter, they [can do so at this link](#). Feel free to send any questions my way 😊

Have a great day.

--

Emma Walters

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# Winter Newsletter

With a new year comes new resolutions and routines. After all, winter is great time to reflect on what went well last year and what we can improve in the upcoming year. Perhaps you are planning to learn more about beekeeping, trying new genetic stock, or are simply hoping to spend more time in your hives enjoying your bees. Either way, this winter newsletter is dedicated to exploring these intentions. The Cornell Dyce Lab

welcomes you to another beekeeping year, and we look forward to staying connected in 2022!



# Winter Feeding

The extended warm autumn we had this

year in New York may mean your bees will consume most or all of their honey stores before spring arrives. If your area gets an occasional mild winter day, this could be the perfect opportunity to pop open your inner covers to peek at your clusters. If a cluster is at the very top of the hive, we recommend providing some additional carbohydrates. This will give the bees immediate access to food if honey stores are low or if the honey that does remain is far away from the cluster.

We like to feed Pro Winter Patties®, as pictured here, but you can also feed your bees granulated sugar, home-made fondant, or a home-made candy board. Avoid introducing any sugar syrup or other liquid feed during winter.

Keep in mind any winter inspections should be brief. The temperature should be at least 50°F (10°C), and the weather should be sunny and dry with no wind. Check the forecast to seize these opportunities when they come. It is stressful to expose honey bees to cold weather, so take a quick glance under the inner cover, add food if needed, then close it up. Refrain from pulling out frames that contain bees or brood until warmer times.

In addition to winter feeding, make sure the bees have access to an entrance (either lower and/or upper) all winter. If tall snow blocks the upper entrance, clear some of it so that the bees can continue to take cleansing flights.



# s Online Course!

Now is the perfect time to take Cornell's online [Beekeeping Essentials certificate course](#). Use our winter sale promo code **BEEHAPPY30** for 30% off the instructor-led course price until January 31.

The next two available class start dates are January 19 and March 2.

Visit our [course overview page](#) to learn more and enroll today!

Questions? [Email us](#).

ability to recognize these issues if they arise in your own colonies.



## Learn how to diagnose brood diseases

### New Tutorial Helps to Diagnose Brood Diseases

In this tutorial, Emma Walters from Cornell's NYS Beekeeper Tech Team discusses the characteristic signs of five honey bee brood diseases present in North America: chalkbrood, sacbrood, European foulbrood, American foulbrood, and parasitic mite syndrome (*Varroa* mite syndrome). Gain confidence in your



## TUTOR

Looking to order local genetic stock in 2022? New York State is home to many beekeepers that sell high quality nucs, packages, and queens. Our directory can help you identify and locate producers.

Check out the [directory of nuc and queen producers](#).



# Agriculture and Markets

**New York State now requires beekeepers to register annually with the Department of Agriculture and Markets. Use their [registration form](#) to share the counties where you keep bees, the number of hives you manage, and your contact information.**

! [NYBeeWellness.org](http://NYBeeWellness.org)

mail in your



**Best Wishes for 2022!**



**Wishes for a productive, bountiful year!**

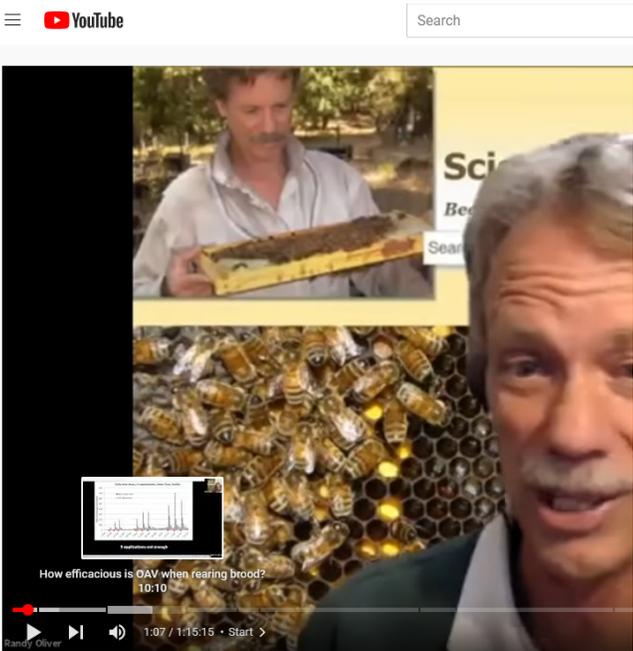
Please consider NY Bee Wellness when choosing  
for your end of year giving!

Ring out 2021 with a [tax-deductible  
donation](#) to NY Bee Wellness.

Your gift [donation](#) is important to the  
continued educational and outreach work  
of NY Bee Wellness: workshops, surveys,  
newsletters, AFB trainings, and videos.



Visit the [NY Bee Wellness YouTube](#) channel for educational lecture videos



Randy Oliver's Latest Work November 9 2021 - a NY Bee Wellness webinar

**Donations can also be sent to:**

**NY Bee Wellness  
POB 25291  
Rochester NY 14625**

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**[In kind donations accepted!](#)**

NY Bee Wellness is a 501c3 grassroots,  
volunteer run, charitable non-profit,  
donations are deductible as permitted by  
law.

Thank you for considering us during this  
time of giving. We appreciate your  
generosity!

Every dollar counts. Every dollar helps.

With your help, we can achieve even more.

If you have any questions or wish to explore  
other support possibilities, do not hesitate  
to call or email.

Sincerely,

Pat Bono

NY Bee Wellness, Inc.

**[info@nybeewellness.org](mailto:info@nybeewellness.org)**

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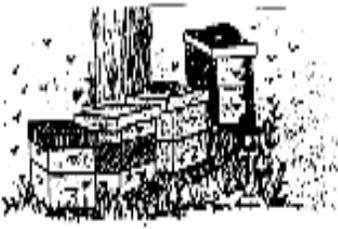
*We are an educational not-for-profit 501c3 organization whose mission is to educate new, beginning, and small scale beekeepers, and others interested in honeybees and beekeeping, in honey bee disease recognition, and to provide services and information for beekeepers and the general public on maintaining healthy honey bee colonies in New York and the surrounding region.*

**NY Bee Wellness Inc**



**NYBeeWellness.org**

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Ads are complimentary for members of LIBC in good standing

CLASSIFIED ADS DO NOT CONSTITUTE ENDORSEMENT BY  
THE CLUB.

THEY ARE PRINTED AND SHARED AS INFORMATION ONLY.

**BEEKEEPING EDUCATION**

**For current Classified Ads see the Club Website!**

