

The "BEELINE" LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB, INC.



Keeping Bees on Long Island Since 1949

February 2022

Volume 31: Edition 2



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Hospitality: Nancy Hall and Volunteers on rotating basis

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

Next Meeting: February 27, 2022

1PM-3PM

ZOOM

Go to LIBC website for zoom link

FEBRUARY 27th Steve Repasky - Swarm Essentials: What's Really Happening in Your Hives?

Board Meeting: February 15, 2022, via Zoom 7 PM

MASTER BEEKEEPERS LIST

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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



Greetings Fellow Beekeepers, do you believe Puxatawany Phil? The way the weather has been behaving we can't tell from one day to the next if it is going to be below freezing or balmy sixty degrees.

Have your bees been confused too? This is the kind of weather where we see losses due to bees coming out for cleansing flights and then not being able to cluster quickly enough as the temperature drops. Many prayers for our precious insects.

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 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.

FEBRUARY 27th Steve Repasky - **Swarm Essentials: What's Really Happening in Your Hives?** Zoom Meeting

MARCH 27th John Gaut - **Precision Beekeeping** Location: Sister's Of St Joseph, Brentwood NY

APRIL 24th Guillermo Fernandez **Collective Decision Making - Bee Dance Language** Location: Sister's of St Joseph, Brentwood NY

Please find the events on the website at the links below. If there is any more information to add from anyone or photos we can use instead of the default photo, please let me know. Also, if I can get one or two replies from anyone confirming the links are working. They are working on my end but I know there were issues with some events not showing for some people.

February
- <https://longislandbeekeepers.org/events/monthly-meeting-february-2022/>

March

- <https://longislandbeekeepers.org/events/monthly-meeting-march-2022/>

April

- <https://longislandbeekeepers.org/events/monthly-meeting-april-2022/>

Thanks

Nick Hoefly

Webmaster

[Long Island Beekeepers Club](#)

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CLASSIFIED ADS



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!

Hey Beeks!

Spring is just around the corner, and I truly hope that your bees are still buzzing!

Here is an overview of the upcoming February 27th meeting which will be held on ZOOM. We are hopeful that this will be the last meeting on ZOOM! :)

Just a friendly reminder:

- *The link to join the Zoom meeting will be sent out about the morning of the meeting.
- * Please join the meeting with your "mic" muted.
- * All questions should be written in the chat box. John Most will read them to our guest speaker at the end of the presentation to avoid interruptions.

We will begin with a short business meeting in which you will hear updates from our board members.

Our Past President and Election Committee Chairman, Steve Chen will inform the members about the upcoming elections of board members whose terms are up in 2022.

Maira Alexander will review the LIBC Good Neighbor Policy and give insight as to how to make sure you get a huge discount on the purchase of an EPI Pen for the upcoming beekeeping season.

EAS Master Beekeeper Steve Repansky will use a PowerPoint format to discuss: What's

Really Happening in Your Hive. This is a GREAT presentation and a must see!

Grace Mehl will close the meeting with a short presentation on Spring Management.

Other Information:

Please contact Bill O'Hern (631-938-6233) if you need to borrow a LIBC two frame hand crank extractor. To do so, log into the LIBC website for information about procedures and costs. Just a heads up, remember that your overwintered capped honey must be room temperature in order for it to be extracted.

Beekeeping Liability Insurance - The club has two insurance agents that you can contact if you are interested in discussing coverage for your apiary.

1. Vincent Daley - Farm Family Insurance 631 277 7770
2. Jim Von Eiff - State Farm Insurance 718 899 8995

[Abby Murphy](#)

February 4 at 1:54 PM ·

This is a wonderful story shared by a great friend. Wish I knew who the author is!

My dad has bees. Today I went to his house and he showed me all of the honey he had gotten from the hives. He took the lid off of a 5 gallon bucket full of honey and on top of the honey there were 3 little bees, struggling. They were covered in sticky honey and drowning. I asked him if we could help them and he said he was sure they wouldn't survive. Casualties of honey collection I suppose.

I asked him again if we could at least get them out and kill them quickly, after all he was the one who taught me to put a suffering animal (or bug) out of its misery. He finally conceded and

scooped the bees out of the bucket. He put them in an empty Chobani yogurt container and put the plastic container outside.

Because he had disrupted the hive with the earlier honey collection, there were bees flying all over outside.

We put the 3 little bees in the container on a bench and left them to their fate. My dad called me out a little while later to show me what was happening. These three little bees were surrounded by their sisters (all of the bees are females) and they were cleaning the sticky nearly dead bees, helping them to get all of the honey off of their bodies. We came back a short time later and there was only one little bee left in the container. She was still being tended to by her sisters.

When it was time for me to leave we checked one last time and all three of the bees had been cleaned off enough to fly away and the container was empty.

Those three little bees lived because they were surrounded by family and friends who would not give up on them, family and friends who refused to let them drown in their own stickiness and resolved to help until the last little bee could be set free.

Bee Sisters. Bee Peers. Bee Teammates.

We could all learn a thing or two from these bees.

Bee kind always.~

~author unknown





Dear Beek Collective community,


You, our friends, are a smart bunch!
Should we have expected any less? 😊


Over 440 of you took our last Beek Collective quiz, and out of the 11 possible questions, the average score was 9. Not bad (especially considering how tricky it was)! If we could give you a high-five, we would! But since we can't, here's a virtual fist bump: 🤝


OK, OK. Let's get to the results.
Here's a brief breakdown of some of the quiz result highlights:

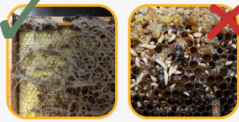
 THE BEEK COLLECTIVE
DISEASES & PESTS
QUIZ RESULTS

 **VARROA MITE**
89% of surveyed beekeepers picked the correct image of the Varroa mite.




 **SMALL HIVE BEETLE**
62% of surveyed beekeepers picked the correct image of the Small Hive Beetle, whereas 34% picked the image of a Pollen Beetle... tricky!

 **WAX MOTH INFESTATION**
91% of surveyed beekeepers picked the correct image of the Wax Moth infestation. Well done!



AMERICAN FOULBROOD
71% of surveyed beekeepers knew this was a photo of AFB. Beekeeper bee-ware!



**What do you think? Not too shabby!
We're a happy crew and very proud
of those of you who participated.**

**Thanks again for being a part of the
Beek Collective!**

It's Survey Time. Who's Ready?

**We're coming at you fast with yet
another Beek Collective survey. This
month's survey focuses on your**

confidence in spotting important colony behaviors and environmental indicators that impact hive health and productivity. Take it away..!



A zinnia and a honeybee

On my birthday in 2016, a swarm of bees landed in the plum tree in my backyard and I decided to become a beekeeper. I went to a local “urban farm” store to see if I could pay someone to capture the swarm and set up a hive for me. They convinced me I could do it myself. They outfitted me with a hive box and a beekeeping suit. An hour later I was on a ladder wacking the branch where the bees had congregated so they’d fall in the cardboard box I was holding. Then I transferred them to the new hive box I’d just set up. Once that was done, I had to learn how to keep bees.

In the last four years, in addition to learning how to care *for* them, I’ve learned a lot *from* them. They’ve taught me to be actively present because they require deep attentiveness. They’ve also taught me to tap into my senses more deeply. Hearing, sight, smell, and touch all come into play when I have my hands in a hive (taste comes in later after honey is harvested, of course). But there’s also some awareness that goes beyond being present to the task at hand. Maybe it’s intuition. Maybe it’s the understanding living things have of each other, like how you know your dog is scared or a house plant needs water. Whatever it is, it allows me to tune into what a collective of thousands of insects is communicating. That same perception is something I’ve also been able to apply to people, plants, and other animals. It’s built my compassion and empathy. It’s developed my ability to hold the complexities of relationships and circumstances. It’s made me a better human being.

Today is my birthday. I LOVE my birthday. I love celebrating my existence and all the things in my life that I’m grateful for. I usually celebrate for a week or two — meals and drinks with friends, a solo retreat to a spa, something fun with my husband and kids. On the actual day, I always visit my favorite plant nursery and buy way too many additions to my garden. But this year, Covid-19 means I’m in my house with the people I live with, figuring out if I

can bake a cake. As we in the Bay Area “shelter in place,” I’ve been thinking about what bees have taught me about how to be in a community and the lessons they have for us that are critical in this moment.

The bees in a honeybee hive are almost entirely female. There’s the queen, of course, and then all the worker bees. The only males are the drones, and there aren’t that many of them. The female bees all have a job to do. The queen lays eggs and the workers do things like gather resources, care for the queen and the larvae, and maintain the temperature, cleanliness, and safety of the hive. They also feed drones because drones can’t feed themselves. I threw my hands up and rolled my eyes when I learned this — sometimes Mother Nature is not the feminist I want her to be. But two minutes later I found out that when resources decline — when seasons change and there is less blooming — the workers stop feeding the drones and kick them out of the hive.

No, that is not the lesson for humans right now. The lesson is in the reason that a hive feeds and cares for drones. When a new queen is born to a hive, her first priority is mating. She doesn’t mate with the drones in her own hive because, ew, those are her brothers. She flies miles away to the honeybee version of singles bar, a place called a drone congregation area

(seriously). There, thousands of drones hang out, hoping to get laid (and then die). She has sex (while flying!) with 10–20 of them and then heads home with her pockets full of sperm to make baby bees for the next few years.

An individual hive does not benefit from raising and caring for drones. They sacrifice energy and resources for the greater good. Hives raise drones to ensure the health of the hives around them. Humans usually don’t have the benefit of clearly drawn lines from action to impact that bees have. The idea that we would sacrifice — do labor, give up resources, change the way we live our lives — without prior evidence of any direct benefit requires a kind of faith that we often lack.

The toxic individualism of our culture along with its emphasis on winning, getting ahead, scarcity-induced resource hoarding, and zero-sum gains has corrupted our better nature. Peeling back the layers of our individualistic socialization to connect with that nature is about more than doing the right thing because it makes us feel righteous or earns us points with our gods. It’s also about recognizing — with our brains, our hearts, and our guts — that our collective survival depends on us realizing that we are inextricably interdependent and there is no avoiding that we are in this together.

Many of the folks in my social media circles have shifted from saying “social distancing” to saying “social solidarity.” It recognizes that while we are physically distancing ourselves from each other, we are also seizing this opportunity to lean on and deepen our social connections. It also makes clear that we physically distance ourselves for the benefit of people who may not be us, or even people we know. We do it because we know that if we want to live in a world where we can all find safety and belonging, we have to show up for each other. And we all have to do our part. Mia Birdsong.

Beekeeping Class



