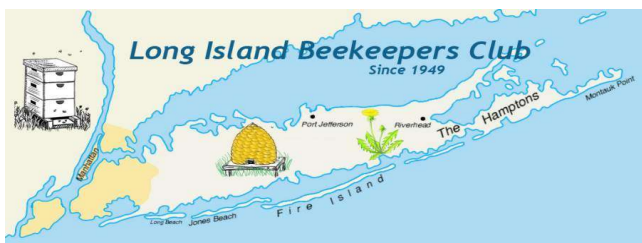


# The "BEELINE" LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB, INC.



Keeping Bees on Long Island Since 1949

## March 2022

Volume 31: Edition 2



**Next Meeting: March 27, 2022** **John Gaut - Precision Beekeeping**  
**1PM-3PM**  
**Smittown Brush Barn**

Confirming I will be speaking about Mite treatments, the Hive Survey and Miticide orders at the March meeting. I will of course add in a little about what keepers should be doing in March/April. --Grace

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

### Executive Board

**President:** Donal Peterson, 631-827-1810  
**Vice President:** John Most, 631-361-3413  
**Treasurer:** Suzanne Cahill, 917,714-3364  
**Secretary:** Marianne Sangesland, 631-680-5895  
**Membership Secretary:** Conni Still, 631-472-1760  
**Education Director:** Grace Mehl, 631-724-5053  
**Outreach Director:** Rick Cannone, 631-445-6266  
**Programs Director:** Moira Alexander, 631-265-8249  
**Immediate Past President/Director:** Steve Chen: 646-625-9910  
 George Schramm, 631-580-4572

### Committees

**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](http://www.LongIslandBeekeepers.Org)

### MASTER BEEKEEPERS LIST

**Moira Alexander, Smittown.....631-265-8249**  
**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**  
**Nick Hoefly, Astoria.....352.875.5642.**  
**Chris Kelly, Mattituck.....631-275-5786**  
**Deborah Klughers, EastHampto.....631-377-1943**  
**Ray Lackey**  
**Joan Mahoney, N. Babylon.....631-667-5339**  
**Grace Mehl, Smittown.....631-724-5053**  
**Fred Munzer, Dix Hills .....631-243-3512**  
**Marianne Sangesland, Smittown.....631-680-5895**  
**Miguel Valentin, Ronkonkoma .....631-588-6102**  
**Wayne Vitale, Setauket.....631-675-0302**  
**Laurie Volel-Wilkowski.....516-643-6011**  
**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: <http://www.easternapiculture.org/master-beekeepers/certification.html>



### LIBC Board



### From the Editor's Desk

Conni Still

Hi Beekeepers, sorry I can't be with you this month. I am in rehab recovering from my hip replacement surgery. I'm looking forward to seeing you all soon. In the meantime have any of you seen the new tv show

Bee Czars on the Discovery channel? It is about a strange beekeeper in Texas with a wild hair style, who handles his bee rescue swarms without protective suits or hats. He works with some helpers and his sons and rescues all sorts of swarms from buildings, trees, sofas, cars, you name it. All the while he spouts bee information, fairly accurate, not very scientific, more down home. Whoever is doing the photography must

be commended because he is getting some beautiful bee pictures of bees on flowers and honeycomb in wild places dripping with honey. I think it was on Wednesday at ten on Discover. Let me know what you think!

### **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](http://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**

**MARCH 27th** John Gaut - **Precision Beekeeping** Location: Brush Barn, Smithtown

**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.**

#### **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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## From Lorraine Leacock

### Oldie Beekeeper responds

How nice to read Ruth's piece about starting beekeeping. I can remember starting myself, although it was a long time ago.

I was born and brought up on a farm. My father had tried beekeeping before I was born, but didn't take to it. However the two hives he had used were put away in a shed in case they might be useful in the future. I can remember, as a child, saying "When I'm grown up I'll have those".

Time passed. I went to university and studied Zoology. I got married and moved to Glasgow, where we lived in a top floor tenement flat. After four years there, we moved south to a village in Leicestershire, to a house with a garden. I sent for the beehives!

I contacted Leicester and Rutland Beekeepers' Association and asked if there was a course I could go on to learn about beekeeping. The reply was "No. Just get some bees and get started". I was put in touch with someone who had bees to sell and he brought over a colony and installed it in one of my hives.

I must have had a book to refer to, but I cannot remember which one it was. There was another beekeeper in the village, an elderly gentleman, nearly 90, who was a great help. I did not go to many beekeepers' meetings as they were held too far away for easy access.

I learned quickly and increased my stock to two colonies. Our kitten learned not to sit in front of the hives swatting the bees as they flew in and out.

There were problems. Sugar rationing – remember that? Sometime around 1974. Beekeepers were allowed extra sugar for feeding bees in the winter. A disagreement with a neighbour meant moving the bees to a new home – in the woodyard of the local estate, at the invitation of the manager, who was delighted to have them there.

In 1983 we moved to Comberton. I asked the removals firm if they would be happy taking the bees in one of the vans (securely fastened into boxes with wire mesh screens on top for ventilation). They told me it would be at my own

risk. They had, some years before, moved some beehives on the tailboard of a van. On arrival the bees were dead, having been poisoned by the exhaust fumes. My bees went inside the van and arrived unscathed.

At Comberton I increased my stock to three colonies. I gave talks to primary school children and invited them to look into the hives through the glass "windows" under the roofs. I joined the Cambridgeshire Beekeeper's Association (CBKA) as an active member, serving on the committee. I was offered the opportunity to move my bees onto a farm a few miles away, which I did, and I increased my stock again – to six hives. In 1995 and '96 I taught beekeeping at evening classes at the Village College. The students were prepared for the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA) Basic exam (a practical and oral exam), if they wished to take it. I took this exam with several students from the first batch and we all passed. I was encouraged to do more studying.

In 1998 my husband was made redundant. He took a new job in Stirling and we moved back to Scotland, to Clackmannanshire. I was unable to take my bees because they had Varroa, a parasite which appeared in England in 1992 but had not reached Scotland then. I sold my bees and took my empty hives. We bought a house with a large garden where I set up a couple of hives and obtained some hardy local bees

I joined Dunblane and Stirling Beekeepers' Association (DSBA) where I was warmly welcomed onto their committee. Things were a little different here. There was no Varroa! There was a hive I had not encountered before – the Smith hive. There was heather honey, quite different from the floral honey I was used to. However, the beekeepers were all a friendly and generous bunch, as they are everywhere. I helped out with teaching the Beginners' course, I gave talks to the Girl Guides and the local WI.

I spent a long time improving the house and garden, then took a job at Stirling University. At this time I encouraged DSBA to apply for an Awards for All grant and we were awarded almost £5,000 for microscopy equipment and to set up a teaching apiary. I managed to negotiate

a site on the University campus, which is still there and very well used.

In my “spare time” I was studying for the BBKA exams (there are 8 modules). In 2001 I took modules 1 & 2 and passed well. At the end of 2001 we left Scotland and returned to Comberton. Before we left I was made an honorary life member of DSBA.

Again I sold the bees, brought the hives back empty and restocked with local bees. I re-joined CBKA as an ordinary member. I took modules 3 & 4 of the exams and to my surprise won an award for the best intermediate student of the year. I followed up with modules 5 & 6 in 2003 and 7 & 8 in 2006, and gained my Advanced Theory Certificate. It is very true that the more you learn about a subject, the more interesting it becomes. I still find bees fascinating.

I would encourage Ruth and any “newbie” to take every opportunity to further your knowledge – read books, go to lectures, swap stories with others, learn from your mistakes – we all make them – but don’t be put off.

Recently circumstances have prevented me doing as much active beekeeping as I would like. A generous friend has looked after my bees for me, but I hope to resume control later this year.

Mary Jenkins

## 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! How Lucky Are You?

Spring is coming! Almost here... but not quite yet. March is typically unsettled weather as the temperature goes up and down. Even though we have had a few nice warm days when the bees are out and load up with fresh pollen from Swamp Cabbage and crocus and other early bloomers, our beekeeping team has been checking the Betterbee yards around northeastern New York and is happy to announce that when the first blooms emerge, colonies could still starve. Here's what you can do to help:

If you pop your outer cover and notice that your bees are all at the top of the hive looking hungry, follow these steps to get at the brood nest. I have taken the shim I use for feeding and switched its position with the inner cover, so that the bees can't get at the brood nest. If you have new young bees were just starting to building comb in that shim. Once they build comb there, you can have a mess pretty quickly. So, better to avoid it and get back to bee school.

☼ **While the daily temperatures are consistently below 50°F, feed winter patties, sugar bricks, or fondant.** Check your hives for resources this month as it is the most likely time for bees to starve. Do not feed honey or high fructose corn syrup.

☼ **Once the daily temperatures in your area are reliably above 50°F, you can switch to feeding 1:1 sugar syrup.** If your daily temperature fluctuates between the 40s and 50s, play it safe with more solid feed until the temperatures are consistently above 50°F.

**Additional information:** If your daily temperature fluctuates between the 40s and 50s, play it safe with more solid feed until the temperatures are consistently above 50°F. Bees are brooding up now. They need to eat more to make heat to keep the brood nest warm. But, if we have a cold snap and the cluster contracts and can't cover all the brood nest will get chilled and die. You will see evidence of this on the landing board on the north side of the hive. Bees are brooding up now. They need to eat more to make heat to keep the brood nest warm. But, if we have a cold snap and the cluster contracts and can't cover all the brood nest will get chilled and die. You will see evidence of this on the landing board on the north side of the hive.

Don't miss these other updates: **Chill in the form of pupae removed and discarded.** The other way this can happen is if you die by improperly reversing boxes.

☼ **Did you miss the last couple of Seasons of Beekeeping: Spring courses? There's one more offering of the course before your home.** Your first full inspection will probably be possible at the end of March or the first week of April. Normally, when you do your first inspection in April, you can reverse boxes to give the queen access to the brood nest.

☼ **Save the date! We're excited to announce that our Annual Field Day will take place on Saturday, June 25th at the Washtenaw County Fairgrounds in Ann Arbor, Michigan.** Reversing boxes is not mandatory, and not all bees do it. Reversing boxes is a management step. Sometimes it is not possible! If the brood nest straddles two boxes, do not reverse boxes unless we are really into warm weather like May or June. By then, other means of opening the brood nest are more appropriate.

☼ **Don't let your luck run out! Pre-order your bees for April/May pickup in Greenwich, NY before we sell out! Click here to pre-order.** Available only while supplies last.)

**Enjoy this month's content and, as always, feel free to email us with any ideas for future newsletter articles, or just to say hello.** April is when many beekeepers will choose to feed 1:1 sugar syrup. Of course, new packages of bees need to be fed syrup. Even overwintered hives can benefit from a little boost with syrup in early April. By then, the bees can tell what resources are in the hive. You want enough nectar, syrup or honey so the queen can lay, but not so much that the bees fill all the comb and the queen has no open comb to lay in. If you have a colony that feeds again in Spring, it is possible to get the hive "honey bound" so the queen has no open comb to lay in. This is a problem because the queen has to lay from now on. This is a problem because the queen has to lay from now on.

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Long Island, New York Beekeepers - [www.longislandbeekeepers.org](http://www.longislandbeekeepers.org)

almost immediately have more young  
much a small colony can benefit from the  
the brood you removed and the queen will  
rob each other later, also.  
t you put the first super for honey on w  
d, the dandelion bloom is not such a big  
pace. It is better to err on the side of ge  
bring in nectar an you have *stopped fee*  
ives from packages this Spring, you kee  
rood nest. Then, you can put on a super  
very lucky! Be patient. --Grace

- **What are peptides:** a peptide is a short chain of amino acids. The amino acids in a peptide are connected to one another in a specific sequence by bonds called peptide bonds. Typically, peptides are distinguished from proteins by their shorter length, although the cut-off number of amino acids for defining a peptide and protein can be arbitrary.
- **What do peptides do for your body:** Antimicrobial peptides can help your body fight bacteria and promote wound healing. Muscle growth. Creatine and collagen peptides help with muscle growth or muscle repair.
- **What peptides are in bee venom:** find out with Dr. Kleronomos this Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm EST.

*Chris discusses what peptides are in bee venom, the application, safety, reactions, guidelines, and more...*



American Apitherapy Society Members:  
this 45-minute interactive talk is FREE to you

Non-members: \$25

Zoom with other like-minded enthusiasts, ask your questions, and

Registration: Members (log in)

Registration: Non-Members

Bee Venom Th







