

the BEELINE

LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB, INC.

Keeping Bees on Long Island Since 1949

MAY
2022
Volume 31
Edition 5

How to protect pollinators and cope with pollen season!

One step is to replace grass with native wildflowers, which will provide pollen and nectar for insects such as ants, bees and butterflies.



As spring expands across North America, trees, shrubs and flowers are releasing pollen. This fine, powdery substance is produced by the male structures of cone-bearing and flowering plants. When it's carried to the plants' female structures by wind, water or pollinators, fertilization happens.

As pollen travels, it also triggers allergies in some 25 million Americans. Pollen exposure can cause sneezing, coughing,

Visit the club web site at
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Check your account on the website every month to access this newsletter!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

the next meeting

Sunday, May 22, 1 - 3:30pm
Sisters of St. Joseph Convent,
Brentwood

Speakers:

David T. Peck, Ph.D
Collective Decision Making-
Honey Dance Language

Education Director:
Grace Mehl
101 Topic: Supering &
Staying Ahead

HOSPITALITY IS BACK:
Please bring a treat!

upcoming events

Teaching Apiary

M. Sangesland **May 21**
J. Mahoney **Jun 5**
S. Chen **Jun 18**
@ Sisters of St. Joseph Convent

Lunch & Learn **Jun 3**
[Zoom link here »](#) **Aug 12**
Oct 7

Meeting ID: 849 5376 1589
Passcode: 609112

EAS Conference **Aug 1-5**
Ithaca, NY
[Register here »](#)

itchy eyes, runny nose and postnasal drip — unwelcome signs of spring for sufferers. This roundup of articles in the Conversation describes recent findings on protecting pollinators and coping with pollen season.

Hey pollinators, over here

Since pollen grains carry the cells that fertilize plants, it's critical for them to get where they need to go. Often wind or gravity is all it takes, but for many plants, a pollinator has to carry the pollen grains. Some plants offer nectar or edible pollen to attract insects, bats or other animals, which carry pollen from plant to plant as they forage. Many flowers also lure pollinators with scent.

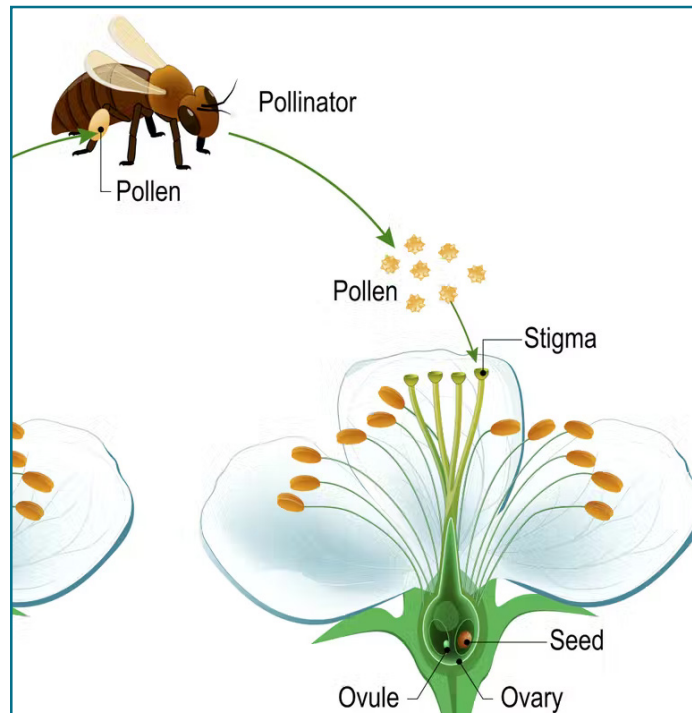
“Similar to the perfumes at a department store counter, flower scents are made up from a large and diverse number of chemicals which evaporate easily and float through the air,” writes Mississippi State University horticulturalist Richard L. Harkess. “To differentiate itself from other flowers, each species’ flowers put out a unique scent to attract specific pollinators. ... Once pollinated, the flower stops producing a floral scent and nectar and redirects its energy to the fertilized embryo that will become the seed.”

Bees at the buffet

Many species of insects have declined in recent years. One big focus is honeybees and other

species of bees, which pollinate many important crops.

In a 2021 study, University of Florida agricultural extension specialist Hamutahl Cohen found that when bees visited fields where sunflowers, grown as crops, were blooming over many acres, they picked up parasites at a high rate. In contrast, bees that foraged in hedgerows around crop fields and could choose from di-



verse types of flowers to feed on spread out farther and had lower rates of infection.

“The more bees in sunflower fields, the more parasites,” Cohen said. “Sunflower blooms were aggregating bees, which in turn was amplifying disease risk.”

“In the presence of many flower types,” however, “bees

disperse and spread across resources, reducing each individual bee’s likelihood of encountering an infected individual,” he said.

Warmer temps, more pollen

As climate change raises average temperatures across the United States, growing seasons are starting earlier and ending later in the year. That’s bad news for allergy sufferers.

“The higher temperature will extend the growing season, giving plants more time to emit pollen and reproduce,” write University of Michigan atmospheric scientists Yingxiao Zhang and Allison



*message from
the president*

John Most

Our world has changed. We find new ways to connect, work, play, learn and support each other. Blood is needed every two seconds to meet the daily transfusion needs of local patients. At this unprecedented time, donating blood is one thing you can do to help someone who desperately needs it. Please click on the flyer to find a convenient location to donate blood, your donation will save up to three lives at this very challenging time. Please use group number 71544 and push enter when you donate.



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L. Steiner. And by increasing the concentration of carbon dioxide in Earth’s atmosphere, climate change will make it possible for plants to grow larger and generate more pollen.

“Southeastern regions, including Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, can expect large grass and weed pollen increases in the future,” Zhang and Steiner report. “The Pacific Northwest is likely to see peak pollen season a month earlier because of the early pollen season of alder.”

Providing better forecasts

With all that pollen out there, how can allergy sufferers know when counts are high? The United States has only a rudimentary network

GIVE BLOOD IN MAY

and we'll donate to Global Blood Fund's Ukrainian support efforts.



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invites you to donate blood at a location near you.

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For further information contact
John Most. mostjohn8@gmail.com

NY Blood Center will donate \$1 to Ukraine through the Global Blood Fund.
Please scan the QR code to register.



of 90 pollen observation stations across the country, staffed by volunteers and run only during pollen season, so, often there isn’t good information available when people need it.

Fiona Lo, an environmental health scientist at the University of Washington, is working with colleagues to develop a model that can predict

airborne pollen releases. “Our forecast can predict for specific pollen types because our model includes information about how each plant type interacts differently with the environment,” Lo says.

The model predicts only levels of four types of common pollen in areas where there are observation stations. Ultimately, though, Lo and her collaborators “want to provide a forecast every day during pollen season to give allergy sufferers the information they need to manage their symptoms. Allergies are often undertreated, and knowledge about self-care is limited, so a reliable pollen forecast that is easy to access — for example, via an app on your phone — along with education on allergy management, could really help allergy sufferers.”

Support pollinators

Pollen season is also gardening season, since it’s when plants are blooming. West Virginia University mycologist Brian Lovett offers advice for gardeners who want to attract beneficial insects to their yards for pollination and other purposes.

One step is to replace grass with native wildflowers, which will provide pollen and nectar for insects such as ants, bees and butterflies. “Just as you may have a favorite local restaurant, insects that live around you have a taste for the flowers that are native to their areas,” Lovett says.

Replacing white lightbulbs with yellow or warm-hued LED bulbs, and providing water in dishes or other containers, are also insect-friendly steps. Local university extension offices and gardening stores can offer other suggestions.

“In my view, humans all too often see ourselves as separate from nature, which leads us to relegate biodiversity to designated parks,” Lovett says. “In fact, however, we are an important part of the natural world, and we need insects just as much as they need us.”

Source: Washington Post. Perspective by Jennifer Weeks. Jennifer Weeks is a senior environment + energy editor for the Conversation. This article was originally published on theconversation.com.



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We hope you enjoy your first experience with The Beekeeper's Companion App!

If you have any questions about getting started or how things work, check out our [Help Center](#) or get in touch directly by contacting us at support@hivetracks.com for assistance.

We can't wait to start the season together!

Happy tracking!
The HiveTracks team

• *the next meeting* •

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Location:

Sisters of St Joseph, 1725
Brentwood Road,
Brentwood, NY 11717

Time: 1 - 3:30pm

The meeting will take place in Building #2, which is the building with the green dome on the roof.

Our speaker this month is **David T. Peck, Ph.D** who is the Director of Research and Education at Betterbee. His topic for our meeting will be Collective Decision Making - Honey Dance Language.

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



message from the editor

Conni Still

Hello Beekeepers!
Is it still raining at your apiary? I've seen some bees peeking out, shaking their antennae and going back inside! Channel 12 promises the next ten days should be pleasant and warmer, much needed for the bees and the flowers.



A lush, green, weed free lawn has historically been center stage in American landscaping. It tells the whole neighborhood that you are a competent, hard-working, contributing member of society. Dandelions and an overgrown lawn are a sign of neglect, incompetence and laziness- or so our culture would have you believe.

Americans have a love affair with lawns-maintaining roughly 40 million acres, or 2% of land in the US, making them the single largest irrigated crop we grow. Lawns require frequent mowing, raking, fertilizing, weeding, chemical treatment and watering-sucking up time, money and other resources. Not only are lawns burdensome for the

people maintaining them, but they provide little positive benefit to wildlife, and in fact are often harmful. The traditional monoculture lawn lacks floral resources or nesting sites for bees and is often treated with pesticides that harm bees and other invertebrates. When we think of habitat loss, we tend to imagine bulldozers and rutted dirt, but acres of manicured lawn are as much a loss of habitat as any development site.

Rethinking the American lawn can take a variety of forms from reducing mowing frequency or area mown to permanently converting lawn to a more diverse and natural landscape. Mowing your lawn less creates habitat and can increase the abundance and diversity of wildlife including bees and pollinators. One way to reduce mowing is to participate in NO MOW MAY. NO MOW MAY is a conservation initiative first popularized by Plantlife, an organization based in the United Kingdom, but which is gaining traction across North America. The goal is to allow grass to grow unmown for the month of May, creating habitat and forage for early season pollinators. This is particularly important in urban areas where floral resources are often limited.

Beecityusa.org



Her passion for keeping bees was part of her bigger love of nature and the environment. If you would like to attend, the community will gather to celebrate her life on **May 21st from 1:00 to 3:00 pm outside at 148 Main St., Setauket NY.**

Dear Beekeepers

We want to make you aware of the passing of one of our members, **Maria Hoffman**. She has been a member and beekeeper for over 10 years and maintained her colonies in the backyard of her Setauket home. She passed after a long hard battle with cancer.

The club will honor her memory by purchasing a hive of bees from Heifer International that will support a third world nation family with the opportunity to keep bees.

— **The LIBC Board**

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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 and 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: <https://easternapiculture.org/programs/master-beekeepers/master-beekeepers-certification-program/>

the

LIBRARY CORNER

Hi everyone, I'm Lorraine. I got to meet a few of you in April when introduced as the new librarian without any books. 😊

Well, I now have books... **47 to be exact, and four DVDs.** This might sound like a lot, but sadly our library is **missing as many as 65 books!**

Most can be attributed to intermittent in-person meetings during the past two years, but others have been out for much longer. In case you've forgotten, please take a look at your bee books for "LIBC" written on the edge, or a sleeve inside the cover where the check out card has been removed awaiting return. There is no penalty for late return, just a thank you for repopulating our collection. Thanks in advance. 📖

HEY BEEKS!

The New England and New York State Apiary Inspectors are holding a free webinar program about Honey Bee Health, Pest & Diseases, and Management. It is open to the public. The zoom link is below.

Lunch and Learn

Friday – **June 3, 2022**

Friday – **August 12, 2022**

Friday – **October 7, 2022**

Join Zoom Webinar - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84953761589?pwd=VONEbld0Nkd0OUdi-OCsOUXd0Y1hpQT09>

Meeting ID: 849 5376 1589 Passcode: 609112
- One tap mobile: Find your local number:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84953761589>



NY Bee Wellness SPRING SURVEY 2022

We would like to assess the situation for NON-migratory New York State beekeepers and their beehives. Information gathered is for beekeepers, and may help to determine trends in honeybee health.

Please complete the survey as best as you can and write any comments you feel that can add to future surveys and improve the NY Bee Wellness program.

If this is your first year with bees or do not have bees, you do not need to do the survey, but please look over the survey, to consider various management options.

2022 marks the 8th anniversary of the NY Bee Wellness surveys. Published results and data are archived for research and historical use. Your information is important not only for this year but for years to come. A link to the survey is also on [NYBeeWellness.org](https://www.nybeewellness.org).

All info is confidential, and general results of the survey will be shared in the Summer NY Bee Wellness newsletter and posted on [NYBeeWellness.org](https://www.nybeewellness.org). Links to previous years surveys are also on the website. Survey results will be broken down into 8 major regions in New York State.

Here is the Survey Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FVKVW26>

Thank you for your participation!

Questions? Contact:

survey@nybeewellness.org



**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, or 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.



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