



the BEELINE

LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB, INC.

Keeping Bees on Long Island Since 1949

JUNE 2022
Volume 31
Edition 6

Swarming and Replacing the Queen, Do the Math!

June is a very busy month in the Honey bee world. Hopefully, your bees have settled down from attempting to swarm and are happily collecting nectar from the many sources available. Or...



Maybe they did swarm. Were they successful in making a new queen? You don't have to see the new queen to know she is there. If you see eggs and very small larvae, you have a queen laying in there. But, what if you don't?

Before the bees swarm, the workers will build queen cups and the queen will lay in them. Once she lays an egg in the queen

Visit the club web site at
WWW.LONGISLANDBEEKEEPERS.ORG

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

the next meeting

Sunday, June 26, 1 - 3pm
Sisters of St. Joseph Convent

SPEAKERS:

Victor Azzaretto,
Head NYS Horticulturist
Bethpage State Park
Creating a Garden for Pollinators

Grace Mehl,
Education Director,
"What's Happening in the Hive Now" - *Queens, Honey & Mites!*

There will be a 'Bee Swap' (for equipment and bee-related items) at the next meeting.

upcoming events

Annual LIBC BBQ Jul 24

EAS Conference Aug 1-5
[Register here »](#)

Lunch & Learns Aug 12
Oct 7
[Zoom link here »](#)

August Meeting Aug 28
Speaker: NYS Bee Inspector

LIBC Annual Honey Tasting Contest Sep 25

LIBC Annual Honey Judging Contest Oct 23

More details for the above events inside this newsletter.

cup, it becomes a queen cell. Three days after the eggs are laid, they will hatch (eclose) and the larvae will be fed copious amounts of Royal Jelly. The queen cell will be capped about 5½ days after the egg hatches. If the weather is good, that is the day the swarm will leave. They may be delayed due to rain. Which means, as soon as the weather clears, they will leave. This is why we see so many swarms on the beautiful day after a rainy spell.

The oldest queen cell has another 7 days or so before the new queen emerges. If the population of the hive is still high (there could be many frames of capped worker brood in there that is emerging daily), when the first queen emerges, she will leave with a secondary or “caste” swarm. If several queens emerge on the same day, there may be multiple virgin queens in a caste swarm. Usually, the swarm stays together as one and the virgin queens will fight it out after getting to the new home. Sometimes they will fight enroute. These swarms can be difficult to capture as you have

to get all the queens or the swarm will continue to go back to their bivouac location with the queen or queens still there.

If the population is comfortable, or the beekeeper went into the hive after the swarm and made sure there was plenty of room for the bees and brood left, and cut out all but one or two of the swarm cells, the bees may not swarm again. When cutting out swarm cells, it is best to leave the biggest cells with the most convoluted surfaces. Those are the cells the bees spent the most time on and should yield the biggest, best fed queens. Of course, these are virgin queens and have to get mated before they can start laying.

The newly emerged virgin queens can fly, but they usually take a few days of getting fed by the nurse bees before they go out on their mating flight. They may go out more than once, maybe even multiple days. Their mating flights might be delayed by unfavorable weather. Once mated, it takes three days or so more



before they will “ripen” and start to lay. When they first start to lay, they may lay more than one egg in a cell, which will be in the bottom of the cell, as opposed to how a laying worker would lay on the side walls of the cell. Within a few days the new queen gets the hang of it and her laying pattern gets better. Often, the number of eggs she lays is small at first and with mistakes that the bees clean up, making it hard to find this small patch of eggs in a big hive. As she improves and the eggs start to hatch, it is easier to see the patch of small larvae swimming in brood food. This can be seen about 4-5 days after the first eggs are laid.



and then the new queen emerges sooner than 7 days after the swarm leaves. Also, it is possible she mates in one day and that could shorten the time a bit. It is not unusual for it to take the full 20-21 days before you see the little patch of brood though. By 14 days, most beekeepers, even those who are experienced, are worried and declare the hive “Queenless”. They go out and spend good money on a queen and put the cage in the hive to find that queen dead in the cage after 3 days when they go back to check on her. That is because the new ruling queen will take out the competition. So, how do you

So, lets do the bee math as a new beekeeper recently called it: 7 days after the swarm the new queen emerges, about 3 days to get strong enough to fly out on her mating flight, 2 or 3 days to mate, about 3 days to ripen, and 4 days before the first eggs hatch so we can see the small patch of larvae developing with the newer eggs around it. So, $7 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 4 = 20$ days to see a small patch of larvae. If you have really great eyes and look through the whole hive, you may see the little patch of eggs on the 16th day. This calculation is based on the swarm leaving as soon as the queen cell is capped. It may be a little earlier if the swarm was delayed due to weather



**message from
the editor**

Conni Still



Hi Beekeepers!
The season is in full swing. I've been hearing from some of my friends that they haven't seen many honeybees in their gardens so far. I don't know if they don't have the right kind of flowers planted to attract them or they are just not watching at the right time of day. Our speaker today will certainly help us learn what our gardens should look like. We still have time to plant!

cover your bases and make sure you don't let the colony go without a queen so long that they develop laying workers? This is why you have 2 hives to start. You go to your other hive and find a frame with egg and small larvae and add it to the questionable hive. Make sure you don't move over the queen. Check the frame for her carefully. Putting this frame in there will do two things. First, if they really are queenless, they will use the small larvae to make a new queen and you will see queen cells on the frame in a couple of days. Second, the pheromone put off by the brood will delay the development of lay-

ing workers while the bees make a new queen. If the bees just continue to raise the brood as worker brood and cap over the cells without making a queen cell, you can bet they have a queen in there and she will be showing her presence soon. If you are still nervous, you can add another frame of egg and small larvae in 7 days if you can't find egg. Make sure you mark the frames you add so you don't get confused when you go back in to look for signs of your new queen. Keep calm and carry on!



a call-to-action



Help Beekeepers in Ukraine

Beekeeping in Ukraine is a major economic activity. Approximately 700,000 people, 1.5% of the population, are engaged in the production of honey, 1 beekeeper for every 107 Ukrainians. Ukraine is ranked as the number one country in Europe and among the top five countries in the world for honey production, producing 75 million metric tons annually. Ukraine produces the greatest quantity of honey per capita in the world.

The Ukraine National Beekeeping Museum located in Kyiv is one of the world's largest beekeeping museum. It contains displays about beekeeping history, hive types, smoker display, art, and other areas of beekeeping. The grounds include a library and laboratory for beekeeping.

Because of the terrible war in Ukraine, we can only imagine the damage done to their beekeeping.

The club has decided to make a donation

to aid the Ukrainian beekeepers through the World Central Kitchen. Additional donations can be made by mailing checks to:

World Central Kitchen

Attn: Donor Services Team

200 Massachusetts Avenue NW, 7th Floor
Washington D.C. 20001

Ukraine produces the greatest quantity of honey per capita in the world.



Photo: The Pirogovo Open Air Museum near Kiev, Ukraine. These incredible bee skeps were hewn from whole tree trunks.

NOTE: The meetings are the 4th Sunday of the month at announced locations.

• *the next meeting* •

Sunday, June 26, 2022

Location:

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

Time: 1 - 3pm

The meeting will take place in Building #2, which is the building with the green dome on the roof. Doors will open at 12:30pm.

Our speaker this month is **Victor Azzaretto** who is the Head NYS Horticulturist at Bethpage State Park. His topic for our meeting will be Creating a Garden For Pollinators. There will be a 'Bee Swap' at this meeting. Tables will be available for Members to sell, swap or buy NEW/gently used equipment or bee related items.

Since we didn't get the volunteers we needed to set up coffee and the hospitality table, only water will be available at this meeting.



please join us for the

EASTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY

2022 Annual Conference August 1st-5th

Conference will be held at Ithaca College, Ithaca NY. There are only a few days left to register for Dorm Rooms, Meals and Special Events. Some of our events are filling up fast, so now is the time to register if you haven't already. We look forward to seeing you in Ithaca!

Click the link to learn more and register:

<https://easternapiculturesociety.wildapricot.org/event-4801165>

There will be no walk-in registrations this year.

Also, the Spring 2022 EAS Journal is now available. Please visit the [EAS Journal](#) page on the member site to view. You will need to log in with your EAS username and password to view the contents.

'DON'T WANNA MISS' *events!*

July 24th

The Annual LIBC Barbecue



Rain or Shine

Picnic held at the Brush Barn in Smithtown @ 1pm; FREE for Members and their families.

Sign up is required and available at the meeting

or [contact Moira](#).



All the events listed below will be held at Sisters of St. Joseph, Building #2, Brentwood, NY

August 28th

The NYS Bee Inspector will discuss what he looks for in a hive inspection. August meeting will also cover how to prepare honey for tasting and judging (at the Sept and Oct meetings).

September 25th

The LIBC Annual Honey Tasting Contest

October 23rd

LIBC Annual Honey Judging Contest

World Bee Day: A British beekeeper's guide to protecting the insect

From letting the lawn grow to adding a hanging basket to your home

Adding hanging baskets to your home and letting the lawn grow are two key ways you can help save the bees, according to a British beekeeper.

Nicola Reed, 56, has been keeping bees for a decade, and started making honey whisky, vodka and rum for her company, Beeble, three years ago.

Formerly an art teacher, Mrs Reed said she fell in love with “the harmonious buzz of the bees” after her husband was unexpectedly gifted a hive for his birthday.

The mother and businesswoman has 10 hives in her garden in Malmesbury, Wiltshire, and she spoke with the PA news agency on World Bee Day about why bee populations have declined in the UK, and what can be done to help.

Explaining why bee populations have declined, she said: “More pesticides are being used in our country.

“Since we left the European Union (EU), Brexit has actually meant that we’re less strict about using pesticides. “Our Government has recently given permission for thiamethoxam to be used



on sugar beet, and it’s deadly poisonous for bees. “We also use pesticides in our gardens and we have less green space for bees to forage – and the varroa mite which came to our shores in 2003 is affecting our bees very badly.”

Beyond banning pesticides, Mrs Reed said people can protect bees in their local area by letting flowers grow on their lawns, and city-dwellers can attach hanging baskets to their homes. She said: “Not mowing the lawn is essential. “Dandelions and daisies are great foraging for bees, and for solitary bees to nest in, just to give bees more of a space to be in rather than a clean-cut lawn. “Keeping plants, keeping window boxes and hanging baskets, plant pots – they’re all great for bees to forage.”

Mrs Reed began her trade after her husband – who was scared of bees – was gifted the

hive, and she took a beekeeping course in the Cotswolds. She said: “The harmonious buzz of the bees and watching them in the hives attracted me to them. I knew then that I wanted to keep bees.” Mrs Reed said her husband has also since been converted – with two hives on the roof of his office in Covent Garden, central London, showing how bees can be kept anywhere.

For people who want to bring bees to their gardens, the Wildlife Trusts recommends planting pollen-friendly flowers suitable for

each season. This includes primrose and aubretia in spring, honeysuckle, lavender and yarrow in summer, and ivy, hyssop and ice plants in the autumn. Almost 90% of wild plants and 75% of leading global crops depend on animal pollination, mostly by bees, according to the WWF.

Source: *The Independent*. By Laura Parnaby. Friday, May 20th, 2022.



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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, your LIBC Librarian.

At the May 2022 meeting, seven books and one DVD were loaned out to members. Better yet, ten outstanding books were returned, plus ten books and seventeen magazines were added to the club library.

I will not be at the June 2022 meeting, however there will be a listing of materials that can be reserved and picked up at the July 2022 meeting. Please continue to return what was borrowed. There are still over sixty books needing to find their way back. 📖

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 – **August 12, 2022**

Friday – **October 7, 2022**

Join Zoom Webinar - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84953761589?pwd=VONEbld0NkdiOUdi-OCsOUXd0Y1hpQT09>

Meeting ID: 849 5376 1589
Passcode: 609112

One tap mobile: Find your local number:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/u/krt6jm0z>

MITICIDE ORDER UPDATE:

If you ordered Miticides through the club, they will be available again at the next meeting on June 26th. If you need them before that, or won't be able to attend the meeting, you can pick them up from Grace by calling her at 631-766-5648. There are some extra treatments available if you didn't pre-order.

WHAT'S IN BLOOM?

Linden Trees are blooming and your bees might need more space! Make sure you check if they need another super or extract and put the empties back on!





**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.

CLASIFIEDS

Ads are complimentary for members of LIBC in good standing. For current Classified Ads see the Club Website.

To add or update classified ads contact Moira Alexander by email, ramoi@aol.com and place LIBC Classified Ads in the subject line!

CLASSIFIED ADS DO NOT CONSTITUTE ENDORSEMENT BY THE CLUB. THEY ARE PRINTED AND SHARED AS INFORMATION ONLY.



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