



the BEELINE

LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB, INC.

Keeping Bees on Long Island Since 1949

JULY 2022
Volume 31
Edition 7

6,000 Bees Moved into a Century-old Home, Savvy Beekeepers Evicted Them

Six thousand bees invaded a home in Omaha. Beekeepers knew just how to get them out.



When Thomas and Marylu Gouttierre found about 30 bees inside one of their bedrooms in May, the couple suspected there were more — many more.

“If you put your ears to the wall you could hear the buzzing,” Thomas Gouttierre told [the Omaha World-Herald](#).

Visit the club web site at WWW.LONGISLANDBEEKEEPERS.ORG

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

• Annual LIBC BBQ •

Sunday, July 24, 1 - 3pm
Smithtown, Rt. 25

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

• upcoming events •

- Annual LIBC BBQ Jul 24
- Teaching Apiary Jul 30
with Grace Mehl
- EAS Conference Aug 1-5
[Register here »](#)
- Lunch & Learns Aug 12
[Zoom link here »](#) Oct 7
- August Meeting Aug 28
Speaker: NYS Bee Inspector
- LIBC Annual Sep 25
Honey Tasting Contest
- LIBC Annual Oct 23
Honey Judging Contest

More details for the above events inside this newsletter.

The couple eventually discovered that about 6,000 bees had moved into their 100-year-old home in Omaha. At first, the Gouttierres were going to call an exterminator, but then they considered how important bees are to the ecosystem, Gouttierre told the World-Herald. So they called beekeepers Ryan Gilligan and Larry Cottle, both members of the Omaha Bee Club, who ended up gently extracting the insects using a vacuum.

The Gouttierres' ordeal made headlines this month as the art of bee removal has received increasing attention, thanks to an entire genre of mesmerizing [TikTok videos and, perhaps, humanity's age-old fascination with bees](#). Last year, a Florida couple had 80,000 bees removed from their home after they started noticing the insects flying out of their shower. In the years the bees had been living in the home, they had produced about 100 pounds of honey, The Washington Post [reported](#).

Gilligan told The Post that the 6,000 bees he found in the Gouttierres' wall did not have time to produce that much honey. The bees had likely only taken up residence at the house for about a week and a half.

"It was just small pieces of [honey]comb because they hadn't had the time to build much yet," Gilligan told The Post. Gilligan said he and another beekeeper visited the Gouttierres' home in mid-May. Using a thermal-imaging camera to search for the winged intruders, which have a high heat signature, Gilligan discovered a large red and orange thermal blob in the Gouttierres' floor, meaning there were bees aplenty. During a second inspection a couple of days later, that large thermal blob was no longer in the floor; it was in the Gouttierres' wall.



“They must have been trying to scout out a location to actually build the hive,” Gilligan said. So Gilligan and Cottle cut through the concrete plaster wall using an electric multi-tool. Behind the wall, they found three combs covered in honeybees and started vacuuming. The bees were sucked through a nozzle and tube and then fed into a collection box large

enough to fit about 20,000 bees.

Gilligan said the vacuum is set up in such a way that only a handful of bees died in the process. “I try to save every single bee when we do these projects,” he said.

A mail carrier by day, Gilligan got into bee-keeping about six years ago. He keeps 43



*message from
the editor*

Conni Still



Hi Beekeepers!
My bee-bee tree is blooming beautifully and is covered with bees. I wish

I knew where these bees are coming from since I only have a small group still in one hive in my yard. The rest must be from a neighboring hive or feral hive. It would be nice if they would leave a calling card to say thanks for the snack. I wish Frank was still here so I could thank him again for giving me this tree eight years

ago. It bloomed for the first time the summer after he died. Maybe he is up there in the apiary in heaven checking on us. If you have an opportunity to find a beekeeper who has a bee-bee tree (Evodia Danielli) ask for a sapling NOW. Then when you've been keeping bees as long as I did it will be huge!

See you at the BBQ on Sunday!



hives, though the bees from the Gouttierres' home were not added to that collection. They were transported to Cottle's acreage, where they're living happily, Gilligan told The Post.

They had likely found their way into the Gouttierres' home through a hole in the house's brick



facade. "I think in the long run, it's made us appreciate all the more the value of bees," Thomas Gouttierre told the World-Herald, "and the importance of them to the process of pollination and all the things insects may do to help us eat."

The job at the Gouttierres' was one of three home removals Gilligan has done this year, and it was by far the smallest. Three days earlier, he had removed about 12,000 to 15,000 bees from a home, and on Sunday he removed 24,000 from another residence. Gilligan isn't on TikTok yet, but he does share bee removals on his [YouTube channel](#).

Gilligan said bees typically swarm — or reproduce — in the spring, when they [search for a new home](#) where they can reproduce safely. Sometimes they find hollow trees, he said; other times, they find older homes with easy access points and no insulation, which provides a "perfect cavity" in which to settle. "The bees just needed a house to live in," Gilligan said of the Gouttierres' home. "And they found it."

Source: *The Washington Post*. By Julian Mark. June 24, 2022.



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-OCs0UXd0Y1hpQT09>

Meeting ID: 849 5376 1589
Passcode: 609112

One tap mobile: Find your local number:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84953761589>

the next "meeting"

Our next gathering will be...



The Annual LIBC Barbecue

Sunday,
July 24, 2022
@ 1pm

Rain or Shine
FREE for Members
and their families.

Location:

Picnic held at the Brush Barn.
211 E Main St Smithtown, NY 11787

'DON'T WANNA MISS' events!

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

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

LIBC Annual Honey Tasting Contest

October 23rd

LIBC Annual Honey Judging Contest

MASTER BEEKEEPERS LIST

Moira Alexander
Smithtown
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
East Hampton
631-377-1943

Ray Lackey
Caledonia, Michigan

Joan Mahoney
N. Babylon
631-667-5339

Grace Mehl
Smithtown
631-724-5053

Fred Munzer
Dix Hills
631-243-3512

Marianne Sangesland
Smithtown
631-680-5895

Miguel Valentin
Ronkonkoma
631-588-6102

Wayne Vitale
Setauket
631-675-0302

Laurie Volel-Wilkowski
New Hyde Park
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 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

Two precious books were recently returned to the club library, the first is 100 years old and the second looks to be 187!

Both are a little fragile so they will require special permission to sign them out again. However, it seems both are in the public domain and can be accessed via pdf anytime you wish.

Starting Right with Bees, published by The A.I. Root Company, First Edition 1922, has an original letter attached from Dec 15, 1922 signed by both co-authors. "Written by a Beginner in Beekeeping, H.G. Rowe, Out of Experience in Needing Help and Direction During His First Two Years of Beekeeping. Read, Revised and Approved by the Editors of Gleanings in Bee Culture" may be accessed here: <https://www.valleybees.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/STARTING-RIGHT-with-BEES-Root-136p-1922.pdf>



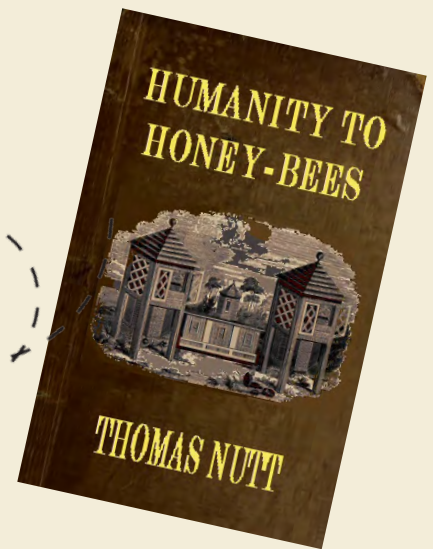
Two precious books were recently returned to the club library, the first is 100 years old and the second looks to be 187!

Humanity To Honey Bees or, Practical Directions for The Management of Honey Bees

Upon an Improved and Humane Plan, by which the lives of bees may be preserved, and abundance of honey of a superior quality may be obtained

BY THOMAS NUTT,
Third edition, 1835

WISBECH: Printed by H. & J. Leach with an original cost of ten shillings, but you may read it here: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/58229/58229-h/58229-h.htm>



Many other books will be available to sign out at the July BBQ. There will be plenty of time to socialize so stop by and peruse for a good summer read, and continue to return those books borrowed previously. 📖



A



B



C



D

A: Bill opening the Top Bar Hive that was populated by a swarm earlier in the season. These bees are doing well and have made significant progress.

B: Bill showing students a beautiful frame from the Top Bar Hive .

C: Drawn comb from a Top Bar.

D: Steve showing students how to practice holding a drone bee.

E: Steve asking students what they see on the frame.

F: Joan teaching students how to conduct a mite test.

G: Hands-on participation. A student collecting nurse bees for a mite wash.

photos from the

Teaching Apiary



E



G



F

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 on the member site. Please visit the [EAS Journal](#) page. You will need to log in with your EAS username and password to view.

the **TEACHING APIARY**

The teaching apiaries are a great way to get hands-on experience in beekeeping. The sessions are conducted by Master Beekeepers in the club. The normally scheduled classes are mainly for beginner beekeepers, however there may be some additional sessions for special topics that may have pre-requisite experience for attendance. You will be notified of these.



the next one:

Saturday, July 30th @ 10:30 AM

Teaching Apiary with Grace Mehl.
Please make sure to sign up with Grace by contacting her at Education@longislandbeekeepers.org

Grace will be opening hives and discussing mite treatments (of course), and preps for winter!

Location:

1725 Brentwood Rd, Brentwood, NY
The Teaching Apiary hives are to the left of the Honey House.

If you are interested in attending, you must sign up by emailing the instructor for the session listed below. Bring a veil and dress appropriately with long pants and sleeves with closed shoes, as we will be opening hives. There are a few veils available on site for real NEWBEES. The instructors will determine when they have reached a limit for their session in accordance with what they are comfortable with. If there is rain, Sunday will be the rain date for the Saturday session. If both days are rainy, the instructor may opt to have a discussion class inside the Barn. The instructor will notify you if a change in the schedule is necessary, so provide contact information such as a cell phone when you sign up for easy access/contact.

say cheeeese!



Beekeepers at Hope House extracting their honey



**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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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.



Visit the club web site at
WWW.LONGISLANDBEEKEEPERS.ORG

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



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