Long Island Beekeepers Club Since 1949

the BEELINE

LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB, INC.

Keeping Bees on Long Island Since 1949

JANUARY 2023

Volume 32
Edition 1

Build it Workshop: Classic Wood Beehive

Is there a more perfect time to start working on a beehive for spring? Nope. In this article from 'This Old House', TOH general contractor Tom Silva and TOH host Kevin O'Connor craft a bee-friendly backyard hive from basic building materials.

Tom and Kevin show off the Langstroth-style beehive they built out of pine and plywood.

When Tom saw how much satisfaction—and honey—his neighbors were getting from their backyard beehives, he decided to take up the challenge of building one for himself, from scratch. After some research, Tom settled on a Langstroth hive, a style popular with beekeepers for over 170 years. When Kevin commented that it looked complicated, Tom admitted, "It is, a little," then suggested they get to work.

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, Jan 22nd, 1 - 3pm
Sisters of St. Joseph, Building 2, Brentwood

SPEAKERS:

Anne Frey, *from Betterbee,* presenting "Oops in the Apiary"

Joan Mahoney, *NY State Apiarist,* presenting on Oxalic Acid & Glycerin *(see Page 7)*

Walter Scott,
Master Beekeeper, presenting "The Sensory System of the Worker Bee" from his Montana Master Beekeeper research.

upcoming events

Club Beekeeping Class 102 (Intermediate) — **Feb 4**
@ Brush Barn in Smithtown
(See page 12 for details)

February Meeting — **Feb 26**
Speaker: Liz Marcellus, Master Gardener, "The Buzz in the Garden"

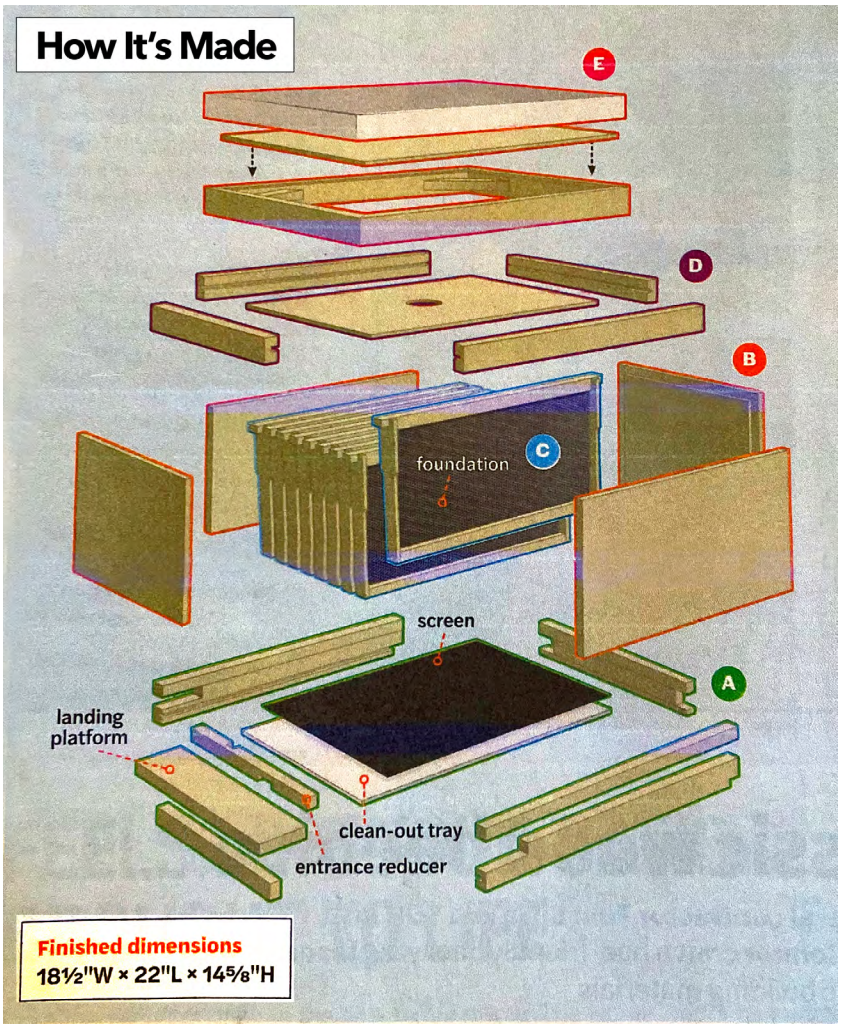
March Meeting — **Mar 26**
Speaker: Dr. Robin Underwood, Penn State, "Queens, Queens, Queens"

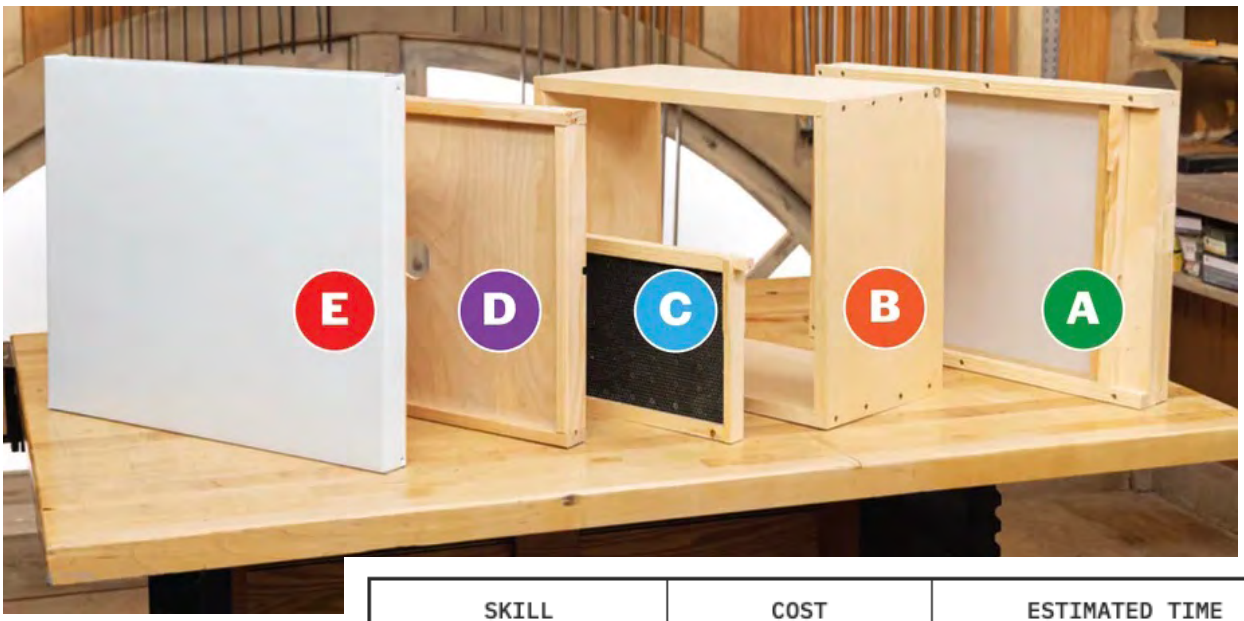
More details for the above events inside this newsletter.

This type of beehive is made up of five parts: the base **(A);** the hive body **(B)**; the frames **(C),** where bees make their honeycombs (this hive has 10); an inner cover with a ventilation hole **(D);** and an aluminum-clad outer cover **(E)**-the hive's weatherproof cap. This modular design allows you to use the same base and cap when stacking the bodies on top of one another.

While Tom has no plans to become a beekeeper, building this hive made him appreciate how well the design is tailored to bees' needs: "It's pretty cool."

WATCH: See Tom and Kevin build this project at thisoldhouse.com/beehive





SKILL	COST	ESTIMATED TIME
●●●●● Hard	About $140	5-6 hours (2 people)

WHAT YOU NEED FOR THIS PROJECT

CUT LIST

Base

- ❑ one 15 1/4-by-21 1/2-by-3/16-inch sheet of corrugated plastic
- ❑ one 18-by-20-inch piece of window screen
- ❑ one 14 3/4-by-3/4-by-3/4-inch pine entrance reducer
- ❑ one 16 1/4-by-3 1/4-by-1/4-inch pine landing area
- ❑ one 14 3/4-by-3/4-by-1-inch pine front lower crosspiece
- ❑ one 16 1/4-by-3/4-by-3/4-inch pine top back piece
- ❑ one 14 3/4-by-3/4-by-1 1/8-inch pine center back piece
- ❑ one 14 3/4-by-3/4-by-3/8-inch pine lower back piece
- ❑ two 21 1/4-by-3/4-by-3/4-inch pine top sidepieces
- ❑ two 22-by-3/4-by-1 3/4-inch pine lower sidepieces

Hive Body

- ❑ two 16 1/4-by-3/4-by-9 5/8-inch pine front panels
- ❑ two 19-by-3/4-by-9 5/8-inch pine side panels

Frames

- ❑ one 9 3/8-by-10-by-1 3/8-inch piece of pine to mill into 20 sidepieces later
- ❑ ten 18 7/8-by-1 1/16-by-3/4-inch pine top pieces
- ❑ ten 17-by-3/4-by-5/8-inch bottom pieces
- ❑ ten 17-by-8 3/8-by-1/8-inch plastic or wax frame foundation panels Inner

Cover

- ❑ one 15 1/2-by-19-by-1/4-inch plywood panel
- ❑ two 14 3/4-by-3/4-by-1 1/2-inch pine front & back pieces
- ❑ two 19 3/4-by-3/4-by-1 1/3-inch pine sidepieces

Outer Cover:

- ❑ one 17 1/2-by-21-by-1/4-inch plywood panel
- ❑ two 18 1/2-by-3/4-by-1 1/2-inch pine front and back pieces, mitered at a 45° angle across the 3/4-inch face on each end (see drawing for orientation)
- ❑ two 22-by-3/4-by-1 1/2-inch pine sidepieces, mitered at a 45° angle across the 3/4-inch face on each end (see drawing for orientation)
- ❑ four 8 1/2-by-1-by-3/4-inch pine corner braces, mitered across the 1-inch face on each end (see drawing for orientation)
- ❑ one 21 9/16-by-25 1/16-inch sheet of aluminum

MATERIALS

- ❑ Beehive plans
- ❑ four 8-foot 1×4s
- ❑ one 1-foot 2×10
- ❑ 1/4-inch plywood, 2 by 4 feet
- ❑ 18-gauge finish nails, 1 1/4 inches
- ❑ 1½-inch #6 wood screws
- ❑ assorted narrow-crown staples, ½ inch to 1 1/4 inches long
- ❑ metal window screen
- ❑ Aluminum flashing
- ❑ 10 embossed foundation sheets for the bees to store honey
- ❑ Rigid plastic sheet
- ❑ Hardware cloth
- ❑ Wood glue

TOOLS

- ❑ Miter saw
- ❑ Table saw
- ❑ Nail gun
- ❑ Screw gun
- ❑ Staple gun
- ❑ Jointer (or jigsaw)
- ❑ Hole saw
- ❑ Tin snips
- ❑ Bar clamps
- ❑ #6 Countersink Bit
- ❑ Utility knife
- ❑ Framing Square

Resources

There are a lot of beehive plans to choose from online. Try these free beehive plans from The Spruce.

STEP-BY-STEP

1] Cut all pieces to size. Following the cut list at thisoldhouse.com, rip all parts to width on a table saw and cut them to length on a miter saw. Plane a 9⅜-inch piece of 2×10 to a 1⅜-inch thickness. Use a framing square and a utility knife to score and snap the aluminum sheet to size.

2] Make the base sides and entrance reducer. Following the schematic drawings at thisoldhouse.com, notch one end of each base piece using a jigsaw. Then, on the table saw, rip a ¼-inch groove on the inside of the pieces for the plastic panel. Use the table saw and its miter gauge to crosscut two dadoes on adjacent sides of the entrance reducer, making one dado 1 inch long and the other 2 inches long. The different widths allow a wider entrance hole in summer and a narrower one in winter to moderate the hive's temperature.

3] Assemble the base frame. Glue and nail together the three base strips, checking for square as you go. Drill pilot holes through each corner with the countersink bit, then drive in screws.

4] Install the screen and top base strip. Staple the screen to the base frame, and trim it flush with the frame's sides. Next, using three screws, glue and fasten the top base strip to the base frame's back and sides, as shown. Leave the entrance reducer loose. Slide the corrugate plastic sheet into the base grooves.

STEP-BY-STEP (continued)

5] Rabbet the hive body panels. Set the table saw's blade and fence for a ¾-inch-by-¾-inch rabbet cut. Carefully run both ends and one side of the front and back panels through the saw vertically. Then lay each board flat and cut again to complete the rabbets. Use a push stick to keep the waste piece from kicking back.

6] Assemble the hive body. Apply glue at the corners, and tack each joint with the finish nailer. Clamp the joints tight and square, then countersink and drive four screws into each corner.

7] Make the honeycomb frames. Cut the pieces from a 10-inch-wide-by-1⅜-inch-thick board. (See online schematic.) Mill a 7/16-inch-deep-by-⅞-inch-wide dado in the center of the board's long edge. Rip it into 20⅝-inch-thick strips on the table saw. Using the sled, cut 15/16-inch tenons in the ends of each top piece of the same width and thickness as the dadoes above. Rip a ⅛-inch-wide-by-¼-inch-deep groove down the center of each top and bottom frame piece.

8] Mill gaps into the frame edges. When assembled, the lower edges of the frame sides have 5/32-inch gaps for bees to sneak through. Tom made the gaps with a jointer and a stop block clamped 5½ inches past the cutterhead. (A coping saw also works.)

STEP-BY-STEP (continued)

9] Assemble the frames. Glue and staple the bottom frame between the two sidepieces. Slide a honeycomb foundation sheet into the groove in the bottom piece. Slip the top frame piece into the side dadoes, then glue and staple the top joints. Do the same for all 10 frames.

10] Build the inner cover. Rip a ⅜-inch-deep-by-¼-inch-wide groove in the center of the cover's four frame pieces. Cut them to length, and, with the grooves all facing inward, butt, glue, and nail together three sides. Slide a ¼-inch plywood panel into the groove, and attach the fourth side. Cut a 2 ½-inch hole in the top with a hole saw.

11] Assemble the outer cover. Cut ¼-inch-by-¼-inch rabbets on the top inner edge of each sidepiece. Glue and staple together the mitered corners; glue and staple another ¼-inch panel to the rabbet. Flip the cover over; glue and nail the mitered braces to each inside corner.

12] Cap it. Cut the metal with tin snips, then score it 1½ inches in from the edge all the way around, Bend the edges up; tuck in the corner tabs. Place the cap over the outer cover, and staple at the corners.

Source: thisoldhouse.com, Summer 2022 Issue. By Rob Wotzak, Photography by Anthony Tieuli.

Student looking for bees for research

Student, Alice Sztabinski, sent the club the following email:

My name is Alice Sztabinski and I am a current senior and honors research student at a high school on Long Island. My research for the past four years of my research journey have included research into insecticides, honey bees and nosema ceranae, to name a few topics. This year, for my AP research class I am going to be exploring how fungal chitosan can affect the susceptibility of honey bees to viruses spread by varroa mites, specifically Deformed Wing Virus. Hopefully I can show, through my experiments, that the fungal chitosan can be used to boost a bee's immune system and make them less likely to be infected by the viruses!

In order to go forward with my experiment and start gathering data, I need honey bees that have been infected with viruses. I am looking for any bees with any of the following rna-viruses, though I am in most need of bees infected by Deformed wing virus:

Deformed Wing Virus
Black Queen Cell Virus
Chronic and Acute Bee Paralysis Virus
Lake Sanai Virus
Kashmir Bee Virus

Please let me know if anyone in your organization or connections has any number of bees (dead or alive) that have been infected with any of these, or similar viruses. I am willing to give the beekeeper that is willing to provide these bees with compensation. Please tell anyone interested that they can contact me through my email, (alciaice@gmail.com) with any further inquiries or information. I plan to continue collecting these infected bees until the end of January.

Thank you so much for your time and Happy New Year! — Alice Sztabinski
alciaice@gmail.com

the next meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2023

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

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

Time: 1 - 3pm *(Doors open at 12:30pm)*

3 Presentations:

"**Oops in the Apiary"** by Anne Frey. See page 9 for more information on Anne.

New York State approved method of applying extended release Oxalic Acid and Glycerine — Joan Mahoney, *New York State Apiarist*

Worker Pheromones — Walter Scott, *Montana State University Master Beekeeper*

PLEASE NOTE:

- Please sign in at the front table with Conni and **dues are being collected** if you haven't paid online. You can bring cash or check and pay at the meeting.
- **Tee shirts** will be available for purchase, see Joan.
- Make sure to take a **door prize ticket** when signing in.
- Look for **meeting mentors** to ask your Winter/Spring colony questions at the meeting.
- We had to alter that pattern for a couple of meetings this year. Please put these **date changes** on your calendar for meetings this year: APRIL MEETING is on **April 30th** instead of April 23rd. MAY MEETING is on **May 21st** instead of May 28th
- Check out Longislandbeekeepers.org/classified for bees for sale to get Packages, Nucs and Queens for sale.

message from
the education director
Grace Mehl

January Already!

Happy New Year and wishing you the best in 2023! Weather is unusually warm after being unusually cold for a short time. Bees are flying searching for pollen and sometimes finding it from Heather and Witch hazel. If they are not flying on warm days, make sure to check the entrance and ensure it is not jammed with dead bees. Bees die and can block the entrance and cause the whole hive to suffocate! Clean the entrance out!

Mostly, the increased flying due to warm weather causes them to use up more energy (read: carbohydrates) flying. This up and down weather makes for use of more resources. Even though there was seemingly plenty of honey or stored syrup (if you fed them) in the hive in the fall, the bees may be short on stores now. Have you checked?

More hives die of starvation in March than any other month, with February and January the next most common time for them to starve.

Many new beekeepers are afraid to open the top of a hive in winter. They have been told it is too cold to inspect if below around 50 degrees. But, taking off the outer cover and peeking through the hole in the inner cover is not inspecting! You need to do this to see where your bees are. The cluster forms initially below the honey cap and as they use the honey (or stored syrup) they work their way up. When they hit the top of the hive, just under the inner cover, they are out, or nearly out, of resources.

Bees share food. When they are low on food, they will share equally, except they always feed the queen. When they run out, they pretty much all die at the same time, with the queen being the last to go. So, they can be fine today and all dead tomorrow of starvation if they run out of food. More hives die of starvation in March than any other month, with February and January the next most common time for them to starve.

December 21st was the winter Solstice, and the days start to lengthen after that. Longer days will trigger the queen to start laying again. The temperature also plays a part in that, and this warm weather will contribute to the queen laying earlier rather than later. During broodless periods, the cluster temperature may drop into the 70s or even below 60 degrees F. Once there are eggs and brood, the bees will regulate the temperature and maintain the brood at 93 degrees F. If you have a temperature sensor in the hive, this change will prove the queen has

started laying. To increase the cluster temperature, the bees must use more resources. They must also use pollen to make brood food.

Most hives have enough pollen stored for this. Pollen supplement is rarely needed on Long Island. But, if in doubt, it can be added in late February or March. I like to give them a small piece of pollen patty and then remove it and put in a new piece every week. Small Hive Beetles love to breed in pollen patties. If you leave it too long, the bottom can be totally filled with SHB larvae. You don't see them unless you pick the pollen patty up! Don't start your season by breeding SHBs!

If you need to feed your bees, you can use winter patties, fondant, candy boards, sugar bricks, or just sugar on newspaper. Some people do use syrup, but, I don't when it is cold. If using syrup, make sure the feeder can't drip on the bees. All food must be accessible to the bees. This means on the top bars. I use a small shim (shim to a beekeeper is a very shallow box, unlike a carpenter's shim) to make some space for the food, and then put the inner cover on top of the shim and then some newspaper and then the outer cover. I have opened the top of hives when it was 20 degrees F and fed them when I needed to. You might lose some to the cold if they fly up. But, it is better to lose a few than the whole hive because they starved!

If your bees made it this far, through that cold spell around Christmas, they have a good chance of making it to Spring…as long as they don't starve. Starvation is totally preventable with just a little vigilance on the part of the beekeeper.

In between little peeks in the top of the hive, I like to walk around past all my hives pretty much on a daily basis. I like to see a dead bee or two by the entrance. That indicates to me that the bees are alive and well and cleaning house. If I don't see a bee or two, I will poke a twig in the entrance and make sure it is clear.

Wishing you the best bee year yet! See you at the meeting on January 22nd!

Anne Frey

Betterbee's Head Beekeeper will be speaking at the January meeting.

Anne lives in Greenwich, NY, and works as Betterbee's Head Beekeeper, teacher, and videographer (catch her on Betterbee's YouTube channel!). She first got bees in 1989 while getting a Biology degree, and like most of us, she was a "bee-haver" for just a few years, until she became a member of the local beekeeping club (the Southern Adirondack Beekeepers Association, or SABA), where she learned a lot from the other members and through club activities.

Anne worked her way up through the Club, becoming invaluable to its operation and leading the Annual Seminar and Bee School for many years. Beekeeping associations are so valuable to us because of the arranged speakers and events, but also because of the networking, support, and mentoring that comes about when people find a group near them. Anne became an EAS Master Beekeeper in 2002 and is still learning to this day. In her limited spare time, she reads sci-fi and rides her bike long distances.

Moira and Bill off-podium after Moira's talk on members of the hive & the Good Neighbor Policy

photos from the

LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Beekeeping 101

Walter demonstrates how to hive packaged bees and introduce the queen.

A rare photo of Grace sitting, no microphone or bee paraphanalia in sight! 😱

Thanks to a wonderful job by speakers Moira, Steve, Grace, John, Walter, and Bill!

Student, Omar, studies a frame of honey. Yum!

Beekeeping 101 students fully engaged and preparing to be newbie beeks!

John discusses package bees and nucleus colonies, and his own journey as a beekeeper.

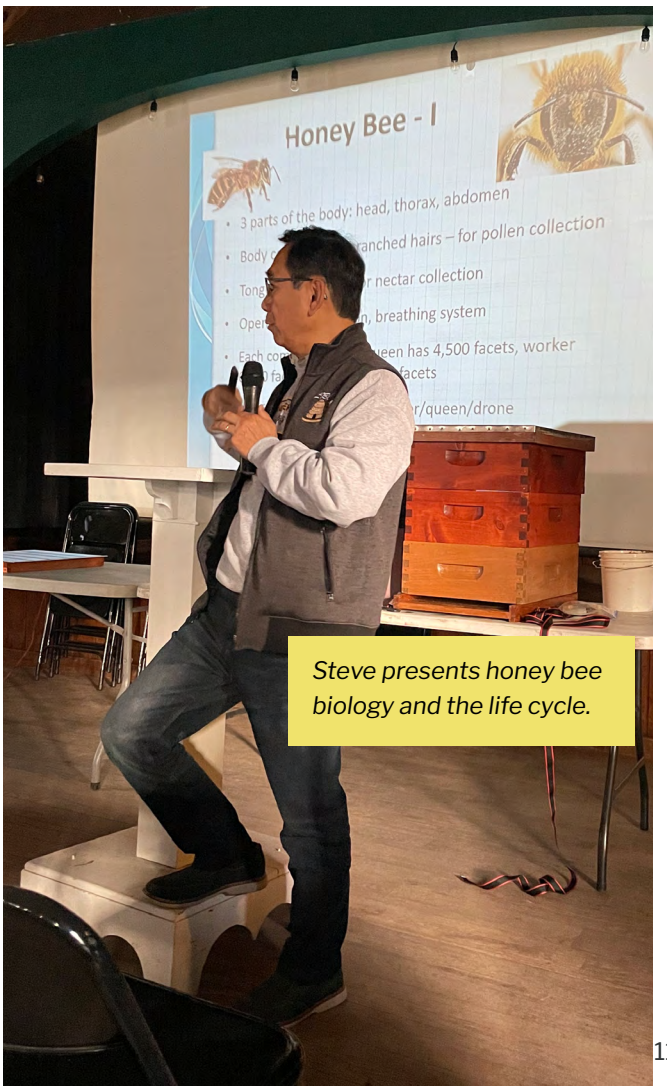
Grace discussing diseases and pests to look out for.

Bill discussing note-taking options for good beehive record-keeping.

photos from the

LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Beekeeping 101



Steve presents honey bee biology and the life cycle.

LIBC Beekeeping Classes

The Beekeeping 101 Class held on January 7th was a big success. Remaining is our 102 class in February. Join us!

BEEKEEPING 102

February 4th, 2023

A class designed for beekeepers with at least 1 or 2 years of experience but, who want to further their education.

Topics include:
What to do with a Dead-Out,
Spring Management/Readiness,
Varroa Monitoring and Treatment,
Swarm Prevention and Bait Boxes,
Queen Evaluation and Replacement,
Making Splits and Nucs,
Supering for Nectar Flow &
Honey Harvesting, and
Why did I lose my hive?

The recommended book for this class is **Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping** by Dewey Caron. This book is not provided and not mandatory, but recommended to further your beekeeping knowledge. Instructors are Long Island Beekeepers Club members. There will be time allotted to ask questions in the "break out" sessions.

The class will be held at the Brush Barn in Smithtown. Doors open at 8:30 and instruction will start at 9:00 am, with the day ending approximately 2:00 pm. Bring a bag lunch if desired. Class price is $40.

Attendees must be members of the Long Island Beekeepers Club. Dues are $35 per year.

Sign up for the class on the website and pay by PayPal using this link: **Classes – Long Island Beekeepers Club**

OR

Send a check made out to LIBC to our treasurer: Suzanne Cahill, 30 Meadow Glen Rd, Northport, NY 11768

First come, first served.
Space is limited.

From National Geographic Instagram @natgeo

WHO

Nadia Shira Cohen, A Rome-based photojournalist focused on the stories of people and places

WHERE

Outside Itatira, in the Brazilian state of Ceará

WHAT

Canon EOS SD Mark II with a 35mm lens

For centuries, donkeys helped develop northeast Brazil, hauling water, crops, and building materials. Urbanization led to out-of-work donkeys, thousands of which were slaughtered and their hides sent to China, where they're used in traditional medicine. In February a federal regional court granted the donkeys a stay of execution. While covering this long-simmering story in 2015, Cohen heard about Boneco (left) whose inventive owner repurposed him as a beekeeper's assistant, complete with custom-made uniform.

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

Walter Scott
West Hills (Huntington)
516-428-1063

Miguel Valentin
Ronkonkoma
631-588-6102

Wayne Vitale
Setaulket
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

Thank you to those who returned long-lost books these past few months, both in person and via media mail. Please continue to check your home book shelves for the tell tale "LIMG" markings and make the effort to fly them back to their hive.

The club library will be operating in **"light mode"** during the January and February meetings. In my absence, Conni Still will have a sampling of books to borrow for one month at a time at membership sign-in. If someone could please volunteer to carry the tub to and from her vehicle that would be very much appreciated.

from the editor:

Conni Still

Hi Beekeepers, Is this weather driving you and your bees as crazy as I am? What do we wear in or out, umbrella or not? Poor bees looking for flowers, I have yet to match up my witch hazel blooming when the bees have ever found it. It's the only photo of my garden that I am missing for my collection.

I know we have changed the rules about the date when dues are due, but for those of you who have to pay in January please pay by PayPal if you can, bring your check made out to LIBC for $35 and if you are going to bring cash PLEASE bring exact change to avoid making a long line of people waiting for change.

Bee Well! Conni

Fellow Beekeepers

It is with sadness that I inform you of the passing of the Honorable Theresa Bryant Whelan, beloved wife of our Bee Club member, Supreme Court Justice Thomas Whelan. Although Theresa was not a beekeeper, she totally supported Tom in his adventure in beekeeping. Wanting to be a part of his journey, she scooped up every scrap of beeswax she could to make candles. She bought molds for Christmas candles and all sorts of other special candles and even broke down and ordered more beeswax from Betterbee when Tom couldn't supply enough for her projects. She was a special person in so many ways. You may know Tom as our former LIBC Librarian. He resigned from this post a little while back due to his wife's illness.

Theresa Whelan was elected Suffolk Surrogate in November 2018. Prior to her election as Surrogate, she served as a Family Court judge for nine years, and in 2016, was appointed as the Court's Supervising Judge. Judge Whelan was active in the profession throughout her career, serving as president of the Suffolk County Women's Bar Association, as a member of the Suffolk County Women in the Court's Committee, and as co-chair of the Suffolk County Bar Association's Family Court Committee.

Our deepest condolences go out to her husband, Tom, and their two children, Joseph and Erin, as well as their granddaughter, Andrea.

Services took place in early January.

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.

CLASSIFIEDS

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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Education Director
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Information Technology Director
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Acting Immediate Past President
Steve Chen 646-625-9910

COMMITTEES

Hospitality
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THE BEELINE Editor
Conni Still 631-472-1760

Librarian
Lorraine Leacock 516-459-0140

Club Photographer
Phyllis Stein

Designer
Savitha Pal Sudul