



the BEELINE

LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB, INC.

Keeping Bees on Long Island Since 1949

FEBRUARY 2023

Volume 32
Edition 2

How much will the new AFB vaccine help honey bees?



Everyone is talking about the new AFB vaccine. A vaccine for bees is a miraculous milestone in honey bee management, but how much will it help?

A vaccine for AFB (American foulbrood) in honey bees is a mind-bending achievement. But will it change the landscape of beekeeping or will colony loss continue unabated? To answer that question, let's look at how the vaccine works.

How does the queen develop immunity?

To understand how the new AFB vaccine works, you need to

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, Feb 26th, 1 - 3pm
*Sisters of St. Joseph,
Building 2, Brentwood*

SPEAKERS:

Liz Marcellus,
Master Gardener, "The Buzz in the Garden"

Melissa Daley,
"Liability Insurance with Farm Family"

Linden Stewart, TBA

Grace Mehl, "What's Happening In The Hive?"

upcoming events

March Meeting **Mar 26**
Speaker: Dr. Robyn Underwood,
*Penn State Extension Educator/
Apiculture - The Comb Project*

April Meeting **Apr 30**
Speaker: Rich Blohm,
EAS Master Beekeeper

May Meeting **May 21**
Speaker: Vince Aloyo,
*EAS Master Beekeeper,
'The Amazing Nuc'*

*More details for the above events
inside this newsletter.*

know just one thing about the honey bee's immune system. Simply put, insects do not make antibodies like those in humans and dogs and goats.

Instead, bees have "transgenerational immune priming." Don't worry about the offputting name; the idea is simple. It just means that **when mom (the queen) develops an immune response to something in her environment, she can pass it on to her kids.**

That's it: the whole thing in a nutshell. The vaccine developers exposed queens to dead AFB bacteria so they could develop natural immunity and pass that immunity to their offspring.

There are no genetic modifications, no mRNA, and no freaky chemicals. The vaccine is even approved for organic agriculture.

How does immunity move from queen to colony?

Well, that's simple, too. Here is a step-by-step description of the process.

- Dead AFB bacteria are infused into a solution of sugar water that is fed to nurse bees. The nurse bees are unharmed because the bacteria are dead and, in any case, AFB does not affect adult bees.
- After eating the dead bacteria, the nurse bees secrete royal jelly from their glands.

This royal jelly is contaminated by little bits and pieces of dead AFB.

- The nurse bees feed this contaminated royal jelly to developing queens.
- Each queen remains unharmed by this, but her own immune system learns to recognize the contaminant and develops resistance to it.
- After she digests the royal jelly, both the nutrients and the immunity information are stored in her ovaries and fat bodies.

American foulbrood

American foulbrood (Paenibacillus larvae) is a bacterial disease spread by spores. It infects the guts of larval honey bees where it reproduces wildly until the bee gut splits open, releasing millions of new spores. The resulting mess has a molasses-like appearance and smells like death. The new spores spread easily throughout the hive and can survive for decades.

- When her fat bodies produce [vitellogenin](#) (a protein used to make egg yolks) the immune information moves from the queen into the yolk.
- The yolk nourishes the baby bee and passes the immunity to the offspring.

That's crazy cool, right?

How much immunity is passed on and does it last?

According to the research, bees raised by this method have a 30 to 50 percent increase in their resistance to AFB. That may not sound like much but it is a tremendous increase over what occurs naturally. Although field trials are ongoing, it appears the immunity lasts for the life of the queen. However, if the queen dies or stops laying, the colony will need a new vaccinated queen to maintain its immunity.

However, as vicious as the disease is, [American foulbrood](#) is not currently the biggest threat to honey bees in North America. Still, for those beekeepers with infected hives, this vaccine may well be a game-changer.

What causes the most honey bee losses?

[According to the USDA](#), in April-June 2020, US colony losses (in operations with at least 5 hives) due to all diseases totaled just **5.5 percent**. That small slice of colony loss includes AFB along with many other diseases such as EFB (European foulbrood), chalkbrood, stonebrood, paralysis virus, Kashmir bee virus, deformed wing virus, sacbrood, IAPV (Israeli acute paralysis virus), and Lake Sinai virus.

But during the same time three-month period in 2020, **43.1 percent** of colonies were affected by varroa mites. As you can see, losses from AFB were only a fraction of the 5.5 percent, significantly less than those stressed by varroa mites.

In the next quarter, July-September 2020, **6.1 percent** of colonies were lost to those diseases and **55.7 percent** of colonies were affect-

ed by varroa mites. Unfortunately, colony losses from AFB are an afterthought compared to infection by varroa mites. Varroa mites don't always kill the colony, but they can weaken them substantially.

Additional causes for colony loss

In addition to diseases and mites, other losses resulted from alternative parasites (such as [tracheal mites](#), nosema, [hive beetles](#), and wax moths), pesticides, queen loss, and miscellaneous mishaps (such as bad weather, starvation, predation, and hive damage).

As you can see from the lists, many of these conditions overlap and it's often difficult or impossible to assign a category. For example, a queen could die from a viral disease causing the colony to collapse. Do we say the colony died from viral disease or queen loss? It's not an easy call.



Likewise, did a colony collapse because of varroa mites or the diseases varroa mites carry? Some researchers hope that if we could control the viruses, the honey bees may slowly evolve to live with the mites. Such a breakthrough would buy more time to allow mite resistance to develop naturally.

An AFB vaccine is an outstanding achievement

It is easy to see that American foulbrood is not our biggest problem, at least not right now. However, we must remember that in other times and in other countries, it has been a much larger problem, and it could be again.



AFB outbreaks here at home still happen, and they can be devastating to a beekeeper and to nearby apiaries. There's no doubt that a vaccination that works is an exceptional achievement.

Hope for future interventions

I think the best news relates to the scientific breakthrough of a bee vaccine. Even if one vaccine doesn't solve today's worst problem, perhaps hope for other diseases is on the horizon. Even more exciting is that nearly all egg-laying creatures have vitellogenin, including insects, birds, fish, and, amphibians. That means this technology has the potential to be used over and over in other species. Already the scientists at Dalan Animal health who developed the AFB vaccine are at work on a similar vaccine for EFB. And after that, who knows? Can a vaccine for viral diseases be far behind?

Source: By Rusty Burlew, Published on Honey Bee Suite.



content below from
BEEKEEPING INFORMATION

How to Paint a Beehive

[Source: Beekeeping Information](#)



White is the traditional color to select for a hive's coating, but virtually any color will do. Although some beekeepers in colder climates paint their hives dark for this precise reason, it is better to avoid black or another dark color because these colors may cause the hive to get too hot in the summer sun, depending on the location. Any exterior house paint that is still on your brush will do.

[SEE THE FULL ARTICLE>](#)

Does Heated Honey Lose Its Nutrients?

If you want to preserve the honey's possible health advantages, it's better not to cook it for an extended period of time or at a high temperature. However, heat is not dangerous, and you can safely disregard many more outlandish claims about honey and cooking. Here is our whole guide to heat, honey, and peril.

[SEE THE FULL ARTICLE>](#)



message from
the education director

Grace Mehl

Spring is just Around the Corner...

... and beekeepers are getting antsy to get into their hives and see what's going on! The weather has been so nice some days that the bees have been out flying and even finding some nice yellow pollen, which is probably from early blooming bulbs like Crocus. The Swamp cabbage should also be out soon, too. The need for pollen tells you there is probably brood that needs to be fed in the hive.

Over the winter, peeking in the top of the hive to assess resources and determine whether the bees need to be fed is possible no matter how cold. Of course, doing this on a warm day is certainly better than on an exceptionally cold day, when you would only open the hive if that was the ONLY day possible (some people have obligations other than their bees to think about, unfortunately). I have been checking bees on a 2 week rotation all winter. Some are right at the top, and in that case, I fed them with winter patties or fondant. A few

hives have not come to the top at all! You would suspect they are dead. By removing a center, top frame, I can often see the cluster right below the honey in the next box down, and can see the bees moving around slowly and watching me. In some cases, I just open the top and put my ear down by the top bars and give the hive a few sharp knocks with my hive tool, and the bees will answer with a buzz. Then I know they are OK and just don't need anything right now. All this is done without taking the wrap off.

Today (Feb 16th) it is going to be in the 60s again, like yesterday. The temptation is to open the hive and take a look. To do that, the wrap must be removed and the boxes separated. But,

I am inventorying, sanding, and scraping equipment and getting everything ready for the season's honey flow. I have all my equipment sorted, stored, and counted and new frames on my workbench.

what is next week going to bring? Is all the cold weather over? Are we actually in Spring? No we are not. I heard this called "false Spring" someplace. At any time over the next month it can snap cold again. You know, the old March comes in like a Lion and out like a Lamb thing. Then, having the wraps on can be helpful to the bees as they try to keep the brood warm. Even if they are not wrapped (especially if they are not

wrapped) separating the boxes would break the propolis seal between the boxes which might allow a draft there. I suppose you can remove the wrap and put it back on. Isn't that a lot of work? What exactly is the advantage of opening right now except to indulge your curiosity? If you find something amiss, what are you going to do right now when queens aren't yet available? The only

real option would be to combine that queenless hive with another hive. Do you have another hive?

What if your bees are dead? Very sad. Don't just hang your head, get out there and take that hive apart and try to figure out why the bees died. In most cases, it will be from Varroa mites or starvation. As long as it is not American Foul Brood, you can and clean it up and get it ready for new bees. Clean out as many dead bees as possible let it all dry out. Freeze the frames if you can for 48–72 hours to kill any wax moth larvae and realize that the moths can also lay in the corners of boxes. Leaving them outside in the sun a few days works wonders. You can still order bees, although it is late. You can plan on splits and order queens to make nucs, although again, you are a little late. So, don't delay!

What if you want to treat for Varroa mites now? Could you do that now? Yes, you can. It would involve breaking open the hive and placing treatment. Treating now would only be advised if you didn't do a good job of getting the mites under control in the Summer and Fall of last year. Oxalic acid vaporization or dribble is best used when the bees are broodless. That is normally in late November and December. They are not broodless now, and the mites in the hive that over-wintered on the bees, jumped into those brood cells with the pre-pupae asap after the long break waiting for the queen to lay again. They are protected in the cells from OAV or OAD. The Oxalic acid extended release method might be something worth trying at this time of year or you can use another method that doesn't require specific warm temperatures, like Apivar. The extended release/long term treatments work because

the mites are exposed when they emerge from the cells with the young adult bee. Apivar treatments are 42-56 days and then you must wait 2 weeks before placing honey supers on the hive. So, if this is something you want to use, you need to get on it soon. Extended-release Oxalic acid instructions can be found on Betterbee's website by searching. But, again, you would only need to treat now if you didn't do a good job of cleaning up mites in fall!

To keep me busy while I wait for a time in late March or early April when I will take off wraps and open my hives, I am inventorying, sanding, and scraping equipment and getting everything ready for the season's honey flow. I have all my equipment sorted, stored, and counted and new frames on my workbench. Boxes too. Always need extra boxes for splits, swarms and honey supers. Even for feeding and storing stuff. A stack of extra boxes and frames that you don't use is not a problem. Needing boxes and frames and not having them is a big problem, which leads to missed opportunities and maybe lost bees to swarms. Be prepared my Dad always said.

Of course, I am still feeding some hives that need it. Winter patties still, but I will switch to syrup in late March or early April if needed. All depends on the weather and what is blooming and what the bees have when I open them up.

I hope my thoughts are helpful to you and I look forward to seeing you all at the February meeting at Sister's of St. Joseph's on the 26th! Until then, may you, your family and your bees stay well!



Here is What's Happening to US Honey Bees


What's behind the widespread loss of honey bee colonies? A new study has some answers.

Back in the winter of 2006, beekeepers in the United States began reporting startling losses of up to 90% of their hives. “As many as 50% of all affected colonies demonstrated symptoms inconsistent with any known causes of honey bee death,” [notes](#) the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

For years, “[colony collapse disorder](#)” and the loss of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) made regular headlines—and with good reason. More than 30% of the food we eat in the United States comes from crops pollinated by honey bees. Remove honey bees from the pollination equation and things start to decline rapidly.

While the media attention to the problem has waned, the problem itself has not disappeared. In a 2020 study, researchers found that between April 2019 and April 2020, there was a [43% colony loss](#) in honey bees across the United States. Scientists have been unable to find one specific cause—according to a new study led by Penn State, the drivers of this pervasive phenomenon “are still an open matter of investigation.”

But now, after a comprehensive analysis of data from the last five years, the Penn State study offers insight into what is killing the



Honey bees at work in their hive in Snohomish, Washington.

bees. Using novel statistical methods, the study is the first to concurrently look at a mix of honey bee stressors at a national scale.

Honey Bee Loss Has Multiple Causes

“Honey bees are vital pollinators for more than 100 species of crops in the United States, and the widespread loss of honey bee colonies is increasingly concerning,” said Luca Insolia, first author of the Penn State study, “Some previous studies have explored several potential stressors related to colony loss in a detailed way but are limited to narrow, regional areas. The one study that we know of at the national level in the United States explored only a single potential stressor. For this study, we integrated many large datasets at different spatial and temporal resolutions and used new, sophisticated statistical methods to assess several potential stressors associated with colony collapse across the U.S.”

The findings show that “honey bee colony loss in the U.S. over the last five years is primarily related to the presence of parasitic mites, extreme weather events, nearby pesticides, as well as challenges with overwintering,” writes Gail McCormick in a [press statement](#) for the study.

Behind the research was a dynamic combination of scientists which included statisticians, geographers, and entomologists. They looked at publicly available data collected between 2015 and 2021 on honey bee colonies, land use, weather, and other potential stressors. “Because these data came from a variety of sources, they varied in resolution over both space and time,” notes McCormick.

“In order to analyze the data all together, we had to come up with a technique to match the resolution of the various data sources,” said Martina Calovi, corresponding author of the study and currently associate professor of geography at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. “We could have just taken an average of all the weather measurements we had within a state, but that boils all the information we have into one number and loses a lot of information, especially about any extreme values. In addition to averaging weather data, we used an ‘upscaling’ technique to summarize the data in several different ways, which allowed us to retain more information, including about the frequency of

extreme temperature and precipitation events.”

With sophisticated statistical modeling techniques, they were able to assess a large number of potential stressors at the same time. They found that more than one stressor affected honey bee colony loss across the country, in-

cluding the presence of pesticides—no surprise, given that the goal of pesticides is to kill insects—frequent extreme weather events, and weather instability. Additionally, not surprising given previous evidence and research, bees were also impacted by the presence of the Harry Potteresque parasitic mites, *Varroa destructor*. At just 1.1 millimeters long, *Varoa* is one of the most trou-

blesome pests of the honey bee and is causing concern to beekeepers throughout the world.

The study also points out that in some states, but not all, losses happened between January and March, which can be a challenging time for overwintering animals. For bees, not surviving the winter can be a sign of poor colony health.

“Our results largely reinforce what regional studies have observed and confirm that regional patterns around these stressors are actually more widespread,” said Insolia, who led the study as a visiting graduate Penn State statistics student and who is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. A beekeeper himself, Insolia adds,



“These results also inform actions that beekeepers could take to help circumvent these stressors and protect their colonies, including treatments for the Varroa mite, especially in areas of weather instability. Beekeepers could also consider strategies to move their colonies to areas with high food availability or away from nearby pesticides or to provide supplementary food during certain seasons or months with frequent extreme weather events.”

When colony collapse disorder first came to rise, we all anticipated a single smoking gun. But the modern world is a complicated place and human folly is taxing the animal and plant worlds in unprecedented ways. And now, the onus is on beekeepers to protect bees from anthropogenic threats such as climate change and pesticide use.

“A changing climate and high-profile extreme weather events like Hurricane Ian—which threatened about 15% of the nation’s bees that were in its path as well as their food sources—are important reminders that we urgently need to better understand the stressors that are driving honey bee colony collapse and to develop strategies to mitigate them,” said Francesca Chiaromonte, a senior member of the research team.

“Our results highlight the role of parasitic mites, pesticide exposure, extreme weather events, and overwintering in bee colony collapse. We hope that they will help inform improved beekeeping practices and direct future data collection efforts that allow us to understand the problem at finer and finer resolutions.”

The study was [published online in the journal Scientific Reports](#).

Source: By Melissa Breyer on [treehugger.com](#), Published January 31, 2023



content below from
[BEEKEEPING INFORMATION](#)

The Comb Assistant

[Source: Beekeeping Information](#)



The Comb Assistant, created by Jim Barry of [West Alabama Bee Company](#), is a kit that helps you create comb honey. This allow you to reuse your frames, saving expenses when you sell comb honey.

[WATCH THE VIDEO>](#)

How to Make Honey Sticks

As a natural sugar, honey is applauded for being a high energy snack. But, who wants to carry around a jar of honey in your pocket? No one. That is why having a small serving in a portable pack is so appealing. When you learn how to make honey sticks at home, you can be sure that they were made under the very best conditions.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE>](#)



photos from the
LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB

January Meeting



Bumble Bees Like Playing with Toys

Many animals, including humans, like to play for pure enjoyment. Recently, researchers at Queen Mary University in London set out to understand [if insects enjoyed](#) the act of play like mammals do. They published their findings in *Animal Behaviour*.

To put it to the test, the scientists placed [45](#) bees in an arena with separate feeding areas and a pathway decked with glued and mobile yellow, purple, and plain wooden balls. And oh boy, did these bees know how to ball.

The bees willingly pushed the balls around and rolled with them. The bees rolled the balls between one and [117 times](#) in a single day, with



Image Credit: Richard Rickitt

the younger ones playing with them more frequently. This is just as you'd expect an experiment involving toys to go with human adults versus children. This proved to the scientists that "bees are not little robots," and insects, especially young ones, might actually enjoy playing with toys.

You can see the bees in action for yourself in [this video](#).

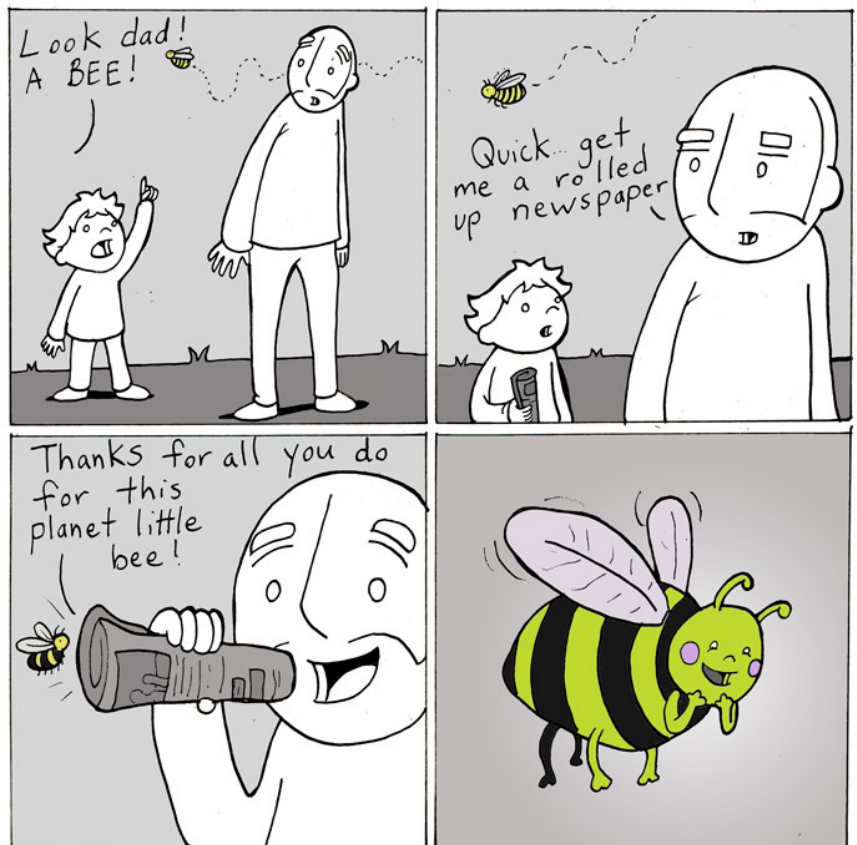


The Benefits of Propolis - VIDEO

This video features Laurie from [Bee-epothecary](#) discussing the many benefits of propolis..

[Watch the video here](#)

See Also [Propolis Benefits](#)



www.lunarbaboon.com



EASTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Winter 2023 EAS Journal is now available!

Please visit the [EAS Journal](#) page on our member site to view.

You will need to log in with your EAS user-name and password to view the contents.

Also, just a reminder that the Keynote Speaker Videos from 2021 & 2022 are available to view. You must be logged in to view them.

<https://easternapiculture.org/conference/conference-videos/>

Sincerely,
Eloise (Lou) Naylor
EAS Chairman



• the next meeting •

Sunday, February 26, 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)

Presentations:

“**The Buzz in the Garden**” by Liz Marcellus, Master Gardener

“**Liability Insurance with Farm Family**” by Melissa Daley

TBA— Linden Stewart

“**What’s Happening in the Hive**”— Grace Mehl, *LIBC Education Director*

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** 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.

The Town of North Hempstead is offering 3 terrific programs in March

Suffolk Alliance for Pollinators (SAP) is a coalition of local groups making Suffolk County a greener pollinator corridor through good gardening practices. Our goal is to amplify the efforts of many groups helping residents, towns and communities become part of the growing regional initiative led by the Pollinator Pathway. Together we can make Suffolk County a greener place.



1 Sustainable Yard Care **March 1, 6:30 pm**

Make your yard environmentally friendly with composting, rain barrels, creating wildlife habitat, reducing water pollution, using alternatives to pesticides and properly applying fertilizer.

[Register HERE](#)

2 Native Plant Gardening **March 15, 6:30 pm**

Native plants that tolerate the local environment have evolved with the local wildlife including pollinators. Gardening with plants native plants provides food and habitat, reduce flooding and absorb more air pollutants.

[Click here](#) for a list of native plants appropriate for Long Island landscapes

[Register HERE](#)

3 Rain Gardens **March 29, 6:30 pm**

Rain gardens capture stormwater from a gutter downspout or sloped area. Rain gardens have many benefits such as pollution reduction, aquifer replenishment and wildlife habitat.

([Click here](#) to learn about the Town's efforts to help monarchs and [here](#) to learn about protecting all pollinators)

This website is also helpful in learning about rain gardens and provides steps to creating them:

[Rain Gardens a Design Guide by UConn](#)

[Register HERE](#)

Contact

Pollinator Pathway

<https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>

info@pollinator-pathway.org

877-679-246



Pollinator Pathway

Pollinator Pathway <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/> is a robust resource for those starting their inquiry as well as those well along their way with their pollinator landscape. “Be Part of the Pollinator Pathway” contains specific gardening suggestions on a couple of fronts: lawns, plants, watering and the use of pesticides. Plant lists for a variety of conditions, including coastal areas and deer resistant plants, are found under the subhead ‘Plant Natives.’ Those interested in locating a property on the **Pollinator Pathway map** are invited to “Join Now.” Explore the website for its many contributions.

Local groups are likewise promoting good land stewardship.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Suffolk County offers additional resources. We offer programs on pollinator gardens, native plants, best lawn practices, alternatives to lawns, and berries for birds at **Suffolk libraries** year-round. Check the CCE events for in person and Zoom programs. Most Suffolk libraries admit patrons from other libraries. At our **Spring Gardening School** event, we have workshops on native garden design, pots for pollinators, and an intro to beekeeping. Contact Community Horticulture if your group would like a program. See our website for materials for Pollinator Support <https://cce-suffolk.org/gardening/pollinator-support>.

If you would like more information about plants and pollinators, please contact **CCE’s Horticulture Diagnostic Lab**. The phone is (631) 727-4126, Monday-Friday, 9AM-noon. You may also reach Alice Raimondo aw424@cornell.edu

[cornell.edu](mailto:sib7@cornell.edu) or Sandra Vultaggio sib7@cornell.edu by email. Visitors are welcome at the 423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead office weekdays 9AM-4PM.

Note: Groups and organizations collaborating on building a Suffolk Alliance for Pollinators are found on this webpage. To mention a few:

Rewild Long Island, with four chapters throughout Long Island, provides education, tools and an internship program to increase the biodiversity of public and private spaces. <https://www.rewildlongisland.org/>

ChangeHampton is a community effort to promote restorative, bio-diverse, healthy & sustainable landscaping practices and expand the Pollinator Pathways Movement on Eastern Long Island. <https://www.change-hampton.org/>

The Quogue Wildlife Refuge is promoting civic action including identifying some local sources providing seasons of native plants as linked here. <https://quogueliferefuge.org/go-native-for-wildlife/>

If your group or organization would like to join the **Suffolk Alliance for Pollinators**, please contact Roxanne Zimmer, rz378@cornell.edu.

Join the buzz!

Contact

Pollinator Pathway

<https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>

info@pollinator-pathway.org

877-679-246



Not all bees are yellow and brown, this is a **blue striped Australian bee**. The Australian blue bee is one of the most beautiful wild bees in the world. Its striking colors make it one of the most admired. The Australian blue bee is a solitary species, a wild pollinator that sleeps in crevices, on rocks or in small crevices in the ground.

Like so many bees, they are most attracted to blue and purple flowers. Unlike other colonies like *Apis mellifera*, they are solitary bees. They measure between 10 mm to 12 mm. It is easy to distinguish the sexes, as males have five blue stripes and females only four. Although it does not produce honey, the beautiful blue bee is very important to the Australian ecosystem, as many plants depend on its pollination.

Photo Credit: Nick Volpe Wildlife Photography

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

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/>



from the editor:
Conni Still



Hi Beekeepers, Were your bees out today? When I see the thermometer go up to 55 degrees I remember the first time I saw bees coming out of the hive in the middle of the winter. They come to the small entrance and sort of peer around and wiggle their fancy antennae. Is it really warm enough to

come out and see if the witch hazel is blooming? Let's go see, and they take off to the north side of my house and check out that plant. In other years there has always been a slippery mound of snow keeping me from meeting them in front of that plant, but this year there is no snow. But I have no bees to check out the blooming witch hazel! Hopefully a forager bee from a neighboring apiary will find it.
Bee Well.

content below from

BEEKEEPING INFORMATION

The magic of queen cups: here today, gone tomorrow

Queen cups provide sturdy connections between brood combs and fully developed queen cells. Worker bees build many queen cups in anticipation of swarming or supersedure. A queen cup is like the foundation of a house. It provides an anchor point for a large queen cell and gives the colony a "head start" in case it needs to replace a queen in a hurry.

In the article from Honey Bee Suite, read about how eggs get into the cups, the direction of egg movement, intercaste queens and more about the queen cup.



Queen cups are fascinating because they can solve many colony problems. But not all. And how eggs get into cups is still disputed. Most beekeepers agree that the current queen charges the cups, but others still insist it's the workers. What are your queen cup stories? Send them in to Honey Bee Suite.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE>](#)

DON'T FORGET

**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.

CLAS **SI** **F** **I** **D** **S**

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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