



the BEELINE

LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB, INC.

Keeping Bees on Long Island Since 1949

JUNE/JULY
2023
Volume 32
Edition 6

The unexpected downside of raising bees in your backyard



If you think backyard and rooftop beehives are helping save the bees, think again, experts say.

A [growing body of research](#) suggests that the explosion of urban beekeeping involving honeybees in many cities and towns may be hurting critical local wild bee populations.

A recent [peer-reviewed study](#) conducted in Montreal found that places with the largest increase in domesticated honeybees also had the fewest wild bee species — with small bees,

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, July 23rd, 1 - 3pm
Brush Barn @
Smithtown Historical Society
211 E Main St
Smithtown, NY 11787

THE ANNUAL LIBC Barbecue & Bee Swap

Rain or Shine
FREE for Members and their families.

Details on Page 10

• upcoming events •

Lunch & Learn **Aug 4**
(Live from EAS)
12-1:30pm
[Via this Zoom Link](#)

August Meeting **Aug 27**
Speaker: Jason Barker,
EAS Master Beekeeper,
“Queen Replacement”

Lunch & Learn **Oct 6**
12-1:30pm
[Via this Zoom Link](#)

More details for the above events
inside this newsletter.

which are only able to fly shorter distances to find food, appearing to be especially at risk.

“The honeybee has been promoted as the symbol of helping the environment and biodiversity, and really it’s not that,” says Gail MacInnis, a former postdoctoral researcher at Concordia University in Montreal and the study’s lead author. “You would never start keeping chickens to help save wild bird species.”



A honey bee lands on a blooming fiddle-neck in the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California on April 14. (Max Whittaker for The Washington Post)

There are, however, benefits to urban bee-keeping — as long as it’s done in moderation and hives are managed responsibly, experts say. Here’s what you need to know about keeping bees and what you can do if you want to help pollinators.

‘Very successful invaders’

Although honeybees are among the most common insects in the world, they aren’t native to many of the places where they are found, says Sheila Colla, an associate professor and conservation scientist at York University who studies pollinators. [The western or](#)

[European honeybee](#), the species commonly found in the United States, is [native to Europe, Asia and the Middle East](#).

“Honeybees are very successful invaders,” Colla says. Not only can these bees fly long distances but they are also able to effectively communicate with one another through a [body-jiggling dance language](#) about where nectar is. Introducing honeybee hives to an

area can be a problem for local wild bees, which often end up competing for the same food sources. A single honeybee colony can be [home to tens of thousands of bees](#).

“For people who say they want to save the bees and they have a honeybee hive, it’s kind of like throwing Asian carp into the Great Lakes and saying you want to save the native fish,”

Colla says. “But obviously, they’re just taking the same resources that the native fish are.”

Hives that aren’t responsibly managed could also be sources of parasites or diseases that may quickly spread to wild bees, Colla says.

How to save the bees

First, it’s important to know that honeybees aren’t really in need of saving, says MacInnis, now a research scientist at Canada’s National Bee Diagnostic Center in Beaverlodge, Alberta. “Though honeybees have their own stressors, they are not actually in decline on a global scale.”

Wild pollinators, on the other hand, [are declining](#) on a global scale and do need help.

Jan Day, president of the DC Beekeepers Alliance, a nonprofit association, says her group frequently gets asked the same question: “What can I do to save the bees?”

“We assure them the managed honeybee is doing just fine,” Day says. She instead urges people to focus on planting native plants and to encourage others to do so as well.

Experts recommend planting a variety of native flowering species that bloom at different times during the year wherever possible. Consider choosing some flowers that bloom early or late in the season, which is typically when food resources are scarce for bees, MacInnis says.

Mowing less and cultivating [pollinator-friendly lawns and gardens](#) could also be helpful, experts say.

Native wild bees “do so much work and they’re so underappreciated,” Colla says. “Especially with climate change, if we want to have resilient ecosystems, resilient cities, we need to have as many species of bees as possible in our cities.”

Responsible beekeeping

But experts say doing away with all urban beekeeping isn’t the answer.

“We’re not saying ban urban beekeeping,” MacInnis says. “There is room for it in cities. It’s just right now we’re not managing it very responsibly” in certain places.

Cities and towns that allow beekeeping should



have caps on hive density and require people to register their bee colonies, experts say. In D.C., for instance, residents have to register and are largely limited to [four hives on a single property](#), says Day, who lives on Capitol Hill and has kept bees for more than a decade.

Beekeepers also need to understand the responsibility they’re taking on, Colla says. Backyard bees should be treated like other domestic pets, she says.

“You’re watching your bees,” she says. “You’re taking care of them. You’re treating them if they have illnesses. You’re feeding them if they look like they’re short on food.”

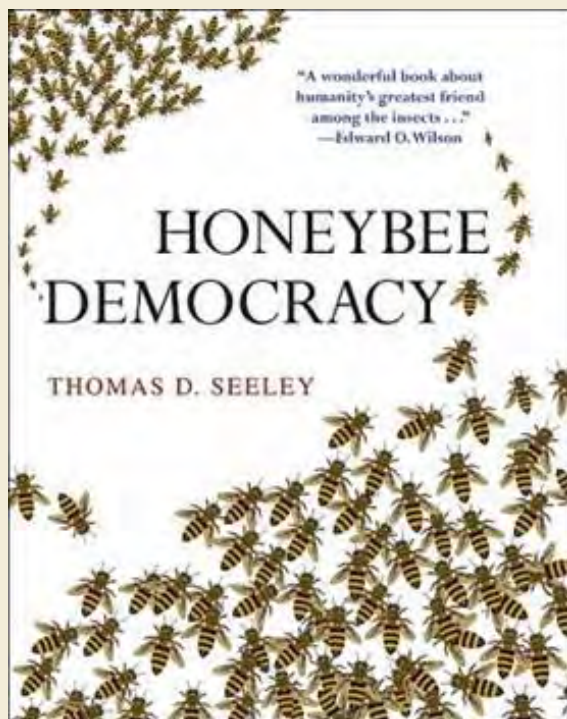
Source: By Allyson Chiu, May 19, 2023, The Washington Post. Allyson is a reporter focusing on climate solutions for The Washington Post. She previously covered wellness and worked overnight on The Post’s Morning Mix team..




LIBRARY CORNER

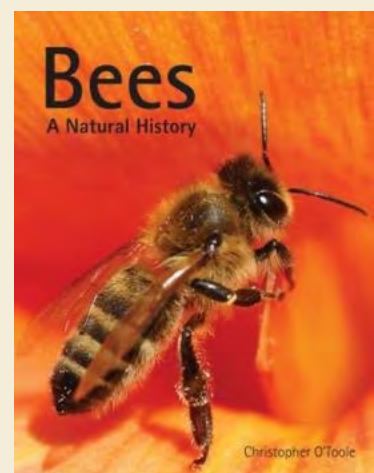
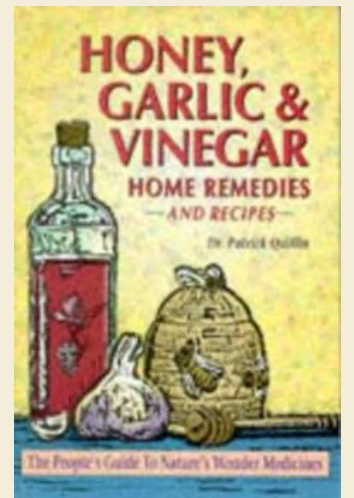
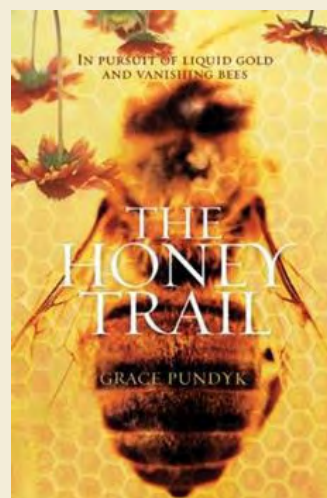
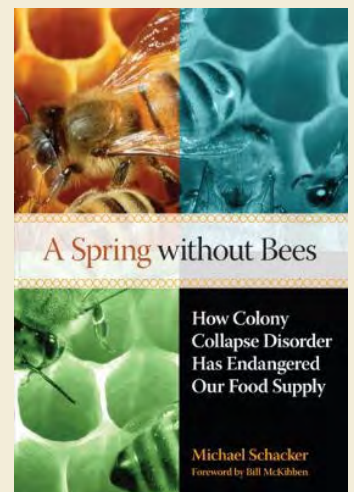
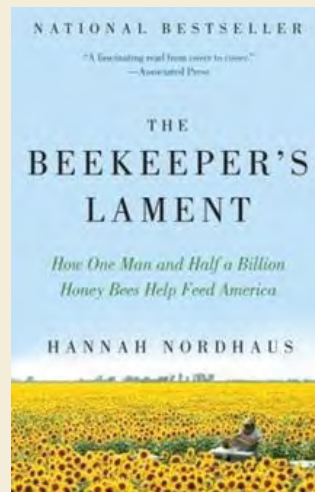
The club library added so many books this past year that we had to acquire more storage! Your generous donations have been flowing in like nectar. A few long-overdue books have made their way back and hopefully others will continue to be returned. Sadly, some have been declared permanently lost and are gradually being replaced. One such book out since 2017: **Honeybee Democracy** by Thomas D. Seeley, highly recommended and requested, is once again available to borrow.

Your generous donations have been flowing in like nectar.



The LIBeekeepers Club Library encourages reading and allows members to sign out two books at a time to be returned the following meeting. Donations are gladly accepted, as are suggestions for purchase. Emails can be sent to librarian@longislandbeekeepers.org. 

Recent additions to our collection:



Celebrating nature's superheroes



It's important to spread the word about protecting bees and their habitats. They face tough challenges like habitat loss and pesticides, so every small action counts.

Ideas to help the bees

As individuals by:

- planting a diverse set of native plants, which flower at different times of the year
- buying raw honey from local farmers
- buying products from sustainable agricultural practices
- avoiding pesticides, fungicides or herbicides in our gardens
- protecting wild bee colonies when possible
- sponsoring a hive
- making a bee water fountain by leaving a water bowl outside
- helping sustaining forest ecosystems
- raising awareness around us by sharing this information within our communities and networks

As beekeepers, or farmers by:

- reducing, or changing the usage of pesticides
- diversifying crops as much as possible
- planting attractive crops around the field
- creating hedgerows

HEY BEEKS!

An educational opportunity from your New York State Apiarist, Joan Mahoney:

I hope you and your bees are doing well. New York will be joining our New England partners again this year and offering a 4-part Lunch and Learn series. These webinars are a place where timely beekeeping topics are discussed and your questions answered by the Northeast State Apiarists. They are 90-minute sessions on Fridays from 12pm-1:30pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

Please register using this link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WVC1EcG5SByrkL0elYPARA

Remaining Lunch and Learns

Friday – **August 4, 2023 (Live from EAS)**

Friday – **October 6, 2023**



Best regards, Joan

Joan L. Mahoney,
State Apiculturist, Division of Plant Industry
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
4 Stewart Ave, Westhampton Beach, NY 11978
<http://www.agriculture.ny.gov>
<https://beekeepers.agriculture.ny.gov/registration>



message from
the education director

Grace Mehl

June's Queens

Swarms have abounded this season and if you are struggling with queen issues, you are not alone. Losing a queen with a swarm when the bees should be building up to take advantage of the nectar flow in May and June is tough. Calls are still coming in about queen issues. When do you start to get worried about laying workers?

The short answer is that laying workers develop when the queen has been gone for about 3 weeks. That is 21 days, or about the same time it takes for the last eggs she laid to emerge as adult bees. If there is no replacement queen, virgin or mated by this time, these newly emerging adults will not be exposed to a queen's pheromones to inhibit their sexual development. There is also no other young brood giving off brood pheromones. So, these last young bees have nothing to stop them from developing into laying workers.

Once the laying workers develop, they give off their own quasi-queen pheromones that calm the hive and the colony acts like it is queen-right as far as its temperament. If you have good eyes (or good glasses and a flashlight) you can see multiple eggs in the individual cells. These eggs are often, but not always, on the sides of the cells. Sometimes if the comb is not that deep, they can be in the center of the cells too, just like when a queen lays. However, the laying workers will put multiple eggs in cells and they won't be in a pattern like a queen would lay. A queen will lay

in one place and then work out, so that there are older larvae in the center and ever younger larvae around it working out in a pattern to the youngest eggs on the outside. A new queen may initially lay multiple eggs in cells. This will straighten out in a few days and the larvae that develop will be worker larvae and then capped flat into worker pupae. A frame of brood in a laying worker hive will have pops of capped drone brood all over and eggs and larvae scattered in between this and just look like one big mess. There is no pattern at all. And, of course, since they are not mated queens, it is only drone brood.



A frame of brood in a laying worker hive will have pops of capped drone brood all over and eggs and larvae scattered in between this and just look like one big mess. There is no pattern at all.

Re-queening a laying worker hive is near impossible. Some say you can add open brood every 5 days and after 3 weeks add a queen. This is a lot of work and a long time to fuss with

a hive. The best solution in my opinion is to combine the laying worker hive with another strong hive by placing it on top using a sheet of newspaper with a couple of little slits cut in it, between the lower colony and the box or two of the laying worker colony. The workers from the strong colony below will kill the laying workers in the top boxes and drag them out of the hive. There will be dead bees in front of the hive and that is what you want. You want the workers from the strong colony to do the dirty work for you. This only takes a few days, but I usually let them all settle down for a couple of weeks. You can go in after a week or two and re-order the boxes to put the honey supers back at the top of the now single colony. You can also make a split from this colony after they settle, if you want to keep the hive count up. Depending on the time of year, it might be best to buy a queen to put in the split. That will get the split up to speed faster than waiting for them to make a queen. If there is not a nectar flow on, it also can help with acceptance of an introduced queen if you feed the hive when you put a new queen in. Of course, feeding can only be done after you have taken off any honey for the season, so you don't contaminate your honey with sugar water.

Most people are taking off honey now. It is great to take off the honey and then give the extracted frames back to the hive so they can lick them clean and consolidate any honey still there into a few cells. If there is still a flow on, they will quickly use these now empty frames to store the next batch of nectar as it comes in. This saves them energy in that they don't have to draw out new comb. The estimate is that it takes 7 pounds of honey to make 1 pound of wax. There is an efficiency to giving the bees their empty frames back.

Here is hoping that your hives are queen-right and the nectar is still coming in to give you a great honey harvest!



HEADS UP ABOUT BEEING MINDFUL.

If you want to attend the Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS), please be aware that the registration is now open. It does get filled up fast and a few special classes are already filled. It is a great conference and a lot of fun. **If you are attending, please let Moira Alexander know as we will have a group photo on Wednesday before lunch at the conference.** If you give her your cell phone number she will remind you of time and place. Her cell phone is 631-664-6810.

The Birds and the Bees Bill has passed the NYS Senate and the Assembly and is on the Governor's desk. She is getting pressure to veto it from the Chemical, Seed and Farm lobbyists. You can get more information and actually read the entire bill by going to [NY State Senate Bill S1856A \(nysenate.gov\)](https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2022/S1856A). You can contact NY Governor Kathy Hochul and let her know how you feel about this bill at: [Governor Contact Form | Governor Kathy Hochul \(ny.gov\)](https://www.governor.ny.gov/contact).



photos from the

Teaching Apiary with Steve Chen



Steve Chen's special session on Queen Rearing





the next "meeting"

Our next gathering will be...



The Annual LIBC Barbecue & Bee Swap

Sunday,
July 23, 2023
@ 1pm

Rain or Shine
FREE for Members
and their families.

Location:

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

Our picnic is coming up fast! You have to be signed up to attend.

Members and immediate family are invited, but you have to sign-up. If you are not sure about whether you signed up or not, then **please text Joan Mahoney at 631-316-6284** and give her your information.

There are chairs at the Brush Barn, but maybe not enough. Please bring chairs if possible. There will be sodas and water. You can bring other beverages, though. Dessert will be from the ice cream truck!

We have to pay the caterer for the number of people signed up. So, please do attend if you signed up, as it costs the club money whether you attend or not!

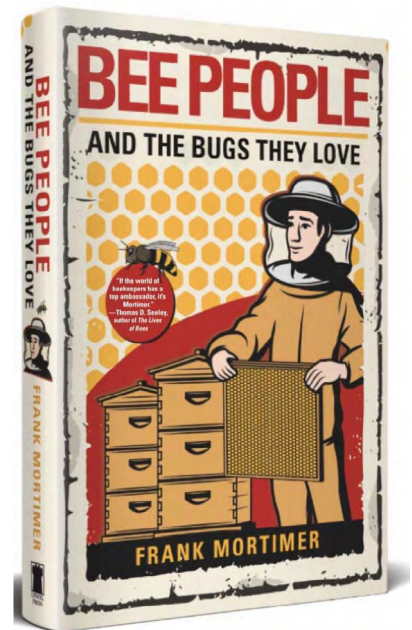
We will do a BEE SWAP at the picnic. This is where you can bring things to SELL. If you have bee plants, extra equipment, bee products, honey, soap, balms, etc. you can sell them on this day. Bring a table if possible. Put a price on it. Clean out the shed and bring money so you can fill it up again with new stuff!

For those that missed the Meeting in June, here's the bio of our speaker from that meeting, Frank Mortimer.



Frank Mortimer is the author of *Bee People and the Bugs They Love*, (Kensington Publishing), an adjunct instructor at the Cornell University Master Beekeeping Program, a master Beekeeper, and has written multiple

articles featured in *Bee Culture Magazine* and *American Bee Journal*. As president of the Northeast NJ Beekeepers Association—a position held for over a decade—he founded the “Honey Cup,” an annual honey tasting competition. Frank has promoted beekeeping by speaking to everyone from school children to gardening clubs and civic organizations. He has led beekeeping seminars at The New York Botanical Garden, and successfully campaigned for his hometown of Ridgewood to become New Jersey’s first “Bee City USA.” Frank is married, has three children, and beekeeping is something the whole family enjoys doing together.



For more information, please visit <https://frankthebeeman.com/>

ONLY 2 WEEKS to EAS! REGISTER BEFORE JULY 22nd.

please join us for the



**EASTERN
APICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

**2023 Annual Conference
July 31st - August 4th**

Welcome to July! We've had a number of smoky days in Virginia. I hope your weather had been clear and your bees are flying well.

With EAS 2023 just 2 weeks away, I wanted to send a couple reminders to everyone. If you have already registered for EAS 2023, you can stop reading and ignore this email.

Registration is still open!!!

[Follow this registration link to register](#) for the Short Course & Conference and we will see you in Amherst, MA!

Registration for dorms and our barbecue, auction, and banquet dinners closed on July 8.

After July 8, there will be a \$25 administrative fee added to registrations (and dorms and dinners are not available). Some special events and general meal cards (for the food court and cafeteria) will remain available. Registration will remain open until July 22.

After July 22, registrations will not be accepted. Note that we do not allow walk-ins at the conference, so please register ahead of time.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Amherst! It is shaping up into a great event.

Sincerely,
Erik Brown
EAS Tech Guy

EAS MA 2023
July 31 – Aug 4, 2023
**68th Annual
Short Course
and
Conference***
University of Massachusetts,
Amherst MA



please participate in the **Monthly Beeline Poll**

Thank you to everyone who participated in last month's Beeline Poll! We appreciate you sharing information on your apiaries and helping us learn about our membership! A few reminders about our Monthly Poll:

- We hope the poll can shed some light on what's happening in our apiaries, as a collective entity, our club as a whole.
- This Beeline Poll will be included monthly along with the results of the previous month's poll.
- The poll is short (max 2-question). Topics will vary month to month.
- The poll is completely anonymous.
- The more people who respond, the more informative these polls are!
<nudge, nudge. wink wink.>

If you haven't participated, please do. It will only take 1 minute of your time. Thanks in advance for participating. We're excited to learn about you and your bees!

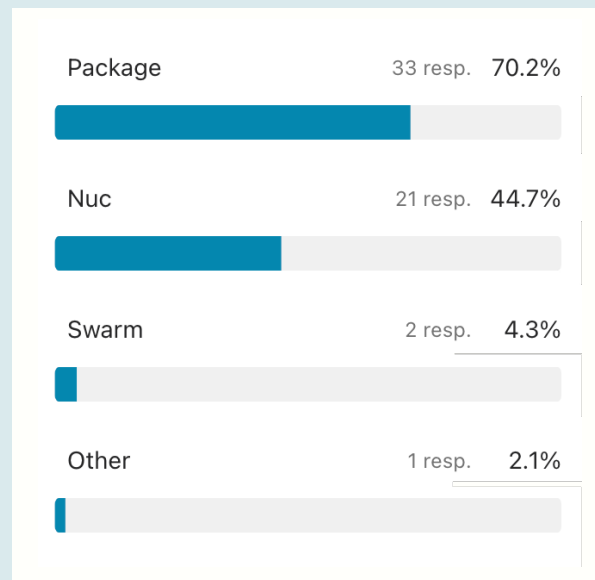
[Here is June/July's poll.](#)

Click the button:

the results are in

Here are the results from May.

1) When you started beekeeping, how did you acquire your bees?



2) How many colonies did you start with?

26 people said 2 Hives (55%)

20 people said 1 Hive (43%)

1 person said 10 Hives!!! (2%)

of responses this month: 47

Thank you to all the survey participants! Please look out for next month's survey.

NY Bee Wellness SPRING SURVEY 2023 RESULTS!



Overall, the winter of 2022-2023 was a bit better than average (28% loss); the North Central region averaged 19% loss but the Southeast region reported a 47% loss. Oxalic acid was the preferred varroa mite treatment, and 50% of respondents wrapped their hives for the winter. Regions that had the most dissatisfaction with the 2022 late honey crop tended to have higher loss for the winter of 2022-2023, as well as an increased loss of hives (>15%) in the Fall (Fall 2022 Survey). Small

weak clusters, varroa/virus, and queen failure were the most common reasons given as the primary cause of winter hive loss, while only 23% of respondents felt that varroa/virus was the cause of loss, despite research that up to 85% of winter loss can be attributed to mites/virus. [View the results here](#) or click the button below to download the PDF.

Questions? Contact:

survey@nybeewellness.org

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/>



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

**DON'T
FORGET**

Annual dues are \$35

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.

If you've posted an ad, please update any information for your classified ads. Only current members have this privilege. [Go to the LIBC website, log in](#) and go to ["My Account"](#). You will see a Green Button on the right lower side saying **"Submit Ad"**. Click on this and the form will come up for you to fill out. Nick, the IT Director, will review it and post or contact you for any problems.

CLASSIFIED ADS DO NOT CONSTITUTE
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AS INFORMATION ONLY.



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

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