

The “BEELINE” LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB, INC.

Keeping Bees on Long Island Since 1949



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www.LongIslandBeekeepers.Org

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- **Secretary:** Marianne Sangesland, 631-680-5895*
- **Membership Secretary:** Conni Still, 631-472-1760
- **Education Director:** Grace Mehl, 631-766-5648

Next Meeting: SUMMER PICNIC!

Sunday, 27 July 2025

At the Brush Barn

239 East Main Street,

Smithtown, NY

1-3 pm!

MASTER BEEKEEPERS LIST

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Master Beekeepers are certified beekeepers who have a detailed knowledge of honeybee 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. The program 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: <http://www.easternapiculture.org/master-beekeepers/certification.htm>



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

Hello Beekeepers

Dear Beekeepers, I hope you have all found days to check your bees besides these rainy weekends! It is so frustrating, I remember working a regular five day work week 9-5 and trying to check bees between the showers on the weekends. Then I had split shifts with days and hours off during the week, it made all the difference. Of course Retirement was a whole new life, but now I'm too old to do the lifting and I had to give up my best pastime. Enjoy this time while you can!



Speaker of the Month



BIOGRAPHY

Theresa Martin is the author of *Dead Bees Don't Make Honey: 10 Tips for Healthy Productive Bees*, which includes a Foreword by Dr. Thomas Seeley. Theresa has achieved 99% colony survival and honey production that is twice the local average in her seven years as a beekeeper, with 20–25 colonies in Kentucky. She practices a beekeeping methodology that places bee health as the highest priority and optimal pathway to productivity. Following the model of how bees survive in the wild, employing integrated pest management, and providing high support yet low intervention, she demonstrates that healthy, alive bees are more productive than sick or dead bees. Theresa is a Cornell Master Beekeeper, 2024 Kentucky State Beekeeper of the Year, and Vice-President of the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association. She worked at Fidelity Investments and

Procter & Gamble in information technology and operations management. Theresa can be reached at theresa@littlewolf.farm

TEACHING APIARY NEWS

Please email the instructors if you would like to attend. Please include your *cell phone number* when you email just in case of last minute weather issues causing changes or cancellations.

Attendees must wear a veil and dress appropriately with long pants and long sleeves with closed shoes, as we will be opening hives. There are a few veils available on site for real NEWBEEES. 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.

The Teaching Apiary is at the Sisters of St. Joseph's Honey House, 1725 Brentwood Rd, Brentwood. the main entrance is across from 5th Ave. Follow the yellow "Bee Meeting" signs to the Honey House and meet the instructor there.

Directions: The LIBC Teaching Apiary is located on the grounds of the Sisters of St. Joseph's Campus at 1725 Brentwood Rd, Brentwood, NY. Enter the Sisters of St. Joseph's complex at the 1725 Brentwood Rd, Brentwood, NY entrance (across from 5th Ave. on Brentwood Rd.) and pass the guard shack going straight, then turn right at Maria Regina Rehab Center and then go right again at the traffic circle and take the first right out of the traffic circle toward the parking area and go to the end of the parking lot, then right at the rain

garden toward the Honey House and park on the left side of the road where you will see other cars parked. Walk to the Honey House where the group will gather to meet your instructor. The Teaching Apiary hives are to the left of the Honey House.

Next Meeting

10:00, July 26th - Kathy Luberto, email at KLuberto11@gmail.com



1 spot the queen!

LIBRARY REPORT:

JUNE Activity

The library will be open for returns only in July

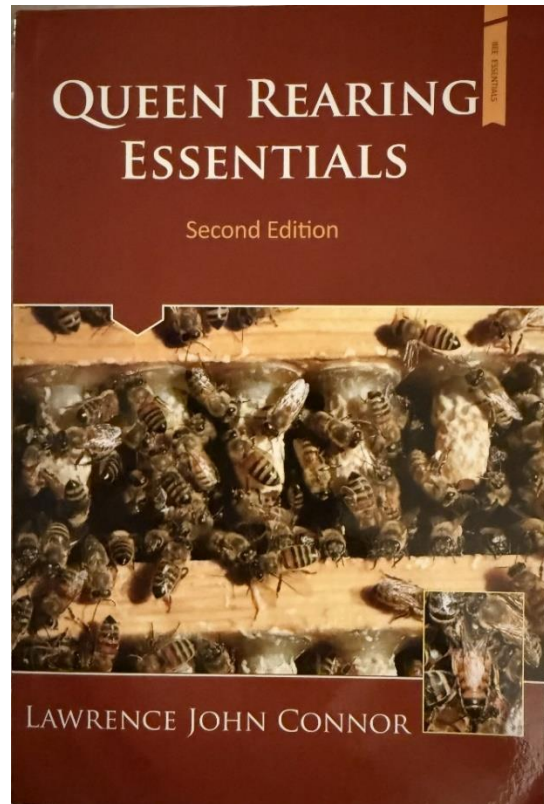
2 books signed out by 2 members

3 book loans and 1 DVD renewed by 3 members

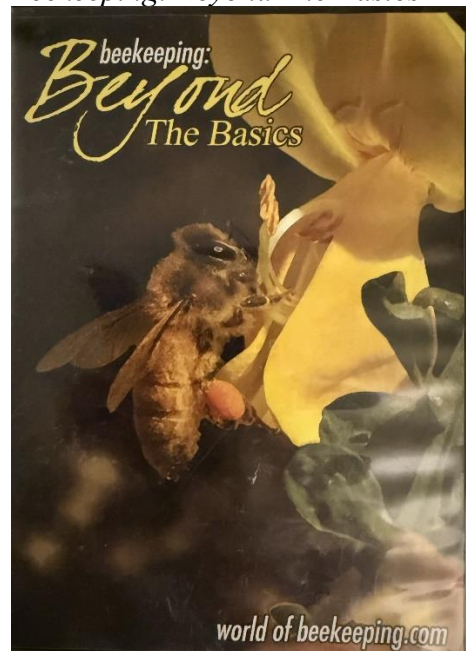
2 books returned by 2 members

1 book and 1 DVD donated:

Thanks to Kevin for the book *Queen Rearing Essentials*



and to Dan for the DVD
Beekeeping: Beyond The Basics



Volume 33, Edition 7

These folks have overextended their loans and we have tried to reach them without success:

ANGELA ASSELTA - *Beekeeping for Dummies*

BOB LINEKIN - *The Backyard Beekeeper* AND *The Beekeeper's Bible*

CIENNA RIZZA - *The Beekeeper's Handbook*

MARGIE RIZZA - *Homegrown Honey Bees*

MICHELLE SALZ - *Natural Beekeeping* AND *Simple Smart Beekeeping*

If anyone is in contact with them, the returns would be very much appreciated. The librarian may be reached by

email: librarian@longislandbeekeepers.org

Club News:

Our LIBC Picnic on July 27th is coming up fast! The deadline for sign up is July 18th. Please text Joan if you want to sign up. If you already have, you do not need to sign up again. If you are not sure, please text her that as well so she can check the list. Joan's cell number is at 631-316-6284. Please include in the text, your name and your spouse's name, if they are joining you and any children you are bringing. We will be asking for a small donation (suggested is \$3 per person) which will offset the charge for the venue.

The picnic will be held at the Brush Barn in Smithtown, as it has in the past. The date is Sunday, 27 July from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. This is a rain or shine event, as we can move into the Barn if need be. There are some picnic tables outside, but, please consider bringing a chair if you would like to sit outside.

The caterer will provide the main meal of a hamburger *or* two hotdogs *or* veggie burger, and a side. We ask that members attending with last names starting with A through L, please bring an hors d'oeuvre or chips or such, and those with last names starting with M through Z, please bring a dessert. Each should serve 6 to 8 people, like a pie or cake for example. Remember to take home what you have brought if there is any left over.

Please bring your favorite beverages, to include beer or wine, etc.

We will be holding the annual smoker lighting contest again. Bring your smoker, fuel and lighter and show your stuff. Kevin Raffloer showed

us all up last year and we all want a retrial! Newbees should definitely test their skills! The more the merrier!

We will have some very fresh Club honey to sell. The price is still \$12 a pound.

Formic Pro will be available as well. If you haven't tested or treated your bees, you need to test at least and see where you stand!

The BEE SWAP will be at the Picnic! Look in your bee shed and see what you want gone and if you think someone can use it, please bring it to sell. Put a name and price on it, please. If you want to set up a table, please bring it.

There may be a raffle so bring a few dollars for that if you are interested.

Please consider bringing a 1 lb jar of honey to donate to the ESHPA fund raiser! Moira will be collecting it.

Our Librarian will be away for a few months, and we would like a volunteer to assist her and fill in while she is away. Contact Lorraine or John Most if you would be willing to do that.

There will be a donation box for the Sisters of St Joseph Food pantry. The need is great and any non-perishable food items would be welcome, We will take care of getting it to their food pantry.

Thanks to the 10 members who ordered the educational boxes from the National Honey Board for the ESPHA table at the NY State Fair! Thank you!

Heads up! The *September* meeting date has been changed from the normal fourth Sunday. to SEPTEMBER 14th due to a conflict at the Sisters of St Joseph.

The *August* meeting will be three presentations on Nosema, given by Joan Mahoney, Kevin Raffloer, and Walter Scott on Nosema. Then there will be a lab after that. Thank you to those who lent their microscopes for this event!

How is your honey harvest so far? I would like to hear from you! Please let me know in a short email to Education@longsilandbeekeepers.org how it is going. You may not have harvested yet, and if so, let me know what you are seeing in your hives as far as potential honey harvest, in particular, I would like to know how it compares to previous years. Of course, first year beekeepers won't have this comparison to go by.

This is the time of year when you REALLY need to think about VARROA MITES! If you have not done a sampling/test for mites in your hives yet, you need to get hot and get it done for this month. The mites jumped into those first brood cells in January in overwintered hives and have been building up in population all Spring if nothing interfered with them (think brood break, swarming, treatment, etc.). As the nectar flow slows in the Summer, the queen will usually cut back on brood production and the bee population starts to go down. The mites however, continue to increase by breeding in whatever limited brood is available. Since there are less drones being produced, they are even more likely to move into the worker brood cells.

Hygienic bees will uncap the infested cells and you will see this as uncapped pupae. This is different from the ready to cap pre-pupae in that you can see the already formed bee face in these uncapped cells. Hygienic bees will chew down infested/sick pupae and pull them out. If the cells are not infested, but uncapped because neighboring infested cells confused the nurse bees with their scent, they will be recapped. This can sometimes be seen as a different color in the center of the capping, maybe even a slight depression in the caps. It is hard to see this and taking a picture and blowing it up can help bring it out. A picture of recapped cells is shown below from the book: [The Honey Bee Solution to Varroa, A Practical Guide For Beekeepers](#), by Steve Riley

Taking an alcohol wash of 300 bees and counting mites is the gold standard to know your mite load. Newest recommendation is to take the sample from a frame adjacent to the brood nest. Including drones in the sample is good. This gives the best data on the mite load in your hives.

Using a sticky board under a screened bottom board is another way of getting an idea of your mite load. This has to be done on a routine basis so you can see trends. A daily mite drop taken once a month will give you a trend on the mite load. Doing this

once, or on different days of each month is not as good as conducting a mite drop count on the same day of each month. The insert must be cleaned and sprayed with pam or smeared with vaseline or similar sticky substance and inserted fresh, and then removed in 1 to 3 days and counted. If it is left more than 24 hours, you divide to get the daily mite drop number. The more consistent you are in your testing, the more accurate your results will be. This method doesn't give you an infestation number, but a trend. The daily mite drop number will be different at different seasons also. By looking at everything on the sticky board, you can also tell if your bees are taking action to clean out infested pupae. The white antennae and other parts of the pupae can be seen on the sticky board if so.

The treatment threshold for mites is 2/100 now, and about 3/100 late Summer into Fall. There may be a window of temperatures where Formic Pro could be used coming up this week. Look at the 10 day forecast for your area for a window of days below 85 degrees F to decide if you can use Formic Pro in your hives. Also consider whether your hives are in full sun or shade during the hottest part of the day. Remember to open the front entrance entirely and close screened bottom boards while using it. Temperatures are absolutely critical for the first 3 days. Putting it on in the afternoon as it starts to cool off is a good strategy if you are trying to find a long enough period of cool days. Two strips can give enough concentration that the Formic Acid will penetrate the cell cappings and kill mites under the cappings. Using one strip does not necessarily do this. Although, with a smaller colony, the one strip method, replacing it with one strip after 10 days, may be the more prudent approach. Do not use Formic Pro on colonies with less than 6 good frames of bees, as there are not sufficient bees to ventilate the hive.

You can of course, use another method to treat for mites. The two organic acids are the only treatments that can be used with honey supers on, which is why they are a good option at this time of year as long as temperatures allow.

The need to treat colonies with high mite counts is a reality. But, you should also be thinking about why these colonies have high mite counts in the first place! If you have some hives with counts of 0 or 1 and others with counts that are much higher, requeening those high mite count colonies should be considered. Requeening in late Summer is a great thing to do. That puts a nice young queen in the hive to make the Winter bees and build up strong in the

Spring. You can even use those colonies with good mite management to requeen by adding egg and small larvae from them to the target colony. Of course, you must make sure that all queen cells from the original queen are removed to get the genetic turnover.

Don't forget to test/monitor for mites again AFTER treatment! We hope the treatment is effective and the mite number is much lower. But, you won't know unless you check. With high infestations, retreating may be necessary! Consider another method or wait a month to use Formic Pro again. Go to <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/varroa-management/> to find more information about how to manage varroa mites in your colonies.

LINKS

[CAPA Statement on Colony Losses 2011-2012](#)

[📌 RESULTS! Spring 2025 Survey NY Bee Wellness](#)

[Summer solstice optimizes the thermal growing season](#)

[Scientists' top 10 bee-magnet blooms—turn any lawn into a pollinator paradise | ScienceDaily](#)

Queen Rearing Class Opportunity:

Intro to Queen Rearing at the Dyce Lab (Aug 2-3)
The ability to rear queens is a key skill for self-sufficient beekeeping. The Dyce Lab is teaming up with the Massachusetts organization [They Keep Bees](#) to host an *Introduction to Queen Rearing Workshop* over the weekend of August 2nd and 3rd. This two-day workshop includes classroom lectures and hands-on learning in the bee yard. The workshop will provide an introduction to honey bee reproduction, grafting, how to set up and use starters and finishers, how to set up and use mating nucs, how to handle queen cells and mated queens, and a brief introduction regarding breeding. Participants are required to have at least one year of beekeeping experience. Lunch and coffee/water/donuts on both

days is included.

Date & time: August 2, 8:30 - 4:30 and August 3, 8:30 - 4:30.

Location: Dyce Lab for Honey Bee Studies, 201 Freese Road, Ithaca NY 14850

Registration Cost: \$200 (covers food and supplies - see below)

All participants go home with the following:

- 1) A copy of the book *Queen Rearing Essentials* by Lawrence Connor
- 2) Basic queen rearing equipment (grafting tool, cell cups and bar, queen frame)
- 3) A workshop booklet
- 4) Possibly a queen bee (mature cell) for those who are interested!

Register at this

link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScpxd86DUdwjr02ayPJM93VAziJ5INFPW3uH7Ir6k1jSvEMA/viewform>

This workshop is limited to a maximum of 20 people. Please register soon to ensure your space! If you have any questions please follow up with me (Scott McArt) or anyone else at the Dyce Lab (607-319-0752 or dyclelab@cornell.edu).



NOTES!

- There are people who still haven't paid dues for 2025. Please pay your dues, as we count on that money for our budget obligations. Conni can take dues for anyone who still needs to pay, or you can pay on the website.
- Formic Pro will be available at this meeting.
- Club Honey! We are having a honey sale to move out the honey from 2024 before the new harvest. The price will be lowered to \$12 a pound for club members. We have about 4 cases of 11lb and 10 jars of 2 lb. Text Grace at 631-766-5648 if you want more than a couple of jars!
- Our hospitality volunteers (Laurie and Janet) can always use help setting up the table and coffee, and of course, donations of cake, cookies and snacks are always welcome!
- Tee Shirts and Sweatshirt will be available for purchase. There are new colors available and also we are looking into getting a baseball cap for the club. Our new volunteer is Patty Rafflor!
- There will be a sign up sheet going around for the Club Picnic, which is on July 27th at the Brush Barn in Smithtown, from 1 to 4 pm. We need to get an accurate number for the food truck order. If you will not be at the meeting you can text Joan to sign up at 631-316-6284.
- The library will be available for people return books.
- We have some excellent door prizes for this meeting, so make sure to get your ticket for these at the meeting. We will have a drawing of tickets to distribute the prizes. We are always happy to get more door prize donations. If you have something in the bee shed or closet you don't use/want that might benefit someone else, please consider donating it.
- The Classified section on the the website can be updated by filling out the form after you *log in* to the website. This includes being placed on the SWARM LIST. *The classified was refreshed at the beginning of the year. If you didn't fill out the form in 2025, you are not on it.*



VISIT THE CLUB WEBSITE AT
WWW.LONGISLANDBEEKEEPERS.ORG

Check your account on the website every month