

# The “BEELINE” LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB, INC.

Keeping Bees on Long Island Since 1949



## Committees:

**Editor:** Conni Still, 631-472-1760

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**Librarian:** Lorraine Leacock

**Club Photographer:** Phyllis Stein

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Visit the club web site at:

[www.LongIslandBeekeepers.Org](http://www.LongIslandBeekeepers.Org)

- **Outreach Director:** Rick Cannone, 631-445-6266
- **Programs Director:** Moira Alexander, 631-664-6810
- **Immediate Past President/Director:** Steve Chen 646-625-9910

## Bee Board

- **President:** John Most, 516-361-3413
- **Vice President:** Walter Scott 516-428-1063
- **Treasurer:** Suzanne Cahill 917-714-3364
- **Secretary:** Marianne Sangesland, 631-680-5895\*
- **Membership Secretary:** Conni Still, 631-472-1760
- **Education Director:** Grace Mehl, 631-766-5648

## Next Meeting:

Sunday, 14 September, 2025

Sisters of St Joseph

Building 4

1-3 pm!

## MASTER BEEKEEPERS LIST

Moira Alexander, Smithtown.....	631-664-6810
Peter Bizzoso, Manorville.....	631-874-4750
Rich Blohm, Huntington.....	631-271-7812
Steve Chen*, Holbrook.....	646-625-9910
Carl Flatow, Oceanside.....	516-510-6227
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Katherine Luberto.....	631-965-7327
Joan Mahoney, N.Babylon.....	631-667-5339
Grace Mehl, Smithtown.....	631-766-5648
Fred Munzer, Dix Hills.....	631-243-3512
Marianne Sangesland, Smithtown....	631-680-5895
Walter Scott, West Hills Huntington..	516-428-1063
Wayne Vitale, Setauket.....	516-680-3020
Laurie Volel-Wilkowski.....	516-643-6011
Neal Wechsler, Lindenhurst.....	631-957-7136

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, Don't forget to go to the club website for the Rules for the Honey Judging Contest for next month. Are you a member in good standing? If not you will not be able to enter the contest, so bring your \$40 dues this month!**

**This month is HONEY TASTING MONTH! The categories are light, medium and dark. Each FAMILY may enter ONE JAR of honey to enter. So pick the category you are most likely to win and enter that jar that fits that class.**

**October is the Honey Judging Contest and the Smoker Lighting Contest.**

**Enjoy this beautiful weather 🐝🐝🐝**

**Event of the Month  
HONEY TASTING**



Figure 1 What's happening in the hive, this month!

## TEACHING APIARY NEWS

Our next Teaching Apiary session is 10:00 AM September 6th with Master Beekeeper Carl Flatow, then the next is September 20th with our Vice President, Master Beekeeper Walter Scott.

Please email the instructors at the addresses below to sign up! 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 NEWBEES. The instructors will determine when they have reached a limit for their session in accordance with what they are comfortable with. If there is rain, the instructors will decide whether to cancel or hold it inside. The instructor will notify you if a change in the schedule is necessary as long as you have provided a cell phone number.

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.

### September Schedule:

10:00, Saturday, September 6th - Carl Flatow, contact at [Carl.flatow@gmail.com](mailto:Carl.flatow@gmail.com)

10:00 Saturday, September 20th - Walter Scott, contact at [VP@Longislandbeekeepers.org](mailto:VP@Longislandbeekeepers.org)

contact at [Carl.flatow@gmail.com](mailto:Carl.flatow@gmail.com)

10:00 Saturday, September 20th - Walter Scott, contact at [VP@Longislandbeekeepers.org](mailto:VP@Longislandbeekeepers.org)

## LIBRARY REPORT:

Our Librarian is on a well-deserved vacation: returns only this month!

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](mailto:librarian@longislandbeekeepers.org)



## UPCOMING HONEY FESTIVALS

**Long Island Fair** is September 12th, 13th, and 14th at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration in Bethpage. Get details about entering at [lifair.org](http://lifair.org). ENTRY FORMS ARE DUE BY AUGUST 20th! You don't have to have your entries ready then, but, you have to fill out and submit the form by then.

**15th Annual NYC Honey Festival**, Saturday, September 13th, 2025 at 11:00 until 5:00 pm on the Boardwalk at B106th, Rockaway, NY

**National Honey Bee day** at Eisenhower Park: Cornell Cooperative Extension Nassau County Farmers Market is putting together a "Bee Grateful Market" -- A fun, family-friendly celebration of honeybees, beekeeping, and honey - on August 16th. They are inviting local beekeepers to contribute to a "Taste of the Island" honey flight at the market. You can join in the buzz by:

- Sharing a jar of you local honey
  - Share a few notes about your bees (location, plants, flavor, story)
  - There is an option to join the booth and chat with the public (and also vend additional jars of honey if you want)
- Contact Kathy at 917-873-2616 or email [greengreenhoney@gmail.com](mailto:greengreenhoney@gmail.com)

## Club News:

### CONDOLENCES:

Very sad to report the passing of long time member and Master Beekeeper, Miguel Valentin. From *Newsday* on August 31:

September is Honey tasting. The categories will be light, medium, and dark. Each FAMILY may only pick ONE JAR of honey to enter. So, pick the category you are most likely to win and enter your jar that fits that class.

- October is Honey judging contest. You can review the rules and categories on the website.
- October will be the smoker lighting contest as well.

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.**

We encourage you to mail to your government representatives regarding the administrations closing of the Beltsville research lab in Washington DC. It is imperative that you consider mailing this to your representatives as soon as possible during the USDA open comment period which ends on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Below are the emails and or FAX numbers. Please highlight the letter, copy and paste it into your email or document. Change the greeting to match who you are sending it to and send it ASAP! Multiple individuals from each family can mail/FAX this letter as well. Sample letter follows

1. Governor Kathy Hochul: FAX 603/271-7640 OR [governor.ny.gov](http://governor.ny.gov) (to send letter fill

out contact form, copy paste in comment section)

2. Senator Charles E. Schumer: FAX for Washington D.C. office (202)-228-3027, Syracuse office, (315) 423-5185. Email address; [senator@schumer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@schumer.senate.gov)
3. Senator Kristen Gillibrand: FAX for Washington D.C. office (202) 228-4977, Buffalo office, (202) 224-0039. Email address; [kirsten\\_gillibrand@gillibrand.senate.gov](mailto:kirsten_gillibrand@gillibrand.senate.gov)
4. Congressman Nick LaLota: FAX for Hauppauge office 202-225-3143.
5. Congressman Thomas Suozzi: FAX for Queens office 631-777-7610. Email address; [Justin.Connor@mail.house.com](mailto:Justin.Connor@mail.house.com)
6. Congressman Andrew Garbino: FAX for Washington D.C. office (202) 226-2279, district office, (516)-541-6602
7. Director of US department of Agriculture; Brooke Rollins; email:[reorganization@usda.gov](mailto:reorganization@usda.gov)

Dear Congressperson.....,

I'm writing in regards to the USDA reorganization plan currently being considered. As proposed, this USDA reorganization plan will eliminate a central USDA laboratory presence in the Northeast Region, namely the Beltsville Maryland USDA Laboratory. This facility contains 17 agricultural research laboratory units including the Beltsville Honey Bee Laboratory. Eliminating the Beltsville Lab will effectively eliminate the region as a whole from the geographic structure of the organization.

A complete closure of the Beltsville Laboratory facility would leave the entire Northeast Region without a USDA facility in the region of the country that pays more into federal coffers than it receives in federal funding. Although there are other USDA laboratories in the country, the Beltsville MD Lab is very important in representing the needs of Northeast agricultural

industry, and the Honey bee lab which specifically supports commercial, sideline and hobbyist Beekeepers.

Every resident of the states that comprises the Northeast Region should be furious that they will no longer have a federal research laboratory located in and representing the needs of the Northeast Region! These states include: ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, WV, and VA.

Honey bees are the economically the most important pollinators of our crops and through pollination services alone, contribute \$18 Billion annually to the U.S. economy. The ability to move colonies of Honey bees from crop to crop makes them uniquely suited to support numerous large crops, such as Apples, Blue Berries, Pumpkins, Stone Fruits, Melons, Almonds, among many others. Domestic honey production is another \$350 Million annually. At a time when losses of honey bees are at an all-time high, and new threats, in the form of invasive pests, are an imminent danger, the Beltsville Honey bee research laboratory is key in securing our future food security.

Please oppose the closure of the Beltsville facility as a whole, and specifically the closure of this the Beltsville Honey bee laboratory as its significant contribution to the health of honey bees and our future food security. The contributions of this lab and the expertise of the researchers The loss of this location and team, would impact the Honey bee industry, which is already under tremendous pressure on so many fronts, for many years to come. Please give this matter your utmost attention and oppose the closing of this key component of the USDA network.

Thank you for your time regarding this matter.



The hot weather prevented many people from treating hives for Varroa mites until recently, although it should not have kept you from conducting mite counts! Now that the weather is not so hot, if your counts are above 2-3 mites per 100 bees, you should consider treating. If you are not sure how to do a mite count, go to <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/varroa-management/>. This site provides videos and info on managing Varroa mites.

VSH bees are sometimes able to keep the mite count down. But, you don't know that unless you do a count. If you have high counts, treatment is in order if you want the bees to survive. Colonies that have high mite counts can be requeened with a more hygienic queen *after* you get the mite count down. Putting in a young VSH queen in late Summer is a great way to ensure your bees come out of Winter strong. But, is it also an option to requeen a hive in the Spring, *if you get the colony through the winter*. In Spring, it is often easier to find the queen and remove her to a nuc

(good insurance) and put a new VSH queen in that hive. This is also a great way to prevent Swarming!

Reports of Small Hive Beetle infestations are coming in. Small Hive Beetles can fly many miles to enter a hive. It only takes a small crack, a bad box corner, or screened bottom board or inner cover for beetles to enter. A strong hive guards the entrance. But, even a strong colony cannot guard the entire screened bottom board! Small Hive Beetles have become an issue on Long Island, where they weren't much of one before the last couple of years. Traps and swiffer sheets can help keep the numbers down once they get into the hive. But, it is better to *keep them out* with strong colonies guarding the entrance and no un-intended openings that they can squeeze in through.

Soil treatments such as Diatomaceous Earth or nematodes, etc, can keep the pupae from becoming adults around your hive. But, it doesn't keep the adults from flying in from other hives in the area. Hives that fail to thrive for any reason can then become breeding grounds for Small Hive Beetles as well as Wax Moths. Being a conscientious beekeeper means not letting a dead-out become a problem for other colonies by becoming a breeding ground for pests. Properly store away equipment after losing a hive to keep it from becoming a problem for your other colonies or any of your neighbors (who may be miles away and still suffer from the pest pressure from a neglected dead out).

Speaking of wax moths, they are another pest that can move into a weak hive, but, they especially like to move into improperly stored equipment. As you take off supers or condense hives during the dearth, which is a good idea to help bees protect their space, it is important to prevent pests from moving in. Most honey supers are nice white wax combs. But, darker combs are more at risk. Pest such as Wax Moths especially like dark comb that has held brood as they eat the pupal skins and fecal matter that the bees wax over in this dark comb after the brood emerges. Using Paramoth, BT402 (Certan) or keeping frames frozen will keep wax moths

from invading. These products have instructions on the labels. The important thing is to store them properly to prevent loss of your valuable comb and prevent pest pressure by allowing breeding in stored equipment.

The nectar flow is very "nicky", meaning, some have some flow going on and others are definitely in a dearth. Bees in dearth can become more defensive. Working bees during a dearth is more challenging than working bees on a nectar flow. Robbing can be triggered by simply opening hives during a dearth or spilling honey or syrup in the bee yard. Using extra inner covers to cover boxes as you remove them, working quietly and efficiently is even more important. Working hives first thing in the morning or later in the afternoon when less bees are flying can sometimes work better. This is not the time to admire every frame. But, you do have to make sure your colonies are queenright and healthy! Pay attention to the entrances of your hives and watch what is coming in. Watch for fighting or signs of robbing. Smaller colonies can be robbed out in a matter of hours. A wet sheet, robbing screen, or even a sprinkler over the hive might be needed to stop robbing. Keep smaller hive entrances smaller.

There is definitely a dearth where I am in Smithtown. Maybe you are lucky and have something blooming for the bees. If so, you are truly blessed. During a dearth, there is not enough nectar coming in for the bees' daily sustenance. There probably is still pollen available, and the bees will gather this and store it for use during the Spring buildup. But, this means they must dig into their stores of honey and nectar for daily survival. They eat the open nectar/honey first. They will avoid eating the capped honey if at all possible. They will cut back on raising brood, even though the queen may lay, and the bees will cannibalize the eggs/brood if there is no food coming in. The queen will slow down on her laying if her food is decreased. The bees may start throwing out the drones and that includes the drone pupae. You may see them on the landing board, especially on rainy days when they can't fly them away.

The mites, who prefer the drone larvae, will now enter the worker brood at higher rates, due to scarcity of drone brood. If the level of mite infestation has not been kept under control up to this point, this influx of mites to the worker brood and the adult

workers can devastate the worker population. You can see the deformed wings from viruses, spotty brood and dry larvae who are not being fed due to lack of young worker bees emerging, that is typical of Parasitic Mite Syndrome (PMS). Once the colony reaches this point, turning it around is nearly impossible. Treating them is still the right choice, so those mites don't spread to other hives. Hopefully, you have been monitoring your colonies for mite loads and treating as necessary and never get to this point. Those hives that require repeated treatment to keep mites under control, should be marked for requeening with better genetics in the Spring.

Working bees in a dearth can also be challenging. Opening a hive and exposing the alluring scents of the hive to other bees can cause robbing to start. Keeping each box covered with an inner cover, plywood, towel or other helps to keep robbers out. Be careful not to spill honey or syrup. Working quickly and not lingering longer than necessary is important, as well. Having a second person working with you during inspections can definitely help with this. One person lifts, the other covers. Timing is everything. Going in first thing in the morning or late afternoon when less bees are flying can help as well.

There will be no more honey production this season. Preparations for Winter should be underway now. Condensing the hive down to the size you intend to winter, needs to be accomplished by removing any foundation frames, and empty frames of no value to the wintering colony. Sometimes the bottom box will be empty, so, make sure you go down to there and get that empty box off. You must do this before you feed if you need to feed. Feeding heavily and early gives the bees a chance to store and dehydrate the syrup. If the hive is light, start feeding now! Feeding for Winter means feeding 2:1 syrup. Syrup can be stored in the frames where the bees need it. The thicker syrup makes it less work for the bees to dehydrate the syrup for storage.

Fondant is an emergency food for Winter. If the bees were not able to store enough nectar/honey/syrup, then fondant or sugar or candy boards are necessary to get the bees through to Spring. Bees don't store these solid foods. They eat them. So, they should not be used now. Save these solid foods for January or February time frame, when the bees have moved through their stores and are at the top of the hive, just under the inner cover.

Planning ahead is part of being a beekeeper. If you are not thinking a season ahead, you are behind!

#### Upcoming events:

- October is Honey judging contest. You can review the rules and categories on the website.

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- Walter needs three volunteers to assist with the the honey judging at the October meeting. Please see him to volunteer for this.
- October will be the smoker lighting contest as well.

**LINKS**

[Charles Mraz Apitherapy Course & Conference \(CMACC\): One Health & Honeybees](#)

[This is BARC](#)

*VISIT THE CLUB WEBSITE AT*  
[WWW.LONGISLANDBEEKEEPERS.ORG](http://WWW.LONGISLANDBEEKEEPERS.ORG)

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