

The “BEELINE” LONG ISLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB, INC.

Keeping Bees on Long Island Since 19



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Visit the club web site at:

www.LongIslandBeekeepers.Org

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- **Treasurer:** Suzanne Cahill 917-714-3364
- **Secretary:** Marianne Sangesland, 631-680-5895*
- **Membership Secretary:** Conni Still, 631-472-1760

Next Meeting:

Sunday, 25 January, 2026

Sisters of St Joseph

Building 4

1-3 pm!

MASTER BEEKEEPERS LIST

Moira Alexander, Smithtown.....631-664-6810
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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>



Dear Beekeepers,

Happy New Years to you All. Before you know it the bees will be buzzing, but right now it is time to renew your Long Island Beekeepers Club Membership Dues! You have several ways to take care of this: Go onto our website, and click onto the membership link and pay via PAYPAL, Mail a check to LIBC for \$40 to me, Conni Still, 82 Stephen Road, Bayport NY 11705, or bringing \$40 LIBC check or \$40 exact cash to the next meeting. Paying in advance makes our meeting much easier and less waiting lines. Look forward to seeing you all. 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 🇺🇸





Speaker of the Month:

Robyn Underwood, who will be speaking about drones.

Dr. Robyn Underwood was born and raised in Pennsylvania. She studied Entomology and Applied Ecology for her BSc from the University of Delaware, Newark, DE, where she fell in love with honey bees and beekeeping while taking a course in Apidology with Dewey Caron. She went on to study honey bees further by researching the use of formic acid to control parasitic mites in colonies kept indoors for the winter at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, where she obtained her PhD. She returned to PA and continued conducting applied research while working as an Assistant Professor of Biology at Kutztown University, and later as an Assistant Research Professor at Penn State University, University Park, PA. Her research and extension work has allowed her to interact with the large network of beekeepers from across the commonwealth, as stakeholders, advisors, and students. Robyn is very excited to have joined Penn State Extension in 2022, where she continues to engage with the beekeepers in PA and beyond while conducting applied research.

TEACHING APIARY NEWS

Dates for Spring to be posted soon!

LIBRARY REPORT:

NOVEMBER ACTIVITY

7 books signed out by 5 members

3 books renewed by 3 members

3 books returned by 2 members

Hoping everyone has time to finish reading by the January 2026 meeting. The library will only be accepting returns this month. Annie McClintock graciously volunteered to collect books so please be sure to give them to her.

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](mailto:librarian@longislandbeekeepers.org):

librarian@longislandbeekeepers.org



thank a few specific people for their contributions:

Patti Wiggin did a fantastic job of keeping track of attendees and payments, making absolutely sure everyone could find her at the meetings with her holiday spirit head gear!

Moira Alexander made sure the event went off with class and style as is her forte! She made the gift exchange fun and also made sure that the door prizes were abundant and sweet!

Joan Mahoney Assisted in the organization and planning as well as backing up Patti.

Many others contributed door prizes and stories and great company. Thank You to ALL! Have a fantastic Holiday Season and may your bees thrive. See you all in January!



Holiday Party News!

Thank You to all the people who contributed to a *GREAT Holiday Party!* The food was terrific, the door prizes fantastic, and the company was **THE BEST!** If you missed it, better luck next year! Many contributed, but I want to especially

Upcoming events:

Hey Beeks and Wannabees!

The club beekeeping classes have been scheduled. The Beginning Beekeeping class will be held on Saturday, January 10th and the Intermediate Beekeeping class will be held on Saturday, March 14th. You can sign up on the website for either or

Volume 34, Edition 1

both! These classes are open to all members. Newbees must become members by the time the class is held to participate.

Beginner Beekeeping (Saturday, January 10th, 2026)

A class designed for new beekeepers with limited to no experience.

Topics will include:

- Members of the hive
- Honey bee biology and life cycle
- Package bees vs. nucleus colonies and how to install Bees in equipment and get them started
- Bee diseases and pests
- Record keeping
- The Good Neighbor Policy

The book provided is *The Beekeeper's Handbook* and it is included in the price. Instructors are Long Island Beekeepers Club members. There will be time allotted to ask questions in the "break out" sessions. (If you already have the book, you can get a discounted price by contacting Grace)

The class will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Huntington, 109 Browns Rd, Huntington, NY 11743. Doors open at 8:15 AM and instruction will start at 8:30 AM with the day ending at approximately 2:00 PM. Coffee, bagels, and water will be available, or you can bring your own. You may bring a bag lunch if you desire.

Attendees must be members of the Long Island Beekeepers Club. Club dues are \$40 per year. Class price is \$65. Sign up on the website and pay by PayPal, or contact Grace to sign up and then send a check made out to **Long Island Beekeepers Club** to our treasurer: Suzanne Cahill, 30 Meadow Glen Rd, Northport, NY 11768.

If you have any questions or need to sign up without using PayPal, you can contact Grace on her cell at 631-766-5648 or at Education@longislandbeekeepers.org.

Intermediate Beekeeping (Saturday, March 14th, 2026)

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

Topics include:

- Spring Management/Readiness
- Varroa Monitoring and treatment
- Swarm prevention and bait boxes
- Queen evaluation and replacement

- Making splits and nucs
- Supering for nectar flow and honey harvesting
- Why did I lose my hive?

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

The class will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Huntington, 109 Browns Rd, Huntington, NY 11743. Doors open at 8:15 AM and instruction will start at 8:30 AM, with the day ending at approximately 2:00 PM. Coffee, water, and Bagels will be available. You can bring your own food and beverage if desired as well.

Attendees must be members of the Long Island Beekeepers Club. Club dues are \$40 per year. Class price is \$45. Sign up on the website and pay by PayPal, **or** contact Grace by texting her at 631-766-5648 to sign up and then send a check made out to **Long Island Beekeepers Club** to our treasurer: Suzanne Cahill, 30 Meadow Glen Rd, Northport, NY 11768.

If you have any questions, you can contact Grace on her cell at 631-766-5648 or at Education@longislandbeekeepers.org.

Hey Beeks!

Happy New Year to you, your family, and your bees! It seems like such a long time until our next meeting, which is January 25th. The bees are quiet as I write this, due to the cold weather. But, that doesn't mean you shouldn't make sure they are OK. I walk past my hives every couple of days and just check that the entrances are open and not clogged with dead bees. I like to see a couple of dead bees on the landing board, as that tells me the colony is alive and carrying out housekeeping when temperatures allow. I brush these bees off every time I pass, so I know the next time the discarded bee bodies are new ones.

I went to someone else's apiary yesterday and was surprised to find every entrance clogged with bees. We removed the entrance reducers and pulled out quite a large number of dead bees from each hive. I suspect the mite count there was high, causing these bees to not be able to thermo-regulate. The colonies were still alive, but, these high losses show they are at risk for not making it through the winter. Hopefully, the cluster is still large enough to maintain their warmth through the inevitable cold weather for

the remainder of the Winter (it really just started). If I had not visited these colonies and pulled out the dead bees, opening the bottom entrance, these bees would have certainly died from lack of oxygen. So, please check your entrances and make sure they aren't blocked off. We also put fondant on half of these colonies as they were right up at the top of the hive, showing that they probably ate through most of their stores already.

My bees at my home apiary are *mostly not "up"*, meaning they are still below their honey stores. I have 20 percent that are up, and I have fondant on these. The rest are still well down below their stores.

I am experimenting with a few broodminder temperature sensors in one hive, and put one on the top of the 2nd medium from the bottom and another on the top of the 3rd medium from the bottom. There are 4 mediums in this hive total with the top box solid honey and the 3rd box almost solid with honey in the Fall. These bees are still warming the lower sensor and haven't reach the upper one yet. Looking at this once a week or so gives me a good idea of where they are, how fast they are moving up, and will hopefully tell me when the queen starts laying. mRight now, the temperature at the cluster is about 70 degrees F. When the queen starts to lay, I expect to get a higher reading. If the sensor reads the center of the cluster where the brood is, I would expect it to read 93.5 F. But, the sensor may not end up being in the center of the cluster. Still, I would expect to get a higher temperature on one of the sensors, so I will be watching for this. to tell me when she starts to lay

I follow several beekeeping pages on facebook and it always comes up during the Winter that someone will say, "I'm worried about my bees, but it is too cold to open the hive to feed them". Although some days are better than others, it is *never* too cold to feed bees that need to be fed. People jump into freezing water and call it fun (Polar Bear Clubs). If you open the hive top and put the feed in and close it up quickly, you may lose a few bees, but save the entire colony. Don't let the cold stop you from feeding if your bees need it!

This is particularly important to think about over the next few months, as once the bees start raising brood, the extra warming and feeding will require them to eat more. Their daily usage of their stores will increase as the brood nest increases in size. This is why more bee colonies starve in February and March than any other time. Another question I get is how long will a fondant patty last? That depends... How big is the colony? How cold is it? Do they have brood? Are they wrapped? Are you ventilating or do you have a condensing hive? All these factors affect how long a patty will last in a hive. Checking every 10 to 14 days will tell you when you need to replace

the patty. Putting in two at a time is now my normal mode, and I put them right on the top of the topbars under the inner cover. The instructions allow for putting them on top of the inner cover, but, this puts the patty in the cold unless your have good insulation above it. Also, it leaves a gap where the bees have to climb up and will be separated from the cluster by the inner cover itself. On the topbars is a better option in almost every case.

On another note, there is a good article in the American Bee Journal about the International Honey Market and adulterated honey. Worth a read and it will really bring home why knowing your beekeeper is knowing your honey is the real deal. In the article, they have a QRC for another article from the U.K. as well. Here is the link for that article: <https://observer.co.uk/news/national/article/the-scandal-of-fake-foreign-honey> If you are thinking of getting the American Bee Journal, please ask for the coupon at the next meeting for a discount. Reading the latest news in the trade magazines is a good way to stay informed, in addition to coming to meetings.

Our Beginner class taught by volunteers from the club will be January 10th. The Intermediate beekeeping class for second year and beyond beekeepers will be March 14th. You can register on the website for these classes.

If you didn't get a bee book for Christmas, go on Amazon and get yourself one to read on snowy days! Recommendations are: The Honey Bee Solution to Varroa by Steve Riley; and one I haven't read yet, but just ordered called: Bottom-up Beekeeping: Learning From Debris On the Hive Floor by Ray Baxter. Stay warm and keep those entrances open!

The US Winter Capped Brood Monitoring Project's Citizen Science Initiative

The [US Winter Capped Brood Monitoring Project](#) is underway for its fourth season. Every two weeks from October to February, Auburn University, along with other universities and USDA labs from across the country, inspects colonies for capped brood. This effort helps us understand the best times for winter oxalic acid mite treatments and which areas will be most at risk for another parasitic mite, *Tropilaelaps*, if it is introduced to the US.

Volume 34, Edition 1

This winter, we're asking beekeepers across the US to help us with monitoring by inspecting up to three colonies during three windows: December 19th - 21st, January 2nd - January 4th, and/or January 16th - 18th. Inspections will be quick and report a simple Yes or No if capped brood is present.

Our website, <https://aub.ie/broodcsi>, has more information, monitoring instructions, and a link to submit observations. We thank you in advance for your consideration and participation!

[Winter Capped Brood Monitoring in Honey Bee Colonies / Auburn University College of Agriculture](#)



LINKS

[Queen bees are violently ousted if worker bees smell weakness | Popular Science](#)

[Beekeepers call for testing, certification to fight honey adulteration | Capital Press](#)

[2025: Ten Bee News Stories - About Bees, Culture & Curiosity - Apple Podcasts](#)

[Eye can see clearly now: Identifying the locus associated with a white-eye mutation in honey bees \(Apis mellifera\) - Shultz - Insect Molecular Biology - Wiley Online Library](#)

[Canadian beekeepers ask government to swat away overseas bee imports | National Post](#)

VISIT THE CLUB WEBSITE AT

WWW.LONGISLANDBEEKEEPERS.ORG

Check your account on the website every month