President’s Message
December 2017

Well, 2017 was a very successful year for Mass Bee. Our members certainly gained tremendous knowledge at our events; beginning with our March meeting in Topsfield sponsored by Essex County Beekeepers, we learned about national concepts treating for mites and back yard Queen rearing. Next was Field Day at U. Mass at a new location at the “Agricultural Center” sponsored and planned by Franklin County Beekeepers; there were many great visual demonstrations extremely well attended. Finally, we ended our year at Westfield State University hosted by our friends the Hampden County Beekeepers. The presenters explained Bee nutrition, dirty water and varroa treating strategies. The friendships we make with all of the county associations as they sponsor and plan the venues and associated meetings, dinners and luncheons makes for a very cohesive state organization. Everyone is working together for the greater good - a lot like a bee colony exists. As President, I enjoy how dedicated the Beekeepers are everywhere we go around the state.
I have to thank the Mass Bee Board of Directors because they guide our organization with thoughtful nudging in the right way to avoid any missed steps. Our web master is constantly tweaking our web page making it most user-friendly. He along with our members keep Facebook hopping with postings and notices for anyone who visits. The other job that our web master Ed does quite well is securing speakers on relevant topics for future meetings of the organization. This takes much time and coordination to get them booked for our targeted meeting dates. I know we all get busy but I can't thank our Board of Directors enough for all their hard work.

Thank You All!

We had a very exciting event occur at our fall meeting at Westfield State. We crowned a new Massachusetts State Honey Queen for 2018. Desiree Gracie is her name, and she and her folks are members of Worcester County Beekeepers. She is very excited about the prospect of representing Massachusetts Beekeepers all around this great State. I encourage all of the county organizations to contact me to invite her to one of your association events during the year. When you contact me I will give you all the details. With the rebirth of this important state association function we will possibly be able to put forth a candidate for the National Honey Queen program at ABF.

So as you have just read, we are moving forward as the State Association and expecting an even better 2018. A preview of next year's planning follows in this newsletter. Please give me your feedback whenever you see me. I’m always looking to improve all aspects of our State Association.

Your Friend,

Pete Delaney
President Massachusetts Beekeepers Association
EAS Overview
2017 & 2018
Eastern Apicultural Society

By Mary Duane

Are you looking to take your beekeeping to the next level and meet fellow beekeepers across the East Coast? If so, please consider attending the Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) conference this summer. E.A.S. is an international non-profit educational organization founded in 1955 for the promotion of bee culture, education of beekeepers, certification of Master Beekeepers and excellence in bee research. EAS is the largest non-commercial beekeeping organization in the United States and one of the largest in the world.

This coming year the conference will be in Hampton Virginia from August 13-17 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. During the first two days of the week, a short course will be held. This course has several tracks; it is designed for both beginners all the way to people who want to learn a beekeeping specialty. This year the short course will include a track on Queen rearing and Top Bar Hive techniques. The latter half of the week includes presentations from some of the leading Honey Bee researchers in the nation. Dr. Jamie Ellis, Randy Oliver, Mike Palmer, Dr. Julianna Wrangle, and Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda are confirmed to speak this summer. Also, throughout the whole conference a bee yard is set up with working hives. Attendees are able to go an open up hives with the skilled bee wranglers and fine tune their hive techniques—learn how to mark a queen with the pros.

If you are interested in taking the EAS Master Beekeeping certification exam you must register in advance. The exam contains four sections- lab practical, hive opening, written exam and oral exam. The exam is only administered during this yearly conference. There are three EAS certified Beekeepers in Massachusetts Alexandra Bartsch (Middlesex County), Mary Duane (Worcester County), and Carin Zinter (Franklin County).

Please consider competing in the EAS annual Honey show competition. What an honor it would be to say you have the best honey on the East coast. We all know that Massachusetts has the best honey in the country. Jim Gross from Nantucket has won in the past.

In the evenings, many delightful social events are planned. Barbeques, Bee rodeos, Bee jeopardy, square dancing are some of the social events in previous years. This year they are planning a Bee Keepers beach party. On Friday night, the annual EAS awards banquet is held.
For the shoppers and gadget people among us, please note that all of the major vendors and some really unique vendors are set up from Tuesday until Friday. I have been able to pick up some great deals, some new items, and novel bee items at this conference.

More detailed information and how to register for the conference can be found at easternapiculture.org. Please feel free to contact me (maryshoney@gmail.com) for more information about the conference. Check around your County club and see who has attended an EAS conference. Each year 20-30 folks from Massachusetts have been in attendance. Several of us in Massachusetts would love to host an EAS in our State in the near future.

Mary Duane
Worcester County Beekeepers Association
maryshoney@gmail.com

Mass Bee Fall Meeting Honey Show Winners 2017

Best 2 jars of light Honey: 1st – Kathy Varney  2nd – Julie Crocker

Best 2 jars of light Amber Honey: 1st – Jeff Russ  2nd – Alix Bartsch

Best 2 jars of Creamed Honey: 1st – Kathy Varney

Best 2 jars of Amber Honey: 1st – Jeff Russ  2nd – Alix Bartsch

Artistic Article made of Beeswax: 1st – Alix Bartsch  2nd – Kathy Varney

Best Piece of Beeswax 2lbs or more: 1st – Kathy Varney

Best Piece of Beeswax Under 2lbs: 1st – Kathy Varney – recipient of the
Ted Schylofsky Award for best wax in show
sponsored by Essex County Beekeepers Association

Best pair of straight, plain tapered molded candles: 1st – Kathy Varney  2nd – Alix Bartsch

Best Novelty Candles: 1st – Kathy Varney

Best Still Mead: 1st – Kathy Varney

(continued next page)
Mass Bee Fall Meeting Honey Show Winners 2017

Cooking Division – Best Sweet Treat made with Honey

1st – Kathy Varny – Salted Honey Caramels in Chocolate
   Perfect score of 100 points

2nd – Alix Bartsch – Honey Filled Chocolate Bees

3rd – Jeff Russ – Ginger Honey Pie

Most Points in Honey Show: Kathy Varny
There are two key developments to report regarding Representative Carolyn Dykema’s bill, **H.2113, An Act to Protect Massachusetts Pollinators**.

First, to recap: In January, Representative Dykema re-filed H.2113 and it was co-sponsored by an unprecedented 135 legislators. Subsequently, in a further demonstration of support, Senator Jamie Eldridge filed an identical companion bill, **S.2164, An Act protecting Massachusetts pollinators**. On June 16, H.2113 was assigned to the **Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (ENRA)** and on October 3, 2017 a hearing on H.2113 was held at the Statehouse. The testimony in favor of H.2113 was very well received by ENRA.

Since the previous update, H.2113 was unanimously approved and reported favorably by the ENRA. As a result, it arrived at the **House Ways and Means Committee** on November 20 and, in the process, received a new bill number. The new bill number is **H.4041 - An Act to protect Massachusetts pollinators**. This means that the dialog shifts slightly to reference the new bill number. All this changing of bill numbers can be confusing, but this is how the legislature works. To learn more about the legislative process please refer to **How An Idea Becomes A Law - Massachusetts Legislature** and **The Legislative Process in Massachusetts**. H.4041 is at the beginning of the “Three Readings” phase of a bill’s journey on it’s way to becoming law.

H.4041 seeks to limit the use of the neonicotinoid class of systemic pesticides to licensed pesticide applicators only. It also contains a disclosure component that gives consumers the information they need to opt out of purchasing pesticide application services where neonicotinoids are used. The states of Maryland and Connecticut have already passed similar legislation and other states are also considering it. It is common sense legislation whose time has arrived.

In another development, Representative Dylan Fernandes’ bill **H.3927, An Act empowering towns to protect their environment and residents from harmful pesticides** had a hearing on October 17. Representative Fernandes is a member of **ENRA** and the hearing on his bill was well attended and received overwhelmingly favorable testimony.

If you would like to call, email or meet with your legislators in person to urge them to support these bills you can find them at [https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator](https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator).

Cliff Youse

Plymouth County Beekeepers Association
Massachusetts Beekeeper of the Year Information

What is the nomination process and criteria for Mass Bee Beekeeper of the Year?

❖ A person does not have to be a Massachusetts Beekeepers Association member, but must be a member in good standing of a Massachusetts County Beekeeping organization.

❖ This is a person who has willingly provided his or her time and knowledge over the years to help and educate others in the field of beekeeping.

❖ Nominees are submitted by the County Club president; this is a person who has demonstrated his/her willingness to help, train and educate others in the many aspects of beekeeping.

❖ The governing committee consists of David Thayer and two past recipients of the Massachusetts Beekeeper of the Year Award for a total of three people. The interim committee will be Dave Thayer and one past awardee and one other of his choosing if no other past awardees come forward.

❖ Deadline: All nominations must be submitted via email to Dave Thayer (wolfoog@hotmail.com) by the third week of January, 2018. This gives time to for the committee to determine the recipient of the Massachusetts Beekeeper of the Year award and to have the award completed and ready to be presented at our spring meeting.

Any questions, please contact David Thayer at wolfoog@hotmail.com. Thank you!
NOTICES

Honey Request - AG DAY ON THE HILL – Spring 2018

Every year MASS BEE sends a contingent of Beekeepers to the State House to distribute small jars of Honey to all the state Legislators and Representatives. We need your help to accomplish this task; I am requesting each county club to contribute two cases of 8oz. jars of unlabeled honey for our distribution.

2018 Labels will be printed; each County that contributes will be named on this label.

I plan on attending the spring Mass Bee meeting in March to accept your clubs donation. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you!
Susan Robinson  smrbus10@msn.com

We now have a 3rd EAS Certified Master Beekeeper in Massachusetts!

A big congratulations to Carin Zinter of Franklin County Beekeepers Association for passing the Master Beekeepers exam at EAS this summer.

May 20th 2018  World Bee Day is Official!

Join Suzanne Broulliette on a Beekeeping Tour to Slovenia to experience and celebrate the very first World Bee Day (May 20th, 2018) in the land of the Carniolan Bee and the country that proposed the initiative to the United Nations. This spring’s tour promises to be a very special one! For more information, contact Suzanne at beeslovenia@gmail.com or call (603) 499-3730.

WEB SITE:  www.slovenianbeekeeping.com
Mass Bee is now accepting online applications! This makes it easy to join & keep dues and information up to date using a credit card. The form can be accessed here: https://www.massbee.org/membership/ 

To have your notice included in the next Mass Bee newsletter, please contact the editor at: correspondingsecretary@massbee.org

Massachusetts Beekeepers Association Officers

President: Peter Delaney 978-887-5726  president@massbee.org
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Webmaster: Ed Szymanski  508-528-1317  webmaster@massbee.org

Web Site: www.massbee.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsBeekeepers

Massachusetts Beekeepers Association Online Application:

https://www.massbee.org/membership/
Massachusetts Beekeepers Association Membership Application

Application Date: ____________________________
Check #: _______ Amount: ______________________
Membership Year: _____________________________
New: ______________ Renewal: _________________

All Memberships run from January 1st through December 31st in a given year.

NAME(S): ___________________________________________________________________________

ORGANIZATION: _____________________________________________________________________

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP TYPE:  Individual $ 15.00 ___________
                                   Family    $ 20.00 ___________
                                   Organization $25.00 ___________

ADDRESS: ___________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

EMAIL #1: ___________________________________________________________________________

EMAIL #2: ___________________________________________________________________________

PHONE: ____________________________________________________________________________

County Beekeeping Association: _______________________________________________________

Completed applications along with payment made out to the “MBA” should be mailed to:

MBA Memberships
PO BOX 234, Halifax, MA 02338

Applications may also be emailed to treasurer@massbee.org

Or fill out the form online on our web site at https://www.massbee.org/membership/

Annual membership dues are subject to change; please check our web site for current information.