President’s Message  
September 2018

Hopefully you all have had a great summer with your bees. The weather has certainly cooperated with plenty of sunshine and heat as well as moisture in a couple of forms, rain and humidity. I ask that as you harvest your honey and wax this season that you consider entering in the Honey, Wax and Cooking Show at the fall meeting at Bristol Community College on November 17th. The rules for entering are on the Mass Bee website for all to see. A new judge has been asked to judge and has accepted, she will bring some new views and comments to our show.

The last time we were together was at “Field Day” at UMass, presented by Franklin County Beekeepers. It was a very nice sunny warm day. We learned a lot at all the sessions that were presented. Hopefully you gained some new knowledge, and you tried some of the new beekeeping techniques you learned. The great thing about beekeeping is that you are always learning and “Mother Nature” is always challenging you to pay close attention.

On Saturday November 17th we are all gathering to receive new information from 2 speakers, Dr. Jaime Ellis and Dr. Samuel Ramsey along with a new Honey and Wax judge Ann Harman. The folks from Bristol County Beekeepers lead by Kitty DeGroot have done an outstanding job putting together this meeting. They pulled out all the stops! It is shaping up to be a tremendous meeting! So, get your entries ready, reserve a room to stay the weekend and participate in all the activities they’ve planned. See you Friday evening the 16th for dinner and on the 17th for the meeting.

As always if you have any ideas or thoughts that you would like the Board of Director’s to consider please email or call and I will include it on our agenda when we next meet. The Board of Director’s meets quarterly to meeting. We have been quite successful with this approach, getting much more participation.

-continued next page-
Lastly, I encourage anyone who is interested to help lead this organization to please bring their name forward at the fall meeting for inclusion on the list of nominees to be elected to a position on the Mass Bee Board of Director’s. It is quite rewarding when you see how the interactions of beekeepers brings out best in all of us.

Thanks for making this association great!

Pete

Peter Delaney

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**MASSACHUSETTS 2019 STATE HONEY QUEEN**

Are you a young lady at least 16 years of age interested in promoting honeybees? Have you participated in your county organization? Would you like to travel around the state talking to people about why you think honey bees are important to our environment? Could you use a scholarship to school valued up to $1000? If you are chosen and serve for year you will also qualify to enter the national program run by the American Beekeeping Federation and have the potential to become the American honey queen or princess. If interested contact Chris Delaney at Cadelaney13@Gmail.com for an application form. Applications will be due November 1st and need to include a list of your beekeeping experience and an essay. The Honey Queen Will be chosen at the November meeting in Bristol County.
DO YOU HAVE A VISION FOR MASS BEE?

The Constitution and By-Laws of the Massachusetts Beekeepers Association contain a Purpose statement. “The purpose of this organization is to promote education in matters relating to honey bees and beekeeping, to assist its affiliate associations in promoting successful beekeeping in the state of Massachusetts, to foster congeniality among the state’s beekeepers, and to protect and foster the honey bee’s beneficial use in the state of Massachusetts.”

How do you see Mass Bee fulfilling that purpose statement? The association has always done a great job with 2 membership meetings, one in Spring and one in Fall, and a great summer Field Day event. Through these, we provide education and certainly foster congeniality among beekeepers. What else can we do? How can we assist the county associations in promoting successful beekeeping in Massachusetts?

My personal vision is one of an association that, in addition to the 3 meetings per year, puts on regional education events, provides outstanding education material through the newsletter and website, and works with the county associations on their educational programs and bee schools. I see us holding regional events to educate the general public about honey bees and what they can do to help, and to provide information to prospective new beekeepers on what is involved and how to get started.

What’s your vision? What do you see your state association providing to you and your county association? Do you want to help? Please share your thoughts with by email or at a Mass Bee event. Email me at lunariafarm@outlook.com.

Thanks in advance for your input.

Ed Szymanski

SAVE THE DATE! Upcoming Events, Meetings & More

*Monday October 15th (6-8pm) - Draft Apiary Regulations Stakeholder Meeting
  Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Central Regional Office, 8 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA 01606

*Saturday October 27th – Board of Directors Meeting – TBA

*Saturday November 17th – Mass Bee Fall Meeting and Annual Membership Meeting, hosted by Bristol County Beekeepers Association at Bristol Community College 777 Elsbree Street Fall River, MA 02720. Additional information provided in this Newsletter.

If you have an event you would like listed, please contact correspondingsecretary@massbee.org
As most of you have probably heard by now, H.4041 - An Act to protect Massachusetts pollinators did not make it to the floor for a vote before the end of the last formal session of the 190th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

We were all disappointed, but it is not uncommon for a bill to take several sessions to pass. There were many other widely supported bills that did not make it to the floor before the end of the formal session.

Although the bill did not pass this time, we have been extremely successful in raising awareness of the serious problems that neonicotinoids pose and of the significance of this legislation. There is now tremendous interest on the part of the legislature to see something happen. Several legislators have already indicated that they are looking forward to supporting the bill again, next year, in the 191st General Court. There is also an outside chance that there still could be some movement on the bill during the informal session, this fall. If that does not occur, it is my understanding that Representative Dykema will re-file the bill in January.

I want to thank to Tiffany and Jason at the Friends of the Earth for their hard work, dedication and passion in providing world class guidance, organization and logistical support to this effort.

Representative Carolyn Dykema is the driving force behind this effort. She filed the original bill in the 189th General Court and then re-filed it at the beginning of the 190th General Court in January of last year. She has shown tremendous leadership, vision and courage by taking on this cause. Throughout the process, Representative Dykema and her Legislative Aide, David, have always been extremely supportive and accessible to us as we learned to navigate the halls and corridors of the Statehouse, meeting with legislators and talking about the bill.

Thank you Representative Dykema.

To learn more about the legislative process please refer to How An Idea Becomes A Law - Massachusetts Legislature and The Legislative Process in Massachusetts

Cliff Youse
As many of you may recall, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), Apiary Program began an overhaul of Current Apiary Regulations (CMR 330 8.00) last year that resulted in MDAR’s 1st Draft of proposed Apiary Regulations. In January of this year it was announced that the Apiary Regulations revision process would be re-opened by holding an additional stakeholder meeting and public comment period. On February 12 a stakeholder meeting was held at the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (MASSWILDLIFE) Building in Westborough from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

Mandatory registration topped the list of proposed regulations that beekeepers oppose. There was also significant objection to the fact that the meeting was held during the middle of a work day. Given the scope and implications of mandatory registration, it was strongly felt that the Apiary Program should accommodate the beekeepers in a manner that made it possible for them to participate. It was therefore requested that MDAR hold multiple meetings in diverse locations throughout the Commonwealth at the end of the day or early evening to accommodate working people. In response to this objection MDAR agreed to an additional stakeholder meeting that was held on February 22 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Central Regional Office on New Bond Street in Worcester.

Opposition to the proposed regulations, including written submissions by Dan Conlon of Warm Colors Apiary and Glenn Card of Merrimack Valley Apiaries, focused primarily on several areas that are outlined in Mass Bee’s response to proposed Apiary Regulations:

- Unrealistic and burdensome record keeping and permitting requirements for importation of out of state bees and equipment.
- Mandatory registration.
- Unrealistic restrictions on the outdoor storage of equipment.
- Unreasonable disease reporting requirements that add no value.

Subsequently, based on the overwhelming opposition to the current proposed regulatory changes, one last stakeholder meeting to share updated draft regulations before moving forward to the formal Public Hearing process has been scheduled for:

**Date:** Monday, Oct 15, 2018  
**Time:** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
**Location:** Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Central Regional Office
8 New Bond Street
Worcester, MA  01606

Prior to the meeting date, a second revised draft of the regulations will be sent out for review. Following this meeting, a formal Public Hearing including a written comment period during which formal comments may be submitted by those who cannot attend will be announced. When the second draft becomes available, it
will be critical for everyone to review it and be prepared to respond both at the additional stakeholder meeting and at the hearing. There will be no additional draft revisions prior to the hearing.

The following links point to details about the current regulations, the proposed regulations and Mass Bee’s response:

- Current Apiary Regulations (CMR 330 8.00)
- 1st Draft of proposed Apiary Regulations
- Mass Bee's response to proposed Apiary Regulations

Cliff Youse

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**Fall Meeting - Raffle**

Each year at our Spring and Fall meetings we have a raffle to help offset the costs associated with these meetings. Items raffled are generously donated by our terrific vendors and supporters. The prices for raffle tickets are 1 for $1, 6 for $5, or 15 for $10.

This year you will get to put your raffle ticket(s) into boxes associated with specific items which you will be able to view before the raffle. The winning ticket will be drawn from each box.

This year we will also be raffling a donated gift with the proceeds being targeted to the Honey Queen program to help offset the costs associated with attending various functions and events. A beautiful quilt artwork donated by Vermont Quilt Bee will be this year’s item for the Honey Queen program.

*Photo of “Honeybee & Bellflower”, donated by Hope Johnson of Vermont Quilt Bee for raffle. It is a 23” x 23” framed quilted appliqué, retail value $300.00.*
Message from Kim Skyrm, MA Chief Apiary Inspector

MDAR Apiary Program Update for Mass Bee Newsletter – Fall 2018

Welcome our New Inspector – Bob Grady!

Please join me in welcoming *Bob* to the Apiary Program inspection team, who was hired to fill the vacant inspector position for the 2018 bee season. His primary service area is Eastern MA. He has been working with the inspection team, training and getting additional experience over the past few months. He is now starting to schedule with beekeepers. So, if you live in Eastern MA and are waiting for an inspection, you may be hearing from him soon!

A Varroa Mite Program for New England Honey Beekeepers

The Massachusetts and Maine Apiary Programs were collaboratively awarded a grant through the Northeastern IPM Center to provide Varroa mite education designed specifically for New England honey beekeepers. In an effort to determine honey beekeeper needs and design the most appropriate educational materials, please complete this survey and share your feedback: [https://goo.gl/forms/BS1PLsVyotEuX3Bt2](https://goo.gl/forms/BS1PLsVyotEuX3Bt2).

Last chance to report winter dead-outs from the 2017-18 season

Please participate in the annual [Massachusetts Honey Bee Survey April 2017 - April 2018](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-honey-bee-survey-april-2017-april-2018). This is the prime source for local data on honey bee health and also assists the MDAR Apiary Program in determining needs for future work. We have only had a total of 48 responses thus far representing 107 colonies across the Commonwealth. We need more responses to get an adequate portrait of our winter losses this past year, especially given the unique weather conditions that honey bees were exposed and high losses verbally reported to inspectors for some areas.

Alternately, if your organization, neighborhood, or local collective of beekeepers has been collecting similar data throughout the season, please feel free to email me the information and I will include as part of the statewide survey. Note that we are also open to any suggestions or comments which could improve the current survey to encourage more participation and data collection.

Update on 2018 Massachusetts Hobby Beekeeper Honey Bee Health Survey!

Thanks so much to the 73 beekeepers who contacted MDAR to participate in the 2018 Massachusetts Hobby Beekeeper Honey Bee Health Survey! It was difficult to narrow down the 40 participating apiaries to get the most geographic spread across the state, but we were able to do it in time to allow the UMass *Lynn Adler* Lab consisting of our new Honey Bee Extension Educator, *Hannah Whitehead*, to start early season sampling. Those selected apiaries are currently in the process of being visited to gather the remaining samples for lab analysis. Stay tuned for future updates about this exciting project!
Share your feedback on the Draft Apiary Regulations

We have scheduled an additional stakeholder meeting to share the draft Apiary Inspection Regulations 330 CMR 8.00 and have a group discussion before moving forward in the formal public hearing process. Given the busy bee field season and consideration of stakeholder schedules, this meeting is scheduled for:

Monday, October 15th 6-8pm

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Central Regional Office
8 New Bond Street
Worcester, MA 01606

Prior to the meeting date, the draft regulations will be provided for review. Note that this meeting is intended to be a discussion between stakeholders and MDAR and not a formal public hearing. A formal public hearing will follow this meeting at a later date that will be announced, so there will be plenty of time to submit comments if you are unable to attend. Comments can also be submitted anytime via email to kim.skyrm@mass.gov.

Visit a State Apiary and get your BEEK on!

Join Apiary Program Team for the remaining monthly educational demonstrations offered on each date and time at both State Apiary locations listed below. These events are open to the public, but will focus on the topics of interest to beekeepers. Please remember to bring the required protective clothing (i.e. bee suit and/or bee veil with long pants and closed toed shoes) that you will need to enter a State Apiary. Note that alternate dates will be provided in the event of inclement weather.

Time: 10 am-noon

Dates - Topics:
Saturday, October 13th – Winter Prep

State Apiary Locations:
1. UMass Agricultural Learning Center (ALC) Farm

    911 North Pleasant St
    Amherst, MA 01002

    -park in the field adjacent to the apiary
2. Essex Technical High School
   565 Maples St
   Danvers, MA 01923
   -park in the lot behind to the old Administration building, where the school buses are lined up

Join the Apiary Program Mailing List!
We recently added the option for folks to receive email alerts and program updates:
https://www.mass.gov/forms/join-the-apiary-program-mailing-list. There are currently 79 people on the list. Please consider signing up now to stay up to date on our efforts to improve honey bee health in Massachusetts!

Mass Bee Field Day
June 15th 2018 at the State Apiary UMass Amherst

Thank you, Pete and Chris, for all you did to help set up and clean up. Nice summary of the day. Our field day committee members felt things went well. Lunch was disappointing for those that did not get a sandwich. We added eight first time presenters to the Field Day roster, for the second year State Bee Inspectors provided mite programs and inspection tips, and we had vendors delivering orders at reduced prices. The weather was sunny and warm. I am personally pleased that we have again put on this event free to all beekeepers - true to our original mission to include everyone with an interest in beekeeping. And it is always great to see old friends. At mid-day, we counted (estimated) about 350 participants.

Many thanks to those who volunteered to share their beekeeping knowledge, and offer to do the setup, cleanup, registration and the sales that keep this summer event going. All in all, another great day of beekeeping.

Hope to see everyone next year,

Daniel Conlon
warmcolors@verizon.net
www.warmcolorsapiary.com

Pictures courtesy Ed Karl
2018 EAS Meeting

The Eastern Apicultural Society held its annual conference this past August in Virginia. Twenty-eight of the 800 plus people that were in attendance over the week were from Massachusetts. Leading Honey bee researchers from all over the country presented a tremendous amount of the latest information on Honeybee health and management. The evenings were filled with relaxing social events including a Beekeeper beach party on the Chesapeake Bay. Next year’s conference will be held in Greenville North Carolina. In 2020, the conference will be up north at the University of Maine in Orono. The EAS has a lot to offer Beekeepers of all abilities. As the Massachusetts Delegate to EAS, please feel free to contact for more information at maryshoney@gmail.com.

I hope that you will consider joining us at EAS this coming year!

Mary Duane

2018 EAS Honey Contest
Picture courtesy Mary Duane
NOVEMBER 17, 2018
8AM-5PM

SAVE THE DATE FOR:

MASS BEE FALL 2018 MEETING

HOSTED BY BRISTOL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Mass Bee Presents:

Speakers Dr. Jamie Ellis from the University of Florida, Dr. Samuel Ramsey from the USDA, and Ann Harman, contributor to Bee Culture Magazine, will be featured at this year's fall meeting in Fall River, MA. The day will also showcase honey and photo contests, vendors and an auction.

Please visit the Mass Bee and Bristol County Beekeepers Association websites for more information as the date approaches.

Bristol Community College
777 Elsbree Street
Fall River, MA 02720

WWW.MASSBEE.ORG
Mass Bee Fall Meeting Details

Saturday, November 17, 2018        8 AM – 5 PM
Bristol County Community College, Building H, Fall River MA

Come join us for an outstanding educational event hosted by Bristol County Beekeepers Association.

**SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Jamie Ellis**        University of Florida Department of Entomology and Nematology
Jamie's presentations:
The Birds and the Bees: Well just the Bees
What is Killing the Bees and What Can We Do About It

**Dr. Samuel Ramsey**        Recently received PhD from the University of Maryland and currently with the USDA.
Sam's presentations:
* Varroa destructor Feed On Hemolymph and Two Other Alternative Facts
* Tropilaelaps Mites: A Fate Worse Than Varroa

**Ann Harman**        Bee Culture magazine contributor
Ann will be the judge of this year’s Honey Contest 's and will give a presentation on Honey and Honey Shows

**VENDORS CONFIRMED**

* BRUSHY MOUNTAIN
* BETTERBEE
* MANN LAKE
* SLOVENIAN BEEKEEPING TOURS & HIVES
* STARAHART HOLLOW
* VERMONT QUILT BEE

Please contact Kitty de Groot if you are interested in vending at kittydegroot@hotmail.com

Details and schedule will be available soon on our web site https://www.massbee.org

Updates & notices will be posted on the Mass Bee Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsBeekeepers/ and shared in our Facebook group https://www.facebook.com/groups/147828892482523/
All attendees must be current Mass Bee members or current high school or BCC students. If you are not currently a member or student, you can join online or pay for membership at the door ($15 for individual, $20 for family and $25 for organization.) Payments by credit card are accepted on our web site via Mass Bee’s online membership form → https://www.massbee.org/membership/

LUNCH OPTIONS AND REGISTRATION/RESERVATIONS

Lunch options and Registration / Reservation information will be forthcoming on our web site https://www.massbee.org Please note lunch MUST be reserved at least 1 week before the meeting (deadline is November 9th.) Lunches will not be available for purchase at the event.

AREA ACCOMODATIONS

Hampton Inn
  Address: 53 Old Bedford Rd, Westport, MA 02790
  Phone: 844-246-2295

Tiverton Casino Hotel
  Address: 777 Tiverton Casino Blvd, Tiverton, RI 02878-2497
  Phone: 401-816-6000

Best Western
  Address: 737 State Road, North Dartmouth, MA, 02747
  Phone: (855) 680-3239

Fairfield Inn
  Address: 185 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, MA
  Phone: 855-516-1090

CONTESTS

HONEY AND COOKING CONTESTS - No experience necessary.

MassBee and the Bristol County Beekeepers Association (BCBkA) welcome beekeepers to submit honey and cooking samples from their 2018 honey harvest for this year's honey and cooking contests. This is a great chance to learn more about creating and delivering superior hive products. Your honey and food entries (including mead and honey beer) will be tasted and evaluated by industry professionals who will decide which entries stand out above the rest. There will be first, second and third Place winners in each entry category. NEW THIS YEAR – The county club with the most entries will also receive a ribbon. In addition to bragging rights, winners will receive a ribbon, will be announced during the MassBee 2018 Fall Meeting, and will be featured on the MassBee and BCBkA websites. Contest Rules and tips will be posted on the MassBee web site.
Photo Contest

We have all been seeing so many bee-related photos on Facebook that are absolutely amazing. So, we decided it was time to include a photo contest to help you share you bee-utiful artwork.

Photo Submittals
- Submit 5x7 unframed
- Must include permission form
- Must also give or deny permission for MassBee media use. (Website and printed material)
- Photos that have already been published on other formats can be submitted.
- Only one photo per person per category.
- There is no time or date limit for when the photo was taken.
- Entrants name must be on back of photo, with permission slip included, inside envelope.
- Photos can be submitted on Saturday during check in at 8:00 am – 10:30 am.
- Digital copies of the photo should be provided for MassBee to copy during registration.
- The Photos will be imprinted with the MassBee logo after the contest and used for digital media on the website and videos. (With permission and credits)

Judging
- These photos will be judged by a professional photographer(s).
- Judges will award only one winner from each category based on the following merits:
  - Uniqueness
  - Beauty
  - Technique
  - Subject Interest

Categories for submission
- Photo of Beekeeping – In the Bee Yard in the processes of keeping bees or just the beehives.
- Photo of Honey bees – Honey bees interacting with blooms, in the hive, and in their environment.
- Photo of Honey bees and People – Honey Bees and People interacting.
- Photo of Honey Bee Swarms – Catching swarms as they are happening and/or swarms once landed.

(No bees covering half clothed bodies, please)

Submissions can be picked up at the end of the conference.
Mass Bee is now accepting online membership applications! This makes it easy to join/renew & 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

Mass Bee Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officer nominees for 2019/2020, to be voted on at the Fall meeting:

President - Pete Delaney  
Vice President - Mary Duane  
Treasurer - Alex Rancourt  
Corresponding Secretary - Kitty de Groot  
Recording Secretary - Alix Bartsch

Ed Szymanski, Tom Graney, Mary Duane - Nominating Committee

REMINDER - CLUB PRESIDENTS

Please remember to submit your nominations for the Beekeeper of the Year. Submittals are due by December 28th, 2018. Hopefully we will have a nominee from each county. Nominations should be emailed to David Thayer at wolfoog@hotmail.com). Please note BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION in the subject line.

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.