

NEBEEC News You Can Use

www.nebeec.org

11 October 2025



Welcome to NEBEEC's first newsletter!

NEBEEC (Northeast Beekeepers Education Collaborative) is a new organization with the goal of bringing beekeepers in the Northeast US the best available and most current knowledge for beekeeping success and promoting collaborative learning. It isn't a club and doesn't have membership fees. What it does provide is a collaborative Slack-based community for members and a customized AI chatbot for answering beekeeping questions and analyzing images.

We plan to publish this newsletter monthly with relevant articles, updates, and upcoming events.

We need your feedback, suggestions and contributions to make this newsletter successful. If you have suggestions on items to include in future newsletters or any improvements, please contact us at nebeec@gmail.com

Together, we can make this a timely and beneficial resource for everyone!

If this newsletter was forwarded to you, please consider subscribing by sending mail to nebeec@gmail.com

If you would like to join our Slack community, please send mail to nebeec@gmail.com

Enjoy the first monthly newsletter and please forward it to all your beekeeper friends!

NEBEEC team

In this newsletter you can expect:

Meet
ChatGBeeT

Beekeeping
Nuggets

Podcasts

YouTube
Channels

Upcoming
Events

Books, Research
Updates

Recent Journal
Articles



Meet ChatGBeeT – Your New AI Powered Beekeeping Assistant

I'm an AI assistant designed specifically to help beekeepers like you make better decisions for your colonies. Think of me as your always-available beekeeping mentor, trained on evidence-based practices from experts like Randy Oliver and resources from UMass Extension and the Honey Bee Health Coalition.

I provide science-based, practical advice tailored to Massachusetts beekeepers (USDA Zones 5b-6b). Whether you're a beginner wondering about your first inspection or an experienced beekeeper dealing with a tricky treatment decision, I offer:

- **Real-time analysis** of hive photos to identify pests, diseases, and colony conditions
- **Treatment guidance** with specific dosages, timing, and weather considerations
- **Seasonal management** advice based on current conditions and forecasts
- **Confidence levels** with every recommendation, so you know when to seek additional help

How to Use Me

First, join the NEBEEC Slack community. Then, simply ask your question in any channel where I'm active by mentioning me (@ChatGBeeT).

For best results:

- Share photos when asking about hive conditions
- Include relevant details (colony history, recent treatments, observations)
- Ask follow-up questions if you need clarification

I analyze weather forecasts, consider seasonal timing, and reference current EPA labels for all treatment recommendations. While I can't replace hands-on experience or local mentors, I'm here 24/7 to help you make informed decisions backed by research and best practices.

Ready to improve your beekeeping? Just ask!



Beekeeping Nuggets

Over the last 2 years at least, incidents of **tracheal mite**-caused colony death have been reported in Massachusetts. Per MDAR, 10% of their samples this year were positive for tracheal mites. Formic Pro is not currently registered for treatment of tracheal mites, but Formic Acid is a well-known and effective treatment. So, if you don't have Formic Pro in your Varroa treatment rotation you may want to consider it for the future. And importantly – Oxalic Acid does nothing against tracheal mites.

Varroxsan has quickly become a very popular miticide. But many people have had issues with it restricting queen and worker activity around the strips and sometimes on entire halves of comb. If you'd like to share tips for effective use of Varroxsan mechanically and timing-wise, we'd love to include that in a future edition – anonymously if you choose.

Have you heard about **Norroa**? This is a novel, promising and recently federally approved RNAi-based Varroa treatment from GreenLight Biosciences of Massachusetts. Mann Lake is currently the sole distributor, and it is currently only registered for use in Kentucky. But Dr. Kim Skyrn of MDAR said on their October 3 call that it is expected that the responsible Massachusetts committee will review the application sometime this winter. Hopefully it will be available for purchase by Massachusetts beekeepers next spring. And, fingers crossed, this technology will be a means of attacking Tropilaelaps mites as well. For some more information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FyMYbO2R81E>

Podcasts

Beekeeping Today Podcast – Jeff Ott and Becky Masterman’s podcast is generally very informative. One of the recent episodes that might make you think about attending the North American Honey Bee Expo is:

<https://www.beekeepingtodaypodcast.com/351-kamon-reynolds-future-of-beekeeping/>

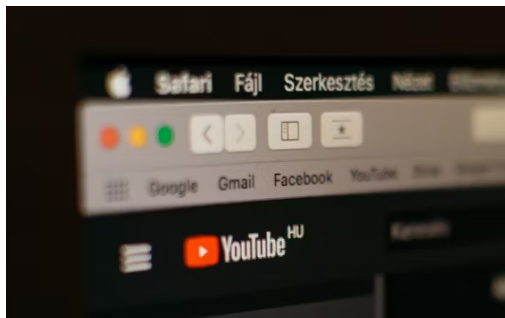
Honey Bee Obscura – Jim Tew does short podcasts approximately weekly on practical beekeeping. The most recent episode is:

<https://www.honeybeeobscura.com/250-last-chance-winter-prep/>



Two Bees in a Podcast - Amy Vu and Jamie Ellis's podcast is done approximately weekly. They cover a wide range of topics. An excellent recent episode is a discussion with Dr. Juliana Rangel titled “Honey Bee Nutrition and Unmanaged Bees”. You can find transcripts of their episodes on their website and can listen through most of the podcast platforms:

<https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honey-bee/podcast/>.



Beekeeping Made Simple – An excellent podcast on practical beekeeping with over 240 prior episodes available. A recent one is “How to Get Rid of Yellow Jackets.” At least in my yard, yellow jackets have been brutal this year despite what I thought was a successful yellow jacket queen trapping program this spring. I’ll need to go much bigger with that next year. In the meantime, it’s a food fight in the yard every day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P33Z0Z92up8&t=7s>.

YouTube Channels

Bob Binnie has a very popular and informative channel. An October 5, 2025 post is part 1 of 3 about a study on extended-release oxalic acid treatments. Very timely.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqy_MCn5mHY

David Burns is not for everyone. But he does provide good information for early tenure beekeepers with his frequent posts. He has over 175,000 subscribers and over 1000 YouTube posts. Not surprisingly, his recent posts are about finalizing winter preparations. For example, one on feeding for winter is:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZ_dXQN3YoM

Upcoming Events



October 18, 2025

Worcester County Beekeepers Association – October 18, annual October speaker's conference with Dr. Clare Rittschof and Dr. Jeff Harris each giving 2 talks. Free for members, \$10 for non-members. In person only in Whitinsville, MA.

<https://worcestercountybeekeepers.org/event/october-speakers-conference/>

October 23, 2025

Connecticut Beekeepers Association – October 23, Dr. Susan Cobey will present "The Challenges of Honey Bee Breeding" via Zoom.

<https://www.ctbees.org/event-details/the-challenges-of-honey-bee-breeding-with-dr-susan-cobey-1-1>

October 25, 2025

Massachusetts Beekeepers Association – October 25 "Special Beekeepers Educational Event" with speakers Randy Oliver and David McComb. In person only in Dighton, MA.

<https://www.massbee.org/event-6353324>

October 25, 2025

Essex County Beekeepers (Massachusetts) – MDAR will be teaching a microscopy workshop on October 25.

<https://essexcountybeekeepers.org/calendar-ECBA/index.shtml>

November 8, 2025

Massachusetts Beekeepers Association – October 10 Fall 2025 Meeting. In person in Natick, MA. Details are not available yet.

<https://www.massbee.org/event-6117893>

November 13, 2025

Connecticut Beekeepers Association – Bill Hesbach leads the CBA monthly Q&A for members via Zoom. These calls are also recorded and are available for replay for members via the CBA website.

<https://www.ctbees.org/event-details/bee-talks-2025-11-13-18-30>

January 6-10, 2026

American Beekeeping Federation 2026 Conference and Trade Show, Mobile, AL. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Priyadarshini (Priya) Basu of Washington State University and Dr. Dave Tarpy of North Carolina State University.

<https://abfnet.org/2026-abf-conference/>



January 8-10, 2026

North American Honeybee Expo. This is a large and still growing show which will be held January 8-10 in Louisville, Kentucky at the Kentucky Expo Center. It's known for a massive vendor floor and huge honey show as well as excellent speakers.

<https://www.nahbexpo.com/>

March 7, 2026

Sustainable Beekeepers Guild of Michigan – Virtual Winter Conference. Speakers include Dr. Ralph Buchler, Dr. Gard Otis, Dr. Zac Lamas, Lutz Eggert, Corinne Jordan, William Hesbach.

SBGMI is an excellent organization with lots of member benefits including discounts, past conference videos, etc. Their annual virtual conferences continue to have first class speakers on a variety of topics but queen breeding for varroa resistance is their core ethic.

<https://sbgmi.org/product/2026-virtual-winter-conference-registration>

Book Suggestions

A History of Keeping and Managing Doubled and Two-Queen Hives

Alan Wade, Northern Bee Books, 2021.

Alan Wade was on the Beekeeping Today podcast recently discussing the topics of this book. This is the first beekeeping book on my winter reading list. If anyone has read it and has thoughts on it to share, please send them along and we will publish them.

A History of Keeping and Managing Doubled and Two-Queen Hives



Alan Wade

Research Updates

“RNA interference as a next-generation control method for suppressing Varroa destructor reproduction in honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) hives”. This is a research paper discussing what has been productized into the Norroa product by GreenLight Biosciences.

<https://scijournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ps.8193>

“‘Buzz me in:’ Bees wearing itty bitty QR codes reveal hive secrets” discusses a very cool technology to allow detailed tracking of individual bees. The research applications are endless.

<https://www.psu.edu/news/research/story/buzz-me-bees-wearing-itty-bitty-qr-codes-reveal-hive-secrets>

Recent Journal Articles of Note



Bee Culture, August 2025 –
“Propolis – It’s Easy to Make it Rough”, pages 64-68.

Theresa Martin discusses how to encourage your bees to coat boxes with propolis and why you should consider it.

Bee Culture, August 2025 –
“The Auburn Series”, pages 22-24. A good Halloween read on Varroa and Tropilaelaps mites.

American Bee Journal, September 2025, pages 959-961 – **“The Dark Side – Plan now to cycle old comb out of your hives”**, Tina Sebestyen. The title says it all. I hate to throw away comb as much as anyone else but...

Bee Culture, September 2025 – **“Winter is Coming – Warm and Snug Beats Cold and Drafty”**, pages 36-39. Theresa Martin gives a brief introduction to condensing colonies with some great references. If you haven’t changed over to condensing colonies yet this may be a good place to start. Better survival, less stress, half the food consumption. Good stuff.

American Bee Journal, October 2025, **“Carbon Dioxide – Will it Kill Your Bees?”**, pages 1087-1090. Bill Hesbach goes into some detail on the CO₂ levels and management in bee hives. This is one of the concerns people have expressed about condensing colonies but, as Bill shows and as Tom Seeley goes into in Chapter 1 of “Piping Hot Bees and Boisterous Buzz-Runners” bees are very happy in high CO₂ level environments.

Thank you for reading!

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