

Beekeeping Seminar Participants & Schedule of Events

Presented by Bristol County Beekeepers Association, Inc.

Saturday Aug. 19, 2017, 9:30am – 4:30pm

Bristol Community College, Fall River, MA.

Samuel Ramsey, entomologist and PhD candidate at the University of Maryland, and Master Beekeeper Erin MacGregor-Forbes, will be our guest speakers.

Samuel Ramsey is a PhD student at Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp's lab at the University of Maryland. He studied entomology at Cornell University focusing on predatory/parasitic insect behavior. His current work focuses on the effects of honey bee parasites on individual and colony level survivorship specifically targeting *Varroa destructor* and *Nosema ceranae*. His work on Varroa showing that the varroa feed on the vitellogenin in bees' fat bodies, not on the hemolymph, which helps explain why hives with high mite counts crash in the fall and winter as the bees do not have body fat reserves to overwinter. This research is impressive and important for beekeepers and how we treat mites.

Sam will be providing two presentations:

- *Drivers of Colony Loss: What We Don't Know Can Hurt You*
- *Varroa Feed on Hemolymph and 2 Other Alternative Facts*

Erin MacGregor-Forbes maybe a familiar name to many as a result of her helpful "how to" beekeeper YouTube videos. Erin is an EAS certified Master Beekeeper. She is the Chairman of the Eastern Apicultural Society where she focused on increasing communication between beekeepers at all levels and improving beekeeping practices through high quality education programs. Erin's passion is working with the bees own instincts and behaviors to create thriving colonies. She has received three grants from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) to compare honey bee colony strength and survivability between nucleus and package started colonies.

Erin will be providing two presentations:

- *Artificial Swarming*
- *Backyard Queen Rearing/Overwintering NUCs – First Steps for Beginning Your Own Program*

For more information, visit our website <http://www.bristolbee.com> or contact the Club Secretary: secretary@bristolbee.com

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8:00 - 9:00 am: Vendor Setup

8:30 - 9:30 am: Check In

9:30 - 9:45 am: Presidents Opening Greeting

9:45 - 10:45 am: Erin MacGregor Forbes - **Artificial Swarming as a Management Tool**

1. Explains the concepts behind artificial swarming - why is this good for your colony?
- 2.. How to physically do an artificial swarm in your colony
3. Managing the colonies after the "swarm"
4. Apiary Impacts of utilizing this technique

10:45 – 11:00 am: Break

11:00 - 12:00 am: Samuel Ramsey - **Drivers of Colony Losses: What We Don't Know Can Hurt Us**

- Describes our current state of knowledge as researchers and beekeepers on colony losses
- Discusses what conclusions we can take from best management practices and data
- What ever happened to Colony Collapse Disorder?
- Separates fact from rumor and misconception

12:00 - 1:00 pm: Lunch – Cafeteria (Building G)

1:00 - 2:00 pm: Erin MacGregor Forbes - **Backyard Queen Rearing / Overwintering nucleus colonies - First Steps for Beginners**

- How to start rearing queens in your apiary
- Mating nucleus options and choices and other tools you will need
- Building summer NUCs for wintering over
- Managing nucleus colonies in winter

2:00 – 2:15 pm: Break

2:15 - 3:15 pm: Samuel Ramsey - **Varroa Feed on Hemolymph and 2 other Alternative Facts**

Explains our earlier reasoning for believing *Varroa* feed on hemolymph

Presents research that shows *Varroa* feed on Fat Body tissue

Discusses how this form of feeding impacts honey bees

Discusses how this impacts our management of *Varroa* and options we may have for management in the future

3:15 – 3:45pm: Panel Q&A (Erin MacGregor Forbes, SamRamsey, Eric Pilotte)

4:00 – 4:30 pm: Door Prize Give Aways

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