



nnjbees.org

April 2013



NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

A division of New Jersey Beekeepers Association

President	Frank Mortimer	201-417-7309	Secretary	Open	
V. President	Lynn Paglia	845-558-1921	Treasurer	Karl Schoenknecht	201-891-0947
2 nd V. Pres.	Rich Schluger	201-693-6949	Beekeeper Emeritus	Tom Fuscaldo	973-942-5066

Meeting on: **Friday, April 19th at 7:30 PM**, Location: **Ramapo College of NJ, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430**



Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious always welcome!



Weather permitting.



Greetings Northeast New Jersey Apiarists,

By this time, if you ordered a nuc through the club, your bees are hived, oriented and collecting water, pollen and nectar. Please remember to keep them fed as they are comb building and this takes a huge amount of energy and time. You will become expert at mixing 1:1 syrup as the bees are voracious eaters when they are increasing rapidly as they are now. Also, give them a week to 10 days before you go through the hive frame by frame as you want them to get settled in and productive as quickly as possible. I know the temptation is great to get in there and see what's going on but just try to leave them bee for a week or so. This is the season when beekeepers are at their best and busiest taking stock of any over-wintered hives or nurturing any nucs or packages. The cycle of life is a wondrous thing to behold and springtime is just such a time to take note of the confluence of life "springing" back. Try to observe what is coming to blossom and how your bees respond. In short, enjoy your hobby and how in touch it puts you with nature.

Message from the President:

Happy Spring Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

It seemed like it took forever to get here, but spring has finally sprung! One of the amazing things about nature is its unpredictability. Last year at this time, we were already a month into bee season, and this year, we are only at the beginning. By now, you know which of your strong hives are strong, which ones have limped through the late winter, and which ones are only a memory. For me, this time of year is like being a kid again, only it's a kid in late June, and I'm counting down the days until it is summer break and all the fun finally begins. The weather is starting to be warm enough for you to go into your hives and do a frame-by-frame thorough inspection. I am of the school of reversing boxes in the early spring, ensuring that the brood is in the bottom deep and the top one is empty and ready for incoming nectar. A few days ago, I was able to tear into my hives and get a good look at everything that was going on. I had four hives that went into the winter very strong, full of bees and honey. I fed all four hives fondant in January and in February, and each time I opened my hives, they looked strong and were full of bees. However, when I was finally able to get all the way into my hives this past week, all four still had bees, however, one of my hives was weak, and even though I saw the queen, there was no brood, or eggs to be found. I will look again in a few days, just to confirm that it's time to find a new queen. But, again, this is just another example of nature's unpredictability. On the positive side, my other three hives are all very strong, with lots of capped brood, eggs and larva. They are jam-packed with bees, and ready for the spring. In my two strongest hives, the queens were swollen big with the tens of thousands of eggs they will lay in the coming months. Nothing is more exciting to see an over-wintered queen as big as your thumb, proudly strutting across a frame of brood. Now, I should

mention that I have always had a lot of trouble spotting the queen, meaning a rarely saw her. In part this was because I don't have the best vision and also in part because I get easily distracted and start looking at everything else in the hive. However, what's changed is that I am recently married, and while my wife is new to beekeeping, she is already a pro at spotting the queen. In the three hives we saw the queen, it was my bride who spotted all of them. With my new queen-spotter by my side, I know this is going to be a great year.

Now that we are in April and soon May, I would like to remind everyone that Bee Season also means Green season, which means Green/Earth Day Fairs, talks and exhibits. As a beekeeper, it is important to your hobby that you do your part to spread the word about honeybees. If you are asked to take part in a Green Day Fair, give a talk to interested adults or children's group, please accept. You will be amazed at how willing everyone is to learn about bees. There have been a lot of recent news stories about the decline of the honeybee, and that means that it is on people's minds. Now is the time that all of us can hopefully attract new people to the hobby and also educate the general public about the true gentle nature of honeybees. As a club, our goal should be, if you are not keeping bees, you welcome and support the beekeepers who do. Another way to support beekeeping and our club is to proudly show you are a beekeeper and a member of the Northeast NJ Beekeepers. We have a new supply of Club Gear, everything from Hats to shirts to decals to lapel pins. While it may seem like a small thing to some, buying club gear does two very important things: 1) It supports our club. We sell the club gear to raise money for the club, money that is used to bring in speakers like Ross Conrad and Tim Ives. The money will also be used to buy mite treatments in bulk so that we can pass the savings along to you. My goal is continue to make our club the single best bee club in existence, and to make this goal a reality, the club needs your help. We need you to support your club by buying a window sticker, bumper sticker, a hat or a shirt. Doing so will go a long way to provide you with the support you want from our club. AND, 2) Every time you wear your club gear, or whenever someone sees your bumper sticker, you are sending a strong message that you are proud to be a beekeeper! And, by showing your bee-pride, it helps the general public know that a beekeeper lives in their community and will help to get the word out about honeybees.

The next few meetings will feature our BeeTalk™ series, where we talk about what's happening with the bees in our hives. These meetings are great because you can always compare what is happening with other hives to your own. I look forward to seeing you at the meetings, and until then, enjoy your bees!

Frank Mortimer
President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers

Message from Lynn Paglia:

Spring is here. The bees are bringing pollen into the hives and with the weather comes an explosion in the population and activity within the hive. The spacers put on top of the top deep box for the winter to allow feeding of fondant should be removed as soon as possible. I have seen many hives this spring where the bees were building honeycomb in the empty area and all the honeycomb had to be scraped off the top bars in order to add the medium box for honey. If you scrape off the honeycomb but do not remove the spacer the bees will just build it back in the same area. Make sure you have 10 frames in your honey supers if you are giving them foundation and only reduce the number of frames in the medium box to 9 frames once the bees have drawn out the honeycomb.

For those of you who are getting or got nucleus colonies, feed, feed, feed. As Tim Schuler and Bob Hughes from the State always say, "when your bees that are drawing out honeycomb to build full size hives run out of sugar water they slow up or stop their comb building." The sugar syrup simulates a continuous nectar flow which increases the queen's egg laying, and increases the bees in the hive to draw out the honeycomb and take care of

the other duties in the hive. There are 2 good ways to feed the bees - pail feeders and hive top feeders. Boardman feeders do not feed enough bees at once to simulate a nectar flow and can start robbing at certain times in the bee year. Whether you use a pail feeder or a hive top feeder, do not let the bees run out of sugar syrup when they have so much work to do.

For those of you who have established hives, make sure that you never let your bees run out of room. I have 1 super on each full size hive right now but when the nectar flow starts there will be multiple supers of drawn comb on each full size hive. For those of you going into your second year, you will be having the bees draw out the comb in your honey supers and get your first honey! It is an exciting time. Do not put on more than one box of foundation at a time. The bees must draw out the honeycomb in one super and then the next super of foundation can be placed on the hive. You must not feed sugar water when the bees are drawing out foundation for the honey supers or you will end up with sugar water honey and not real honey. We welcome spring and the enjoyment that Beekeeping brings.

Lynn



Be sure to go to our Face book page to see great pics posted by the over 570 Face book fans we have at our page and recent articles in the news about our members.

Remember: <http://www.nnjbees.org> is your website! Check that site for everything Northeast New Jersey Beekeeping!

Next Month: In May we continue our BeeTalk™ discussions about what you should be doing at your hives. Serious Q & A sessions should help new-bees and even more experienced beekeepers figure out any behaviors those pesky bees doing. Among the topics that will be discussed include, feedings, inspections, queens and queenlessness, swarming, gear etc. Any question about beekeeping is fair game and don't be afraid to ask. That's what we're here for.



BEEKEEPERS

❖ Volunteers ❖	
Judy and Terry Regan	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
Tom Miller	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
Katie Devitt	Hard mailings for the Newsletter, Club shirts
Rachel Avenia-Prol	Web site creation and training: www.nnjbees.org
John Matarese	NJBA Constitution Committee.
Michael Miller	Apparel production, beekeeping instructor
Bob & Gloria Leustek	BeeCraft Corner on nnjbees.org
Hugh Knowlton	Workshop coordinator and presenter

Thank you all! If any member wants to volunteer to help our club please contact me either at the meetings or via email. There is lots to do!



Frank doing a springtime inspection.
Does this bee jacket make my butt look big?
Yup.



NORTHEAST

NEW JERSEY

BEEKEEPERS