



# February 2012



## NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

A Division of New Jersey Beekeepers Association ([www.njbeekeepers.org](http://www.njbeekeepers.org))

President	Frank Mortimer	201-417-7309	Secretary	Open	
V. President	Lynn Paglia	845-558-1921	Treasurer	Karl Schoenknecht	201-891-0947
2 <sup>nd</sup> V. Pres.	Rich Schluger	201-693-6949	3 <sup>rd</sup> V. Pres.	Tom Fuscaldo	973-942-5066

Meeting on: **Friday, February 17th at 7:30 PM**, New Location: **Ramapo College of NJ, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, N.J 07430**



*Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious always welcome!*



*Weather permitting.*



**Tim Stewart of Stewart's Apiaries will be our speaker. He will discuss his experiences in running his own business complete with over 100 hives, queen rearing, and nucleus hive sales at the age of 17. His hives are on the move throughout New Jersey pollinating blueberries, holly, pumpkins and squash. He has been beekeeping since the age of 11.**

### **Message from the President:**

**Happy Leap Year North NJ Beekeepers!**

This winter is certainly different from last year! We have had almost no snow and multiple warm days this winter. The good news is that we have not had to shovel a path to our hives, and the bad news is that our bees have been very active. So, as you have a Valentine's sweet with your sweet, remember to check your hives and make sure they have enough to eat. Active bees eat more, and now through spring is when most colonies run out of food. There are several great recipes for bee candy available on our Facebook page and in this newsletter, and I encourage you to download a copy.

February always marks the beginning of an exciting bee season. This is also when many people decide to enter the world of bees, so I would ask you to talk a lot about your hobby and encourage people to come to one of our meetings.

Mostly, I would encourage you to talk with your fellow members. Each one of us is the most important part of our club.

I look forward to seeing and talking with you at our next meeting!

**Bee Well!**

**Frank Mortimer**

**Club Happenings:** There are a few new and exciting things happening that I can let you in on. We are planning a Bee-beginners Beekeeping Course at Ramapo College for a Saturday in March. Stay tuned for the exact date. Also, a queen rearing course is in the planning stages. We will be placing at least 2 hives at the Sustainability Center at the College. There will be both a Warre and a Langstroth hive. These will be used for training, teaching and demonstrations. A new long sleeved shirt is being designed for our members so you can proudly show that you are a beekeeper. Buy one to support your club. Buy more than one to really support your club. There will be a new and exciting public facing development on the internet for our club, coming soon.

**Volunteers:** I would like to acknowledge the great work of some very special members who are volunteering their time and effort to help our club. Katie Devitt is helping with the mailings of our monthly newsletters and is heading up the project to make our new shirt. Ken Hyman who has generously donated a Warre hive that he built himself. We will be placing this hive at the Sustainability Center. Also I must mention Judy and Terry Regan who have faithfully supplied the refreshments that we all enjoy. Those cakes and cookies are the best! Rachel Avenia-Prol is our web design specialist who is doing a remarkable job in expanding our web presence and helping us to reach out and communicate with more people and

organizations than ever. Thank you all! If any members want to join in to help our club please contact me either at the meetings or via email. There is lots to do!

**Next Month:** We will be screening The “Vanishing of the Bees”. An award winning documentary film about CCD. Vanishing of the Bees follows commercial beekeepers David Hackenberg and Dave Mendes as they strive to keep their bees healthy and fulfill pollination contracts across the U.S. The film explores the struggles they face as the two friends plead their case on Capitol Hill and travel across the Pacific Ocean in the quest to protect their honeybees.

## Winter Honey Stores • Warm Weather Alert (Part 2)!

Now that February has arrived it is very important to make sure that your hives have enough food to last until Spring. In most cases the queen is laying eggs and there is brood in the hive. The bees will need extra food to feed the young developing bees. It is a safety measure to place a piece of winter candy directly on top of the top bars very near the cluster. If the bees don't need the winter candy for food they will not touch it; They would rather eat honey than winter candy. Do not take frames out of the hive; It is too early and it could break the cluster chill the bees and queen and cause the hive to perish. Do not add any additional boxes to the hive (supers) until Spring is here. The bees need to cluster tightly to maintain their core temperature and if boxes are added too soon the bees will go up into the boxes when it is a little warmer and when the temperature drops they freeze.

If needed, add a piece or two of winter candy directly on the top bars near the cluster and gently move close to the cluster. Add a 1½" - 2" high spacer-box taped on the top hive box to give room for the bees to access the winter candy. You can also use the spacer for Apigard treatments if you have one, then replace the inner cover and the outer cover to finish. Check every 2 weeks on a warm day by gently raising the back of the inner cover and add winter candy as needed.



**Mentoring & Nuc Update:** All beekeepers who want bees for Spring should either have them reserved or reserve them immediately. Tim Stewart still has nucleus hives for sale. The price is \$115 for Northeast New Jersey Beekeepers Association members. A \$40 down payment is required. Call or mail Karl, our treasurer to reserve your nuc. If any beekeepers have questions regarding bee sources, equipment needed, or anything else regarding bee mentoring, please feel free to contact me, Lynn Paglia at either [thepaglias@prodigy.net](mailto:thepaglias@prodigy.net) or 845-558-1921. There is no such thing as a stupid question. I will be more than happy to answer your questions.



**Winter Candy Recipe:** 2 cups water, 5 lbs. cane sugar and 1 tbsp. white vinegar.

Mix water, sugar, and white vinegar then heat to 232F using a candy thermometer. Cool to 180F-200F and stir briefly until opaque. Pour into small aluminum pie pans or small cereal boxes lined with wax paper. Let cool before unmolding and store wrapped in wax paper in refrigerator until needed.



Pay your dues for the New Year now. Your timely payment will insure that you will continue to get the state newsletter and all the support that the state network provides its members. \$20 Dues payments can be mailed to the Northeast branch treasurer: **Karl Schoenknecht 683 Summit Av. Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417**. Dues application forms are available at [www.njbeekeepers.org](http://www.njbeekeepers.org). Select **about NJBA** then **membership** and then pick **NJBA Membership Form**.