



[nnjbees.org](http://nnjbees.org)

# June 2013



## NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

A division of New Jersey Beekeepers Association

President	Frank Mortimer	201-417-7309	Secretary	Ed Vaeth	908-283-1925
V. President	Lynn Paglia	845-558-1921	Treasurer	Karl Schoenknecht	201-891-0947
2 <sup>nd</sup> V. Pres.	Rich Schluger	201-693-6949	Beekeeper Emeritus	Tom Fuscaldo	973-942-5066

Meeting on: **Friday, June 21st at 7:30 PM**, Location: **Ramapo College of NJ, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430**



*Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious always welcome!*



*Weather permitting.*



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

Hello Northeast NJ beekeepers!

It's June! I still cannot believe that June is here! It seems like only yesterday, we were talking about getting our bees through the winter, and now we are smack in the middle of the nectar flow! Right now, the most important thing to do is, regularly check on your bees and make sure they have plenty of room. The bees need room to store their honey, and they need room so they don't feel over-crowded, and get the itch to swarm. Speaking of swarms, I know we're getting them, but this year I have not been getting calls from the public asking if there is anyone who could come and take the bees away. The last few years, I was getting a few calls a week, so I am not sure if the bees are swarming away from where people can see them, or if our club has grown so much that someone has scooped them up before anyone has a chance to make a call. I am proud to tell you that our membership continues to grow, and we are steadily above the 100-member mark! I would like to thank everyone for making this possible, and for continuing to get the word out about beekeeping. Also, even though the swarm calls may be down, I will say the requests for bee speakers is way up. This past month, there have been several schools and churches that have requested a beekeeper that could talk about bees. Every public appearance is important, because 1) It leads to new beekeepers, and 2) the more people who like bees, the easier it is for all of us. So, please try to talk to any group that you can to keep spreading the word about bees. There were also several street fairs this past month, and I would like to call out, and thank Bob & Rita Jenkins, and Josie Ko for representing the club! **THANK YOU Bob, Rita & Josie!**

Over Memorial weekend, my wife and I drove out to St. Louis. Along the way, we were able to spot a few hives along the road, which helped pass the time. Once we arrived, I met up with some old friends who have also started keeping bees. I guess you could say that I took a Beemans holiday, because I helped my friends work their hives. My one friend is using foundationless frames, so it was exciting to see how the bees build out the comb without the blueprint of the foundation. He has several hives, and one hive is Cordovans. It was rewarding for me, because his experience with his Cordovans is exactly like mine—gentle, honey-producing machines. My other friend has two Warre hives in her beautiful backyard. It was great to work her bees because it was my first experience with a Warre. Her bees were extremely calm, and a pleasure to work. I helped her put on another box, which for a Warre means, putting it on the bottom, and I am happy to report that her hive is heavy with honey! I realized that is yet another great thing about beekeeping, no matter where you go, if you find another beekeeper, you have something to talk about. And, no matter where the other beekeeper is from, between the two of you there will always be at least three opinions.

I look forward to seeing everyone at this month's meeting. June is always a great meeting, because it is THE meeting to hear about whose bees are really bringing in the nectar, and we can all start guessing and dreaming about the honey crop we'll be pulling in this year.

Lastly, remember that the club is here to help. If you ever have a question, someone will always be willing to give you an answer and all you have to do is ask.

See you at the meeting!

**Frank Mortimer**  
**President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers**



**Message from the Secretary, Ed Vaeth**

### **Reflections on a Learning Curve**

I dunno as much as I think I know, I don't know. As far as I think I've come, I still want to go further. Rare have been the easy going visits to the bee yards just to enjoy the bees. My 6 packages purchased some two months are cruising along without feed and some have graduated to 2 deeps just today. My 6 nucs purchased went too fast and I had to catch up to them. I've run out of deeps three times in the middle of hives exploding and now I find myself running out of honey supers as well. I'm sitting on hundreds of pounds of honey and scrambling to try to get the money together to buy yet more woodenware. I made only two splits this year, probably swarmed more than I realized and finally caught my first swarm in a swarm trap with Dr. Schmidts' swarm lure that I've been using for two years and never caught a single one; milestone achieved ! I have to add that everyone I've supplied them to has caught swarms previous to me. I also decided this season that I did not want more bees but wanted more honey, therefore no splits. Well, I'm lying, I made two with 10-12 queen cells in each and they've both made it and one queen is laying in each. I've been on 2 extraction calls (building type) and have 3 lined up for the next week. The next 3 will take me into the air with the highest beeing on a Victorian mansion about 40 ft. up. I have two yards to move bees into and I just can't get my act together long enough to prep the hives and move them. I'm coming home fatigued. Days slip by and I have the markets, shows, sales and exhibits to do. I have retailers now that need resupply which means sitting in front of the tanks bottling and labeling and sealing. At my Pennington, (Mercer County) yard, I had to move five 3 deeps 150ft away from the compound due to aggressive stinging of livestock and people tending the horses; these were 3 deeps and two mediums on each hive filled with honey. All this and I've learned that I am where I want to bee. I have people around me who sacrifice their time to help me achieve these goals and really it is not about me, but the bee. I dont really think about what's going on in a hive, by the time i get to that, I'm already looking at another one. I see what I see and if it's good I move on. I'm finding that I no longer have time to think about concepts or ideas when in the yards. I still have the passion of a hobbyist, but where is it?

**At Ramapo with the Northeast New Jersey Beekeepers Association and Mead in the Round.**

See you at the June meeting.

**Ed Vaeth,**  
Communications Secretary



## Message from Lynn:

Welcome to the honey flow. The bees are very happy and we are very busy keeping up with them.

For beekeepers with hives that are building honeycomb in their brood chamber, keep on feeding and look at your hives every ten to twelve days for signs of swarming. All hives can swarm this time of year and it is important to examine your hives. Once the brood chamber is complete, take off your sugar syrup, put on your honey super and let the bees draw out the honeycomb and fill it with nectar, ending up with honey.

It is really important to keep up with the bees and always make them feel that they are not crowded. Feeling crowded gets bees in the mood to swarm and that is not what we want. Look regularly, even if it is a little peek to see how the bees are doing and what is needed.

The club hive at Ramapo College finished drawing out the wax in the brood chamber and is done with feeding until the Fall.

The first honey super is now on and the bees are hard at work. I worked with two groups of college students, about 7 students in all, teaching them how to take care of a hive and giving them a crash course on bees. They were very enthusiastic and did a great job. The bee club should be an official club in the fall with their own budget. Ramapo College has really caught the bee fever and the future of beekeeping at the college is very bright.



## CLUB BULLHORN - NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



- ✚ By 3 days prior to each meeting - For beeks needing wholesale sugar for feeding (in the 40lb. boxes from Grant Stiles), contact Ed [edvaeth@neshanicvalleybeekeepers.com](mailto:edvaeth@neshanicvalleybeekeepers.com)
- ✚ Club hats, decals, pins and shirts are still available. Contact Frank pre-meeting for size and availability.

✚ Mead Makers are always welcome at meetings. Bring your latest creation and show it off.

✚ Honey taste testing and sales - Members are always welcome to offer and sell honey @ meetings.



We've broken the 600 member mark on our Facebook page! Be sure check it out. See the great pics and stories posted by the over 614 Facebook fans we have at our page.

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

**Next Month:** In July we are featuring as guest speaker, our state apiarist, Tim Schuler. Tim will talk about treating for the dreaded Varroa Destructor mite. There will be a Q & A session where Tim will answer your most pressing questions about what to do at this important time of year. Honey and how to harvest will also be a subject for discussion. Any question about beekeeping is fair game and don't be afraid to ask.



❖ Volunteers ❖	
Judy and Terry Regan	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
Tom Miller	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
Rachel Avenia-Proh	Web site creation and training: <a href="http://www.nnjbees.org">www.nnjbees.org</a>
John Gaut	NJBA Constitution Committee.
Michael Miller	Apparel production, beekeeping instructor
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!

NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY



Here's Frank a worker bee collecting nectar.  
 Any excuse to have a drink, eh?  
 Photo by Tom Miller – Great shot Tom.