



nnjbees.org

March 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	3 rd V. Pres.	Tom Fuscaldo	973-942-5066

Meeting on: **Friday, March 15th at 7:30 PM**, Location: **Ramapo College of NJ, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430**



Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious always welcome!



Weather permitting.



This month has many exciting new developments for our club. Firstly, due to our club's involvement with Ramapo College, the college is forming its own student-run beekeeping club! Lynn Paglia, our club mentor director, has been in discussions with the professors at Ramapo College. They will have their own hive and the students will work it themselves and harvest the honey! This is a culmination of the club's efforts to integrate what we love to do with what the students want to know. A call to volunteers from our club to help out with this exciting and important development is in order. We need the club's beekeeper volunteers to help the students with the hive, give short talks about the bees, help with the harvest etc. These students are the future of beekeeping. Aren't they worth the effort we should make? We think the answer is YES!

Also, this month we are joining with our brother and sister beekeepers of the Morris and Somerset Counties Beekeepers Association and are jointly presenting commercial beekeeper Tim Ives of Ohio at our meeting space. Tim has a unique way of over-wintering in a three-deep configuration. He does no supplemental feeding and does not treat his hives! He also harvests 3 times a season! What is his secret? Come to this meeting to find out. Be sure to take notes.

Thirdly, we have a crop of newly designed polo shirts, caps, bumper stickers and window clings. Besides having cool gear, the purchases of these items helps the club raise funds for the upcoming season and allows us to provide innovative and exciting programs for all of our beekeeper members in the Northeast branch. Buy some gear, show your beekeeper pride, help your club and then buy some more. Did I say buy some gear?

Fourth, as you all know and are eagerly awaiting, spring is just around the corner; literally! Make sure your bees have sufficient food to last these few weeks until the flowers begin to bloom. It would be tragic to have your bees survive until now only to starve in the next few weeks. See Lynn's message in this newsletter for tips on helping your bees to make it through.

Fifth, I must remind everyone to pay your 2013 yearly dues, if you have not yet done so. This will be the final newsletter you will receive if your dues are not paid up for 2013. Additionally, the state organization will halt their bi-monthly newsletter if Karl has not received payment from you. So, don't make me send the bee-police after you and see Karl at the meeting or send a check, post haste, to Karl Schoenknecht 683 Summit Ave. Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417.

Lastly, we have had an election at the state level, and the NJ Beekeepers now have a new president. Janet Katz is someone who can help bring the state organization forward into the 21st century with leadership and innovative ideas. She along with newly elected 3rd Vice President Chris Yates will bring bold new ideas where they are needed and this development portends great advantages for our branch and our members.

I want every member of the Northeast NJ Beekeepers to know that this is going to be a great year and there are many great things in store for us. We hope to break previous membership records and bring the art and love of beekeeping to as many new-bees as possible. With all of your help we can do it. See you at the meeting!

Message from the President:

Hello Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

On your mark, get set, GO!!! It's March, which means the bee season has begun! This is a big month for beekeepers in Northeast NJ: 1) The nucs from Grant Stiles will be here by the end of the month. Please get your money in to Karl this month to reserve your nuc. Also, there is still time to order a nuc, but you need to let Karl or me know ASAP. 2) For the first time in bee history, two branches of the NJ Beekeepers, (the Northeast and the Morris County/Somerset County) are co-sponsoring a meeting. Tim Ives, a commercial beekeeper from Indiana will be talking about his 3-deep hives that are honey-producing machines. The meeting is Friday March 15th at Ramapo, and we expect it to be one of our best meetings yet. 3) New Bee Club Swag goes on sale. The demand for us to bring in more Bee Club Hats, Shirts, Bling and Swag has been intense. So, starting at our March meeting, you will be able to show that you are a Northeast BEE FANatic and pick up everything you need to show your support of your Bee Club.

March is also the perfect time to go through all of your woodenware and see if there is anything that needs to be repaired, or if there is anything you need to order. Getting everything done before the nectar flow will make your life easier, and reduce your stress about having to get it done the night before or on the day you need it. Plus, if you're a gadget geek like me, then seeing what's new for 2013 in the catalogs is always a good time. For new beekeepers, I encourage you to ask before you buy. If you have any questions, or if you are thinking of trying a new product or buy from a new catalog, ask one of your fellow members, and always remember that a beekeeper may not have bees, but he or she will definitely have an opinion!

I would also like to remind everyone that spring is also the time of year when Bee curiosity and Bee interest increases significantly, so take any opportunity you can to introduce people to honeybees and the wonder of beekeeping. This is the time of year when different groups, organizations, schools and clubs are looking for speakers. Talking to a group is a great way to spread the word about the Bee Club and all the great things honeybees do for our local environment. So please continue to spread the word, and remember: The first rule of Bee club is to always talk about Bee Club!

I am also happy to report that last month was the state elections, and Janet Katz was elected our new state president, and Chris Yates was elected 3rd Vice President. Having both Janet and Chris on the state executive board means that this will be a great year for beekeepers across our state and especially in our club. When Janet and Chris attend our meetings, I encourage everyone to say hello and let them know what you think we need to at the state level. They have only been in office for a few short weeks, and I am already very excited about what they have done and what they are planning to do this year.

I am really looking forward to this year, and I believe it will be a sweet, sweet year for all of us. Finally, remember that your club is here for you, so please talk to fellow members, attend the meetings, and get all the help you need to make this the biggest honey crop Northeast NJ has ever seen. The season is here, so let's get to our hives and let's go!

Frank Mortimer

President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers

Message from Lynn Paglia:

These next few weeks are the most critical for the bees in getting them through the winter. Their food requirements double or triple as spring approaches since the Queen is increasing her egg laying and bees can run out of food and starve just days before the spring nectar flow. Check your hives at least once per week to check for fondant on the top bars and hive weight.

The bee club at Ramapo College is well underway. I met with Eric Weiner and two of the students from Ramapo College on February 26 to discuss their vision of the club and preparations for the new hive. The college will be funding the woodenware and supplies for the hive initially through an environmental club on campus called First Step. During the year they will apply to have an actual beekeeping club and money allotted for the club. Art students at the college will be helping to decorate the hive once it has been primed and painted. This will be a full size Langstroth production hive that the students will work on through the year. I have volunteered to be their mentor but if anyone else is interested in helping once the hive is started it would be appreciated. The roll-out for the bees at the college is slated for Earth week. They don't just have one day for earth day they have a whole week! Many students still do not know that there are bees on campus and they feel that now is the time to let the college be informed. They even have a large amount of money already approved for a standardized college sign to be designed and placed near the fenced in area at the Sustainability Center to provide education concerning bees. I will be meeting with the students every week to continue the planning and education process. They are so eager and I am very excited about our new venture as a club.

Lynn

BEEKEEPERS



Be sure to go to our Face book page to see great pics posted by the over 550 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 April we stop our All Star Speaker Series for a few months and use the full meeting time for 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.



❖ 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
Ken Hyman	Built a Warre hive and donated it to the club
Michael Miller	Apparel production, beekeeping instructor
Leigh K. Lydecker	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!



**Frank tending to his hives.
It looks like his pants are on fire.
Watch out, Frank!!**