



nnjbees.org

May 2013



NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

A division of New Jersey Beekeepers Association

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2 nd V. Pres.	Rich Schluger	201-693-6949	Beekeeper Emeritus	Tom Fuscaldo	973-942-5066

Meeting on: **Friday, May 17th 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,

Swarming is the word for the month of May. This is it! If you have over-wintered your hive(s) that is what you should be concerned with for the next few weeks. I have already heard of hives swarming in this area. Keep ahead of the bees if you can by giving them plenty of room to expand. If you see/catch a swarm please let me know as there are plenty of your fellow member beekeepers wanting those swarms, Keep in touch with us and help out another beekeeper if you can.

If you are a new beekeeper then Feed is the word for the month of May. Stay the course and don't let up. Those newly emerged bees need that syrup for the great expenditure of energy required to draw out all those frames of foundation. Also, make sure you attend the next monthly meeting (this Friday night) at Ramapo College to get your questions answered. New beekeepers need to get the support that a great club can provide to insure their bees are happy and healthy. Bee there if you can.

Rich Schluger



Message from the President:

Hello Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

Last month the message was FEED-FEED-FEED. This month it's ROOM-ROOM-ROOM. The nectar flow is on and the bees are building up their stores for the hive and for us. One of the many amazing things about bees is watching how quickly something so tiny can create so many pounds/gallons of honey. Seeing the new, white comb is always beautiful, especially when you think of the sweet reward waiting for you inside. It is important that you are checking your hives every few days, because you need to make sure they have plenty of room. If the bees feel crowded, they will most likely swarm, and the only person who likes it when bees swarm is the beekeeper who catches it. Speaking of swarms, a big shout out to Rick Schluger for creating our club's first "Have a Swarm—Need a Swarm" List. One of the primary principles of the Northeast NJ Beekeepers is; beekeepers helping beekeepers, and Rick's list accomplishes this in a big way. As the president, it's my job to connect members to one another to ensure that everyone is benefiting from the club. I take great pride in how many members in our club "pay it forward" and help other members when they can. If you're a new beekeeper or new to our club, I want you to know there are plenty of people who are more than willing to help you and all they want in return is that when the time comes, you take your turn and help out someone else.

My hives are all booming. I have honey supers on all five of my hives. My monster hive, or as I like to call them, the Viking bees, have already capped honey in one super and are working on another. About half of my supers are foundation-only, and I am alternating boxes of drawn out comb with boxes of just foundation. Based on what I've read, and advice from Grant Stiles, I would rather alternate boxes instead of checker boarding the frames with one drawn out and the next foundation. I know we are early in the season, but I am already dreaming of all the honey I will (hopefully) be bottling at the end of the summer.

Speaking of advice, I have recently been reading, "Beekeeping at Buckfast Abbey" by Brother Adam. If you're not familiar with Brother Adam, (1898-1996) he may have been the best beekeeper who ever lived. He traveled the world, crossbreeding bees to create the perfect bee, the Buckfast bee. One interesting thing he discusses is that he modified his hives, so instead of using 10 frame deeps, he built 12 frame extra-deeps. (His brood boxes measured, 19 7/8 in. x 19 7/8 in. x 11 7/8 in.) His logic was that he felt the queen would more readily lay across 12 frames in one box then move up into two boxes. Given the decades of successes he and the Buckfast bees have had, it would be interesting to experiment with the dimensions of the modern hive, and see what effect it would have on the strength of our colonies. I also know this year, that many members are trying the three-deep system. Given what Brother Adam was discussing, I wonder if the three-deep model is successful for the same basic reason—it is appealing to what the Bees want, not what the Beekeeper wants.

In the end, there is really only one thing you can know for sure in beekeeping. There is always another way to do things. From smoke, to hive size, to treating for mites, no matter what you decide to do, there will always be another beekeeper who does it differently. And you know what? Both people are doing it the right way, and THAT is one of the many things to love about this passion/obsession/hobby we call beekeeping!

May the nectar gods smile upon us, and all of our plastic bears overflow with honey!

Frank Mortimer
President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers



Message from Ed Vaeth:

Food for thought and Discussion for the next meeting:

Well, the warm weather is finally here to stay and with that come certain hive pests; particularly the hive beetle, wax moths and other insects such as ants and termites. A good way to prevent these from entering the hive is to get the hive up off the ground. The higher the better. If the hive is placed in a yard on grass, some kind of ground covering under and around the hive will help. I use a piece of old polyurethane board and even a weathered treated board will work. Plastic landscape cloth will work but if you use fine stone over it, the hive beetle can dig into this, especially as the stone collects dirt and sediment over time so think out the options. But, as examples, these ideas can keep the hive beetle from completing its life cycle underground and then bouncing back into the hive again and again.

Keeping your hives clean can only help. Keep all contact surfaces in between supers even and clean so that they mate up properly. For wax moths, make sure you don't leave burr comb in and around the hive. Extra drawn brood frames need to be frozen and put away. And finally, termites bore into exposed wood surfaces, so make sure your hives are primed-painted and/or sealed.

Another topic of concern is hive maintenance. You need to go into your hives periodically and watch what is going on. If life gets in the way, one solution can be the I.P.M. board. (Integrated Pest Management Board). Not only does this board help with ventilation during all seasons, but it can tell you the story of the hive over a period of time. Mites will fall off bees and frames and when using any sticky substance on the board, will be trapped on the board. This goes for larvae from beetles and wax moths as well. If you see lots of these critters on the board, you have a problem and you need to get inside ASAP. Also, as an added bonus, you'll see pollen and wax and shavings of all kinds from the bees. This can tell you where they are working and what they are doing in parts of the hive. If need bee, take notes and pics of what you see and if you need help, share your inquiries on the Facebook page or email the officers. And finally, as your hive builds up in strength with each passing generation of bees, so does your mite count. You need to watch your mite count and the way to do it is a sugar roll. Or when in doubt and you see the signs of despair- (Deformed Wing Virus etc.) I, for example, will slap a set of MiteAway Quikstrips on for a quick and easy 7 day treatment.

That's about it for now.



Ed Vaeth
Secretary

Club Bullhorn - NEWS and Happenings



- ✚ May 17th- Queen order pickup @ Ramapo meeting for those beeks who ordered queens. At last count there were 12-13 ordered so there are a number to bee had. Contact Frank Mortimer for availability.
- ✚ 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
- ✚ 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.



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 June 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.



❖ **Volunteers** ❖

Judy and Terry Regan	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
Tom Miller	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
Rachel Avenia-Prol	Web site creation and training: www.nnjbees.org
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!



**Frank and his hives.
Frank is the one in the center (wearing the blue cap).**