



nnjbees.org

March 2012



NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

A Division of The 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 16th 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.



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.

Message from the President:

Hello Northeast NJ apiarists!

Welcome to spring! (hopefully!)

March is essentially the start of bee season, and a tricky month. Please check on your bees and make sure they have enough to eat. Most colonies run out of food in February and March, and with the unusually warm weather we have had, this is a big concern for all of us this year.

March is when our hives are gearing up to explode with growth, readying themselves for the spring blooms and this year's nectar flow.

March is also when many bee curious decide to take their first step into the world of beekeeping, and all of us need to do our part and be ambassadors in our community. We always joke about the birds and the bees, and the truth is that spring is when people think about bees. Every chance you have to talk with someone about honeybees is an opportunity to recruit a fellow hobbyist or educate someone on the gentle nature of honeybees.

Our long time member, treasurer, and unofficial historian, Karl Schoenknecht, read that years ago there were 400 Beekeepers in Bergen county. Today, there is a renewed interest in keeping bees that only continues to grow and get stronger. Our club's goal should be to repopulate Bergen county with 400+ Beekeepers. And, to achieve our goal, the club needs you to talk to your neighbors, gardening clubs, and anyone who wants to learn about bees. Karl has given us a goal to shoot for, and if we all work together, I know we can do it!

Happy beekeeping!!!

Frank Mortimer



Message from Tom Fuscaldo to New Beekeepers:

Beginners have 1 hive, foundation and great hopes after a late start. An established beekeeper may have 50 hives with comb and expect to lose 10 to 30 hives each winter. All agriculture varies with the wind and you are in agriculture. You keep bees as an interesting hobby and it puts great honey on the table. Do not be discouraged. The past fall and winter weather is giving us a major test of endurance. Losses may begin soon when the bees need lots of food to raise young for the spring blossoms. Most hives do not have food (honey) this year. Feed and keep feeding all they will take and don't drown them. Dry sugar on paper over the combs may be all you can do. Just do your best. Early inspections must wait on the weather. Find a sunny, non-windy day between noon and 3PM above 60F. Be careful to replace all frames with clustered bees in exactly the same order. If you find a frame with honey way off from the bees move it next to the cluster. Your comb honey is the best food. They may have some honey ignored in the far corner of the hive.

Message from Lynn Paglia:

The NJBA Winter Meeting was held in Bordentown, NJ on February 25, 2012. The speaker was Deborah Delaney from the University of Delaware. She mentioned that she was always fascinated by insects of all types, and had 100 hives even before she went back to school and got her doctorate in entomology and wildlife ecology. She is directing research to determine the type of bees in feral hives in her surrounding area to determine which bees are surviving in the wild without treatment of any kind. She then maps the findings to see if there is a pattern. She has found *melifera melifera* bees high up in bee trees in her area and didn't know that this type of bee still existed. When asked whether these bee trees had the same colony year after year she said she didn't know because they are not able to visit the trees often enough. Her love of bees was infectious and it was very enjoyable listening to her speak. The state meetings are very important to attend. There is a wealth of information and it is very enjoyable to talk to other beekeepers.

The elections for state held officers took place at the Winter meeting. Bill Coniglio is our new President of the NJBA. In addition there was an auction for the winning products in the honey show. Angelo and Ann Trapani won many of the 1st place finishes once again, and everyone who entered got their honey product judged and displayed.

The EAS Conference is August 13-17 at the University of Vermont, Burlington. I urge as many people as possible to attend the event. You can attend as many days as you are able. You pay by the day and there is so much to learn.

Winter Warm Weather Alert (Part 3)

You should have some sort of dry food on top of the top bars for the bees from now until the first nectar flow (around April 15) The bees are eating through their food faster due to the warm winter. They need more food since they are flying regularly and the queen is laying eggs as there are more mouths to feed. Winter candy is a good way to accomplish this. Place the piece of winter candy near the cluster on the top bars making sure not to squish bees and close inner cover. If necessary, raise the candy with hive tool to give the bees a chance to get out of the way. Check every 2-3 days. My strongest, most populated hive is eating 1 pound of fondant in 3-4 days and if the bees are without any food this time of year the hive can be wiped out in 2 days. This really is the critical time. Just take a peek and if they don't need any food close the inner cover gently.

WINTER CANDY RECIPE – get recipe [here](#).

Mentoring and Nuc Update:

All newbees who are expecting to start hives in the Spring should:

1. Have your bees ordered.
2. Have your hardware assembled and painted, remember DON'T PAINT THE INSIDE OF THE BOXES; JUST THE PART YOU CAN SEE FROM THE OUTSIDE. The bees don't like paint inside their hives.
3. Find out what you need to bring when you pick up your bees. Some Nuc providers want you to bring your deep box and your inner cover and outer cover and they put the frames from the Nuc right in your box. Each provider varies so make sure ahead of time.
4. Put your wax foundation in the frames about 1 week or less before you pick up the bees to keep the wax fragrant and soft before the bees get at it.

Club Happenings: There are a few new and exciting things happening that I can let you in on. A new long sleeved denim shirt has been designed for our members so you can proudly show that you are a Northeast New Jersey Beekeeper. Buy one to support your club. Buy more than one to really support your club.

Also,

We have secured **Ross Conrad** to speak at our October meeting! Ross has spoken at EAS and other notable beekeeper events!

See his bio below:

Ross Conrad learned his craft from the late Charles Mraz, world renowned beekeeper and promoter of apitherapy. Conrad is a former president of the Vermont Beekeeper's Association, a regular contributor to Bee Culture - The Magazine of American Beekeeping, and author of Natural Beekeeping: Organic Approaches To Modern Apiculture published by Chelsea Green. Ross has given bee related presentations and led organic beekeeping workshops and classes throughout North America for many years. His beekeeping business, Dancing Bee Gardens, supplies friends, neighbors, and local stores with honey and candles among other bee related products, and provides bees for Vermont apple pollination in spring.

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

Next Month: We start our BeeTalk® series where we focus on the month and what beekeepers should be doing with their hives, what to look for on a frame during an inspection, when and how and what to feed etc., equipment questions, tips and tricks and techniques. You are not in this alone. We are here to support you! We will be talking bees and taking questions from our members and devoting each meeting to providing answers designed to insure a prosperous and healthy colony of bees. No question goes unanswered.



Non-Winter is Over – Keep Feeding Your Bees!



❖ Volunteers ❖	
Judy and Terry Regan	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
Katie Devitt	Hard mailings for the Newsletter, Club shirts
Rachel Avenia-Prol	Web site creation and training: www.njbees.org
Ken Hyman	Built a Warre hive and donated it to the club
Michael Miller	Apparel production, beekeeping instructor

Thank you all! If any members want to volunteer to help our club please contact me either at the meetings or via [email](#). There is lots to do!



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. Select **about NJBA** then **membership** and then pick **NJBA Membership Form**.

“The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others.”
- Saint John Chrysostom