



nnjbees.org

April 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, April 20th 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 starting our BeeTalk® series where our meetings are dedicated to answering your beekeeping questions. April is when the nectar flow finally starts. Hive populations start to ramp up and beekeeper questions start to appear. We are here for you. We will do our best to get you opinions from our more experienced members and we will deal with all kinds of situations.

Message from the President:

If to err is human, then to work through a mistake is beekeeping. Our season is upon us, and since many of us are new, and some of us a bit rusty from spending the winter away from our bees, and at least one of us is just simply careless, I thought I would tell you my most recent mishap as a reminder that making mistakes are part of life, but if you work through them, and go back out to your bee yard the next day, then you are indeed a beekeeper.

A few weeks ago I was cleaning up my apiary, as there were a lot of branches and debris littering the yard. A tree had fallen in the winter and smashed an unoccupied hive stand. As I looked around, I saw that another tree was leaning into the yard, and looked like it might be dead. To me, it looked liked if it fell, it would hit one of my hives, a nuc I had overwintered and was planning on transferring to a standard box. So, I went over to the tree, and decided that the best thing to do was tug on the tree to see how sturdy it was. Well, the tree cracked, crashed to the ground, and knocked me down. Unfortunately, I was right about two things: 1) the tree was indeed dead. 2) if the tree fell, it would knock over my hive. When I looked, my nuc was knocked on its side, completely knocked apart. I ran back to my car, got on my gear, and raced back to the hive. As you can imagine, the bees were angry, very VERY angry. I started putting the hive back together, when I realized I was looking at bees flying on the INSIDE of my veil. BAM! First sting on the back of the head. BAM! Second sting on the back of the head. I realized I had to get far enough from the hive to get the bees out of my veil. BAM! Third sting, this one on my forehead. When I was about 35 feet away, I took off the veil to let the bees out. While that might have been my plan, the bees had a different plan, which was to see how many of them could sting me in the head.

After the bees were done stinging me, I got my bee-free veil back on and finished cleaning up the mess I had made. I have been back to inspect my bees a few times since, and all is good.

So, this season, if you do something that's not quite by the book, or if you drop something, or wish you had done things a little differently, cheer up and tell yourself, at least I didn't knock over one of my hives with a dead tree! To err is human, and working through your mistake is beekeeping.

Happy Beekeeping Everyone!

-- Frank "needs a better veil" Mortimer

President Northeast NJ Beekeepers

Frank Mortimer



Albert Stoel's brief visit to Planet Earth lasted 87 years. Hopefully we leave this world better because we were here. Al did just that.

Al and Jeannette were members of our Beekeepers Association for a long, long time and beekeepers longer than that. Trying to figure how long they were members is beyond me. I became president and prepared the monthly letter from 2002. Al and Jeannette were there before me. I saw a cheerful Jeannette and Al at almost every meeting. They often brought in something special prepared just for our group. Al often offered to drive a car full of members to a distant meeting. Many times Al and I compared our honey wines.

Sometimes his was even better than mine but I never liked to admit this. I will miss Al. Many others will miss him but we all hold good memories. May God bless his servant Al Stoel.

Tom Fuscaldo - 2012

Message from Lynn Paglia:

Spring is here. Swarms are starting to be seen in our area. This is the time when we must all monitor our hives weekly to give them enough room and help prevent swarming. When a hive casts a swarm the old queen exits the hive along with a group of bees from the hive. They are leaving the hive to find a new home, nearby if possible. The scout bees from the swarm check the area to find a suitable home with enough room for the new hive, protected from the weather. When they find a suitable home they signal to the cluster of bees that have swarmed and they fly to their new home and move in. We try to keep our hives from swarming because the bees that swarm are no longer in our hives and less bees mean hives that are not as strong and don't produce as much honey. There are things we can do to keep hives from swarming. Tim Schuler gave me a few pointers for our group yesterday. The first was to make sure that our honey supers are on our established colonies. The bees must have room to store nectar in the hive or they will start swarm preparations. Don't put a queen excluder on top of the top brood box and place a super of foundation on top of that, bees will not go through the queen excluder to draw out the foundation. They would rather swarm. Instead, put some drawn comb in the first super if you have it and foundation in the 2nd, 3rd boxes. Check your hives for eggs and capped brood to verify that there is a laying queen in the hive. Check the frames in the brood box for swarm cells. If there are swarm cells you can use them to make a split before the hive splits itself. If you see queen cells that are not swarm cells do not get rid of them. They are supercedure cells. The hive could be doomed if there is a problem with the queen and you cut off all of the queen cells. The hive put the supercedure cells there for a reason. Get all of your supers prepped in advance so they can be put on the hive as needed. Lastly, if you have a weaker hive and stronger hive reverse the placement of both hives so that the foragers from the strong hive will fly into the weak hive, thus strengthening it and balancing out the hives.

Everyone receiving nucs or packages should be getting their equipment ready. Make sure that you should bring when picking up your nuc. You will need to start feeding your bees to simulate a steady nectar flow and encourage them to draw out the wax. The bees will be drinking 1:1 sugar syrup. It should be fed in a way that many bees can drink at once. Hive top feeders and pail feeders are best. Here is the recipe for 1-1 sugar syrup.

1 gallon container
5 lb. cane sugar

Boil water and tsp. of dried thyme and shake of salt in Dutch oven or large pot. It should take on some of the color of the thyme and the bees love the salt. Once the water, thyme, and salt is boiling, turn off heat. With a ladle, add water to sugar in gallon container, stirring to dissolve the sugar and mix until the container is full and the sugar is in solution. This is a 1:1 sugar syrup. Once cooled, 2 tsp. of Honey-B-Healthy can be added to the sugar syrup.

I make up a tea with chamomile, and dandelion root tea bags and add 3 tbsp of the tea mixture to each gallon of sugar syrup. To do this, place chamomile and dandelion root tea bags in a 2 cup measuring cup. Pour hot water over tea bags, cover and let sit 10 minutes. Remove tea bags and transfer tea to closed jar to keep in refrigerator. Each time I make sugar syrup I shake the tea and add 3 tbsp to the sugar syrup.





Woodenware:


Woodenware needs to be treated to help it last in our climate. If painting it is helpful to use 1 coat of oil based primer and 2 coats of latex paint. I just learned from my paint store that oil based primer has a much better moisture barrier and can have latex paint on top of it with no problem. Never paint inside the boxes. The bees don't like paint inside their home. Get the frames for the first box all ready and in no time at all the bees will be here.

If you have any questions feel free to call me. I am here to help. -- Lynn Paglia

Club Happenings:

 We are in the process of placing a Warre' Hive built and generously donated by Ken Hyman, at Ramapo College. I am working with Professor Eric Wiener and we're winding our way through the layers of necessary approvals needed to place the hive at the Sustainability Center

 Help your club by volunteering to join us at the Ridgewood Earth Day Fair. We had a great time last year and the response was so positive that we have decided to participate once again. We will have a table, an observation hive, literature and of course beekeepers to answer questions from the general public. This event was a great recruiting tool for our club and we accomplished effective outreach in educating the general public about the joys of beekeeping and the gentleness of honeybees. Date: Saturday, April 21, 2012 11:00am – 2:00pm. Memorial Park, Van Neste Square, Ridgewood, NJ. More info [here](#).

 Hive and Frame Assembly Workshop for anyone wanting help assembling their hives and frames. Painting hives is available: bring your own brushes and paint (we have a warm shop and latex paint will dry quickly but bring plastic or newspaper to protect your car when bringing items home). Date: Sunday, April 22, 2012. More info [here](#).

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

Next Month: We continue 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.



Swarming has begun! Be aware, Be ready, Catch 'em!



❖ 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.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

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!

