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



*Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious always welcome!*



*Weather permitting.*



**We will be continuing our BeeTalk® series where our meetings are dedicated to answering your beekeeping questions. June is an important month for beekeepers. Hive populations are high and beekeeper questions abound. 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:

### Hello NJ Beekeepers,

The other day I was delivering 5 nucs to 4 of our members. The nuc boxes were cardboard, and when cardboard gets wet, it warps, and when cardboard nucs boxes warp, bees get out. So, after loading the nucs into my car, I realized that I had a lot of bees flying around inside my car. I was not worried, but as a precaution, I decided to put on my Brushy Mountain Inspectors Jacket, just in case. I unzipped the veil, so it was behind me, as I figured if anything got crazy, I could just pull the veil over my head. I also turned the air conditioning on full blast, making sure it was blowing directly on my face. As I drove around Bergen, Passaic, and Rockland counties, making my deliveries and hiving some of the nucs, I felt like the Johnny Appleseed of bees. The drive went along completely without incident, as the bees tended to stay in the back of the car, staying away from the cold by trying to get through the back window by dancing against the glass. It was actually quite a mellow experience, until I got to a stop light in Oakland. I was sitting at a stoplight, and I see this guy in the jeep behind me jump out of his car. He starts running towards my car, shouting, "Bees! There are Bees IN your car!" He keeps shouting as he runs up to my window, which he expects me to roll down. But, I don't want to roll it down, because I don't want the bees to feel the warmth and make a dash for it. So, after a few more cries of "Bees! There are Bees IN your car!" He finally notices the Brushy Mountain outfit I'm wearing and says, "Oh, Bee-KEEPER! I get it!" And, he walked back to his car, crestfallen that there were no heroics that day.

I share this story with you because I realized that while being around bees is normal for all of us, to the general public what we do falls somewhere between "out of the ordinary" and "truly bizarre." So, remember, part of what each of us has to do is educate the general public on the gentle nature of the Honey Bee. The more people who understand about bees, the better all of us will be. Also, the more people who understand about bees, then the day when you are at a stoplight with a carload of bees flying around, the less likely that someone will jump out of his car shouting at you, "Bees! There are Bees! Bees IN your car!"

Bee Well Everyone!

FRANK MORTIMER  
President, Northeast NJ

## Message from Lynn Paglia:

The initial honey flow has all but ended. It seemed to end abruptly due to the rainy weather. New hives were building out the wax foundation without sugar water at record speed and then it all slowed down. They didn't need sugar water, they had nectar.

Now is the time to feed, feed, feed new hives. They need to build out the foundation and store food to get ready for their first winter. It takes a lot of energy for them to build wax and many bees being born continually (bees 13-17 days secrete wax from their wax glands). Do not expect to get honey the first year. There will plenty of time for that the second year. Hives that have honey supers on them should be preparing to extract honey. You will want to extract the honey from the comb in the supers and save the combs for next year. Extraction normally takes place at the end of July or early August but this year will be interesting to figure out since the winter was so mild and the honey flow started so early. I am thinking that I will try to take off my honey supers by mid July instead of August 1.

Treatment for mites is the next item to be discussed following extraction. Mites are present in all hives and keeping them at tolerable levels allows the winter bees to be healthy and mite free and the colony to survive until the following spring. We will be discussing the various mite treatment options at the next couple meetings. It is very important to treat with some effective method to reduce the mite population and insure your hives survival.

The NJBA Spring Meeting was sponsored by the Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association and took place on May 12, 2012. Randy Oliver was the featured speaker. Randy is very involved in bee research and has a bee business in California. He discussed many aspects of beekeeping, including mite treatment. He favors using many different treatments but using a more gentle approach. An example of this is that he uses 1 MAQ strip instead of 2 strips and 1/2 of the recommended apiguard treatments twice instead of the full treatment twice. He also discussed the importance of raising local queens. He said that his queens are suited to his location but would not be suited to a location even an hour away. His queens are what his bees need. I really feel that we need to start raising queens local to the North Bergen area in the future.

I have been visiting many of new beekeepers that purchased nucs from Tim Stewart. The nucs seem to be very healthy and vigorous. As long as they have sugar water to build up they will do very well. I just placed a second hive at the Havermeyer house at Ramapo College. It is a great location and both hives are doing well. I am also in the process of placing a hive near the salt marshes in Piermont, N.Y. The couple who contacted me used to be beekeepers in Valley Cottage, N.Y. and are retired now in Piermont and really miss the bees. They even built a metal hive stand with a height above the flood plain and are eagerly awaiting the bees.

## Club Happenings:



We have finally placed the Warre Hive, built and generously donated by Ken Hyman, at the Sustainability Center at Ramapo College! The process involved Professor Eric Wiener, Campus safety officer Gina Mayerco, Ramapo College Groundskeeper Mike Cunning, Dick Roberts from Administration and myself. Whew! After Tuesday June 12 the hive will have a low fence surrounding it and will be ready to accept a swarm.



Next month's meeting (July) will feature Dan Fryda, founder and president of Spa Technologies. Dan makes unique, high-end skin care products incorporating natural ingredients including honey, propolis and beeswax directed toward the European Spa Market.



Be sure to go to our Face book page to see great pics of our members at their hives, at Tim Stewarts operation, and recent articles in the news about our members.



Club hats and shirts will be on sale at the June meeting. Support your club by buying them. They are \$20 each and they look great. Show your Northeast New Jersey Beekeeper pride by wearing our gear.

**Remember:** <http://www.njbees.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 Continues! Be aware, Be ready, Catch 'em!



❖ <i>Volunteers</i> ❖	
<b>Judy and Terry Regan</b>	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
<b>Katie Devitt</b>	Hard mailings for the Newsletter, Club shirts
<b>Rachel Avenia-Prol</b>	Web site creation and training: <a href="http://www.nnjbees.org">www.nnjbees.org</a>
<b>Ken Hyman</b>	Built a Warre hive and donated it to the club
<b>Michael Miller</b>	Apparel production, beekeeping instructor
<b>Leigh K. Lydecker</b>	Beekeeping Instructor
<b>Hugh Knowlton</b>	Workshop coordinator and presenter

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!



# BEEKEEPERS

