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# October 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, October 19th 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.*



This month we continue with our All Star Guest Speaker Program. We are honored to have Ross Conrad, a regular contributor to Bee Culture Magazine, author of "Natural Beekeeping" and owner of Dancing Bee Gardens on Friday October 19th.

Ross will be speaking about Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and the current state of Beekeeping. An overview of the latest on CCD, and an exploration of ideas that each of us can use to counter the stresses on our bees and techniques for keeping our hives alive.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm. Suggested donation is \$7.50.

## Message from the President:

### Hello Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

Now that October is here, your hives should be ready for winter and your bees should be stocked-up on honey for the coming months. All of the care and hard work you showered on your hives this past spring and summer has helped prepare your bees for the coming cold winter months that are just about here. Now, since the amount of time we spend working our bees is getting less and less, many of us might be asking ourselves, what should/could we be doing for our bees this time of year? Well, one of the best things you can do for your bees is to be a better beekeeper, and fall is the perfect time to work on your knowledge and reflect on all that you did and learned this past season from your bees. Use your own experiences so that next spring you will be a better beekeeper because of the time you have invested in your hives. As most of you know, I like to learn from my mistakes, and I will be using the fall to think about what I learned and what I will do differently in my beekeeping springs that are to follow.

Also remember that fall is a great time to start new projects with the honey, pollen, wax, and propolis you extracted from your hives. Personally, I am looking forward to trying my hand at making lip balms and hand creams, which means you will be reading about what I learned, (the mistakes that I made) in a future newsletter. Fall is also a great time to read about beekeeping, bees and other related topics that will only strengthen your knowledge and help you next spring. Even if you only have one of the beginning beekeeper books, go back and reread it. It will be a boost of confidence when you realize how much you have learned and also how much more makes sense to you now that you have this past season behind you. Or, if you have ever thought about some of the more advanced areas of beekeeping, like queen

rearing, making your own nucs, or making mead, now is the time for you to learn. Speaking of books, Ross Conrad, author of "Natural Beekeeping" will be speaking at our next meeting. I strongly encourage you to pick up a copy of Ross's book, as it is packed full of helpful information and tips on beekeeping.

One of the many great things about beekeeping is how there is always something new to learn. There is always another book you can read, another meeting you can attend, or another more experienced beekeeper with whom you can talk. So, use this fall to expand your knowledge of beekeeping. Think about what you did right (and wrong) this past spring and summer. Find a new book to read, a new beekeeper to talk to, or meeting to attend. Then, when it starts to get really cold, grab some of the beekeeping supply catalogs and start thinking about next year, adding new hives, replacing woodenware, buying a new veil. Because next year we all start again, only we will know a little more than we do right now.

**Frank Mortimer**  
**President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers**

### **Message from Lynn Paglia:**

The bees are getting ready for winter. Check the weight of your hives by lifting the back of the hive slightly. If you can raise the back of the hive at all you should feed 2:1 sugar water in a top hive feeder or bucket feeder until the hive is very heavy and impossible to lift without straining. The hive should be reduced to either 2 deep boxes or 3 medium boxes depending on whether you are using deep boxes or medium boxes for your brood boxes. This keeps the bees from wandering into upper honey supers on warm days and dying when it gets cold in the evening and they are out of the cluster. Feeding the bees at this time of year gives them a chance to put away plenty of food for the winter and avoid starvation. They can't collect nectar now and need your help since the nectar flow is over until spring. Don't forget to put on a mouse guard before the first frost. Beehives are warm and cozy havens for mice that are out in the cold and they can easily scurry in the front entrance when it is cold and the bees are in cluster. I will bring a mouse guard to the meeting that can be easily made and provides for good ventilation in the front entrance.. Last but not least, it is helpful to have some sort of absorbent material above the inner cover to absorb moisture from the bees and keep the water from falling back down on the bees and getting them wet. Bees can stand the cold but they can't stand to be wet and cold. If bees are wet and cold they will die.

I use a piece of 1" piece of good quality chair cushion foam cut to the size of the inner cover. I place it on top of the inner cover once winter is here and it really helps to wick the moisture out of the hive. Other materials can be used such as wood shavings in a burlap bag.

In September I met Dr. Weiner from Ramapo College at the Nucleus Hives on Campus near the Sustainability Center. There were 24 freshmen orientation students and Dr. Weiner wanted to expose them to the world of honeybees. The bees on campus are Carniolan and very gentle which really helped. The students were a little apprehensive at first but couldn't believe what the inside of a beehive looked like. Many asked to hold frames of bees and really seemed to have a great time. They even got to see the queen and one of the worker bees did a waggle dance over and over as if on cue. No one got stung and the school photographer was there to take pictures of the outing. The students were all taking pictures of each other on their phones to document the occasion and prove to their friends that they were actually

holding frames from a beehive and living to tell about it. It was a lot of fun and really helped to strengthen our relationship with Ramapo College. See you on the 19th.

### Club Happenings:



Be sure to go to our Face book page to see great pics posted by the over 530 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:** Bob Slanzi will be presenting a mead making demonstration. Bob is the recipient of many awards for his meads and has volunteered to bring the definitive essential information to our club. Learn how to make this ancient and yummy beverage for the winter months.



❖ 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: <a href="http://www.nnjbees.org">www.nnjbees.org</a>
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 members want to volunteer to help our club please contact me either at the meetings or via [email](#). There is lots to do!



Another great Tom Miller photograph.