



[nnjbees.org](http://nnjbees.org)

# December 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 <sup>nd</sup> V. Pres.	Rich Schluger	201-693-6949	3 <sup>rd</sup> V. Pres.	Tom Fuscaldo	973-942-5066

Meeting on: **Friday, December 21st 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 have our annual elections for officers. I encourage everyone to consider holding an office in our club. Fresh perspectives and new ideas will make our programs better. The offices available are President, (3) Vice President slots, secretary and treasurer.

### **Message from the President: Happy Holidays Northeast NJ Beekeepers!**

Did you ever stop to think what a beekeeper's holiday wish list looks like to outsider? "Copper Hive Top," "heated capping knife," "Queen-rearing kit." We definitely have our own vocabulary to go along with the long list of gadgets and bee paraphernalia. This time of year is good to revisit the supply catalogs and start planning what your wish list for next season will look like, which will be upon us before we know it. It's also good to have a dog-eared catalog at the ready in case anyone needs help knowing what to get you for this holiday season. And, since this is the season of giving, I would ask each member to think what he or she can do to give to the club in the coming year. Our club has grown considerably in past 2 years, nearly tripling in size, and we are only getting started. The excitement, passion and enthusiasm of our club is contagious and something that everyone always comments on. Now, with your help, we could do even more in 2013. At our December meeting, we will be having our elections, and I welcome everyone to come to the meeting willing to volunteer and help out. Every little bit helps, and whatever you can do to help will go a long way. Additionally I ask each of you to mail me about what you would like from the club next year. I really think we could have a lot of exciting and engaging events in 2013, and with more volunteers and member participation, just think about what we could accomplish! This time of year is also a time to give thanks, so let me conclude by giving thanks to all the members of the Northeast NJ beekeepers association. We had a great year, with dozens of new members, a great honey harvest for many, and mostly for all the new friendships that came about because of our love of bees. I wish everyone and their bees a very happy and honey-filled new year!

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

## Club Happenings:

### Message from Lynn Paglia:

It is now winter. The bees are clustered in their hives eating honey and bee candy and keeping their queen warm. I miss my bees during the winter since they are flying only when the temperature is warm enough 45-50 and for a very short period of time. The bees must be kept dry and have enough food to sustain them until Spring. In late Fall I gave all of my hives a small piece of winter candy and made sure that they were heavy with honey. Some hives have eaten the winter candy and the honey at the same time and some hives have left the winter candy alone and don't seem to want it at all. I put little blocks of winter candy in as an insurance policy so that the hives that want it will have it but never as a replacement for the hive being heavy with honey. The hive boxes should not be disturbed when it is cold-the bees have sealed the boxes together with propolis to keep the hive as airtight as possible and doing an inspection in the winter while the bees are in cluster can cause the cluster to be broken and the bees to die. The best way to check a hive is to lift the back of the hive. If the hive is heavy the bees should have ample honey stores. If you gave the bees winter candy on top of the bars of the top box the easiest way to check is to gently lift the back of the inner cover to see if the bees have eaten the winter candy. If they have you can place another piece of candy where the bees are not clustered and gently move it into the cluster. I always keep the screened bottom boards open on full size hives in the winter-it increases ventilation and decreases moisture buildup in the hive.

It is at this time of year that the preparation is started for Spring. If you are starting a new hive you must order your supplies(hive boxes, frames, wax, other necessary bee equipment, and the bees.) Brushy Mountain Bee Farm has free shipping until December 20th when you order \$100 or more. That is a great deal since bee equipment can be very heavy and costly to ship. Kelley has 15% off orders until December 16th. There are many bee suppliers in New Jersey. It is best to get local bees and January is the time to get on the wait lists for the bees that will be ready for sale in the Spring. If you need help with bee equipment selection and Bee Suppliers I would be more than happy to help you.(845-558-1921).

Ramapo College is preparing for Spring with the bees too. I have spoken with Dr. Weiner and there is great interest among the students to form a club and work with the bees on campus regularly. I am meeting with Dr. Weiner and the students in the next 2-3 weeks to see what I can do to help mentor the club and other classes that are interested in visiting the hives. This is very exciting and is taking one more step toward integrating beekeeping into the college scenery and curriculum.



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:** TBD. This month we will elect the officers of our bee club. I encourage each and every one of you to consider running for office. You can make a difference! Beekeeping experience is not a qualification for office, enthusiasm, drive and innovative thinking is!



❖ 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!