



nnjbees.org

July 2013



NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

A division of New Jersey Beekeepers Association

President	Frank Mortimer	201-417-7309	Secretary	Ed Vaeth	908-283-1925
V. President	Lynn Paglia	845-558-1921	Treasurer	Karl Schoenknecht	201-891-0947
2 nd V. Pres.	Rich Schluger	201-693-6949	Beekeeper Emeritus	Tom Fuscaldo	973-942-5066

Meeting on: **Friday, July 19th at 7:30 PM**, Location: **Ramapo College of NJ, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430**



Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious always welcome!



Weather permitting.



On Friday, July 19th, NJ State Apiarist Tim Schuler will be in Bergen County inspecting the hives of our members who have requested it. Unfortunately, not all requests could be fulfilled due to time/distance or other logistical constraints. At the time of this newsletter writing the list has not been finalized but for those who are on the list to be visited you will be notified via email with a time slot. Please be punctual as Tim will have many stops to make to make that day. A big thanks to Hugh Knowlton who will be hosting and accompanying Tim on his rounds. Hugh also compiled the responses and created a route for Tim to follow. Not an easy thing to do. Thank you Hugh and of course thank you Tim. Tim will be our guest speaker at this month's meeting where he will discuss hive treatments and other issues. Bring your questions and enthusiasm.

We will also be distributing the mite treatments ordered by our members at the meeting that night. Make sure you attend to pick up your medicines, have a friend do it if you will not be able to attend or we will sell the treatments to another unless you make alternative arrangements.

Message from the President:

Happy July Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

July is a month celebrated with fireworks. Most people think we're celebrating Independence Day, but beekeepers know the real reason why we celebrate; July is Honey extraction month. It is amazing to think about how much work has gone into making all the honey that we're about to extract. If in her life time, one worker bee will make 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey, and one pound of honey equals one million flights, just think of the amount of work, effort and energy it has taken to create the 70-80 pounds each hive needs for itself, plus the additional 20-50 pounds of honey those bees made for you. What makes it even more remarkable is where we live, in and around Jersey, the nectar flow lasts for about 100 days. So if each hive produces 100 pounds of honey, that's about one pound per day.

Now, for those who started new hives this year from nucs, it takes eight pounds of honey to make one pound of wax. One pound of wax makes about four frames of drawn comb. So, depending if you feed or not, the bees have to collect about thirty-two pounds of nectar (or sugar syrup) just to draw out all the comb for a two-deep hive. Plus, the hive needs to assign a large portion of its bees to become wax-workers to draw out and build the comb; all the while the forager workforce is gathering the needed thirty-two pounds of bee-supplies.

What honeybees accomplish, and in such a short window of time, is truly awe-inspiring. While we can go through the Bee-math, it is also good to keep in mind that beekeeping is not a precise science like Chemistry or Physics, as if it were, then we would all follow the step-by-step instructions and we would all have the exact same results.

Beekeeping is biology, or agriculture, which means the results will always be messy. For example, this past June was a wet month. Personally, I always get nervous when we have a series of 3-4 really great bee-weather days and then 1-2 rainy days. Bees do not like to be cramped up inside a hive on a hot, humid, rainy day. This kind of weather leads to hives swarming. And, if the Queen's mating flight is timed with a few rainy days in a row, she may not make it out in time to mate, and then you are, or at least I am, queenless. It is also important to remember that everything from the specific genetics of your specific queen, to your hive's location, to what is in bloom in your area, to about another 1,000 variables will all affect the success of your hive and also how much honey your hive will produce. I have five hives, and throughout my years as a beekeeper, I have bought nucs, caught swarms and purchased queens, and even if they are from the same source, such as sister queens from the same breeder queen, I can tell you each hive is different. It's one of the things I like about beekeeping; there are no exact answers. Beekeeping is creative problem solving. When you look in your hives, it's not like opening the oven to look at a cake; you are opening the hive to see what curveballs the hive has thrown you. You are looking at a puzzle and you are making decisions on what you can do to help the hive.

So, at this month's meeting, you will hear some stories about hives that produced a lot more honey than yours did, and you will hear stories about hives that are still struggling to survive. How much honey a hive produces is not a measure of how good of a beekeeper someone is, just as a struggling hive is not an indication that someone did something wrong, or that someone is a bad beekeeper. It's all part of the Zen of beekeeping, you learn as much as you can from books, experienced beekeepers, and meetings, then you take all the knowledge you have acquired, make it your own, and then use it as a guide to help you decipher what is happening in your hive. You will always get multiple answers to the "best way" to do something. But remember, beekeeping is not an exact science, and no matter what anyone ever says, there is never only one way to do something. Which is why there is really only one measure of what makes a good beekeeper, and that is someone who stays with it year after year, no matter what.

Enjoy your continued journey!

Frank Mortimer

President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers

Message from Lynn:

BEEKEEPERS

The honey flow is almost over in Northeast New Jersey. I hope that all of you who have honey producing hives had a great year. From the middle of July is the best time to start harvesting. I go through my hives and harvest all capped honey and leave the uncapped honey on the hives for the bees to cap. If you harvest uncapped honey your honey will have too high a moisture content and will ferment. A hygrometer will tell the moisture content of your honey but if you make it a practice to harvest frames that are almost all capped you should be fine.

Once the honey frames are extracted they can be placed back on the hive for the bees to clean the remaining honey out of the cells. It is best to put the honey boxes back on the hive first thing in the morning or later on in the evening to avoid a robbing response by other hives in your yard.

August is the time for mite treatments to allow the hives to build a strong mite-free population of fall bees for winter.

Tim Schuler will be at the July meeting to discuss mite treatments and their importance.

The Ramapo College hive located at the Sustainability Center is doing very well. It is now a full size hive with a medium box full of honey. I will be helping them with the extracting as well as the mite treatment.

For the new beekeepers whose hives are still building out foundation you must feed, feed, feed. Once the bees have drawn out all of the foundation and have enough food stored in the combs you should feed when the bees are hungry, not continuously. If you feed continuously the bees will fill the cells with sugar water and the queen will have no place to lay her eggs. This is why it is so important to check your hives by removing frames and checking to see if there is brood, if they have enough food, if there is a wax moth, mite or hive beetle infestation etc. It is only by looking in your hive that you will see these things, get an overview of the health of the hive and learn at the same time.

Lastly, the EAS convention is in Pennsylvania this year in August and is a great learning experience.



CLUB BULLHORN - NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



- ✚ By 3 days prior to each meeting - For beeks needing wholesale sugar for feeding (in the 40lb. boxes from Grant Stiles), contact Ed edvaeth@neshanicvalleybeekeepers.com
- ✚ Club hats, decals, pins and shirts are still available. Contact Frank pre-meeting for size and availability.

✚ Mead Makers are always welcome at meetings. Bring your latest creation and show it off.

✚ Honey taste testing and sales - Members are always welcome to offer and sell honey @ meetings.



We now have 625 members on our Facebook page! Be sure check it out. See the great pics and stories posted by the Facebook fans we have at our page.



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

Next Month: In August we return to our BeeTalk™ format where we answer all of your bee related questions. Any question about beekeeping is fair game and don't be afraid to ask.



❖ **Volunteers** ❖

Judy and Terry Regan	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
Tom Miller	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
Rachel Avenia-Prol	Web site creation and training: www.nnjbees.org
John Gaut	NJBA Constitution Committee.
Michael Miller	Apparel production, beekeeping instructor
Hugh Knowlton	Workshop/Event coordinator and presenter

Thank you all! If any member wants to volunteer to help our club please contact me either at the meetings or via email. There is lots to do!



**One of my hives with bearding bees on a hot summer night.
Frank is the 43rd bee from the left.**