



nnjbees.org

September 2013



NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

A division of New Jersey Beekeepers Association

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2 nd V. Pres.	Rich Schluger	201-693-6949	Beekeeper Emeritus	Tom Fuscaldo	973-942-5066

Meeting on: **Friday, September 20th at 7:30 PM**, Location: **Ramapo College of NJ, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430**



Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious always welcome!



Weather permitting.



This month we are proud to host our first annual Honey Tasting Competition. Get all the exciting details below!! .

Message from the President:

Hello Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

Our 1st annual Honey Tasting Competition is only a few days away! I would like to thank the members who stepped forward to help make the Honey Cup a success. I would like to give a special thanks to Bob and Rita Jenkins for their help in the selections of food and refreshments this month. Honey tastings require a special selection of palette cleansing, refreshing fruits and cheeses. Thanks Bob and Rita! Also a special thanks goes to Bob Slanzi for helping to brainstorm the logistics of this first-of-a-kind effort for our club. The Honey Cup will be a better event thanks to you!

Friday's Honey Cup should be a great time, and if you are entering your honey in the competition, please arrive by 7:15. Be sure to bring your pound of honey to enter the competition. It does not absolutely have to be a full pound but the closer to a pound the better. The Honey Cup will start at 8:00 pm, and the first 45 minutes will be the "beekeeping" part of the meeting. Please also remember that we will be having a **Best Label** competition, so remember to bring your label with the backing intact. We will affix the labels to poster boards, and take pictures of all of our club labels, together, on one board.

I would ask everyone reading this newsletter for some help. No matter if you have honey or not, could you please be at Friday's meeting. And, could you please bring at least one guest with you.

We're holding the Honey Cup for two reasons:

1) It is a celebration of all the hard work we have done throughout the year to keep our bees healthy and for many, bringing in a Honey crop. It is important that we take this time to really stop and pat ourselves on the back for the work that we are all doing. Yes, we are doing what we do because of our love of, and passion for, honeybees, but let's face it; our hobby does require a lot of hard labor. However, our hobby does give us something that no other hobby can give, the ever-so-sweet-sweet reward of pure honey! In many ways, our Honey is the sweetest because of all that we are doing to help the Honeybee.

2) The old saying says you can attract more with honey, so let's use our honey to attract more people to the sweet benefits of having a local beekeeper in the neighborhood. One of our club's goals is to educate the general public

on the benefit of the Honeybee, and what better way to get people to support local beekeeping than having them buzzing around some of the sweetest stuff on the planet. Remember the first time you tasted "Real Honey?" Now, imagine if we could get all of our neighbors to experience it too.

I am excited about the Honey Cup, and I hope this is a tradition that our club will be doing for many years to come. I am also looking forward to trying everyone's Honey! It is so amazing at how different honey can taste, and it will be wonderful to see whose honey is voted, Northeast NJ's Best Tasting Honey!

Bee well and see you Friday!

Frank Mortimer

President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers



Message from our Secretary:

Wow, with everyone thinking HONEY CUP, it might be easy to forget about what's going on in the hives. Frank told me about Grant's sugar delivery and I'm convinced that everyone who needs to feed is doing so. That is where I'd like to start. I've noticed that some beeks are feeding with their honey supers on. This is not the best thing to do. As of about two weeks ago Japanese Knotweed was in full bloom and the bees were working the groves everywhere I went. Likewise, more recently, Golden Rod is blooming. If you're lucky enough to be located near a good outcrop of these blooms, your honey supers will fill fast. Feeding and harvesting going on in tandem may corrupt your honey in those supers. That begs the question, "Are you checking your hives to see what they're doing? Sugar syrup tends to attract all kinds of insects and if left sitting, will ferment. Honey Bee Healthy (HBH) can help prevent this. If you're feeding, you don't need to fill the feeders to the top. You may want ration the amount of syrup given as you monitor their intake. Right now, a 1:1 ratio is doing well for me. I feed once a week. I only feed my ones and twos. Across the board, my threes are doing double time and have plenty of stores on their own. In a week or so, after all my treating is done, I will begin looking over all my hives, deciding if any reversals, combines or changes should be made. In hives where the population is good and strong but food stores are low, I'll begin feeding both 1:1 and 2:1 and see what they take and then continue just with that particular ratio. If they take both, then I'll continue with both. As a rule, I never push feed. I give them a good portion relative to what they take in but do not feed, feed, feed. When I did feed, feed, feed, once upon a time, I noticed that I had bees that just sat in the feeders fat and lazy. I had conditioned them. I want more bees and I want strong, resilient bees, not fat and lazy bees. I often wonder, is that because there is really nothing out there and they are economizing, or are they just enjoying the free handout? In some of my slower 1 deeps, I've noticed the common spike in wax production and brood once feeding has set in. I actually had to put another deep on a couple and am pleasantly surprised that they are drawing out comb fast, even at this late time of the year.

About 2 weeks ago I caught the mother of all swarms, which probably weighed in at 6-7 odd pounds, maybe more. On the third try in getting the queen, I did and then suddenly watched masses of bees file into the large bin I had to house them. They are going gangbusters and drew out a deep in no time on their own power.

In the next weeks as we wind down feeding we should start thinking about mouse guards, treating for nosema with Fumagalin-B with your "last" feeding and how to winterize hives, if you choose to do so. I reduce ventilation slightly and begin thinking about the spring and woodenware, new yards and how much money I'll need to fund

further expansion and direction. On warm days, you'll want to be out in the hives checking up on your clusters.

Think HONEY CUP.

See you at the meeting, Ed.



CLUB BULLHORN - NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



meetings.

- ✚ 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 @

We now have **685** members, and growing, 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 October we will be hosting Michael J. Pessolano, MJP Land Use Planning LLC. He will discuss what you should know about beekeeping, local zoning ordinances, and land use issues.

BEEKEEPERS



❖ **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!



The Honey Cup