



nnjbees.org

January 2014



NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

A division of New Jersey Beekeepers Association

President	Frank Mortimer	201-417-7309	3 rd V. Pres.	Bob Jenkins	201-218-6537
V. President	Rich Schluger	201-693-6949	Secretary	Ed Vaeth	908-283-1925
2 nd V. Pres.	Bobby Slanzi	845-304-4333	Treasurer	Karl Schoenknecht	201-891-0947

Meeting on: **Friday, January 17th at 7:30 PM**, Location: **Ramapo College of NJ, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430**



Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious always welcome!



Weather permitting.



Welcome to 2014 in the Northeast New Jersey Beekeepers Association! Happ-Bee New Year! Our new officers have already met and are planning an exciting and educational year of speakers and innovative presentations and programs for our members. This month we are pleased to present, as guest speaker, our friend Grant Stiles, commercial beekeeper, to talk to us about winter maintenance, preparing for spring, ordering woodenware and nucs.



Yearly Dues are payable starting now!



Your \$20 yearly dues goes to fund all of our activities, our post meeting refreshments, club supplies and all other necessities required to bring the best possible programs, classes, mentoring and to introduce new beekeepers to the art and craft of the hobby we all love so much. See Karl Schoenknecht to make your timely dues payment and from all the officers, "Thank you for your continued support."



Message from the President:

Hello Northeast NJ Apiarists and Happy 2014!

The new season is almost upon us and now is the time to start getting ready everything you will need for spring. Everything from bees, to woodenware to supplies, to gadgets to bees, bees and more bees! I am really looking forward to this year, and all the great things we will do together in the club. A few weeks ago, the club's officers held a very productive meeting to discuss what we could do to better meets the needs of all our members, and I am certain you will see the results at this year's meetings. We're going to start the year off with what we hope will be everything you will need for a successful year! Starting in January, we will have Grant Stiles, New Jersey's largest commercial beekeeper and also one of the state's, if not one of the country's, most knowledgeable beekeepers. Grant is going to talk with us about winter management, and he will also answer questions you might have about beekeeping, honey production, and how to maintain and grow your bee yards. The club is also planning on providing its members with nucs from Grant again this year. For those who got one of Grant's nucs last year, you know what great honey producers Grant's bee happen to be. (The nucs are \$135 apiece.)

In February, we will have Chris Cripps from Betterbee as our speaker. Betterbee has graciously agreed to help our members save on shipping costs by delivering all orders to our February meeting, so place your orders early! In March, we're going to host a hive-building workshop, so everyone can build their

hives together and with guidance from beekeepers have nailed more than a few boxes and frames together.

I hope everyone is looking forward to spring as much as I am! But, while we're all dealing with this polar vortex, I would encourage everyone to read as much as they can, order what you need to order, and build or paint what needs to be built or painted, because spring will be here before we know it! Until the warm weather, I wish you and your bees the best!

Sincerely,

Frank Mortimer

President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers

Message from the Secretary:

I Feel The Power

As a start to the New Year, I think of those of us who are established keepers who look out our windows at boxes that represent everything to us. It is the culmination of hours of work. Some of us spend the winter months reading about all things bee so that the minute the weather breaks, we break too and will be out there refining technique or testing some new product or routine in our hives. Others of us run down our checklists, thinking about expansion, extraction and bottling for our next season.

For the newbie beekeeper, it is an anxious, exciting and nervous time. "Am I ready for this?", "Do I have everything I need?", "Am I plugged into my association?" "Do I have and/or need a mentor?", "Did I order my bees?"... these are some of the questions that may be spinning around between the ears. Newbees will also be looking out their windows at that spot where their hives will be soon enough.

Where ever you are on the bee scale, the power will be felt at the next 3 meetings as we think spring and nectar flow. This is an important time to be in the loop.

It is especially important for 1st year newbees to come to the meetings and ask questions and get the answers you will need. *YOU* Will Feel The Power.

The bees will not wait for you, I promise.

On Another note for **Hudson County** members:

The town of West New York has asked me to support them in the development of their new Farmers Market. The market will take place on Thursdays, starting May 1st and running through September 24th. The location will be Donnelly Memorial Park, (60th Street and Boulevard East, West New York). That being said, it presents a unique opportunity to support all things bee and our club in Hudson County. I have been conferring with the various departments involved and I Feel The Power. If any of members from the around the county or town would like to help in this process or act as local member liaison to other beeks or potential beeks, please let me know. I will be at the market as a vendor and will provide club and other beekeeping related printed matter as well as observation hive as weather permits.

Ed.



NEW! Beekeepers of New Jersey Legislative Action Page Now on Facebook!

Please visit the new Facebook page Beekeepers of New Jersey Legislative Action Page
<https://www.facebook.com/BeekeepersofNewJerseyLegislativeAction>

This page is to help you keep up with current New Jersey bee legislation.

It is designed to help educate beekeepers of New Jersey to legislative action items and to guide you on how to get involved. Here you will learn about pending legislation, the Bill numbers and their statuses as well as action to take. We even show you how to locate and contact your State Legislators with step by step instructions and template letters to send.

Once you "like" the page please check back often to get updates and news.

At this time we are up to 67 likes, let's make it 100 or more! Please make sure you share with all your bee-friendly neighbors and friends.

Thanks,

Your legislative team, Gloria & Robert Leustek - Email us at leustek@verizon.net



A story from Scott Jenkins, son of NEBA members Bob & Rita Jenkins, who is in Rwanda in the Peace Corps:

My name is Scott Jenkins, and I'm a member of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association currently serving in Rwanda as an education volunteer for the Peace Corps. My site, however, is more than a bit unusual for that kind of post; unlike the crowded secondary schools where most of my colleagues work, I was assigned to teach English at a small vocational college for conservation and environmental management. My students are rangers and park workers, and as such the school was built on the border of Nyungwe Forest, a montane rainforest that is one of Rwanda's three national parks. The school is closely associated with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), both of which have long been involved in the establishment of a series of beekeeping cooperatives all around the edge of the forest. Kitabi, the village in which I'll be living for the next two years, is home to one of these cooperatives (a fact that more than likely was one of the reasons the Peace Corps assigned me to this area). I have only just arrived recently but I've had the chance to meet with the leader of the cooperative, a man so dedicated to the cause that he is known primarily as "Kayuki" ('kah-yoo-chee,' which means 'little bee' in the local language of Kinyarwanda), and offered to help out in any way I can while I'm here. While my official job description is just teaching English, the Peace Corps encourages their volunteers to pursue secondary projects that they are passionate about so I look forward to getting more involved as time goes by. I also took a short walk down the road towards the forest in order to visit the shop in which the beekeepers sell their goods to people passing through the forest, as well as one of the clearings where they keep their hives (an interesting assortment of traditional log hives, top bar, and even a couple modern frame hives). Beekeeping has a long history in this part of the world, but recently it's become a bit of an old man's game. There is a strong desire to try to get the youth involved in the business, albeit without many promising successes so far. I've also heard talk of a push to incorporate more Western hives, but the cost of materials and proper training to use them can often be prohibitive for smaller groups. I hope to be working closely with the beekeepers here for the next two years, with plenty more updates to come!

Scott



CLUB BULLHORN - NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

- ✚ 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 quickly blew through the 800 member milestone and are, as of this writing 853 members strong, 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!



New crop of beekeepers from our most recent Bee-ginner beekeeping class. How sweet it is!!

Next Month

In February 2014 we will be featuring Chris Cripps from Betterbee. Chris will be speaking about beekeeping trends in the Northeast and an insider's view of new and innovative products carried by Betterbee,



Mary Ann's Gourmet Market
1011 MacArthur Blvd.
Mahwah, NJ 07430
201-962-8611
www.maryannsgourmetmarket.com

All Beekeepers Receive 10% Off!

❖ **Volunteers** ❖

Judy and Terry Regan
Tom Miller
Rachel Avenia-Prol
John Gaut
Michael Miller
Hugh Knowlton
Rob & Gloria Leustek

Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
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Web site creation and training: www.nnjbees.org
NJBA Constitution Committee.
Apparel production, beekeeping instructor
Workshop/Event coordinator and presenter
Legislative Liaisons and Craftsman's Corner

