



nnjbees.org

June 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, June 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.



June is here after a crazy weather May and a slow start to the beekeeping season. I can tell you from personal experience that after the rainy and cold start to the season I predicted little to no honey this year for my hives. Boy was I wrong! This past Sunday I pulled 150 lbs. of heavy, heavy honey supers from just two hives! I'm tired and happy! Those honey wet frames went right back onto those hives and I'm hoping the girls will promptly refill them in the next 4 to 5 weeks we have left of nectar flow. Here's hoping for the best!



Congratulations are in order for our President! Frank and Sofie have welcomed a new baby (8 lbs. 10 oz.) beekeeper into their family. Svea Maria Mortimer (It means bee-whisperer in Swedish). Mazel Tov!

Karl has sent me the updated membership list for 2014 and I noticed over 30 people have not paid their dues. If we are to be successful as a bee club we need each and every one of you to do your part to help us bring the best programs and info to you, our members.

Yearly Dues are payable now!



Your \$20 yearly dues goes to fund all of our activities, our post meeting refreshments, club supplies and all the 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:

The longer I am a beekeeper, the more I realize that my sense of normal is different than most people. A few Mondays ago, my wife and I were taking my son to school. My son was telling us about his most recent epic battle on Minecraft, but then he said that he heard something buzzing. He started looking around, and then he calmly reported that we had a bee bouncing around the back window as it tried to find its way out of the car. The three of us looked at the bee, said nothing for 1-2 seconds, and then we immediately picked up the Minecraft conversation where we had left off when our hitchhiker was first spotted. Just a normal day as a beekeeper, right? Well, it is, until you tell the story to non-beekeepers, and they look at you like you are from a different planet. For most “normal” people, the “normal” reaction when they finding a live bee buzzing around the inside of their car would have been for the entire family to jump out of the moving vehicle, screaming and barrel rolling to safety. But remember, remaining calm is never the “normal” reaction.

The longer you are a beekeeper, the more things do change. Like many fellow beekeepers, I tend to lean towards the natural side of life, and I try to avoid any and all types of cides: pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and pretty much any kind of new cide that hits the market. I prefer to eat food that is natural, not created in a lab, and I am attracted to beekeeping because of the natural link the honeybee has with plants and the environment. When I was a new beekeeper, and like so many other new beekeepers, I wanted to keep my bees as naturally as possible. I wanted my bees to live as naturally as they have for thousands and thousands of years. However, with every winter that passes, I grow stronger in my conviction that this is no longer possible. Just like all the bee experts know, and just like all the journal articles and scientific research proves, **if you don't treat for mites, your bees will die.**

Bees die in the winter for two reasons: 1) They starve to death, or 2) They die from mites. There are lots of different ways to treat for mites, but what is most important is that you DO treat for mites. Talking about the cold of winter seems like a long way off, especially when we're still waiting for our summer to really just start, but the reality is, if you want your bees to live through the winter, now is when you need to start thinking about mites, and treating for them in July – August. The issue is that the Varroa Destructor Mite is not a natural parasite for Apis Mellifera, and thus our honeybees do not have any natural way to fight them off, and in order to survive, they need our help. (Varroa Destructor is a natural parasite for Apis cerana, or Asian Honeybee, and it jumped over to Apis Mellifera, or European Honeybee, in the late 1980s, and have been causing the death of our hives ever since.)

As a keeper of bees and someone who has taken on the responsibility to do what is best for their survival, the number one most important thing you can do as a beekeeper is treat for mites. There are many different treatments you can chose from, and there are new ones being developed all the time, but my advice to every beekeeper is to choose one that has been scientifically proven to work. There are natural solutions that do help such as drone combing, but there are many others that simply do not work, such as powdered sugar. We're lucky, because at our upcoming June meeting, Tim Schuler, the NJ State Apiarist, will explain all the how's and whys of treating for mites, and all of the information he will share with us will be based on research and scientific data.

Yes, we are all beekeepers and our sense of normal is different from most people.

But, the one thing all of us beekeepers do have in common is that we want to have healthy bees. Each of us wants to have hives that thrive year after year, and for some of us to have that, it just means it's time to listen to the people who have successfully kept bees year after year, and read the journal articles that keep us up-to-date on the scientific research. Or, sometimes all it takes is a willingness to change, do some things differently, and just shift your sense of normal.

I look forward to seeing everyone this Friday for our June meeting.

Frank Mortimer

President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers





Attention Members:

New Bee books and mite treatments will be on sale at the meeting this Friday. Stay in the know and bee mite free and help your bee club.

Timely Bee Tips for June

The Bees. Unswarmed colonies will be boiling with bees. The queen's rate of egg laying may drop a bit this month. The main honey flow should happen this month.

The Beekeeper. Inspect the hive weekly to make certain the hive is healthy and the queen is present. Add honey supers as needed. Keep up swarm inspections. Attend bee club meetings and workshops.

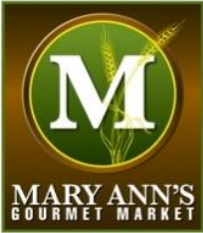
Time Spent. Estimate 4-5 hours.



Over 1,153 Strong!!!

We quickly blew through the 1000 member milestone and are, as of this writing 1,153 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!



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Next Month

In July, our topic will be honey extraction. End of season prep and general health of your hive(s). Bee there to ask, hear and learn.

❖ **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.njbees.org
Jennifer Phillips	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies and other treats.
John Gaut	NJBA Constitution Committee.
Michael Miller	Apparel production, beekeeping instructor
Hugh Knowlton	Workshop/Event coordinator and presenter
Rob & Gloria Leustek	Legislative Liaisons



One of my perfectly capped honey frames