



nnjbees.org

July 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
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2 nd V. Pres.	Bobby Slanzi	845-304-4333	Treasurer	Karl Schoenknecht	201-891-0947

Meeting on: **Friday, July 18th at 7:30 PM**, Location: **Ramapo College of NJ, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430**



Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious always welcome!



Weather permitting.



July rhymes with honey! Oh wait, it doesn't but they both end in "y". In any case, here in the Northeast July or August (which doesn't end in "y") are the months when beekeepers typically harvest their honey. Not all beekeepers have honey to harvest. This is how beekeeping works. I went three years before I got any honey at all. Hives die, queens die, are not productive, it's cold, it's rainy, it's too wet, it's too dry. Mite loads are high, hive beetles infest, your hives are in too shady a spot, too damp a spot. A million things can prevent or diminish a honey harvest but if you have the right kind of bees, the right age at the right time, you will be successful. If you have honey to harvest or not, it's good to know how to do for there will come a time when you will have honey to harvest. That's why you go to your club meetings and why YOU should go to yours. Come, listen, share and learn and have fun. See you all at the meeting.

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:

Happy Honey Season Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

It is that time of year, the time of year that many of us work all year for. Yes, it is honey extraction time, and how sweet it is!

This spring, when the nectar flow first started, I was worried about what kind of year we would have. The weather was unseasonably cold, and we had a lot of rainy days. As reports started coming in, we heard about some hives doing unbelievably great, and others never taking off. What became clear was that this was going to be a very uneven year.

For the past two seasons, members' experiences seemed to be very consistent. However, this year, the results are across the board. Why? I think a big part of the equation is mites. As Tim Schuler discussed during our last meeting, mite loads appear to be heavy this year, and when you combine the mites with the uneven nectar flow, in many cases, the mites won, or at least, prevented the bees from successfully building up. When we have seasons like this, you have to remind yourself that keeping bees is a form of agriculture, and just like any other crop, many "ingredients" to a successful year are beyond our control. Or, as I like to call it, the Zen of Beekeeping.

I am looking forward to extracting this year. It is always fun to pull off the supers heavy with honey, take them home and spin out their golden treat.

I usually try to extract my honey over one long, sticky weekend. Usually sometime during the process, as frame after frame has given up its sweet syrupy nectar, and I see the five-gallon buckets fill, I pause to take a moment and think about how much work has gone into this day. One lonely worker bee will only make 1/12 of 1 teaspoon of honey, and here I am looking at a bucket with over 60 pounds of honey! The honeybee is indeed an amazing creature, especially when you think about how many bees have worked their entire life just for this moment, ensuring that their hives will continue to live.

Additionally, each of us beekeepers have also put in a lot of hours all year long for this moment. Yes, the nectar flow is only 4 months long, but if you want to have a successful honey crop, you have to work all 12 months out of the year to get it. Beekeepers endure a lot, hot sticky heat, stings, back pain, and it is all for this moment, and it is so very very worth it!

The beekeeper is indeed an interesting creature. Enjoy the sweet reward of all your hard work. Enjoy your honey, be proud of yourself, and let's get ready for next year!

See you at Friday's 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.

Harvesting Honey: 5 Tips

[Harvesting honey](#) is one of the most exciting jobs of a beekeeper ([click here to see a video showing how to harvest honey](#)). It is the time when all your hard work pays off, and it is such a thrill to taste the first honey from your own hive. But, as with everything to do with [Beekeeping](#), there are a few pitfalls you need to watch out for! Here are 5 tips to help ensure that your first honey harvest runs smoothly.

1. Honey is **VERY** sticky

Obvious, but still worth remembering. You will get honey on your hands, and **EVERYTHING** you touch will get sticky. A bucket of warm water is essential to keep rinsing your hands. Be well prepared, with all your extraction equipment at hand before you start. If possible, do your extraction in a garage or basement rather than in the kitchen (provided you can keep the honey clean and the bees out).

2. Beware of robbers

Your extraction room must be bee proof. Bees will be attracted to the honey, and if they can get in, they will. Not only will they take back their honey – it is also very difficult to extract honey with bees buzzing around your head. If possible, do not leave full supers sitting around for long before extraction. Bees are not the only insects who like honey – ants, earwigs and wasps will all steal it if given the chance.

3. Warm honey flows better

Extracting honey is much easier if it is warm – ideally 80 degrees Fahrenheit (27 c) or more. In the summer time this is not usually a problem, but if it is cooler try warming the frames before beginning the extraction. The easiest way to do this is by putting the supers under a light bulb overnight.

4. You don't need to buy all the extraction equipment.

Many household items will be good enough substitutes for extraction tools, rather than spending a fortune on beekeeping supplies. Rather than an uncapping knife, you can use a [serrated bread knife](#). [Kitchen Strainers](#) (or [nylon stockings](#)) can be used as honey filters. [Tupperware containers](#) are good for honey and the wax cappings. One thing that you will need is a centrifugal honey extractor, but you can often borrow or hire this from your local beekeeping association – or even [build your own honey extractor](#).

5. Make use of the wax cappings

About 10% of the honey will be in the wax cappings, so be sure to strain these to get all the honey you can. The cappings themselves can then be melted down and are ideal for [candle making](#). Do not use everyday pots to melt your wax – anything in contact with melted wax will remain forever waxy and cannot be used for anything else.

6. Bees are great cleaners

Once you have extracted your honey, put the ‘wet’ super with the empty frames back on the hive. The bees will do a great job of cleaning off any remaining honey, usually within 1 day, and the dry super can then be put into storage.

Enjoy your delicious honey!



Over 1,194 Strong!!!

We quickly blew through the 1000 member milestone and are, as of this writing 1,194 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!



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

All Beekeepers Receive 10% Off!

Next Month

In August, our BeeTalk® series continues. The topics will be feeding, dealing with the dearth and winter prep. Be 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-Proi	Web site creation and training: www.nnjbees.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