



nnjbees.org

August 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, August 15th at 7:30 PM**, Location: **Ramapo College of NJ, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430**



Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious always welcome!



Weather permitting.



August 1st is the first day of winter for beekeepers. For the most part, at least here in north Jersey, the nectar flow has ended for the year. Some years there is a fall flow but most times there is not. We need to feed to insure heavy hives going into late fall. Treatments need to be done as the Varroa has had the whole season to parasitize your bees. Soon they will outnumber the bees. That is when your hive will crash. Think about your hive management as the queens productivity is tailing off as she realizes that fall is almost here. Fatten those winter bees, enjoy your harvest and think about next spring.

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."

Saturday is National Honeybee Day!

Read about it at this link <http://www.nationalhoneybeeday.com/>

A day for honeybees, a program for the entire year...

Message from the President:

Welcome to August, or as our esteemed, super-beekeeper, Werner Mai, calls it; the start of the beekeeper's year. August is the month when you should be treating your hives, and for many, feeding your hives. The health and strength of your colonies in August will determine how well they do through the winter. If you want a mega-honey crop next year, then get into your hives now, make sure they are heavy with honey, and treat, treat, treat for mites. It is also important to remember the need to feed! In some areas, there will be a fall nectar flow, however, it would be more prudent not count on it, and instead feed your bees. If there happens to be a fall flow, great, then your bees can stock up and will have extra supplies. However, if the fall flow does not happen and you chose not to feed, then your hives will be too light to make it through the winter, and your bees will starve.

August is a sweet month, because it is also the time to think about honey. I am excited to hear how everyone's harvest was last month, as your honey from your hive that you have tended to, will always be the sweetest honey you will ever taste. This was my best year, and I brought in over 200 pounds. I bottled 115 pounds, but I ran out of jars, and still have two 5-gallon buckets that are waiting to be bottled. I enjoy extracting and bottling, but I am always amazed at how honey, or at least the sticky part of honey, gets EVERYWHERE! For me, the best thing about this time of year is when I have all my honey bottled, and I have found, and removed every sticky spot on the floor. Honey is such a tangible reward to being a beekeeper. It is super rewarding when you see the rows of jars, each holding the golden sweet nectar, representing the months and months of your (and your bees') hard work. Honey is also something that non-beekeepers can understand and admire. (Because let's face it, many people will never understand why we enjoy our bees and how much joy they bring us!)

If you had a record honey crop this year, or if you wish you had harvested a lot more, as long as you are a beekeeper, there is one thing in common—there is always next year. And, that "next year" has just begun!

Happy Beekeeping and I look forward to seeing you at Friday's meeting.

Frank Mortimer

President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers



Battling Varroa – by Randy Oliver

Three strategies I've found that always fail when battling varroa are:

1. **Denial**—"I haven't seen any mites, so my mite levels must be low."
2. **Wishful thinking**—"I haven't seen very many mites, so I'm hoping and praying that my bees will be OK."
3. **Blind faith**—"I used the latest snake oil mite cure, and it's gotta work!"

Every time I've been "blindsided" by the mite, I was in actuality simply being blind. I either wasn't monitoring the mite level, or was hoping that it wasn't as bad as it looked, or was cocksure that the latest control method had worked, and that I didn't need to confirm its efficacy by checking back.

What I've come to realize is that today's beekeeper can never be complacent with regard to varroa. Time and again I've seen myself and others work out a treatment and management strategy that worked great for two or three years. We prided ourselves on having finally "licked" the mite. Let me warn you, that kind of hubris taunts the mite gods, and they may smite you with a vengeance the next year! Varroa is one opponent you don't ever want to take your eyes off of.

Any general would be foolish to commence a battle without first assessing the strength of his enemy. A beekeeper practicing integrated pest management against varroa is no different. The problem with varroa is that **by the time you start to notice mites on the bees during normal colony management, they may have already built up to a damaging level.** That is, varroa are rather inconspicuous due to the fact that about two thirds of them are hidden in the brood, and the phoretic (hitchhiking) mites are usually hiding on the undersides of bees, where the beekeeper can't see them. One must also add the unspoken fact that Joe beekeeper doesn't really want to see mites, since if he doesn't see any, he can enjoy the pleasant fantasy that they are under control.

Because of the difficulty of gauging the degree of varroa infestation during normal colony inspection, the vigilant beekeeper must sample his colonies for mites in a timely manner in order to determine what efforts he needs to be making to keep the mite population at a tolerable level. **By "tolerable," I mean below the level at which mites are likely to cause, or are on track to cause, economic injury to the colony**—slower buildup, less honey production, a viral epidemic, poor wintering, or at worst, colony collapse. That level will vary greatly by time of season, as detailed in my previous article on mite population dynamics.

The term "threshold" is often used for the economic injury level. The beekeeper's strategy is to try to manage (as opposed to "control") the mite population to keep it below an appropriate seasonal threshold value. If the population exceeds the seasonal threshold, he would then apply some sort of treatment to reset it back to a tolerable level.

Read more articles by Randy Oliver at: <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/>

No extractor, but need to extract your honey?

Good news, Hudson Valley Bee Supply will extract your honey for you! The price of extracting is included in the price of their glassware, and the prices are very reasonable. If you are not ready to purchase an extractor, this is a wonderful alternative. You can extract your honey and get it bottled, at a good price and without all the mess.



Over 1,219 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 September, our annual Honey Cup Competition takes place! Save a pound of honey and enter to win! This honey contest is judged solely on taste and your fellow members will vote. Sweet!

❖ 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
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