



nnjbees.org

October 2014



NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

A division of New Jersey Beekeepers Association

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Meeting on: **Friday, October 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.



October. Is it fall or winter? Well, it depends where you're sitting. If you have 2 arms, 2 legs and like to go trick or treating, then it's fall. If you have 6 legs, 2 wings, a honey stomach and live in a hive, then it's winter and you'd better have sufficient sweet stores to make it through the long winter (and I'm not talking about Halloween candy). You also better be largely free of Varroa mites and have a queen who's ramping down her prodigious egg laying as the days are growing shorter, the nights cooler and longer. The yearly cycle turns inexorably and inevitably. The shape your hive is in now will determine if it will emerge from the winter and renew itself in the spring or hard stop somewhere in the cold months. We all hope for the same thing but have we given our bees the best chance of survival or not? Time will tell, but do not head into the cold months without hearing how to give your bees a leg up. Come to our meeting and find out how to give your bees the advantage that may make the difference.

Message from the President:

Welcome to fall and one season closer to spring's nectar flow! Fall is the time to finalize your mite treatments, confirm your hives are heavy, and prepare your apiary for winter.

This was my first time using Apivar, and I am interested in the results. My bees did not seem as freaked out as they do with other mite treatments, especially MAQs. If you are using Apivar, please remember to take the strips out, because if you leave them in your hives over winter, the mites are more likely to build up a resistance to it.

Soon it will be too cold to keep feeding sugar syrup to you bees, so please plan on removing your feeders. Remember, temperature does not kill bees, condensation kills bees.

In preparation for winter, if you have not already done so, remember to get mouse guards on your hives. The guards will prevent any unwanted tenants from taking up residence in your hives and keep them from destroying your comb and woodenware. As an added precaution, I also like to strap my hives down until spring. For added stability, I put the straps through the cinderblocks, providing extra weight and strength to the hives. This time of year is also a good time to clean up all your equipment. Clean all the gook off your hive tools, scrap the creosote out of your smoker, and wash your veil before you put away everything for winter. Because once winter is upon us, it will be time to repair old equipment, buy new gear and gadgets, and mostly start thinking about how great next year's season will be!

Frank Mortimer

President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers

September Honey Cup 2014 Winners

Last month's meeting, our annual Honey Cup, was a huge success! We had 25 entries in our honey tasting and 10 entries in our label contest. We also had about 90 people attending, many new to beekeeping, and some with just a sweet tooth for honey. This year's Honey Cup was also a celebration for all of us and our passion, beekeeping. Thanks to everyone who attended to make it such a special and wonderful evening! Mostly, congratulations to all of our 2014 honey champions!

The 2014 winners (and their entry's number or letter) are:

Honey Champions

- 1st = Heather Mika (#22)
- 2nd = Doug Lawrence (#19)
- 3rd = Brian Eromenok (#9)

Best Labels

- 1st = Lynn Paglia ("J")
- 2nd = Heather Mika ("I")
- 3rd = John Gaut ("A")





BEEKEEPERS

Find us on Facebook

1,236 Strong!!!

We quickly blew through the 1000 member milestone and are, as of this writing 1,236 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

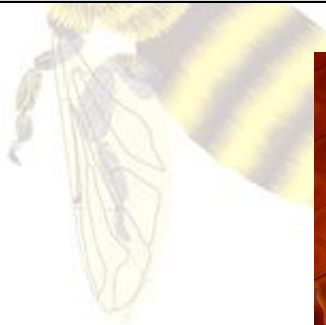
All Beekeepers Receive 10% Off!

Next Month

For our November meeting, we are asking you, our members, to bring your favorite recipe using honey, your lip balm and anything else you make from honey, wax or propolis. We want to hear from you! Please bee ready to show and tell us how you are making the most from your hives.

❖ Volunteers ❖

Judy and Terry Regan	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
Tom Miller	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
Rachel Avenia-Pro	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





Some Thoughts on Winter Prep

Make Sure the Colony Has Plenty of Food

The first and most important thing you can do is to make sure the bees have enough honey stores to see them through the winter. How much do they need? That's a difficult question to answer because there are so many variables to factor in. As a general rule of thumb, the equivalent of 1 deep super FULL of honey will suffice in most locales and situations. But there's no such thing as too much. And unfortunately, my bees don't have enough. We've had a very dry summer and fall, and though the goldenrod bloomed, it didn't produce much nectar. So I'm feeding my bees lots of sugar syrup this fall. For fall feeding I use a much thicker syrup than for spring feeding. I make syrup with at least a 2 to 1 ratio of sugar to water.

No Mice Allowed!

I've also reduced the size of the entrance. That's done for two reasons:

1. To restrict the cold air flowing into the hive
2. To discourage mice from entering the hive

Mice just LOVE to make beehives their winter home. During warm weather, of course, bees won't allow a mouse to enter the hive. But when the bees are clustered during cold weather, they can't do anything to prevent a mouse from entering. If a bee leaves the cluster, it dies. So during cold spells, a mouse can have a high old time building a nest and chowing down on honey and wax. When the bees break cluster, they can chase the mouse out – or even make it pay the ultimate price for its boldness. But the damage will have been done. And opening a hive for spring inspection and finding lots of mice damage is certainly disheartening for a beekeeper.

That's not really the best defense against a mouse invasion. A really DETERMINED mouse could chew the opening large enough to permit entry. It's best to use a metal entrance reducer of some sort; there are several designs available. And some beekeepers just fold a piece of ¼ inch mesh hardware cloth into the entrance.

Airtight is NOT Right

As long as they have sufficient stores, bees are able to survive INCREDIBLY cold temperatures. But what's much more harmful to the bees is a buildup of moisture and carbon dioxide inside the hive. If the hive is tightly sealed, then the heat and moisture generated by the cluster rises to the top of the hive and cannot escape. The moisture then condenses on the cold top cover and rains back down upon the bees in their cluster.

Sounds miserable, doesn't it! In a tightly sealed hive, carbon dioxide can also build up to unhealthy levels. So it's important to have an outlet at the top to allow warm moist air to escape. Though it may seem counterintuitive, it's not beneficial to trap that air inside the hive.

