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# November 2014



## NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

A division of New Jersey Beekeepers Association

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

Meeting on: **Friday, November 21st at 7:30 PM**, Location: **Ramapo College of NJ, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430**



*Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious always welcome!*



*Weather permitting.*



November. Happy Thanksgiving! This is the time of year to give thanks, for health, for family and friends, for good tidings. Beekeeper quiet time, except....for repairs on old equipment, ordering new equipment, building and painting woodenware, catching up on reading all those bee books you bought during the year (see Franks message below) and thinking about the great reawakening on the other side of winter. A beekeeper always has something to do, if you're committed and really care about your bees.

Speaking of commitment, next month elections will be held for officer positions in the Northeast branch. How good do you want your branch to be? Fresh ideas, new perspectives and a great imagination are all that's needed to be successful and take your club to places it's never been before. Consider joining the proud, the brave, the few and make a commitment to your club, yourself and the bees. Food for thought...

One last thing. For this month's meeting, bring or talk about your favorite recipe using honey, your lip balm (Franks favorite thing to talk about but not do), soap or anything you've made from honey, propolis or beeswax. Show off and tell! Oh, and Happy Thanksgiving to all!

### **Message from the President:**

Happy Thanksgiving Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

As our days are getting shorter, our nights longer, and temperatures creeping lower and lower, I think it's safe to say the winter months are upon us. By now your hives are ready for winter, with plenty of food, protected from the elements and destructive creatures who would love to winter inside a warm hive, or who are looking for something to eat. Since there is not much you can do with your hives now, or for the next several months, what's a beekeeper to do? My advice on how to best be using your time right now is to start planning what you want to do next year, and be thinking about how

you can be a better beekeeper. It is a great time to look through all the beekeeping catalogs and start ordering equipment for next year. Remember, many of the suppliers have holiday sales, so now is a great time order your woodenware, and finally pick up all those little things you have been meaning to get.

Also, the winter months are a great time to grab a book, build your library and increase your knowledge of the honeybee and beekeeping. Recently on Facebook, our own Ed Vaeth posed a question asking, "What are the top 5 beekeeping books you would recommend and why?" Having a Beekeeping library of over 50 titles, and thinking about the range of information needed, from beginner to experienced, I'd say my top 5 beekeeping books are:

Backyard Beekeeper

by Kim Flottum

ISBN: 978-1592539192

The Backyard Beekeeper book belongs in every beekeeper's library. This is the first book anyone interested in beekeeping should buy. It is the go to book for all beginners, and a solid reference for everyone who keeps bees.

Beekeeper's Handbook

by Diana Sammataro

ISBN: 978-0-8014-7694-5

A great resource for all the basics of honeybees and beekeeping. It provides a wide range of solid information without going into too much detail, and it is great when you need to check a fact or procedure.

Hive Management: A seasonal guide for Beekeepers

by Richard E. Bonney

ISBN: 978-0-88266-637-2

A short very practical book for beekeeping. It provides a lot of tips and a great guide to hands-on beekeeping. A quick go to book before heading out to the hives.

Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping

by Dewey Caron

ISBN: 978-1-878075-29-1

This is the required textbook for the Master Beekeeping course. It provides the depth and breadth of detail that any experienced beekeeper is looking for. If you are serious about keeping bees, then you should own this book.

The Queen Must Die and other affairs of Bees and Men

by William Longgood

ISBN: 978-0-393-30528-9

This is a great read about honeybees and beekeepers. It is filled with a lot of stories, lore and history of beekeeping. It takes you inside the mind and emotions of a beekeeper, and makes you proud of the hobby we all love.

I enjoy having a large collection of beekeeping books, so picking my top 5 was difficult. Each book that I own has at least one unique fact, picture or illustration that I have found useful and/or interesting. I chose the five books that I did because they each serve a unique need, and together they touch upon all areas and all levels of beekeeping. The one thing I do know for sure, I have never bought a bee book that I didn't like. Next, and what might be even more difficult, I will have to decide which of my books fall into my top 6-10 spots.

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

Sincerely,

**Frank Mortimer**

**President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers**



**1,238 Strong!!!**

We quickly blew through the 1000 member milestone and are, as of this writing 1,238 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**

December is election time at the Northeast New Jersey Beekeepers branch. Guaranteed not to have hanging or pregnant chads, dead people voting, and ballot box stuffing. Attend and vote! Be heard! Better yet, run for office! The pay is great and the perks are to die for. See you all then!!

#### ❖ 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: <a href="http://www.nnjbees.org">www.nnjbees.org</a>
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

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