



[nnjbees.org](http://nnjbees.org)

# February 2015



## 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.	Karl Schoenknecht	201-891-0947
V. President	Rich Schluger	201-693-6949	Secretary	Vacant	
2 <sup>nd</sup> V. Pres.	John Gaut	201-961-2330	Treasurer	Bob Jenkins	201-218-6537

Meeting on: **Friday, February 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.*



This month New Jersey commercial beekeeper Grant Stiles is our special guest and speaker. Hear what he has to say about keeping bees in New Jersey. He'll also talk about his nucs which we are ordering from him and answering your questions. Bee there for another information packed meeting.

### **Yearly Dues are payable starting now!**



Your \$20 yearly dues goes to fund all of our activities, our post meeting refreshments, club supplies and all 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 Bob Jenkins to make your timely dues payment and from all the officers, "Thank you for your continued support."



**Starting in March 2015 those members from last year who have not paid their 2015 dues will be removed from the clubs mailing list and no longer receive our monthly newsletter nor any member email blasts. Stay in the know, help the club and renew your membership by March.**

## Message from the President:

Happy February Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

The weather we are currently having will have the greatest impact on our hives. The record subzero temperatures our area is experiencing, coupled with the fact that February is when many hives run out of food, means that many colonies that have made it this far will not be alive in the spring. Hopefully, this cold spell will end soon, and when it does, please check on your hives and make sure they have enough food to make it through the next few months.

If you have any questions about your bees, anything from what you should be feeding them, to what is the latest research on the war on Varroa, bring it to this month's meeting, as Grant Stiles is our guest speaker. Grant is NJ's largest commercial beekeeper, and a certified master beekeeper, who keeps over 4,000 hives. Yes, FOUR THOUSAND hives! Grant has encountered and seen just about everything possible for a beekeeper, which is why he is such a wealth of information. Grant is also the club's source for nucs, so if you have any questions about getting a nuc, Friday is when you should ask.

We will only have a limited number of nucs available, and when they are gone, they are gone. So, if you want to reserve a nuc, please get your \$40 deposit in to Bob Jenkins as soon as possible.

Since preparation is the key, the club will again be selling beekeeping books at the meeting. The Backyard Beekeeper by Kim Flottum is the perfect book, especially when you are just starting out. Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping by Dewey Caron is the "textbook" for becoming a master beekeeper, and the must-have reference for every serious beekeeper. (Both of these books are available at "club prices," well below what you can expect to pay for them anywhere else.)

Starting at Friday's meeting, we will also have a supply of the 2015 beekeeping catalogs for our members. We will also have a limited supply of brochures for members. Also as a reminder, the National Honey Board offers, at no charge, a wide selection of brochures to ANY beekeeper. If you sell your honey, these brochures are a great resource and they are completely free. (For more information, please go to [www.Honey.com](http://www.Honey.com) or click here for the catalog.)

Expert speakers, great reference books, and free stuff! It's all for you, our members and all you have to do is show up on Friday. See you at the meeting!

Sincerely,

**Frank Mortimer**

**President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers**



# Northeast New Jersey Beekeepers Mentoring Program

The first challenge of becoming a beekeeper today is realizing there is a LOT to learn! For the beginning beekeeper dealing with the challenges of the first year can be overwhelming. Most of us are successful because when we started out, someone took the time to help each one of us. Our club has always prided itself on being an excellent resource for new and experienced beekeepers alike, and now we are organizing a mentoring program to help more beekeepers be successful.

A mentoring program needs mentors and mentees. The only qualification for a mentee is to be a first year beekeeper with the desire and dedication to learn about keeping bees. Which means, either having studied on your own, or better yet taken one of the classes offered in our area.

And while we have plenty of new beekeepers, we also need Mentors!

What are the qualifications for a Mentor? The basic qualification is being successful with one or more colonies of bees for at least one or two years. That's it! After keeping a colony for a year, you have learned a lot and a new beekeeper would greatly benefit from your experience and guidance.

A Mentor would be paired with only one or two new beekeepers from the same area. The Mentor and Mentee would just work out a mutually convenient schedule and the most effective ways to communicate.

As we go through the beekeeping year, the Mentor would verify that the new beekeeper knows what is needed and what to expect at each decision point throughout the season. The Mentor could invite the Mentee to watch them work their colonies, so the Mentee could learn from seeing an established colony. Also the Mentor would oversee the Mentee work their hive and offer tips and suggestions. Most importantly, the mentor would be available to answer questions, and help the mentee keep their hives healthy.

Mentors can rely on the more experienced beekeepers in the club (and state) for help and input with the really challenging questions. This is one of the benefits of being a Mentor; you see and learn more, thus enabling you to then be more successful with your own bees.

Remember the person who helped you become the beekeeper that you are today. Now, it's your turn to pay it forward and help someone else bee successful.

To be a Mentor, or if you need a Mentor, please see Rich Schluger or John Gaut at our February meeting. If you cannot be at the February meeting, you can email [john.a.gaut@gmail.com](mailto:john.a.gaut@gmail.com)



**MENTOS**

## Shout Out to a Member



A huge shout out to our own very talented Larissa Symbouras who has generously given of her valuable time to paint our club hive with this bee-utiful artwork. The Northeast branch is indeed lucky to have both Larissa and Eric as members. Larissa doesn't hesitate to lend a hand when one is needed and the same can be said of Eric. The beneficiaries here? All the members of the Northeast New Jersey Beekeepers Association. And we know it! Thanks again Larissa. Just stunning!



# New Jersey State Honey Show

John A. Gaut

The New Jersey Honey Show was conducted the first week of February in Trenton at our State Capital Building. There were six divisions and multiple classes within each division. The Honey Show is held in the State Capital so our legislators and administrators can see all the various beekeeping products from across the state, from High Point to Cape May.

Judging was on Monday and Tuesday. George Wilson from Virginia was the Judge. I and some others had the pleasure being a “steward” for the judging. I learned a lot and it was fun!



**George Wilson judging mead**

George was very meticulous in the judging of each entry. A score sheet with comments was completed. The score sheets were returned to each entrant so they can see how to improve their score next year.

Three display cases were filled with all the entries. These cases were in the hallway between the Legislature building and the cafeteria. So it had a lot of traffic and interest.

On Monday, Cynthia Werts from the Central Jersey and I set up a tasting table for the public to judge the Black Box entries. The Black Box entries were first judged on aroma and taste by George Wilson. The public was then given a chance to select from the top 4 Black Box entries.

The public actually picked the judges third place honey!

The honey they selected was produced by a first year beekeeper. All the honeys were very good and had slightly different tastes. While people make the selections, we had an opportunity to talk about beekeeping in New Jersey with our State Representatives and others in the Administration. Even though Governor Christie was in London we did get to talk to people from his office. Most people were very interested and some spent significant time talking with us.

Below are pictures of the displays:



All 3 display cases



More entries and winners



The winners (at least the ones which fit)



## George Wilson and Landi Simone

Landi Simone presented the awards at the New Jersey Beekeepers meeting on Saturday. The first place winning entries were auctioned as a fund raiser for our state organization. (A few people picked up some nice last minute Valentine gifts!)

Landi Simone organized the show. Clearly it took a lot of her time; she had everything well prepared for the judge. Many volunteers also supported the show including those who took entries to the show (Richard Schluger collected the entries from the NE and Ed Vaeth delivered them to Trenton). There were volunteers in Trenton to log the entries and organize

them for judging. There were also volunteers to help with the judging move the entries to the display cases. And finally volunteers to take down the cases at the end of the week.

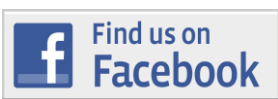
Congratulations to all the winners, including Ed Vaeth and Tom Fuscaldo from the Northeast! All the entrants can be proud. Every entry was beautiful and the combined displays were amazing! The honey show was a great way to show our craft to others. Please consider entering next year.

2015 New Jersey Beekeepers Association Honey Show Winners

DIVISION	CLASS	Description	Blue	Red	White
EXTRACTED HONEY	1	Extracted Light	Gilles & Karen Fenczak	John & Chris Hibb	Scott Kintzel
	2	Extracted Light Amber	Thomas Jeffrey	Donald Pidcock	Mary & Ed Kosenski
	3	Extracted Amber	<b>Gilles &amp; Karen Fenczak</b>	Scott Kintzel	John & Chris Hibbs
	4	Dark	Thomas Jeffrey	Cathy Blumig	Anthony Cifelli
COMB & SPREADS	5	Black Box	Cynthia Werts	Ray Pogwist	Nancy Clayton
	6	Creamed	Cathy Blumig	-	-
	7	Section & Cut Comb	<b>Derek &amp; Oliver Stordahl</b>	Cathy Blumig	Janet Katz
MEAD	8	Chunk Honey	-	Thomas Jeffrey	-
	9	Frame of Honey	Ed Vaeth	Thomas Jeffrey	Cathy Blumig
	10	Dry Mead	<b>Gerald Kiyak</b>	Ang Ban	Cathy Blumig
	11	Sweet Mead	Cathy Blumig	Tom Fuscaldo	Anthony Cifelli
	12	Mead with Fruit Juices	-	Anthony Cifelli	-
BEESWAX	13	Sparkling Mead	-	-	-
	14	Block of Wax	<b>Cathy Blumig**</b>	Janet Katz	Gerald Kiyak
	15	Novelty Beeswax	Nancy Clayton	Derek & Oliver Stordahl	Carol & Dave Wegand
	16	Poured Tapers	Susan Brandauer	Janet Katz	Anthony Cifelli
COSMETICS	17	Dipped Tapers	-	Gene Armstrong	-
	18	Novelty Candles	Susan Brandauer	Janet Katz	Cathy Blumig
	19	Creams and Lotions	John & Chris Hibbs	Valerie Tomaro	Elin Hanson
	20	Soap	<b>Elin Hanson</b>	Adriana Compagnoni	Carol & Dave Wegand
	21	Lip Balm	John & Chris Hibbs	Valerie Tomaro	Cathy Blumig
PHOTOS	22	Photography: w/ People	Mary & Ed Kosenski	John & Chris Hibbs	Barbara Sanoudis
	23	Photography: no People	<b>John &amp; Chris Hibbs*</b>	Mary & Ed Kosenski	Cathy Blumig



Joined ▾ Share Notifications ...



**1,321 Strong!!!**

We quickly blew through the 1000 member milestone and are, as of this writing 1,321 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](http://www.maryannsgourmetmarket.com)

**Next Month**

Bill Ferguson of Ferguson Apiaries, Hensall ON, Canada will be speaking about raising the Buckfast strain of bees and the effects of Neonicotinoids on bees. Bee there to learn about this very interesting sub-species and their advantages. See you all then!

***All Beekeepers Receive 10% Off!***

❖ Volunteers ❖	
Judy and Terry Regan	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
Tom Miller	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc
Rachel Avenia-Profl	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.
Hugh Knowlton	Workshop/Event coordinator and presenter