



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

# May 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, May 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.*



Please join us on **May 15th** as **Noah Wilson-Rich, Ph.D.**, Founder & Chief Scientific Officer, **The Best Bees Company** and author of, **The Bee: A Natural History** will be our guest speaker.

Noah will be talking about “**Our Future with Bees**” The world’s bees can create economic and ecological sustainability, if only we let them. We know the vital importance of bees, yet we also know that they are dying off. What does the future human condition look like in a world that incorporates bees into our architecture, healthcare, and everyday lives?

Immediately following his talk, Noah will be signing copies of his book, **The Bee: A Natural History**. (You can purchase copies from the club at the meeting.)

**Noah Wilson-Rich, Ph.D.** is a biologist / professor / NYTimes contributor / two-time TEDx speaker / beekeeper / and author of, **The Bee: A Natural History**. Noah’s research focuses on bee immunology.

Noah is the Founder and Chief Scientific Officer of **The Best Bees Company**, a beekeeping service that delivers, installs, and manages beehives for residential and commercial properties nation-wide. Proceeds from **The Best Bees Company** go toward research to improve bee health. This research is based out of the Urban Beekeeping Laboratory and Bee Sanctuary, in Boston’s South End.

### **Yearly Dues are payable 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.”

## Message from the President:

Hello Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

This is my favorite time of year. Bee weather has finally arrived and the great nectar race has begun. Working with your bees during the first few months of the calendar year is like a pit crew priming and revving an engine getting ready for the big race and if everything has gone well, your hives are off to a great start. I'm always amazed at how much work bees are capable of doing. On each of my three strongest, I have already put on two supers, with the bottom one being foundation, and the top one being drawn comb. On what I predict will be my star hive, in just a single week, the bees drew out all the comb in the super. I always smile when I look in and see that bright, white new comb, especially when I realize that in a few short months it will be filled with sweet, sweet honey!

This time of year is special because the bees are finally fulfilling their true purpose--bringing in the nectar--and their single mindedness is always so awe inspiring. I love how calm the hives become, and going into the hives is always so fulfilling to me.

I am also excited about our club meetings this month and next. On Friday, Noah Wilson-Rich, Ph.D., Founder & Chief Scientific Officer, The Best Bees Company and author of, *The Bee: A Natural History* will be our guest speaker, and he will be talking about "Our Future with Bees" and signing his book.

In June, the rock star of beekeeping, Tim Schuler, will be our speaker. If you have not been to a meeting in a while, or you are making vacation plans, I would urge you to clear your calendars and make sure you're here on June 19th for Tim's talk.

Last, this is the time of year that the general public thinks about being outdoors, and many start thinking about bees and beekeeping. Always remember that you are an ambassador for our hobby, so please be aware of what image you are projecting. Additionally, since now is the time when more people are bee-curious, try to find a group you could speak to about beekeeping in Northeast NJ. One mission of our club is education, and the more people who are informed about the gentle nature of honeybees, the better it will be for all beekeepers. I take great pride in doing these talks, and chances are I first met you at one of these events. From March through May, I will have set a new personal best, 19 talks and fairs. The talks have helped bring in new members, educate the public on the importance of beekeeping, and many groups that invited me have made donations directly to the club, helping us to pay for our speakers and other club necessities. Now, I am not asking you to speak at 19 events, but if every member could speak at just one event, imagine how many new members we could get, how many fewer anti-bee neighbors we'd have, and how many donations we could raise.

I look forward to seeing you on Friday, and also in June

**Sincerely,**

**Frank Mortimer**

**President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers**

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## A great (and true) story from Karl entitled "I wish I had Pictures"

Wed. 5-6-15 I returned from my morning walk at 6:45 AM and when I returned I noticed a large black bear behind my pond sniffing the air and facing my beehive. I raced outside whistling and shouting to chase him from my beehive with my newly purchased bees. The bear knocked off the top box with the feeder pail and skewed the other two boxes above the bottom board about 45 degrees.

I kept whistling and shouting and fortunately he backed away. As I got closer to the hive the bees greeted me with a few stings and the bear circled around behind the pond again. He then tried to hide behind a tree but I continued to shout, clap and whistle, standing between him and my hive. Thankfully a neighbor's dog started to bark. My hands were getting sore and my mouth was getting dry but I let him know I was standing my ground. After about 20 minutes he stood up to his six foot height and watched from behind the tree to see if I would run away. He then stretched against the tree until he was reaching to about 8 ft. That was when I was happy to see a policeman standing next to me.

The policeman followed the bear around the house of the neighbor behind my pond and when he returned he told me that another patrol car followed the bear until they considered him out of the area.

I raced back into the house to get my cargo strapping to secure the hive. Helen had just gotten up and asked me why I was running around. The windows were closed and she never heard me shouting. Luckily a neighbor did and called the police.

I removed the feeder pail and secured the hive bodies and bottom board with 2 cargo straps with hopes that the bear would not return.

I have encountered bear on several occasions and believe they are not aggressive. When the bear moved my hive, I gave a very loud whistle and the bear put his head down like he knew he did something wrong - the way my German Shepard used to when he ate something off the table.

I was lucky the hive did not fall over and that I still have my bees. I was also lucky that this young 300 to 400 lb. bear still has some respect for humans. I just reacted to the moment and think if I showed fear I may not have been around to write this.

Was I foolish? You be the judge.

Karl





## Mentoring Program for May

The bees are really happy now! They have natural pollen and are expanding the brood nest and population of the hive. The nectar is coming in; and will be a steady flow for a month or two I hope!

I had a chance to look at about a dozen of the nucs from Grant Stiles. Most were very good nucs with plenty of brood and bees and were drawing out the new frames of foundation. Continuous feeding is necessary for the colony to grow and expand the hive. (The bees may not be consuming as much sugar syrup while the nectar flow is on, but keep the feeders on and food available for the days when the bees cannot get out.) The hive also needs to be expanded as the colony grows to prevent swarming.

Below are the suggested discussion points for the mentor and mentee meetings this month:

- Beekeepers Mission: Help the new colonies build during the nectar flow
- Discussion points
- Basic Colony Evaluation and Record Keeping
- Check for a Queen Right Colony
- Eggs, Open Brood, Capped Brood and Brood Pattern
- Feeding
- Adding a second hive body (when and how) to prevent swarming
- Recognizing Varroa Mites
- Mite Monitoring
- Mite Treatment options and planning

Many beekeepers (including me!) are tempted to look in the hives too often. While we need to verify the colony is queen right, the brood is healthy and the colony has enough room, every time we open the hive we set the colony's productivity back a little. Every inspection should be planned and have a clear purpose. Have an additional hive body ready to put on the hive before starting the inspection. If the colony is ready for another box (deep or medium) you can put it at the end of the inspection; you do not need to be disturb the colony second time.

If you bought Nucs through the club, they should still have an ApiVar strip. This strip should remain in the hive until the end of May. The strip can be repositioned to the brood nest area if necessary. Once the ApiVar treatment is finished, you will want to check the mite count about mid-June. If it is high, treatment will be needed. The club has MAQS available now if needed.

Thanks to all the mentors for helping the new beekeepers. I have only received positive feedback from the new beekeepers about the Mentors. If there are any suggestions to improve the mentoring program, please let me know at the May meeting or send me a note. – **John Gaut**



My name is Scott Jenkins, and I am a Peace Corps Volunteer currently serving in Rwanda. I have also been a member of the Northeast New Jersey Beekeepers Association for the past three years, and now I would like to tell you about a new and unique project that could help improve the lives of Rwandan beekeepers, among many others.



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Rwanda, although small, is the most densely populated country in Africa. This creates a tremendous demand for food and energy, and over 90% of the latter is currently supplied by biomass (primarily charcoal). A demand on this scale brings about an obvious conflict with the protected areas of the country, which include ancient mountainous forests that are home to some of the world's last remaining wild gorilla populations. In addition, these protected areas form the basis for an extremely large portion of the nation's GDP via international tourism. Here at the Kitabi College of Conservation and Environmental Management (KCCCEM) where the Peace Corps sent me to teach English to prospective Park Rangers, we seek to provide for the wellbeing of both the land and its people, leading us to build the Kitabi Butterfly Center.

KCCCEM operates as a small vocational school for tour guides, park rangers, and foresters, among others. We are located next to Nyungwe National Park, a large expanse of montane rainforest located in Southwestern Rwanda. Also present in Kitabi is a cooperative of beekeepers that operates a shop on the main road, selling candles and honey to support themselves and their families. Beekeeping, however, is very difficult to make a living on as a primary occupation and as such is more often than not just a secondary form of income for those involved. KCCCEM, however, has chosen to partner with this group to provide training in butterfly farming as a supplemental source of income for these beekeepers.

Within the forest there are several hundred species of butterfly, many of which are endemic to the Albertine Rift region. Yet despite these numbers, butterflies remain an entirely untapped resource in both ecotourism and community conservation in the region. Throughout Europe and the U.S.A., there are numerous zoos and exhibits that feature live tropical butterflies. These exhibits serve to entertain and educate the public about the importance of butterflies, insect biodiversity, and conservation. By providing live specimens en masse to these organizations as well as creating an ecologically sustainable tourist attraction on its campus, KCCCEM can provide an additional revenue stream not only for its own growth and development and also the Beekeepers who join the initiative, but also allow for the continued conservation of the forest and the development of the communities that surround Nyungwe.



There are two primary components to this project. First, a netted enclosure will be built on the KCCCEM campus to house numerous butterfly species for both large-scale production of pupae (chrysalides or cocoons) and tourist visits. Because Nyungwe is home to many different niches and environments, each with its own unique flora and fauna, this facility will be used primarily for housing and culling those specimens that are rare or found only deep within the forest. Collection and production of forest edge species will be relegated to our community partners.







The second component is the training of farmers, beekeepers and other cooperatives around the forest edge in butterfly farming practices. Once the KCCEM facility is complete, these local residents will supply KCCEM with chrysalides (pupae) on a weekly basis, which would then be exported to exhibits in the U.S. or Europe.



This program will use the pre-existing infrastructure of the union of beekeeping cooperatives around the forest edge as a starting point for training. This project will improve the livelihoods of all those involved, in addition to curtailing other harmful practices such as poaching, logging, and mining.

The above article was written by Scott Jenkins, son of our Treasurer and his wife, Bob and Rita Jenkins who do so very much for our club. Thank you Scott and thank you Bob and Rita for arranging for us to have this.



The following foundation grant was made known to us by member Janie Edmunds. Please read and feel free to participate. Thank you Janie.

Kathleen Evans, working within the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the University of Delaware, has been awarded the Eastern Apicultural Society 2015 Foundation grant for her field-study research proposal. A condensation of that proposal follows. She has requested help in spreading the word to encourage wider participation. Perhaps you are interested. You can contact her at [mkciola@udel.edu](mailto:mkciola@udel.edu) for the full proposal.

Proposal: **Citizen Science Field Study 2015:**

Evaluation of mid-summer splits on varroa mite reduction and colony productivity.

**Prior work**

Few practices have yielded long-term success as stand-alone treatments to reduce varroa mite infestations. Initial tests of the efficacy of splitting a colony into two (parent and daughter) colonies showed that timing a split is critical to long-term reductions and to increased colony survival. This EAS-funded study predicts that mid-summer splits will have greater mite reduction impacts and increase winter survival and sustainability of colonies while allowing colonies to benefit from early summer nectar flows.

**Objectives:**

1. To test the effects of late summer splits on varroa mite populations and the population dynamics of the hives.
2. To promote field study and citizen science among small scale beekeepers
3. To understand better the temporal relationship between mites and bees.

**Overview:**

Data throughout the Mid-Atlantic States will be gathered from May through October 2015. Colonies will be split into two groups: a control and a treatment group, requiring each participating beekeeper to have at least two colonies. No chemical treatments can be used on colonies from which data are reported.

Control colonies will be split in late June. Treatment splits and protocols will be study-determined and communicated as June approaches. Six monthly colony assessments, each requiring 30 to 60 minutes, will be done and will include estimates of adult bee populations; brood area; brood health; varroa numbers (sticky sheets); pollen; carbohydrates; queen cup tallies; and disease or virus presence. Swarm prevention, related queen cup removal and mite counts should begin immediately and will require 1-2 inspections a week.

Timing of the split and monthly mite counts will be paramount. All collected data will be beneficial.

(This description, made for rapid newsletter distribution, is a condensed, with permission version of Kathleen Evans' PDF file, which was sent to Bugonia 2014 participants.)



**1,373 Strong!!!**

We quickly blew through the 1000 member milestone and are, as of this writing 1,373 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**

Tim Schuler, the "Rock Star" of Beekeeping and New Jersey State Apiarist will be our special guest in June. Tim will speak about the nemesis of all beekeepers, the Varroa mite. The pest that causes more honeybee deaths than anything else. If you want to know how to wage successful war against this little bugger then make sure you come to this meeting.

***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-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, Mentor Coordinator.
Hugh Knowlton	Workshop/Event coordinator and presenter.