



nnjbees.org

June 2015



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

Meeting on: **Friday, June 19th 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 **June 19th** as **Tim Schuler**, New Jersey State Apiarist, and our featured speaker talks about mite treatments, bees, and imparts his beekeeping wisdom to our members. Tim is truly an amazing teacher and has valuable insights for newbees through advanced beekeepers. This is the meeting you should attend. There is a lot of value to be gained by bee-ing at this meeting!

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:

Happy June Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

It's hard to believe, but the end of the nectar flow is just a few weeks away. Hopefully, your supers are heavy with honey, and it will be a good honey year for all of us.

My hives are doing very well, and I have 17 supers on my five hives. A few of the supers are only foundation, and I am hoping the bees will draw out the comb for next year. If you are a new beekeeper, every year you have the opportunity to get more honey, because every year you will have more drawn comb, so the bees can concentrate on making honey.

This year I bought two nucs from Grant. Both of the nucs are doing very well, and they quickly grew into full hives, easily expanding into the second deeps. What's funny, is that one of the nucs is working on its second super, while the other is just starting to draw out the comb of its first super. When I told my wife how differently the two hives were growing, she said, "That's beekeeping in a nutshell." She's right and it's a lesson we have to always remember: You can have two hives with the same genetics that are the same age, both were equally fed and treated for mites, yet they are night and day from one another. I think it's important to remember this, because sometimes no matter what you do, the bees are going to do what THEY want to do.

This month's meeting is going to be one of the most important for you to attend. Tim Schuler, NJ State Apiarist, will be talking about the latest research on our fight against the mites. This meeting is important, because if you want your bees to survive and be healthy, you must treat for mites. More importantly, you should start treating for Mites in July, which is why Tim is providing guidance in June.

I urge everyone to make every effort to attend. You and your bees will benefit from listening to Tim.

I look forward to seeing you on Friday, and hearing about everyone's supers full of honey!

Frank Mortimer

President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers



Members

The club will be selling Mite Away Quick Strips at Friday's meeting for \$6.00 per full treatment (2 strips)

MAQS are a good way to quickly knock the mites' population down, and are a great 1-2 punch when used in conjunction with other mite treatments.

The Bee Tree

Adam from Boulder Hill Tree Service called and asked if I could remove the bees from a tree they were cutting down in Ridgefield Park. I told Adam I usually do not do removals. Adam said he needed to find someone since it was illegal to kill honey bees in New Jersey. Since Adam was trying to do the right thing and it sounded challenging, I said I would help him.

It was a cool rainy morning when the removal started; a perfect day for a tree removal (all the bees were in the tree). The tree was a large maple and the bees were in a hollow area about 50 foot off the ground. First I used the bucket to go up to the main entrance and placed screen over the opening. I found one more entrance about 5 foot below and screened it too. And then the cutting began.



The tree before cutting

The main entrance.

The other entrance.

NEW JERSEY

Soon they were ready to cut the log with the bees. I had to guess where the top of the nest might be. When the log that was cut off above the nest was lowered to the ground, I could see it was a good guess! There was a little bit of comb filled with honey and only a few bees. I gave the crew a taste of the honey. They were amazed!

The next guess was for the bottom of the nest. I did not want to cut through the brood and did not want to make the log too big making it difficult to lift with the crane and handle later. When the log with the bees came down, I could see it was another good cut! Just at the bottom of the hollow core!! This time there were a few more bees; very confused. A little smoke and screen contained them in the tree.



Now what? One option was to cut the tree open and remove the comb and the bees. Jim LaConte came out to lend a hand if needed. This was not going to be a good scenario in a congested neighborhood on a cool rainy day. And trees are not usually all open in the hollow area. The bees work around and in-between the wood not rotted away. It could get really messy and a lot of bees could die, maybe the whole colony.

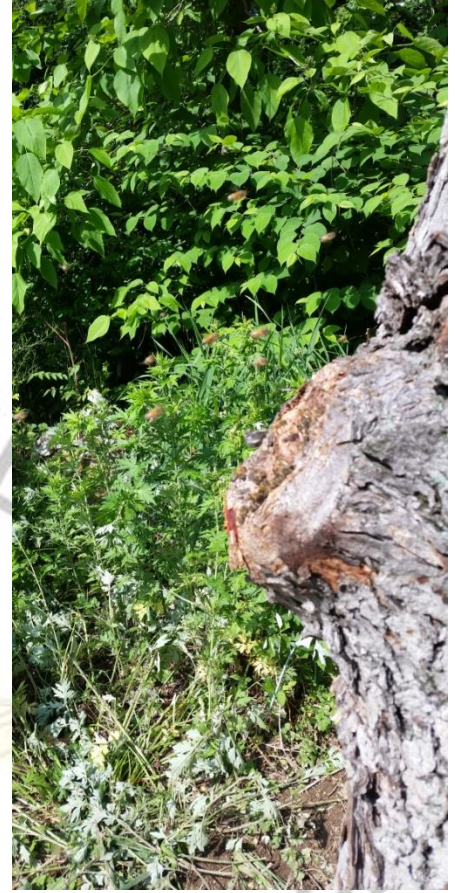
The other option was to take the whole log to the Wild Mountain Apiary. But it was a very heavy log! Adam had the crew put the log on the back of one of the trucks with a dump body. The next morning two pros from Boulder Hill Tree Service arrived with the bee tree. I dug a hole and they we slid the log right into the place! The three of us tipped the log to the vertical and stabilized it.



Soon after the log was in place, the sun came out. The screens were removed and the bees began orienting on their now location. They were relatively calm during the whole ordeal. During the next few days, the bees cleaned out all the saw dust from their hive and began bringing in pollen and nectar.



The main entrance is right at eye level. It is fascinating to watch them come and go. In the afternoons there is a loud buzz as they try to cool the hive. I did cut another 6 inches off the top to make a level surface. Then I put a piece of plywood with a large hole in the middle on top of the tree (like a bottom board). A Langstroth hive body and frames were placed on the plywood with a cover. My plan is for the bees to move up into the Langstroth hive body and once the queen is in that section, I will place a queen excluder between the tree and the hive body. This may take until next spring. And then the tree will be



firewood once the bees have moved out. (I have not reviewed my plan with the colony yet; they may have other plans.)

If anyone wants to taste the honey from a bee tree, I'll bring some honey comb to the meeting on Friday. (The comb is extra chewy; the honey is good.)

By the way, after working with and watching the Boulder Hill Tree Service Crew, I would highly recommend them for any tree service needs. They are real pros. Also thanks go to Jim LaConte for his support during the removal. – **John Gaut**

Notes for the New Beekeepers

(Updated information sent to the Mentors and Mentees at the beginning of June.)

May and early June has been a very busy month for the bees. There has been a decent nectar flow and the colonies have been bringing in nectar from black locust and tulip poplar, along with other sources. Dutch Clover is getting some attention now. We did get some much needed rain that temporarily slowed down the gathering of nectar. The rain will revitalize the nectar sources.

Mentors should help the new beekeepers ensure the colony is healthy and continues to build both in bee population and stores (honey and pollen). Below are a few discussion points:

–Colony evaluation and Record Keeping

- Count and record Frames of Bees, Frames of Brood, Frames of Honey

–Diseases

- American Foul Brood, European Foul Brood

–Mite Monitoring

–Mite Treatment options and planning

–Supering: When and how many

As beekeepers we need to manage two things this time of year; mites and swarming.

As beekeepers we are also mite managers. The bees do their part; they need our help or will be overwhelmed with mites. You should have removed the ApiVar strip by now. And you will want to check the mite count anytime now. The club has Mite Away Quick Strips, MAQS for sale at a very good price (\$6 for a twin pack). You can use these even with honey supers on the hive. Many beekeepers have had success with using only one strip (half treatment) per hive. Using one strip instead of the two is less stressful on the bees; one strip does not kill as many mites though. Follow the one strip treatment with a second strip two weeks later. Then check the mite counts 2 weeks after the second treatment.

A few tips for applying MAQS:

Apply only when the daytime high is forecast to be less than 85 F for the next 3 days; less the 80 is even better.

Apply the strip in the evening; ideally an evening when it will be cool overnight.

Close the bottom board (insert the IPM board). **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!**

Remove the entrance reducer.

Refrigerate or freeze the MAQS before application to reduce the initial evaporation of the formic acid.

Minimize the disturbance to the colony; open the colony, place the strip and close the colony quickly and gently. Use only a few "breaths" of smoke.

Remove the strips when you are doing the second treatment or taking the mite counts.

Checkout this video: <http://nodglobal.com/maqs-application/>

This is also swarm season. A large healthy colony will want to reproduce including the new nucs. The colony needs plenty of room to store nectar and honey to prevent a swarm. Ideally this is drawn comb above the brood nest. Even if you only have foundation, put it above the brood nest. If you have 2 brood boxes mostly filled, add 1 or 2 honey supers. (Stop feeding if you want to extract the honey. Otherwise, continue feeding and let them draw out the comb for next year.)

The nectar flow should continue for a few more weeks now that we have some rain. Then bee prepared for the summer dearth.

You should plan on "tactical feeding" during the dearth. – **John Gaut**



1,400 Strong!!!

We quickly blew through the 1000 member milestone and are, as of this writing 1,400 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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All Beekeepers Receive 10% Off!

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.

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

BEEKEEPERS