



njbees.org

February 2016



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	Jaimie Winters	551-486-7479
2 nd V. Pres.	John Gaut – Mentor Coordinator	201-961-2330	Treasurer	Bob Jenkins	201-218-6537

Meeting on: **Friday, February 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 **Friday, February 15th** when we continue with our BeeTalk® Series with New Jersey Commercial Beekeeper and our friend, Grant Stiles. Grant will be speaking about “Back to the Basics of Beekeeping: A Beekeeper’s year in a nutshell.” Grant will also be speaking about the Nucleus hives he will be supplying to the club. Please join us this Friday and get back to the basics!

Yearly Dues are payable now!



Your \$25 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, headline speakers, 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!

I think it's safe to say, the groundhog is not a friend of the bees. Initially, on the 2nd of February, it seemed like good news when the media-hungry rat was dissed by his shadow and said no to another six weeks of winter. BUT, what Punxsutawney Phil didn't tell us was that mother-nature was going to squeeze all of winter into 3 long, cold, weeks. This year, it seemed like we were going to have a mild winter with manageable temperatures and no snow. Then, just as we breathed a sigh of relief, the polar vortex came for a visit. As beekeepers, the concern is what will this late season week of single digit weather have on our bees? Hopefully you were able to check on your hives during the balmy weather of January and confirm your colonies have enough food. Remember that most colonies die now through early-April, so it is important to feed your bees until spring has sprung and there are blooms for the bees to feed.

Now is also a great time to think about mites. If you are thinking about treating with ApiVar, get the strips in your hives as soon as you can. I treated my hives a few weeks ago, and I will be pulling the strips out during the first few days of April, and in plenty of time to catch the nectar flow. I do think it's brilliant to treat now, as the hives have the least amount of bees, so it's easier to treat "every bee." Additionally, fewer bees usually mean smaller mite population, so it's easier to eradicate the mites, allowing your bees to be at their strongest before their busy season begins. I treated my hives this way last year, and my hives set a personal best for honey production. I am hoping this year they do even better than last year, or at the very least, I want to get more honey than Rich does. 😊

We have a great meeting this month, as NJ's largest commercial beekeeper, Grant Stiles, will be our speaker. Grant is also an authorized Mann Lake dealer, and if you order from him before our meeting, he will deliver your order to the meeting. If you're looking for a great deal, Grant is offering a complete hive: two deeps, two mediums, an inner and outer cover, bottom board, 40 frames, and a queen excluder; fully assembled for only \$212.00, which is a huge savings of over \$100.00. For more info, please contact Grant at: Phone: (732) 661-0700 or Email: bigbuzz11@yahoo.com

The club is again ordering our nucs from Grant, and we have begun taking deposits (\$45.) If you are interested, get your deposits in quick so you don't miss out.

The club had also restocked our beekeeping books, plus we brought in a new one, "The Beekeepers Handbook" by Diana Sammataro. All of the books are great resources that provide quality information and lots of useful advice. As a service to our members, all of the books we sell are available at our meetings at a good discount off the retail price.

Finally, as the 2016 season is about to begin, I would ask every member to think about how our club has helped you to be a better beekeeper. Did you learn something from one of our speakers? Did you pick up a few tips from the more experienced beekeepers? Or, did you learn something new from a newer beekeeper? I ask you to think about this because now it's your turn to help someone else. We are looking for mentors for 2016. If you have been keeping bees for a few years, then you can help people who are new to the hobby and want to learn. Also, if you speak to any of the mentors from last year, you will hear stories of fulfillment, gratification, and how much they, the mentors, learned and benefited from our mentoring program. If you are ready to play it forward and be a mentor, simply talk with John Gaut, me, or any of the officers to get started.

Thanks everyone! I look forward to seeing you on Friday for another great meeting!

Sincerely,

Frank Mortimer
President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers



New Jersey Beekeepers Winter Meeting

The winter meeting of the New Jersey Beekeepers was held in Hamilton Township, near Trenton. The meeting was well attended, especially considering the cold weather. Three vendors were there: Brushy Mountain, Mann Lake and Grant Stiles (our local Mann Lake Distributor).

Janet Katz gave an update on the State organizations activities with the NJ Legislature and development of the statewide regulations. Through the efforts of Janet and others in our state organization, legislation was passed and signed that regulated beekeeping at the State level, not at the individual municipal level (which can vary). It is now the responsibility of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to promulgate the regulations that will govern beekeeping in the state. They are working with our New Jersey Beekeepers Association, the Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium and the League of Municipalities.

The winning entries from the Honey Show were auctioned. The auction helps fund the cost of the Honey Show. The auction included honey, wax (candles and art), mead, photography and hand creams. A few people got their Valentine's Day gift just in time! Or at least a little something extra.

Dean Polk and Tim Schuler worked together last year to assess colonies in blueberry pollination. Historically colonies have built up during blueberry pollination in May. In more recent years the buildup has diminished. Pesticides are suspected. Dean Polk from Rutgers Extension Service reviewed the results to date. They did not find any impact due to fungicides. Insecticides did have some impact; most significant was chlorpyrifos (used on corn fields adjacent to blueberry fields). There may be a synergistic effect (greater bee mortality) of pesticides used on crops and the miticides that were used in the hive to control mites. Current miticides, including ApiVar (Amatraz) did not show this effect.

Tim Schuler reviewed his activities across the state in 2015. Tim will be at our meeting in June and will share his information directly with us then.

The winter meeting was also the time to elect officers for the next two years. Chris Yates chaired the nominating committee. All the positions are voluntary, and there were not too many volunteers! The Nominating committee proposed the following officers:

President	Janet Katz
First Vice President	Jeff Burd
Second Vice President	Chris Yates
Third Vice President	Isadore Venetos
Treasurer	Charley IIsley
Corresponding Secretary	Joe Alvarez
Recording Secretary	Janie Edmonds

Five of the seven nominated officers were currently serving as officers. Isadore Venetos and Janie Edmonds are the two new nominees.

Nominations from the floor were opened. There was one nomination from the floor for Third Vice President. After ballots were collected and counted, election was finalized with the officers suggested by the nominating committee.

We should thank Janie Edmonds for filling the office of Recording Secretary. (It was difficult to find a volunteer for this position.) All the officers are volunteers. The next election (in two years) will likely be online. Every active member will then be able to vote, even if they do not attend the meeting.

The spring meeting will be on April 23rd at Liberty Corners.

Also the Eastern Apiculture Society Conference will be at Stockton University July 25th to 29th. This is an excellent opportunity to increase your beekeeping knowledge and interact with beekeepers from eastern North America and some from around the world. More details can be found at:

<http://www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2016.html>

Mentoring Program

Starting out as a beekeeping can be a daunting endeavor. We have all been there, but having someone with a little knowledge to call on can make all the difference in keeping a new beekeeper confident. Most of you probably had someone you could depend on for knowledge when you first started. Last year, the mentoring program and the mentors were a tremendous help to the new beekeepers; not only answering questions perplexing to a new beekeeper, but also giving them the confidence to stay with beekeeping. The knowledge and experience of the mentors really enabled the new beekeepers to successfully build strong and healthy colonies. All of the new beekeepers expressed sincere appreciation for the time and knowledge shared by the more experienced beekeepers. The mentors also found working with new beekeepers made the hobby more enjoyable for them too. Some mentors had (or still have) mentors themselves and are now “giving back” by mentoring a new beekeeper. Beekeeping is a lifelong learning process. Helping a new beekeeper solve problems enhances your learning and seeing growing colonies is very satisfying. Mentors are good for new beekeepers and the bees!

We have many new beekeepers this year; beekeeping and the club keeps growing! These new beekeepers will need experienced beekeepers to support them with everything from installing nucs, feeding, building the colony, and maybe even harvesting a little honey. Mite management is very important; to be successful the new beekeeper needs to learn how to monitor and treat for mites. A colony treated for mites when needed and following proven protocols will much more likely survive and have much healthier bees. It's important that new beekeepers understand this. The new beekeeper needs a mentor to guide them through the critical first year. Much of the mentoring can be done over the phone, through email and a few visits to mentees' hives.

A mentor can be anyone who successfully kept one or more colonies for a year or more. The mentor will be supported by others in the club and by experts we have in the State. Ideally the mentor will be working with one or two new beekeepers in their area. If you only feel comfortable mentoring one beekeeper, that can be arranged. The mentor shares knowledge and demonstrates beekeeping techniques. Most of the mentor's time is spent guiding the new beekeeper, sometimes by observing and sometimes by just answering questions and concerns (many times just over the phone or through email). The mentor is not the beekeeper! Mentors help the new beekeeper with the practical application of basic beekeeping information.

All mentors, including the very experienced mentors find they also increase their beekeeping skills and knowledge beekeeping as a result of helping others work through issues. Mentoring is an excellent way to support your club, other beekeepers and the bees in general. Helping other beekeepers is very rewarding in that you growing the number of future beekeepers and thereby the bee population which is our ultimate goal.

Please volunteer to be a Mentor. Let John Gaut know you can provide some help and support for the new beekeepers and the bees.



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Grant Stiles, of Stiles Apiaries, will be our speaker at this month's meeting on February 19th. Grant will be speaking about "Back to the Basics of Beekeeping: A Beekeeper's year in a nutshell."

Grant is an authorized local Mann Lake Bee Supply Dealer, and any order placed with Grant before the 19th will be delivered to you at our club meeting.

Think about your smoker. Do you need a new one? How's your hive tool? Maybe your veil has a hole in it, or you want to upgrade to a full bee suit. Order now, and you do not pay any shipping costs.

Don't forget about your enemy the varroa mites. They need to be destroyed so your bees can grow and produce lots of honey for you. Stiles Apiaries suggests using Apivar for an early spring treatment. Order today, and pick it up on the 19th.

For beginners or expanders: Stiles Apiaries is offering a complete hive: two deeps, two mediums, an inner and outer cover, bottom board, 40 frames, and a queen excluder. Fully assembled for only \$212.00, a huge savings of over \$100.00.

Please look at your Mann Lake catalog, then to place your order, or for more information, please contact Grant today at:

Stiles Apiaries

Phone: (732) 661-0700

Fax: (732) 661-0808

Email: bigbuzz11@yahoo.com

Thank you, and remember that from bees to bottles, nucs to woodenware, Stiles Apiaries is your one-stop-shop for beekeeping and we're always here to help you be more successful in your hobby or business.



Joined ▾

➦ Share

✓ Notifications



1,438 Strong!!!

We quickly blew through the 1000 member milestone and are, as of this writing 1,438 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!

Next Month

The Northeast NJ Beekeepers will welcome our special guest and member, Detective Dan Higgins who is the official Swarm catcher for the NYPD. Dan will share his stories, techniques and anecdotes. Bee There!!

❖ Volunteers ❖

Celia Miller	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc.
Jennifer Phillips	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies and other treats
Billy Neumann	Club photographer
Hugh Knowlton	Workshop/Event coordinator and presenter
Mike Miller	Club apparel
Emma Stein	Resident artist
Bob Slanzi	Meadmaster