



njbees.org

June 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
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2 nd V. Pres.	John Gaut – Mentor Coordinator	201-961-2330	Treasurer	Bob Jenkins	201-218-6537

Meeting on: **Friday, June 17th 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, June 17th** when we continue with our BeeTalk® Series. The topic of discussion will be summer management of your hives - what you should be looking for, feeding during the dearth, and mite management. We will also have a limited number of MAQ strips and alcohol wash testers for sale. Please join us this Friday to be educated and entertained!

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:

Happy Summer Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

It is always amazing when I think about how much bees can accomplish in a short amount of time. Just 30 days ago we were talking about swarming, and what we need to do to ensure our hives remain strong for a good honey crop. Now, just a few weeks later, members are seeing their supers filled with capped honey.

It's even more amazing when you think about the numbers involved for a good honey harvest. In its lifetime, 1 bee will make 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey. So that means:

12 bees = 1 teaspoon of honey

1,150 bees = 1 pound of honey

115,000 bees = 100 pounds of honey

250,000 bees = 200 pounds of honey

So, if during the summer an average hive has 50,000 to 60,000 bees in it. That means the population has to turn over at least once before they have enough honey for themselves. And, if your hive gives you 100 pounds of honey, and you left 80-100 pounds for the bees, that means the population turned over at least five times!

Now think about the time it took for the bees to do all this work. Where we live, bees have about 100 - 120 days to collect nectar and make honey. So that means that a hive that is only able to sustain itself is still making about 1 pound of honey per day. Compare that to a super-hive that will give you several 100 pounds of honey, as that means the bees are making about 3 pounds of honey per day!

If you have a new hive and you're starting out with only foundation, then the numbers are even more impressive. Bees consume about 8 pounds of honey to make 1 pound of wax. So for every pound of honey you see in your hives, it actually represents 9 pounds or over 10,000 bees life work. That is why most new hives are not able to produce a surplus of honey, and why it's extra-special when they do.

The weather this spring has been truly whacky, and if you asked me just a month ago how the honey year would end up, I would not have been able to answer, and I might have leaned towards the pessimistic side. Now, I think it is going to be one of the better years for honey, and just shows you to never give up, as you will never know until the season is over.

I also think it's important to remind new Beekeepers that every year is better than the year before, as every year you keep bees, the more drawn comb you will have in your supers. So that means instead of consuming those 8 pounds of honey to make wax, they are storing those 8 pounds for you to enjoy! Many people say that drawn comb is worth more than gold. You cannot buy it from a catalog, and you cannot make it yourself. It's all up to your bees to make it, and it's up to you to protect it and store it, so it is safe for you and your bees to use next year.

It's funny, when I originally wanted to become a beekeeper, it was being a steward to the honeybees and caring for them that initially attracted me to the hobby. I actually wasn't even thinking about the honey, only what it would be like to keep and interact with the bees. But once the bees started to make honey for me, I was hooked on the sweet taste of success! I enjoy seeing how much honey my hives will produce, and I am still amazed at the variance in my hives' production.

If you were to ask me what the most important factor to getting your hives to produce a lot of honey is, I will tell you every time: mite control. The healthier your bees are, the more work they can do, and more work means more honey. So, if you wonder why we talk so much about mite control, just remember that the healthier your bees, the more you will benefit.

This Friday, we will be discussing honey production, mite control, and all things summer management. I look forward to seeing you at Friday's meeting!

Sincerely,

Frank Mortimer
President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers



THANK YOU TIM SCHULER!

The Northeast NJ Beekeepers would like to thank Tim Schuler for all his time last week. Tim spent two days inspecting over 24 member's hives throughout Northeast NJ.

We would also like to thank **Hugh Knowlton**, who thanks to all of his hard work, planning, and map skills, made it possible for Tim to see so many people in just two days.

On behalf of the Northeast NJ Beekeepers, **THANK YOU!!!**



Dr. Stork's Happy Hive Honey Chocolates: A sweet way to support a local charity

Dr. Brian Stork, from Muskegon, Michigan and his son are backyard beekeepers. As a way to give back to his community, Dr. Stork along with Patricia's Chocolates in Grand Haven Michigan, created a very special chocolate, filled with honey from his hives. But this story is even sweeter, as, a portion of the proceeds from Happy Hive Chocolates is donated to Step Up in Muskegon, MI.

Step Up is non-profit organization that supports young women during a stressful time of their own, as they "age out" of foster care and transition into adulthood. Step Up provides these young women with a nurturing hive of their own, the Step Up House.

If you would like to order some Dr. Stork's Happy Hive Honey Chocolates, just give Patty a call at (616) 842-5999 or send her an email at: patricia@patriciaschocolate.com.

You can read more about Dr. Stork's Happy Hive Honey Chocolates and Step Up at <http://www.drbrianstork.com/happy-hive-honey-chocolates/>



Beekeeping in June

John A. Gaut

We had a whirlwind inspection tour with Tim Schuler (the New Jersey State Apiarist) this past Thursday and Friday. Hugh Knowlton set up the very efficient routing for both days. (Everyone's flexibility was appreciated with some last minute changes.) We saw a total of 22 beekeepers over the 2 days. Tim gave all the beekeepers helpful information and answered many questions. Tim will be at our July meeting to share his observations and recommendations for treating.

We have had a tremendous number of swarms this year. Swarming is an indication that the colonies are strong and healthy. The negative is that it can impact honey production since many of the foragers go with the swarm. The bees must have known that we would have a strong nectar flow though. While honey production was impacted, the colonies are still making a nice honey crop. I have to keep in mind the first priority for the bees is reproduction.

There are a few positive aspects related to swarming.

If you were able to capture a swarm or two, you increased the number of colonies.

Also swarming creates a natural break in the brood cycle, interrupting the Varroa mite reproduction cycle. Tom Seeley found that colonies that swarmed had significantly lower mite levels than those that did not swarm. (Mites were still present in the colonies though.)

A Varroa treatment tip for swarms: I have treated some of my swarms with an Oxalic Acid dribble to knock down any mites they may have brought along with them. Treating a swarm with Oxalic Acid dribble is very easy and inexpensive. Since there is no brood, the treatment is very effective. I use a solution of 2.8% Oxalic Acid and Sugar Syrup (1:1). Once the swarm is in a hive, I treat each seam of bees with 5 mL of the solution. Be careful to not over treat though.

If a colony has swarmed, you will want to inspect it about 2 to 3 weeks after the swarm to verify it is queen right (eggs should be present). If the colony is not queen right after 3 weeks, or you do not like the brood pattern, you may want to requeen the colony with a queen of known genetics. The same is also true for the captured swarm.

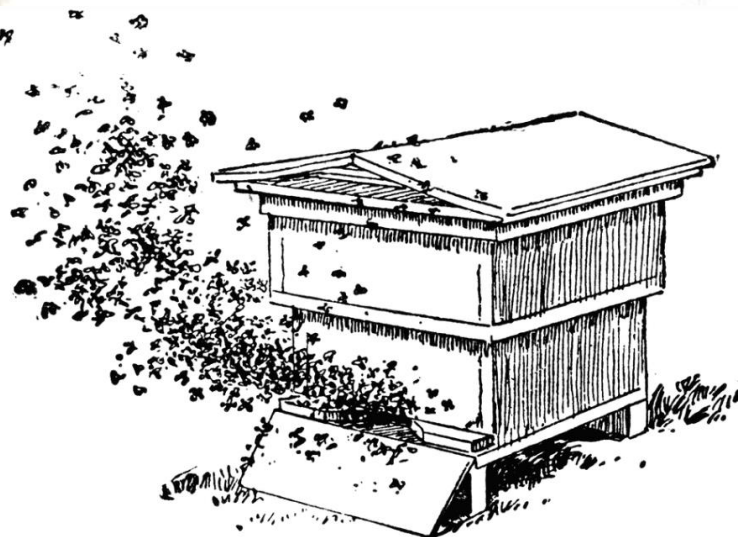
As beekeepers we are also mite managers. The bees do their part; they need our help or will be overwhelmed with mites. You will want to check the mite counts now. The alcohol wash is the best (most accurate) way to measure mites.

If you have high mite counts (more than 1% at this time of year), you will need to treat. Mite Away Quick Strips, MAQS are a good option since they can be used even with honey supers on the hive. MAQS is the only treatment that kills the mites in the capped brood. 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 and queen; 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 after application when you are doing the second treatment or taking the mite counts.
- Checkout this video: <http://nodglobal.com/maqs-application/>

ApiVar, ApiGuard and ApiLifeVar are also effective but can only be used when the honey supers are off the hive. There may be a (tight) window in late July and August to use these treatments.



The Eastern Apiculture Society Conference is in New Jersey this year, the first time in more than 20 years. The conference is a great opportunity to learn more about beekeeping and increase your skills.

[EAS 2016 New Jersey, Richard Stockton University](#)

Galloway, NJ. Short Course July 25-27, 2016

Conference July 27-29, 2016



Do not miss the opportunity to learn as much as you can about all things bee. Registration for dorms and meals closes July 10.

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

<http://www.easternapiculture.org/addons/2016/EAS-NJpresentation.pdf>



Here is Frank next to one of his hives. He put empty honey supers on top of his brood boxes just to make everyone think he has a lot of honey. The things people do to feel good about themselves. Sheesh.

All-Natural, Long-Lasting Smoker Fuel

Finding the perfect fuel for your smoker can be a tricky thing. You want to find something that is 100% natural so it won't hurt your bees, lights quickly, and burns slowly for lots of cool, long lasting smoke. Now, Mann Lake is carrying, and available at Stiles Honey is, JYL Smoker Fuel. Available in 1-pound bags, JYL Smoker Fuel is Southern Longleaf Pine Needles.

I have just started using JYL Smoker Fuel, and the Southern Longleaf Pine Needles are thicker than our local northern pine needles, so they really do burn cooler and longer than what I been using. The smoke is thick, so I end up using less fuel in my smoker.

I've tried other smoker fuels you can buy from the catalogs, and JYL Smoker Fuel is by far the best I have used.

If you are looking for something better to burn in your smoker, give JYL Smoker Fuel a try. Only \$8.00 for a 1 pound bag.

For more information, please call Stiles Honey at: (732) 661-0700.





1,511 Strong!!!

We quickly blew through the 1,500 member milestone and are, as of this writing 1,511 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.njbees.org> is your website! Check that site for everything Northeast New Jersey Beekeeping!

❖ 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

Next Month

The Northeast NJ Beekeepers is honored and pleased to present our special guest speaker, the NJ State Apiarist, Tim Schuler. Tim will be talking about mites and how to help your bees survive this scourge. Bee There!!