



njbees.org

July 2016



NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

A division of New Jersey Beekeepers Association

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Meeting on: **Friday, July 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 **Friday, July 15th** when we pick up again with our guest speaker series. Confused by the myriad of mite treatments? Please join us when Tim Schuler, NJ State Apiarist will speak on treatments such as Apivar and MAQs and how and when to use them. He will also show us how to use the mite alcohol tester. Mite control is one of the most important issues facing beekeepers today. Tim will share his experiences with successful mite control. We will also have a limited number of Apivar and MAQ treatments for sale. 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:

Hello Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

July is almost over, and how sweet it is! Most of New Jersey is excited that it's the peak of the summer, but for us Beekeepers, it is harvest time! If you haven't already pulled your honey supers, you should plan on doing so in the next couple of weeks. The nectar flow is just about dried up, so there's really not much more the bees can do. Also, it's good to remember that if you wait too long beyond the flow, the bees will start consuming YOUR honey.

My main piece of advice for you this time of year is beware of the wax moth, the destroyer of drawn comb and my arch nemesis. If you take off your honey supers, you should extract them within days of removing them from your hives. If you wait too long, the wax moth could destroy your entire honey crop. Look, I'll be honest, I hate the wax moth more than I despise the mosquito. For your own good, or I should say for the good of your honey crop, do not leave a super full of honey sitting around as an easy target for the wax moth. No place is safe, so bee careful.

As you might be able to tell, I have had a few run-ins with the dreaded moth. My last battle with them took place last summer. I had my demonstration hive sitting in my garage. I had put two frames of very old drawn comb in the hive so I could show people what drawn comb looked like. (Big Mistake) I started to see a few moths hanging out around the garage light, and I didn't think anything about it until their numbers kept doubling by the day. Just for the heck of it, I decided to peek inside my demonstration hive, and that's when I realized my mistake. The two deeps were completely full of wax moths. It looked like a scene from "Invasion of the Body Snatchers!" Worse than the mess this two-story wax moth mega-nasty made of my woodenware and the surrounding woodenware was, the smell. Wax moth destruction smells like a combination of blooming honeysuckle and death. The smell will cling to your nose and everything it touches for months and months. When the Grim Reaper finally comes for me, I'll probably look him squarely in the eye and say, "wax moths."

This month's meeting will be awesome! Tim Schuler, NJ State Apiarist, and beekeeping rock star, will be our guest speaker. Tim is an absolutely amazing speaker, and Friday is a must-attend meeting. Tim will be talking about mite control, and now that the honey supers are off, it is the time to treat! Tim is a universe of knowledge, so bring your questions, an open mind, and bee ready to be amazed.

The club will also have a limited number of MAQS and ApiVar treatments for sale. We will also have alcohol washes, lots of bee tee shirts, and bee books for sale.

Last, EAS is only a few weeks away. (July 25-29) I would urge everyone to head down to Richard Stockton University in Galloway, NJ. We are very fortunate to have EAS in New Jersey, which is why all Beekeepers should try to attend. Here is the link for more information:

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

I look forward to seeing you in Friday. I'm as excited as anyone to hear Tim speak, and I'll be the person in the back of the room muttering to himself about wax moths.

Until Friday!

Frank Mortimer
President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers



Harvest Time!

John A. Gaut

This month is flying by! Managing the colonies during the nectar flow has taken some time. Raising queens also has taken a lot of time. It is easier to raise queens during a nectar flow though.

Unfortunately the nectar flow is just about over. The Linden Trees (aka Basswood and Tilia) have just finished blooming. I do see the bees working the white clover in my yard. But I am also seeing more robbing behavior in the last two weeks. More thoughts related to robbing later in the note.

Below are some things for all beekeepers to think about.

- Honey Harvest – Is there enough of a surplus to extract? The colony needs a reserve of honey to make it through the upcoming dearth. At least 30 pounds of honey should remain in the brood boxes, mostly in the top. If the colony has less honey, they will go into conservation mode and stop raising brood. Not all colonies will produce excess honey, especially now colonies that are building in population and making all new comb.
- Providing water for the bees – The colony needs water to cool the hive as well as normal metabolism

- Nectar Dearth and Robbing – See below
- Hive Inspection and Colony Evaluation – Verify there is no signs of European Foul Brood or American Foul Brood.
- Mite Monitoring – I'm seeing some mites in drone comb now and the counts in the Alcohol wash are increasing.
- Mite Treatment – Once the mites get above 1% at this time of year, treat.

There will be very little forage for the bees in July; maybe some pollen but very little nectar. July and August is a period of dearth in our area. The colony needs to at least maintain itself through the dearth and then get ready for the winter. The colonies winter preparation really starts at the end of the dearth. Key for the winter preparation is young bees to help raise the bees that will raise the winter bees. The winter bees must live through the winter for as long as 5 to 6 months! For the winter bees to be healthy, the previous two generations need to be strong and healthy. The bees need to have adequate food and mites must be under control to be strong and healthy.

Most colonies will need to be fed, especially the new colonies. Feeding keeps the brood rearing process going at a reduced rate. Tim Schuler recommends feeding about a gallon a week of 1:1 sugar syrup during the dearth.

Now is also the time to be sure the mite population is low. Check for mites and if the count is more than 1 mite per 100 bees, TREAT! And then check two weeks after the treatment to assess the effectiveness of the treatment.

The club will have MAQS and ApiVar available at the July meeting.

The population of the colony will naturally decrease as the nectar flow disappears. The mites do not stop reproducing though. The result is even though the percent of mites may be low now (e.g. 1%), the percent of mites will increase significantly as the bee population decreases resulting in more parasitized bees infected with viruses. Managing mites must be a top priority now!

A few thoughts related to extracting and robbing. Robbing is a natural behavior for honey bees. ("Robbing" is an anthropomorphic term for the behavior. There really is not a "criminal" intent. Robbing is a special foraging behavior to collect honey.) The honey aroma and sugar content is very attractive to bees when there is limited nectar available. There are always scout bees searching for new food sources; they find honey quickly and recruit nest mates quickly. During extraction, the beekeeper needs to minimize the time the honey and comb are exposed. Plan ahead to minimize the time the hive is open. Supers of honey should be quickly removed from the hive and covered top and bottom. Extraction should be done in a bee-proof room. (The windows should be closed; otherwise there will be a large audience on the screens!) The supers should be covered top and bottom before returning to the hive. Returning the supers in the evening will minimize the robbing. The supers can be placed above the inner cover to allow the bees to clean any remaining honey. Put the inner cover hole down to minimize robbing, or close off the hole completely for a day or two. DO NOT put equipment out for the bees to clean! All beekeepers need to be considerate of their neighbors and follow Good Beekeeping Practices to minimize robbing behavior in their yard and their neighbors' yards.

Robbing is more likely to occur during the dearth. There are a few things you can do to minimize robbing.

- Minimize hive manipulations
- Any time the hive is open, cover the top and bottom of hive bodies to minimize the aroma of honey.
- Plan ahead to minimize time in the hive. Have any equipment needed immediately available.
- Use smoke in the area to mask the honey aroma.
- Repair any holes or cracks in the hive bodies.

One last tip is to use a robber screen. An entrance reducer or stick in the entrance is often not effective. The reduced entrance actually focuses the robber bees to that point; that smaller hole is where the aroma is coming from! A robber screen misdirects the robber bees away from the actual entrance. The bees from the colony may be confused for a short period but will find the real entrance.





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>



1,529 Strong!!!

We quickly blew through the 1,500 member milestone and are, as of this writing 1,529 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!

❖ 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 returns to its BeeTalk® series where the emphasis is on you and your questions. The subjects will be feeding, dealing with the dearth and winter prep. Be There!!