



njbees.org

September 2016



NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

A division of New Jersey Beekeepers Association

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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, September 16th 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, September 16th** when present the 4th Annual Honey Cup! This honey tasting competition can be entered by any and all dues paying members (One entry per family) of the Northeast New Jersey Beekeepers Association. We will also be holding a Label Contest as well. See the rules in this newsletter. Bring your friends, family, neighbors as attending is free for all. Bring your honey and your taste buds! See you there!

If any members are able to please bring desserts as our regular contributors (Tom & Celia Miller) are having an unfortunate family emergency. You will be recompensed for any costs.

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!

Our annual Honey Tasting Competition is only a few days away! I would like to thank the members who stepped forward to help make the Honey Cup a success, The Honey Cup will be a better event thanks to you! Friday's Honey Cup should be a great time, and if you are entering your honey in the competition, please arrive by 7:00. The Honey Cup will start at 7:30 pm.

Please note: The Honey Cup will be in a new building, The Pavilion, which is next to the volleyball court, and across the street from our regular meeting location.

Also remember that we will be having a Best Label competition, so remember to bring your label with the backing intact. We will affix the labels to poster boards, and take pictures of all of our club labels, together, on one board.

I would ask everyone reading this newsletter for some help. No matter if you have honey or not, could you please be at Friday's meeting. And, could you please bring one guest with you. We're holding the Honey Cup for two reasons:

- 1) It is a celebration of all the hard work we have done throughout the year to keep our bees healthy and for many, bringing in a Honey crop.
- 2) It is important that we take this time to stop and celebrate all the work that we have done. Yes, we are doing what we do because of our love for honeybees, but let's face it; our hobby does require a lot of hard work. But, our hobby does give us something that no other hobby can deliver, the ever-so-sweet-sweet reward of Pure Honey!

One of our club's goals is to educate the general public on the benefit of the Honeybee, and what better way to get people to support local beekeeping than having them buzzing around and tasting some of the sweetest stuff on the planet. Remember the first time you tasted "Real Honey?" Now,

imagine if we could get all of our neighbors to experience it too. That's why it's so important that we get as many of our friends and neighbors to attend.

I am excited about the Honey Cup, and I hope this is a tradition that our club will be doing for many years to come and will continue to grow in size. It is so amazing at how different Honey can taste, and it will be wonderful to see whose Honey is voted, the Northeast NJ's Best Tasting Honey!

Bee well and see you Friday!

Frank Mortimer
President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers



2016 Honey Cup Rules

Who will bee our 2016 Honey Cup Champion?

All members of the Northeast NJ Beekeepers are invited to participate in the competition. Everyone who attends, including the general public, will vote for their favorite honey.

Honey Cup Trophies will be awarded for the Champion, 2nd, & 3rd places.

If you would like to enter, please remember the following:

- 1) Any member who wants to participate can enter one jar of honey.
 - a. Only one jar per household/family is permitted.
 - b. A full jar of honey is not required, as the judging will be done on taste.
 - c. Your entry can be delivered in any type of jar or container.
 - d. Only honey extracted from a member's local hive can be entered.
 - e. Only 100% honey (nothing added) can be entered.
- 2) It will be a blind tasting, as all entries will be transferred to matching bottles and given a number, so no one will know whose honey is whose.
- 3) Everyone who attends the meeting will get to vote for their favorite honey. One person = one vote.
- 4) All jars of honey must be submitted to Rich, John, Jaimie or Frank before 7:00 pm September 16th. Each jar must be labeled with your name and phone number.

(You can also submit your honey prior to the 16th to Rich, John, Jaimie or Frank.)

We will also have our "Best Label" contest! Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd & 3rd places.

- 1) Any member who wants to participate can enter one label.
 - a. Only one label per household/family is permitted.
 - 2) Please bring your label with the backing intact. We will affix the labels to poster boards.
 - 3) Labels cannot be on bottles.
 - 4) Everyone who attends the meeting will get to vote for their favorite label. One person = one vote.
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Beekeeping in September

John A. Gaut

I have been feeding all of my colonies for the last several weeks. They take all I give them (about 2 gallons a week now) and are slowly increasing in weight. While there is pollen from Golden Rod, there does not seem to be any nectar now. Robbing is a constant concern. I feed just before dark and try to not have any spills or drips that might get robbing started. I had to combine a weak colony with a strong colony to stop the robbing. Fortunately most of the colonies are strong and keep the robbers and yellow jackets away; the pressure is constant though.

The most important things to help the bees survive the winter are adequate honey stores and low mite counts.

Most beekeepers in this area try to have at least 60 pounds of honey in the hive for the winter. The total hive weight should be at least 150 pounds. (A completely empty hive with 2 deeps of comb weighs about 50 pounds. There should be about 10 pounds of bees and brood in the hive. There also should be about 4 or more frames of pollen which will be about 30 to 40 pounds. That is about 100 pounds without honey. Another 50 to 60 pounds of honey totals about 150 pounds.)

Low mite counts are also very important. If the mite counts are 6 % or more, the colony only has a 50% chance of surviving the winter. (The viruses the mites transmit weaken the colony and cause paralysis, preventing the colony from maintaining a warm cluster in the winter.) Mite counts should be below 1%; very difficult to achieve this time of year because the bee population is naturally decreasing while the mites keep reproducing and increasing. If the mite counts were more than 1% in the summer, the hives should have been treated with MAQS or ApiGuard in July and August. (There were a few opportunities to treat with MAQS and ApiGuard in-between the hot weather.) Check for mites to verify the treatment worked. Many beekeepers assume the treatment worked; unfortunately an incorrect assumption in some cases and a disaster for the bees! If the mite counts are above 1% now, a final treatment of ApiVar will reduce the mites going into winter. The ApiVar should be in the hive for at least 42 days and no longer than 56 days. You will need up to 4 strips for each full sized hive, less if there are less than 20 frames of bees. The club still has some MAQS and ApiVar available. If you haven't treated yet, please consider treating ASAP! And check the mite count after treatment to verify the treatment worked.

Most of the colonies built up nicely over the summer and are preparing for the winter. Ideally they raised plenty of "fat winter bees" in late July and August. Unfortunately there is little nectar for the colonies now so feeding is necessary. A 2 part sugar (white table sugar) to 1 part water is needed now so the hives can put on some weight. Feed as often as needed to get the hive to at least 150 pounds total (60 pounds of "syrup honey") by mid October. The colonies are bringing in pollen from the golden rod and other sources; just no nectar. We need to help them by keeping the mite levels low and feeding.



Joined ▾

➦ Share

✓ Notifications



1,559 Strong!!!

We quickly blew through the 1,500 member milestone and are, as of this writing 1,559 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 is proud to sponsor a Mead Making Workshop. Got an extra 15 lbs. of honey? Learn how to make mead from our own Bob Slanzi, an award winning meaderer.

Bee There!!