



September 2017



NORTHEAST BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

A Division of New Jersey Beekeepers Association (www.njbeekeepers.org)

President	Frank Mortimer	201-417-7309	Treasurer	Bob Jenkins	201-218-6537
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2 nd V. Pres.	John Gaut – Mentor Coordinator	201-961-2330	3 rd V. Pres.	Karl Schoenknecht	201-891-0947

MEETING: This month's meeting is **Saturday, September 16th at 1:00 PM**
Location: Ramapo College of NJ, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430.

Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious Always Welcome!



Look for the Bee-tiful Yellow Signs

HONEY CUP!

You're Invited!

Northeast NJ Honey Tasting Competition

September 16th 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Ramapo College, 505 Ramapo Valley Road Mahwah, NJ
Friends Hall, (Room SC219)



- ✧ Taste Dozens of Pure Natural Local Honey!
- ✧ Vote for the 2017 Honey Cup Champion!
 - ✧ Free Face Painting for the kids!
 - ✧ Live Music by *Fragile Pub Rabbits!*
- ✧ Local Honey & Honey-Related Products For Sale!
 - ✧ Fun For The Whole Family!

Admission is free, and everyone is welcome!

Road Closure Notice: Rt. 202 from Oakland will be closed for construction. **YOU MUST APPROACH RAMAPO COLLEGE FROM RT. 17.** For more information and detour map/details, please visit: <https://www.ramapo.edu/publicsafety/road-closure-route-202-culvert-replacement-project/>



Message from the President:

Happy Honey Cup Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

How Sweet it is, 'cause this Saturday is our annual Honey Cup! Our honey tasting competition has been going strong for five years, and this year will be bigger and better than ever! When we first started the Honey Cup, we had no idea how it turned out, but from our very first one, we have always had a lot of people interested. I guess it is true what they say; you can attract more people with honey!

This will be our first time holding the Honey Cup on a Saturday, and we hope that the change in day and time will make bring even more people out to sample all of our honeys. This year we will also have a face painter for the kids, a band for live entertainment, and lots of honey-related products for sale. The Honey Cup is a celebration, our club's celebration, of all the work that goes into being a beekeeper, and tasting the sweet taste of success, HONEY! And, the more people that are there to celebrate, the bigger and better the day will be. So, please keep telling your friends, coworkers, and even random people on the street about the fun that awaits them at this year's honey cup!

This year's Honey Cup will be slightly different, as for the first time; we are having two categories, one for light honey and one for dark honey. There will be first, second and third places for both categories, so we will have more winners this year than ever before! We will also have our honey label competition, so if you have a custom label, make sure you bring one and enter it too.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, as the Honey Cup is one of Northeast NJ Beekeeper's best traditions. It is a time to celebrate, and a time to talk, laugh, have fun, and be proud. The honey Cup is also a way for us to show the general public what we do, and get them excited about local beekeeping. That's why it's so important to continue to increase attendance at the Honey Cup, because the more people who come and have fun, the more friends of the beekeeper we will have in our communities.

Until Saturday,

Frank Mortimer
President
Northeast NJ Beekeepers

Beekeeping in September

By John A. Gaut

All of my colonies have been getting a little extra feed (thick sugar syrup or ProSweet from Mann Lake) for the last several weeks. There is been nectar from Golden Rod and Knotweed; it is only enough for limited brood rearing though. With some supplemental feed, the colonies will raise more healthy bees.

These healthy bees are needed to raise healthy winter bees. Colonies in other areas (e.g. Rutherford) have brought in a nice honey crop this fall and did not need to be fed.

The colonies are definitely getting ready for winter. I am always amazed by the amount of pollen most colonies store. The colonies are still rearing brood, though at a lower rate now. I have been able to inspect all my colonies and check them for mites. I treated the colonies in late July and followed up with mite checks (an alcohol wash of 300 bees). I'm glad mite levels are low; typically less than 1%. Some are a little higher. One colony was almost 4%. That colony got an ApiVar treatment now! I will be applying ApiVar to more colonies later this month. This is the time of year when collapsing colonies spread mites to healthy colonies. ApiVar will help control the mite levels in October and November.

Attached are a few pictures from recent inspections. The first is a frame from a thriving colony; lots of capped brood and there is plenty of nectar above the brood. (I would like to see more pollen though.). This colony also has drones, a sign of good health.



The second is a picture from a hive that has been struggling all season. Not a lot of brood; just a few eggs, larva and capped brood. Very few drones. The third picture is a close up of the brood. This colony had low mite counts; less than 1%. This colony got a new queen!



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 will be about 150 pounds or more. (A completely empty 10 frame 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 40 pounds. That is about 100 pounds without honey. Another 50 to 60 pounds of honey adds up to at least 150 pounds.) Low mite counts are also very important. If the mite counts are high (3 % or more), the colony has will likely not survive the winter or be very weak in the Spring. (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. The hives should have been treated with MAQS or ApiGuard in July and August, holding down the mites. 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. A final treatment of ApiVar this fall will reduce the mites further. 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 ApiVar available.

ApiVar is a long treatment, very advantageous this time of year. Why? Because of "mite bombs." Mite bombs are colonies with very high mite counts and are collapsing. The bees from the colony often abandon the colony and fly to other health hives, carrying the mites with them. Also, strong healthy colonies will rob out the collapsing colonies bringing back the mites. I have seen this phenomenon for several years now. Strong healthy colonies with low mite counts suddenly have high mite counts. In a week the mite level has increased tremendously, from less than 1% to more than 10%. ApiVar will help reduce the heavy mite load. I also monitor mite levels more frequently in the Fall due to the potential of mite bombs in the area.

If you haven't treated with yet, please treat ASAP!

One note related to feeding: Inspect your colonies to be sure they are not being overfed. The hive should have some open comb in the bottom deep and the brood nest area should not have nectar or syrup in the brood cells.

The queen needs space to lay eggs and the bees will need some open comb to cluster on (and in). The colony will store pollen in the open comb at the edges of the brood nest.

Most of the colonies built up nicely over the summer and are preparing for the winter. The colonies are doing their job by building the stores of pollen and honey. We need to help them by keeping the mite levels low and feeding as needed.

There is a Mite-A-Thon this year! The Bee Informed Partnership is surveying mite counts from across the country. Please take mite counts from your colonies and submit the results here: <https://bip2.beeinformed.org/mitecheck>

My last cohort of queens are laying now. I will evaluate the queens next week and will use some in colonies that need new queens. I will overwinter the rest in nucs. I plan to monitor the nucs in the Spring for mite levels and nosema. The queens in the colonies (full sized hives or nucs) that overwintered well, have low mite counts, low nosema levels and are gentle will be selected for raising queens next year.

Werner Mai – Bee Ambassador

The Northeast NJ Beekeeper's own **Werner Mai** was recently interviewed on Channel 12 news. Werner showed all the viewers why he is the best of the best, as he did not wear a veil or any protection, **AND** he got the reporter to touch a frame of bees, bear-handed, on camera. (See picture below.) We are very lucky to have Werner in our club, as he teaches so much to all of us. We are even luckier to have Werner as a bee-spokesman for our hobby, as he does an excellent job every time he talks about honeybees. Next time you see Werner, congratulate him on the great job he did, and maybe ask him for an autograph. To see the full news story, please follow the link to:

<http://newjersey.news12.com/story/36296307/state-backs-off-plans-to-regulate-backyard-beekeeping>



Honey Cup Info

Honey-Tasting competition is this Saturday, Sept. 16th, from 1pm. – 4:30 pm

1) We will be in a **new location**. Our Honey Cup will be in Friends Hall, (SC219) in the Student Union. Look for the Yellow Signs that will point you to where 2 bee.

2) We will **NOT** have a Friday night meeting. From 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm on Friday, the 15th, Frank will be at the college collecting honey if anyone wants to drop it off. Frank will be sitting in his car, so look for him in the parking lot.

- You may also drop off your honey at any of the officer's houses, or before the Honey Cup, up until 12:30 pm on the day of the 16th. (call or email an officer for their address.)
- ALL Entries must include your name and phone number.

3) This year there will be **2 categories – Light Honey and Dark Honey**.

We have trophies for both categories!

- The officers will decide which category to place your entry.
- Only 1 entry per a family is allowed. (Dues must be up to date to enter!)
- ALL Entries must include your name and phone number.

4) We will also have a **label contest**.

- Your Label must NOT be affixed to anything.
- Your label must be turned in at the same time as your honey.

5) ***We need a lot of volunteers for this bigger event.***

- Run vendor tables, handle food, t-shirt sales
- Set-Up
- Clean-Up.

Please email Jaimie at jaimw@aol.com to volunteer.

6) **The More People = The Better!**

- Please invite family and friends to this free event. We will need as many tasters as possible.
- Print out attached flyer to hang EVERYWHERE!
- Use the attached JPEG to post on all your Social Media sites
- This year, we will have vendors selling honey-related products, live entertainment, Free Face Painting, and much more!

The Honey Cup is when the Northeast NJ Beekeepers Association invites the General Public to learn about, and celebrate backyard beekeeping and local honey. Please remember that the more of our neighbors who like what we do, the better it is for all local beekeepers. So, the more people who attend, the more supporters backyard beekeepers will have!

This year can be the best Honey Cup we've ever had, and we need YOUR help to make it happen! First, use the flyer & JPEG to get the word out about our Honey Cup! Also, please give back to your club, and email jaimw@aol.com or frankmort@gmail.com to volunteer today!

Adulterated Honey

By John A. Gaut

Beekeepers sometime make the mistake of feeding their colonies when the honey supers are still on the hive. They understand the hive needs to be fed during a dearth, but leave the honey supers on. The bees will take the sugar water that might include additives like HoneyBHealth and store it in any available space including the honey supers. Any honey in the supers is now adulterated!

Most beekeepers understand that there are only two miticides approved to use while honey supers are on the hive; MiteAwayQuickStrips(or the new formulation FormicPro) or Hopguard II. Other miticides are not approved since they can adulterate the honey.

Honey is defined as a *“natural sweet substance produced by honey bees from the nectar of plants ..., which the bees collect, transform by combining with specific substances of their own, deposit, dehydrate, store and leave in the honey comb to ripen and mature.”*

Adulterated Honey (also referred to as impure, artificial or fake honey) is 'honey' that has added glucose, dextrose, molasses, sugar syrup, invert sugar, flour, corn syrup, starch, or any other similar product, other than floral nectar.

Backyard beekeepers often get a nice premium price for their honey. The consumer pays a higher price because they believe the honey is pure and unadulterated. The consumer is not as confident about the honey in the Supermarkets. They trust the beekeeper has taken the upmost care in managing the hive and has not allowed any adulteration of the honey.

Adulterated honey is difficult to detect. Some beekeepers without integrity think they can get away with it, and probably have. The beekeepers allowing their honey to be adulterated are deceiving their consumers. The customer thinks they are buying pure honey, not “fake honey.” **If consumers realize the honey is adulterated, it will impact all the local beekeepers. The public’s trust and confidence has been broken.**

If you are selling honey, take the upmost care to ensure the honey is not adulterated. It’s a matter of trust and integrity within the beekeeping community and with our customers.



Mead Fieldtrip -- Saturday October 21st

The Northeast NJ Beekeepers are planning a trip to:



Melovino Meadery

2933 Vauxhall Road

Vauxhall, NJ 07088

<http://www.melovino.com>

Melovino Meadery is located just down the Parkway, outside of Maplewood, NJ, about 46 minutes away from Ramapo College. We have reserved a **private tour of the Meadery, lead by our own Mead expert, Bob Slanzi**. Mead tastings will also be included in the tour. **The private tour starts at 1 pm**. Any and all Spouses, Friends, Family, & anyone with Viking heritage are welcome to accompany you on the trip. (The more the merrier!) The cost for the day is **\$10 per person**, payable to Melovino Meadery. Members will be providing their own transportation, and we should plan on meeting there at 12:46 pm. Questions? Please email frank at frankmort@gamil.com

Next Month: Mead Fieldtrip Saturday October 21st, 1 pm

Remember: <http://www.nnjbees.org> is your website!
Check that site for everything Northeast New Jersey Beekeeping!

Bee Club 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

The First Rule of Bee Club is Tell Everyone about Bee Club
-- Tyler Droneden
