



nnjbees.org

September 2018



NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

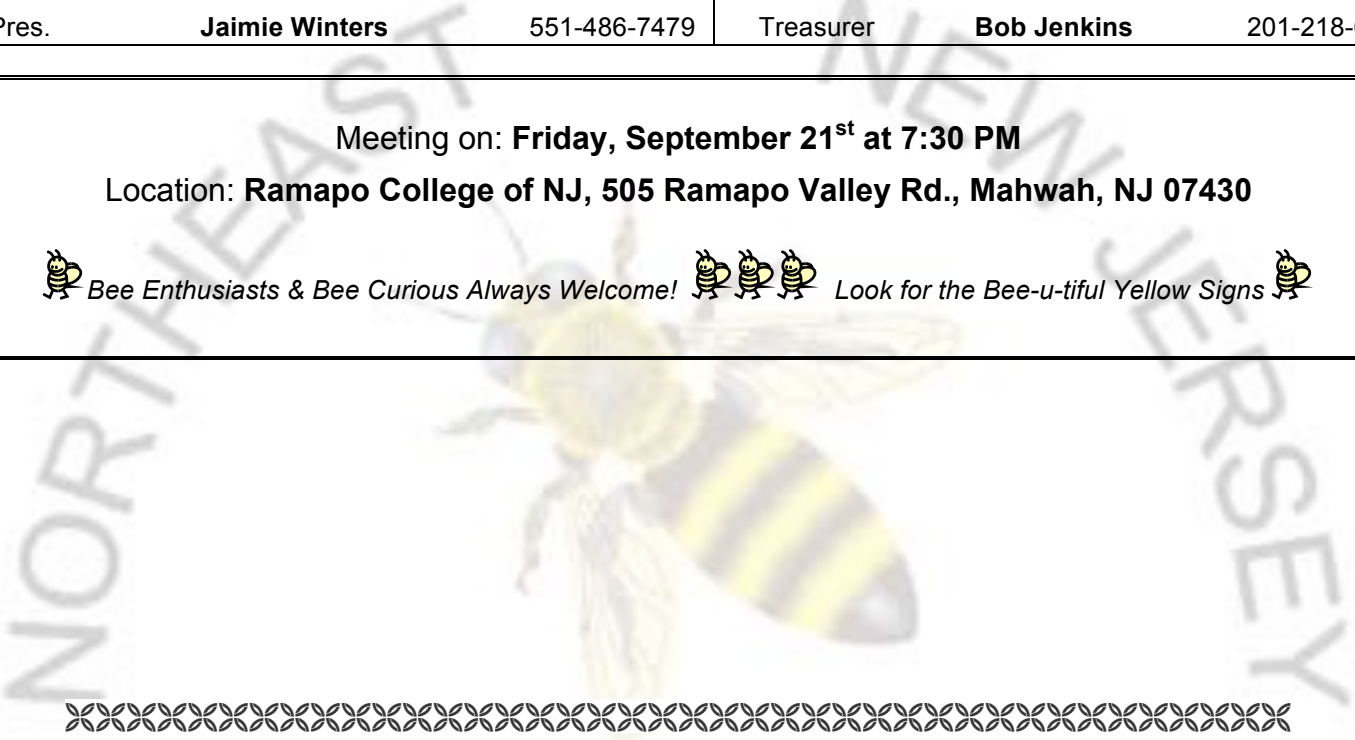
A division of New Jersey Beekeepers Association

President	Frank Mortimer	201-417-7309	3 rd V. Pres.	John Matarese	201-481-5426
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2 nd V. Pres.	Jaimie Winters	551-486-7479	Treasurer	Bob Jenkins	201-218-6537

Meeting on: **Friday, September 21st at 7:30 PM**

Location: **Ramapo College of NJ, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430**

Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious Always Welcome! *Look for the Bee-u-tiful Yellow Signs*



BEEKEEPERS





Message from the President:

Hello Northeast NJ Beekeepers,

September is almost gone, and winter will be here before we know it. Our annual **Honey Cup** was another big success! Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make it a big success. Also, I was proud to see so many people participate and attend our annual **Honey Cup**! I am hoping that next year, we can bring it to another level and increase its size and the number of attendees!

September is an important month for beekeepers, so please make sure you are treating for mites and feeding any of your hives that do not have at least 60 pounds of honey stores for winter. The healthier your bees go into winter, the stronger they will be going into the spring nectar flow.

September is also the national mite-a-thon, and I would encourage everyone to check their hives and send in their data to: www.mitecheck.com You have until Saturday the 22nd, to get your info in.

Our club has a big fall planned with great speakers and events. This Friday's meeting will be our last *club series meeting*, so please bring all your questions to the meeting. This Friday is when you can get answers to all your questions about what you should be doing to get our bees through the winter.

Then, next month, on **Friday, October 19th**, we have **Dr. Jamie Ellis** from the University of Florida as our guest speaker. Many of you may know him from his articles in *American Bee Journal*. We are honored to have him as our guest, and I am certain it will be an educational and entertaining evening. Please note that for Dr. Ellis, we will be in the same room as our Honey Cup, **Friend's Hall in the Student Center**.

In November, **Dr. Tammy Horn Potter**, Kentucky State Apiarist and author of *Bees in America: How the Honey Bee Shaped a Nation* and *Beeconomy: What Women and Bees Can Teach Us about Local Trade and the Global Market* will be our guest speaker. The date of her talk is **Friday, November 16th**. Dr. Potter will be signing her books following her talk. Please note, for her talk we will be meeting in **the Pavilion**.

In December, we will once again be having our annual **Holiday Party**. There will be a lot more information to follow, but I do hope everyone will join us for one of the best meetings of the year. The date of our party is; **Friday, December 21st**. Please note our holiday party will be held in **the Pavilion**.

So as you can see, the club has a lot of great events planned for the coming months. I am honored to be part of a club that focuses on continued education for all of its members. The speakers we are bringing in are well known throughout the beekeeping community, and I do hope that everyone will take advantage of them speaking at one of our meetings. I would like for us to pack the room with beekeepers that are ready to learn, so as Dr. Ellis and Dr. Potter travel to other speaking engagements, they will have to compare that crowd to the one they had at the Northeast NJ Beekeepers.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Friday!

Sincerely,

Frank Mortimer
President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers

Mite-A-Thon

Please participate in this years Mite-A-Thon. Once you check your mite levels, enter the results at: www.mitecheck.com.

The site shows the current levels across North America. This is a very good interactive site that will be continuously updated. Below is more information from the site.

Mite-A-Thon is a national effort to collect mite infestation data and to visualize *Varroa* infestations in honeybee colonies across North America within a one-week window. All beekeepers can participate, creating a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Their *Varroa* monitoring data will be uploaded to www.mitecheck.com.

The parasitic mite, *Varroa destructor* (*Varroa*), and the viruses it vectors is a significant driver of this honey bee colony mortality. Yet, indicators suggest that many beekeepers are not monitoring honeybee colony *Varroa* infestations and therefore aren't able to connect infestation to colony loss.

OBJECTIVE:

1) To raise awareness about honeybee colony *Varroa* infestations in North America through effective monitoring methods.

2) Management strategies will be made available for discussion within bee organizations utilizing Mite-A-Thon partner developed information and outreach materials.

PARTICIPANTS:

All beekeepers in North America are encouraged to participate

COST:

There is no cost. You can create your own test materials or kits can be purchased online and at your local bee supply store.

OUTREACH:

Promotion of Mite-A-Thon will be accomplished through local bee clubs, state beekeeping organizations, and national associations (see partners for examples)

DATA COLLECTION:

Participants will monitor the level of mites (number of mites per 100 bees) using a standardized protocol utilizing two common methods of assessment

(powdered sugar roll or alcohol wash) and then enter data, including location, total number of hives, number of hives tested, local habitat, and the number of *Varroa* mites counted from each hive. The published information will not identify individual participants.

Beekeeping in September

by John A. Gaut
EAS Master Beekeeper

I have been getting my colonies ready for winter. I have been removing any supers. (I had supers on some hives, above the inner cover incase they needed more room to store nectar. Some of the colonies used this space; most stored the nectar in the bottom two deeps though.) I have not had to feed very much this year. In past years I have been feeding weekly during July and August. It's really nice not to have to take the time and have the expense of feeding. I did have to feed some of my queen mating nucs.

Robbing is a constant possibility this time of year. I have robbing screens on all the colonies including the mating nucs. Fortunately, I have not had any issues so far. The colonies are strong so that helps.

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 by the end of November. (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 90 to 100 pounds without honey. Another 50 to 60 pounds of honey totals about 150 pounds.) I plan to feed colonies in late September and October to insure they have plenty of winter stores. I feed a very thick syrup; 2 ½ Sugar to 1 part water or ProSweet. While ProSweet is more expensive than cane sugar, it has Fructose and Dextrose in addition to Sucrose. And I do not have to mix ProSweet and it does not ferment. The bees build weigh quickly when I feed ProSweet.

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. I treat all my colonies with ApiVar in mid-September until November to keep mite immigration under control. Colonies with high mite levels often collapse in October. Mites from the collapsing colony end up in healthy colonies by immigrating with bees robbing the collapsing colony, or on bees absconding the infested hive. The ApiVar should be in the hive for 56 days. You will need up to 4 strips for each full sized hive, less if there are less than 20 frames of bees. Finally check the mite count after treatment to verify the treatment worked.

The Mite-A-Thon has been extended. I plan to finish my mite counting later this week. Please share your mite counts! <https://bip2.beeinformed.org/mitecheck/>

Most of the colonies produced nice honey crops, maintained good populations over the summer and are preparing for the winter. Ideally, they are raising plenty of “fat winter bees now.” The colonies are bringing in pollen from the golden rod and other sources and some nectar. We need to help them by keeping the mite levels low and feeding as needed.



THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all who helped make the honey cup the best ever!

The baked good tables was over the top, the education table informative and a big hit, the vendors had a beautiful array of all natural items our bees help create (very educational as well), our honey sales helped raise funds for the club's endeavors, the band rocked, we sold more shirts and beekeeping books, the honey queen and the face painter were both special for the kids, the pizza was warm and the drinks were cold --- and of course, the honey tasting showcased out talents and honey diversity with about 40 entries.

I also have to thank our greeters at the front and the "heavies," who loaded, carried, set up, broke down and cleaned up.

Congratulations to all the winners. But we are all winners with the success of this year's event, which grows every year offering the public a fun, free, educational event.

It really was a perfect day due to all your efforts.

Thank you again!

Jaimie

Recordkeeping – Batch Numbers of Mite Treatments

by John A. Gaut
EAS Master Beekeeper

Successful beekeepers typically keep good records. They record the date and observations when they inspect a hive. They record mite counts and treatment dates, and follow up with a post treatment mite count. I work with a lot of beekeepers. It is very difficult to help diagnose a problem when there are no records. The beekeeper is not sure when they treated and what the mite counts were before and after. Recordkeeping can be as simple as hand writing the notes in a book, filling out an Inspection Sheet or using one of the digital tools like HiveTracks.

An important piece of information to record is the batch number and manufacturing or expiration date of the mite treatments. If a treatment was applied in accordance with the directions but was not effective, the manufactures want to know! They need the batch number or date to be able to trace the product in their quality assurance systems. If they get feedback about an ineffective batch, they can evaluate their own retained samples. Other information including mite counts before and after, as well as weather conditions, hive condition (e.g. population and queen status) and other observations would be useful.

The manufactures of all the mite treatments are striving to produce effective and reliable products. Feedback (good or bad) is helpful to assure their products meet their own standards and can be continuously improved.

Below are some examples of Batch Numbers on ApiVar and MAQS



The batch number is printed on the ApiVar package. The Manufacturing Date and Time are also useful information for the manufacturer. (ApiVar expires 24 months after the Date of Manufacture.)



Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQS) has an Expiry Date. Product should not be used after the expiration date. Both the date and Batch Code are needed for the manufacturer.

More information about the Quality Control processes for NOD, the manufacturer of the MAQS and Formic Pro can be found at <http://nodglobal.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Quality-Brochure-002.pdf>

2018 Honey Cup Winners

Light Honey

<u>Bottle Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>
14	Ramapo Beekeeping Club	1 st
11	Nick Gripenburg	2 nd
22	Warren Stroedecke	3 rd

Dark Honey

<u>Bottle Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>
62	Kelly Palazzi	1 st
67	Pat Harrison	2 nd
70	Eddie & Heather Mika	3 rd

Best Label

<u>Label Letter</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>
J	Kelly Palazzi	1 st
K	Nick Gripenburg	2 nd
L	Rich DeKoyer	3 rd



**Ramapo College Beekeeping Club,
Northeast NJ Beekeepers & Essex County Beekeepers**

**Proudly Present:
Jamie Ellis, Ph.D.**

**Gahan Endowed Professor of Entomology
Department of Entomology and Nematology
University of Florida**

OCTOBER 19TH 7:30 PM

Ramapo College, Friends Hall, Student Center



Please join Dr. Ellis as he brings to life the exciting and fact-filled world of Honey Bee Natural History, Biodiversity, Conservation, and Ecology.

For more information, please email: northeastnjbeekeepers@gmail.com



Our Facebook Group has **over 1822 fans** from all over the world! It's a great place to connect to other beekeepers, so be sure check out all the great bee pics, bee stories, and bee info.

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
Mike Miller	Club apparel
Bob Slanzi	Meadmaster

NEXT MONTH

Jamie Ellis, Ph.D.

University of Florida

The First Rule of Bee Club: Tell Everyone about Bee Club!

