



nnjbees.org

November 2018



NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

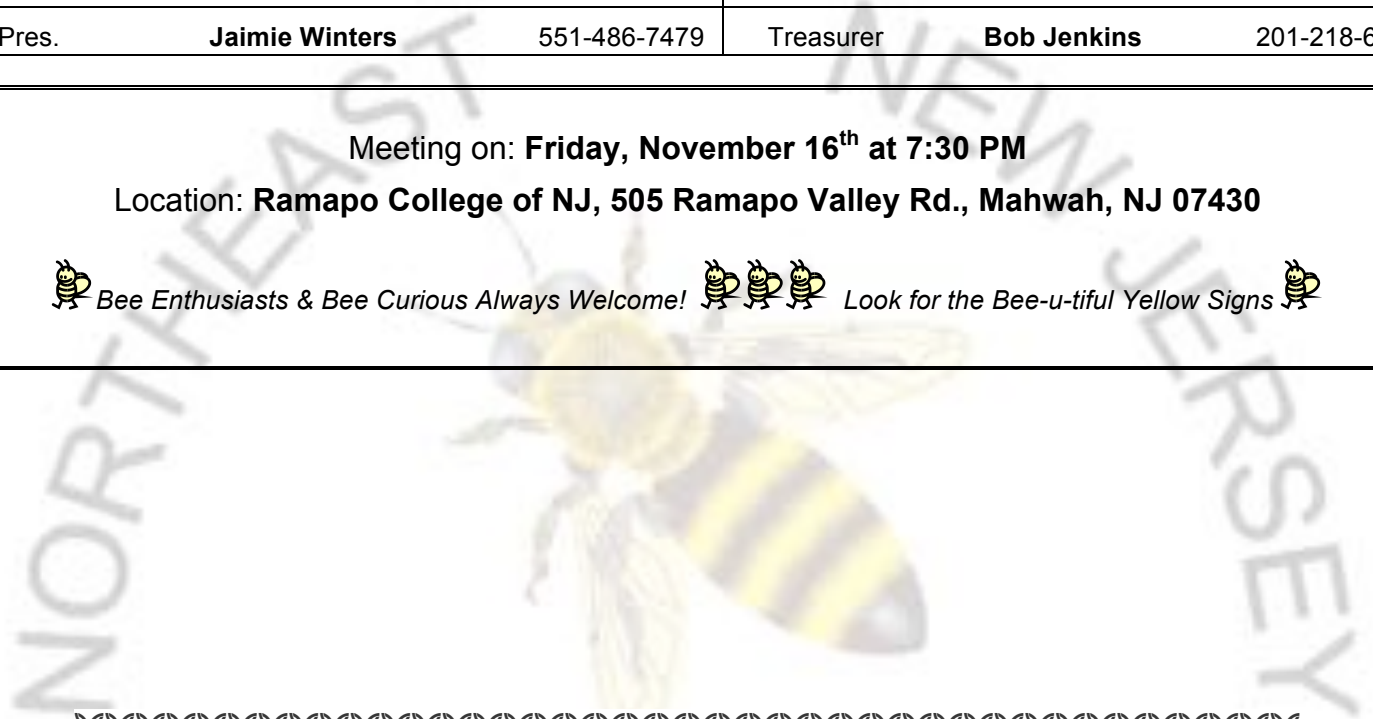
A division of New Jersey Beekeepers Association

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2 nd V. Pres.	Jaimie Winters	551-486-7479	Treasurer	Bob Jenkins	201-218-6537

Meeting on: **Friday, November 16th 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:

Happy November Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

It's hard to believe that it's mid-November, especially with the mild fall weather that has been spoiling us for the past few weeks. November is when many of us will be pulling the Apivar out of our hives, and it's very important to make sure that the strips never stay in for longer than 56 days. While you should not be pulling frames out to do an inspection, it is OK to go into your hives and take out your treatments. Having your hives open for a few minutes will not hurt your bees, but leaving Apivar strips in your hives for too long could have serious consequences.

As we head into winter, now is a good time to start thinking about what you want to do next year. At the top of everyone's to-do list should be mite treatments. Now is a great time to think about what mite treatments you want use and when you want to use them. Setting up a mite treatment calendar is the best way to be proactive, and to have a plan for what you want to do.

Some people may tire of how much we talk about mites, but for those who were at last month's meeting, you heard Jamie Ellis say that mites are the number one killer of our bees. Varroa is the biggest threat for all of us and all of our bees, which is why we spend so much time talking about them. For all of us in Northeast NJ, varroa is an even bigger problem than it might be in other parts of the country. As we all know, New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the US, and our Northeast corner is the most densely populated part of all. Having so many people living so close together means more beekeepers are living close together, which means more honeybee colonies are living closer together, which means the greater the risk all of our hives are to mite bombs. November is when weaker/infected colonies will begin to die off, not because of the drop in temperature, but because of the rise in mite population. As we head into winter, I want all of us to scream from the rooftops, cold temperatures don't kill bees, mites kill bees. If a colony dies in the winter, it's because the mites won and the beekeeper lost. Another reason why having your own mite treatment calendar is so important is because winter mite treatments start in July or August, not in November. Colonies that succumb to mites have been battling them for months, not just in their final few weeks. If you wait until see a problem, the it is already too late.

November is also a good time to start thinking about beekeeping courses. Our sister branches, Essex and Sussex, both offer beekeeping courses, and I would encourage everyone to look at ways to continue your bee education. These courses fill up fast, so sign up now while there is still room.

Books are another great resource for beekeepers, and your club has many available for you to purchase at a discount. Speaking of books, this month we have Tammy Horn Potter as our guest speaker, and she will be discussing both of her books, *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*. The club will have copies of her books available for purchase, and Dr. Potter will be signing them following her talk.

I am very excited for Friday's meeting and having the chance to hear Dr. Potter. It is always exciting to hear an author talk about his or her book, and having read *Bees in America*, I cannot wait to hear what Dr. Potter has to say. I do hope you will join us on Friday and take advantage of having one of the nation's leading beekeeping authors at our club's meeting.

Until Friday, Bee Well,

Frank Mortimer
President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers

Beekeeping in November

**by John A. Gaut
EAS Master Beekeeper**

The Fall weather has been typical until this week; now it is about 10 degrees cooler than the historical average. I spent most of October and early November getting the colonies ready for winter. Most have plenty of stores. There are a few colonies that are a little light. I'll check the weights of these colonies more frequently. I may need to feed them in the Spring once brood rearing starts to ramp up. I did see evidence of high mite parasitism in one colony. I have ApiVar in the colony but treated them with Oxalic Acid dribble also to knock down the mites. I did get a good mite drop on the IPM board a day after the treatment. The colony still may have trouble surviving the winter though since the mites have already infected the winter bees with viruses and bacteria. I will remove the ApiVar from the colonies in a few weeks on a warm day. I still have a couple swarm traps to take in. Otherwise the bees are looking good.

Now that the bees are nearly set for winter, I can spend more time reading and learning more about bees. One big event coming up is the American Beekeeping Federation conference on January in Myrtle Beach. There are always new developments in the beekeeping world and this conference is a great way to stay current. I will have more information about the conference and the American Beekeeping Federation at our meeting on Friday.

I am really looking forward to Tammy Horn Potter's presentation on Friday. Tammy will be speaking about both books, *Bees in America* and *Beeconomy*. *Bees in America* is a history of beekeeping in the United States and how bees influenced our culture. *Beeconomy* is a more global view of the history of beekeeping highlighting women in beekeeping. I'm reading *Beeconomy* now; very interesting even for a technical guy! The club will have a limited number of both books for sale and Tammy will be signing any and all copies!!!

**The Ramapo College Beekeeping Club
& The Northeast NJ Beekeepers
Proudly Present:**

Tammy Horn Potter, Ph.D.

**Kentucky State Apiarist
and Author**

**NOVEMBER 16TH 7:30 PM
Ramapo College, The Pavilion**



Please join Dr. Potter as she discusses her books;
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*. Book signing will follow her presentation.

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

2018 Holiday Party – Donations Needed

We are again asking members to donate baskets for our tricky-tray fundraiser held at our club's annual holiday party.

This year the party is set for Friday Dec. 21.

Of course bee-related baskets are always a hit, but in the past members were really creative putting together baskets with themes such as gardening, home movie night, books, spa night etc. Baskets can be brought to Friday's meeting or dropped off at Jaimie 's in Rutherford by **Dec. 10.**

This is a huge fundraiser for us, with all funds going toward speakers, programs, and making the **Northeast NJ Beekeepers** the best bee club in New Jersey.

Please do your best to donate to our club's holiday party.

If you have any questions, please [email Jaimie](#) for how you can help!

Thank you!

Jaimie

551-486-7479

New Jersey Beekeepers Association Fall State Meeting

by

John A. Gaut

The Fall meeting was held this past Saturday at the College of New Jersey in Ewing. The meeting facilities were excellent and the agenda was fantastic. Over 80 beekeepers from all over the state attended.

David Frank gave an update on the Beekeeping regulations. While the new standards are reasonable, there is one clause that is an issue. The clause basically says that notwithstanding the regulations, it shall be unlawful to keep bees that are a direct threat to public safety. The problem with this language is that a local municipal official can decide bees are a threat and site the beekeeper even though the beekeeper has met all the standards. The next steps for the regulations is for them to be published and then we will have 60 days to comment. We will get more information about how to comment soon.

Our New Jersey Honey Queen, Nicole Medina delivered a very interesting presentation about her activities as Honey Queen this year. She will be competing with other state Honey Queens at the ABF Conference in January. She will be an excellent representative for New Jersey. Nicole is planning to attend our meeting on Friday. Please support her by buying some raffle tickets for the beautiful quilt!

Dr Debbie Delaney from the University of Delaware was the featured speaker. Dr. Delaney delivered two presentations. The first was about the Small Hive Beetle.

A few facts I picked up were:

- SHB have clubbed antennae and larger brain lobes connected to the antennae. As a result the SHB has an excellent sense of “smell.” It can even smell a colony under stress from 10 miles away!
- Swarms of SHBs have been observed!
- SHBs can also transmit American Foul Brood spores, Deformed Wing Virus and Sacbrood virus.

Dr. Delaney’s second presentation in the afternoon was about the Appalachian Bee Cooperative. The group is centered in Southern West Virginia, deep in what used to be coal country. The area is economically disadvantaged with high poverty rates. Beekeeping is a way for people to supplement any income they may have. There is plenty of natural bee forage in the area. Beekeeping is benefiting the community economically.

The NJBA State Winter meeting will be on Saturday, February 16.

Beekeeping Memories

Working my Bees in November

By

Karl Schoenknecht

My two hives are now finished with the ApiVar treatment and I hoped find a warm day with sun but the rain continues. The bees are flying in spite of the rain and are consuming a lot of honey. Other than a few knotweed blossoms, the bees are finding little forage. The deer are eating the asters and mug wort has replaced the road side goldenrod. I usually have flowering broccoli plants for the bees but a new invasive caterpillar has made growing brassica plants difficult. After checking both hives I determined that the old queen hive was low in bee numbers.

I did not find any live Varroa mites but several frames had distorted comb that should be replaced. I removed the ApiVar strips, only found two frames with some brood and less honey than I thought. November is not a good month for changing a queen or trying to feed the bees enough to encourage the queen to start laying. I decided to move frames around to condense the weak hive. I put ten frames with brood and honey from the upper and lower boxes and the old queen into the lower brood box and closed the hive. I put the remaining box and 10 frames with honey and a couple thousand bees onto the strong hive. I thought the strong hive would accept the other bees because they were without a queen. I now had one tall and one short hive (**see first photo**).

I waited two days and checked the strong hive. The bees were cleaning out the spare frames and showed no sign of conflict and no dead bees. I felt that the strong hive should have gotten used to the smell of the two thousand bees after two days and decided to merge the hives. I put the small hive on top of the strong hive and waited a while to see if any dead bees would be dragged out of the hive. After about an hour I checked again and saw several bees on the landing board stopping bees returning to the hive even if they had pollen. They were quickly allowed to enter the hive but the hive was clearly more defensive than it was before the merge.

I watched the entrance for about ten minutes and on two occasions noticed several bees dragging another bee out of the hive in what appeared to be a real fight. Each time the fight

lasted almost a minute only to stop suddenly with all the bees walking away from the dragged bee. Both times the dragged bee cleaned itself and went back into the hive. I did not see any dead bees and hope I don't see any tomorrow. The alcohol shake test showed no mites but I wanted to check the tray under the screened bottom-board that I last cleaned on September 11 when I started the ApiVar treatment (**see second and third photos**). I modified a Better Bee bottom screen and bottom board to allow easier tray access and added a door to reduce cold air input and to keep bees out from under the screen.

I found a fair amount of debris, pollen and a lot of dead mites but none were alive. After about twenty minutes of checking I estimated about 2 dead mites per square inch. The nearly 18x14 inch tray was holding at least 500 dead mites (collected over 54 days) and the bees probably carried out many more. Before the ApiVar treatment I only found 5 mites with the alcohol shake test. Earlier this year, on the last day of May, I treated with Mite Away quick strips and reduced the mite count from 8 to one after the two week treatment period.

I agree with Dr. Jamie Ellis that Varroa mites are the cause of most beehive failures. I don't know if the merging of my two hives will work the way I want and I will need to remove frames and downsize my tall hive in the next few weeks but I am still learning (**see last photo**). I need to monitor the under-the-screen tray more often (daily if possible) because that won't kill my bees and will show if I need a mite treatment. A day after the merge, I have found about 20 dead bees on a forty nine degree rainy day. If I tried to use newspaper between the merging hives, it would have surely torn when I aligned the heavy boxes. Today's rain would have made a mess of the paper that was overlapped and taped to the outside.



11/2/18



11/4/18



11/4/18



11/4/18

BEEKEEPERS



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
Holiday Party!!!



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