



nnjbees.org

January 2019



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
V. President	John Gaut – Mentor Coordinator	201-961-2330	Historian	Karl Schoenknecht	201-891-0947
2 nd V. Pres.	Jaimie Winters	551-486-7479	Treasurer	Bob Jenkins	201-218-6537

Meeting on: **Friday, January 18 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



Got Dues?

It's Time to Pay Your Yearly Dues!

Please pay online or see Bob Jenkins.





Message from the President:

Happy New Year, Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

The single most important thing that every NJ beekeeper must do before February 1st is to respond to the NJ Dept. of Ag's proposed Bee Regulations. These proposed regulations are much more reasonable than what was originally proposed, but there is at least one item that must be addressed or we are all in jeopardy of losing our bees.

In the new regulations, the single most destructive sentence is:

"Notwithstanding compliance with this chapter including these apiary standards, it shall be unlawful for any beekeeper to keep any hive or hives in such a manner or of such disposition as to pose a direct threat to: 1. Public health and safety;"

This single sentence enables municipalities to ban beekeeping because it, “**poses a direct threat to public safety.**” Since this sentence has no definitions, no explanations, and no limits, the regulations that were supposed to support beekeeping could essentially eliminate it throughout the state.

I would urge every beekeeper in New Jersey to write an email demanding that this sentence be removed from the proposed beekeeping regulations.

Your comments need to go electronically to Joseph Zoltowski, Director Division of Plant Industry at proposedrulesPlantIndustry@ag.state.nj.us; or in writing to:

Joseph Zoltowski
Director Division of Plant Industry
NJ Department of Agriculture
PO Box 330
Trenton, NJ 07625-0330

Please copy Janet Katz using her email; rules@njbeekeepers.org so she can track everyone’s response.

Other points that could also be addressed are:

Hive Density: the wording needs to be changed so it reads "1/4 Acre or less." The omission of "or less" could be interpreted so that bees are prohibited on properties less than 1/4 acre.



Flyaway Barrier: The size of the flyaway barrier seems excessive, and many lots cannot accommodate a barrier that extends 10 feet past the hives in each direction due to the size of the lot.

Waiver Process:

- 1) The proposed waiver process is unduly burdensome and should simply utilize Municipal Land use Law 40:55D-12.
- 2) As currently written, neighbors could get a waiver revoked because of changes to THEIR property, even though the beekeeper is following the law and the bees are not bothering anyone. Revoking a waiver should only be possible if the beekeeper fails to follow the guidelines set forth in the waiver. (For example, someone gets a waiver to keep 10 hives on his property and puts 30.)
- 3) As written, neighbors can bring action against a beekeeper every 12 months. This creates undue burden for beekeepers who are following the law but have bee-haters living next door. Neighbors should have one 45-day period to object to waiver and that's it.

Education Requirement: Why are beekeepers required to take a course while no other pet or animal owner is required? Why do beekeeper need to take an introductory course, but people who own chickens, livestock, dogs, and cats not required? More people get bit by dogs then stung by bees, so

why aren't the "more dangerous" animal owners required to have an education certificate?

Please, for the sake of all NJ Beekeepers, take a moment and email proposedrulesPlantIndustry@ag.state.nj.us stating your displeasure with the regulations. We are close, and with your help, we will get what is best for the bees!

If you have any questions about the regulations and what you should be doing, please just call or email me. My contact info is at the top of this newsletter.

Thank you!!!

Sincerely,

Frank Mortimer
President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers

BEEKEEPERS



Beekeeping in January

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

We had a few warmer than normal days earlier this month so I took advantage above average temperatures to put ApiVar strips in all my hives. I had some excellent help from two other beekeepers; we were open to open the hives and put the strips in quickly. I only opened the top of the hive. Most of the bees were in the top box so I placed two strips in the cluster. (One strip for every five frames of bees.) I also made a quick visual assessment of honey stores. Most colonies had adequate stores. There were a few that I will monitor more frequently to be sure they do not starve. I did pull a frames from several colonies and usually found a small amount of brood. The colonies will continue to expand their brood nests as they are able. Temperature and colony size are the main factors determining how fast the brood nest expands. (I insulate my colonies so honey consumption is typically lower than an uninsulated colony and the cluster is as able to maintain temperature in a larger brood nest. Uninsulated colonies may need more food and may not be able to expand the brood nest yet.)

I put the ApiVar strips in a little earlier than planned. January can have extended cold periods so when the weather was relatively warm, I put the strips in. Not having to trudge through snow was a plus too.

When we get some warmer days in February, I will open the hives and move the strips if needed. Typically the cluster moves as they consume honey and build the brood nest. The ApiVar strips are only effective if they are in contact with the mites!

During February when I am moving the strips, I will reassess the honey stores and be prepared to feed if needed. I plan to feed granulated sugar if the honey stores are low. I find the bees consume the granulated sugar as well as fondant or sugar cakes. I typically place the sugar on a paper plate on the inner cover next to the handhole. I'll turn my insulating shims over then to make a little space above the inner cover. I will also add a small protein patty under the inner cover as a protein source for the nurse bees. I'll only put about ½ of a pound on each hive. The Small Hive Beetle likes the protein patty too!

NEED NUCS?

Nucs \$175 ❖ Deposits \$50 per nuc

The Club will be ordering nucs from Grant Stiles
They will be 5-frame nucs, treated with Apivar

We expect delivery in late April

Please see Bob Jenkins to reserve your nuc today!
Quantities Are Limited!



Honey Bee Health Coalition

Best Management Practices for Hive Health

By John A. Gaut
Master Beekeeper, EAS

The Honey Bee Health Coalition has published a new guide for beekeepers. The new publication is full of great beekeeping information, and it's free!

You can view and download a copy at:

https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/HBHC_Hive_BMPs_v1.0_reduced.pdf

Please read this information over the winter.



Your bees will thank you!

2019 Northeast NJ Beekeepers Calendar

Date	Topic	Speaker
January 18 th	Late Winter Mite Control & Hive Management	Club Bee Talk Series
February 15 th	Maximizing Honey Production	Grant Stiles Stiles Apiaries
March 15 th	Swarms: Steps to Stop Them & Early Prevention	Club Bee Talk Series
April 19 th	Installing & Caring for Your New Nucs	Club Bee Talk Series
May 17 th	Hive Inspections/Summer Management	Club Bee Talk Series
June 21 st	Mite Treatments	Tim Schuler , NJ State Apiarist
July 19 th	Pulling Your Honey Supers & Honey Extraction	Club Bee Talk Series
August 16 th	Feeding: Syrup (1:1 - 2:1 - 4:1,) Fondant, Candy, Feeders, & Pollen. The “Why’s, When’s & How-to’s for Feeding Bees	Club Bee Talk Series
September 14 th Saturday	Honey Cup	Everyone
September 20 th	Fall Management & Mite Treatments	Club Bee Talk Series
October 18 th	Cornell Bee Extension and NY Tech Team	Emma Mullen Department of Entomology Cornell University
November 9 th Saturday	State Meeting in Lieu of Branch Meeting	Christina M. Grozinger Distinguished Professor of Entomology Pennsylvania State University
December 20 th	Holiday Party	Everyone

Bee Regulations

Get your comments into the NJ Dept of Ag!

BEFORE February 1, 2019

Send Your Comments to:

Joseph Zoltowski, Director Division of Plant Industry
at proposedrulesPlantIndustry@ag.state.nj.us or:

Joseph Zoltowski
Director Division of Plant Industry
NJ Department of Agriculture
PO Box 330
Trenton, NJ 07625-0330

Need Help or Have Questions?

Email or Call Frank at: frankmort@gmail.com

or 201-417-7309

*We are close, and with **YOUR** help, we can get the final regulations to benefit the bees and we can focus on peacefully keeping bees.*

Nicole Medina Is the American Honey Princess

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

I usually attend the American Beekeeping Conference. This year I and others from New Jersey had a special reason for attending. New Jersey was represented by Nicole Medina, New Jersey Honey Queen. While I learned a lot at the conference, and saw many beekeeping friends, my mind was always on how Nicole was doing. Nicole was competing with two other young women, one from Massachusetts and one from Wisconsin. Only two would be chosen, one Honey Queen and one Honey Princess. The competition included presentations during one of the lunches. From my perspective, all three women were competitive. The judges did have a tough decision! The final results were announced at the end of the banquet on Saturday evening. Nicole was selected as American Honey Princess and gave a very nice acceptance speech. After the banquet, we rushed to congratulate Nicole and her father, Joel Medina.

Nicole and the American Honey Queen will be traveling across the US speaking to kids and adults about honey bees, beekeeping and pollinators. They will be promoting honey and its various uses. The American Honey Queen and American Honey Princess generate a tremendous amount of free publicity for honey and beekeeping. The good will is invaluable. While there are travel costs, there is a tremendous return in free advertising. You can support the New Jersey Honey Queen program by donating to a special tax-deductible fund.

I know many folks supported Nicole and the National Honey Queen and Princess program by buying tickets for the quilt. Grant Stiles won the raffle, so the quilt will be coming to New Jersey too! Thank you everyone who supported Nicole and the program.

Nicole will give a full report on her journey to American Honey Princess at the NJBA Winter Meeting on February



Nicole Medina with a few of the New Jersey Attendees to the American Beekeeping Conference.



Lessons Learned

By John Matarese

One of the greatest aspects of beekeeping is that there is a never ending stream of information to learn. Nature is never static and it is always adapting, evolving and overcoming. Added to this is the science that is continuously making advancements in the study of our environment and specifically the Honeybee.

One such example of leaning and understanding the Honeybee and the challenges it faces with the Varroa Mite, manifested itself recently with the loss of one of my colonies.

This particular colony was a really large and it was a magnificent honey producing colony in my apiary last season. It was everything you would want in a colony, strong and healthy, active and productive, but most noteworthy, gentle and very populous.

As the Honey season came and went, I performed a fall mite treatment on this colony along with all the others in my apiaries. I conducted mite counts and the results were for the most part, very good. I did not do mite checks on **EVERY** colony, but I did do most of them. In considering this after the fact, in my mind it was a critical blunder.

As the summer faded to cooler weather, all my hives were doing well, including the subject hive. Feeding was going well and all the hives were getting heavy. All was well, or at least so it seemed.

As November turned to December, I began to notice more and more dead bees on the bottom board and at the entrance of this particular hive. As I inspected the hive on

several occasions, I could see that a once massive colony had dwindled in size. Even though it was smaller, the size of the cluster did not alarm me as I had successfully over-wintered much smaller clusters before. The alarm bells had not gone off in my head quite yet.

The last time I visited the hive to check on it was after a cold snap near the end of December. When I lifted the lid, I saw the cluster near the top, with some of the cluster of bees on the top bars, motionless and obviously deceased. I immediately knew that it wasn't starvation as the hive was one of the heaviest and chock full of food stores. “*!@# MITES!” I said to myself. How could I have been so stupid!? How could I have missed this!?

Pondering what went wrong and where I went wrong, two VERY IMPORTANT lessons emerged that are now very apparent to me.

First, our most successful and strongest hives of season MUST, MUST, MUST BEE the ones we monitor the closest for mite infestation. MORE BEES = MORE MITES! It's just that simple. Exasperating this fact, are the “Bad Beekeepers”, that are nearby and don't treat for mites, “gifting” us with “mite bombs” as their colonies collapse.

Second, we must be hyper-vigilant in managing for mites. This includes treating AND TESTING EVERY SINGLE ONE OF OUR HIVES. Not just a couple, or every other one, but EVERY SINGLE ONE.

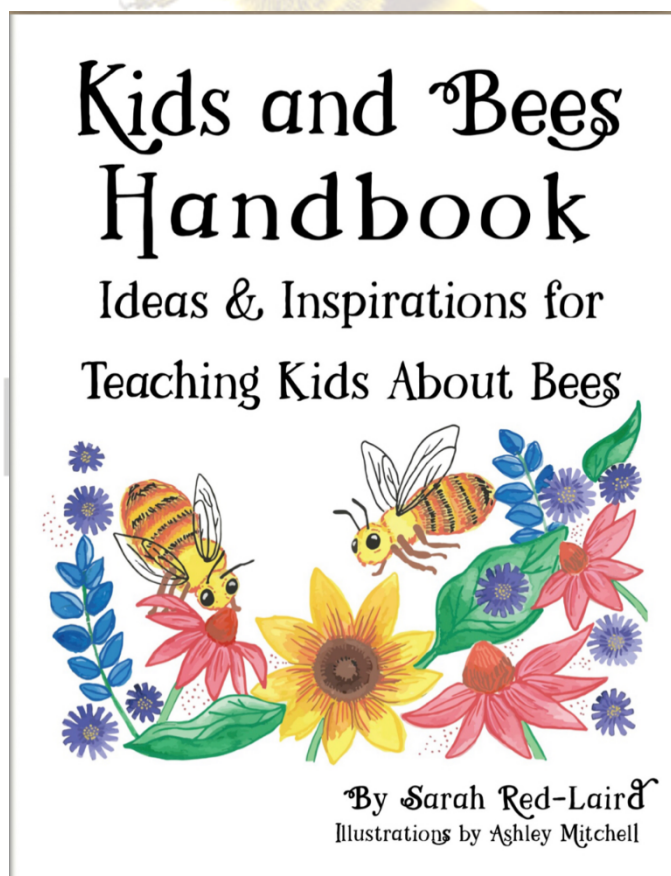
This is truly the only way to know what the condition of your hives are so that you can make informed decisions on how to treat and overcome mite infestations in order to keep you bees healthy and ALIVE.

Kids and Bees

By John A. Gaut
Master Beekeeper, EAS

Sarah Red-Laird has been running a program for kids during the American Beekeeping Federation Convention. This year an elementary class was invited into one of the larger conference rooms to learn about honey bees, pollinators and beekeeping. There were many adult volunteers and the event was a huge success. Sarah has written a free online book for anyone wanting to help kids learn about bees. It can be found at her website. <https://www.beegirl.org/kidsandbees>

Anyone working with kids should find this book useful!



Need a Sweet Gift?

If you would like to make a gift of an annual membership for a friend or loved one, please contact Bob Jenkins at bobrita@usa.net. Bob can email you a certificate to be printed out and presented to the recipient.



BEEKEEPERS

**Give the Gift of an NNJ Membership:
The *Buzz* that Lasts for an Entire Year.**



Northeast New Jersey Beekeeper...

Public Group

Joined ▾

Share

Notifications

...



Our Facebook Group has **over 1825 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

Grant Stiles: Maximizing Honey Production



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