



nnjbees.org



July 2019

NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
A division of the New Jersey State 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	Secretary	Rich Stellingwerf	201-693-2571
2 nd V. Pres.	Jaimie Winters	551-486-7479	Treasurer	Bob Jenkins	201-218-6537

Meeting on: **Friday, July 19th 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*



This Month's Meeting: **Pulling Your Honey Supers & Honey Extraction**





Message from the President:

Hello Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

What a wet and wild nectar flow we are having this year! Usually around the 4th of July everything has bloomed, and by mid-July we are well into the dearth. But not this year! Thanks to the ever so wet weather we've been having, the nectar flow has kept on flowing. But, before we know it, Mother Nature will shut it off and the honey season will be over.

It's always important to remember that once the dearth hits, the bees are not going to be happy to give up their honey. When you're ready to extract, make sure you have a plan before you begin. Since you have to get the bees out of the honey supers, plan on using a fume board or bee escape, as they will get the bees out with the least amount of fuss. I have been using Fischer's Bee Quick with a lot of success. Unlike other products, Fischer's does not smell like a swampy bag of nightmares. Instead, it smells just short of pleasant, or at its worse, like an expired can of cheap air freshener.

Additionally, as soon as you pull your supers, cover them up and get them inside as quick as possible. If you have frames of honey exposed for bees to find, they will find them and you may create a situation that you and your neighbors would rather not have happen. It is also important to remember that you should extract your honey within days of pulling your supers off your hives. Otherwise, if you're not careful, the most evil creature on the planet—the wax moth—will do everything in its power to destroy your honey crop, leaving you with nothing.

Once you get your honey extracted and you've cleaned up the spilled honey that somehow managed to get EVERYWHERE, the next thing to take care of is: MITES. Every member should do an alcohol wash to test for mites. Now is when the mite population will start to increase, and a mite count above 1 mite per 100 bees should be treated a.s.a.p.

July is one of my favorite bee meetings of the year. Why? Because I get to hear about everyone's honey harvest! If this is your best year, please make it a point to get to Friday's meeting, because I want to hear all about it! Equally as important, if you got a disappointing harvest this year, then you should absolutely make it a point to come to Friday's meeting to hear what you should try next year to increase your honey crop. Remember: Beekeeping requires all of us to keep learning, and keep getting better.

I look forward to seeing everyone this Friday and talking about what we need to do to wrap up this year and get our bees ready for the next.

Until Friday, Bee well and take care,

Frank Mortimer
President
Northeast NJ Beekeepers



Beekeeping in Late Summer

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

Hello from Greenville, South Carolina! I'm attending the Eastern Apiculture Society conference in South Carolina this week.

The bees have been busy all spring and summer. This year is shaping up to be another great honey season, again! Reports from others in our area are very good. I am with beekeepers from all over the eastern US and most are happy with the honey crop so far.

We had plenty of rain in Northern New Jersey including last week. All the moisture kept the nectar flowing. And there were plenty of nice warm sunny days for the bees to collect all that nectar. I started extracting in early June. I only pulled a super or two from each hive that was capped, extracted the honey and put the supers back on for them to refill. Many other beekeepers did the same.

As of Saturday, we still had a decent nectar flow in Northeast New Jersey. Primarily white Dutch clover in my area.

Late July and August typically have very limited if any nectar flow. Most beekeepers finish up the honey harvest by the end of July. I try to get the honey extracted before the dearth fully sets in to minimize robbing. I take the supers off in the early morning and keep the supers covered. If there is no nectar flow and we are in the dearth, the foragers will be at the open hives and supers in seconds. That is no fun!

Any remaining nectar brought into the hives after extracting is finished will be stored with the brood. The colony needs about 30 pounds of honey (4 or 5 full frames) in the brood boxes to survive during the dearth.

Late July is also when I treat again for Varroa Mites. I'll check the mite levels in each hive before treatment and again about 2 to 3 weeks after the treatment is completed. I have used both MAQS and Formic Pro successfully in July (a full 2 pad treatment). I pick a period when the weather will be cool and apply the pads on a cool evening while minimizing the disturbance to the colony. Checking the mite levels in every colony is very important after treatment. While the treatments are highly effective, sometimes I find a colony or two that still has high mite levels. If I did not check every colony, I might have missed the high mite counts and had a mite bomb in my yard ready to explode in a few months. A high mite count is anything over 3

mites in a 300 bee (1/2 cup) sample. If I do get a high mite count, I will use an alternate treatment on that colony right away.

Having low mite counts, less than 1 mite per 100 bees in an alcohol wash is very important this time of year. The bees and brood in the colony now will be raising the winter bees soon. They need to be healthy and not suffering from mite parasitism and the associated viruses. We are usually deep in the dearth in August. Two major things to watch for in August is robbing and honey reserves.



I install #8 mesh screens across the entrances in late July to prevent robbing. The mesh covers at least 3/4's of the entrance and still allows the bees to ventilate the hive. Robbers try to enter anywhere along the entrance including the screened area. Bees from the colony learn to use the smaller entrance. Guard bees can defend the smaller entrance more effectively. I also feed the colonies a little syrup during the dearth to keep the brood rearing going.

Ideally the colony has a few frames of brood during this period (about 1/2 of a frame of eggs, 1 frame of larva and 2 frames of capped brood). The colony will need a field force in the Fall for any nectar flow and also begin raising the Winter Bees. The brood reared in August will be part of this field force and enable the rearing of a good population of Winter Bees. We may not be thinking of Winter on the hot August days; the bees need to begin preparing for winter though!



Bee-Bee-Bee



**BetterBee's New BetterComb:
More than Foundation, It's Fully Drawn Comb
by
Rich Stellingwerf**

BetterBee has recently started offering a new product called BetterComb. It is fully drawn comb made from food-grade, synthetic wax that looks and feels like beeswax. It is a mixture of ingredients synthesized from mineral and plant sources. Deep frames are also included, and once the comb is placed into the frames, it's ready for use. BetterComb is sold in 10-packs, (10 frames and 10 pieces of drawn comb) for \$84.95.

The advantage of BetterComb is that new beekeepers will no longer have to wait for bees to draw out foundation. Instead, the ready-to-use comb allows for rapid brood production, meaning colonies can expand faster and get started working on the honey supers much sooner than ever before. Additionally, having drawn comb may also help to keep hives from swarming, as colonies will have room to expand, keeping the bees from feeling overcrowded.

A few of the potential drawbacks of BetterComb are: The directions say that BetterBee does not recommend alternating BetterComb with frames that have natural beeswax. This may mean that bees will avoid the manmade product and only use it when they have no other choice. The other issue with the BetterComb is that it is secured to the frames using toothpicks. Since the comb is not wired into place, it is not as secure as most of us would prefer. Additionally, because it is more fragile than regular comb, and it is not wired into place, BetterBee does NOT recommend extracting honey from their BetterComb Frames.

Even with its limitations, BetterComb seems like it will be a great, added resource to have in the beekeeper's arsenal. I have installed it into one of my hives and I will report back on how the bees are responding to it.

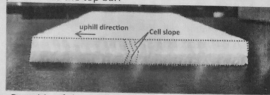


Betterbee®

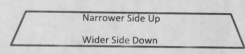
BetterComb™ Frame Assembly Instructions

These instructions start from assembled wooden frames. If you are starting from unassembled frames, first assemble the frames by following Betterbee's instructions.
 Want to see a video? Check out www.bit.ly/2xnlVn1

- Determine orientation of comb.
 - Look at the cells. Each cell slopes in one direction, just as in a natural comb. The cells need to be sloped "uphill" when installed in the frame so orient the cell slope towards the top bar.

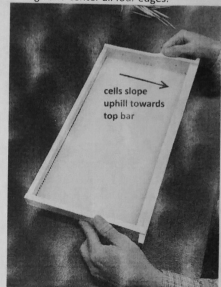


-One side of the comb is slightly narrower to aid in installation. Place the wider side down. See illustration below (looking down the end of a comb).

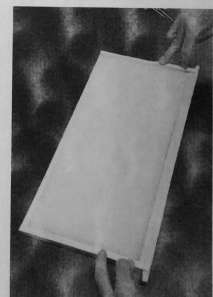


- Center the comb on the cardboard installation shim. In image below, the top of the comb is facing towards the user.

- Place assembled frame over the comb, being careful to align and center all four edges.



- Press the frame firmly but evenly over the comb. Keep the wood frame level as you press down to the table. Press until the wider portions of the side bars are flat on the table.

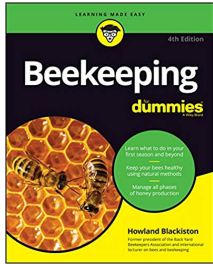


1 of 2 7/2/19



Here are some photos of BetterBee's new drawn comb, BetterComb.

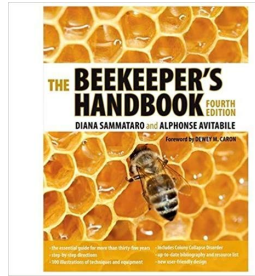
Northeast NJ Beekeepers Bee Books for Sale



Beekeeping for Dummies

An excellent basic intro guide to beekeeping

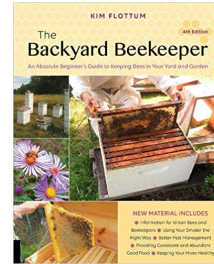
Price: \$20



Beekeeper's Handbook, 4th

If you're only going to buy one book, this is the best guide to the hobby & profession of beekeeping

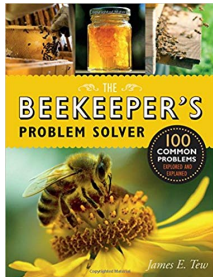
Price: \$25



Backyard Beekeeper 4th

The premiere introduction to backyard beekeeping

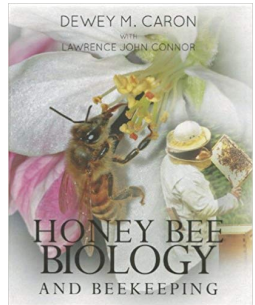
Price: \$20



Beekeeper's Problem Solver

100 Common Beekeeping Problems Explored and Explained

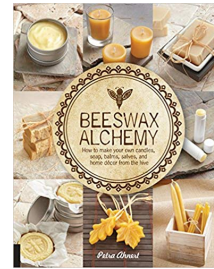
Price: \$20



Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping

The only beekeeping textbook teaching college students & beekeepers the science & practice of bees & beekeeping

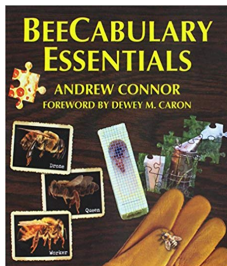
Price: \$45



Beeswax Alchemy

Over 40 DIY projects that's the perfect combo of recipe, craft book, & beekeepers' guide

Price: \$20



BeeCabulary Essentials

All the special terminology about bees and beekeeping

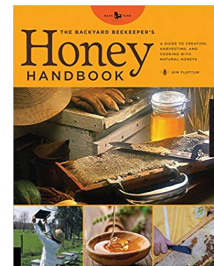
Price: \$30



Honey From the Earth

Internationally acclaimed honeybee photographer Eric Tournet spent FIFTEEN YEARS traveling the world to capture the breathtaking diversity of bees and beekeeping traditions on six continents.

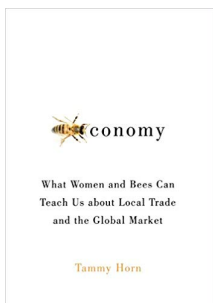
Price: \$50



Backyard Beekeeper's Honey Handbook

More than just a cookbook, it introduces the literal cornucopia of honey varieties available

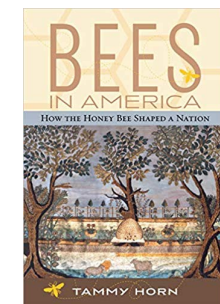
Price: \$20



Beeconomy: What Women & Bees Can Teach Us about Local Trade & the Global Market

Examines the fascinating evolution of the relationship between women & bees around the world

Price: \$20



Bees in America: How the Honeybee Shaped a Nation

Cultural history of bees and beekeeping in the United States, from the colonial period, when colonists first introduced bees to the present

Price: \$20



Better Beekeeping

Takes beekeepers past the beginning stages and offers solutions and rewards for keeping bees a better way.

Price: \$20

All Books are only available to members at our monthly meetings



Our Facebook Group has **over 1855 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 it for everything Northeast New Jersey Beekeeping!

Next Month

Feeding: Syrup (1:1 - 2:1 - 4:1,) Fondant, Candy, Feeders, & Pollen. The “Why’s, When’s & How-to’s for Feeding Bees



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