



nnjbees.org



October 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, October 18th 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:

No Speaker This Month

**Instead: Q&A -Preparing Bees
for Winter**





Message from the President:

Dear Northeast NJ Beekeepers,

The Fall State Meeting is just weeks away on Saturday November 9th. The meeting will be held at Pascack Hills High School, 225 W Grand Ave., Montvale, NJ 07645.

This is the first state meeting hosted by our club, the Northeast NJ Beekeepers.

Many of you have not attended a state meeting in past, mostly because they have been held in another part of the state, and that's why we're bringing this one closer to home! State meetings are always exciting because of the extraordinary speakers, all the bee-related vendors (no shipping), great food, and most of all, being able to mingle with the best of the best beekeepers from around the state. A good way to think about a state meeting is it's like our club's monthly meeting on steroids! I promise that you will learn something ***AND*** you will have a great time!

You can register for the state meeting here:

<https://njba38.wildapricot.org/event-3561787>

Please note that even though our branch is hosting, everyone will need to register for the meeting. Why? Because Breakfast and Lunch is included, and since beekeepers have big appetites, we need to make sure we have plenty for everyone!

Since I was elected President of our club in 2011, lots of the state officers and members from around the state often asked when the Northeast is going to host a meeting, as all of the other branches have hosted a state meeting at one time or another. So for me, this is the shinning moment for our club, as we get to show beekeepers from around the state that our club, the Northeast NJ Beekeepers, is the best branch in the state. I am very proud of our club, and I am looking forward for the Northeast members to show off their club pride at the meeting. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please reach out to me anytime. Otherwise, I'll see you on November 9th! All you have to do is sign up today!

<https://njba38.wildapricot.org/event-3561787>

On Another unrelated note, I am proud to say that my book, Bee People and the Bugs They Love, is on Amazon and is available for pre-order. It's an exciting time and I am looking forward to all the people who will read about our club! You can check it out at:

<https://www.amazon.com/Bee-People-Bugs-They-Love/dp/0806540834>

See you Friday!

Frank Mortimer
President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers

Official Northeast NJ Beekeepers Club Shirt On Sale!

Click Here To Order Your Club Bee Shirts

<https://proimageapparel.com/bee-club/>

Order Your **Official Northeast NJ Beekeepers Club Shirt**.

Now available in light stone or light blue, our club logo embroidered on a high quality polo shirt.

Shirts are **available in kid's sizes!** (light blue only)



Time is limited

-- The shirts are only available until October 22 --

Order yours today @ <https://proimageapparel.com/bee-club/>

All the shirts will be delivered in time for you to wear to the NJBA State Fall Meeting on November 9th.

Show your club pride, support your club, and order yours today!



Embroidered Go-Anywhere Tote Also Available!

Beekeeping in October

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

The early Fall weather has been dry in Northern New Jersey and most of the State. A little rain in late September and early October just as the aster started blooming was welcomed by the bees. Some colonies were able to gather a little golden rod nectar and store it away for the winter. Other nearby colonies were not as fortunate; location is everything! Most colonies have been able to bring in good stores of pollen for the winter though.

The colonies and beekeepers should be making preparations for winter. The colonies should have stored away about 60 lbs of honey in the top box(es) and a few frames of pollen closer to the center and bottom of their hive by Thanksgiving. I monitor the weights of each colony and only feed as needed to let them slowly increase in weight. I also inspect the colonies to verify brood rearing is continuing. I want to avoid having the hive too full of syrup/honey that there is no room for brood. The brood emerging in October, November and even December are the long lived winter bees. The colony will use the honey to fuel their heat generating muscles in the winter. They will use both the honey and pollen in the late winter to start raising more brood.

I'm always amazed at how well and how consistently the colonies prepare for winter. Brood rearing ramps down but does not seem to stop completely in most of my colonies as we approach December. Drone rearing definitely stops and there are very few drones in the colonies by late November. Foraging slows significantly even before the first frost. By December, the bees in the colony are mostly young winter bees. These bees have been fattened up with stores of vitellogenin in their abdomens. The vitellogenin helps them live longer and is a resource the winter bees use to start raising more brood, a little in January, more in February and a lot more in March.

As the keepers of our bees, we need to take the final steps to help the colony prepare for winter too. Below is my winterization checklist.

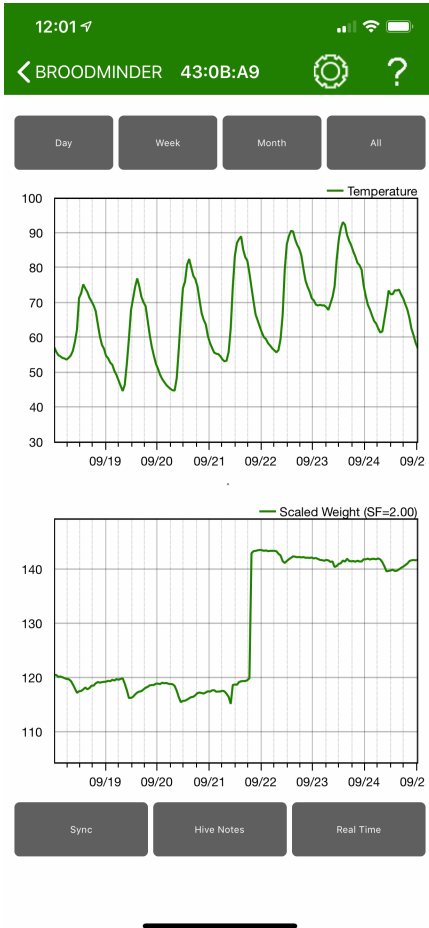
Checklist for Winter Survival

- Adequate Honey Stores
- Good pollen reserves
- Large population of young healthy bees
- Low Mite levels
- Upper entrance and reduced/guarded bottom entrance
- Minimize Air Infiltration
- Close Bottom Board on Screened Bottoms
- Insulate the top of the hive between the inner cover and the outer cover
- Insulate the hive sides

Low mite levels are very important. By late Fall, all the mite treatments should have been completed and low mite levels verified by an Alcohol Wash. **The winter bees need to be healthy.** If the bees were parasitized in July and August, they were likely infected with several viruses and the colony will struggle to survive the winter. **Study and surveys have consistently shown varroa mites are the root cause of most of the colony losses in the winter.** Beekeepers must manage varroa mites all year to enable their colonies to survive the winter.

Starvation is another reason colonies die in the winter; this is easily prevented by the beekeeper. I have been feeding ProSweet in the Fall for several years now. It's much easier than mixing sugar syrup. ProSweet is very thick, almost as thick as honey so the bees do not need to process the syrup very much at all. Honey weighs 12 pounds per gallon; ProSweet weighs 11.5 pounds per gallon. Every gallon of ProSweets adds about 10+ pounds of weight to the hive. A few gallons of ProSweet is more effective and easier than repeated feedings of thinner sugar syrup.

Below is a display from a BroodMinder scale; the top is the outside temperature and the bottom graph is the hive weight. The weight of the hive increased about 11 or 12 pounds when a gallon of ProSweet was added on the evening of September 21st. The feeder was empty when this graph was downloaded.



I have really enjoyed being outside and working with the bees this past season. The colonies made a great honey crop including cut comb and round comb. I was able to raise a lot of productive and gentle queens; I'll overwinter a few of them. I plan to take mite counts in late November on any warm days; I need to verify the treatments were effective and the colonies are healthy. Then I look forward to catching up on reading some of the latest beekeeping research news and planning for the new season!



350 help judge Northeast's Honey Cup

by

Jaimie Julia Winters

About 350 people came out to judge and pick the winners of the Northeast NJ Beekeepers' Honey Cup on Saturday, Sept. 14 at Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ.

The Honey cup has grown over the years to become a day-long Saturday event thanks to all of the volunteers that make it happen. We could not have done this without the 30 some members who come early for set up, man tables and stay late to clean up

The event featured a honey extraction demonstration, an education exhibit with live bees, local beekeeper vendors selling their honey and honey and wax related items, a bake sale with honey confections, a band and face painter. New Jersey's honey queen attended and helped with education and the judging.

The winners are: In Dark: Jaimie Julia Winters, 1st Place; Herb Hazen, 2nd Place; and John Matarese, 3rd Place. In Light: Warren Stroedecke, 1st Place; Ramapo Beekeepers Club, 2nd Place; and Don Tabatneck, 3rd Place. Labels: Stuart and Kimberly Smith and Davis Putnum, 1st Place; Kelly Palazzi, 2nd Place; and John Matarese, 3rd Place.

The Northeast NJ Beekeeper's annual free event is the only contest that is totally based on the public's opinion on what they consider the best honey in Bergen and Essex counties. Thirty-five beekeepers competed in light and dark competitions, and for best label.



**New Jersey Beekeepers Association
Fall State Meeting
Saturday, November 9, 2019 - 8:00 am to 3:30 pm
Pascack Hills High School
225 W Grand Ave, Montvale, NJ 07645**

Agenda:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic & Speaker</u>
8:00 to 9:15	Registration with coffee and light refreshments
9:15 to 9:30	Welcome – Frank Mortimer NJBA Report – Jeff Burd
9:30 to 10:15	Dr. Eric Wiener, Ramapo College The Establishment and Importance of Native Wildflower Meadows for Apis mellifera and Native Pollinators
10:15 to 10:45	Ramapo College Student Beekeeping Club Projects and Outreach
10:45 to 11:00	Break
11:00 to 12:00	Christina Grozinger, Ph.D. Director, Center for Pollinator Research, Penn State Bee Health: From Genes to Landscapes -- Understanding the Impacts of Landscape on Bee Health
12:00 to 12:15	Q&A with Dr. Grozinger
12:15 to 1:30	Lunch & Visit with Vendors
1:30 to 1:45	Honey Queen Update
1:45 to 2:30	David Gilley, Department of Biology, William Paterson Honeybee Foraging and Phenology in Urbanized Northern New Jersey
2:30 to 3:15	The Future of Honeybee Problems/Pests/Pathogens: Roundtable discussion with Christina Grozinger, David Gilley Tim Schuler, & Grant Stiles
3:15 to 3:30	Member Q&A
3:30	Meeting Send-Off

Apimondia 2019

by John A. Gaut

Master Beekeeper, EAS

Apimondia is the International Federation of Beekeeping organizations and promotes beekeeping throughout the world. A congress is held every two years at various locations around the world. Apimondia was held in Montreal this year, so close I had to attend! The theme of the conference was “Beekeeping together within agriculture.” The theme was referenced in many presentations. The conference started on Sunday evening with a grand opening ceremony with representatives from all the regions in the world.



Beekeeping together in agriculture was the conference theme



Opening Ceremony with flags of some of the countries represented

There were about 5000 people registered for the conference with over 100 speakers from around the world. Equipment and beekeeping organizations from around the world also were on display. Many very informative posters were presented. I learned a few things from the posters and often had a chance to talk with the person (researcher) who prepared the poster.



A small part of the vendor display area

I attended many of the speaking sessions, often having to make some difficult choices if there were concurrent sessions. I also attended 3 workshops in the evening: Honey Tasting, Apitherapy and Honey Defects.

Like every conference, I learned a lot!

There were discussions and presentations about bee drift. While we all know bees drift, there is some recent research quantifying how many bees drift, how far they drift, at what age they drift and under what circumstances they drift. Bee drift can be a significant factor in the spread of varroa and bee diseases. Bees drift much more than most beekeepers imagined. I'll be reviewing more of the recent research this winter. I'll share any insights I find.

I spent some time talking with the good folks at NOD who manufactures Mite Away Quick Strips, MAQS and the newer product Formic Pro. They explained Formic Pro was an improved product with a longer shelf life and slower release of the formic acid vapors. MAQS is still manufactured and sold due to beekeeper preference and the Formic Pro has not been approved in some countries yet. We talked about the effectiveness of the two options for treating, full treatment with two pads at once or half treatment with one pad and a second pad 10 days later. Most of the mites in a colony are in the brood, under the capping. **The option with two strips applied at the same time is more effective because a higher concentration of formic acid vapors penetrates the brood capping, killing more mites under the capping.**

Veto Pharma, the manufactures of ApiVar presented an update on the resistance of the Varroa mite to amitraz, the active ingredient in ApiVar. Ulrike Marsky, Technical Manager for Veto Pharma gave a balanced worldwide overview of possible resistance of the Varroa mite to amitraz. While there appears to be possible resistance in some countries, including the USA, ApiVar remains highly effective when used as labeled and instructed. Rotation with other mite treatments is important to minimize resistance. You can see her full presentation here:

https://www.projectapism.org/uploads/1/0/5/7/105706229/apimondia_presentation_amitraz_resistance_-_rumors_and_realities_um.pdf

The next conference will be in Russia in 2021 and then in Chile in 2023.



African beekeepers visit with Northeast

by
Jaimie Julia Winters

Frank Mwenjemeka and Wellings Mwalabu of Africa attended the September Northeast NJ Beekeepers Meeting. The two are part of Villages in Partnership, (VIP) an amazing organization that works in rural areas of Sakata, Malawi, helping local communities to improve water supply, food security, health care, infrastructure, education and economic development. VIP's approach to helping the impoverished area is based on a collaborative partnership with the people who live there.

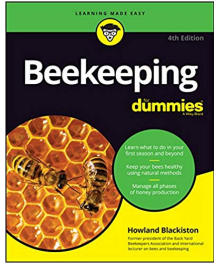
Mwenjemeka is VIP's Food Security Project Officer from Malawi, and Mwalabu, is the Malawi Africa Apiarist — kind of like the Tim Schuler of Africa. Schuler's involvement with Villages in Partnership began years ago when he was still the New Jersey state apiarist. As a way to drive the Malawian economy, he helped villagers, through vocational training, start beekeeping and to harvest honey. Although keeping bees is difficult in Africa, beekeeping and the honey business have rapidly grown.

Schuler goes to Africa about once a year and hosted the Malawis on their recent trip to America. Mwalabu explained to the Northeast Beekeepers how they use hive systems that hang from trees, that termites and ants are a bigger threat than varroa mites there, and how they harvest honey through a honey press not an extractor. Last year Northeast Beekeepers donated funds for VIP to have the honey press built in Africa, which also created a few jobs.

To learn more about Villages in Partnership, how to donate or go on a mission trip go to:

<https://villagesinpartnership.org/> .

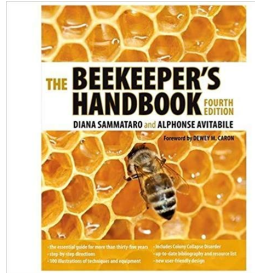
Northeast NJ Beekeepers Bee Books for Sale



Beekeeping for Dummies

An excellent basic intro guide to beekeeping

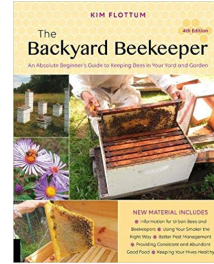
Price: \$20



Beekeeper's Handbook, 4th

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

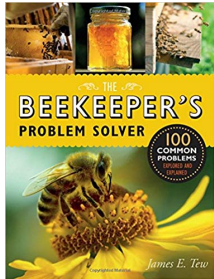
Price: \$25



Backyard Beekeeper 4th

The premiere introduction to backyard beekeeping

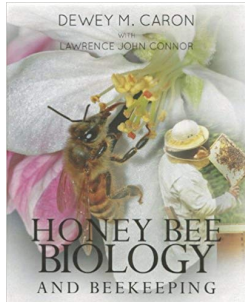
Price: \$20



Beekeeper's Problem Solver

100 Common Beekeeping Problems Explored and Explained

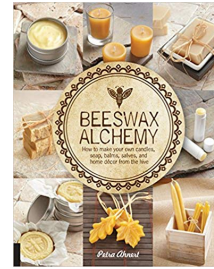
Price: \$20



Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping

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

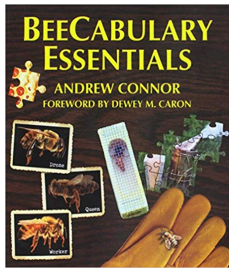
Price: \$45



Beeswax Alchemy

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

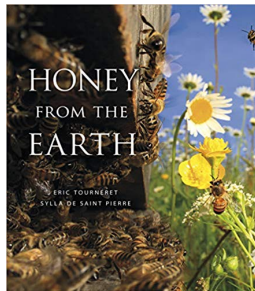
Price: \$20



BeeCABULARY Essentials

All the special terminology about bees and beekeeping

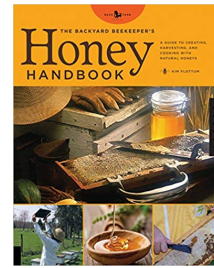
Price: \$30



Honey From the Earth

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

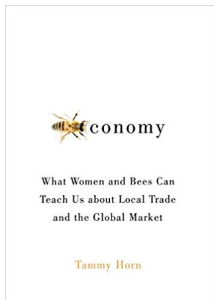
Price: \$50



Backyard Beekeeper's Honey Handbook

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

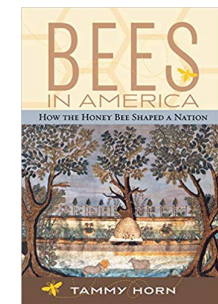
Price: \$20



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

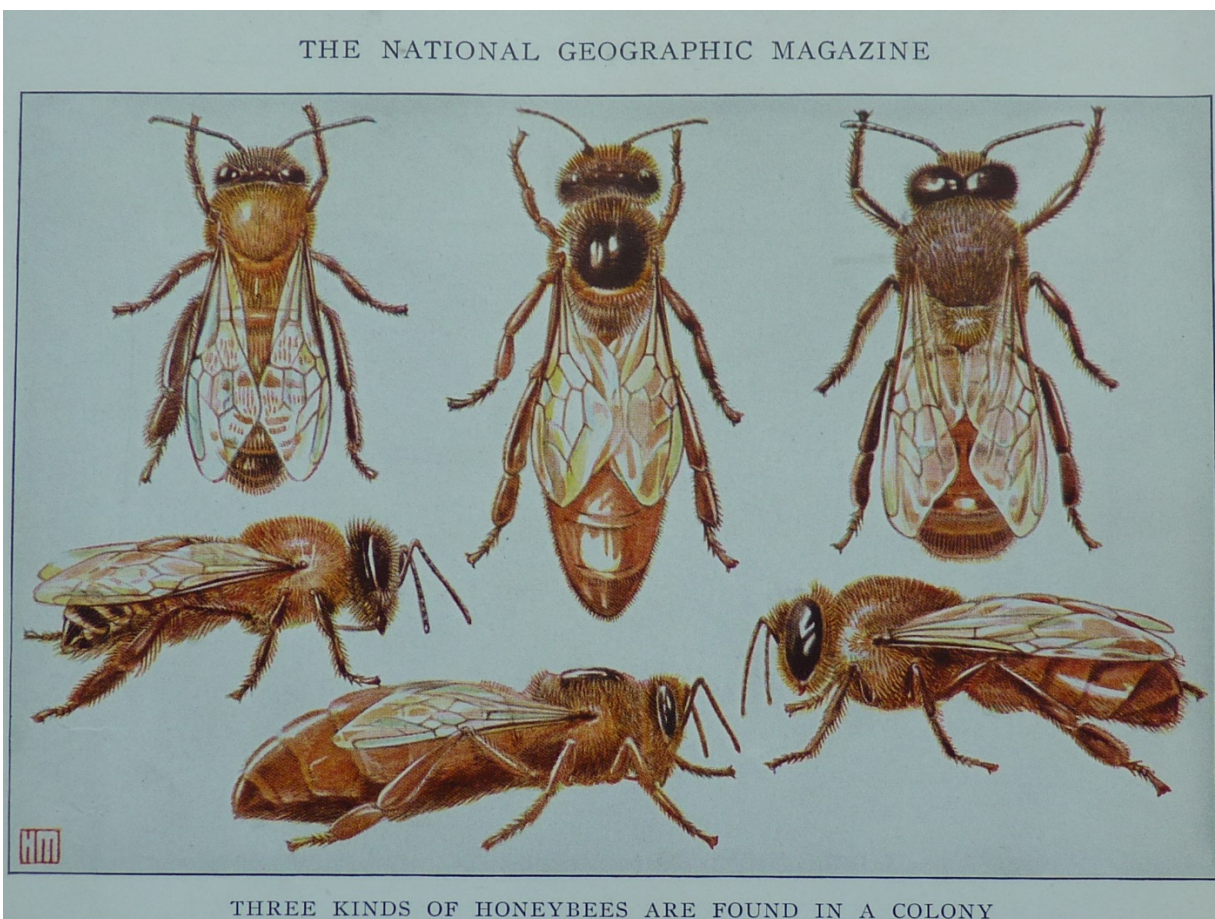
Beekeeping Memories

“A Closer Look”

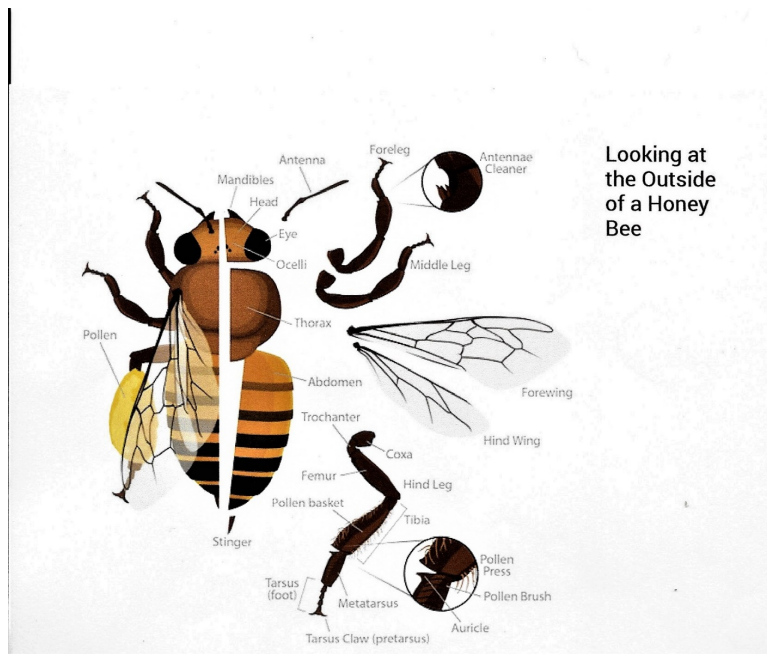
By

Karl Schoenknecht

After years of keeping honeybees I was never able to get a close look at the details of a honeybee. What I saw in my hives was similar to a worker bee in the old 1935 photo from National Geographic Magazine that I showed in my last essay.



Thanks to modern technology at Arizona State University and their Biologists I have come to realize how much detail is missing from the above photo. Looking at the wonderful diagrams from ASU's on line "ask a Biologist", I feel like Swammerdam when he first saw a honeybee under a microscope. Just the outside of the body shows forewings and leg detail that are difficult to see on the above old-photo or on a live bee. The wings on a live bee are often just a blur due to the high speed flapping. The exterior body and head diagrams are next with an explanation of a worker bee's exterior body parts.

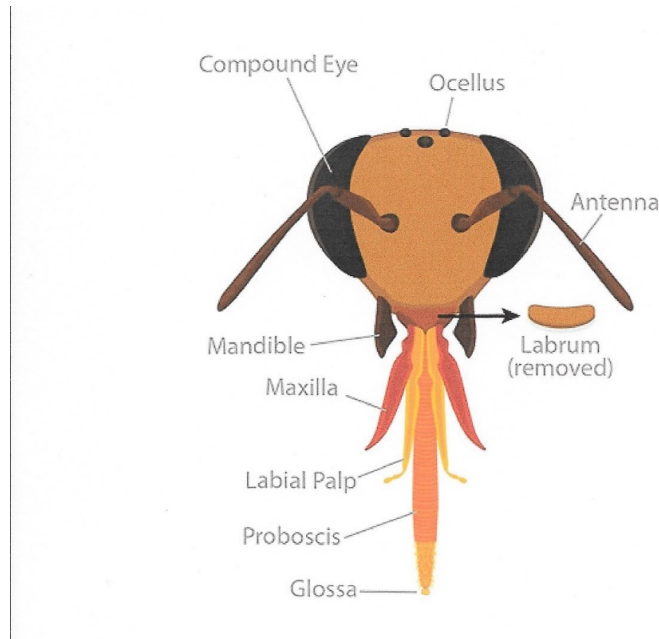


Looking at the Outside of a Honey Bee

- Head _____ Location of the eyes, brain and where the antenna attach _____
- Mandibles _____ Strong outer mouth parts that help protect the proboscis. _____
- Proboscis _____ (Shown on head view) Tube like mouth part used to suck up fluids. _____
- Ocelli _____ One of two types of insect eyes used to detect motion. _____
- Eye (Compound) _____ The second type of eyes made of many light detectors called ommatidia. _____
- Antenna _____ Movable segmented feelers that detect airborne scents and currents. _____
- Thorax _____ Midsection where 6 legs and wings attach. _____
- Abdomen _____ Hind part of the bee and where the stinger is located. _____
- Stinger _____ A sharp organ at the end of the bee's abdomen used to inject venom. _____
- Forewings _____ Wings closest to the head. _____
- Hind Wings _____ Wings farthest from head. _____
- Forelegs _____ Legs closest to the head. _____
- Antenna cleaners _____ Notches filled with stiff hairs that help a bee clean their antenna. There is one on each foreleg. _____
- Middle legs _____ Leg located between the foreleg and hind leg. _____
- Hind legs _____ Legs farthest from the head in workers, these legs have a unique set of tools used to collect and carry pollen called the press, brush, and auricle. _____
- Coxa _____ First segment of an insect leg. _____
- Trochanter _____ Second segment of an insect leg. _____
- Femur _____ Third segment of an insect leg. _____
- Tibia _____ Forth segment of an insect leg. _____

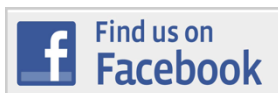
<u>Metatarsus</u>	<u>Fifth segment of an insect leg; the metatarsus of the hind leg holds special pollen collecting tools.</u>
<u>Tarsus</u>	<u>The last segment of the leg and what touches the walking surface.</u>
<u>Tarsus Claw</u>	<u>Claw found on the last segment of leg.</u>

Next we see more exterior detail of a bees head and mouth.



<u>Compound eye</u>	<u>A type of insect eye that is made of many light detectors called ommatidia.</u>
<u>Ocellus</u>	<u>A type of insect eye used to detect motion.</u>
<u>Antenna</u>	<u>A movable segmented feeler that detects airborne scents and currents.</u>
<u>Labrum</u>	<u>A mouth part that can help handle food and that forms the top of the feeding tube.</u>
<u>Mandible</u>	<u>Strong outer mouth part that helps protect the proboscis.</u>
<u>Maxilla</u>	<u>Mouth part beneath the mandible that can handle food items.</u>
<u>Labial Palp</u>	<u>Mouth part used to feel and taste during feeding.</u>
<u>Proboscis</u>	<u>Tube like mouth part used to suck up fluids.</u>
<u>Glossa</u>	<u>Insects hairy tongue that can stick to nectar to pull it in toward the mouth.</u>

Next month we take a look inside a worker bee.



Our Facebook Group has **over 1865 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:
No Monthly Meeting
State Meeting – 11/09**



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