



nnjbees.org



February 2020

NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
A division of the New Jersey State Beekeepers Association

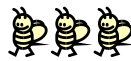
President	Frank Mortimer	201-417-7309	3 rd V. Pres.	Rich Stellingwerf	201-693-2571
V. President	John Gaut – Mentor Coordinator	201-961-2330	Secretary	OPEN	--
2 nd V. Pres.	Jaimie Winters	551-486-7479	Treasurer	Bob Jenkins	201-218-6537

Meeting on: **Friday, February 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



This Month's Meeting:

MITE MANAGEMENT

John Gaut





Message from the President:

Hello Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

I hope everyone has been enjoying this lukewarm winter we have been having! Please remember that most colonies die in February and March so make sure your bees have plenty to eat! This warmer than usual weather means your bees have been more active and may have gone through their food reserves, so it's important to peek in your hives and see who's hungry. If you do need to feed your bees, remember the club website has a great step-by-step recipe for making bee candy. <http://www.nnjbees.org/how-to/articles/bee-candy-recipe/>

Also, while you're peaking in on your bees, remember that now is a great time to get Apivar into your hives. If you put Apivar in now, you will be taking it out just before the nectar flow starts, which means that your

colonies will have low mite counts and be healthy as they go into honey-making season. The club will have Apivar for sale at the February meeting, so stop by and pick up a pack.

The club will also be taking orders for nucs. They are the same price as last year, and require a \$50 per nuc deposit. Just see Bob on Friday, because as always, there's a limited supply of nucs and once they're gone, they are g-o-n-e.

I also wanted to let everyone know that the Northeast will again be hosting the next state meeting. The spring meeting will be held on Saturday, May 16th, and it will once again be at Pascack Hills High School. We have a lot of great speakers lined up and I do hope that everyone attends. Please also know that we will **NOT** have a monthly branch meeting in May since we are hosting the state meeting.

I also wanted to let everyone know that on April 3rd, the Northeast NJ Beekeepers will be hosting a free screening of “***Honeyland.***” It's open to anyone and everyone, so please mark it on your calendar. There are more details inside the newsletter.

Last, I wanted to remind everyone that spring will be here before you know it, so now is a great time to make sure everything is ready for spring. Clean your equipment, order new supplies, and plan out everything you need to do between now and when the dandelions start to bloom. It's going to be a great year for beekeeping, and based on the weather, it may be here before you know it.

I'd usually end by saying that I'll see you on Friday, but this time I cannot. I have been invited to speak at the *Nevada State Beekeepers* meeting, so on Friday I will be standing before another group of beekeepers. I wish I could say I'll be in Vegas, but the meeting is being held in Yerington, NV, which is about 80 miles from Reno. I will be talking about what it's like to keep bees in NJ, some of the challenges we face, and I am looking forward to representing the *Northeast NJ Beekeepers*! Randy Oliver is the keynote speaker and I am looking forward to spending some time with him and hearing what he has to say about mite treatments.

Once I'm back, I'll report on the experience, what I learned, and what it's like to keep bees in such a different climate than ours.

Until then, Bee well and check on them bees!

Frank Mortimer

President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers



Beekeeping in February

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

I hope your colonies are doing well, surviving the winter and are beginning to rear increasingly more brood. I and others have found that colonies with low the mite levels (less than 1%) in late summer (August and September) survive the winter in good shape. If I waited to treat until November or December, it would be too little too late. Why? **VIRUSES!**

All experienced beekeepers know the varroa mite is the leading cause of colony losses, especially in winter. Viruses are what actually kills colonies in the winter though. While the mites do reduce the strength of bees by feeding on their fat bodies (vitellogenin), it is really a **virus epidemic that kills a colony**. A large cluster of bees in the Fall diminished to small cluster next to plenty of honey. The viruses caused various ailments including paralysis. A bee suffering with a paralysis virus cannot help the cluster maintain temperature. **The paralysis limits how much the heater bees can use their wing muscles to generate heat.**

Viruses are transmitted by mites. Virus transmission from mites is just the start of the virus epidemic. **Viruses are also transmitted from bee to bee, worker to queen, and queen to eggs.** When the mites infect a few bees in the colony, the viruses can be spread to more bees even without the help of mites. Once the viruses spread to most of the colony, the cluster cannot maintain temperature and slowly dies.

There are 18 known viruses in honey bees. The viruses are more virulent today. Some of the viruses have multiple strains. For example, deformed wing virus has at least 2 strains (Type B is much more deadly than Type A). A colony can survive a virus epidemic but it takes several generations of mite free bees for the colonies immune system to reduce the virus infection rate so the colony is not compromised. Colonies with good nutrition are better able to survive a virus epidemic. The bad news is that honey bees can transmit viruses to other native bees. Honey bees have transmitted virus to bumble bees through a shared food source.

Understanding viruses' role in colony health may help improve your mite management plan, specifically the timing and type of treatment. Many beekeepers feel good if they drop a lot of mites in November and December with Oxalic Vaporization or other treatment. While a lot of mites were killed, the mites already infected the winter bees in the colony with viruses.

Too little, too late. **To reduce colony losses, the beekeeper must prevent a virus epidemic. The best way to prevent a virus epidemic is to maintain very low mite levels year-round (less than 1%). Low mite levels in July and August is especially important to prevent viruses in winter bees. The survival of the colony is dependent on healthy winter bees.**

If colonies were healthy going into winter, they will now be raising more brood as the length of day increases. The colonies will need both honey and protein to raise brood. I feed protein patties beginning in February to supplement pollen stored in the hive. When the brood nest is expanding rapidly, nurse bees can quickly consume any pollen stored in the hive. Foragers may be collecting pollen on nice days in March and April but an extended period of bad weather stops pollen collection and can set back brood rearing. Having some supplemental protein in the hive helps keep the nurse bees nourished so they can continue feeding the developing brood during cold rainy weather. Honey consumption increases significantly for brood rearing. During March and April, I continuously monitor colonies to insure they have adequate honey (or other carbohydrate) and protein. I only feed colonies carbohydrates (sugar) if they need it. **Colonies will need plenty of open comb for brood rearing. If the brood area still has a lot of honey (due to overfeeding), the colony will begin swarm preparation as soon as there is a nectar flow!**

I put ApiVar in all my colonies in January; 1 strip for every 5 frames of bees. Most colonies had between 6 and 10 frames of bees so I inserted two strips in the cluster. I moved the strips as needed in mid-February to ensure the cluster was in continuous contact with the strips. I also scraped any wax and propolis off of the strip; this increases ApiVar's effectiveness. In March I will remove the strips. (I leave the strips in for the full 56 days.) In early April, I will inspect all the colonies, take mite counts (alcohol wash of all colonies) to verify treatments were effective and begin swarm management steps.

I'm looking forward to a new year for Beekeeping!



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!



Free Screening of Honeyland



**The Northeast NJ Beekeepers is hosting
a free screening of
"Honeyland" the Oscar winning documentary.**

The screening is:

Friday, April 3, 7;30 p.m.

Sharp Electronic Corp.

100 Paragon Dr. Montvale, NJ.

The screening is Free and Open to All!

2020 Honey Show

John A. Gaut
Master Beekeeper, EAS

The 2020 honey judging and honey show was very successful. Patti Campbell, Honey Show Chairwoman began planning for the judging months ago. This year's volunteers included Adele Barree, Bill Eisele, Lisa Johnson, Meghan McConnell, Jim Simon, Cynthia Wertz and John Gaut. By the time the entries were dropped off on Tuesday, Patti had everyone organized and in place. Each entrant was assigned a number and that number was then placed on each of their entries. The entries were then placed on tables by Division and Class along with judging sheets.



Extracted Honey for judging. All entries numbered and score sheet ready.

Photo by Lisa Johnson

On Wednesday the judge, Bob Wellemeyer from Virginia was on site bright and early. We reviewed the plan for the day and began the process of judging honey. The Honey Division had the most entries. Volunteers brought each set of entries to the judging table. The moisture was measured. Several calibrated refractometers were used to insure consistent values. Then the entries were judged by Bob Wellemeyer. He used a polariscope to inspect for foreign materials or crystals in the honey. Fill and cleanliness of the jar were evaluated.



Bob Wellemeyer judging extracted honey after John Gaut has recorded the moisture.

Photo by Lisa Johnson

It took all morning of steady work to judge the extracted honey. After lunch the frames of honey were judged, then the other honey products. By late afternoon the pictures were being judged. The final Division to be judged was mead. Bob Wellemeyer judged the overall appearance of the bottles and then everyone helped judge the tasting. A little reward for everyone!

Meghan McConnell, our new State Apiarist also helped with the show and arranged for the new American Honey Queen, Mary Reisinger (from Texas!) along with Nicole Medina (past NJ Honey Queen and American Honey Princess) to be at the judging. Mary and Nicole also helped on Thursday for the People's Choice Award tasting.



Nicole Medina, past New Jersey Honey Queen and American Honey Princess and Mary Reisinger, the new American Honey Queen all set up for the honey tasting. This is a very popular event at the Capital and provides another opportunity to promote beekeeping in our State. Photo by Lisa Johnson.

Jon Kostiou and his crew set up the display cases in a main hallway in the Capital building. The cases were filled with all the entrees and remained on display all week. The display gets a lot of attention from our State Legislators, their staff and everyone working or visiting the

Capital Building. A map of New Jersey is also displayed showing the location of all the entrants. The display is very impactful. Beekeeping in New Jersey is highlighted for a whole week! Four display pictures by Lisa Johnson are below.



The quality of Honey Show entries gets a little better every year. It's a learning process. There were competitive entries in most of the Divisions. Overall the New Jersey Beekeepers can be proud of our products.

Bob Wellemeyer shared the following comments:

"Thanks to all of the contestants for taking the time and effort to enter the show! You owe it to your craft to enter such exhibits. This is where the public gets to see our products displayed at

their best, it's educational and may help your product sales. By providing constructive comments, my intent is to provide an understanding of the score, provide a learning experience, and create a better understanding of what it takes to place or win 1st. prize in your next honey show. Make sure you read the scoring comments and keep them in mind when preparing for the next show. Most importantly, read and understand the show rules, ask questions if necessary. Overall, a very nice show, competition was very keen.

Thank you all again! It was a Great show! Congratulations to the winners and to everyone else - Better Luck Next Time!!"

After the show entries and ribbons have been on display for a week, the entries are packaged for transport to the State Meeting. The first-place winners are raffled off and the Best in Division entries are auctioned. Tim Schuler was the auctioneer and kept the bidding going! Proceeds from the raffle and auction help cover the expenses of the Honey Show.

This year's Honey Show ran like a "well-oiled machine" thanks to Patti Campbell's planning and leadership along with a team of experienced volunteers who worked well together.

2020 Honey Show Results can be found at:

http://njbeekeepers.org/Site_Docs/Annual%20Honey%20Show%20Rules%20and%20Score%200Sheets/2020HoneyShowWinners.pdf

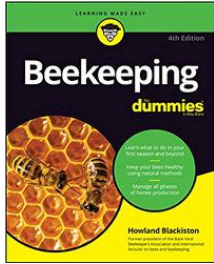


MEDIUM NUCS

For members who run all **MEDIUMS**, John Gaut has a few **MEDIUM NUCS** available. Each **MEDIUM NUC** will include 8 **MEDIUM-SIZED** frames of bees, honey and brood. The nucs will include a queen from John's gentle and productive breeder stock. The queen was mated in the Fall, overwintered in Mahwah and marked GREEN (for 2019). Mite counts in the colony will be less than 1% (verified with an alcohol wash). The nucs will be inspected by the State Apiarist, Meghan McConnell in mid-April and will be available in mid to late April. Contact John at John.A.Gaut@Gmail.com for more details.



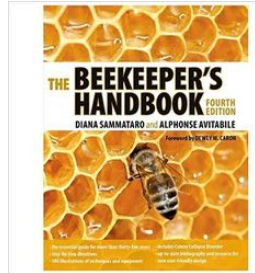
Northeast NJ Beekeepers Bee Books for Sale



Beekeeping for Dummies

An excellent basic intro guide to beekeeping

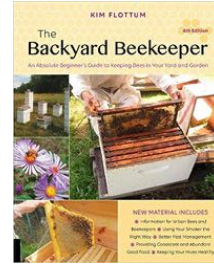
Price: \$20



Beekeeper's Handbook, 4th

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

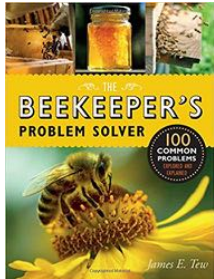
Price: \$25



Backyard Beekeeper 4th

The premiere introduction to backyard beekeeping

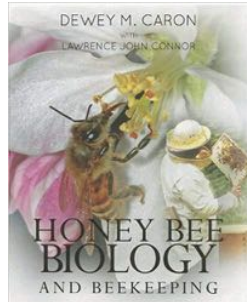
Price: \$20



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

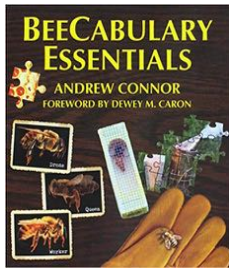
Price: \$45



Beeswax Alchemy

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

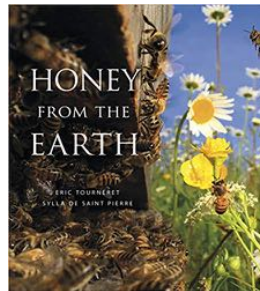
Price: \$20



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.

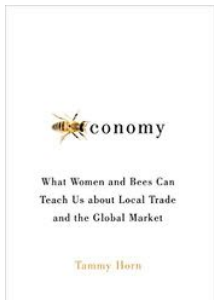
Price: \$50



Backyard Beekeeper's Honey Handbook

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

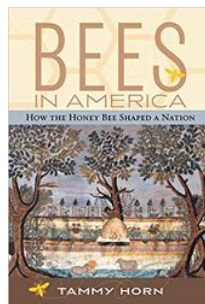
Price: \$20



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

“Professor Joseph Dallon”

by

Karl Schoenknecht

In 1995, after starting at age 49, I was ending classes at Bergen Community College and was happy that my night school classes were being reimbursed by my company. I received my gold watch that May for 25 years of service and a pink slip that September. My Wife Helen was attending Ramapo College and I met a group of her alumni and teacher friends that were part of the Ramapo Horticulture Society. I was introduced to Professor Dallon or Joe as he asked to be called and he asked me to help him with managing the greenhouse.

Joe taught botany but had more than one doctorate and could teach a variety of courses. He quickly got papers for me to sign so I would get on the college payroll. Joe told me of a program he started years earlier with a group of botany students. They plowed up a large garden plot along route 202 and grew test plants for various seed companies. The students monitored weather, water, fertilizer, and recorded the results. Joe received sizable grants from the seed companies for the test work and hoped to expand the program. The grant money went to the college and they had other plans.

Joe taught me to set up and maintain automatic watering and fertilizing and I spent hours potting, propagating and growing plants inside the green house. I also maintained the old upstairs greenhouse as best possible but there were problems due to building design. One cold winter night, the building lost heat and most of the plants died. We moved the surviving plants to the outdoor greenhouse until the weather got warm.

Joe gave student seminars and worked with the Horticulture Society helping them start flats of plants for potted flowers that could be sold on campus. I soon met Frank Morrissey with the Ramapo Horticulture Society and found out that he was a beekeeper living close to the campus. Frank was long retired and I visited him a number of times. He had trouble managing his large property but still maintained two hives and enjoyed talking about the bees. Soon Joe and Frank became members of Northeast NJ Beekeepers.



Frank Morrissey

When Joe heard about our trips to the the annual state meeting and our desire to car pool to the event, he suggested that he could get a school van. He was allowed to do this because the vans were not used on weekends and he would be the driver to the event. About eight of us went and Joe enjoyed speaking with the event speakers and some of our top beekeepers. We all enjoyed the experience and discussed about getting a hive on the Ramapo campus. Thankfully, that happened but many years later.

Joe later heard about the NJ Beekeepers summer auction and picnic and again drove us in the van to the home of Bob Hughes. Joe met a lot of beekeepers from around New Jersey and then bought a lot of beekeeping equipment that he later squeezed into the van. This was an ideal venue for the event due to Bob's five acre property and the large open property across the street that could be used for parking. Bob had an outdoor picnic area, an out building with his and hers bathrooms and a kitchen area with a large canopy for rain protection. The area was shaded by tall white pines adjacent to a large in ground swimming pool.

Late that summer and fall Joe and I cleaned out the greenhouse of overgrown plants and debris to get ready for the next school year. I later started full time work again but not with the college. Joe was asked to teach biology instead of botany and was told that they were leveling the greenhouse to make room for dormitories. This news caught Joe by surprise and again he was disappointed that he received no warning. Joe went to plan B and got permission from the town of Ramsey to start a flower garden and our horticulture club started to grow bee friendly plants. Unfortunately, the town refused to allow us to keep a beehive on the street side of the town pool near our flower garden. Joe lived in Ramsey and maintained up to 10 hives but not near the flower garden.

Keeping a pretty flower garden without mowers or tillers or other supplies became nearly impossible and I was working full time. Our Horticulture Society kept meeting but Frank Morrissey died shortly after his wife Irene and Joe had trouble keeping the group together. After Helen graduated in Ramapo in 98 Joe returned from an extended stay in Argentina and tried to motivate students by teaching ballroom dancing. We attended his 60th birthday party and then lost touch until 2005. Joe invited our Horticultural group to his home and I finally got a picture of Joe but not of his lovely wife Sue. Joe died of cancer not long after.



Professor Joseph Dallan



Our Facebook Group has **over 1883 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:
Getting Your Hives Ready
for Spring!
March 20th**



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