



njbees.org




November 2015



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

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2 nd V. Pres.	John Gaut – Mentor Coordinator	201-961-2330	Treasurer	Bob Jenkins	201-218-6537

Meeting on: **Friday, November 20th at 7:30 PM**, Location: **Ramapo College of NJ, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430**

 *Bee Enthusiasts & Bee Curious always welcome!*  *Weather permitting.* 

Please join us on **November 20th** for our regular monthly meeting. Our special guest will be **Gary Schempp** of Busy Bees New Jersey. Gary will be speaking about World Travel: Bees and Beekeeping around the world. As always, there will be a Q & A session and refreshments served in our upstairs lounge. See you all then!

Yearly Dues are payable now!



Your \$20 yearly dues goes to fund all of our activities, our post meeting refreshments, club supplies and all other necessities required to bring the best possible programs, classes, mentoring and to introduce new beekeepers to the art and craft of the hobby we all love so much. See Bob Jenkins to make your timely dues payment and from all the officers,

“Thank you for your continued support.”



Message from the President:

Happy November Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

The fall is behind us, and the winter weather will be here before we know it. By now you should have removed all mite treatments from your hives. You should also have your mouse guards on, and your hives secured for the next few months. If you are still feeding sugar syrup to your hives, it is important to remove your feeders before it gets too cold. Remember, moisture kills bees, not low temperatures.

Since we can no longer get into our hives to play with, I mean work with our bees, I suggest using the colder months as a time to prepare for spring. If you are thinking about adding a few hives, or simply want to get more equipment, remember that many of the catalog suppliers have sales in December. The winter is also a good time to clean up all your equipment so it is fresh for spring. If you wear a veil, now is a good time to wash all the smoke, sweat, and stickiness away. I also like to soak my hive tools in boiling water to get all the propolis off. I have found if I clean my equipment now, then the spring start is that much more enjoyable. The same goes with your woodenware. If you need to repair any boxes or frames, do it now, before you have a million other bee things to do.

The winter months are also a good time to catch up on all your bee reading. If you have been keeping bees for a year or more, I would recommend you have a copy of "Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping" by Dewey M. Caron, and Lawrence John Connor. This is the definitive textbook for experienced Beekeepers, and as a service to you our members, the club offers this text at a discounted member price.

I would also recommend that you subscribe to Bee Culture Magazine and/or American Bee Journal. I find that I let them stack up through the spring and summer, and then I spend my winter reading through them.

Overall, it is important that you steep yourself in science of bees and beekeeping. The books, journals and magazines are grounded on research and experience. By reading what the experts are saying, you will better understand why we do what we do and why it works. A trap some Beekeepers fall into is, relying too heavily on Facebook and YouTube as their only source of information, as this will only lead to disaster. It's ok to check online for "how-to's" and soliciting opinions, but without also reading the science, you have no way of knowing who is making sense and who is a crackpot with a video camera. As hard as it is to believe, not everything you read on the Internets is true, and most of it is not science.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving, and this holiday, let's all remember to give thanks for heavy hives, ApiVar and the Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

Frank Mortimer
President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers



Beekeeping in November & December

By: John Gaut - 201-961-2330

Fall has arrived! I try to make summer last as long as possible. Once the leaves turn and we have a frost, I have to concede to the change in seasons. The leaves are beautiful this year and there have been some warm days, so I have been enjoying fall too. And the bees are enjoying the last of the season too. I still see small loads of pollen coming into the hives. I'm amazed the girls can find any at all especially after the 3 inches of rain! On the really cold mornings (31F), I have checked the internal temperatures of a few colonies and typically see temperatures in the 90 to 100 F range; that is amazing too!

At this point, the colonies are making the final preparations for the winter. Brood rearing has ramped down and the honey and pollen have been stored for their winter survival and the spring buildup. Each colony should have at least 60 pounds of honey and several frames of pollen. (If a colony does not have enough honey and pollen, the beekeeper should plan to supplement carbohydrates and/or protein in the late winter so the colony can build for the spring.) Most importantly the mite levels should be low (less than 1% is ideal). Any remaining mite treatments should be completed and the treatment removed.

The mentors and mentees should cover the following points this month:

- Winter Preparation complete (See the checklist below.)
- What and how to check over the winter
- Evaluate the records and notes to look for successes and areas to improve next year
- Recommended reading and courses for the winter

If I depend on my memory, I risk forgetting or neglecting some tasks. So I use checklists. Below is the checklist I developed insuring the colonies are ready for winter. Hopefully you can use it (modify it if you want).

Checklist for Winter Survival

- Adequate Honey Stores
- Good pollen reserves
- Large population of young healthy bees
- Low Mite levels
- Low Nosema 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

I insulate both the top and sides of my hives. The top insulation (between the inner cover and top cover) helps retain heat from the cluster and prevents condensation on the inner cover. The side insulation also helps retain heat and allows the cluster and brood nest to expand more in the early spring. I suggest at least insulating the top of the hive; many beekeepers see improved survivability with at least some insulation on top.

Hopefully you have benefited from the mentoring program. As a mentor I learn more about beekeeping by working with others. And I enjoy working with other beekeepers. I hope the other mentors agree. As a club, we especially hope the new beekeepers being mentored benefited from the help of their mentors and learned in the process too. We all have successes and failures. I think we had a lot of successes this year and the new beekeepers are committed to continuing to work with their bees next year, maybe even expanding.

This is the last Mentoring note I plan to write this year. Over the next few months, the club will organize the mentoring program for the 2016 season. We would like to ask all the mentors we had this year to mentor again next year. And we would like to ask the new beekeepers to consider mentoring someone in your area next year. A mentor with just a year's experience can be a tremendous help to a new beekeeper. All the mentors rely on each other to help with the really challenging questions and situations. It's a way to continue learning and give back to the club.

Thanks everyone,

John



BEEKEEPERS

Save The Date!

Big news for the Northeast New Jersey Beekeepers!

Tom Seeley, biologist, professor and prize winning author of "Honeybee Democracy" and headline speaker will be coming to our meeting to present to the club in exactly one year. It will be a great meeting so mark your calendars now!



Notes from the NJBA Executive Meeting

Looks like the dues should be \$15 for the state and the budget should be cut by \$5000 (a little from multiple areas).

The meetings do pay for themselves; Revenue exceeds Expenses. There were several vendors at the last state meeting. Do they contribute? (Vendors should contribute a small amount, \$100 and/or donate a door prize.)

The Honey Show is very beneficial to beekeepers in NJ, especially from a legislative perspective. We need sponsors for the Honey Show to offset the cost of prizes. (There are a lot of prizes, 1st, 2nd and 3rd in multiple categories.)

A caution: While the revenue from the picnic/auction has been good these last two years, it is unpredictable. (The last two years included a significant amount of "New Old Stock" that sold at good prices. All this NOS will not be available in future years.)

We should promote attendance to the state meetings more. I think more people would attend if they were reminded ahead of time about the meetings and speaker. People could plan to car pool too. We should include the topic in the newsletter and make it an agenda item at our club meetings. We should also promote the Honey Show more. More attendance would enhance the meeting and show revenue.





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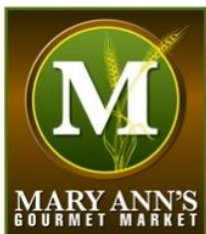


Find us on
Facebook

1,422 Strong!!!

We quickly blew through the 1000 member milestone and are, as of this writing 1,422 members strong, and growing on our Facebook page! Be sure check it out. See the great pics and stories posted by the Facebook fans we have at our page.

Remember: <http://www.nnjbees.org> is your website! Check that site for everything Northeast New Jersey Beekeeping!



Mary Ann's Gourmet Market
1011 MacArthur Blvd.
Mahwah, NJ 07430
201-962-8611
www.maryannsgourmetmarket.com

Next Month

The Northeast NJ Beekeepers are having our Holiday party. Good food, good times. Be there for more fun!

All Beekeepers Receive 10% Off!

❖ Volunteers ❖

Tom Miller	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies, brownies, tea, etc.
Jennifer Phillips	Refreshments – Cakes, cookies and other treats
Billy Neumann	Club photographer
Hugh Knowlton	Workshop/Event coordinator and presenter
Mike Miller	Club apparel
Emma Stein	Resident artist
Bob Slanzi	Meadmaster