



nnjbees.org

January 2017



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.	Karl Schoenknecht	201-891-0947
V. President	Rich Schluger	201-693-6949	Secretary	Jaimie Winters	551-486-7479
2 nd V. Pres.	John Gaut – Mentor Coordinator	201-961-2330	Treasurer	Bob Jenkins	201-218-6537

Meeting on: **Friday, January 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 **Friday, January 20th** when we present our friend, NJ commercial beekeeper extraordinaire, Grant Stiles. Grant will discuss Late Winter Mite control and Hive Management. Bring your questions, take notes and learn!

Yearly Dues are payable now!



Your \$25 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, headline speakers, 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 2017 Northeast NJ Beekeepers!

We are only a few weeks into the New Year, but I already think this is going to be a great year for our club. We have a lot of dedicated volunteers, who meeting after meeting, continue to help out with club activities. Our club is extremely fortunate to have people who are willing to donate their time to make our club a better organization for the benefit of all of our members. Additionally, I love working with my fellow officers! Rich, John, Bob, Jaimie, and Karl are a great team and they help ensure our meetings are the best, and our events go smoothly. (Plus, they're all great people!) For 2017, we have put together another year of great speakers and activities for our monthly meetings. Keep an eye out, as this year we are going to try some weekend workshops and Saturday field trips.

Also, we are always open to new ideas and incorporating new activities into our monthly meetings, so if you have an idea, please tell us! Your ideas will make our club even better!

Additionally, now is when we will start seeing a lot of new faces, as this is the time of year when people new to beekeeping, join our club and are eager to learn. I would ask you to remember back to when you first started, and you didn't know anything or anyone. At the meetings, if you see someone you don't recognize, introduce yourself and help make all the new beeks feel welcome and good about joining our club. Further, the best way to help someone who is just starting out is become a mentor. Our club is so strong because we are members helping members. Our mentor program is built on this basic principle, and if you have kept bees for at least one year, I would ask you to be a mentor.

When you become a mentor, you are not only helping another person, you are also helping yourself become a better beekeeper. There are multiple educational studies that prove when you teach, you also learn.

One of the other great things about our mentor program is that everyone has support from a beekeeper that has more experience than them. Even John Gaut, our mentor program director has Tim Schuler, the NJ State Apiarist, to rely on and to ask questions. That's why, no matter what your level of experience is, you will be a great mentor and have the support you need to be successful!

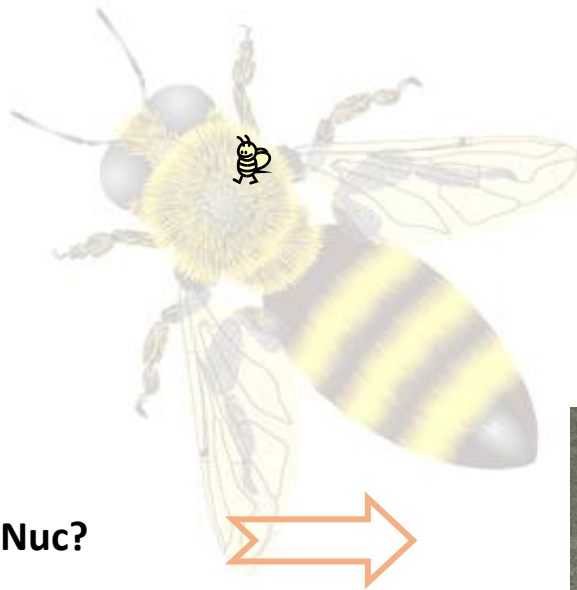
You will be helping someone new to beekeeping, helping yourself become a better beekeeper, and you will be helping your club be a better beekeeping community.

It's easy to become a mentor, just see John Gaut and he will pair you up with someone who is eager to learn, lives close by, and might even become a life-long friend.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Friday, and to the great year we have ahead of us!

Bee Well

Frank Mortimer
President, Northeast NJ Beekeepers



Need a Nuc?



The club will again be bringing in nucs from Grant Stiles.

Each nuc is \$160. You can reserve yours with a **\$60 per nuc non-refundable deposit.**

The nucs will be delivered to Ramapo College sometime around April 19th. (More info to follow)

There are only a limited number of nucs available, and when they're gone, they're gone, so please reserve yours early.

Please see or contact Bob Jenkins to reserve your nuc today!

North American Beekeeping Conference

John A. Gaut

The North American Beekeeping Conference was in Galveston Texas on January 11th to the 14th. The conference was a joint event of the American Beekeeping Federation, The American Honey Producers Association and the Canadian Honey Council. It really makes sense to have a joint conference! The conference included a large tradeshow with 4 complete automated extracting lines set up for display! Researchers and Students also presented summaries of their current research at the American Bee Research Conference on Thursday and Friday. The Apiary Inspectors of America also held their meetings during the conference. Tim Schuler attended most of the AIA meetings. There were attendees from all over the world including Latin America, Europe, Asia and Australia. I found the conference very informative and it was a chance to renew acquaintances with other beekeepers, large and small.



A few of the New Jersey Beekeepers at the North American Beekeeping Conference. Left to Right: Chris Yates (Morris-Somerset), Lou Naylor (Mid-State), Megan McConnell (from South Jersey and currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Univ of Maryland), John A. Gaut (Northeast) and Fran & Stan Wasitowski (Northwest, S&F Honey Farm). Other NJ Beekeepers in attendance were Tim Schuler and his wife and Anthony Grelli and his wife.

A few of the highlights:

Adulterated honey is a major problem in the USA. 2/3's of the honey imported from Asia is adulterated. Proving honey is adulterated is very difficult. The honey could have added syrup or the bees could have been feed sugar syrup while on a honey flow. (We have some backyard USA beekeepers feeding with honey supers on too....) A large volume of the adulterated honey seems to be coming from China and India. The honey is trans-shipped (shipped to an intermediate country and relabeled as the country of origin) to avoid tariffs. While the number of hives in these intermediate countries have remained the same, exports have more than doubled; "a shocking abnormality!" The result is honey prices have dropped and consumers are being deceived.

Dr. Jonathan Lundgren is a very dynamic and passionate speaker. The premise if his presentation was the "bee problem" is not really the problem; the problem is biodiversity decline due to large scale agriculture. His solution is to change agriculture; his demonstrator farm, Blue Dasher Farm is showing how "regenerative farming" is practiced. The term he and others are using now is AgroEcology (I guess sustainability is way overused!)

While Varroa mites were a topic of many presentations, there was not much new. Oxalic Acid vaporization is being used by many commercial beekeepers. The vaporizers are being refined and were being displayed. There were some high volume units like the "Varroa Cannon." While many are using OA vaporization to knock down the mites in the winter, the effectiveness is still a question. Beekeepers (large and small) using Oxalic Acid vaporization seem to continue to have significant winter losses. While OA vaporization is quick and cheap, it is not a "silver bullet."

Dennis van Englesdorf presented his findings related to a colony that was collapsing due to high Varroa mites. Every bee in the hive was painted just before the collapse. After there were no bees left in the hive, they surveyed hives around the area. They found painted bees in the hives within a 2 mile radius of the collapsed hive. Beekeepers that do not manage the Varroa mites are the "Typhoid Mary" of beekeeping; they are responsible for many more colony deaths than just their own colonies. As the colony is collapsing other colonies will rob the mite infested colony, transferring the mites to healthy colonies. Also the bees will drift from the mite infested colony to other colonies bringing mites along with them.

Colony collapse in late summer and the fall is a problem for many beekeepers. I monitor for mites once a month beginning in April. Due to the "Typhoid Marys" and their mite bombs, I plan to monitor more frequently in the fall. I have seen colonies go from low mites to very high counts in a very short time; as little as a week! Having an IPM board is useful too. I'll look at the board weekly; if I see mites dropping I'll do an alcohol wash immediately and treat if needed. Otherwise I could easily loose the colony.

Gerry Wright from the UK continues to do fantastic work related to bee nutrition. Her latest focus has been on the fats (lipids) in pollen and the balance between protein and fat. The Essential Amino Acids have been studied, but the Essential Fatty Acids have not. Honey bees need both Linoleic Acid (Omega 6) and Linolenic Acid (Omega 3). Linolenic Acid enables bees to learn and also develop larger hypopharyngeal glands.

There are new honey labeling requirements by the FDA. The controversy is that honey will be considered "Added Sugar" !!!! This will be very confusing for the consumer. The ABF and AHPA is working with the FDA for a more rational approach.

There were several vendors promoting various Bee Probiotics. Some of this stuff does not work, at least what I have tested so far. Some probiotics may help. (I'm testing some of the products, but am skeptical....)

Overall it was a great few days in Galveston! Next year the conference will be in Reno.



Landi Simone is teaching a beginning beekeeping class again this year. She has always had a good class and it fills up quickly. Below is the information:

Basic Beekeeping: Three Day Short Course - Saturdays, February 18 & 25, 2017, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Garibaldi Hall, Essex County Environmental Center, 621B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068.

Field Day in April, 2017 TBA at various area apiaries. Presented by the [Essex County Beekeepers Society, a branch](#) of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association, with head instructor/coordinator Master Beekeeper Landi Simone.

This class covers everything you need to know from purchasing equipment to harvesting honey. Basics of disease and mite management will be covered. Scholarships for this course are available for full-time students ages 12-22.

Fee: \$155 per person includes NJBA membership in a chapter of your choice, class materials, continental breakfast, and afternoon snack.

For more information contact registrar Pat Gamsby at BJORNLASS@AOL.COM or 973 396-8996.

E-mail is the best means of reaching Pat. [Click here to register.](#)





Joined ▾

➦ Share

✓ Notifications



1,650 Strong!!!

We quickly blew through the 1,600 member milestone and are, as of this writing **1,650** members strong, and growing on our Facebook page! Be sure check it out. See the great pics and stories posted by the Facebook fans from all over the world!

Remember: <http://www.njbees.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 and presenter
Mike Miller	Club apparel
Emma Stein	Resident artist
Bob Slanzi	Meadmaster

Next Month

The Northeast NJ Beekeepers is proud to present Frank and John who will talk about their favorite beekeeping tools, gadgets and other goodies.