

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



Edition: April, 2013

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 9

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Garibaldi Hall, Essex
County Environmental Center,
621 Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland
Subject: Equipment Assembly
Workshop, and more.

Officers

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President's Message / April 2013

As I write this it is windy in the 30's or low 40's with warm temps forecasted to be only in the mid 50's by the weekend. Normally I love to procrastinate, but this is getting to be too much for me. I can tell some hives are really building up by the number of new bees flying during the 15 minutes of sun warmth some days.

If there are some worriers out there, then allow me to let you know that I have just as many bees in Vermont. This weather would still be normal for them at this time. It just reinforces the need to have bees treated and properly stocked going into fall. I don't feed my bees in the spring. Don't emulate me ... I am just saying. I have my own reason. I can't feed my bees in Vermont and they fare sometimes better than the ones in New Jersey. Caveat: Carniolans fare better up North.

This leads to another discussion. The Italian strain may require some feed now as this weather pattern continues. At least it is steady. I don't think we can do worse than last year. Seems like there might be an awful lot to talk about, so c'mon out to the next meet'n.

I'd like to know if anybody has Russians? I imagine that they would be swarmin' as soon as it hits 65. Just thinkin'.

Your Drone, Michael J Frey



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Upcoming Events

April 9: ECBS April meeting; Monthly meeting. Garibaldi Hall, 621 Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland. Joe Lelinho and Jim Cappola will be discussing and demonstrating equipment assembly. And of course, we will have the opportunity to talk to each other to discuss Spring care of our bees, how they did over the winter, and plans for this season.

May 14, 7:00 to 9:00 PM: Monthly meeting. Garibaldi Hall, 621 Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland. State Apiarist Tim Schuler will discuss "Disease Identification and Control."

August 5-9, 2013; EAS annual conference: West Chester, Pennsylvania;
<http://www.easternapiculture.org/>

Spring Management

Make one more check to assure the hives have enough food, and feed them as necessary. Remember, with hive build-up in full swing, the bees will be consuming food rapidly. Consider reversing your hives in about 2 weeks. Be careful to not break up the brood nest.

Splitting hives may become necessary at the end of the month to prevent swarming, by relieving brood chamber congestion. The frames which are removed should be replaced with drawn comb. If you are adding a new queen, she must be put on the split which is moved to a new location, not the original hive site, and this split must consist of capped brood, food and empty frames of drawn comb. Check each frame to assure the old queen is not on it! The new split must have sufficient food in the form of a frame of honey and one of pollen. Feeding a split syrup and protein patties may also be done to help them get started, but it is not necessary if they have frames of honey and pollen.



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Feeding Stimulant Recipe

By Landi Simone

5 Cups Water
1 Tsp. Lecithin Flakes
2 1/2 Pounds Granulated Sugar
1/6 Cup Spearmint Essential oil
1/6 Cup Lemongrass Essential Oil.
1/4 Cup Emulsifying Wax (aka e-wax)

(I keep on hand a larger container of a half-and-half mixture of spearmint and lemongrass essential oils and use 1/3 cup of the mixed oils.)

(E-Wax is available from on-line stores like WholesaleSuppliesPlus.com or TheSage.com.)

Bring water to a boil and whisk in lecithin until dissolved. Add sugar and blend well, preferably with a stick blender.

At the same time, melt the emulsifying wax over low heat. (I put it in a clean, empty coffee can inside a larger one containing some water so I have an improvised double boiler.) Once melted, add this and the essential oils to the sugar water mixture and blend well with the stick blender. Allow to cool. Use at a rate of 1/3 cup of Stimulant per 5 gallons of sugar syrup.



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