

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



ECBS
PO Box 688
Roseland, NJ 07068

Edition: February, 2016

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 9
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Garibaldi Hall, Essex County
Environmental Center, 621B Eagle
Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

Topic: Building a Quiet Box;
Getting Ready for Spring

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Greetings to all:

For those of us who made the trip to join the Northeast Branch for our joint January meeting, we had the pleasure of learning from Billy Davis about his Sustainable Honeybee Project in Virginia. Billy is in his eighties, but still very active within the limitations of his age. The Sustainable Honeybee Project is about raising queen bees locally, as local queens should be better acclimated to their environment in comparison to queens raised hundreds or thousands of miles away and sent through the mail.

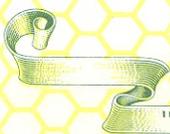
The details are too complicated to pass along here, but one item which I can tell you about is a device he uses called a Quiet Box. What it amounts to is a box about the size of a nucleus hive with a screened bottom for ventilation and a cover made from roller-blind material. When one takes frames of bees out of a hive, one places them in this box to keep them calm and to avoid the stress of the ambient temperature. The box can hold three or four frames of bees, and as one works the hive, one also uses a similar cover to cover the part of the hive the beekeeper is not working, thus avoiding stress to the hive and minimizing guard bees buzzing the beekeeper. I plan to bring some wood and other materials to the meeting on Tuesday, that we might build a few for ourselves.

I also attended the Raritan Valley Branch meeting two weeks ago, and Grant Stiles made a presentation on making Splits and treating hives for mites. I will tell you more about this at the upcoming meeting.

With this strange winter moving along, it is time for us to consider checking our hives to see if the cluster is alive and if it needs feeding. Feeding is advised if the cluster of bees is at the top of the hive. One may feed dry sugar poured atop newspaper, fondant or bee candy. Up to this time, the bees have likely consumed little honey, but now that they are beginning to rear brood, food supplies will be used faster and the bees risk starvation until the time of the dandelion bloom.

Regards to all,

Joe Treimel



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Grant Stiles, one of our ECBS members is a Mann Lake Beekeeping Supplier. If you are in need of any items, look him up on the NJBA web page. Business hours are Monday through Friday, as I recall. Call for hours of operation. Also, Grant has Nucleus Hives available for sale, but you must place your order before all are purchased. He makes up about 1,000 Nucleus Hives and as of 2 weeks ago, about 700 had been pre-ordered. Don't miss out if you need nucs.

Do make your plans now for the year and purchase needed equipment before you need it. Also, it is strongly advised that you treat your colonies for Varroa Mites early in the season, while the hive is building up. This will insure a strong hive going into the six to eight week nectar flow we have in this part of the state. Also, it is strongly advised that this early treatment be made with Apivar. This particular Mitacide has been found to work well for early season treatment and is superior to any other treatment. It should be put on early in March and removed late in April before you put on the honey supers.

Bee Candy

15 pounds sugar
3 pounds corn syrup
4 Cups water
½ Tsp Cream of Tartar

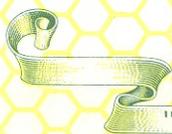
A candy thermometer is needed to do this. One may be purchased in any cooking supply store and perhaps where cooking utensils are sold in some supermarkets.

Dissolve 15 pounds of sugar and three pounds of white corn syrup and ½ teaspoon cream of tartar in one quart of water by stirring and boiling until the temperature reaches 240 degrees. Let the syrup cool until it is between 180 and 200 degrees, then beat until thick with a whisk or spoon. Pour the syrup into molds lined with wax paper. The molds should be approximately 8" x 10" x 3".

Pot should not be more than 2/3 full when starting, as the mixture will foam up and must be stirred down. Don't risk a spill on the stove!!!

You can feed the candy by placing pieces on sticks above the top bars.

It's time to send in your NJBA/ECBS dues. The form is found on the NJBA web page, and please note that dues are now \$25.



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