

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



ECBS
PO Box 688
Roseland, NJ 07068

Edition: January 2015

Next Meeting: Jan. 13, 2014
7:00 – 9:00pm

Topic: Winter Feeding of Bees
Queen Rearing
NJBA Calendars for Sale @ \$10

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The holidays are now behind us and I have finally gotten around to a newsletter, which I ought to have sent out a month ago. Well, here it is. As I write I am looking at an inch or two of snow outside my window and hoping it will be gone in the morning, but only since a good friend of mine is flying home to San Francisco. Her dad was a beekeeper, living up in Pine Island, NY. He had come over to the USA from Germany after the Second World War and worked as an engineer. He kept his beehives on the second floor of his barn, which is not something unusual in Europe. And there they remain, and his grandson has taken over their keep. However, he is a novice at it and I have spent some time making hour-long drives up to Heinz's property to help Justin learn how to work with the bees. Justin is fourteen years old and a Boy Scout. Unfortunately, it seems that Boy Scouts of America dropped their Beekeeping Merit Badge some years ago. Go figure. Dennis Rittenhouse, who was our November speaker and one or two of his beekeeping buddies and I are writing BSA and asking them to reinstate the merit badge. If you want to get in on it, please do.

January is a time when we cannot do much about our bees, but we can prepare for the season ahead. One of the things to do is make decisions on what we plan to do: maintain things as they are, expand or contract our apiary size, try something new such as making splits, raising queens or making nucleus hives, trying a new approach to mite control.

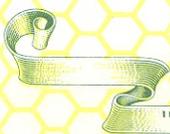
It is also a time to order nucleus hives or packages of bees before the suppliers are sold-out or the early delivery dates or for good!

Also, it is time to send in your dues for the ECBS and NJBA, which a combined cost of \$20. Send them to our PO Box. During our December meeting, the NJBA Board discussed raising dues on the state level. Local clubs are allowed to raise their local dues without approval of the NJBA Board. \$20 is a bargain for what we receive and I personally believe the dues should be raised. Further discussion is in order before a change is made.

Finally, at our December meeting we all had a good time assembling hive stands, a solar-wax melter and a Top-Bar Hive. As the last two items were not quite finished, I brought them home and finished building them. I will bring them to the January meeting and they will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. If interested, bring your checkbook along to the meeting. The NJBA Honey & Wax Show is at the end of the month, and if you are interested in participating, you can find the information on the NJBA web page.

Regards to all,

Joe Treimel, President



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"FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BEE CULTURE IN ESSEX COUNTY"



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Upcoming events:

ECBS/NJBA dues are now due. The cost is \$20 and may be mailed to the ECBS PO Box. If you need an application form, it may be found on the last page of the NJBA Newsletter, which is also available on the NJBA web page at NJBeekeepers.org.

January 13: ECBS meeting on winter feeding and queen rearing – a video will be shown on the latter subject. NJBA Calendars will be for sale at \$10 each...a bargain.

February 2: NJBA Honey & Wax Show and Contest. If you plan to enter, see rules on the NJBA Website. You may bring your items to the January meeting and Joe Treimel will get them to the proper persons. Otherwise, the deadline is January 30 and items must be dropped off at the NJ State House Annex by that date. Judging is on February 2, 2015.

At this time we are confirming volunteers for drop-off sites for the branches and to help at the State House. At present we have Joe Treimel from the Essex branch. He will accept entries through January 25. No later. His address is 124 Boulevard, Pequannock.

To make our Honey Show a great success, we need some volunteers. I'll need people to help with these tasks:

- Multiple volunteers to serve as collection points for entries and then to deliver the entries either to the State House Annex the morning of 1/30 OR to one of the volunteers who will be helping at the Annex on that day and has a vehicle able to deliver the entries to the Annex.
- One volunteer to be the "point" person for entries at the State House Annex on 1/30, accepting the entries and delivering them to the judging room. (This can't be me because I will be helping to get the display cases set up.)
- One volunteer to help in sorting the entries into their various classes in the judging room on 1/30.
- Two volunteers to help on 2/2 with various tasks associated with the actual judging, including getting the winning entries displayed in the cases and coordinating the black box judging by State House employees near the cafeteria.

If there is someone in ECBS who wants to help with the Honey Show and is not an NJBA officer, I'll be grateful for their assistance and I'll be relying on your club president to vouch for the person's reliability and commitment.

Thanks so much, all!

Landi Simone
Honey Show Chairperson, Landi@gooserockfarm.com

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February 14: NJBA Winter meeting, Hamilton, NJ. Winning items from the Honey Contest will be auctioned off.

February 21, 28: Beginner Beekeepers Course at Garibaldi Hall. For more information, go to the NJBA web page and click on: Calendar, Essex, Website and you will find the information on the first page.

Package / Nuc Bee Info:

There are various places which sell package bees and nucleus hives, many of which may be found on the NJBeekeepers Newsletter. Many of us have also done well with bees purchased from Mann Lake and picked up at their Wilkes-Barre, PA warehouse. Their web URL is www.mannlakeltd.com. Remember, the earlier you get package bees and get them established, the better your chance of getting some honey from them this year.

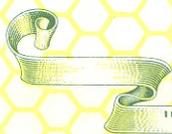
Also, if you would like to drive to Georgia, you might try www.jarrettbees.com. This does not constitute an endorsement, I am just posting the address sent to me from Jarrett Apiaries.

Bee Candy

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

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. Pour the syrup into molds lined with wax paper. The molds should be 8x10x3. You may use a cookie sheet with raised edges, you just get a larger, thinner piece of bee candy.

You can feed the candy by placing pieces on sticks atop the top bars and putting the bee candy on them. You can use the same shim you use when treating Thymol to close the gap created around the edge of the inner & out covers by the bee candy: box, shim, inner cover, outer cover.



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