

# Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.

ECBS  
PO Box 688  
Roseland, NJ 07068

Edition: July 2016

Next Meeting: September, 2016

Topic: To Be Announced; we may have an outdoor meeting



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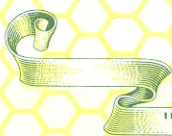
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The spring nectar flows seem to be coming to an end. The Linden (Basswood) trees are just ending their bloom, as is the American Chestnut. While we never seemed to see a Black Locust bloom, the spring honey taken off many hives seemed to be nothing else than that! We have experienced very dry weather for the past five weeks and I expected the nectar flows and honey crop to be off. Honey crops seem to be variable from apiary to apiary, but all in all, it is a good year. Landi will have over about 150 pounds or more from her best hives and I will have somewhere between 120 and 150 pounds from my best hive.

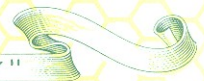
Still, hives need to be carefully watched. Landi and I have been through nearly every one of her hives in the past two weeks (and I have been through all six of mine) and here and there we will find a colony with a Drone Layer, with EFB, that is queenless, or has superseded its queen. We also came upon a rare honeybee disease named Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus in one hive. I did a little research on it on the Internet and it seems to be a self-limiting problem, but still may destroy the hive. If you aren't looking, you may not find a problem until it is too late to rescue the colony.

We have been sampling hives for Varroa Mite to get an idea about efficacy of early season treatment and for a baseline that we might compare notes after treatment at the end of July. We were seeing mite loads varying from one apiary to another. One had zero to 0.33% for most hives tested while another apiary had mite loads of 2% to 3.6%. The Mite Shakers which we had for sale work well and you will see a picture on the next page. A few notes on these bee shakers: 1. If you put a lot of stress on the weld holding the two plastic caps together, they will break apart. However, this can be repaired using a high-power soldering gun. 2. To see how one is constructed from peanutbutter jars or how to repair one, go to Randy Oliver's Web Page at: <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/sick-bees-part-11-mite-monitoring-methods/>. You will see everything you need to use a mite shaker or make one. An older method of checking for mites is using a Sticky Board. Using the bee shaker, 300 bees are sacrificed in the process, but it only takes ten minutes and one trip to the apiary. Remember to Shake, Shake, Shake to get the best results!



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Mite Treatment is due in one month. Be ready. Contact Ron Jacobs if you would like to make a purchase from the club. Ron has all the good stuff!

ECBS will have its own Extractor by the week's end as well as a Cappings Scratcher to open up the cappings for extraction. One can use an uncapping knife, but doing so creates a great deal of excess wax, and since most of us probably don't deal with cappings wax, this limits the problem. Also, a lot of honey ends up with the cappings when using a knife, which must then be recovered. We will also have a contract for the borrower to sign and I will send out a copy as soon as it is finalized.

We had been entertaining the idea of having an Extracting Party and sharing equipment. However, the older literature suggests this is a bad idea, as infection can be spread from one beekeeper's equipment to another's should somebody bring in honey supers from an infected hive. ECBS Master Beekeeper Landi Simone and NJ State Bee Inspector Tim Schuler both told me that they do not recommend doing this. Instead we ought to just use a community extractor individually and clean it out properly between uses.

Is anybody going to EAS? I will be there from Sunday through Friday and I recommend it, if one can spare the time and expense. Do let me know, if you are attending and might possibly share a ride with me there or back.

Regards to all, *Joe Treimel*



This mite wash shows seven Varroa Mites. The black speck on the bottom is dirt. It is not at all difficult to see the mites, but if you need glasses, wear them!

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