

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.

ECBS
PO Box 688
Roseland, NJ 07068

Edition: June 2017

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

Topic: Comb Honey, by Joe Treimel
Hive Management Tips and Tricks,
by Landi Simone



Officers

President and Newsletter Editor:
Joe Treimel,
Sailbeejoe@aol.com
862-221-9783

Vice President and IT Coordinator
(ECBS): Derek Stordahl,
derek.stordahl@gmail.com

Past President: Mike Frey
michaelfrey@optonline.net

Treasurer: Patricia Campbell

Charles Sporn: Secretary

Education Minister: Landi Simone,
Landi.s@verizon.net

Commercial Beekeeper Advisor:
Grant Stiles

New Beekeeper Liaison: Open

Asst. Communicator-in-Chief:
Graeme Morrisson,
grae@gtmorrison.net

Procurement Chief: Ron Jacobs
rja8662745@yahoo.com

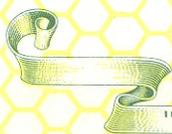
Greetings to all:

A recent experience with my Solar-Powered Electric Fencer made me realize that I ought to remind all of you who use this type of fencer to protect your apiaries, that the batteries in these devices do not last forever. Three years is probably the life-expectancy. Although I have one of those devices which is used to test the fencer, which flashes a small neon light when the fencer is tested and operating, I usually just use the “blade of grass” technique. I hold a blade of grass between my thumb and index finger and slide it up on the hot wire of the fence until I feel an electric shock. I am usually only about one millimeter away when I feel the mild jolt. While adding honey supers to my hives recently I did this test (which I do every time I am at the apiary) and discovered that I did not get a shock. To be certain, I touched the fence. Nothing!

I took the fencer off the fence post and took it home and opened it up and tested the battery with a volt meter, and learned that it was Kaput. Fortunately, I happened to have a spare six-volt battery handy and I substituted it to keep the fencer operating and reinstalled it. I then placed an order for a new battery. If your solar-powered fencer's battery is three years old, I would suggest purchasing a new one (cost is about \$17 plus shipping and tax) and installing it, unless you like taking chances.

We are off to a good start for the honey season. I have two honey supers on my production hives, and each includes a few frames solely for Comb Honey. The hives are all strong, with four medium boxes of bees and brood, and hives of this type are able to produce comb honey. One of my motivations to do so, was that I was very disappointed with the entries in this past year's NJBA Honey Show. I know I can do better. Although I can purchase a display box from some of the beekeeping suppliers, I plan to build one. I believe I can get at least one superior frame of honey for the contest, and sell the rest of it in cut-comb boxes or add it to jars and sell it as Chunk Honey.

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The Eastern Apiculture Annual Conference is just around the corner. The dates are July 31 – August 4. It will be held at the University of Delaware. To see the agenda, go to the EAS web page at EasternApiculture.org. The Spring 2017 journal has all the details, and they may also be found elsewhere on the web page. You will need to be a member to view the journal, but annual dues are just \$25 and worth it. I plan to attend, as there is plenty to learn – from practical to scientific - besides rubbing shoulders with hundreds of other beekeepers from Canada to Florida.

On a national level, Scott Pruitt, the Director of the EPA recently removed the ban on Chlorpyrifos, an Organophosphate insecticide produced by DOW Chemical, known to cause brain and nervous system damage in the fetus and in children. The rationale is that “this insecticide is very important to the nation’s farmers.” This is one more reason to carefully wash all fruits and vegetables you purchase, or better yet, purchase Organic fruits and vegetables. Perhaps some of you are old enough to recall those lyrics from Joni Mitchell’s song, “Big Yellow Taxi,” which go: Farmer, Farmer, put away your DDT, I’d rather have spots on my apples and the birds and the bees.” Now we also have to worry about our children and grandchildren as well as the birds and our bees.

On a more local level, the overly wet spring has produced a high population of mosquitos, and the county Mosquito Commissions and spraying Resmethrin type (adulticide, paralytic) insecticides regularly. I am on both the Passaic County and Morris County Mosquito Commissions’ listings, so I receive E-mail notification about when and where they plan to spray. I cannot move my hives, but at least I know what is going on and I could conceivably cover my hives on the evenings spraying would occur, if done too close to the apiary. See you soon,

Joe Treimel, President



Historical Photo

N.J. Honey Princess Kira Simone and Joe “Bee Beard” Treimel at Essex County Environment Center on Pollinator Day, June, 2002.

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