

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



Edition: June, 2014

Next Meeting: September, 2014

Topic: To Be Announced

Officers

President: Joe Treimel
Newsletter Editor
Sailbeejoe@aol.com
973-865-9043

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

Past President: Mike Frey
michaelfrey@optonline.net

Treasurer: Michael Good
Mickat33@msn.com

Charles Sporn: Secretary

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

Commercial Beekeeper Advisor:
Grant Stiles

New Beekeeper Liaison: Fran Szwec
FSzwec@optonline.net

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

Procurement Chief, Ron Jacobs
rja8662745@yahoo.com

President's Message

Only a month ago I was wondering what this year would bring us. The spring was late and the weather was unusual, and not at all favorable to bees or their forage plants. I told you I was hoping for a surprise, and it seems that has happened. Last week Tim Schuler told me that he had run out of honey supers. Two days ago Landi Simone told me the same and that she was assembling more honey supers and frames to put on her hives.

It seems as if all the usual floral sources have done very well. The Black Locust bloom seemed to last a week longer than usual, and right now Catalpa seems to be doing the same. I am seeing more Dutch Clover than I can ever recall, and so many more other floral plants alongside the roads. Sumac is now blooming. Linden and Tulip Poplar should be in bloom at any moment.

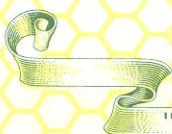
For those who are in need of an extractor, do recall that my three-frame, hand-cranked tangential extractor is available to borrow.

Tim Schuler of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture was our guest speaker at the meeting last week and as usual, Tim's trip from Vineland provided those who attended the meeting with some excellent advice. A summary will follow on the next page. At the meeting Tim introduced to us Alex Warcola, a Rutgers student who lives in the area and is available to do hive inspections, should the need arise. Ron Jacobs sold out the Mite Treatments he brought to the meeting, but should have more for sale to club members by now.

Do keep up your hive inspections and take care of your bees. Enjoy the wonderful weather which has finally arrived, and if it works for you, bring a chair out to your apiary and put it next to the hives, sit down and relax and enjoy the buzz of these little creatures which provide us with a pleasure which is a bit difficult to describe. Our bees are a special gift to us from God, so enjoy the gift.

Keep in touch should you have any questions. Contact Fran should you need a fellow beekeeper to visit and assist you.

Joe Treimel, President



FOUNDED 1921

"FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BEE CULTURE IN ESSEX COUNTY"



Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



Mistakes New Beekeepers Make Tim Schuler

June 10, 2014

1. Not being able to see eggs.

This leads the beekeeper to suspect there is not a queen or a laying-queen in the hive. One must have the sun to their back and hold the frame low enough that the sun shines directly into the cells. If vision is a problem, get a magnifying glass or a pair of 3X reading glasses at the store and use either while making an inspection for eggs.

2. Not preserving colonies and equipment.

If a colony is weak or queenless, stack it atop a strong colony to prevent infestation with Small Hive Beetles or Wax Moths. You can always make a split later.

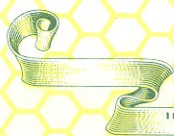
3. Requeening hives with a virgin queen or young queen.

This happens when the beekeeper sees no eggs or larvae. This will only cause the introduced queen to be killed, wasting the beekeepers money and time. Remember, a virgin queen needs to mate and then get ready to begin laying eggs. This process can take ten days to two weeks. When in doubt, put a frame of eggs and young brood into the hive and look for queen cells after one week. No queen cell = queen in hive.

Hive inspections this spring have seen a lot of European Foulbrood. It is caused by *Streptococcus Pluton*. Stress from mites increases the risk of EFB. Larvae will have an off-white color, smell bad and be curled. If a colony has EFB, pull off honey supers and treat with Terramycin. It is a good idea to treat for mites at the same time, as Varroa Mites can put stress on the colony and therefore make them susceptible to EFB.

Treatment for mites includes Apivar Strips, which may be used in Nucleus Hives, New Colonies and Hives Swarms. One strip per five frames is used and the treatment must remain on the hive for 40 days. Remove the Apivar Strips two weeks prior to putting honey supers on the hive.

Winter Loss Survey for 2013/2014 included 433 participants. Hives untreated for mites showed a 45% loss and treated hives showed a 28% loss. Further analysis of the data showed that hives treated late in the year (September/October) had a higher loss than those treated in July or August. It is important to know that parasitized bees have underdeveloped hypopharyngeal glands, which leads to poor feeding of larvae.



FOUNDED 1921

"FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BEE CULTURE IN ESSEX COUNTY"



Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



Current recommendations are to treat in the early spring and mid-summer. It is also advised that treatment modalities be rotated to lessen development of resistance to treatments by the mites. With Thymol (Apiguard), Formic Acid (Mite-Away Quick Strips) and Apivar Strips available, this should not present a problem.

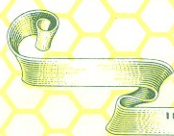
High mite loads have been seen this year. Mite drops of 300 – 400 in 48 hours have been recorded. Parasitized Mite Syndrome can develop, with the bees suffering with increased susceptibility to viral infections and larvae appearing to be melted down. To check for mites, the Alcohol Wash method works well in all types of weather. Other methods are the Ether Roll and the Powdered Sugar Roll.

To check for mites, be sure to take bees from frames with brood which is just about to be capped. Shake the bees off into a tub. Be certain the queen is not on the frame or in the tub! Put ½ Cup bees and 1 ½ Cup Alcohol into a jar. Close the jar and swish it about. Pour the liquid from the jar into another container through a piece of coarse screen (hardware cloth), then pour that liquid through a coffee filter and count the mites which you find.

The strongest hives will tend to have the highest mite loads, as mites will proliferate in the presence of lots of worker and drone brood. These colonies are at high risk, as the high mite load will in turn weaken the bees and put them at high risk for Colony Collapse. Don't assume that a strong hive is a hive with a low mite load.

You can treat for mites with honey supers on the hive if you use Formic Acid. However, Formic Acid is better on the bees in the cooler weather, as treatment during hot temperatures increases the death of nurse bees and brood. Apiguard (Thymol) is better in warm weather.

When treating for mites it is very important to follow the label directions. It is very important to close the hive bottoms should you be using screened bottom boards, as it is important to keep the vapors from the treatment in the hive. Do not reduce the entrance. When using Thymol, it is important to have a spacer around the tray holding the treatment to permit the vapors to dissipate throughout the hive. This can be in the form of an empty hive box or a spacer made from 2"X2" wood.



FOUNDED 1921

"FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BEE CULTURE IN ESSEX COUNTY"

