

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



Edition: March, 2013
Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Garibaldi Hall, Essex County Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland
Subject: Nucleus Hives
Speaker: Landi Simone

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From the Desk of the President, February 28, 2013

Don't allow this weather pattern to lull you into complacency. It has me asleep! I am no more prepared than when I left off working bees in October. Anybody feel any better now? Misery does love company, to be sure. I never offered that I should be emulated.

The next solid 50 – 60 degree pattern will be B Day. Reversals are primed beginning the Ides of March into April. Swarm prevention is a management technique. I have actually planned hive splitting as a technique which is what I learned as a result of being late in spring hive reversals. Confused anybody? Every time we open our hives there is opportunity. Bee ready! This topic is timely!

We are lucky to have our own Landi Simone for a presentation at our March 12th meeting. She will detail what there is to know about making nucs. I trust this will be very informative for all. I, personally, like making nucs as my favorite bee activity. I am still learning so I look forward to Landi's presentation. I challenge anyone who has not made a nuc to be there for this. Let me repeat: this March meeting is an opportunity to learn.

Similarly, every newsletter is an opportunity for me to extend a welcome to any member willing to take the next leap into being a participant on the ECBS Board. We are blessed with talent in our club. The old guard is here to make us a success. I am guided by the wings of worker bees. You would be too!

Your Drone, Michael J Frey



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NJBA Winter Meeting Notes

The NJBA Winter Meeting was held in Hamilton on February 16. Landi Simone, Lucille Kudelko, Joe Lelinho and Joe Treimel attended. Landi and Lucille had a successful time selling Gooserock Farm's cosmetics to meeting participants.

Jeff Burd made a presentation on Farmland Assessment, which came out of the 1964 Farmland act which was written to help preserve farms in the state. Beekeepers can take a farmland assessment so long as they follow the rules. Primary rules include: Five acres must be devoted to agriculture or horticulture and must be owned by the person taking the farmland assessment. Land must be managed and not left fallow. For beekeepers, this would mean planting with any sort of plants which benefit the bees or are being raised for sale, as well as land occupied by the bees. If the landowner is taking a farmland assessment on property where you keep your bees, there must be a written agreement between the beekeeper and the landowner.

The next presentation was by the United States of America Honey Princess. Emily Campbell is from Minnesota and she told us about herself, how she got started with bees—it came out of a 4-H project—and her role as the nation's Honey Princess.

Tim Schuler made a presentation on the status of bee health in the state and about winter losses. He encouraged all members of NJBA to participate in the Winter Loss Survey which is sent out to all members via E-mail or which is found in the NJBA Newsletter.

Also, should you lose your bees over the winter and want them tested, a sample may be submitted to the NJ Dept. of Agriculture. The NJ Dept. of Agriculture has a downloadable form available on their site for use when submitting bees for testing for Nosema or Varroa Mites. For further information, contact Tim Schuler at tim.schuler@ag.state.nj.us.

Finally, NJBA elections were held and Janet Katz was elected as president.

Here are articles that I found about honey bees. Fran Szewc

Honeybee Deaths Linked to Corn Insecticides

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/technology/2012/03/honeybee-deaths-linked-to-corn-insecticides/>

EU proposes to ban insecticides linked to bee decline

Three neonicotinoids, the world's most widely used insecticides would be forbidden across the continent for two years

Neonicotinoids trade names

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/registration/reevaluation/chemicals/niclistofproducts.pdf>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/jan/31/eu-proposes-ban-insecticides-bee>



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Upcoming Events

March 12, 7:00 PM. ECBS March meeting at Garibaldi Hall, Essex County Environmental Center. Landi Simone will be speaking about Nucleus Hives.

April 9, 7:00 PM. ECBS April meeting at Garibaldi Hall, Essex County Environmental Center.

May: To be announced. Possible outdoor meeting.

March beekeeping.

This is the most likely time of the year for your bees to die from starvation, so don't neglect to check your hives for adequate food. Since they have begun raising brood, food will be consumed at a faster rate than during the earlier winter months. If you can easily lift your hive, it is likely empty of honey and needs immediate feeding.

If uncertain, you need to open the outer and inner covers to take a look. Do wear your veil and keep the inspection as short as possible. Bees may be fed with Fondant, Bee Candy, Dry sugar or frames of honey which must be placed next to the cluster. Be careful to not break up the cluster while inspecting the bees.

Bee Candy

At this time of the year, should you find you need to feed your bees, bee candy is an option. Last month's newsletter had a recipe for Fondant. Either work well, as they are low in moisture and can be placed directly on the top bars above the cluster. Remember, once you begin feeding bees, you must assure they have not consumed all the food given them, and you must continue to feed them until the Dandelions bloom.

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



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Archie Palmer, who has been a member of ECBS for at least two or three decades is offering used beekeeping equipment for sale. Archie and his wife Lynne are moving into a condo complex where beekeeping is not permitted. They will no longer be able to keep bees and store the needed equipment. This may be an opportunity to new beekeepers or not so new beekeepers wishing to add something to their equipment inventory.

I have lots of bee equipment to donate and/or sell to new beekeepers and/or established folk:
An almost complete set of *Gleanings* [now *Bee Culture*] dating back to 1976 – IF NOT CLAIMED, THEY WILL BE RECYCLED ON FRI 08 MAR

18 deeps assembled [plus more unassembled, in original packaging]
25 shallow supers – ditto
Frames galore = both deep and shallow – mostly drawn comb
6 frame-sized feeders

3 extractors
1 capping melter

8 60# plastic jugs [plus some in original packaging]
5 boxes of 4 5# jars
1 box of 12 2# jars
4 boxes of 12 1# jars
8 boxes of 24 ½# jars [a big mistake!]
100s of 12-ounce bears, some “mustard jars,” too
Lots of lids

2 25# boxes of sugar from Grant Stiles
Candle- and wax-trinket-making stuff
A two-foot bookshelf of useful literature: ABC & XYZ, etc.
450 wired [and unwired] sheets of shallow foundation

Miscellaneous smokers, veils, tools, medicine [mostly probably outdated], etc.

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