

# Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



**Edition:** May, 2013

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Place:** Garibaldi Hall, Essex  
County Environmental Center,  
621 Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland

**Subject:** Diseases in Bees

**Speaker:** Tim Schuler, NJ  
State Apiarist

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From the desk of the President, late April 2013.

This portends to be an invigorating message to our membership. I expect a large crowd of attendees at our May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to see, meet, and listen to our state apiarist, Tim Schuler. I begin with this because this is what our club is about. We exist for the free exchange of ideas and information on beekeeping. It can get no better than this.

The topic concerns diseases, etc. found in bees and beehives. Most of us have little or no experience with diseases or other maladies in our beekeeping experiences. Here is everyone's chance to learn. C'mon out.

I will make an appeal to those of considerate heart to adorn our table with any type of refreshment. I must say that I had tried to organize a committee on this to start the year. It did not take root as I had visualized, but I must admit that there have been a certain few who silently satisfy our membership needs in this regard. I want to thank you all for this.

Now, having said all this necessary 'stuff,' I think we may have some even more detailed information on the status of our state's bees in the aftermath of Tim's presentation. I, for one, have never been nervous about most details about the bees in the spring as they are survivors. But, this weather has been so cold and I cannot drop what I am doing on a dime to address them; so I anticipate looking at Armageddon as soon as we get a couple of nice days. In other words I have not reversed all of my hives in NJ yet. Yikes!

I also can share with any interested party a picture of the most beautiful black bear feasting on some of my Vermont hives just this week. I must thank the landowner for his game camera. It's not like I can just go there in 30 degree weather to deal with them either. VT is a different country too. Their bear season starts Sept 01 thru Nov 10.

Your faithful Drone,  
Michael J Frey



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"FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BEE CULTURE IN ESSEX COUNTY"



# Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



April 18, 2013

## Bee Alert!

The second spring is the big test for all new beekeepers. Everything comes together all at once, so it seems. The weather changes from being too cold to work the bees to then suddenly prime season wherein we find ourselves behind the 8 ball. We panic over the big unknown. I do! I just so happen to like pressure. Always keep in mind that the bees will correct most any mistake you make.

Reports are coming in about hive buildup. Time is of the essence to reverse the hive bodies if not already done. Even so, check your hives for heavy buildup of brood. There is no guarantee to prevent your hive from swarming by just simply reversing hive bodies. Swarming is natural. We try to minimize swarming for the sake of the public's lack of understanding about it.

My experience using deeps is such that a spring buildup of more than 4 or more deep frames of solid brood is the precursor of a swarm. There are other more advanced signs too. You will have a decision to make.

Mike Frey

## Late April / Early May Beekeeping

The dandelions are in bloom and with the weather warm enough for the bees to fly on most days, we should be beyond needing to feed our bees. With this unusually cool Spring, I was beginning to worry about the need to feed my bees one more time to assure they did not starve. All hives are building up and their nutritional needs are greatest at this time.

If not done already, inspect your hives, clean off the bottom boards, pull the inserts from the screened bottom boards if you use them, reverse the hives, and get honey supers on the hives.

Do watch out for Ticks! Landi and I have been finding quite a few on ourselves already.

If you are starting packages or nucleus hives, do keep feeding them until all the comb in at least two boxes is drawn out.

*Ed*

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## Here are 2 more sites about bee research

Frances Szweg, Tech Transfer  
908-218-8022

## RFID Tracking of Sublethal Effects of Two Neonicotinoid Insecticides on the Foraging Behavior of *Apis mellifera*

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0030023>

## Listening to bees buzz can help spot disease

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/beekeeping/9950045/Listening-to-bees-buzz-can-help-spot-disease.html>

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Dan and I have been hiking around the local trails the last few weekends in Switzerland. Yesterday we came across this brown trailer. It turns out it's a mobile bee hive house. I am not sure what it looks like on the inside, but it does appear to be a very secure way to keep hives out in the wilderness.

I was also unable to identify the bees, but I admit to not trying very hard, either :-)

Anyway, it is so different than what I'm used to I thought I'd share. I've seen these "bee huts" in many places, but this is the first time I've been able to get this close to one. And the bees sure were busy!

[http://dantesdame.smugmug.com/Hobbies/Basel/2013-04-21-Sissach/29022003\\_zdGW9c#!i=2468548677&k=8x9DKFJ](http://dantesdame.smugmug.com/Hobbies/Basel/2013-04-21-Sissach/29022003_zdGW9c#!i=2468548677&k=8x9DKFJ)

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