

# Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



Edition: May 2014

Next Meeting: June 10, 2014  
7:00 PM at Garibaldi Hall  
Essex County Environmental Center

Topic: To Be Announced

## Officers

President: Joe Treimel  
Newsletter Editor  
[Sailbeejoe@aol.com](mailto:Sailbeejoe@aol.com)  
973-865-9043

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

Past President: Mike Frey  
[michaelfrey@optonline.net](mailto:michaelfrey@optonline.net)

Treasurer: Michael Good  
[Mickat33@msn.com](mailto:Mickat33@msn.com)

Charles Sporn: Secretary

Education Minister: Landi Simone,  
[Landi.s@verizon.net](mailto:Landi.s@verizon.net)

Commercial Beekeeper Advisor:  
Grant Stiles

New Beekeeper Liaison: Fran Szwee  
[FSzwee@optonline.net](mailto:FSzwee@optonline.net)

Asst. Communicator-in-Chief:  
Graeme Morrisson,  
[grac@gtmorrison.net](mailto:grac@gtmorrison.net)

## President's Message

As we have all noticed, this year has been strange, to say the least. A late-ending winter and a cold, wet spring has gotten things off to a slow start, and created some problems for us. My three colonies had over-wintered and were looking good, until a month ago when I discovered them failing. Upon closer inspection, all three had European Foulbrood, something I cannot recall ever having in the past. But with wet weather and a constant wind blowing through the apiary probably were the cause. Other club members have also reported unusual occurrences, such as EFB, queen loss, and apparent swarming.

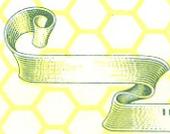
The blooming of most of our nectar sources has come late, with Black Locust and Black Cherry only appearing about one week ago. And the cool, cloudy and wet weather may have a negative effect on nectar collection for those hives with good populations. Hopefully our bees will surprise us.

I have been generally successful using one treatment for Varroa Mites in August, but current research supports two or even three treatments for mite suppression, in spring, summer and autumn. This again tightens up the time periods for having surplus honey supers on our hives, should we decide to go this route.

Purchasing package bees or nucleus hives can be an expensive proposition in comparison to the cost of mite treatments. Also, re-queening with New Jersey raised queens may also add an extra level of insurance to winter survival to our hives, so it needs to be considered before we find we have not planned for such and the summer is nearly over.

As for my trip to Honduras, the Dry Season was just ending, so there were very few flowers in bloom and no bees to be seen. I'm still curious to know if Africanized bees inhabit the region where I go to do volunteer medical work.

Regards to all, *Joe Treimel*



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## May Beekeeping

Keep feeding colonies which are drawing out comb, unless this will be for surplus honey.

Do inspect your bees every week or two, as this cool, wet spring has put stress on many hives. European Foulbrood will show yellowish, somewhat shrunken, limp, or coiled larvae, and diminishing hive population when it ought to be building up. Treatment is Terramycin. Do follow package instructions when using treatments on hives. More is not necessarily better, as it may injure your bees!

On a warm, sunny day, bring a lawn chair to your apiary and just sit there next to your hives with a book and your favorite drink, and enjoy God's gift to us: honeybees. I find it very relaxing.

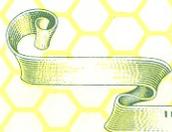
When inspecting your bees, do stick a finger into the honeycomb and have a taste. There is little better than this.

Have spare equipment ready, should you need to capture a swarm. If you're not ready for this, do notify the NJ Beekeepers organization ([NJBeekopers.org](http://NJBeekopers.org)) to report the swarm, that somebody might capture it.

Remember, we are farmers, as we keep livestock (bees). Undoubtedly, most of us already support environmentally sound practices. Don't be afraid to speak up and tell your family, neighbors and friends about things which help the bees and the environment.

Are you ready for a honey harvest? Before you know it, you will be taking honey off your hives. If you don't have an extractor, think about borrowing one from a club member (such as the ECBS president). Do you have a bottling tank and jars? You can borrow a bottling tank or buy one, but you definitely need to have the jars. You can re-use jelly jars and the like, but avoid jars which have had acidic substances in them or those which lids are retaining odors or stains from sauces or liquids which were in them. Mann Lake has a store over in Wilkes-Barre, PA, but it is a 2 hour drive there and I might suggest that shipping costs will be equal to or less than the cost of gasoline for driving out there to pick up jars. Of course, you might find some New Jersey beekeepers who sell jars.

Finally, the NJ Beekeepers Association is having its spring meeting on Saturday, May 31. Go to the [NJBeekopers.org](http://NJBeekopers.org) web page to see the agenda. I would suggest it especially for the new beekeepers.



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Black Locust



Tulip Poplar

If you are a new beekeeper or a beekeeper who needs assistance, do contact Fran Szwec, our club liaison for mentors and new beekeepers.

If you would like to be a mentor, do contact Fran.

If you would like to purchase Mite-Away-Quickstrips or Terramycin through the club, please contact Ron Jacobs at [rja8662745@aol.com](mailto:rja8662745@aol.com). It would be easier and cheaper than purchasing it from a catalog.

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