

# Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



Edition: November 2012  
Next Meeting: December, Date  
TBA  
Time: TBA

Place: Home of Fran Szvec,  
Boonton  
Subject: Christmas Party

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## A message from the desk of the President

I have decided to cancel any meeting this month for reasons that need not be explained. We all have experienced hardships of one type or another. I hope all of your bees are safe and ready for a normal winter.

I know of one individual from another club that had his 4 hives blown to the wind last week. I can vouch for tornado like devastation in West Jersey. Just incredible! We have been inconvenienced around here with isolated devastation. Our shore friends remain in turmoil.

Allow me to project some enthusiasm, hope, spirit into the upcoming season. Beekeeper Fran Szvec has offered to host a Christmas party this December. We will send out another message after Thanksgiving with the date and location. This will not be a planned business meeting.

An old timer once told me that Thanksgiving was the perfect time to relocate a hive within one's own yard. I've done it with success.

Happy beekeeping!!!

*Mike*

*Editor's Note: When moving a hive during cold weather, if you should bounce or jar the hive and the cluster breaks, bees unable to return to the cluster due to the cold—which makes them lethargic—will die.*



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"FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BEE CULTURE IN ESSEX COUNTY"



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## November Beekeeping

Feeding should have been completed by now on any hives which were not heavy enough at the end of the summer.

By now you should have taken off any extracting supers which sitting on top of your hive's inner cover. You can now safely store them at home, outside. Just protect them from the elements and from mice which may want to move inside. So, keep them off the ground and if you can, put them on top of a queen excluder or bee escape, or even a bottom board with a mouse guard. An outer cover on top with a brick or rock on top of that is sufficient.

If your hives have screened bottom boards, the inserts should have been put back in place. This will keep the cold air from blowing up into the hives.

Hives should be ready for winter, and this means putting a brick or rock on top to prevent the wind from blowing off the cover, should it get extremely windy. If it did not occur with Hurricane Sandy, then all is well.

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## Honey vinegar

Pour one gallon of boiling water over 4-1/2 pounds of honey in a clean crock. Stir to dissolve. Make a paste of one cake or package of yeast and a small amount of warm water. Spread this on a slice of toast, and float the toast on the liquid. Cover with cloth and let stand 16 days. Skim it, strain it, and let it stand another 4-6 weeks until it tastes like vinegar. Then bottle.

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## Upcoming Events

Nov. 13: ECBS Meeting is canceled. The next meeting of ECBS will be in December for a Christmas Party.

The original plan was for us to have a Honey Contest and Honey Sway. For those of you who are inexperienced with this, you simply bring your best jar of honey and enter it into a competition against other club members. The honey is classified by color, from Light to Dark Amber and your specimen competes against similar ones.

Entries must be in Queenline or Gamber Classic, one pound, glass honey jars with plain metal or plastic lids. Honey color will be graded by the show chairman and judged on density, absence of crystals, cleanliness, flavor, fill and container appearance.

Honey is classified by color: Light, Light Amber, Amber and Dark Amber.

This is also a good chance to exchange you honey with that of another member.



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