

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.

ECBS
PO Box 688
Roseland, NJ 07068

Edition: November

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 10
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Garibaldi Hall, Essex County
Environmental Center, Roseland

Topic: Varroa Mite Workshop
Speaker: Landi Simone

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President's Message

By now everybody should have their hives buttoned up for the winter and be thinking about other things, with the exception of giving honey for holiday gifts. I've moved on to pumpkins, raking leaves, and other odds and ends around the house, and I am sure many of you have finished closing your gardens or gotten out into the woods for some hunting or hiking.

As all farmers have variable outcomes from year to year, beekeepers are the same. This year was not good, but we keep at it and look forward to a better outcome next year.

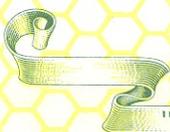
One of the things we also can do during our off-season, is prepare for next season. This take many forms, such as reading our journals and doing Internet research about beekeeping, repairing and preparing our equipment, inventorying our supplies and deciding what we will need for next year, and maybe taking an occasional peek under the outer cover to see what is going on through the hole in the hive's inner cover.

Our meeting on Tuesday will feature ECBS Master Beekeeper Landi Simone. She will be speaking on the topic of testing our bees for Varroa Mite Load and the various treatment methods to lessen these parasites' stress on our bees.

One of the methods used to test for mites is an Alcohol Wash. Unable to find any ready-made kits from the numerous beekeeping suppliers in the USA, I obtained a lot from Propolis-etc. of Canada. They had a booth at the EAS meeting in Guelph, which was how I came to know where to find this item. Price per item will be about \$18.

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday,

Joe Treimel, President



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"FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BEE CULTURE IN ESSEX COUNTY"



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VARROA WORKSHOP Tuesday November 10, Essex County Environmental Center, 621B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ Garibaldi Hall, 7pm.

Varroa mites are by far the greatest challenge facing honey bees and their keepers today. In this workshop, Master Beekeeper Landi Simone will discuss and demonstrate management and treatment techniques for keeping the mites in your hives below levels damaging to the bees. Topics to be covered include:

- Demonstration of how to check for mites using the alcohol wash technique.
- How many mites are okay?
- When should I treat?
- What are the treatment options? How effective are they? Which one should I use? Are some treatments better in different weather?
- How do I use the different treatments? We will demonstrate correct use of Apivar, MAQS, ApiLife VAR and Apiguard.
- How do I time treatments so I can still get a honey crop?
- How do I know if my treatment worked? And what do I do if it didn't work?
- What about "survivor" bees? Is it realistic to go without any treatments?

This workshop will give you a solid overview of the most important thing you can do to keep your bees healthy and thriving: control Varroa mites. The club has purchased Apivar, MAQS, ApiLife VAR and alcohol wash test kits in bulk and you will be able to buy these items at the meeting for less money than it would cost to get them on your own so bring your checkbook!

Winter Tips

Don't store empty honey supers on your hives. They may be stacked outdoors during the cold months without risk of Wax Moth damage. Just keep the bottoms secure to keep out mice, as they may make nests inside.

Don't store any frames with drawn comb indoors, as Wax Moth eggs will hatch and the larvae will ruin the comb.

Look at the book lists available in the beekeeping supply catalogs and get one for reading.

Make plans for the 2016 season. If you want to do something new, such as raise a few queens, read up on it, purchase the necessary equipment, and learn how to use it.