

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



ECBS
PO Box 688
Roseland, NJ 07068

Edition: November 2016

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 15
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Garibaldi Hall, Essex County
Environmental Center, 621B Eagle
Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

Topic: Review of Eastern Apiculture
Meeting by Joe Treimel

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Greetings to all:

Here we are in November, and yet to see frost, at least in my town. I recall as a youth seeing frost earlier in the fall over in Bergen County. Still, all my hives are ready to go for winter.

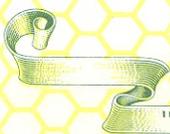
It was not the usual this year, as we had a very good start with regard to our honey harvest. However, once July arrived, we began to experience drought, which has persisted and has prevented the autumn nectar sources from producing. As a result, I found all my hives nearly empty, or empty of honey in the middle of September and had to feed them all to get their winter food stores up to sufficient weight. As you know, I work with Landi Simone and there was a minimal autumn honey crop when the expectation was for more than 1,000 pounds. Also, we had to heavily feed all the apiaries and used about three tons of sugar to make syrup, most of which was bucket fed, and some fed to individual hives using quail waterers set on the inner cover, and inside a deep box.

Also, the stress on the hives from the drought and lack of nectar may account for a few cases of “absconding” which were reported to me. This is something rare to hear about at this time of the year.

National elections are coming soon, and it is the reason we will have our meeting on November 15th instead of on November 8th. I would like you to consider looking at your local congressman’s voting record regarding environmental issues, as reelecting or rejecting a representative may impact beekeeping nationwide. For example, my representative has a long and consistent record of voting against environmental protection issues and would like to see the EPA closed. He consistently votes to lessen funding to the EPA. And for what it is worth, he also votes for measures that support the 1% while voting against measures which would support the average Americans, who are people like you and me.

Our future, our decision,

See you on November 15th. Joe Treimel



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November Beekeeping

Mouse Guards should be on all hives. I use ½” hardware cloth, and staple it across the entrance, but commercial mouse guards are also out there and used by many beekeepers. Hives should be heavy with honey. Since there was a poor nectar flow in August and September, sugar syrup should have substituted for this shortfall. For those hives going into winter without sufficient food, one will need to consider putting fondant or bee candy on the hives in January, or combining hives.

If a hive has a small population of bees, it must be combined with a strong hive or made into a nucleus hive to survive the winter. It will be easier for a small cluster of bees to stay warm in a nucleus hive than in a full sized hive. Remember, you can always make a split in the spring to make increase from hives that needed to be combined in the autumn.

Now that you have some spare time on your hands, straighten out all your equipment and bring inside things which need painting or repair, rather than leave them outside in the weather. Put them outside after painting them. Repair damaged equipment. Honey supers which were sitting on hives above the inner covers may now be stored outside between screened boards or queen excluders, with a cover on the top. You don't want to allow mice to get inside and make a nest.

Now is the time to collect pine needles for smoker fuel, as the trees are dropping them.

Set aside some honey for holiday gifts, and if you are willing, prepare some for the NJBA Honey Contest which is just three months away.



Students tasting honey from a frame at the West New York Middle School during a presentation on honeybees on November 1st.

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