

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.

Essex County Beekeepers Society
Founded 1921

Branch of the New Jersey
Beekeepers Association



Edition: September, 2012
Next Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 11
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Garibaldi Hall, Essex
County Environmental Center,
621 Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland
Subject: Mead & Wine Making:
Live Demonstration

Officers

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From the desk of the President:

Our September 11 meeting promises to offer a demonstration on Mead making! Be e there to learn more. We will also let you know of our schedule of events for the remainder of the year.

I will also be asking about any surplus of mites, wax moths or hive beetles! It does not take experience to witness the proliferation of these critters. I will entertain a few stories from the gallery or offer my own. We all have them. You are doing something right if they do not abound somewhere in your yard or equipment.

Believe this: the bees have maybe two more brood cycles till frost.

I want to prepare everyone for the Saturday, October 6th, venison roast / pizza party at member Bobby Konowich's house in Wayne, NJ. Bob has graciously offered his backyard for this social event. It features an outdoor stone pizza oven in which we will make homemade pizza. I have taken on the pressure of delivering fresh venison for hamburgers and some various cuts to BBQ. It is a BYOB event. We will be looking for an RSVP, spouses welcome. Participation is encouraged and anticipated. Bobby may not divulge this, but I can vouch that his July 4th party was a featured New Jersey event a few years ago.

Michael J Frey, President of ECBS, Lord of the Backstables, Groom of the Buckhounds, Archbishop of Tipitu and Lord High Everything Else.



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"FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BEE CULTURE IN ESSEX COUNTY"



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Upcoming Events

Sept. 11: ECBS Meeting at Garibaldi Hall with live demonstration of Mead & Wine Making by Joe Treimel & Mike Frey.

October 6: Outdoor meeting at home of Bobby Konowich in Wayne. Homemade Pizza and Venison Cook-Out.

November 13: "Honey Contest and Honey Swap." Show off your stuff and swap it with other members to get a taste of their honey & other things.

Early Autumn Beekeeping

By this time all Mite Treatments should have been removed from the hives. The ApiGuard Trays or MiteAway QuikStrips only will get in the way of the bees and if spacers were used (ApiGuard), they should be removed.

Hives should be checked—if not already done—to determine strength and honey stores. Landi & I have found queenless hives this late in the season, and if you should do so and are certain there is not a virgin queen in there (and we have found virgin queens as little as a week ago!), combine the hive with another. It is too late to try to rescue a hive at this time of the year. If a hive's population is low and not storing honey, consider killing the queen and combining the hive with another which needs bolstering. Do consolidate the equipment to three medium boxes, two deeps, or a similar combination.

While there is an apparent good nectar flow of Japanese Knotweed and Smartweed right now, if your bees are not near it and able to benefit from it, or if they are not already showing signs of adequate honey storage, you need to begin feeding sugar syrup. At this time of the year, a strong hive can easily take in over 4 gallons of syrup per week. Don't skimp or try to do it a quart or even a gallon at a time. It is better to spend \$10 or \$20 now for sugar to make syrup and feed a hive, than to have to purchase bees next year for \$125 because the hive starved during the winter.

Mouse Guards need to go onto your hives now, before the mice decide it is time to move in. I will bring some 1/2" hardware cloth to Tuesday's meeting for those who need some to make mouse guards.

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Japanese Knotweed (Above; also called Japanese Bamboo, although it is not really a bamboo plant). You will see a lot of this blooming alongside the highways and roads at this time of the year. Don't have any near your bees? Get a shovel & bucket and go dig some up from a local patch and replant it where desired.



Smartweed. This autumn nectar producing plant finds its home in swampy areas and even your yard. We see a lot of this along the Passaic River in Pine Brook.

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