

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



Edition: September, 2013
Next Meeting: Tuesday, 9/10
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Garibaldi Hall, Essex
County Environmental Center,
621 Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland
Subject: The Bears and the Bees
Speaker: Landi Simone

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From the Desk of the President,

I want to report a rather positive response so far of the action taken by the new committee on miticides. For the benefit of all we have a supply of apiguard packets and MAQS for purchase from the committee. The idea is to provide an amount needed by the backyard beekeeper that would avoid them from having to purchase a many year supply of such product. The committee is headed by Fran Szvec and Ron Jacobs. They are the ones to contact.

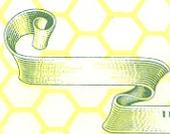
Having said this, I hope all beekeepers have treated their hives already. If not, there is still time to panic but even less time to treat. Treatments are hard on the bees and the queen needs a couple of brood cycles to recover. One should not presume there is no mite problem. One also should not decide to allow their bees to naturally survive this issue. The problem is not a natural occurrence to a European bee and the treatments that we promote are safe, if handled properly, and organic.

Don't count on a fall honey harvest either. There can be some surplus to be had and the beekeepers who are so lucky already know to expect it. For the newbie I am telling you it is a crapshoot. Feed your bees to the point they have at least 60 lbs. on top. Keep in mind that they will be eating a lot of honey from now until frost. This year I have seen bees on the verge of starvation this August in western New Jersey. Honey production mimics real estate, i.e. location, location, location. It is misleading to generalize. Yet, if you find that you need to feed the bees, it is best done now through September. One cannot predict the weather in October.

I will be away for two weeks from Aug 24 thru Sept 7. I will not be within reach for contact. See you all on Tuesday, September 10.

The Drone at your service,

Michael J Frey



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"FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BEE CULTURE IN ESSEX COUNTY"



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Hi, Beekeeping Friends,

I hope you will join us on the evening of September 10 for our regular monthly meeting where we will be discussing several topics:

* **ELECTRIC BEAR FENCES.** At this year's EAS, I presented a Powerpoint presentation describing, in detail, how I build my ³Fort Knox² (the NJDEP's Fish & Wildlife biologists' description) bear fences. If you think bears are not a problem in your area, think again! Not only is NJ the most densely populated state in the nation for humans, it also holds that title for black bears in the continental U.S. (Alaska is highest overall.) And fall is the time we get most of the bear attacks.

* **MITE TREATMENTS.** Note that even though we will be talking about this topic in September, you should be applying your mite treatments NOW and have all treatments on by the end of August! Follow package directions. We'll talk in detail about using Mite-Away Quick Strips and Apiguard at the September meeting and will also cover treatment of packages and nucleus colonies.

* **SKUNKS.** Ornerly bees? Bits of bees on the bottom board and in front of the hive? You might have a skunk. There are a couple of excellent ways to deal with these pesky critters, and we'll be talking about them too.

I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Landi Simone
EAS Certified Master Beekeeper
Gooserock Farm

Note from the Editor:

I recently rode my bicycle up to Maine and not only in New Jersey, but as far north as Maine I witnessed a bumper crop of Japanese Knotweed. As many of us know, this is an invasive plant which is very prolific and which will crowd out other plants. However, it does produce a dark honey which is of good flavor, and the bees not only like it, but it gives them an opportunity to lay up extra winter stores for themselves, and us.

Don't forget to remove Mite Treatments from the hives as soon as they are scheduled to be done and be sure your hives are ready to go into the winter. If they are light in weight, start feeding immediately with sugar syrup, as it is better to do this now while the weather is yet warm than when it gets cool and it becomes more difficult for the bees to dehydrate the syrup.

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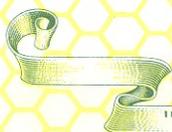


Honeybees taking advantage of the pollen and nectar from a lily flower in the yard of Joe Treimel's friend, Jim Thornton in Coos Bay, Oregon.

A screening of the film "More Than Honey" will be held at St. George's Episcopal Church (550 Ridgewood Rd; Maplewood, NJ; parking and entrance are behind the church) on Tuesday, October 8 at 7:30 PM. This event is open to the public. There is no admission fee, but donations will be accepted.

According to Kino Lorber, the producers of the film, "Over the past 15 years, numerous colonies of bees have been decimated throughout the world, but the causes of this disaster remain unknown. Depending on the world region, 50% to 90% of all local bees have disappeared, and this epidemic is still spreading from beehive to beehive – all over the planet. Everywhere, the same scenario is repeated: billions of bees leave their hives, never to return. No bodies are found in the immediate surroundings, and no visible predators can be located."

This documentary chronicles the international scope of this crises in a thorough and clear way. Ultimately this film is not just for beekeepers, but anyone concerned about the global impact and ripple effect on food production and distribution.



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