

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.

ECBS
PO Box 688
Roseland, NJ 07068

Edition: September 2017

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 12
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Garibaldi Hall, Essex County
Environmental Center, 621B Eagle
Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

Topic: Notes from the Eastern
Apiculture Society Conference; Fall
Preparation.
Speaker: Joe Treimel



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Greetings to all:

Starvation! Just eleven months ago we were faced with this problem during September, as the area had been experiencing drought. This summer has been the opposite for weather: very wet. And hive inspections in this are finding the bees in starvation mode. This may not hold true for those of you who started packages and nucleus hives and have been feeding them. However, for those of us who took honey from our production hives, these bees are likely the ones in trouble.

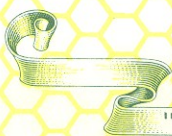
So, what does a starving colony look like? First of all, one will not find any honey, but pollen may be found. Secondly, there will be no brood to be found, as the queen has stopped laying and the bees may have cannibalized the brood. These colonies will appear queenless, as you will see no evidence of her. Hive populations may be low. You may even find a pile of dead bees outside the entrance, and in some cases, the hive may even have absconded or just died! The Japanese Knotweed is just starting to bloom, but if one waits to find out if it will provide food for our bees, it may be too late. Do get to your hives this weekend and be prepared to feed them. Sugar costs 56 cents a pound at Shop Rite. Bulk sugar costs 50 cents a pound from Stiles Apiaries in Fords, but they are only open Monday through Friday, and to save six cents a pound on a 50 pound sack of sugar, it may not be worth the trip.

What else?

The NJBA Picnic and Auction was a nice affair, and there were bargains to be had in the way of used equipment and wax foundation, and more.

ECBS had a Field Meeting with our State Beekeeping Inspector, Tim Schuler last Saturday, which provided another great opportunity for members to have their questions answered by an expert. We did some Alcohol Wash tests for Varroa Mites, and tried out a new device called Varroa EasyCheck. It sells for \$22.00. It leaked, and we found that we still needed another container into which to pour the alcohol while ridding it of mites and other debris. Also, reading the mite load was not quite as easy as using the current device available.

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As usual, the EAS Conference was worth the trip, and I will be sharing some of my notes with you at the September meeting.

So, where do we find ourselves now? Our bees should be starting to build up for the winter, but in the Morris County area we are finding them at the point of starvation. We need to be feeding our bees to insure that they have the necessary food to raise brood and begin putting up stores for the winter. The Goldenrod and Japanese Knotweed show promise, but if we wait, our bees may pay the price (and we will next year when we have to buy more of 'em).

Mite treatments should have been put on a month ago, but with no brood to be found in the hives, undoubtedly we will find mite loads of zero or close to it, as the bees have stopped raising brood.

Finally, I again appeal to the membership for topics for meetings and for presentations. ECBS is not a One-Man-Show and your suggestions are valuable. Feed your bees!

Joe Treimel, President



Goldenrod



Japanese Knotweed

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