

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



ECBS
PO Box 688
Roseland, NJ 07068

Edition: September, 2016

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 13
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Garibaldi Hall, Essex County
Environmental Center, 621B Eagle
Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

Topic: Reading the Frames
Speaker: Landi Simone

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September has arrived and I am still a resident of New Jersey. I've not yet sold my house, so I will still be around for a while. I hope all have had a successful honey harvest. From what I have seen and heard, honey harvests have been generally good for those who are practicing the good beekeeping management which we have been speaking about to you.

Of course, the best practices don't always mean success, and on Friday I visited one of our members who took 40 pounds of surplus honey from a hive started as a package, and which had another full medium box of honey waiting to be taken off, should she desire. However, next to that hive was another which had started off well, then seems to have gone queenless and at the same time was suffering from EFB. I'm not sure which happened first, but perhaps it was the Thymol treatment for mites which set off the problem, of just worsened it. It's sometimes difficult to tell just where problems begin, but vigilance and direct action are what will hopefully save this hive.

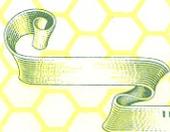
I had planned to have Ban Ang and Jim Cully speak about Mead Making at the September meeting, but decided to have Landi Simone give her presentation on "Reading the Frames" instead, since we will have time to look in our hives before winter, with this knowledge. Landi made this same presentation at the recent EAS Conference and it is well worth attending the meeting to see the PowerPoint pictures and hear what it all means. We will hear about Mead Making in November.

The Goldenrod and Japanese Knotweed (apologies to the Master Gardeners out there) are in full bloom and the bees are making the most of it. This is the time to make sure your bees are in good shape for the winter, as winter preparation really begins in late July or early August when Mite Treatments are done. Non-parasitized bees are the ones which will be the ones to over-winter, and right now they are being raised and are fattening up on pollen, which is something summer bees don't do. But this is what prepares their bodies for the winter. How can you spot a "fat bee"? Not sure. But you do want to see your hives full of bees and pollen and honey.

With more time on my hands, I have had the opportunity to visit and inspect a number of ECBS members' hives. I have enjoyed doing this.

Best regards, and I'll see you next week.

Joe Treimel, President



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This is a reminder to enter pictures of your 'gals' in the photo contest for the 2017 "A Year in New Jersey Beekeeping" calendar. We are looking for all kinds of photos that have to do with beekeeping: bees, beekeepers, equipment, extracting, hives, hives in winter, hives in summer, bees in nature...you get the idea. Keep your camera handy as you tend your bees and watch for them as they forage. Those photographers whose photos are selected for inclusion in the calendar will get a photo credit and a FREE calendar.

Photos should be in jpeg format, with a maximum file size of 5 MB, The larger the file, the better it will print if selected for the calendar. Please send photos to North West branch member Becky Wunderlich at Calendar@grafiks101.com. Please include your name and address. The deadline for submission of photos is September 5, 2016. Limit three photos per person please.

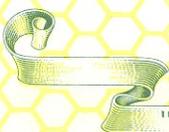
Ron Jacobs again has a complete supply of fresh Mitacide Treatments available. Do contact Ron if you are in need. He will also bring them to the meeting.

Make sure you have cut down the weeds around your hive entrances to allow the bees to get in and out unencumbered. It is nearly time to put on mouse guards, so don't get caught unprepared. When you put on the mouse guards, be sure to firmly affix them to the hive entrance, that they don't fall off and allow mice to get in and make a mess of things.

Local honey is now selling for \$8 to \$12 per pound. Don't be afraid to sell at these prices, as you have a local, healthy, unrefined product which is superior to the stuff for sale in the stores, which is heated and filtered and often imported. Tell your customers of the benefits of local honey.

If you have a weak hive, don't be afraid to kill the queen and combine the hive with a strong one. You can easily see poor brood patterns which tell you the queen is failing and this hive won't successfully over-winter. You can make a split next spring instead of buying a package or nucleus hive.

For those in need of supplies, it is a short drive down to Fords to get them from our local Mann Lake dealer, Grant Stiles at That Honey House. His information is on the NJBeekeepers.org web page.



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