

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



Edition: February, 2009

Next Meeting: March 10
Place: Environmental Center
Roseland
Subject: Splits & Nucs
Speaker: George Schaeffer of
Jean's Honey Farms, Flemington,
NJ

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President's Message

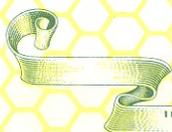
So, here we go, another year with all the potential of a brand new little baby. One of the great things about beekeeping is that one is always looking and planning ahead or, so it should be. Now, it's Mid Winter, snow's on the ground, the forecast is for even more snow, (maybe the big one), the temperature is below freezing, and, you say, "I have lots of time. I'll wait until it gets a little warmer!" Psst. Psst., Hate to wake you but, **SPRING IS COMING, THE SPRING IS COMING!!**

The time for resting is over, you want something to do, I'll tell you a few things to consider while you're counting snow flakes. How about nucs or packages for starters? This is the time of year to think ahead so order those nucs and packages. Are you planning on growing your bee business or staying put? Growing...Terrific! Staying put...Forget it! No such thing, my friend. All the hives you put to rest in the Fall will not necessarily come alive in the Spring. You know beekeeping and unfortunately, we haven't had a winning season in years, so plan ahead, order at least one and, better yet, more than one. If all your bees break out of the hives strong in the Spring, fine, then use the new package or nuc to strengthen a weaker hive, or start a new hive, or just sell it, but forget the staying put theory.

How about equipment? Do you have enough? Last year was a fabulous swarm year and, if you doubt me, ask Jimmy Coppola, he was busier than a flea on a fat lady. If you had an empty nuc the swarms were hanging out just waiting for you to come get them. Better yet, many of the swarms didn't even wait for you to collect them. If you had a spare empty nuc or even an empty hive with built out comb, the bees moved in, cleaned up and went to work, without help. I know, it happened to me more than once. I gained colonies while groovin' to some of my Donny and Marie tunes. Sweet!! In some cases the bees were mine but in other cases they may have been yours!

Don't forget you'll need pollen patties and sugar for early feeding. So much to do and, yes, so little time. As we look at the hives, they seem quiet, with the snow covering them, but they are alive, still in their winter cluster and, though they have never seen the Blue Spring Skies, warm days and early flowers of Spring, your "Little Winged People" are dreaming impatiently of what to do first. Surely they won't wait for us and, when the weather is right, you'll almost hear them screaming, "Ready or Not, Here We Come!!" Bee ready my friend!

Joe Lelinho



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"FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BEE CULTURE IN ESSEX COUNTY"



Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.

Club News

Pay your dues for 2009. Those who do not pay this month will not receive any further NJBA Newsletters until they do. A membership form is enclosed with an envelope to use to send dues to Joe Lelinho. A few members have already sent their dues. You know who you are.

We now have our own Web-site at <http://www.ecbs.njbeekeepers.org> Please acknowledge the great job our new member Pier Guidi has done.

ECBS is giving a Short Course on Beekeeping on February 21 & 28 at the Environmental Center, with an apiary visit in April for hands-on learning. See the information on this page if you would like to attend.

Beekeepers' Corner

At about this time of the year, the queen will begin laying eggs and the bees begin raising brood. This goes on in spite of the winter temperatures. This is the time of the year when your bees are at greatest risk of starving to death. This happens under two circumstances: They completely run out of food (Honey) or are unable to move the cluster to the remaining honey in the hive due to consistently cold weather.

About the middle of February, get out to your apiaries and lift each hive from behind. If it remains heavy, there is no problem. If a hive feels light, the bees are likely about out of honey and will need feeding immediately. As the bees produce moisture from metabolism of honey or sugar, you may feed the bees a candy made from sugar and corn syrup (recipe follows). You can simply place patties of the bee candy on the top bars, beneath the inner cover or pour cane sugar onto the inner cover next to the vent hole and hope the bees can get up to it or pour some sugar onto the top bars above the cluster. Lack of food is not an excuse for starvation. It is imperative that the beekeeper to attend to a lightweight colony immediately. Once you begin feeding, continue until nectar is available!

Short Course on Beekeeping

Short Course on Beekeeping - Offered by the Essex County Beekeepers Society, a branch of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association (NJBA), this course for new beekeepers, or those needing a refresher, will be held on two consecutive Saturdays, **February 21 and 28, 2009**, with a Field Day in **April, 2009** to permit hands-on practice. The course covers a full year of beekeeping, including purchasing and assembling equipment, harvesting, extracting, and bottling honey. Basics of disease and mite control are also covered. The fee is \$70 per person and includes NJBA membership for 2009, a continental breakfast and an afternoon snack

Classroom sessions will be held in Garibaldi Hall at the Essex County Environmental Center, Roseland, NJ from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Topics

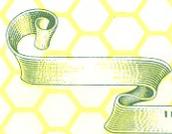
1. Bee Biology
2. Equipment
3. Seasonal Management and IPM
4. Pests and Diseases
5. Harvest
6. Resources for Beekeepers

For more information and to register, contact Joe Treimel at Joe_Treimel@Yahoo.com or 973-865-9043. Also, scholarships are available. For scholarship information, contact Joe Treimel.

Bee Candy

15 pounds cane sugar
3 pounds white corn syrup
4 cups water
1/2 Tsp Cream of Tartar

Dissolve the sugar and corn syrup and cream of tartar in the water by stirring and boiling until the temperature reaches 240 degrees Fahrenheit. Turn off the heat and let the syrup cool to 180—200 degrees, then beat until thick. Pour syrup into molds lined with waxed paper. Molds may be any sort of pan with a raised edge, and cookie pans work well. Spraying the pans with PAM works just as well as using waxed paper. Once the pans cool, turn them over and the candy will fall out.



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Annual Honey Show

Now's your chance to show off your hard work and make an entry (or entries) in the NJBA Annual Honey Show! It's very easy to prepare entries, and you have the chance of not only winning a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place ribbon in any one of 20 classes, but also rosettes in Best of Division in six divisions (Extracted Honey, Honey Comb & Spreads, Mead, Beeswax, Cosmetics and Photography). There are also rosettes for Best of Show (based on a single entry) and Best Exhibitor (based on accumulation of points for all an exhibitor's entries). There are cash prizes too!

You can give your entries to any attending member of the Executive Board prior to their meeting on Friday, February 6, 2009 in Trenton. ECBS contact is Landi Simone; beelady@optonline.net; 973-263-0674.

Judging will be on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cherry Hill in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Annual Convention. The judge this year will be Dean Burroughs. Dean is an Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) certified Master Beekeeper who hails from Salisbury, Maryland. He is a full-time beekeeper with hives for pollination and honey production.

I encourage everyone who has three pounds of honey from the 2008 season laying around the house to put together three glass queenline, one-pound jars, slap a label on them and get them entered. Basically, if the jars and lids are clean, they're filled uniformly and you can't see air between the honey and the lid, there's as little foam as possible and you don't have any bee parts, wax, grass, etc. floating around in it, you've got a chance to take home a ribbon, a rosette and some cash (well a check anyway).

Links to the complete rules and the entry form and blank score sheets are available on the website at <http://www.njbeekeepers.org/Annual%20Honey%20Show.htm>

Entries that win 1st place are auctioned to NJBA members as a fundraiser at the NJBA Winter Meeting which will be held on Saturday, February 14, 2009. This meeting is where you pick up your entries, judging sheets, ribbons and prize money. If you don't plan to attend, please arrange to have someone in attendance pick up your entries.

NJBA Winter Meeting

February 14, 2009: 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM.

The NJBA Winter Meeting will be held at the New Jersey Museum of Agriculture, North Brunswick, NJ. The meeting will start with registration, followed by a business meeting (with voting on bylaw amendments--see your current state newsletter), speaker and lunch. Featured speaker will be [Kirk Webster](#) of Champlain Valley Bees and Queens. Located in Middlebury, VT, Webster has focused on producing hardy, northern-bred bees resistant to mites, eschewing chemical mite controls since 2002. The first place and division winners of the Annual Honey Show will be auctioned to the highest bidders. Cost is **\$22 in advance** per person 12 years and older for members (**\$25 at the door**). Cost for non-members 12 years and older is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Children and students are \$12 each. RSVP to [Curtis Crowell](#) by February 8, 2009 (609 651-4585). Make checks payable to NJBA and mail to Curtis at 152 Broad Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520.

The New Jersey Museum of Agriculture is located at Route 1 and College Farm Road, North Brunswick.

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Winter Bees

Bees flying on a warm day in February, 2008

Dear Beekeeper,

As you are probably aware by now, the British (BBKA) Beekeepers Association has an agreement with certain pesticide manufacturers to endorse some of their products as “bee friendly,” despite the fact that they are known to be toxic to bees. They have also failed to make any statement condemning the now widespread use of neonicotinoid pesticides, despite the proven fact that they caused the death of millions of bees in Germany this year and have done so in Italy and France since the turn of the century.

When making statements to the press the BBKA seems very reluctant to even mention pesticides as a possible cause of problems to bees, despite massive European evidence to the contrary. BBKA secretary Mike Harris was quoted recently in the Yorkshire Post as saying”...Colony collapse Disorder was caused by the varroa parasite. Pesticides were a separate problem...”

Many beekeepers consider the financial relationship with Bayer and Syngenta effectively prevents them from fulfilling their prime function as guardians of the interests of bees and beekeeping.

Now the BBKA appears to be planning to extend its endorsement of bee-killing pesticides, by becoming a rubber-stamping body for Bayer, with no requirement for independent testing—merely a review of the manufacturer’s own data.

Considering that complete severance of financial ties to pesticide manufacturers could be replaced by only a one Pound increase in membership fees, it seems remarkable that a national body claiming to act in the best interests of its membership would compromise their integrity so readily and so cheaply.

Bayer is one of the most untrustworthy corporations on the planet, with a record that would shame the most hardened criminal, yet one of the oldest and once respected beekeepers organizations thinks that “taking their word for it” is an acceptable way to assess Bayer's toxic products.

And just to be fair, my email address is:
phil@bilbees.com.

Phil Chandler

www.biobees.com

Also see: <http://www.bayer-kills-bees.com>

<http://www.britishbeekeeping.com>

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