

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



Edition: October, 2009
Next Meeting: October 13,
Tuesday
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Essex County
Environmental Center, Eagle
Rock Ave., Roseland
Subject: Making Mead
Speaker: Jay DeSimone

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Note from the President:

City of the Bees

By

Frank S. Stuart

Approximately eleven years ago I was given two books, the first was a honeybee reference book titled, "The Hive and the Honeybee." I'm sure many of you are familiar with this book as it's a standard of reference for any and all beekeepers and has been for many years. Upon receiving it I began to refer to it regularly as questions grew in my beekeeping experience and, it was quite helpful. The other book I was given was a "story" book and after reading a few pages I put it down and never picked it up again for a good number of years. You see, I was interested in the facts, not a story, and "The Hive and the Honeybee" had all the facts that I required.

After having four years of keeping bees under my belt, I decided to take another look at the other book, the story book. I picked it up and began to read and, to my surprise, I found it very interesting. Actually, I became entranced with this story for I could see it was much different from any of the other books on honeybees that I had ever read. You see, all the other bee books neatly gave all the facts and figures from the standpoint of man, looking down through a microscope, at the honeybee. The honeybee seemed to be presented as no different from any other crawling and flying insect, yet I knew differently from the short time I'd enjoyed keeping these little wonder-bees.

*The author, Frank S. Stuart, has managed to, in a different way, focus on the honeybee, **not as man sees the honeybee but as the honeybee sees man.** The book itself was written way back in 1947 and I believe took place in the United Kingdom. Still, many of the problems of the bee are still with us today, along with the amazing inner workings of the hive itself. With that in mind we hope you'll read this book as it's presented in the newsletter and on the website, maybe not every chapter, but some. I think you'll find a different perspective on the honeybee's world and understand them like never before!*

The Executive Board of ECBS also hopes you enjoy this book and, if you do, please let us know, for that's our only way of knowing if we should continue or should discontinue this effort. We will begin each monthly

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newsletter with a segment of the book, the balance of which will carry over to the website for the remainder of the reading. I wish to thank Pier Guidi for his tireless investigative work that has brought us to this point and for scanning of the pages so we don't need to type them. Also, thanks to our Executive Board for their wisdom and forward thinking in doing this in the best possible way. And, of course, there would be no book without the author, Frank S. Stuart, a fellow beekeeper and, as I see it, a translator of the honeybee and it's world into a language we all can understand, appreciate and explain to those unfortunate souls who just don't know.
Joe Lelinho

Club News

**New Jersey Beekeepers Association
Fall Meeting - October 10, 2009
Rutgers EcoComplex, Bordentown, NJ**

The fee for this meeting will be \$22 at the door. Reservations can be made by calling Curtis Crowell at 609-651-4585.

Associate Professor Nick Calderone of Cornell University's Department of Entomology will speak on Varroa Management and control of American Foul Brood. He will also address, if time permits, quality parameters to examine in local queen breeding programs.

Mouse guards should be on your hives now, as mice will move in as the weather gets cold. Use 3/8" or 1/2" hardware cloth, which you can purchase at your local hardware store and cut to fit with a tin snips. Staple or nail this across the entrance.

Fall feeding should be finishing up about now. Be sure all your hives are heavy when you lift them from the back. It is cheaper to feed bees now than replace them next spring.

Now is the time for collecting pine needles to use in your smoker. Old five-gallon buckets work well for collection and storage and for carrying the pine needles with you to your apiary.

CHAPTER ONE

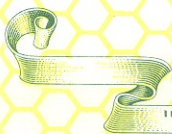
Gold-dust Ballerina

INTO *the air!* The bee shot up into the glowing sky, unable to beat her wings fast enough to ease the rapture of her being. Sixteen thousand times a minute, the tiny silver pinions beat the air-but this was not enough. For she had never known, and would never know, the sadness of winter.

Even the primrose and the daffodil have memories of cold silences. The nightingale cannot sing until the glory of her voice is rounded by the wistful knowledge that summer dies.

But this bee had been born on a day when Persephone stole back from Hades, smiling so that black trees, gray grass and ruffled birds stirred like sleepers kissed. To begin on such a day is to enter life with warmth that never ebbs, but throws its own sunshine outwards from within.

Not merely would she never know of winter-she would never see a world beyond the summer solstice, sorrowfully declining into cold, darkness and decay. Life, to her, was a lovely procession of increasing summer days always growing more beautiful. Each one was longer than the last, warmer and bluer; each night shorter and more genial; more flowers and more crowded the meadows and the hedges; the air became more sweet, and felt warmer and still warmer-like a lover's caresses; the birds were more voluble and ever happier; day by day, the earth more dearly unfolded its loving to exhibit new beauties to excite and new experiences to content. Perhaps Heaven is like that, with new loveliness disclosing and increasing for ever, and never a midsummer day to mark the tragic point of no return.



FOUNDED 1921

"FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BEE CULTURE IN ESSEX COUNTY"

