

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



Guidelines for Participants in Managed Apiary & Training Yard KIP's CASTLE PARK, 22 Crestmont Road, Verona, New Jersey (DRAFT – March 2009)

We are pleased to announce a joint effort between Essex County Parks, Daniel K. Salvante, Director, and Essex County Beekeepers Society. This effort allows ECBS the opportunity to offer to its Short Course Graduates the ability to complete their study of honeybees in a Managed Apiary Site along with fellow graduates and experienced beekeepers to guide them. The apiaries will be situated on county property or green areas that are made available through Essex County Parks.

The apiary site's primary purpose will be as a Training Yard, for lack of a better name, to be set aside for instructing New B's in the actual hands on of all aspects of keeping honeybees. This field instruction will in no way supplant the Short Course, to the contrary, in order to be considered for the Training Field you will have had to successfully complete the Short Course and, additionally, acquired equipment and bees. This opportunity will begin once your bees are purchased, usually in April or May, and run through September of that year. This will only be available for one "Beekeeping Year" and, more specifically, your first year. After the "Beekeeping Year" is complete you will need to move your bees to your own site to winter over so as to make room for next year's new class of graduates.

During the year, we will hold scheduled and supervised classes in the apiary to instruct on topics which are pertinent to the beekeepers' year. We will show how to correctly install a package or a nuc, how to feed your new bees, how to make correct hive manipulations as the bees build out the hive, how to add new levels as the hives grow upward, swarm warnings and their control, honey extraction, disease and pest controls and, finally, how to prepare a hive to be moved and how to move that hive to your own Apiary.

Of course, when we have the general public in close proximity to our honeybee colonies safety is our paramount concern. Therefore, guidelines for the use of the Training Field must be adhered to by all resident beekeepers. Some of the guidelines are as follows:

Park hours and rules must be adhered to.

Under no circumstances can a beekeeper "work" his/her bees without the supervision of approved instructors.

During scheduled instructional work days, you can only work your own colony and may not work another's, even if the owner approves of it.

Use of any chemical or pesticide is prohibited, except those that are approved and used in accordance with instruction from an approved instructor.

For the safety of the other resident colonies, any hive at any time can be inspected by an approved instructor (s) or State Bee Inspector.

At a date so designated, all colonies must be moved to the resident beekeeper's permanent site.

Hives that are deemed diseased with American Foul Brood, European Foul Brood or in any way unmanaged may be required to be removed for the safety and health of other resident colonies.

**** Any of the following is considered Working the Hive:** Lifting the telescopic top, installing feed or moving your colony in any way will constitute "working" your bees and is prohibited without supervision.

*Web editor's note: This program came about through the personal efforts of Joe Lelinho.
Announced in the ECBS Newsletter – March, 2009.*