

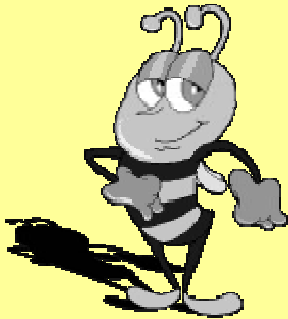
MC Beekeepers Assn.

November 19, 2004

Volume 10, Issue 4

Officers:

- Barbara A. Sutton, President
13 Valley View Road
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908 879-6798
- Janet A. Katz, Sec'y/Treasurer
460 Old Route 24
Chester, NJ 07930-2903
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2004 Meeting Schedule:
December 5, 2004
Annual Holiday Party

Bees have been producing honey for at least **150 million years**.

In the cold winter months, bees will leave the hive only to take a short **cleansing flight**.

It takes about **60 pounds of honey** to provide enough energy for a colony of bees to survive the NJ winter.

In the 15th century, honey was known as "**the soul of flowers**".

A worker bee makes only about **1/12 teaspoon** of honey in its lifetime.

"I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree, And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made: Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee, And live alone in the bee-loud glade." William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)

Holiday Party, Sunday Dec. 5th, 2004

Our annual Holiday Party is almost upon us. So please fill out the last page and get it back to me, Janet A. Katz, with your check as soon as possible.

The cost is \$10 per person. As usual, the club's treasury will subsidize the brunch paying the balance of the meal, taxes and gratuities. I can't remember the particulars of the menu, but there is a cash bar. What I can assure everyone is, **WE WILL HAVE OUR OWN ROOM**. I am also warning everyone, if there are complaints this year, take them to someone other than the Secretary/Treasurer. If you insist on complaining to the Secretary/Treasurer, you will automatically become President of the Morris County Beekeepers Association for the next two years.

There is a form attached to this newsletter for you to complete and send to Janet A. Katz. Mark your calendar now before some party or appointment of lesser note appears.

The party will be at the Lamplighter, 190 North Road (also known as Old Route 24 or County Route 513), Chester, NJ. 908 879-4080.

Driving West on North Road

(24/510) from the center of Chester, the Lamplighter is on your right just before you reach the library and Chubb Park. From the East, it will be on your left just past Alstede's farm stand and Chubb Park.

Please call the Katz' at 908-879-4377 by December 1st (or as soon as you receive this newsletter, whichever comes first!) to confirm your attendance and the number of people in your group.

Officers Needed

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, please consider volunteering to be an officer. Alternatively, just offer to plan one meeting! I need a little help for 2005!!!

Mildred Holick Placko

Longstanding member, Mildred Placko, 87, passed away on Oct. 28, 2004. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, John, a son, Gary J., two daughters, Diane Gallo-way and Judith Davies, 8 grandchildren and four great-grand-children.

We'll miss her ready smile at meetings.

Dues & Magazines

It's that time of year again—time to send in your dues for 2005! Save a stamp and send them with your party RSVP.

Family	\$20.00
Individual	\$15.00
Junior	\$8.00

Another benefit of membership is the reduced rates we receive for magazines. These include '**The Speedy Bee**', Box 998, Jessup, GA 31545, 1 year, \$13.25; '**American**

Bee Journal', 51 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341, 1 year, \$15.70; and '**Bee Culture**', P.O. Box 706, Medina, OH 44258-0706, 1 year, \$17.

Use the form on the back of your state newsletter to order, or send Janet Katz a check payable to the MCBA.

If you were not receiving state newsletters in 2004, let me know when you renew for 2005 and I will work to correct that.



Two Excellent Meetings in September and October

We had two excellent meetings this fall. First, was the hive opening at the home of Jan and John Geismar on September 18th. The second was at the MiniMac Diner in Chester, where we all learned how to reduce stress on our bees from Mike Stanghellini of Rutgers.

After tiring of winter losses, Geismar built a “bee house” for his hives. The floor and ceiling are insulated and the ceiling props open for ventilation in the summer. Fellow member and next door neighbor, Bert Herd, who has had a bear problem, is also housing his bees there. There is a total of five hives going into the winter. Geismar is happy with the “bee house”. He has used screened bottom boards and no medication for the past three years.

Despite the overcast and somewhat cool weather, we were able to open and inspect a hive. There were some bees flying, and Geismar has the entrances to the hives marked with different colored shapes to assist the bees in finding their particular opening.

After the hive inspection, we repaired to the Geismar’s kitchen and discussed equipment...with John Geismar sharing his design for a screened bottom board. Kim Lampe volunteered to be First Vice President if there is no one else (there were plenty of witnesses at the meeting, so you’re stuck, Kim), and Joan Lisi gave a very informative report on an organic beekeeping workshop that she took sponsored by the Pfeiffer Center in Chestnut Ridge, NY, presented by Gunther Hauk (<http://www.pfeiffercenter.org/>).

The workshop includes hands-on experience and will be offered again April 2005. Their website offered the description: “In this workshop we will look at the bee colony as an organism and what it needs in order to further its health and vitality. Lots of practical advice and demonstrations will give novices enough information to get

started with their own hive, and encourage experienced beekeepers to adopt organic procedure.”

Joan spoke about formic acid and lactic acid treatments providing copies of printouts complete with suppliers, prices and formulas worked out by her husband, a chemical engineer.

Mike Stanghellini’s slide presentation and talk on the stresses that we, as beekeepers, inflict on our honeybees and how we can minimize the stress was very informative. Of the 16

identified sources of stress, beekeepers are the worst. Opening the hive too often is a big “stresser”. In addition to Mike’s stress presentation, he updated us on current research at Rutgers and answered questions from everyone. We all learned something. I got the answer to my question about monitoring varroa mite fall: if you get a count of 50 mites or more on a white sticky board in a 24-hour period in July/August, you need to treat. Mike is supposed to provide me with a copy of his presentation on a CD-ROM so I can put it into a format to provide copies.



Above, John Geismar opens one of his hives inside his bee house while members Estelle D’Costa, Joan Lisi, John Placko and Kim Lampe watch. Below, Mike Stanghellini shows off his fine MCBA embroidered cap and Kim Lampe, right, shows off her first ever jar of honey!





**2004
MORRIS COUNTY BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
HOLIDAY PARTY**

DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

TIME: NOON

PLACE: THE LAMPLIGHTER

190 OLD ROUTE 24

CHESTER

- COST: \$10 PER PERSON
- BRUNCH
- CASH BAR

- PLEASE BRING A #1 JAR OF YOUR HONEY TO SWAP

NAME (S) _____



**PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
'MORRIS COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION'.**

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING: _____ AT \$10.00 EACH = \$ _____

CUT AND MAIL CHECK WITH FORM BY DECEMBER 1, 2004 TO:

Janet A. Katz
460 OLD ROUTE 24
CHESTER, NJ 07930-2903

