

New Jersey Beekeeping Association
State Meeting Minutes
June 7th, 2008
Snyder Research Farm Pittstown, NJ

Hosted by the Northwest Branch - NJBA

meeting called to order at about 9:30 by President Pete Leighton

Secretary: There was a motion to accept the previous minutes as published on the website, which passed.

Treasurer's Report: read and approved: Total Assets: \$16,933 Jersey Fresh Grant for this year was \$2,000 – twice the prior year's amount. Mailing cost has gone up for the newsletter. Additionally, Rutgers donated \$2,500 to the NJBA on behalf of the efforts of Tim Schuler and Bob Hughes in support of the Rutgers Short course.

State Bee Inspector's Report: Tim Schuler, who started August 20th as State Apiarist, reported that Bob Hughes was now working as a part time bee inspector, to be joined possibly by Frank Wooden. Much of Tim's efforts have been focused on the short course and the Beginner Beekeeping program, with 98 people signed up and 70 people eligible for state grant program. Generally those people who followed directions had bees that were doing well. There was a second course as well, and there is a third course in the end of October. This winter there is a plan to develop a more advance beekeeping course.

This past winter Tim did an American Foulbrood workshop in each of the branches, and beekeepers are now more aware of AFB than in the past. There were infections recently in Hillsborough and Point Pleasant. Bees coming in for pollination this year looked very strong.

The State's database for beekeepers and inspection reports has been revised and is now being updated. Beekeepers are reminded to register their overwintering locations.

Tim recommended that anyone buying bees from someone else request a free inspection by Tim or another inspector. Inspection certificates are also needed for bees moving into or out of New Jersey.

Tim's daughter is the Honey Queen this year- contact Tim if you want to schedule an appearance at a local event.

Tim also reported that there is forward movement on the issue of Farmland Assessment to revise the current standards.

Pete pointed out that a short course student donated \$200 in the names of Tim Schuler and Bob Hughes, for short course scholarships.

Dave Peregmon – Eastern Apicultural Society: The conference this year will be in Kentucky. Landi and Dave both praised the EAS meetings and the presentations offered that cover current research that is of much practical importance to beekeepers.

Maarec: Joe Lelinho reported on the March 5th meeting in Beltsville Md, A nectar flow monitoring program is underway to collect and compile information about nectar flows. Information is available on the Maarec website. State inspectors reported on nectar flows during the prior Fall, and gave varying reports on winter mortality. Many students are taking short courses in some of the states that participate in Maarec. Efforts are being considered to highlight the contribution of honey bees to crops in each of the states in the consortium.

Seth Belson – Publicity: Seth reported on the lobbying effort on behalf of the NJ Department of Agriculture. He encourages members to send letters advocating the continuation of the Ag. Department. Sample letters are available on the website. He suggested that the possibly elimination of the State Beekeeper position would endanger bees in New Jersey. Personal contact with your local representatives also goes a long way in expressing our support for the NJDA.

Website: Janet Katz wasn't present, but Pete reminded members that there is a swarm contact list that has yielded many calls for our members. Seth pointed out that this is a valuable service to NJ residents, and profitable for beekeepers as well.

Honey Board: Stan Wasitowski reported that the Honey Board will be eliminated and replaced with a Honey Packers Board. The penny a pound assessment will continue, but there will be a new Board with only 3 honey producers. Stan reported that the Honey Board successfully promoted honey consumption during its existence, and he was thanked for all of his efforts in the past representing New Jersey on the Board.

David Gilley, a visiting professor from William Patterson, said that he is interested in doing some bee research during the summer, and may be addressing our group in the future. He has worked with Tom Seeley in Ithaca on bee and might be available to address our membership at local events during the year.

New Business: Charles Isley suggested a new committee be formed to facilitate sign-ups of new members to ensure that their membership information is efficiently passed up to the state organization. Pete suggested that Charles could be free to enlist the help of others to look into streamlining the process. Landi said that her branch sends out self-addressed envelopes for dues renewals every year, which has improved the process considerably.

Membership: as of today the total membership was 518.

Public Relations: Tom Fuscaldo has a handout that he uses to explain to people the significance and beauty of honey bee swarms. Tom also suggested that we could be more aggressive about recommending other departments in New Jersey that could be eliminated before the NJDA that are much more wasteful and would not be missed.