
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION

N



NEWS

VOL 16 ISSUE 6

OCT / NOV 2002

1902 - 2002 100 Years of Beekeeping in New Jersey

The Big 100

The picnic came, the picnic went and is now history. What a great day, what a great turnout. I understand that 150 plus people attended which was the largest group ever at my place. The auction went very well and I am sure Landi Simone our treasurer will fill you in with the details.

I would like to apologize to those that I didn't get a chance to say hello to, it was a very busy day for me. I would also like to let all of you know that the picnic would not have been what it was had it not been for the help of Patti & Tim Schuler, Barbara & Pat Ricci, Cathy & Ken Ardnoiz, Bea & Jake Matthenius, Sandra & Medhat Nasar and of course my family who always supports me, my wife Joan, daughter Joyce and my two grandsons, Joe and Daniel (the golf cart drivers). If I missed anyone, I do apologize; again it was a very busy day.

Now for the bad news... **Our Oct. 4th & 5th events have been canceled.** Just pure and simply put... lack of interest.

To take its place we will have a one day affair planned at Chatsworth. (see details on page 13 of this newsletter.)

For those people coming from my area and north, you can park at my house and we will provide bus transportation to Chatsworth and back. The bus will leave my house at 8:00 am SHARP.

The cost of the event is \$14 per person. Last but not least, I must know by October 2nd the number of people attending, so that we have enough donuts and lunch for everyone.

Thanks and hope to see you all there.

Bob Hughes

House Panel Restores Bee Lab Funds

The House Appropriations Committee has voted to maintain the current level of funding for the four USDA-ARS honey Bee Research Labs, rejecting a Bush Administration move to slash federal beekeeping research.

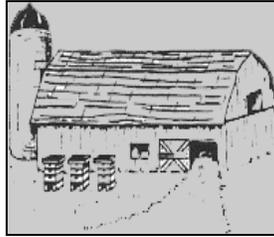
In a July 11 vote, the Appropriations Committee endorsed the recommendations of its Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee, which had earlier decided to keep all four labs open, rather than close the labs in Beltsville, MD; Baton Rouge, LA; and Tucson, AZ, leaving only the Weslaco,

TX, lab open. The budget plan was to cut the authorized research scientist positions from 21 to 9, and eliminate more than 50% of the funding, leaving only \$2.5 million rather than the current

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From mishap to hope

In a a very nice article published in a 2001 issue of *Bee World* (<http://www.ent.uga.edu/bees/Disorders/guest.htm>), Professor Delaplane, tell us the story of the *Varroa* identification mishaps that took everybody by surprise, and which in the end might bring us closer the solution to mite riddle.

As it turns out , *Varroa jacobsoni* , which for years was thought to be the beekeeper's worst nightmare, is a mite that affects only *Apis cerana*, an Asian bee, and that is relatively innocuous for our honey bee, *Apis mellifera*. *V. jacobsoni* was identified by Oudemans with mites sent to him from the Indonesian island of Java in 1904. He named it *Varroa jacobsoni* after its collector, E. Jacobson.

During the 1990's Anderson and Trueman found the real culprit that was affecting beekeepers all over the world. Professor Delaplane writes "...they named it, in a glorious flourish of melodrama appropriate in this case, and all too rare in the stuffy halls of academe - *Varroa destructor*. Let your tongue roll on that one..."

Delaplane explains that from a beekeeping perspective all this identification mishap would not be such a big deal, "... were it not for one more realization: of the 20 known genotypes of *Varroa*, only three are known to infest colonies of *Apis mellifera*. One of these, the Javanese strain of *V. jacobsoni* described by Oudemans, can enter brood cells of *A. mellifera* but cannot reproduce there. Only the Korea and the Japan/Thailand genotypes of *V. destructor* can reproduce in colonies of *Apis mellifera*. Put another way, *Apis mellifera* is 100% resistant to 90% of the known *Varroa* genotypes. Identifying and

manipulating the factors that confer this resistance would enable apiculturists to provide resistance to the remaining 10%. These resistance factors are at least partially under genetic control and respond to selection. Most recently, John Harbo and Jeff Harris have demonstrated that *Varroa* nonreproduction is a heritable trait in North American *A. mellifera* (Journal of Economic Entomology 92: 261-265.) Queens selected for this trait are now available commercially from a number of bee breeders in the United States."

In what I take to be a hopeful appeal to reason and a bet to the fact that the solution to the *Varroa* riddle does not hide in the continued use of heavy duty pesticides, Professor Delaplane implies that no other *Varroa* control measure holds more promise for rendering this mite innocuous than the identification and manipulation of the genetic traits in *Apis mellifera*. This, as integral part of sound IPM practices will in the end be the silver bullet.

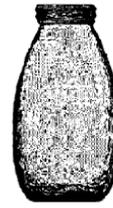
Already in an earlier article, *Producing Varroa-tolerant Honey Bees from Locally Adapted Stock: A Recipe**, by E.H. Erickson, L.H. Hines, and A.H. Atmowidjojo, (<http://gears.tucson.ars.ag.gov/publ/tolerant2.html>), the authors summarize that perhaps some 30% of hives in most apiaries are already resistant to mites. And that "...we have found that producing *Varroa*-tolerant honey bees is relatively simple and straight forward. It may not work equally well in your area, but this should be tested. Our concept is based on fundamental biological principles and beekeeping basics. Utilizing locally adapted stock ensures that your colonies will be most prolific and productive. Grafting and

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\$5.7 million.

“We are grateful to the House Appropriations Committee for hearing our pleas and keeping the labs open,” said David Ellingson, vice president of the American Beekeeping Federation and chairman of the ABF Legislative Committee. “We took an industry-wide delegation to Washington and voiced a common appeal. Members of the industry followed up with contact to their Congressmen. It worked.

The producer organizations pointed out that while all ARS was scheduled for cuts, honey bee research was getting more than its share. ARS was being cut \$15 million - honey bee research was accounting for \$3.25 million of that. Honey bee research represents about 0.57% of the current ARS funding, but would have represented more than 20% of the budget cut.

Mr. Ellingson noted that the funding battle is not yet won. “Now, we have to concentrate on the Senate and ensure that the members of the Senate Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee understand our needs. All beekeepers need to thank their Representatives for their assistance in restoring the funding and ask their Senators to do the same thing.”

To contact any Senator's office, dial 202 224-3121, or e-mail at www.senate.gov.

American Beekeeping Federation

Say it isn't true. Part 2

Back in our June/July newsletter I reported that Pat Henderson was moving out of state therefore he would be

leaving his post as treasurer of our organization. As I stated then, I believe this is a great loss to our organization.

To make things even gloomier, Medhat and his lovely wife Sandra will be leaving the United States to accept a position in Alberta Canada, where I am sure he will be appreciated by his employer.

Having gotten to know Medhat over the past year and a half has been a real pleasure for me and I am sure the same can be said by everyone he has come in contact with. Medhat has worked tirelessly for the beekeepers in this state and has many successes to his credit. I think I can say from all of us in the NJBA, Medhat, Thanks for your help. You sure didn't let us down and I will drop it at that. To you and your wife Sandra, from all of us, Good Luck! It was a great pleasure knowing both of you!

Now for some good news! I was notified by Shultz, acting Director of Plant Industry, that applications have been received for the new bee inspectors position with the State of New Jersey. Because of the concern and interest in beekeeping problems in New Jersey, the Secretary of Agriculture Charlie Kuperus has opened the door to make this possible.

According to Tom Denholm, Supervisor Entomology for Plant Pest Survey, interviews will start sometime in the near future. We will again have someone to help us with our beekeeping problems for the years to come.

Bob Hughes

Partners of the Americas seeks a few good beekeepers

POA is seeking volunteers to teach various aspects of beekeeping in an underdeveloped country.

Different US states are partners with certain countries in the Caribbean and Central and South America. For example Texas is partnered with Peru, Delaware with Panama, New Jersey with Haiti and Utah with Bolivia.

The duration of the assignments are usually from 10 to 14 days, with periodic follow-up trips if desired.

All transportation, food, lodging and an interpreter is taken care and paid by POA.

If interested call me at 732 928-0082, or the coordinator in Trenton, Sam Lee, at 609 396-4362.

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More on POA...

There is the possibility of performing beekeeping development work in the next few months in Haiti. The organization Partners of the Americas through their Farmer-to-Farmer Program is looking to fund a Beekeeping Development project in Haiti this fall and seeks a volunteer to conduct training in Haiti with a cooperative of beekeepers. You would have transportation covered and live with one or more families in-country for a 3 weeks. There is some flexibility and details need to be worked out.

If you are potentially interested in this opportunity contact Dewey Caron (dmcaron@udel.edu) at University of Delaware (302 831-8883).

Q&A on Apistan and Terramycin between Alejandro Berlin and Dr. Medhat Nasr

AB: The label instructions in Apistan call for one strip for every 5 frames of bees. Yet most people use two strips in our 2 deep supers set-ups.

MN: That's true. At the time Apistan got the approval from FDA, the consensus was that 4 strips in a 2 deep super were needed. Since then, scientists have proved that there is no great benefit in using more than 2 strips. And that using only two leaves the door open to doubling the rate of medication when and if resistance is a problem.

AB: Can you tell me if there is a similar catch with the recommended three doses of terramycin, 4 to 5 days apart?

MN: This recommendation is good. It has been recommended for years and has not been challenged by scientists. Therefore, we follow the label. In recent

years, there are growing number of beekeepers who don't like to use antibiotics in there colonies. These beekeepers should inspect there hives at regular basis and use hygienic bees to improve bees ability to resist AFB infection. If there is infection, these beekeepers would consider burning their hives and start all over again.

AB: What would you say to someone that applies just one or two doses of terramycin "in case I have a little AFB..."

MN: In the case of light infection of AFB. The beekeepers should apply the three dosis of Terramycin even if the symptoms disappear after 1 or 2 applications. The beekeeper should also know that those bees are at high risk of getting infection again. Therefore, he should follow up by applying 3 doses of TM the following season.

The issue of excessive use or under dosing of terramycin and the general use of antibiotics has gained national attention from doctors and biologists. There is a debate about their use at regular basis in the beef, pig and poultry industries. The recent recommendation is to stop using antibiotics by growers as preventative means to protect their living stocks from microorganisms. Antibiotics should be used only for medications. Thus, we reduce the rate of development of resistance by microorganisms to antibiotics. Last year, the FDA has cancelled and stopped the use of 2 common antibiotics that were used at regular basis in the poultry industry.

For bees, the issue is not clear and there is no action. I know that there is an application to the FDA to register Tylosin as antibiotic for use to treat Terramycin-resistant AFB. The FDA in the process of approving this antibiotic as for treatment but not for prevention. It

will be interesting to know how the beekeepers will use this antibiotic!

The Bottom line is to follow the label and keep our bees alive and healthy. Any excessive use of antibiotics or pesticides in bee colonies will increase the risk of contaminating honey with residues. Honey bees will also suffer from the excessive doses of used antibiotics. Remember, the Chinese honey was banned for being tainted with them. We as beekeeper will be subject to the same rules if we have contaminated honey.

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Honey Bees and Cranberry Pollination in New Jersey

Medhat Nasr, Ph.D., Assistant Specialist
in Apiculture, Blueberry and Cranberry
Research and Extension Center, Rutgers
University, Chatsworth, NJ

Honey bees are widely used for commercial cranberry pollination. In spite cranberry is a marginal source of pollen and nectar; nectar is crucial to the pollination of cranberry. As honey bees visit young flowers to collect nectar, they get dusted with pollen. When bees visit older flowers and probe for nectar, cross-pollination occurs. Pollen grains are transferred to the receptive stigma and ovules are fertilized. Seeds start to form and fruits develop. It takes only few

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pollen grains to set a fruit.

To study the effects of colony strength on yield, several hundreds of bee colonies in cranberry bogs in New Jersey were examined. New Jersey bee inspectors conducted a thorough inspection to determine colony strength. The number of frames of bees and cluster size, and queen presence were determined. The results showed that 29.3% of the bee hives had less than 4 frames of bees or were empty in 2001. The percentage of bee colonies with 4 frames of bees or more was 70.7%. The percentage of beekeepers who provided bee colonies that met the recommendations (>4 frames of bees) was 50%. In some cases, we found beekeepers supplied 51- 58% of the colonies with less than 4 frames of bees per colony. These weak colonies affected

the fruit set in cranberry bogs where these colonies were placed. The fruit set was reduced by 50% in comparison to bogs supplied with

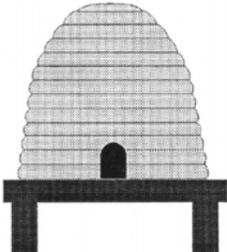
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strong colonies. We continued this study and estimated the impacts on the yield of cranberry. Results showed that the estimated yield could have been reduced by 44.4% in cranberry bogs where weak colonies were placed. Although weak colonies did not provide adequate pollination, certain cultivars of cranberry such as "Stevens" produced large berries to compensate for low fruit set. This response from the cranberries reduced the negative impacts of poor pollination on yield. The actual estimated yield in poorly pollinated bogs was only 7.4% lower than good pollinated bogs.

In 2002, a survey of colony strength in cranberry bogs was conducted to follow up. We found that the percentage of colonies with 4 frames of bees or less was 10.5%. Again, we found that the beekeepers who provided weak colonies in 2002 were the same as in 2001. These beekeepers provided 5-14 % of the colonies as empty boxes. 66% of the examined beekeepers supplied good colonies (>4 frames of bees) in 2002. Although results from 2002 showed improved percentages of bee colonies with more than 4 frames of bees, this increase was caused by good wintering conditions in 2001-2002. We did not find a significant change in bee management by beekeepers who provided poor colonies for pollination.

This study showed that honey bees are important for cranberry pollination. The honey bee colony strength affects the cranberry yield. Growers and beekeepers should set standards for colonies used for pollination to ensure high yield of cranberries.

<p>School or Group Presentation</p> <p>Live Bees Honey Taste</p>

<p>Sting Therapy</p> <p>Tom Fuscaldo 973 942-5066</p>

Royalty news

Following the resignation, for personal reasons, of Amanda Burkhart as Honey Queen, Lauren Kurela, former NJBA Honey Princess, has accepted the request of the Executive Board to fill the vacant position. Lauren's mother, Carolyn Kurela, has also graciously offered to chair the Honey Queen committee. Lauren will be crowned at the October meeting. Thank you, Lauren and Carolyn!

>>from page 3

rearing of queens may be viewed by some beekeepers as a stumbling block in the production of *Varroa*-tolerant bees. However, the techniques are not difficult and the work can be personally rewarding to avid beekeepers. If you choose not to rear queens, try collaborating with a beekeeper who knows how. Beekeeping clubs should consider developing *Varroa*-tolerance projects within their areas. *Varroa*-tolerance is the first step towards an IPM program for *Varroa*."

Alejandro Berlin

Treasurer's report

It's a tough order following in Pat Henderson's footsteps, but fortunately the position of Treasurer is only a small percentage of what he did, so I'm hoping I might actually stand a chance of doing it adequately. At least, I'll do my best, and I'm grateful to the many bee buddies (especially Bob Hughes) who have helped ease me into the job.

The club took a tough hit from having to cancel our Centennial Celebration at the Ramada. We lost \$2,000 paid to the hotel to reserve the date, and a few hundred more for musicians and other pre-booked items. Fortunately, the news is not as bad as it might have been. The Ramada did not charge us all that it was legally entitled to, thanks to Bob Hughes' charm and powers of persuasion, and we have done very well on the picnic, auction, and sales of the "Winter in the Beeyard" print. We also owe a vote of thanks to Curtis Crowell of Hightstown, who donated his entire \$120 registration fee back to the NJBA.

Our August pig roast at Bob and Joan Hughes' place netted the club \$812, and we made \$1152 on the auction. Of this, over \$800 was donated by Pat

Henderson, who left instructions that anything he made at the auction was to go into the NJBA coffers. I don't think anyone expected the amount to be so high, and we still haven't heard from Pat in his new home, so we may wind up sending at least some of this money south

In my few months as Treasurer, we've made \$1210 selling prints of the beautiful winter apiary scene, including printing costs. Special thanks are due to Dr. Medhat Nasr, who lugged a bunch of prints up to Ithaca, NY and sold them for us at EAS in August.

The bottom line is that we currently have \$4113 in our checking account and approximately \$6350 in our CD's and scholarship savings accounts.

Here's hoping we can all turn our liquid gold into the solid kind!

Landi Simone

In Memoriam

Dena C. Fisk 71, of Bloomfield, passed away on July 10, 2002. She came from a family of beekeepers. Her Dad, Bill Rude, was with many of the ECBS original group, until his death, keeping his bees in Newark and at his country home in Hamburg, NJ where he hosted several ECBS meetings.

After he died, she kept her bees at his home on Grafton Ave. in Newark. She had many hives and was on the swarm catchers list in her town.

She married Don Fisk and celebrated their 50th anniversary about two months ago. They had two daughters. One of them became a Honey Queen for Essex County. These girls gave Dena and Don the joy of their lives, 8 grandchildren.

Dena has kept up her membership in the Essex County Beekeepers, and the NJ Beekeepers until her death, even after she lost her hives to

vandals in Newark, who burned down her house and the bee hives.

Marian Chandler

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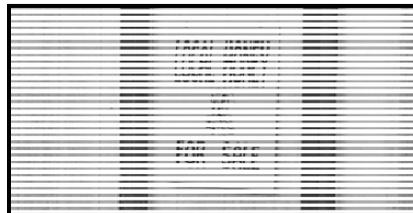


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Fellow Beekeepers: If the public calls you about honey bees living within the walls of their homes please refer my phone number to them. Robert: (908) 730-0830 Or pager (908) 707-7894. After the beeps enter your number followed by the # sign.

New Jersey Beekeepers Association
100th Anniversary Celebration (1902-2002)
NJBA Fall Meeting: Saturday October 5th, 2002

For more information, please read *The Big 100* on the first page or contact:
Bob Hughes (609) 585-4359

9:00-9:30 AM	Registration- Coffee and Donuts
9:30-11:00 AM	Tour Cranberry Haines & Haines
11:00 - 12:00	Tour Ocean Spray Processing Plant Farm
12:15-1:15 PM	Lunch at Rutgers Blueberry-Cranberry Research and Extension Center
1:15- 1:25 PM	Rutgers Representative
1:25-1:55 PM	Determining Treatments Thresholds for Varroa Mites (Dr. Dewey Caron, Delaware University and MAAREC Representative)
1:55-2:45 PM	Bees, Mites and Blueberry Pollination in Maine (Tony Jadczyk: Maine State Bee Inspector)
2:45-4:00 PM	Coffee and Business meeting
4:00-4:30 PM	Report on New Jersey Research Program (Dr. Medhat Nasr, Rutgers University)

Cost: \$14 per person

Directions (Buses will also be provided both ways from Bob's, see *The Big 100* article on the first page):

From Route 70:

From the Red Lion Circle get on to Route 70 East. At the next traffic circle get on Route 72 East. Go 3 miles and turn off to the right on Route 563. Go through the town of Chatsworth and proceed about 10 miles south. After you pass Pine Barren Canoe Rental, go about 1 mile and turn left on Lake Oswego Road. Go up the road 1 mile to Research Center and come in the first entrance.

From The Garden State Parkway Going South:

Take exit 67. Turn onto 534 West. Get on 72 West and go approximately 6 miles and turn left on Route 532. At the Town of Chatsworth (Buzby's General Store) Turn left on Route 563. Then, follow directions as above to get to the center.

From The Garden State Parkway Going North:

Take exit 50 (New Gretna). Go into the town of New Gretna and turn left on Route 679. Keep left at the fork and continue on 679 which will emerge to Route 563. Continue for a few miles and turn right onto Lake Oswego Road. Go up the road 1 mile to Research Center and come in the first entrance.

NJBA MEETING DATES

Oct. 5, 100th Anniversary Event. More information on page 13

BRANCH MEETING DATES

CENTRAL JERSEY

Nov. 30, Christmas Party

ESSEX COUNTY

Meets usually at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month. Contact Marian Chandler 973 226-5542

MORRIS COUNTY

Sep. 21, 10 AM. Hive opening & preparing for Winter

Oct. 25, Mini-Mac, Chester

Dec. 8, Annual Holiday Party

NORTH EAST

Sept. 20, Glen Rock Annex 7:30 PM

Oct. 18, Glen Rock Annex 7:30 PM

Nov. 15, Glen Rock Annex 7:30 PM

Dec. 20, Glen Rock Annex 7:30 PM

NORTH WEST

Oct. 26, Club Meeting at Warren County Complex 3PM-7PM
Candle making and Pot Luck Dinner

Dec. 15, Christmas Party at Reaville Rod & Gun Club, Reaville Rd. Reaville NJ, 1-4PM

SUSSEX COUNTY

Sep. 15, Picnic w/South NY at the Webb's

Nov. 23, Annual Dinner Party at Glen Brook Inn

SOUTH JERSEY

No listings

JERSEY CAPE

No current newsletter

OTHER EVENTS

The Bucks and Montgomery County beekeepers will be holding a joint meeting on Thursday, October 10, at 7 p.m.. It will be Honey Beer and Mead workshop presented by Mr. William Porter, Delaware Valley College, Department of Food Science and Dr. Berthold of the Biology Department. The meeting will be held in the Bee House on the DVC campus. The college is located on Route 202 about 1 mile south of Doylestown, PA. Further information may be obtained by calling Dr. Berthold at 215 489-2285.



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North West Jersey - K. Weinberg - 337 Tunnel Road, Asbury, NJ 08802

Central Jersey - Jim Puvel - PO Box 1, Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0001

Essex County - Marian Chandler - 85 Deerfield Road, West Caldwell, NJ 07006

Sussex County - Marilyn Cosh - 175 Salley Harden Road, Wantage, NJ 07461

North East - Karl Schoenknecht - 683 Summit Ave, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

South Jersey - Patty Schuler - PO Box 228, Richland, NJ 08350

Morris County - Janet Katz - 460 Route 24, Chester, NJ 07930

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431 Stamets Rd.
Milford NJ 08848

JERSEY FRESHTM
FROM THE GARDEN STATE

October 4 and 5 events have changed!
Go to page 13 for new program!