
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION



NEWS

VOL 17 ISSUE 3

APR / MAY 03

ApiLife VAR Coming for Fall

New Jersey has applied for a Section 18 approval for the product, Apilife VAR, a miticide which will be available through Brushy Mountain Bee Farm, probably in time for fall treatment. Apilife VAR has been used in Europe for over a decade and is effective in treating varroa mites, provided temperatures remain above a threshold of about 54 degrees Fahrenheit. It is recommended as a late summer-early fall treatment, to be applied immediately following the honey harvest.

Apilife VAR is an Italian product which consists of a mixture of botanical oils, primarily thymol (the active essential oil in the herb thyme), with camphor, eucalyptus and menthol. These oils are impregnated into a vermiculite disk which is placed on the top bars of the brood chamber, encased in a metal mesh so the bees can't get at it to remove it. Treatment consists of the application of 2 disks, several weeks apart, with a total treatment time of about 6 weeks. Provided the temperatures remain sufficiently high, efficacies range from about 92% to 97%.

Apilife VAR has the strong advantage of being non-toxic, and no resistance has been developed in over a decade of use in Europe. Because it is a 'soft' chemical control, it should be used in conjunction with an IPM monitoring program (screened bottom boards + sticky boards; powdered sugar rolls, ether

roll, etc.) to check for efficacy at the end of treatment. One disadvantage is that, because of the temperature requirements of the product, it probably would not be very effective as an early spring treatment. However, alternating a spring application of either Apistan or Coumaphos with a fall Apilife VAR treatment will likely help us break the resistance cycle NJ beekeepers have been struggling with in recent years.

Laudi Simone

Pesticide License Training

As most of you know, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection last year instituted a requirement that all beekeepers become Licensed Pesticide Applicators by November 2003 in order to purchase and legally use miticides in their colonies. Through the work of Bob Hughes and Jake Matthenius, these restrictions have been somewhat relaxed. Bob and Jake are going to continue to lobby for more concessions on this issue but currently the requirements are as follows: You **must** obtain a private pesticide applicator license by 11/03 **if you plan to:**

1. Use any coumaphos (CheckMite+), or
2. Use fluvalinate (Apistan) **and** sell more than \$2500/year worth of honey.

This means that beekeepers with only a few colonies who use only Apistan (or who plan to rely only on soft medications and IPM) are exempt from the licensing requirements. However,

anyone using coumaphos must obtain a license regardless of the

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A seemingly endless, cold, snowy winter finally appears to be melting away. Time to trade in that worn out snow shovel for a hive tool and smoker. I hope your bees have fared well as we look ahead to a new season.

Our organization will face many issues this coming year but none will be more important or controversial as the required pesticide license for beekeepers. For those who have not heard the news, beginning in 2004, NJ beekeepers are required to obtain a Pesticide Applicators License from the State of NJ. We are currently addressing this issue on two fronts; Bob Hughes and Jake Matthenius are working to have the licensing quashed or modified. We hope they are successful in their negotiations with the NJ DEP in this regard. Our second front is to assist beekeepers in obtaining this license. Landi Simone has arranged to have Dr. George Hamilton (Rutgers) conduct two preparation sessions this year to prepare you for the applicator's test. Actual testing is held at your local extension office. Many beekeepers may just decide to pack it in, but there is a third alternative- keep your colonies chemical free. Using hygienic queens and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques is the future. It may require a bit more work and you may lose a few colonies until you master the program, but the end result will be strong, healthy stock. Regardless of the license outcome, pesticide education will become an established feature at all NJBA state meetings. Continuing education units (CEU's) will be available to maintain your license, and we'll all learn how chemicals affect our bees, product, and health. Stay posted for changing requirements.

A Section 18 emergency application to the NJ DEP for Check-Mite (coumaphos) and Apilife VAR (thymol) as a legal alternative for NJ beekeepers

has been applied for. Thanks to the efforts of Landi Simone (one busy bee) NJ beekeepers should have these tools in their arsenal to fight Varroa destructor and small hive beetle.

A great big welcome goes to Paul Raybold, our new State Apiary Inspector. NJ left this important position open last year to the detriment of all beekeepers. I also welcome our new state, branch officers and executive board members. We are fortunate to have a full slate of dedicate NJBA officers working for us. Check out the NJBA Who's Who for the complete list of State and Branch officers.

Make plans now to attend all upcoming NJBA functions, including our Spring Meeting on May 17th, hosted by the Sussex Branch. Dealing with bears will be the hot topic and you can learn from people that deal with these critters up close and personal. Our Short Course at Cook College, April 25-27, is a must for beekeepers just starting out or brushing up. Go to page 8 for more information on the course.

Swarm season approaches and we are currently updating the state list of beekeepers on call. If you can respond to swarms in your area and want to be on this new list, contact your Branch officers.

Finally, thank you for entrusting me with the position of NJBA President. I hope to move the organization forward and address the issues important to our members. Though fairly new to beekeeping I have been around farming all my life. After living my entire life in Bergen County, last year I moved back to my family roots in Great Meadows, Warren County with my wife Carolyn, and my children, Lauren and Christopher. Many of you know Carolyn, chair of the Honey Queen Committee, and Lauren, our NJBA Honey Queen.

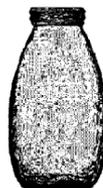
I look forward to the challenge and I welcome all of you to the start of our next 100 years.

Dan Kurela

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856 358-10100

Insurance matters

If you're like me, liability insurance is the last thing on your mind when working your bees. But as the number of colonies I manage grows - it's 16 now - and my honey sales increase, I find I'm increasingly willing to listen when my insurance agent sister-in-law bends my ear about what could happen if some customer claims he found a piece of glass in my honey.

Any of you who have had insurance, especially as part of the group policy sponsored by the ABF, know that the entire group was recently cancelled. This yanked away that cozy insurance umbrella, leaving a bunch of beekeepers out in the rain. The NJBA was part of that group and, believe me, I had to scramble to find us new coverage. I succeeded in doing so and want to pass the information on to the rest of you.

Our new NJBA policy is with the Hartford Insurance Company. It provides \$1M in general liability and \$2M in products liability and is, I believe, very reasonably priced.

If you are looking to replace an individual policy previously carried through the ABF, you as an individual, can also get insurance through Hartford; all you need is an agent that deals with them. For the NJBA policy I used the Chadler Group in Fairfield (973 227-0025, Carol Le Carre), but you can find a local Hartford agent on their website. Be forewarned, I had to try several agents before finding one willing to help me with the association policy, since the commissions for them are very small; one agent actually laughed at me. I've also spoken to a couple of beekeepers who carry individual insurance policies through Farm Family, but can't provide any details on that. If you're looking for individual insurance, you might want to check it out.

The NJBA insurance covers all NJBA chapters at their functions: state

fairs, bee beard demos, educational talks with observation hives, etc. It protects us against stinging incidents and product suits while we are engaged in club activities. However, it **does NOT protect individual NJBA members**, which is why I'm writing this article. It's a step. And I guess the next step is to stop talking about it and actually get some insurance of my own!

Landi Simone

More on individual insurance

Apparently some homeowners policies don't cover beekeeping activities if you sell your products. I checked with the American Beekeeping Federation, and it turns out that the insurance company they deal with is not registered in NJ. However, if a group of 15 or so beekeepers from the state would be interested in signing up, they would go ahead and do the necessary registration. The deal would be for \$2 million liability insurance, in damage and products with medical payments of up to \$10,000 per occurrence. Restrictions apply to the amount of gross sales involved, but the limit is \$50K, so most (all?) of us are OK... The cost would be about \$350 a year. If any of you is interested, call me at 908 996-4806.

Alejandro Berlin

Queen Virus Study

One of the most valuable IPM tools is the annual replacement of queens.

To attempt to determine the distribution of honey bee viruses in PA, researchers at Penn State University are asking beekeepers to cage and send their old queens to the Department of Entomology for analysis. Participants who request them, receive queen cages, a brief questionnaire and detailed instructions, and the satisfaction of knowing they are contributing to cutting edge and relevant beekeeping research.

I could not confirm whether NJ queens would be welcome or not, but if you are interested call 717 772-5225.

2003 STATE HONEY SHOW RESULTS

Best of Show: Cathie Skove for Frame of Honey

Extracted Honey Division: Best of Division: Wolfgang Kuehn

Class 1: Extracted Light

- 1st: Wolfgang Kuehn
- 2nd: Fred Sanger
- 3rd: Stan Wasitowski

Class 2: Extracted Light Amber

- 1st: Landi Simone
- 2nd: Ned Horsey
- 3rd: Apiaway

Class 3: Extracted Amber

- 1st: Wolfgang Kuehn
- 2nd: Frank Wooden
- 3rd: Bob's Buzzy Bees

Class 4: Extracted Dark

- 1st: No prize awarded
- 2nd: No prize awarded
- 3rd: Walter Wilson, Jr.

Honeycomb/Spreads Division Best of Division: Cathie Skove

Class 5: Sections

- 1st: Cathie Skove
- 2nd: Marian Chandler
- 3rd: No prize awarded

Class 6: Creamed Honey

- 1st: No prize awarded
- 2nd: Wolfgang Kuehn
- 3rd: No prize awarded

Class 7: Chunk Honey

- 1st: No prize awarded
- 2nd: Fred Sanger
- 3rd: No prize awarded

Class 8: Frame of Honey

- 1st: Cathie Skove (Best in show)

- 2nd: Marian Chandler
- 3rd: Frank Wooden

Mead Division: Best of Division: Wolfgang Kuehn

Class 9: Mead, dry

- 1st: No prize awarded
- 2nd: No prize awarded
- 3rd: Wolfgang Kuehn

Class 10: Mead, sweet

- 1st: No prize awarded
- 2nd: Tom Fuscaldo
- 3rd: No prize awarded

Class 11: Mead with fruit juices

- 1st: Wolfgang Kuehn
- 2nd: Leonard Klinker
- 3rd: No prize awarded

Class 12: Mead, sparkling no winners

Beeswax Division: Best of Division: Cathie Skove

Class 13: Block of Beeswax

- 1st: Wolfgang Kuehn
- 2nd: Joe Lelinho
- 3rd: Landi Simone

Class 14: Novelty Beeswax (any size/shape)

- 1st: Cathie Skove
- 2nd: Wolfgang Kuehn
- 3rd: No prize awarded

Class 15: Candles, tapers, rolled/poured/dipped

- 1st: Cathie Skove
- 2nd: Jim Puvel
- 3rd: Landi Simone

Class 16: Novelty candles (any size, shape)

- 1st: Jim & Nancy Puvel
- 2nd: Wolfgang Kuehn
- 3rd: Landi Simone

Cosmetics Division: Best of Division: Jim & Nancy Puvel

Class 17: Hand cream / lotion

1st: Jim & Nancy Puvell
2nd: Len & Cheri Klinker
3rd: Cathie Skove

Class 18: Soap

1st: Landi Simone
2nd: No prize awarded
3rd: No prize awarded

Class 19: Lip Balm

1st: Jim & Nancy Puvell (Best of Div.)
2nd: Len Klinker
3rd: No prize awarded

And now is time for the presentation of the celebrities...



A terrific moment, as Cathie Skove receives the newly-renamed "Robert A. Hughes Best in Show Award". Bob Hughes, Cathie Skove and Dave Wasitowski.



From left to right, Joe Christo, our Honey Queen Lauren Kurela, our Honey Princess Kira Simone and our Honey Queen, Lauren Kurela and her escort Drew Menconi at the Agricultural Delegates Dinner.



"I love this one; please, please print it!" said L.S. when she send her photos to this Editor. From left to right, Landi Simone, Kira Simone, Lauren Kurela and Carolyn Kurela.

Royal Update

The new Honey Queen, Lauren Kurela and Honey Princess, Kira Simone, were crowned at the Winter meeting . Our past President, David Wasitowski had the honor of crowning both girls and presenting them with their new sashes and flowers.

The girls did a terrific job of assisting with the Winter Meeting festivities by giving out raffle tickets and helping with the auction.

Also, Lauren and Kira appeared in Atlantic City to represent our organization at the New Jersey Agricultural Convention. A very nice booth was set up and the girls actively took part in educating people about beekeeping. The topic for the booth was "We're Not Just Something Sweet". There were many products including bees wax candles, hand creams, candy and face creams on display for people to see

how the beekeeping industry is not just about honey.

Our latest up and coming event is the Ocean County Saint Patrick's Parade on March 15, 2003. Lauren and Kira will be riding in a candy apple red convertible and throwing apple honey candy out to the crowd. The candy was donated by the Harvey's. A big thanks to the Harvey's for their thoughtfulness!

Please keep in mind the girls are always available to help at any meetings. Contact Carolyn Kurela at (908) 637-6644 for arrangements.

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Bee-ginners Beekeeping Short Course 2003

April 25, 26 & 27, 9 am to 5 pm

This course will cover the basics of honey bee biology, hive management, IPM, pests and diseases, buying queens, nucs and packages, equipment, and processing your honey crop and beeswax. One full day will be devoted to opening and examining colonies and visiting a

working honey house. This course provides valuable information for people with little or no experience in beekeeping, as well as veterans of the hive.

NJBA offers some scholarship funds, to cover the registration fee, for eligible young people under the age of 18. Contact your branch or NJBA officers for more information.

Instructional Coordinator: Bob Hughes, beekeeper with over 20 years experience. Operates about 200 colonies of bees in Yardville, NJ.

Instructors: Jake Matthenius & Paul Raybold, former and current NJ apiary inspectors; Jim Puvel and Landi Simone, beekeepers. Special visit by Dan Kurela, NJBA president.

Fees:

Before April 4, \$70 for NJBA members and \$75 for non members

After April 4, \$105 for all

Optional lunch box \$8 each

Registration: (732) 932-9271 or
<http://cook.rutgers.edu/~ocpe/>

Location: HOLLY HOUSE

Log Cabin Rd. (Off of Ryders Lane)

Rutgers Garden

New Brunswick, NJ

Other Courses

The Catskill Mountain Beekeepers Club will have a 1-day beginners workshop on 3/16, 10 am at the Acra Community Center. Cost is \$5.00.

Information: bees@catskillbees.org or
Dick Johnson at 518 734-4629.

SABA's 2003 seminar will be 3/22. Cost \$25. Program features Jim Tew, John Skinner, Nick Calderone & Kirk Webster. Call Anne Frey at 518 895-8744 for more information.

Penn State University will sponsor an IPM Experiments Course, April 12.

Participants will receive training in conducting scientifically valid experiments and will test non-chemical varroa controls. Cost is \$75. Call 717 772-5225 for more details.

MAAREC, Penn State and the Pennsylvania Dept. of Ag are holding a Queen Rearing Course at the Keeney-Ziegler Apiaries in Bethel, PA on June 14 & 15. Cost is \$150. Call 717 772-5225. Enrollment is limited.

to page 10 >>

JEANS HONEY FARM



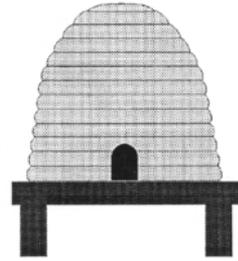
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>> from page 1

size of their operation.

The NJBA will be sponsoring an intensive class to help prepare beekeepers who have not yet received their Pesticide Applicator License to take the exam. The class will be given by Dr. George Hamilton of Rutgers. It will last 3 to 4 hours and include take-home study materials. It should provide a thorough preparation for taking the exam.

At this time, we're planning to offer the same class twice. The 1st class will be held on Saturday, July 12 at Cook College campus of Rutgers in New Brunswick. The 2nd one will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2004 at the Rutgers research facility in Chatsworth. We'll provide details in subsequent newsletters.

Exams are given by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension service regularly, in six NJ counties. Here are the exam dates and locations for 2003. You can also get this information from their website at

www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu. Note that the classes Rutgers mentions on their website are for **commercial** applicators; ours will be for **private** applicators which is what we beekeepers need.

Bergn	Brlngt	Cmbrl	Merce	Morris	Union
	1/07	1/09	1/10	1/15	1/16
2/4&25	2/4	2/6	2/7	2/12	2/13
3/25	3/5	3/6	3/7	3/13	3/11

4/22	4/1	4/3	4/4	4/16	4/17
5/27	5/6	5/8	5/9	5/13	5/15
6/16	6/3	6/5	6/6	6/18	6/17
7/22	7/8	7/10	7/11	7/23	7/24
8/21	8/5	8/7	8/8	8/20	8/19
9/30	9/2	9/4	9/5	9/24	9/23
10/30	10/7	10/9	10/10	10/22	10/29
11/25	11/5	11/6	11/7	11/19	11/20
12/9	12/2	12/4	12/5	12/17	12/10

Once you have passed the core examination and obtained your Private Pesticide Applicators License, you will need to obtain 24 Continuing Education Units (CEU's) over the following 5 years in order to be re-certified at the end of that time without having to re-take the exam. NJBA chapter officers should take note of the fact that many of our beekeeper meetings qualify for CEU's. Discussions about IPM (Integrated Pest Management) such as use of screened bottom boards, hygienic stock, powdered sugar roll, treatment thresholds, etc., will qualify for CEU's. In other words, you don't necessarily have to be talking about using coumaphos and fluvalinate; you can also be talking about how to AVOID using these chemicals. Be sure the title of your program reflects the content that qualifies for CEU's. To make it happen, call Fran Gerding of the NJ DEP at 609 984-6894. All you need to do is send or FAX her a description of the program and its approximate duration. Fran will send you the forms you need, how many CEU's your meeting qualifies for, and instructions. As an example, Essex's recent dinner meeting featuring Dennis Van Englesdorp as a speaker qualified for 3 CEU's for the licensed beekeepers attending.

It's a shame that we beekeepers are required to go through this, although many of us can certainly benefit from more education in the safe and proper use of insecticides in general and miticides in particular. Your NJBA officers are committed to making the licensing process as painless as possible.

Landi Simone

>> from page 8

Delaware Valley College Beekeeping Course, June 27, 28 & 29

The class (under the direction of Dr. Robert Berthold, Professor of Biology, and Mr. Gary Bradshaw, professional beekeeper and Mrs. Marren Berthold) is intended for all skill levels, from professional beekeepers to beginning hobbyists.

Fee: The cost of the class is \$75.00. DVC students, alumni, their immediate family and senior citizens will receive a \$10.00 discount. Please register as early as possible as class size is limited.

Registration: Dr. Robert Berthold. 215 489-2285

Location: Doylestown, PA.

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Farmers' Markets

I recently received a call from Ron Good of the NJ Department of Agriculture. Ron asked me to pass on the news that farmers markets all over the state are looking for beekeepers to sell honey. Many new markets have opened up, and there are some great opportunities for beekeepers who are willing to make a weekly commitment to showing up at a farmers market with a sweet crop.

Ron says each market is different and their requirements are determined by the manager of the market. Some may ask for proof of product liability insurance or a health department inspection; others won't. So if you have been talking to Joe Blow who says his market had such severe restrictions, he decided not to sell there, don't assume that's the case everywhere.

For a complete list of the markets statewide and the contact persons, go to www.jerseyfresh.nj.gov and follow the links for "community farmers markets", then "search" for your own area. Following is a list of new markets that don't appear on the website, with their contact persons. If you have a problem or question, you can call Ron Good at (609) 984-2278, or ron.good@ag.state.nj.us

Bound Brook
Contact: Karen Fritz, 732 560-4785

Salem Farmers' Market
Contact: Torret Reade, 856 935-3612

Elizabeth
Contact: Dave Stochak, 908 965-0660

Waterfront Farmers' Mkt., Jersey City
Contact: NJCFC, 973 236-1875

Irvington Farmers' Market
Contact: Ron Good, 609 984-2278

New Brunswick Farmers' Market
Contact: Stacey A. Feder, 732 545-4849

Montgomery Farmers' Mkt. (Princeton)
Contact: Kim Rowe, 908 359-9665

Woodbury Farmers' Market
Contact: Virginia Horn, 856 845-1300
Ext. 123

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Robert: (908) 730-0830

Or pager: (908) 707-7894

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1/4 page	rest of newsletter	\$50
1/8 page	rest of newsletter	\$25

NJBA MEETING DATES

May 17, Spring Meeting.

The Sussex County BA is excited about hosting the State meeting which will be held at the Tranquility Lake Community Clubhouse, a lovely place for fishing and canoeing. We'll also have use of the playground, basketball, & volleyball areas.

Here is our line-up of speakers:

Living in Bear Country, by a spokesperson from the NJ Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fences for Beekeepers in Bear Country, by Mark Skove

Coumaphos and it's Effects on Humans by Dr. George Hamilton, Specialist in Pest Management and Associate Professor of Entomology, Department of Entomology, Rutgers University

Pollen: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know but didn't Know Who to Ask by Lloyd Spears

Ross Rounds

Cost for the meeting will be \$18 per person and includes a light breakfast and hearty lunch.

Please RSVP by May 7th to Deb Brodhecker at 973 702-1223 or sbrodhecker@compuserve.com

From Route 80W take exit 19, Route 517, go right off the exit and travel approximately 3.5 miles on Route 517. Turn right onto Park Terrace. Travel approximately 1/2 mile to the Clubhouse.

From the Sussex/Newton area: Take Route 206 South into Andover. Turn right on Route 517. Travel approximately 3.5--4 miles. Turn left onto Lake Terrace and travel approximately 1/2 mile to the Clubhouse.

Aug. 16, Summer Meeting / Picnic

Oct. 11, Fall Meeting

ESSEX COUNTY

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

May 10, Honey Fair at the Environmental Center. Bee beard demo and sale of prize-winning products.

MORRIS COUNTY

April 26th, Saturday, at Janet Katz's... opening and inspecting a hive

June 21st, Saturday, annual picnic... looking for a host/hostess

July 25, 26 and 27 Friday, Saturday, Sunday; 4H Fair

Saturday, September 20th, Hive opening, location TBD

Friday, October 17th, Speaker - Jake Mattenius - topic TBD

SUSSEX COUNTY

May 17, State Spring Meeting

June 29, Gral. meeting & picnic

July 27, Fair set up & gral. meeting

Aug 1-10, Sussex Co. Fair

Sept. 14, Joint SCBA - SE NY picnic at Webb's

October 4 & 5, Millbrook Days

OTHER EVENTS

EAS 2003 will be held on the campus of Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. August 4-8, 2003.

For information call EAS Secretary, Loretta Surprenant, 518 963-7593

Pollination Services & Honey For Sale



Ulric Butcher

732 679 9254



For sale:

Telescoping covers, 10 for \$7.00. Must take 10; you choose your lids.

5 frame nucs for sale early April, \$70.00.

Steel shelving 2'x4'x7', \$10.00/section

Call Grant Stiles at 732 661-0700

Do you know new beekeepers?
Sign them up today with this form !!!

NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Membership Form

New

Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Make checks payable to the local branch and
mail you dues to your Branch Secretary/Treasurer

Junior, \$ 8

Individual, \$15

Family, \$20

Central Jersey - Curtis Crowell - 152 Borad St. Hightstown, NJ 08520

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

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

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

North West Jersey - A. Berlin - 431 Stamets Rd., Milford, NJ 08848

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

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

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**The publications listed below provide reduced subscription rates to
members of beekeepers' associations**

The back page of this newsletter identifies you as a member of the NJBA

Use the form below and **send it directly to the publisher with your
payment** (Not to your Branch Secretary)

If you are renewing a subscription, please enclose a mailing label from one
of your magazines to aid the publisher

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1 year, \$13.25

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American Bee Journal, 51 S 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341

1 year, \$15.70

2 year, \$29.88

3 year, \$42.15

Bee Culture, PO Box 706, Medina, OH 44258-0706

1 year, \$17.00

2 year, \$32.00

New Jersey Beekeepers Association
Alejandro Berlin
431 Stamets Rd.
Milford NJ 08848

JERSEY FRESHTM
FROM THE GARDEN STATE

Mark your calendars!
May 17
is the date for the
NJBA Spring Meeting
sponsored by Sussex Cnty.
It might seem far away.
but the next newsletter
might not get to you in
time to remind you.
Details on page 14.