
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION



NEWS

VOL 17 ISSUE 4

JUN / JUL 03

Rutgers' Short Course scholarships

Two scholarships were awarded this year for young beekeepers-to-bee. Here are their application letters (unedited!) showing their interest on the subject.

From Marshall Sharpe:

Dear Mrs. Simone,

My name is Marshall Sharpe and I signed up to receive a scholar ship for the bee conference coming up! I can't wait! Anyway you e-mailed my mother, Ann Sharpe, and asked her to ask me to write you a few paragraphs about why I would like to take this course. So here goes:

I guess the simple answer is that I am just really eager to learn more about bees. I got my first hive just last year and they have been doing great ever since. My (sort of Bee counselor) Mr. Markley is the one who got me started. I have always been fascinated by bees and I really love animals and honey. So when I met Mr. Markley I jumped on the opportunity, or rather he did. He gave me several books to read but I must confess I never finished either. Part of my problem is that my bees have never had a problem to make me need to read. So I've gotten kinda lazy. Anyway, he told me about this awesome bee conference and strongly suggested that I go. He said that he goes every chance he can get and still learns lots of new things! He said that I should really go and that I would learn a

lot! So I'm all for it. I find it much easier and much more exciting to learn hands on or through a teacher, then by reading it in a book. So I thought that this conference would be the perfect thing for me!

Marshall

From Nicole Wagenblast:

There are many reasons why I like to take this class on beekeeping. I hope to improve my general knowledge on beekeeping. I want to use this knowledge to improve the success my family has with our hives, and be able to educate others on the topic, and I would also like to meet others beekeepers.

For a number of years my family has attempted to keep bees with little more than mediocre success. Through the years we have lost track of the person who originally introduced us to beekeeping, so last fall when it came time to extract the honey we did not have the necessary equipment. My mother made some inquiries and found out about the New Jersey Beekeepers Association. Mr. Robert Hughes was so kind as to extract our honey for us and get us in contact with the right people to join the NJBA.

We have lost a number of hives to bad luck and an inability to recognize the warnings signs of problems. Prior to our knowledge of the NJBA we felt that we were the only beekeepers around, and had only a few books to guide us. We >>from page 1 honeybees and hive care. I look forward to meeting other beekeepers, both

experienced and beginners. I also hope to use this experience to improve the educational talks I often give.

Nicole

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I love talking to beekeepers. New beekeepers, long time beekeepers, used-to-be-beekeepers, and wanna-be beekeepers. Common traits emerge from those who seem to be dedicated and therefore, successful and the best. These beekeepers are innovative, curious, detail oriented, organized, and efficient. While there are additional traits, we'll leave these as top qualities. Colonies maintained by these individuals seem to be impervious to the effects of Varroa and tracheal mites. Honey production by their hives is exceptional while the state average continues to drop (hive average, as stated in the NJ Dept of Ag 2002 Annual Report, was 34 pounds.) Do these beekeepers have the "secret" or do they have a management technique that has adjusted to our new beekeeping problems. I'm sure one of these special beekeepers belongs to your branch, maybe it's time to ask some questions and change some set patterns.

Many issues affect New Jersey beekeepers but all beekeepers have one question on their mind- "How do I keep my bees alive?" This issue far outweighs all others. An infusion of hope came and went with Dr. Medhat Nasr, an exceptional man and researcher who seemed to have answers for us. Rutgers promised to find a replacement for Dr. Nasr and it now appears they will do just that. Two individuals are now being interviewed for the an apiculture post-doctorate position, Dr. Selim Dedej, University of Georgia, and Dr. Mike Stangheellini, North Carolina State University. This is promising for NJ beekeepers.

You can help your bees in other ways. Check your colonies on a regular basis. Learn to identify bee disease and act immediately. Monitor for Varroa destructor and treat when necessary.

Sampling for bee disease is now handled at the Trenton lab, no need to send out to USDA labs. Contact Paul Raybold for sampling protocol. Stay on the cutting edge of information by attending your local branch and all State meetings. It's worth the time spent.

We owe thanks to Bob Hughes and Jake Matthenius for their work in negotiating with the DEP concerning beekeepers pesticide application regulations. This should eliminate the need for most NJBA members to obtain a pesticide license. For those that do require the license, preparation classes are scheduled in July and January, as informed in the previous issue of this newsletter.

Though the weather is still cool, bears are on the move. My neighbor's bee equipment, protected by electric fence, is now firewood. Take action to protect your yard from bear devastation. Attend the May 17th State meeting and find out the best ways to prevent bear damage, and give your apiary a chance.

Finally, our hearts go out to the Scove family on the loss of their son. I cannot imagine the depth of their sorrow.

Dan Kurela

May Meeting CEU's

Most of you know that our May meeting, hosted by the Sussex chapter, qualifies for core Continuing Education Units because our guest speaker, Dr. George Hamilton, is going to be speaking about coumaphos safety handling issues. In order to take advantage of this and get the CEU's you must:

1. ALREADY HAVE YOUR PESTICIDE APPLICATOR'S LICENSE. Unfortunately, you cannot "bank" CEU's prior to getting your license.

2. Bring the License # with you to the meeting.

This should be a terrific meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Landi Simone

NEW JERSEY HONEY

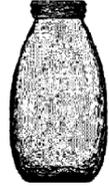
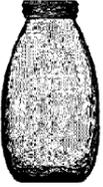
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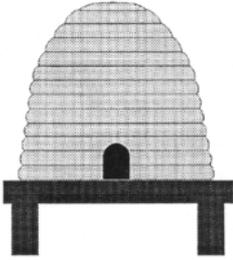
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Skoves see fit. Members wishing to contribute to the fund should send their donations, made payable to the NJBA, to Landi Simone, Gooserock Farm, RD3 Box 101-B Taylortown Rd., Boonton, NJ 07005.

The NJBA Executive Board extends its heartfelt sympathies to Cathie and Mark and their two remaining children, Alan and Kristen. There is nothing any of us can do to ease such a terrible pain, but our thoughts, prayers and love are with you.

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In Memoriam: Jesse Skove

On March 26 Cathie and Mark Skove lost their youngest son Jesse in a freak automobile accident. He was only 16 years old.

Jesse was an honor student at Newton High School, and was slated to receive a special Science and Technology Award just days after his death. Not only was he an unusually bright young person, his unique personality and sense of humor touched the lives of many of his fellow students and friends. It seemed that the entire town of Newton came to the memorial service; over 1000 people signed the guest register.

Jesse was a scholarship recipient for the Rutgers short course when he was only eleven years old.

Many of you are aware that a memorial fund has been set up in Jesse's honor, to be used in any manner the

Pesticide Licensing Prep Course

As of November of this year, beekeepers will have to possess a Private Pesticide Applicators License from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection in order to purchase coumaphos. A license is also required for those of you that are just using Apistan, if

you are selling more than \$2,500 of honey annually.

Dr. George Hamilton of Rutgers University, Associate Professor of Entomology and Specialist in Pest Management, will be giving a course specifically for us beekeepers to help prepare to take the exam for the Private Pesticide Application license (PPA). The course will be on Saturday July 12 from 9 to 12 at the Cook Campus Center, Building No. 6290, 59 Biel Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Coffee and donuts will be served at no charge, courtesy of Dr. Hamilton. The study manual can be purchased at a cost of \$15, which should be sent to Curtis Crowell in advance when you register. The course itself is FREE.

Directions to the Student Center from Rt. 287 are as follows: Turn off at Exit 9 (Formerly Exit 5) "River Road, Bound Brook, Highland Park". Proceed east on River Road toward Highland Park until you reach the fifth traffic light (approximately 3.4 miles) at the intersection of River Road, Metlars Lane and Route 18. Turn right onto Route 18 and cross the Raritan River on the John Lynch Memorial Bridge. At the first traffic light make a right onto Commercial Avenue. Proceed to the first traffic light and make a left onto George Street. At the first traffic light make a right onto Nichol Avenue. Make the third left onto Dudley Road. Make the second right onto Biel Road. The Cook Campus Center is the first building on your left.

Please reply to Curtis Crowell, (609) 443-1835, or, preferably via email at curtiscrow@att.net by June 11 to register for this course. To buy the manual (highly recommended for study), send Curtis a check, payable to CJBA, for \$15.00. His address is 152 Broad Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520.

REMEMBER, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PESTICIDE APPLICATORS LICENSE, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PURCHASE COUMAPHOS IN NEW JERSEY AFTER NOVEMBER 2003.

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>> from page 1
were amazed to find that there is a whole community of knowledgeable and experienced beekeepers. With this class I hope to be able to know what's going on in the hives, and foresee trouble.

Every year I go back to my third grade teacher's class, and other classes to talk about beekeeping. I try to touch on the bee's lives, caring for a hive, and the difference between honeybees and other types of "bees". With this class I hope to pick up more information to share with the students.

I think that this class would be an excellent opportunity to further my knowledge and understanding of

Saint Patrick's Parade

The Honey Queen, Lauren Kurela and the Honey Princess, Kira Simone participated in the Ocean County Saint Patrick's Day Parade. This parade is televised and attended by approximately 50,000 people.

It was a cool and blustery day but the girls rode on the back of a candy apple red mustang convertible and endured the elements. They looked beautiful smiling and waving representing our Organization.

The candy that was donated by the Harvey's was a huge hit! There were people scrambling everywhere to pick up the pieces that were thrown.

We thank both the Harvey's for their kindness in donating the candy and Becky Kurela (Dan Kurela's sister) for letting us use her car for transportation. Her thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. The red car, the girls on the back and the banners hanging off the car made our Organization quite noticeable!

Carolyn Kurela





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Report from the Winter meeting:

On February 1, 2003, NJ Senator Leonard Lance, forwarded the State of NJ resolution reproduced below to the NJBA, upon the Association's centennial anniversary.

The document was proudly read by long time member Jake Matthenius during the 2003 Winter meeting, at The Columbus Range, and is reproduced here in *NJBA News* as decided during the meeting.

They contain only bees which are from stock successfully overwintered in New Jersey.

We strongly believe this makes them superior to bees raised outside of our unique climate and environmental conditions. This is especially important for winter survival in our state. Our stock is limited so please don't wait.

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State of New Jersey



THE SENATE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N. J.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

By Senator LANCE, Assemblywoman MYERS and Assemblyman DOHERTY

- WHEREAS,** The New Jersey Beekeepers Association is honored and heartily congratulated as it marks and celebrates the One Hundredth Anniversary of its founding at the Eighty-Seventh State Agricultural Convention in Atlantic City; and,
- WHEREAS,** The New Jersey Beekeepers Association was founded in 1902 to promote and aid the State's beekeeping industry, to train beekeepers, and to ensure that honeybees continued to play their vital part in sustaining the health and vitality of New Jersey's many agricultural products and crops; and,
- WHEREAS,** The New Jersey Beekeepers Association continues to maintain a strong alliance with the agricultural community through its many programs and activities, which include county and statewide honey shows, demonstrations of good beekeeping practices, educational sessions, research projects and fund-raising activities; and,
- WHEREAS,** In addition, the New Jersey Beekeepers Association annually crowns the Honey Queen and Honey Princess; and,
- WHEREAS,** It is altogether right and proper for this Legislature to pause in its deliberations and recognize the auspicious One Hundredth Anniversary of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association and to praise its members, leaders, and supporters who have guaranteed its continued growth and many achievements over the past ten decades; and,

WHEREAS, The strength and success of the State of New Jersey, the vitality of its agriculture, and the effectiveness of our American society depend, in great measure, upon superb organizations such as the New Jersey Beekeepers Association; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

That this Legislature hereby honors and congratulates the New Jersey Beekeepers Association upon the felicitous occasion of its One Hundredth Anniversary, and extends best wishes for continued success and vigor in the years ahead; and,

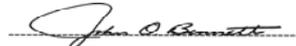
Be It Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Senate Presidents and the Assembly Speaker and attested by the Senate Secretary and the Assembly Clerk, be transmitted to the New Jersey Beekeepers Association.



Donna M. Phelps
Secretary of the Senate



Christine Riebel
Clerk of the General Assembly


President of the Senate


President of the Senate


Speaker of the General Assembly

Dances with bees

Much of what we know about the honey bee's communication dance has been attributed to Karl von Frisch. Through careful observation and testing, he defined their mystical behavior patterns in human terms. Throughout history, dancing has also been a form of human communication. Everyone from starry-eyed sweethearts to rebellious hooligans has had their message immortalized in some sort of kinetic manner.

I was raised in a rather conservative denomination and dancing was strictly forbidden. It was said that dancing could lead to "other things", and in the back of my mind I oftentimes questioned why married folk were not allowed to dance. They certainly did the "other things", so how much worse could it get?

Early last spring, I got the sudden urge to go to the bee yard. It was the kind of day that forces a beekeeper to poke around the hives while the bees would rather stay inside. Spring feeding was a priority on my list that afternoon, and since it was a touch on the cool side I decided to leave my bee suit, veil and

gloves in the barn. I had done it this way many times.

My daughter Sara was my assistant for the task, and her job was to keep a brief record of each colony's status. She's the administrative type, and with her blonde hair neatly tucked under her stocking cap, her wire rim glasses gave her a very sophisticated look for an eleven year-old. After a quick stop by the barn, we set out for the bee yard. Traveling light, I went armed with only a hive tool and pollen patties, while Sara was outfitted with a pen, clipboard and paper. Most of the colonies were good natured and we progressed rapidly through the yard. The bees looked good and the colonies were off to a strong start. Sara did a wonderful job keeping notes, stopping every once in a while to brush back a whisp of hair that had slipped down into her face.

With one last colony to finish, I made a quick assessment from the outside before cracking the top. Somehow there was a strange hush around this hive. It was almost as if these bees knew I was "two-step" illiterate... a non-dancer, so to say. As the top came off, several bees flew up to greet me and I made a few quick swipes to get them away from my face. Pressing on, I lifted the inner cover

to place the pollen patty when one little girl flew up and landed on my cheek. She was quite agitated and very persistent. After several failed attempts to brush her away from my glasses, I began swatting. She scurried around for a few seconds and determined that the safest place to be was out of reach. And that's when it happened.

I had never really considered my left ear as being perfect "bee space", but it soon came to my attention that was where she was headed. Before I could swat one more time, she disappeared and I entered a new state of consciousness. Poking and prodding, I found that I was only driving the bee deeper into my ear. I tugged at my ear lobe hoping to create an opening large enough for her to back out, but she only dug in deeper. By this time, I became more than concerned and shook my head frantically hoping to put an end to the ordeal.

It was about that time that I asked for Sara's involvement. "Use your pen and see if you can try to dig her out", I said. Upon inspecting my ear, her reply was quick and to the point. "I can't see anything, are you sure there's a bee in your ear?" she said, trying to hide half a grin.

Centrifugal force was my next tactic as I wildly pirouetted among the hives, holding my arms out wide to give myself extra momentum. After a brief pause, I spun in the opposite direction hoping to equalize the dizziness just enough to come up with another plan of attack. Leaning my head to the left, I stomped up and down writhing in every direction imaginable. By this time the little girl was beginning to feel the effects. Although she was cramped, she still had enough room to move her wings and began to buzz impatiently. I could have sworn a semi had pulled into the bee yard, minus the muffler. She continued her descent until she finally came to a dead end. Her legs and antennae brushed gently against my eardrum with a low crackling sound.

Exhausting all my dance moves, I blazed a trail for the house, leaving Sara in the midst of giggles. Surely a pair of tweezers and my wife's steady hand

would be able to set the captive free. Locking myself into the bathroom, I peered into the mirror and tugged on my ear lobe to get a better look. The buzzing had subsided briefly, but the feeling deep within my ear was so eerie that I could hardly stand to search for the culprit.

As suddenly as it all began, it was over. I had no sooner held my ear up to the light, and out came the bee just as though nothing had happened.

I was quick with an interrogation but she was calm and speechless. She did a few circles around my outer ear and then flexed her abdomen. With a quick jab, she deposited a parting love gift and then flew away.

"Hey honey, where's the tweezers"?

To this day, my kids still recount the story of my first dance lesson, animating each move in full detail to those willing to listen while I sit and smile sheepishly. My respect for bee stings in unreachable places has been renewed. I wonder if Karl could have interpreted that one?

Jim Littley

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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.

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Ad size	Location of ad	Price
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1/4 page	1st 25% of newsletter	\$75
1/8 page	1st 25% of newsletter	\$50
Full page	rest of newsletter	\$100
1/2 page	rest of newsletter	\$75

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 & Auction at Bob Hughes

Oct. 11, Fall Meeting, hosted by Essex Branch. Topics TBA. Contact Joe Lelinho

CENTRAL JERSEY

June 14, Workshop. At Alice Volkens home, Jackson, NJ RSVP by June 7, 732 723-1776

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

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

Pesticide Licensing Prep Course

Saturday July 12 from 9 to 12 at the Cook Campus Center, Building No. 6290, 59 Biel Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Contact Curtis Crowell, (609) 443-1835, or, preferably via email at curticrow@att.net by June 11 to register for this course.

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

Do you know new beekeepers?
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JERSEY FRESHTM
FROM THE GARDEN STATE

**May 17 is here!!!
Come to the
NJBA Spring Meeting
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Details on page 14 (and
page 3 on CEU's.)**