
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION



NEWS

VOL 17 ISSUE 5

AUG / SEP 03

NJBA Picnic: August 16th!

9:00 am until ?

Auction 9:45 am. 10% to NJBA

Bee equipment only

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Bob Hughes at 609 585-4359. Get
directions from Bob or check on page 14.

From the Spring Meeting

During the nice Spring meeting, hosted by Sussex, we heard scary news about bears, caution recommendations on the use of Check Mite by Dr. Hamilton and finally Lloyd Spears shared his knowledge about bee pollen.

Thank you to Deb Brodhecker and Cathie Skove for putting together an informative meeting!



Fish and Wildlife spokesman Kelsey Burgess delivers bad news for beekeepers



Are NJBA Officers concerned with the future? You bet!



I believe the gentleman holding the bear skull is Richard Bruno from the Northeast chapter, our upcoming webmaster.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Summertime and the living is easy, unless you happen to be a honey bee living in New Jersey. Times have been tough for our colonies this spring and early summer. Most plant blooms have been severely delayed. And when plants did bloom, rain quickly washed away all nectar. Many beekeepers report low honey stores and empty supers. This could turn around quickly, so keep checking your hives and be prepared. Varroa mite populations appear to be up and you should start your fall treatments within the next month. Fluvalinate is very effective for Varroa control with little or no resistance reported in New Jersey. Simply follow the package directions. One new product is now available to NJ beekeepers. Our Section 18 application (filed by Landi Simone) for Apilife VAR has been approved. This product has been successful in Europe on single deep hives, though results on Dadant style two deep hives are not as effective. But this product does lead us away from harsh chemical treatments. Mite drop counts before and after treatments will give you a handle on the health of your colonies.

Another new weapon to protect our bees has arrived in New Jersey. His name is Dr. Mike Stanghellini and he has accepted the apiary position at Rutgers. This is a good day for NJ beekeepers. Mike brings a wealth of knowledge, ideas, and enthusiasm to the Garden State. Lets give him a big welcome and all our support.

Kudos to the Sussex Branch for hosting a very interesting and well-planned spring meeting. On very short notice, Sussex President Debra Brodhecker and her group planned and delivered a terrific meeting. Many thanks for their efforts.

I hope your summer plans include attendance at the Summer Picnic & Auction. Food is always plentiful and good, Bob's pool is great relief from the heat, and bargains and fun galore can be found at the auction. This is a great place to sell those items you no longer use or to buy bee equipment you really need. Be ready for a good time. See you there!

Are you a member of the NJBA executive board? Not sure? If you are an officer or past president of your branch, you are a member of the State executive board. Congratulations!

Our face-to-face meetings are held three times a year at the Ag Building in Trenton, one week before the winter, spring, and fall State meetings. Many cannot attend these sessions, which is a shame because we need your ideas and feedback. We cannot expect to be a great organization without input from a majority of board members. So we will bring the mountain to you. Expect to see NJBA executive board decisions and motions in your e-mail. Please vote and express your opinion by e-mail reply. This insures the opinions and ideas of your branch members are expressed and supported. This gives our organization direction and goals. This will keep our bees healthy and expand our product sales. This makes us great.

Dan Kurcla

The Bears are coming!

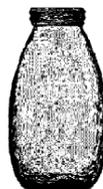
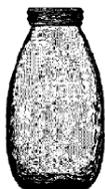
...They might not be Russians, but they are surely coming and would like to get their paws in your honey!

For those of you who were unable to attend our Spring Meeting hosted by the Sussex Chapter, we listened to a presentation by a member of the NJ Fish and Wildlife and passed a resolution in support of the Proposed 2003-2004

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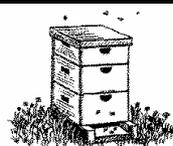
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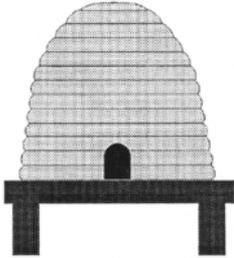
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Video Tapes available in our Library for members.

For any members that wish to use the tapes from the library, please contact me prior to any state or CJBA meeting and I will bring them to the meeting. If you would like them mailed, I will include a note stating the amount of postage due on the package, which you can send with the tapes when they are returned. Since I'm paying the postage, please make the check out to me.

All I ask is that you let me know when you plan to use them and that you promptly return them so that they can be available for use by other members. I will need a phone number along with the request (and an address if you want it mailed).

I would also like to ask anyone that has received the tapes but not returned them, to please do so

immediately. (My computer crashed in January and I lost the list that I was keeping). I'm still missing the copy of the "Bee Movie".

Here is a list of the titles available:

- #1 The Weekend Beekeeper Early Spring Management Larry Collins 1985 (1 a look at overwintered colonies 27 min.) (2 colonies with problems)
- #2 The Weekend Beekeeper Early Spring Management (3 Making an increase in an Outyard) (4 Queen Management)
- #3 The weekend Beekeeper Series Spring Mangement II (5 Managing Colonies with Bouble Screen) (6 Swarm Management)
- #4 The Weekend Beekeeper Early Spring Management Dr. Richard Taylor (7 Shook swarm Comb Honey Production) (8 The Honey house Gerry Ely)
- #5 Honey bees and Beekeeping (a year in the life of an apiary) part 1
- #6 Honey bees and Beekeeping (a year in the life of an apiary) part 2
- #9 Bees and Honey A I Root
- #11 Controlling Honey Bee Emergencies A I Root 1992
- #12 Black Bear in Bee Hives (4/23/95)
- #20 EAS 1993 Orono Maine 53 min.
- #21 AGR Honey Show in the State House 1/25/96
- #22 Rotunda Honey show 1997
- #23 Workshop 1997
- #24 Requeening and Colony Division Made Easy Dauenhauer 1991
- #25 Food TV Honey Recipes
- #26 Bear Country NJ 27 min. 47 seconds
- #27 The Honey Harvest Narrated by Ron Rolland (Donated by C. Hibbard)

#28 AHPA convention 1/10/03
Keekeeper Russian Bee Round Table
#29 A Bee Movie

Pat Ricci

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>>from page 3
Game Code, which will include provisions for a black bear hunt. Dan has sent the original to the state. According to the Fish & Wildlife, resolutions of this nature carry quite a bit of weight, so we're moving in the right direction.

The body of the resolution appears below:

May 19, 2003
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
PO Box 400

Trenton, NJ 08625-0400
Re: NJBA Resolution on Proposed 2003-2004 Game Code

Gentlemen:

This is to inform you that, in our May 17, 2003 meeting of the General Membership of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association, the following RESOLUTION was presented to the membership and was adopted by unanimous acclaim:

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Beekeepers Association is a statewide organization whose purpose is to foster and promote the art of apiculture in the Garden State, and;

WHEREAS, the New Jersey state insect, the honey bee, is endangered on many fronts, including diseases, parasitic mites, and predators, and;

WHEREAS, the honey bee is an integral component of the agriculture of New Jersey through its pollination of cranberries, blueberries, peaches, apples, melons, cucumbers, soybeans, strawberries, and other crops, as well as being essential to the well-being of New Jersey citizens by virtue of being responsible for one-third of the food consumed by the people of the Garden State, and;

WHEREAS, beekeepers in New Jersey are finding it increasingly difficult to protect honey bees in their care from the depredations of the burgeoning black bear population, and;

WHEREAS, many beekeepers in New Jersey have had to stop keeping bees because of the financial hardship of attempting to protect their bees from black bear attacks and the mental anguish

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Tom Fuscald
429 Preakness Ave.
Paterson NJ

Exemption by the EPA for New Jersey and is now available for use in treating our colonies for varroa following this seasons's honey harvest. This is really good news for New Jersey beekeepers, who have been plagued by varroa mites which are resistant to Apistan (fluvalinate) and/or CheckMite (coumaphos).

Api-Life VAR is a non-toxic "soft" chemical treatment consisting primarily of thymol, the active ingredient in the herb thyme, along with menthol, eucalyptus, and camphor. These natural botanical oils are impregnated into a vermiculite tablet, which is broken into pieces and placed in the corners of the brood nest. The treatment must be repeated three times at ten day intervals. It costs less than either Apistan or Check-Mite.

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm is the U.S. distributor for this product. Their toll-free number is 1-800-233-7929.

Landi Simone

Apiary Inspection Update from PA

Most of you should be aware that Jim Steinhauer, the Chief Apicultural Inspector for over 25 years was promoted to the State's IPM Coordinator position last year. Since then I have been acting as the State Apiarist. Happily, with Jim still in the building I have been able to tap his extensive expertise and my transition into this job has been relatively smooth. Both of us are excited by some of the studies we are cooperating on. You will notice that Jim is listed as the regional inspector for small counties in the center of the state. He has agreed to inspect this region to help test a "remote sensing"

of losing entire colonies to such attacks, now, therefore,

Be it Resolved by the General Membership of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association that,

The New Jersey Beekeepers Association supports the Proposed 2003-2004 Game Code of the New Jersey State Division of Fish and Wildlife, including those recommendations pertaining to the BLACK BEAR HUNT.

Dan Kurela, President
Landi Simone, Secretary-Treasurer

Api-Life Var Approved For Use In New Jersey

An Italian miticide, Api-Life VAR, has received a Section 18

technique for AFB monitoring. Also, in collaboration with Insect Pathologist Dr. Diana Cox-Foster and her post doctoral student Miaoqing Shen of Penn State, Jim is taking extensive samples from some of the colonies in his four county inspection areas to help to test the distribution of viruses in queen honey bees. If you are planning to requeen your colonies this year (annual re-queening is a management tool I strongly recommend) consider contacting me if you would be willing to have your queens become part of our study.

I am happy to report that an enthusiastic and knowledgeable team of nine regional inspectors has been hired this year. We all met in Harrisburg at the end of April for a two day training workshop. Among other things, we discussed some of the changes being made to the apiary inspection program. most notably, all inspectors were trained in the use of GPS (Global Positioning System) units. With precise records of all bee yard locations, the inspection program should become more efficient, and we will be able to determine if disease outbreaks are related to weather and other environmental factors.

I am sure I don't need to tell you that May was a wet month, these conditions have hampered inspections across the state. Nevertheless, as of May 30th, regional inspectors had examined 233 apiaries containing 1365 colonies. Forty samples suspected of having AFB were submitted to our lab for further testing, and 30 cases have been confirmed (7 samples were not AFB and three are still being processed). Interestingly, none

of the confirmed cases of AFB were resistant to Terramycin, despite the fact that last year we found resistant fowlbrood in many counties across the state. The cool wet weather may be a factor in the high levels of chalkbrood found in several areas. To date, 53 cases of this fungal disease have been reported. In cases where infection is heavy (more than 50 infected cells) beekeepers should reconsider re-queening and/or moving their colonies to a sunny, well ventilated apiary. Our regional inspectors have reported no instance of European Foulbrood and 24 cases of sac brood. Hive congestion caused by the rain seems to be contributing to a busy swarming season - our office has fielded many "swarms" calls, and inspections of colonies reveal that many hives are full of swarm cells.

Our inspectors are reporting low Varroa mite populations. Of 123 sugar rolls performed, only 15 had mites, all with levels below 5 mites per sample. Also, I have just received word that the EPA has "temporarily eliminated the need to establish a maximum permissible level for residues of thymol and eucalyptus oil in or on honey and honeycombs." This opens the door for Api-Life Var (a product used for several years in Europe) approval for use in the Commonwealth this fall. Beekeepers who don't like to use "hard" chemicals to control Varroa mites may find the use of Api-Life Var's blend of essential oils an acceptable alternative. I am presently cooperating with the pesticide registration personnel in the Department of Agriculture to initiate the emergency registration process and as more information about this product becomes available I will pass it on.

Of course, if you any concerns or comments please feel free to contact me directly. In the meanwhile Bee well.

Dennis vanEngelsdrop
PA Acting State Apiarist
From *The PA Beekeeper*,
June /July 2003, Volume 6



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To wear or not to wear

Last year my father and I were in the process of hiving a swarm. I happen to show up while he was getting ready to put them into the hive box. I didn't have any of my equipment, so me being the macho man that I am (yeh right) told my uncle that no, I didn't need his equipment that I would be just fine. They won't sting they are in a swarm. No need to worry. Of course my father was fully suited. I highly recommend this by the way. Just a side note: last year I helped my father hive a swarm without any equipment on and did not get stung one single time. But this time was totally different. The swarm was about 10 feet off the ground. So, we had to get 2 ladders. I got the step ladder and put it under the swarm, got up on the ladder and held the

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going to for a while. So, with that experience, I don't do anything with my bees unless I have ****ALL**** my gear on. I do feed them without equipment, but I use a gallon jar top feeder, so equipment is not necessary. My thing about working bees without equipment is, that no matter how careful you are (we are human) you will screw up and do something stupid or careless at some point in time and end up with a bunch of pissed off bees. And you will inevitably squish some bees when you put frames back into the hive. As far as equipment goes, being a successful beekeeper is not based on whether you wear equipment or not, it is based on whether you can manage your bees successfully. I love working with bees, but I won't do it without my equipment. Tell some of your experiences.

Duane Burgess, VA.

box up over my head, under the swarm for dad to brush the bees down into the box. Now this swarm was probably a 5-6 pound swarm. Well, needless to say when he made that first big brush over, half of the bees went into the box but the other half I think went on my head, up my nose, in my ears, all in my hair, stinging like they have never stung before. I managed to hold the box long enough for him to make about one more swipe with the brush, then I jumped off the ladder with the box in my hands, set it on the ground, threw the lid on and commenced to run like I have never ran before. Swatting and smacking and trying my best to get all those bees out of my nose, ears, hair, etc... They ate me up, literally. I really don't know how many times I got stung. Let's just put it this way, I lost count. I am not allergic to bee stings, so they didn't kill. Although I felt they were

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NJBA MEETING DATES

Aug. 16, Summer Meeting, Picnic & Auction at Bob Hughes. Make reservations before August 13 by calling Bob Hughes at 609 585-4359, and if you need them get directions from him at that time. See cover page for more information.

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

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

July 25, 26 and 27 Friday, Saturday, Sunday; 4H Fair
Saturday, September 20th, Hive opening, location TBD
Friday, October 17th, Speaker - Jake Matthenius - topic TBD

NORTH WEST

July 27 - August 2, Warren County Fair.
Sept. 7, Club meeting at Deerpath Park (Overlook Pavillion), 11 - 5 pm.
November 14, 7- 10 pm at the Hunterdon Arboretum, Rte 31. Speaker Paul Raybold.
December 21, Christmas Party at Echo Hill. 1 - 4 pm.

SUSSEX COUNTY

July 27, Fair set up & gral. meeting
Aug. 1-10, Sussex Co. Fair
Sept. 14, Joint SCBA - SE NY picnic at Webb's
Oct. 4 & 5, Millbrook Days
Nov. 15, Holiday dinner at Glennbrook

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

Moving a hive 100 yards

Contrary to the popular belief of moving hives either less than 2 feet or more than 2 miles, I learn that there is a simple trick to move a hive a short distance, even in flying season. Though I did not try this myself, people that did, report big time success and no problems.

Simply move the hive after dark with the entrance covered. In an hour or so, once calmed, set a big branch leaning on the hive across the entrance, so that most of the bees will notice the change next morning when they come out. The branch will make them fly around to reorient themselves and most will know where to come back. Inevitably some of the bees will go back to the old location. They will eventually fly in bigger circles until they find the new spot. However, to catch them sooner, set a super with bottom board an lid, at the old location (a super from the original colony would help). After dark, close it's entrance and move it next to the hive you moved the day before. They will go and join their original colony. If it was a super from that same colony, you just set it on top.

If the hive is too big to move as a unit, or if you can not get any help, one can still move it after breaking it up. However more bees will have to be recovered the next day with the single super set at the old location.

I got this "recipe" from a forum on the interment which I highly recommend. You will find it at www.beesource.com.

Alejandro

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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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See page 14