
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION



NEWS

VOL 18 ISSUE 2

FEB / MAR 04

2004 Winter Meeting at the Columbus Grange Saturday February 7, 2004

9:00 - 9:30 Registration and
coffee/danish

9:30 - 10:30 Mike Stanghellini:
Availability and Performance of Specialty
Queen Stock in the U.S.

10:30 - 11:30 Business meeting &
induction of new officers

11:30 - 12:15 Mike Stanghellini: New
Jersey's Master Beekeeper Program:
Making it Happen

12:15 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 1:45 Auction of Honey Show
Prize-winning entries, as well as "Winter
Silence" 1st print;

Awarding of CASH PRIZES for the Honey Show winners

First Prize/Class: \$20

Second Prize/Class: \$10

Best of each Division: \$25

Best in Show: \$75

Name of Best in Show winner to be
engraved on the Robert A. Hughes Best
in Show Award Plaque.

1:45 - 2:45 Nancy Ostiguy: Varroa Mite
Treatment Threshold Levels in
Pennsylvania

2:45 - 3:00 Dan Kurela: NJBA Goals for
2004

3:00 End meeting

There will be a hot buffet lunch
similar to last year's. Three choices of
entres/vegetable/potato/desert.

Cost of the program is \$18.00 for anyone
12 or older and \$10.00 for anyone 11 or
under.

RSVP to Bob Hughes by February 3.

Call 609 585-4359 or email
bobsbuzzybees@aol.com.

About the speakers...

Dr. Mike Stanghellini is New Jersey's
new Rutgers Beekeeping Extension
Specialist. He came to NJ last summer
from NC, where he obtained his graduate
school training and then headed the NC
State University Apiculture Lab for
several years. His research efforts are in
the areas of parasitic mite control, small
hive beetles, and crop pollination. His
extension activities in NJ will be diverse,
and include working closely with the
NJBA and creating a Master Beekeeper
Program for NJ's beekeepers.

Dr. Nancy Ostiguy is an Associate
Professor at Penn State University. Her
research focuses on integrated pest
management of varroa mites, pesticides
residues in honey and beeswax, varroa
mite population sampling strategies, and
other beekeeping topics. She also teaches
several courses at PSU, ranging from
environment and pesticide issues, public
food safety, and statistical analyses.

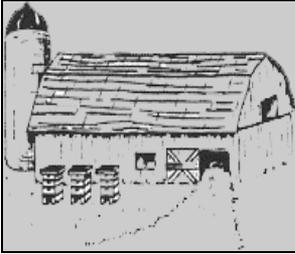
**If you have not prepare your Honey
Show entries yet, read the tips on page
5 for a winner entry!**

**Contact your branch officers for
delivery (see 2nd column of page 9).**

Directions to the Grange:

>>**From northern NJ:** Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 7 to Rt. 206 South.
>> **to page 14.**

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Our new year has begun, presenting a clean slate and new beginning. Emotions run high during this holiday season but for me there is no better feeling than a fresh start. Remember that feeling of starting school with new notebooks and pencils? Can you recall that first hive body and new frames, a mingling aroma of fresh paint and clean wax! Better yet was the anticipation and apprehension of having honey bees for the first time. Well, now is the time to get your bees off to a good start. Start cleaning up old equipment, replace worn and damaged gear, and plan for the coming season. Spring will be here before you know it, so don't forget to order bees and queens now as they are in short supply. This is a great time to catch up on new honey bee research and management techniques. If you continue to manage your hives using "old school" methods it is probably costing you money and bees. Make a resolution this year to

subscribe to a monthly publication such as Bee Culture or American Bee Journal and READ IT. Books such as The Hive And The Honey Bee by Dadant, Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping, by Dr. Dewey Caron, and Honey Bee Pests, Predators, and Diseases with Rodger Morse should be in your home library and opened often. Attitude towards beekeeping changes when you observe bees up close. Invest in a good macro lens for your camera or a strong magnifying lens to simply watch them work. Pick up a small hard cover notebook to record your hive inspections. One small enough to fit into a bee jacket but large enough to write in will do. Making notes of your observations and written reminders of colony needs will make you a better beekeeper.

Make a resolution to attend local and State beekeeper meetings. There is always something new to learn at these sessions. Besides, people attending these >> to page 14

NEW JERSEY HONEY

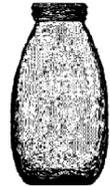
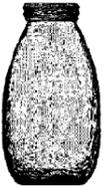
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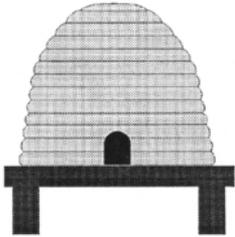
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**Two important beekeeping
seminars** - February 21, 2004

The Chester County Beekeepers Association† will present two concurrent beekeeping seminars at Westtown School in †Chester County, Pennsylvania on Saturday, February 21, 2004 from 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

The Beginning Beekeeping Seminar will be instructed by Jim Bobb, President of the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association and Vice President of PA State Beekeepers Association. Jim will, again, present his own very complete course for people who are new to beekeeping.

The Master Seminar will be presented by Gunther Hauk, co-founder and director of the Pfeiffer Center for Biodynamic Gardening and Environmental Studies in Chestnut Ridge, New York. "Beekeeping from a holistic perspective" is a day-long examination of the needs of the honeybee colony, its current state of health, practices that may be contributing to the honeybees' decline, and what we can do to revitalize our honeybees.

Attendance is limited to 150 persons and pre-registration by February 7, 2004 is required. The fee is \$25.00 per person, which includes an all-you-can-eat hot lunch and snacks during the scheduled breaks.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Please circle: "Beginning Beekeeping" or "Master Seminar"

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

PHONE#: Home:

Work:

E-MAIL:

Please send your check for \$25.00 made out to "Chester County Beekeepers Association" (CCBA) for each attender (partners \$20 and children 16 and under \$10) , along with this form to:

George Biles, 3711 East Fisherville Road, Downingtown, PA 19335

All inquiries should be directed to George Biles at (gbiles@fast.net). Pre-registration must be received by February 7, 2004. Registration after that date, if seating is available, will be \$5.00 in addition per person. A map, directions, and schedule of events will be sent to you upon receipt of your registration. In the event of cancellation there will be no alternative date, and your check will be returned to you. For cancellation information call Linda Betlejeski, CCBA Secretary, at 610-993-7511, after 8:00 PM on Friday, 2/20/2004.

Tips for Honey Show Entries. How to WIN!

Entering the annual Honey Show is fun, lucrative (there are cash prizes! see cover page), and educational. Hundreds of people attending the Agricultural Convention in Long Branch will see our display and marvel at the many different colors and flavors of honey that are produced in New Jersey. Another great reason to enter is that having a few blue ribbons around sure doesn't hurt your marketing. People like to buy the "best honey in New Jersey!" It doesn't really take that long to prepare an entry, but many of us are hesitant to do so because we don't really know how to get our honey or wax ready for a show. Here's a few basic tips on show prep, which I hope will get some of you moving in the right direction - towards the Honey Show!

Honey: First, be sure your jars are nice. I can go through 5 or 6 cases of 1 pound jars looking for 3 jars that are free

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of bubbles, pitted areas, or other flaws. I run the jars through the dish washer and check to be sure there's no soap residue, water marks, or anything at all on them before using them. I also keep them upside down and covered until use so no dust or dirt gets in them. Caps also must be perfectly clean and, after you've bottled your honey, put a piece of plastic wrap over the top before screwing the cap on. That way the cap stays clean. Keep the animals out of your kitchen while working with your show entries, and be sure it's clean. I once lost points because there was a cat hair in my honey - ugh!

The honey must be free of crystals, bubbles and dirt. I first warm a couple of gallons of honey for 24 hours to decrystallize it. I then line the filter I use when I extract my honey with fine nylon fabric. Other types of fabric work also, but I like the nylon as it's lint-free. I run the honey through the filter, put it back in the bottling tank, and run it through a clean filter again. I may even do this three times. Pouring a little into a clean glass and holding it up to a strong light helps you judge if you're done filtering. Once it's clean, the honey goes back in the bottling tank, gets covered, and sits at least overnight. When I'm ready to bottle, I take my clean jars and tip them slightly as the honey is flowing in so that the honey falls on the side of the jar, not the bottom. Fill to the first ring in the neck, the point at which the honey will just be covered by the cap when it is screwed on. Cap and let sit overnight. If you are unsure about crystals, you can put the bottled honey in your oven, preheated to 'warm' and turned off, for an hour. This is a little risky, though. If the temperature is too high, you risk either burning the honey or breaking the jar. Open and check for air bubbles or foam. You can remove these with a tiny spoon or toothpick but be careful not to smear honey on the sides of the jar above the fill line! Label the jars (no crooked labels, please!) after you've added your plastic wrap, and keep them vertical.

All the same cleanliness criteria apply to creamed honey. I let it sit for 24 hours before bottling so there's no air bubbles in the final product. Make sure it's fully set. Cut and comb honey must be packaged cleanly, all cells filled out, and no dirty bee footprints on the wax. Wipe your feet, girls before you go in that Ross Round super! (Actually the

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trick is to produce it fast during a good nectar flow.) In all comb honey, "dry" cappings, with a slight air space below the cap, are preferred to "wet", which some strains of bee (e.g. Buckfast) produce. Dry cappings are white.

Beeswax: In collecting your wax for the perfect candle, novelty item or block of wax, use only your cappings. Keep that brood comb out of your show wax. I tell you truly, folks, that is the singlemost important "trick" to getting clean, lemon yellow wax. And that's coming from someone with a big stack of blue ribbons for beeswax in all classes, taught by Cathie Skove and Marian Chandler, who probably have a few drawers full of ribbons! Filter the wax through nylon or sweatshirt material as many times as it takes to get it perfectly clean, and while

heating it, be careful to use a double boiler and not overheat the wax. It darkens a little every time you melt it. For a block of wax, set your ovenproof mold on a cookie sheet in a warmed oven and pour it right there. Close the door. Slow cooling helps prevent cracks. Please don't pour the wax on a working heating element, though, unless you want to burn your house down. For candles, pour hot to prevent air bubbles, and be sure to use the right wick for the candle, trimmed to 1/2". Getting good dipped

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tapers depends on keeping the wax at the right temperature. Too hot and it won't adhere to the previous layer. Too cold and it clumps. I like 170°F. Also, be sure to finish the bottom of poured

candles, which you can do just by setting them on a warm surface like an old pot for a few seconds. A safety reminder for new-bees: beeswax is extremely flammable. Never melt over direct heat; use a double boiler. Overheated wax can spontaneously combust.

Cosmetics: Beeswax handcream is so easy to make and sells so well, I don't know why more people don't make it. The basic recipe is : Melt 5 ounces of beeswax in 16 ounces of mineral oil. In a separate container, heat 16 ounces of water with 2 teaspoons of borax (as in 20-mule team from the supermarket's laundry detergent section) until the borax is dissolved. When the water is steaming, add it to the wax mixture. Add about half an ounce of fragrance or essential oil and quickly pour into jars while still hot. You can play with this recipe, adjusting the proportions, but this makes a nice cream. For show cream, be sure not to overheat the ingredients or



the cream will be hard. Also make sure it's perfectly clean wax you use, and that your container is easy to open and attractively labelled.

Lip balm is easier yet. Just melt the ingredients together and pour into containers. You can find dozens of



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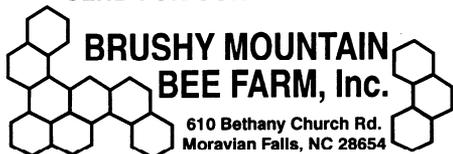


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recipes on-line, most of them using beeswax. Here's a basic one: Melt together 2 teaspoons coconut oil, 1 teaspoon beeswax, 1 vitamin E capsule. Add a few drops of mint or your favorite essential oil and pour into containers.

Soap is a little more difficult to make, but there are many websites devoted to this topic, and once you learn how to do it, you'll be hooked. For show soap, as with all cosmetics, uniformity is important. The three bars must all be the same size, which can be a little tricky when you're cutting them by hand. I just make a bunch and pick my three best.

Wish I could tell you about mead but I've never made it. Maybe if

enough of you hound Wolfgang Keuhn, he'll reveal some of his secrets!

So get cranking; there's only a few weeks left until... **It's Showtime!** Deliver your entries to your local branch president or any state officer planning to attend the NJBA Executive Board meeting on Friday January 30. We'll be sure to get them to Long Branch in time for the judging on Monday February 2. And if you want to see the NJBA's beautiful exhibits, come on down to the Ocean Place Conference Resort in Long Branch. **The Delegate's Dinner is Tuesday February 3**, and the display will be up until February 4. Call Denise Cannuli at the Dept. of Agriculture, 609-292-6931, if you're interested in attending the dinner. For hotel reservations, call 1-800-411-6493 and tell them you're with the Agricultural Convention to get a room rate discount. See you there!

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Website Update

Well, folks, after several years of dithering around, the NJBA website is about to become a reality. Rich Bruno, our Webmaster, has assured me that the site will be up and running in a matter of days, so that, by the time you have this newsletter in hand, you should be able to log onto www.njbeekeepers.org and check out our very own site.

It'll take a while to fully realize what a powerful tool this website is. Each of us can post on the website what products we have for sale, find out about local conditions and concerns for our bees, share a bee story or idea, talk about our favorite management techniques or the design for that nifty piece of equipment we just invented that saves so much work, time, etc. But I'm sure it's going to take us some time to really get in the habit of using the website. Like so many things, it can only get better with time!

The more beekeepers contribute to this website, the better it will be. So get on there, and send Rich anything you think might be of interest. A lot of time, effort and money has gone into making the bones of this site, but ultimately, it's the beekeepers who are going to provide the meat, potatoes (and honey!) that will make it a tantalizing dish for all of us to enjoy.

Rutgers' Short Course:

Mark your calendar now! The annual Bee-ginner's Beekeeping Short Course will be held April 16, 17, and 18 at the Rutgers Cook College campus in New Brunswick. Sponsored by Rutgers' Office of Continuing Professional Education Programs, this course is a great opportunity for new beekeepers to learn more about the art and science of keeping bees, and can help experienced beekeepers brush up on their general beekeeping knowledge and hear the latest news from the bee industry. Topics covered will be: honey bee biology and anatomy; apiary site selection; bee equipment; seasonal management; queens and package bee installation; bee diseases, pests and their control; honey plants; collecting and marketing honey and other hive products; re-queening and swarm

control; integrated control of parasitic bee mites; and how to become involved in and utilize beekeeping organizations.

On the third day (Sunday), we will take a field trip to a beekeeper's operation so that participants will also get hands-on experience assembling beehives, examining and working live bee colonies, and extracting honey.

This course will be taught by veteran beekeepers and area specialists (Bob Hughes, Jake Matthenius, Paul Raybold, and Mike Stanghellini), who have over 120 years of cumulative beekeeping experience.

Registration fee before April 4 is \$75/person (\$105/person after April 4). Bring your own lunch or register for a provided box lunch for an extra \$16 (covers Friday and Saturday). Registrations are accepted by phone, fax, mail, online, or in person at the Ryders Lane office. Payment may be made by credit card, check, money order or purchase order. All registrants will receive a confirmation letter including a map with directions to the course location.

By Phone: (732) 932-9271 Registration Desk. 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EST), Monday to Friday. Please have your credit card number ready.

By Fax: (732) 932-8726, 24 hours. Please fax credit card information or a copy of your check, money order or purchase order with your registration form.

By Mail: Registration Desk: Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education, Rutgers University, 102 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8519.

In Person: 102 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ.

Online: <http://cook.rutgers.edu/~ocpe/>

Field Trip: The hands-on, live bee and honey demonstrations will be on Sunday, April 18. A bus will be available

to transport participants from Rutgers at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning to the beeyard site near Trenton. Bring your own protective gear for working bees (what to wear will be covered in the first two days of the course). You will want to bring a

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lunch and something to drink for this event, as no box lunches are offered on Sunday.

Cancellation Policy: Substitutions are permitted. Unless otherwise specified, registrants may withdraw from a class up to three full working days before the course begins and receive a full refund, less a \$35 processing fee. Beyond that time, registrants may be responsible for the full registration fee if they register but do not attend.

Inclement Weather Policy: In case of inclement weather, please call (732) 932-9271. It is your responsibility to learn if a class is running or if it is postponed due to weather. Class cancellations will not be announced on the radio. A staff member will be in our office at 6:00 a.m. on days of inclement weather to answer your calls and questions. It is our policy not to cancel courses unless severe weather occurs.

Help spread the word! Please share this announcement with your local beekeeping associations at your next meeting!

Dr. Mike Stanghellini

NJBA WHO'S WHO

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NJBA MEETING DATES

NJBA Executive Board Winter Meeting on Friday January 30 at 7:00 pm in the Agriculture Building in Trenton. The Board consists of chapter presidents and secretaries, state officers and committee chairs, plus the State Apiarist and Rutgers Extension Specialist. Any NJBA member is welcome to attend the meeting. For more information, call or email Landi Simone. Final dates for this year's NJBA general membership meetings will be set at this session:

Spring Meeting will be in mid-May at Bob Harvey's farm in South Jersey.

Picnic & Auction will be in late July at Bob Hughes.

EAS will be in the first week of August in PA.

Fall Meeting will be in October, site is in the works.

NORTH WEST

March 13, at Echo Hill Park. 1 - 4 pm. Paul Raybold on Spring Management. Stan Wasitowski on equipment assembly.

June 5 or 12, at Sneider Research Farm, Pittstown, NJ. 1 -4 pm. Dennis Keeney on queen rearing. Hive inspections.

Aug 2-7, Warren County Fair. Set up on Aug. 1.

>> **from cover page**

From Bordentown, go about 5 miles. Take the Columbus exit to the right. Turn left at the top of the jug handle. Make a right at the traffic light. The Grange is a few buildings down on the left.

>>**From southern NJ:** Take 206 North past the Columbus Auction. About a mile later, take the Columbus exit to the right. The Grange is about the sixth building on the right.

Parking: The Grange parking lot is a little small to accomodate all of us but there is ample public parking in a lot just a few doors away and in the back. If the weather's bad enough that we don't want to make the walk, is there anyone with a minivan or other multi-passenger vehicle that can help with shuttle service? If so, please contact Bob Hughes.

>>**from page 2**

meetings won't mind hearing your bee stories. Try to attend a regional meeting. This year's EAS convention is in nearby

Pennsylvania. This event is usually held during the first week of August and that is true for this year. Most NJBA branches participate in local fairs during the summer. Volunteer a few hours of your time at their booth talking to the public about beekeeping. You just might enjoy the experience, and sell a few jars of honey!

Our web site at <http://www.njbeekeepers.org> has finally become a reality. This will be a great place to buy & sell, find meeting dates and sites, post pictures and ask questions. Make sure Northeast branch member Rich Bruno, our Webmaster, is in your address book to send him your news and views.

Congratulations to all new branch officers for 2004! I hope you enjoy your position and help move your group forward. Bring your ideas to our next state exec meeting on January 30, 2004. We would love to hear what you have to say.

Finally, we have a very exciting program created by Dr. Mike Stanghellini, Rutgers Beekeeping Extension Specialist, which will be introduced by him at the Winter Meeting, the NJ Master Beekeeper Program. This was an extremely successful program in North Carolina and we look for similar success here in New Jersey.

I wish all good health and success in the coming year and hope you enjoy a profitable and enjoyable season of beekeeping.

Dan Kurela

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

Jersey Cape - Bill Eisele - 310 Old Tuckahoe Road, Petersburg, NJ 08270

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

JERSEY FRESHTM
FROM THE GARDEN STATE

**February 3 & 4
Honey Show.**

**February 7
Winter Meeting.**

**Details on cover page
RSVP ASAP**