
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION



NEWS

VOL 19 ISSUE 1

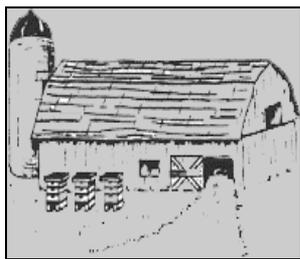
DEC 04/ JAN 05

This year's Ag Convention will be held at Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort in Atlantic City, NJ on January 25 & 26, 2005. Our honey show will be held during that convention.

Winter Meeting to be held on 29 January 2005 at the Columbus Grange.

Dan

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Vendors of bee products are wanted for the NJBA 2004 Fall Meeting. Vendors are allowed to set-up on the grounds around the Main Building to sell honey, wax, candles, books, etc. NO alcoholic beverages! There is no fee. You must supply your own tables.

This event will be advertised in newspapers, online, and with road signs. **Pre-registration is required.**
Call Dan Kurela at 908.637.6644 or 201.343.4798 or write to kurela @ comcast.net

It seems that everywhere I go people remember a time when everyone kept honey bees, and that time was not long ago. Keeping bees just a few years ago did not require the hard chemicals and labor-intensive management techniques require to maintain today's colonies. Expensive equipment, high colony mortality rates and low prices for honey forced many beekeepers, both commercial and hobbyists, to just give up.

Remaining beekeepers are a tough and resilient crowd. Survival depended on education, ingenuity, and guts. New honey bee predators and diseases seemed to appear on a daily basis. Chemical companies dipped into their bag of tricks, but seemed to cause additional

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

>> to page 8

2004 NJBA Fall Meeting Registration
Please submit no later than October 7, 2004
Pre-Registration is \$10.00
Registration at the door is \$12.00

This meeting is advertised by the State of NJ and open to the public. We will issue nametags & lunch coupons to registered members and guests only.

Yes, please register me!

Name	
Branch	
Phone#	
e-mail	

Additional guests	
	_____ Guests @ \$10.00
Amount Enclosed	\$ _____

Mail, fax or e-mail to: Dan Kurela, 43 Quenby Mountain Road, Great Meadows, NJ 07838 908.637.6580 kurela@comcast.net

**NJBA Smoke-Off
Registration**

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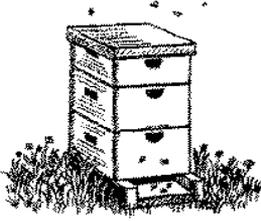
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other – specify:

Contact: Stan Wasitowski
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908 782-7525

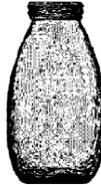
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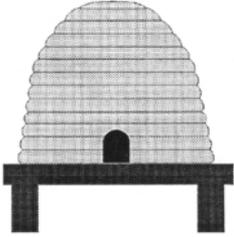
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Real Concerns About Our Future

I have been a member of the NJBA for the last 20 - 25 years. I have seen over these years lots of great things happen for the NJ Beekeepers, due to the efforts of this group. This brings me to the reason I am writing this letter.

I understand that we will have about 5 vacant positions on the Executive Board as of the beginning of January. It is also my understanding that there is an extreme lack of interest in the members to volunteer to hold one of these positions.

One job in particular is the *NJBA News* Editor's position. Alex Berlin has been doing this job for the past several years and doing a great job at it. Now, for personal reasons and for his frequent travels, Alex needs to resign. Dan Kurela has been asking for a volunteer for this position and no one has stepped up to the plate. Nobody contacted Alex either, in response to his request printed in the last *NJBA News* issue. Now I know, it takes a little of our personal time to fulfil one of these positions (been there, done that), but there is a lot of rewards for having taken part.

Fact: There are 8 chapters in the State of New Jersey

Fact: There are 300 -400 active members

It seems to me that we should be able to find enough interested members to fill these slots. If we don't, there is a real danger that the NJBA will fold. Please take a minute and think to yourself how can I contribute, what can I do to keep this great organization alive. What has this group done for me, that I can now return? If all these positions get filled, each job is a little easier.

Once again, I ask that you please look into your heart and call Pat Ricci at 609-758-8729 to volunteer for one of these jobs.

Please don't let the possibility of this great organization fold happen, then nobody wins and that would be a real shame for all of us!

Bob Hughes

Past President
609 585-4359

Liquid Mineral Oil Treatment for Varroa

For those of you who missed the spring state meeting this year at Bob Harvey's farm in south Jersey, I'd like to pass on the most recent method of treating colonies for varroa mites using liquid mineral oil (as opposed to fogging).

The Harveys have switched their operation entirely to mineral oil treatments, used in conjunction with their own hygienic queen breeding program and open screen bottom boards. They no longer use any hard chemicals such as fluvalinate (Apistan) or coumaphos (Check-Mite) at all. One added advantage to the mineral oil for the Harveys is that it also kills small hive beetle, which many of you may know the Harveys have in their operation because of their migratory operation between here and Florida, where the beetles are rampant.

I first heard of this method at EAS several years back, where Master Beekeeper Billy Davis of



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Virginia shared his use of mineral oil with me and Cathie Skove over lunch between workshops. He claimed to control varroa exclusively with liquid mineral oil and open screen bottom boards. Obviously I was intrigued, but did not follow up on this lead because I could find nothing on it in the major beekeeping publications. The idea is that the bees walk in the oil and, in grooming, manage to get enough of it on themselves to somehow induce the mites to let go. They fall through the open screen and are gone. It does not kill mites in sealed brood so several applications are needed to treat the entire 21-day brood cycle.

The basic method is as follows: In your broodnest, run a

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bead of mineral oil using something like a honey bear with a spout along the top of frames 3 and 7, and beads of oil along both lines of frame rests (rabbets), going right across the ends of all the frames as you do so.

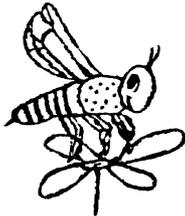
Smoke the bees heavily before you do this to drive down the bees.

Mineral oil will kill bees if you get it on their bodies. That's it.

The Harveys run one hive body as their brood nest, and if you use two (or three mediums as I do), Mike Stanghellini recommends repeating the treatment in each brood super.

The mineral oil treatment should be repeated twice at one-week intervals - a total of three applications a week apart.

I am trying this method for the first time this year on my one and only colony with any substantial population of varroa, and one just under my threshold count. This seems to be a bad year for the mites and a good one for us



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and the bees, at least in northern Jersey. The main reservations I have about the treatment center around the fact that the beekeepers I know who use it (Harvey and Davis) both winter their bees in southern states.

Will it be sufficiently effective to protect honey bees subjected to the greater stress of a northern winter?

This seems like a good year to find out because if it's not, I risk only one or two colonies, not my whole operation. Mike Stanghellini will be doing some research trials on this method this summer. We'll keep you posted on how he makes out. I will feel a great deal more comfortable when there is some hard scientific research to back up the empirical stuff.

Another question is whether the mineral oil works against tracheal mites. One would think that it might, possibly by the same mechanism as a grease patty.

If you are interested in trying this, I obtained the right grade of oil from STE Oil Co. in Texas. It's "Crystal Plus Oil: 70FG". This is a much lighter grade of oil than the stuff sold in drug stores as a laxative. STE's phone is 800-967-1931.

Their website is www.steoil.com. You'll pay about \$20 for a gallon of oil.

Landi Simone



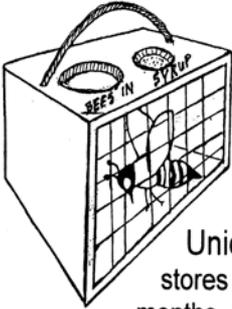
Sad news from Essex

Dorothy "Dottie" Swanson died on August 3rd at her home in Wilmington, N.C.

Dot was a quiet, diligent worker for many years at the Essex County chapter of the NJBA. She was always there to welcome new members and make them feel at home. She handled refreshments, set up tables, and hosted ECBS Exec. Board meetings, usually with fresh coffee and a slice of homemade pie. A few years ago, Dot moved to North Carolina to be near her sons and their families. We at Essex will always remember her warm smile, welcoming spirit, and gentle way. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family. -

Joe Lelinho

President, ECBS



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>>from page 2

problems. Researchers dove into the challenge, but the impatient wanted a quick fix, and research takes time. But for those that stuck it out, help may finally be here. Food grade mineral oil (FGMO) has shown

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promise as a cheap and easy method of mite control and does not contaminate wax or honey. Genetic research on honey bees and mites is advancing our understanding of both insects and will continue to produce answers in the future. And the price of honey and bee products is up. Demand for specialty bee items is of particular interest and commands a good return on your time and materials.

Today's consumer has changed drastically in the last few years. Organic foods, with their higher prices, are in great demand, as are local crops. Farmers markets are springing up in town across New Jersey. Bee products such as soaps, lotions, candles, creams, and mead are sought after items, especially during the holiday season, but these items require proper labeling and packaging. Time and care invested in your product will place money in your pocket.

Many resources exist both online and in print on the preparation of these moneymaking bee products but the knowledge gained from

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few beekeepers that have seen a bee smoker contest and this should be fun. There should be a great variety of smokers and even more smoker fuel types.

This winter has been predicted by The Old Farmer's Almanac to be below average cold with lots of snow so get your colonies ready. Toughest part of winter prep is knitting all those little stockings to hang over the entrance. So many bees, so little time.

See you at the Fall Meeting.

Dan Kurela

Upcomming Elections

As chairperson of the nominating committee for the NJBA, I would like to enlist all of the Chapter

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watching the experts in person will save the frustration of inexperience. These experts are available to you at the NJBA 2004 Fall Meeting. Their products will also be there and available for purchase. So come to learn or come to compare, but you will be sure to come away with information that benefits you!

And bring your smoker for the NJBA SMOKE-OFF. I know of

Presidents, or their designees, as members of this year's nominating committee.

1) we will need each chapter to let me know the name of your respective chapter's designated NCM (Nominating Committee Member) by e-mail, as soon as you can, preferably, by the end of September.

2) We would then ask for input from each chapter's NCM for interest in filling the following positions.

Open positions requiring candidates:
President
1st Vice president
2nd Vice president

We are also in need of a new State Newsletter editor (not elected)

3) We will also need volunteers to actually run the election at the

meeting.

We would hope to at least know the names of the NCM's by the end of September if at all possible. We will gladly take names of any prospective candidates at any time.

Please feel free to call with comments, suggestions, questions, etc.

Pat Ricci 609 758-8729

A warm enclave in Montville



JOHN BELL / DAILY RECORD
Landi Simone has found the Olds Colonie Estates an ideal place for beekeeping. She uses the insects to make honey, soaps and other items sold as products of Goosetuck Farm. 'I love this place,' she said.

Landi on the News. An article featuring Landi Simone, with the image above, appeared recently on the *Daily Record*. We all thank Landi for carrying on her duties as NJBA Treasurer with so much dedication. She needs to give up her post for personal reasons.

NJBA WHO'S WHO

President

Dan Kurela 908 637-6644
kurela@comcast.net

1st Vice President

Joe Lelinho 973 228-4806

2nd Vice President

Jim Copola 973 661-9200
coppola56@yahoo.com

3rd Vice President

Walt Wilson, Jr. 609 758-3828
wilsonspollination@hotmail.com.

Secretary - Treasurer

Landi Simone 973 263-0674
beelady@optonline.net

Recording Secretary

Nancy Alexeichik 609 654-6284
nancnt26@aol.com

EAS Director

Dave Peregmon 856 678-4651

Ag. Convention Delegate

Bob Harvey 856 358-1010

NJBA News Editor

Alejandro Berlin 908 996-4806
431 Stamets Rd. Milford NJ 08848
alchemyfarmllc@earthlink.net

Research Committee

Jake Matthenius 908 454-7316

Speakers Bureau & Film Librarian

Pat Ricci 609 758-8729
Mrpatr@comcast.net

Honey Queen Committee

Carolyn Kurela 908 637-6644

Budget Committee

Bob Hughes 609 585-4359
BobsBuzzyBees@aol.com

Publicity

Cynthia Werts
wertssindee23@aol.com

Webmaster

Richard Bruno
richard.bruno@verizon.net

NJ APIARY INSPECTOR

Paul Raybold 609 292-5440

BRANCH PRESIDENTS

CENTRAL JERSEY

David Strudler 732 323-0303
oldtymer@verizon.net

ESSEX COUNTY

Joe Lelinho 973 644-9024
klutch.cargo@verizon.net

JERSEY CAPE

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NORTHWEST JERSEY

Jake Matthenius 908 454-7316

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honeybees100@yahoo.com

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sbrodhecker@compuserve.com

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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
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Are we beating a dead horse?

I certainly hope not...

However, in the last issue I posted a notice asking YOU, the NJBA members, to become interested in taking up the *NJBA News* Editor position. Not even one of you responded, which brings me to my questions...

Do you actually read the newsletter? Is there any point in publishing it?

If the answer were 'no', then we, as in the Executive Board, might want to find out why not and what should we change to turn that around. And in such scenario, and just before my immediate resignation, I would apologize for possibly having done such a terrible job for you to loose

every ounce of interest in the newsletter.

But if the answer were 'yes', then I would assume that you must find the information, at least half decent, for you to spend any time on it. And if so, I would find it puzzling that none of you responded to the request for a new Editor. Not even one! Not even as a non-committal inquiry!

Why are you so detached and uninterested? I have the feeling none of you will answer this question either, except for the handful of ever-present and supportive few that have been keeping the NJBA alive for so long.

If the newsletter, your branch or the state association is not giving you what you would like to see, then say so, get involved, and make proposals

to make changes and improve the association! But if it is giving you enough, then you owe it to the association to volunteer some of your time. If you do so you will probably find it to be a rewarding experience, especially if some other members go along with you, pushing ahead with the various activities that make the NJBA an association that over 350 individuals care to join.

Alejandro Berlin

NJBA News Editor

NJBA MEETING DATES

NJBA Exec Meeting, **Oct 8**, 2004 Ag Building, Trenton, NJ. 7 PM

NJBA Fall Meeting

See info starting on cover page.

Directions:

The Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center is located between Great Meadows and Buttzville on Rt. 46 approximately 8 miles west of Hackettstown in scenic Warren County.

From Rt. 80: Take Exit #19 (Rt. 517). Go south toward Hackettstown approximately 5 miles. At the first traffic light you come to (downtown Hackettstown) make a right onto Rt. 46 West. Go approximately 8 miles to hatchery entrance on eastbound side.

From Rt. 78: Take Exit #17 (Rt. 31). Take Rt. 31 North approximately 17 miles to its end at Rt. 46. Make a right onto Rt. 46 East. Hatchery entrance is approximately 2.5 miles.

CENTRAL JERSEY

November 12, Monmouth Co. Ag. Bldg. Freehold

December 4, Holiday Party, at Captain's Inn, Forked River

MORRIS COUNTY

October 22, 7PM, Mini Mac Diner, Chester.

Sunday, December 5. Annual Holiday Party

NORTH WEST

October 12, Branch Executive Board meeting at 7 pm, Clinton Library

October 16, Branch meeting to coincide with the NJBA Fall meeting. Please bring a dessert to share.

December 5 or 12, Christmas Party, free for all those renewing the NWJBA membership for 2005. Check the next issue for definite date/location.

SUSSEX COUNTY

November 13, Holiday dinner. Will be held at Mountain Brook.

OTHER EVENTS

Pesticides course

Dr. Hamilton said he would be available on **December 4th** to give a repeat performance of the pesticide test preparatory class which he gave last year at the Rutgers, New Brunswick campus. He needs a minimum of 6 students. If interested please contact Ed Kosenski at 732 542-6528 or ekosenski@mac.com to make final arrangements.

Candle making workshop

Saturday, **December 11** at 7 pm,
Delaware Valley Community College,
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Morris County - Janet Katz - 460 Route 24, Chester, NJ 07930

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

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

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

Sussex County - Marion Stickle - 12 Crystal Spring Rd. Hamburg, NJ 07419

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

JERSEY FRESHTM
FROM THE GARDEN STATE



NJBA 2004 FALL MEETING

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Pequest Trout Hatchery & Resource Center
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Workshops in Wax, Soap, Lotions, Mead

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\$10 registration fee

details & directions inside