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# NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS



## ASSOCIATION



## NEWS

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**VOL 19 ISSUE 3**

**APR / MAY 05**

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### **Happy New Year To One and All!**

Now that the winter meeting is behind us, and the winter (I hope) will soon be gone, let's look ahead. For the 75 members who attended the winter meeting, you know a lot of things took place. As you can see on another page, all of the Executive Board has changed. We, the new Executive Board will do our best to see to it that this great organization moves forward and I am convinced with all of our members' help, we will.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dan Korela and the last Executive Board for their leadership.

Looking ahead, I really believe, to be successful you need participation. That is where all of you, our members come in to play. We very much need your input and attendance at our meetings. I know it can be a little inconvenient for some of you, but we can't help you if we don't know who you are, or what your needs are. I am never too busy to answer your phone calls or e-mails.

Again, as I said at the beginning, lots of things took place at our

winter meeting. It looks as though our new decal will soon be available for your distribution. It seems as though Rutgers is showing interest in maintaining an active research position and we as an organization are helping to push this with a resolution adopted at the winter meeting. This resolution has been mailed to those people that we believe can help push this and is included in this newsletter.

Our Agriculture week honey show was a success and congratulations to all of the winners. Let's concentrate on making next year's contest bigger and better.

Last but not least, we need a few positions filled. First we need a First Vice President. I sure would like to see someone step up to the plate and fill this position. We also need someone to head up our honey queen program. As part of this program we will need a honey queen/ambassador to represent us at events throughout the year.

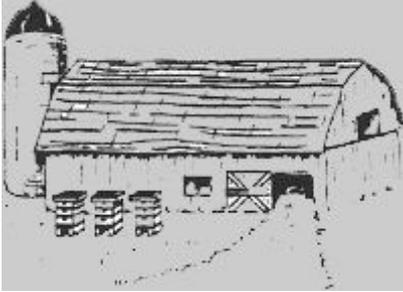
Looking forward to seeing you at our next (spring) meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Northwest Branch

Bob Hughes

609-585-4359

bobsbuzzybees@aol.com

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Joe Lelinho recently won the Best of Show Award at the 2005 New Jersey Department of Agriculture Honey Show in Atlantic City. Accepting the award ribbon, and a check in the photo below are (l-r): Joe Lelinho (Hill Top Honey) and New Jersey Beekeepers Association President Dan Kurela. Joe's wining entries also included a Best of Division for Extracted Light Honey, and first prizes in both the creamed honey and frame of honey categories.



## 2005 Short Course Scholarships Awarded

**Andrew Wasitowski**

**Brian Sheridan**

**Walter Wilson III**

**Travis Wilson**

Congratulations to four young beekeepers that have received scholarships from the NJBA to attend the Short Course at Cook College on April 15, 16, 17 2005. All four submitted essays on why they would like to keep honey bees and we will hear of their efforts later in the year. Good luck to all!

**NJBA RESOLUTION IN  
SUPPORT OF CONTINUING  
THE RESEARCH AND  
EXTENSION SPECIALIST AT  
RUTGERS**

During the Winter 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, pumpkins, squashes, soybeans, strawberries, and other crops, as well as being essential to the well-being of New Jersey citizens by virtue of being responsible for nearly one-third of the food consumed by the people of the Garden State, and;

WHEREAS, New Jersey has in recent years experienced severe losses of honey bee colonies due to parasitism by the imported Asian mite,

Varroa destructor, and resistance on the part of said Varroa mite to the major pesticides licensed for use in treatment of infested colonies, and;

WHEREAS, commercial beekeepers in New Jersey are facing enormous economic hardship and difficulty maintaining a sufficient number of healthy honey bee colonies to meet pollination needs in New Jersey and elsewhere, and;

WHEREAS, the only hope in finding a practical, economical method of combatting the Varroa mite lies in apiculture research, now, therefore,

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

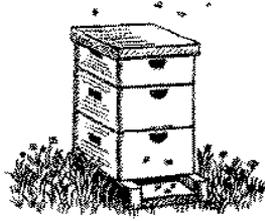
1. Supports allocation of all funds necessary to preserve the position of post-doctoral Research and Extension Specialist at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and;

2. Supports allocation of all funds necessary to provide said Research and Extension Specialist with appropriate staff and equipment to continue research into mitigating the effects of Varroa destructor on honey bee colonies.

Dan Kurela, President  
Landi Simone, Secretary-Treasurer

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Robert "Beeman" Simonofsky  
(member of the North West Branch of NJBA)

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**Hello** from the new editor for the New Jersey Beekeepers Association News. I would like to thank Alejandro for the magnificent job he has done for the last several years in handling all aspects of this newsletter. Now that he has retired we are going to split up the responsibilities and it will take three or four of us to do what Alejandro was doing by himself.

I have had some experience editing newsletters and books for a nationally published author, but I am an editor, not a writer. If you want to see a quality newsletter, please consider contributing stories, fact articles, reports on your experiences in beekeeping, or other items of interest to our audience. I will try to find some of all of these on various internet sites, but there is a limit to what can be copied without paying royalties. And none of these has the

local flavor of stories about people we know. There have already been some stories contributed and I will get those in future editions if they are not included here.

I would like this newsletter to be one of the best in the country. According to Dewey Caron, it is already the best in the region. With your help we can make it even better. The tenth person to contact me about this column will get their next dues paid by me.

Victor Ammons  
NJBA News Editor



*This proposal has been posted in the Dec/Jan and Feb/Mar 2005 newsletters and will be voted upon by the general membership at the 2005 Winter Meeting.*

NJBA Constitutional Change

Proposed NJBA Mission Statement for inclusion in the NJBA Constitution.

The mission of the NJBA is:

- Promote and support all aspects of beekeeping in New Jersey.

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- Educate the general public about the benefits and importance of beekeeping.
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- Inform & educate the general public concerning the honey bee and the beekeeping industry.

*Dan Kurela*

## **APILIFE-VAR New Essential Oil Treatment for Varroa Mite**

Many have spoken about the effectiveness of essential oils for many years, but no one had developed an efficient delivery system or gained the approval of the EPA to use them for the treatment of **Varroa Mite**. **ApiLife VAR** has a proven record in Europe for over 13 years. The ingredients in this product are Thymol, Eucalytol, Menthol, and Camphor. Tests that have been run on this treatment and the results of its effectiveness, its lack of residue in honey and wax are very encouraging. The treatment is as follows: take one of the wafers from the pack and break into 4 pieces, judge where the cluster of

bees are in the brood chamber and place the pieces at the 4 corners of the brood cluster on top of the top bars. Wait 7-10 days and repeat, wait another 7-10 days and repeat for a total of 3 times. This will allow the ApiLife VAR treatment to run through a full cycle of the mite. This treatment cannot be used when the temperature is above 90 degrees. It can be used in the spring before you super up for honey and in the fall when the supers are off. You must wait 30 days between treatment time and supering time, whether used in spring, summer, fall or winter. Used in combination with a screened bottom board the ApiLife VAR is as effective as Apistan.

Mite resistance to the ApiLife VAR has not proven to be an issue in Europe. Right now you will need to check with NJ Apiculture officials to find out if a Pesticide License is required to use this product. Brushy

Mountain Bee Farm is keeping a status of the labeling in various states. You can contact them at 1-800-233-7929.

## 2005 State Honey Show Winners

Best of show	Joe Lelinho
Class 1	Joe Lelinho
Class 2	Alf Burg
Class 3	Frank Prasnal
Class 4	Greg Donaldson
Class 5	Cheri/ Len Klinker
Class 6	Joe Lelinho
Class 7	Fred Sanger
Class 8	Joe Lelinho
Class 9	No Entries
Class 10	No First Place
Class 11	No First Place
Class 12	No Entries
Class 13	Frank Locke
Class 14	Landi Simone
Class 15	Nancy/Jim Puvel
Class 16	Landi Simone
Class 17	Cheri/Len Klinker
Class 18	Landi Simone
Class 19	Landi Simone
Best of division	
Extracted honey	Joe Lelinho
Honey comb/spreads	Joe Lelinho
Mead	No award
Beeswax	Frank Locke
Cosmetics	Cheri/Len Klinker

# Bee Culture

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## Great news!!!

Curtis Crowell and Bob Hughes were contacted on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> to inform us that Rutgers had found funds to keep Mike Stanghellini's position through June of 2006.

The notice mentioned the resolution, included on page 5, that the NJBA sent to various officials throughout the state and at Rutgers. So, it seems that letters DO COUNT!

Thanks to the NJBA Board for quick and timely action after finding out that Mike's position was in jeopardy.

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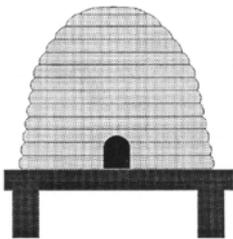
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## Mineral Oil Fogging for Varroa

We novice beekeepers were sitting around the dining room table on a cold January afternoon, trying to decide what we have learned from 2 years of experimenting with non-toxic Varroa control in our 4 hives. Here is how it started:

In the fall of 2002 our first two original hives were treated with Checkmite. By Oct 2003 our hives had produced nearly 160 lbs of honey for our sweet tooth. Beguiled by the possibility of using integrated pest management to control the Varroa mite population, we installed screened bottom boards and used Vaseline coated white boards to monitor mite drop. The idea was to manage our mite problem by knowing how high the population was. Our October pre treatment 24 hour counts indicated

about 2 mites fell to on to the white boards in each hive. During the next 2 months (October & November) we made 9 mite drop counts for each of our 4 hives. Each hive was fogged 3 times with food grade mineral oil according to the Rodriguez protocol (see NJBA newsletter from Feb/Mar 03) over these 3 months.

Oil/wax/honey soaked cotton cords were also place atop the frames of the uppermost super.

The mite drop on the Vaseline boards throughout the two months showed that mites were present at a low level. One of the hives, number 4, appeared to have more mites than the others. Total mite drop for this hive was twice as great as hive 2 and 3x greater than hive 1 while being 4x greater than hive 3.

Projecting the ore treatment mite drop, it appeared that the fogging/impregnated cord treatments increased the mite drop by 3-500%.

The data were scanty but we felt good about our findings vowed to continue this "IPM" approach. The weather was good in December 50 we did a 24 hour count. The hives had not been fogged since Nov. 23. Mite drop was low 1-2/hive except for hive 4 where the rate was around 4. We fogged twice in December believing that the smaller the over wintering mite population the less rapidly the spring problems would develop. Over the winter we decided to redesign the screened bottom boards in the hope that mites falling from the hive to the ground would also help our

approach.

On March 7, 2004 we checked the mite situation in our hives. The mite drop rates had doubled from our October-December pre treatment data. We fogged getting a drop of 4-7 mites per hive/ 24 hrs. On March 26 a count indicated another doubling of the mite population. Fogging took place the next day. The April 10 count made us believe that the mite population was stabilizing. We fogged anyway. The 24 hr post treatment count showed that many mites were present. In the 24 hours after fogging 90 mites had fallen in hive I only 3 in hive 3, while 30 had fallen in both hives 2&4. By April 16, the pre-treatment mite drop rate for hive 1 was approaching 30/24 hour while the others were 2 to 10x less. For some reason we didn't fog, perhaps it was the thought that fogging would interfere with the honey harvesting.. May 20, a 24 hr count was shocking. The drop rate in hive I was now over 200 and all of the other hives had drop rates between 53 and 97. Panic motivated us to fog on May 20, 21, and 24. On May 25 the mite drop rate was 50 to 500% less than it had been 4 days earlier. Hives were fogged again on June 6, 2004. 132 lbs of honey was harvested on June 26. Fogging continued on June 28 and July 29. Fall honey was removed on Oct 28, leaving a substantial quantity for winter stores.

About 35 lbs were bottled.

Yes, the mite experience was different, but the four hives have produced an average of about 40 lbs of honey each year. Very good tasting honey

Once again it is time for winter reflection. What has the past season taught us? Well

here is what we think we know:

1. THE MITE POPULATION EXPLODES AS MUCH AS 10 FOLD FROM MARCH TO LATE MAY.

That is our critical time to exert mite management procedures.

2. Fogging does not eradicate the mite population but is a mite management technique that reduces its population by increasing the drop rate by 4-10x in the first 24 hrs following a single treatment. It might be possible that fogging treatments several successive days increases effectiveness.

3. Carryover Varroa population in older hives may be causing increasing parasitic pressure, which is independent of the queen's age.

4. Adjacent hives seem to have similar mite populations.

As a hobbyist, it appears that 2004

management techniques, though different than previous years, resulted in the same level of honey production.

We wonder if these conclusions will hold in 2005. Happy honey hunting.  
Cindy and Bill

P.S. Our 24 hour pre-treatment mite drop for February 7 2005 was 1-2 mites per hive.

## Bear Problems!

The NJ state Supreme Court upheld the right of NJ State Environmental Chief Bradley Campbell to refuse issuance of hunting permits for black bears in NJ this past fall. Campbell believes that "contraception and a public

(Continued on page 14)

# Nucs!

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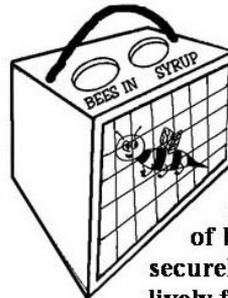
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Bob Hughes 609 585-4359  
BobsBuzzyBees@aol.com

## **1st Vice President**

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## **2nd Vice President**

Alf Berg 732 458 8423  
a.berg@verizon.net

## **3rd Vice President**

Pete Leighton

## **Secretary - Treasurer**

Curtis Crowell 609 443-1835  
curtiscrow@att.net

## **Recording Secretary**

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## **EAS Director**

Dave Peregmon 856 981 9483  
davesawmill@msn.com

## **Ag. Convention Delegate**

Bob Harvey 856 358-1010  
harvhoney@aol.com

## **MAAREC:**

Joe Lelinho, 973 228-4806  
klutch.cargo@verizon.net

## **NJBA News Editor**

Victor Ammons 908-369-3418  
685 Montgomery Rd, Hillsborough,  
NJ 08844  
vammons@thepriscogroup.com

## **Research Committee**

Jake Matthenius 908 454-7316

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Mrpatr@comcast.net

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## **Honey Queen**

Nicole Wagenblast

## **Budget Committee**

Ray Markley 609 261-1638  
[RAMBeeman@aol.com](mailto:RAMBeeman@aol.com)

## **Honey Bee Advisory Committee**

Bob Hughes 609 585-4359  
BobsBuzzyBees@aol.com

## **Publicity**

Cynthia Werts 732 247 1424  
wertssindee23@aol.com

## **Webmaster**

Janet Katz  
[janet.katz@earthlink.net](mailto:janet.katz@earthlink.net)

## **NJ APIARY INSPECTOR**

Paul Raybold 609 292-5440

## **BRANCH PRESIDENTS**

### **CENTRAL JERSEY**

Alice Volkens, 732 928-1487  
xanadubee1@aol.com

### **ESSEX COUNTY**

Grant Stiles 732 661-0700  
Grant.stiles@aphis.usda.gov

### **JERSEY CAPE**

Karl Novsak, 609 889-7575  
knovsak@bellatlantic.net

### **MORRIS COUNTY**

John Geismar, 908 879 6798  
jandjgeismar@aol.com

### **NORTHEAST JERSEY**

Tom Fuscaldo 973 942-5066  
tomfuscaldo@aol.com

### **NORTHWEST JERSEY**

Beatrice Tassot 908-832-8951  
tassotapairies@comcast.net

### **SOUTH JERSEY**

Shane Woodruff 609 567-8388  
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## NJBA MEETING DATES

May 14 NJBA Spring Meeting

July 16 NJBA Auction and Picnic  
Bob Hughes', 706 Groveville-  
Allentown Rd., Yardville, NJ 08620

Aug 13 Bug Bonanza  
Liberty Science Center  
Liberty State Park, Jersey City

### Fall Meeting-Oct 1st

#### Location

RUTGERS EcoComplex  
Environmental Research and  
Extension Center  
Bordentown, NJ

<http://ecocomplex.rutgers.edu/>

#### Speakers:

Sue Cobey , New World Carniolan®  
Breeding Program, Ohio State Univ.  
Dr. Mike Stanghellini, NJ State  
Apiculturist

#### Topics:

Queen and Drone Rearing  
Bee Breeding and the NWC program  
For information contact Ed Kosenski 732-  
542-6528

## ESSEX COUNTY

Second Monday except Jan, Feb, Jul, Aug  
Essex County Environmental Center  
621 Eagle Rock Ave, Roseland 7:30 PM  
May 7 Honey Fair

## MORRIS COUNTY

April 23: Spring Hive Inspection with the  
NJ Apiarist, Paul Raybold. We will be  
opening the hives of members, Mark  
Muller & Debra Harrison, at 2110 Arbor  
Way, Martinsville, NJ.  
June 11: Annual Picnic at the home of  
members Janet & John Geismar at 16 Old  
Mill Road, Chester.  
July 22, 23, 24 : Morris County 4H Fair,  
Chubb Park, Chester. Demonstration hive.

## NORTH EAST

Third Friday, 678 S. Maple Ave  
Glen Rock

## NORTH WEST

Spring meeting: March 26  
Echo Hill Park  
Summer meeting/picnic:  
July 30 Deer Path Park  
Warren County Fair Aug 1-7  
Phillipsburg fair grounds

## OTHER EVENTS

**April 15-17 NJ Beekeeping Short  
Course, Cook College Holly House on  
Log Cabin Rd, New Brunswick.** Early  
registration until 4/1. Save \$25.

Liberty Science Center Bug Bonanza  
2005 is set for Aug 13th 1-4PM.  
Presentation proposal is just about  
ready to be released, requesting  
activity description. Participants are  
required to attend an orientation of  
about 90 minutes in late July. NJBA  
can set up bee beard, honey tasting,  
hive observation using LSC  
observation hive, etc with willing  
volunteers. Paul Raybold has agreed  
to do the bee beard.

Delaware Valley College  
Beekeeping Short Course  
June 24 - 26, 2005 9:00 - 4:00  
Contact Dr. Robert Berthold  
700 E. Butler Ave, Doylestown PA  
18901 215-489-2285

### NJBA NEWS Annual Ad rates

Ad size	Location of ad	Price
Full page	1st 25% of newsletter	\$150
1/2 page	1st 25% of newsletter	\$100
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
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awareness campaign" for NJ residents living in bear territory (mostly NW Jersey) is adequate to manage the estimated 1000-3000 NJ bears. Beekeepers will find on the MAAREC web site ([MAAREC.cas.psu.edu](http://MAAREC.cas.psu.edu)) a leaflet Bears and Bees (publication 4.10 downloadable under Beekeeping topics) a useful information source. Our website language is that bears are ".....an increasing threat to beekeepers." Since hunters did not have the right to kill > 700 NJ bears as in previous year, (often the younger-aged males who cause the most bear-human-bee problems), NJ beekeepers may expect to experience greater problems with this beehive pest. Our site says correcting a bee hive-bear Results of the honey show by class confrontation means moving the apiary site. Constructing a bear fence prior to initial visitation, but not afterward, is a pro-active approach. We diagram a typical bear-resistant fence in the leaflet. It would be well for the State Association advisory committee to continue their efforts to further help NJ beekeepers who experience bear problems. Currently bears caught in the act of damaging bee hives can be shot (this was the position with previous administrators) and the NJ Dept of Environmental Protection will work with beekeepers to trap and remove offending bears. Neighboring MAAREC states of PA, MD and WV offer beekeepers financial help to construct fencing or compensation if damage occurs (DE lacks bears so has no program). Since NJ now seeks to protect their growing bear population, beekeepers should seek their "rights" along with the bears!!

Article provided by Dr. Dewey M. Caron, Univ of Delaware

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

## NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Membership Form

**Note: Memberships start in January and expire in December**

New

Renewal

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

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