
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION



NEWS

VOL 19 ISSUE 4

JUN / JUL 05

It is with great regret that I have to announce that Mike Stanghellini has been offered a job in California and that, after a lot of thought, he has accepted the offer. Mike has been with Rutgers for about 2 years and has been very much involved in honey bee research trying to make our bee keeping easier. Mike, good luck to you and your wife from all of us. I know that we, the N.B.J.A. members, will be better off for having had the benefit of your professionalism and your friendship. (See Mike's letter on page 3.)

By now I would suspect that you all have had a chance to take a look at your bees and hope your winter losses were few. In my case, and in talking with Paul Raybold, generally throughout the state that is not the case.

I am looking forward to our spring meeting and would like to encourage everyone to attend. It looks like Bea Tassot and the Northwest branch have organized a great event.

From a State Organizational level, looks as though the decals will be ready for distribution at our spring meeting. As you can see by now our newsletter problem has been worked out and Vic is doing a great job. Also as you can see by the NJBA Who's Who section, all of our elected positions have been filled. Welcome aboard Tom Ippolito - 3rd VP and Kathleen Wagenblast our Honey Queen. Another problem in the northern part of the state is with ordinances being passed against bees. I have had some conversations with the Department of Agriculture about this and several other concerns.

Last but not least, I have been made aware of a medical problem of a friend of mine and brother beekeeper, Bruce Thompson. Bruce from all of us, Get Well Soon.

Wishing you all a Great Spring Season,

Bob Hughes

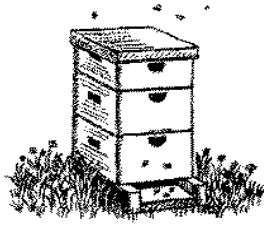
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HARVEY'S HONEY

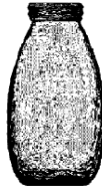
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Dear NJBA friends,

Some of you may have heard this already, but I wanted to send a notice to you directly. Two weeks ago, I was offered another job in California, and I accepted it last week. It is a non-beekeeping position, but still agriculture and in industry (private company). I will be moving from NJ in early June.

This was a tough decision for me to make - I love apiculture and have been very happy in New Jersey - but the bee position here just doesn't have long-term security. Another factor is that all of my immediate family lives in CA, and it'll be nice to be closer to them.

I am helping Rutgers fill the bee position with another person, which would hopefully happen in summer. They already have a pool of candidates for my replacement.

I will be at the Executive meeting in Trenton on May 6, and also at the NJBA meeting on May 14. Hope to see you all there. It has been a great pleasure working with you all, and I wish you the best of luck in all your beekeeping endeavors and in life.

Sincerely,

Mike Stanghellini

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SHORT COURSE REPORT

Randy Zeberl of Rochelle Park (member of Northeast Branch) standing with his grandson Brian Sheridan, 13, of Hackensack.



Randy took the short course in 1988 and has been a beekeeper ever since. Brian attended the course on a New Jersey Beekeepers Association scholarship.

Andrew Wasitowski, 13, of Ringoes also attended the course on an NJBA scholarship. Andrew is the fourth generation of his family to become a beekeeper, following the footsteps of his father Dave Wasitowski (a past president of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association), his grandfather Stan Wasitowski, Jr, and his great-grandfather Stan Wasitowski, Sr. Andrew is pictured on the right below



wearing a bee veil along with his brother Thomas (5 months) and

mother Marion. Thomas doesn't have a veil yet.

The two grandsons of Freehold beekeeper Walt Wilson Senior recently completed their first course in beekeeping at Rutgers last week. Travis Wilson, 12, and Walt Wilson III, 15 (who both attended the course



on a NJBA scholarship) represent the third generation of Wilson beekeepers dating back to when Walt Sr. began keeping bees in 1950.

Report on "Living with Varroa":

There was a great article in the Morris County newsletter dated April 7, 2005. The article is Owen Carlin's report on the seminar entitled "Living With Varroa 2005 Treatment Options." The seminar was held at Lehigh Carbon Community College in Schnecksville, PA and was co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association and the Lehigh Valley Beekeepers Association. Included in the article is a link to site giving details of the Pettis Test, which Mike Stanghellini referenced in his presentation at the seminar. This tests for mite resistance to Apistan. The link is:

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/agf/>

Factsheet 224 Apistan
(Fluvalinate) Resistance Test
(Pettis Test)

Contact Janet Katz and maybe she'll send you an Acrobat copy of the article. For more information on varroa see http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/PDFs/Varroa_Mites_PMP1.pdf.

And keep your eye on <http://www.njbeekeepers.org/Education.htm>, the education page of the NJBA website, for opportunities to learn more about our favorite insect, the honeybee.

BEEKEEPER SURVEY

The LSU Department of Agricultural Economics is asking for beekeepers to fill out a survey on line. These survey responses will assist in evaluating the problem of mites and the economics and effectiveness of treatments. Please help yourselves by helping with their research.

The Department of Agricultural Economics at Louisiana State University is asking for your help in a study we are conducting in cooperation with the USDA Agricultural Research Service. This study focuses on options for controlling *Varroa* and *tracheal mites* in the beekeeping industry. As you may know, both types of mites pose a serious threat to the future of the American honey bee industry. Among other strategies for

dealing with these mites, scientists have been selecting for different traits in bees or lines of bees that are resistant to or less susceptible to both mites.

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From this survey, we want to determine:
1) how much economic damage has been caused by *Varroa* mites and *tracheal mites*; 2) how beekeepers are dealing with *Varroa* mites



and *tracheal* mites; and 3) the economic value to beekeepers of these new lines of honey bees for dealing with *Varroa* mites and *tracheal* mites. For these reasons, we ask you to help us get the word out to all beekeepers about the on-line version of

our survey and to complete the survey yourself. Please ask all interested



beekeepers to go to the survey website and complete the survey. The address of the on-line survey is www.honeybeesurvey.com. If you have any questions, please contact John Westra by e-mail at jwestra@agcenter.lsu.edu or phone at (225) 578-2721. If you wish to write, you may contact him at Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, 101 Agricultural Administration Building, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge LA 70803-5604 Thank you very much for your participation.

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EAS NOTES

AUGUST 1-5 Plan a fun vacation and learn about bees too! This is a fun conference with lots of opportunities for the family as well. The Ohio group is planning activities that are geared toward the kids. The short course is from Aug. 1-3 and the conference is from Aug. 3-5. The short course accommodates beginner and advanced beekeepers each year.

The Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) goes back 50 years this year! Our own Jake Mathenius and others in New Jersey were instrumental in those early years getting the largest convention for beekeepers, researchers, and families to get together and talk, socialize, and learn about bees. Robert Morse entomologist from Cornell at the time also joined forces to encourage this

important gathering as well as the master beekeeping program.

This year we would like to have a contingent going to Kent State in Ohio to help celebrate! If you would be interested in renting a van/bus and carpooling call or e-mail Dave Peregmon 856-678-4651 davesawmill@msn.com

Dave and Anne usually find a nice campground nearby to stay and reduce costs. Call or e-mail Dave if you want more information. The website www.DiscoverOhio.com will give you lots of info on Ohio. Some of the planned events include shopping, Kent State Fashion Museum, Garden/Mansion tours, OSU bee Garden and Museum... and much more!

The winning raffle ticket for two to attend EAS for this year (registration, room, and board) was won by Guy Hoges from South Salem, NY. If Mr. Hoges is unable to attend he will receive a check for \$500. That was a bargain! An entire stay for two at EAS minus transportation.

Dave Peregmon
NJ EAS Director

Bees in the News

You may have noticed that our favorite insect has been in the news lately. On April 27th, there was a short piece on NBC news entitled "A buzzkill for farmers nationwide. US Agriculture takes a hit with honeybees under attack." (To read a text version of the article and to download the video segment itself, go to <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7656383/>).

There was also an article in the Star Ledger on April 22nd entitled, "[N.J. HONEYBEES FEEL THE STING](#)", about the plight of the honeybee in New Jersey with comments from Essex County member Joe Lelinho, NJBA President Bob Hughes, NJ Apiarist Paul Raybold and Rutgers' Mike Stanghellini. Another article appeared in the Burlington County Times on May 6, with interviews of Ray Markley and Paul Raybold.

According to NJBA Secretary, Curtis Crowell, coming up this weekend, CBS News has taped a piece on the "bee shortage" with Rob Harvey on Thursday for airing Sunday night, May 8, on CBS News following the final round of the PGA Wachovia Golf Tournament. The piece should air during the 6:00 PM news unless the golf tournament runs over and it gets bumped.

The New York news station, WB11 went to the Essex County web site in early March and contacted Joe Lelinho. They came out on May 2nd and did a live report on Honey Bees. Larry Hoff did the report. Joe supplied him with a bee suit, and also one for the camera man. They also reported on how to extract honey.

If you know of any publicity about beekeeping please inform Janet Katz and Victor Ammons so the info can be put on the web site and in this newsletter.

Beekeeping's Benefit to Agriculture

A Press Release from The National Honey Board

AGRICULTURE'S DEPENDENCE

Millions of acres of U.S. fruit, vegetable, oilseed and legume seed crops depend on insect pollination. An estimated 80 percent of crop insect pollination is accomplished by honey bees.

CROP DEPENDENCE

The almond crop is entirely dependent on pollination by honey bees; without honey bees there would be no almonds. California is responsible for more than half of the world production of almonds. Numerous other crops are 90 % dependent on pollination by honey bees. Some of those crops include apples, avocado, cherry, blueberry, cranberry and sunflower. Other crops such as alfalfa, cucumber, kiwi fruit, melons and vegetables are also pollinated by honey bees.

HOW MANY BEES DOES IT TAKE?

To pollinate California's approximately 420,000 bearing acres of almonds, it is estimated that it takes between 900,000 and 1,000,000 colonies of honey bees.

DOLLAR VALUE

A 1999 Cornell University study concluded that the direct value of honey bee pollination to U.S. agriculture is over \$14 billion. This dollar amount is a 56.7% increase from the same study conducted in 1989.

FOOD SUPPLY

About one-third of the total human diet is derived directly or indirectly from insect pollinated plants. The Cornell University study determined that honey bee pollination is a major benefit both to the price and supply of food for the United States.

LIVESTOCK FEED

The production of most beef and dairy products consumed in the United States is dependent on insect-pollinated legumes (alfalfa, clover, etc.). One half of all alfalfa seed produced comes from California. Approximately 220,000 colonies of honey bees are produced comes from California. Approximately 220,000 colonies of honey bees are used to pollinate alfalfa fields for seed production.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

The first colony of bees ever rented for pollination purposes was in 1909 for pollinating apples. The practice of renting bees to pollinate crops is expanding. Most pollination services available to growers in the United States are provided by commercial beekeepers. Approximately 2,500,000 colonies are rented for pollination each year and the average value of these crops is over \$5.7 billion dollars.

George's PINK PAGES

May 2003.

The Do's and Don't's of Harvesting Honey
Part 1: Getting most nectar capped
Part 2: Four methods of removing honey
Part 3: Extracting procedures and tricks
Part 4: Cleaning the extracted frames
Part 5: Storing drawn comb until next year

Beekeepers destroy so much good honey each year by extracting UNCAPPED

nectar, which causes the honey to be higher than 19.6 specific gravity and the honey ferments. Bees do NOT CAP their honey until they have removed most of its water content and have allowed the necessary time for the enzyme, invertase, which they have added to the nectar to convert the nectar sugar, sucrose, into two simpler sugars, glucose and fructose, a process often referred to as "curing" or "ripening". Only when the nectar is totally cured or ripened do the bees CAP the cell which preserves it for its intended purpose - winter stores. The bees never did plan it for YOU! The task of curing honey is difficult for bees in our high humidity area over most of Maryland, so we can give the bees some help. Near the end of our nectar flow, which is about the last week in May for most of Maryland, "shrink" the storage space in the supers by removing all slightly filled or zero filled frames, and move the UNCAPPED (but almost full) frames to the lowest super (the one next to the brood chamber), and leave everything quiet for a week or ten days until EXTRACTION TIME. The frames that you removed can be stored on

another colony (like a swarm you caught) OVER the inner cover; and the bees of that colony will go through the inner cover hole, remove the nectar or honey and take it below for brood chamber feeding.

Near the end of June, and the year's crop of honey for human consumption is over, all your frames are at least 90-95% fully capped, your extraction equipment is clean and you are ready to extract. Now all you have to do is get that honey off your colonies, and get it to the extractor while it is still WARM, because uncapping and extracting is so much easier with WARM honey.

Part 2

There are primarily FOUR ways of removing honey from bee hives: Using the Porter Bee Escape; brushing bees off of frames of honey; using an electric bee blower to blow the bees off of the frames; and, using some chemical like BeeGo, HoneyRobber, Benz-aldehyde, or Bee Quick to drive the bees away from the frames of honey with a smell they don't like.

The use of the Porter Bee Escape in the hole of the inner cover SIMPLY DOES NOT WORK IN OUR WARM MARYLAND NIGHTS, so I will not waste your time
(Continued on Page 14)

Bee Culture

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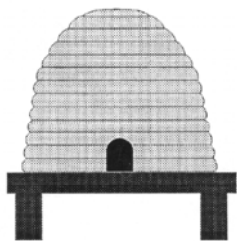
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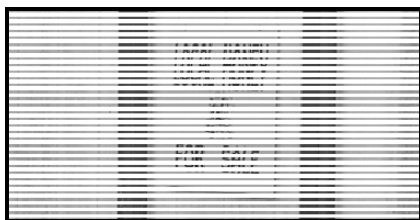
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NJBA MEETING DATES

July 16 NJBA Auction and Picnic
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Aug 13 Bug Bonanza
Liberty Science Center
Liberty State Park, Jersey City

CENTRAL JERSEY

Dec 3 2005 Christmas Party – Captains
Inn, Forked River, NJ

ESSEX COUNTY

Second Monday except Jul, Aug.
Extensive schedule of events at Essex
County Environmental Center. Contact
Landi Simone for dates and topics.

MORRIS COUNTY

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

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

SUSSEX COUNTY

July 31 Fair set-up
Aug 5-14 Sussex County Fair

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

Jul 22-30 Delaware State Fair,
Harrington

Aug 1-5 EAS Short Course and
Annual Meeting Kent State
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Many of you have concern about your neighbor's feelings about your bees stinging them or their guests particularly when having a swim party, outdoor reception, or a cook-out. I strongly suggest that you do NOT brush your bees off of frames to harvest your honey, because you will lose your status of a community friend! Regardless of how good a Bee Brush you have purchased or the care that you use with the brush, bees interpret your action as aggressive and perform their genetic duty and DEFEND their colony so it may survive. This action can involve a large area and hence maybe a large number of people, many of which think that the only place for bees is FAR, FAR AWAY. However, some die-hards are going to brush bees anyhow; so I have to tell you some tricks that might help. Have an empty super sitting in a hive top and some big WET TOWELS. Remove one frame of honey, "Rap it" or "Hit it" on its end against the ground close to the front entrance of the colony to jar most of the bees off the frame, brush it quickly, but lightly, put it in the empty super, and quickly cover the super with the wet towel. Repeat this same procedure for each frame, one at a time. Do not try to brush EVERY bee off of each frame because you will just get the bees more and more excited and defensive. When you get the super inside your house, remove the wet towel, most of the bees will fly right to a window or door. NEVER LEAVE A SUPER OF HONEY OUTSIDE FOR LONG -many hands make light work!
(Stay tuned for more of George's PINK PAGES)

describing its function. It can only be used in places of warm days and CHILLY nights.

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

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Note: Memberships start in January and expire in December

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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

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