“Thank you folks immensely,” were Lincoln Sennet’s first words when I answered the phone Tuesday morning, May 7th. Sennet, the owner of Swans Honey in Albion, ME, was the owner of the bees on the trailer that was traveling from Georgia to Maine the day before when the load shifted and the driver pulled off Route 287 onto North Maple Avenue in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards Township in Somerset County. He watched on the news as we adjusted the load, laughing when one report said we used the corn syrup to lure the bees back into the trailer, thankful his name wasn’t mentioned.

Shortly after 6 a.m., back on 287 after refueling, the driver noticed something was wrong with his load and pulled off the highway onto North Maple Avenue. Several pallets of bees, which had been loaded on top of inadequately shrink-wrapped buckets of corn syrup, had shifted. Hives and corn syrup tumbled to the ground when the driver opened the netting covering the load.

Local police contacted two beekeepers they knew, Don Hart of the Morris-Somerset branch (who is also a member of the Liberty Corner First Aid Squad) and Raritan Valley member Cathy Blumig. Hart contacted nearby Morris-Somerset members Rod Donovan and Chris Yates. Blumig called State Apiarist Tim Schuler and me. On his way up from south Jersey, Schuler contacted Alex Warcola, a student in his Rutgers beekeeping course, and a new Morris-Somerset branch member.

By the time I arrived on the scene, Hart, Donovan and Yates were offloading the hives and the gallon buckets of corn syrup so that they could be reloaded with the pallets of bees on the bottom and the buckets on top. Luckily the weather was cool, only about 53°, and overcast, keeping bee flight down somewhat. Hart had borrowed a step ladder from nearby Verizon so access to the trailer bed was easier. Basking Ridge EMT’s provided us with water and Benadryl for the luckless driver who suffered about a dozen stings before we arrived.

The truck was reloaded, netting restored and everything strapped down by early afternoon and the driver was on his way. Shortly after that, the Basking Ridge fire company arrived and washed the corn syrup off the roadway. Sennet was able to offload his bees at 5 a.m. Tuesday.

(Continued on Page 5)

Annual Summer Picnic & Auction, August 17, 2013
Ewing Senior Community Center, Ewing N.J.
(See Page 9)
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NJBA Annual Picnic and Auction!!
Saturday, August 17, 2013
Ewing Community and Senior Center

NJBA Annual Fall Meeting
October 19, 2013: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
New Jersey Beekeepers Association Fall State Meeting hosted by the Central Jersey Beekeepers Association. Featured speaker will be Thomas D. Seeley, topic to be determined. Meeting will be held at the Rutgers EcoComplex, Environmental Research and Extension Center, 1200 Florence-Columbus Rd., Bordentown. Further details will follow when available.

Delaware Valley College
Bee Courses Offered

Master Beekeeper, Dr. Vince Aloyo, is offering three beekeeping classes this spring and summer. Introductory Beekeeping is scheduled for July 12, 13 and 14. Intermediate Level Beekeeping: Spring Management is offered on Saturdays: April 13, 20 and May 4. Queen Rearing will be on Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12. All courses will be held at the Del Val campus in Doylestown, PA. Enrollment is very limited. For more information, please contact Dr. Aloyo via e-mail: vincent.aloyo@gmail.com or visit his web site: vincemasterbeekeeper.com
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morning, stating the bees were in good shape but some of his guys got covered in corn syrup. We knew the feeling!

Sennet, active in the Maine State Beekeepers Association, runs about 2,000 hives, packs about 200,000 pounds of honey a year and sells nuc’s and beekeeping supplies out of his retail facility in Albion, ME. He leases 30,000 acres from timber company Rayonier for wintering, “mainly to make good bees for sale”. Commercial for about 15 years, Sennet has been keeping bees since his youth. As a thank you, we hope to have him speak at our 2014 winter meeting. It was an excellent example of working together to minimize what could have been a far worse situation. Kudos to Don Hart, Rod Donovan, Chris Yates and Alex Warcola.

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Beginner beekeeper classes
Hi everyone! Bob Hughes and I just finished the second beginner beekeeper class for 2013. We had about 60 students who were very excited about beekeeping. Bob and I strongly encouraged them to join a local branch of the NJBA. If you see a new face, please reach out to them and make them feel at home. They will, no doubt, have many questions. Do your best to answer them. I am still amazed at the momentum beekeeping continues to have. We now have a waiting list for seats in the October, 2013 beginner beekeeping class.

Winter death loss survey
Thank you to all who participated in the winter death loss survey. We had fewer people participate this year. I have included a summary of the last three years’ results. I have not had time to further digest the data at this time. Look for it in the future.

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<th>Treatment?</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<td>18%</td>
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<td>Overall DL</td>
<td>34%</td>
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Colony Condition
As I write this, it’s May 21 and bees are still in blueberry pollination. Black locust has begun to bloom. A front is keeping things cloudy and rainy. I do hope there is a locust crop. Bees are making honey in blueberries. Strong colonies have been swarming. Kevin Inglin is tracking swarm reports through the season to begin to collect swarm data. If you collect a swarm please report it on the site at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/swarm. It will be interesting to see how swarms map out in New Jersey. I hope to see you at the state meeting on June 1.

I also hope you are getting ready to harvest a large honey crop. By the time you read this, it will be time to think about what you are going to use to control varroa mites in your colonies. Our statistics show that mite control in New Jersey must take place in July to August.

Have a great beekeeping season.

Tim Schuler
State Apiarist
Calling all Beekeepers and Photographers!

Announcing a photo contest for the 2014 “A Year in New Jersey Beekeeping” calendar. We are looking for all kinds of photos that have to do with beekeeping: bees, beekeepers, equipment, hives, hives in winter, hives in summer, bees in nature... you get the idea. Keep your camera handy as you tend your bees and watch for them as they forage. During the course of the beekeeping year, we may even ask for photos that illustrate something specific. Those photographers whose photos are selected for inclusion in the calendar will get a photo credit and a FREE calendar.

Photos should be in jpeg format, with a maximum file size of 5mb. The larger the file, the better it will print if selected for the calendar. Please send photos to Calendar@grafiks101.com. Please include your name and address. The deadline for submission of photos is September 1, 2013. Limit 3 photos per person please. For more information or if you have questions, email Beckyw@grafiks101.com.

August 17, 2013: Annual picnic and auction of bee-related paraphernalia at the Ewing Senior Community Center. 999 Lower Ferry Road, Ewing, NJ 08628 (Mercer County).

Find used equipment bargains, sell equipment you no longer need, talk about bees all day, good food, good company, lots of shade trees and easy parking for everyone (including Grant Stiles’ sugar truck)! Coffee and donuts from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. followed by the auction in the theater, with the incomparable auctioneer, Morris-Somerset branch member Rod Donovan. Bring chairs, if you’d like. Price is $20 per person, if paid before August 10th, $25 day of. Children 12 and older are $20; ages 6 to 11 are $5 and 4 years and younger are free.

Information on registering for the event online will be emailed when available. No email address? RSVP to Curtis Crowell at event_reg@njbeekeepers.org and send your check made out to “NJBA” to him at 152 Broad St., Hightstown, NJ 08520.
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May 15, 2013: By way of introduction: I started keeping bees in June of 2010. I have three hives in Highland Park, NJ. As a new beekeeper, I am learning something new all the time. In this column, I’ll share what I am learning so that other new beekeepers may perhaps benefit. More experienced beekeepers may use this opportunity to keep the conversation fresh. I am open to your suggestions. Yipee! Another two months without a bee sting. Being that it’s springtime helps (smile). And I’ve been busy in the beeyard (see below).

The beeyard has been very busy lately. I purchased three packages from beekeepers in Cranbury and Flemington, and installed them in early April. It was a very exciting time. I also presented my new bees in a demonstration hive to the entire 7th grade science class at the Warren, NJ, middle school. That was all a lot of fun, and the bees are doing well.

The 2013 NJBA Honey Show and related auction, at which one could see a display of first-place winners (photo, below) was exciting. I didn’t manage to submit a honey entry after all, but I did look through my bee-related photographs and wound up submitting and receiving a second place award. Not bad for an amateur. I noticed with excitement that apparently many of the winners of the honey show this year were first-time winners, hobbyists, new beekeepers, or all of the above. If you are a new beekeeper, please consider participating in 2014. The annual honey show is a wonderful, educational event. You do not have to be a particularly experienced beekeeper to participate, or even to win a top prize. I was amazed to see that, during the subsequent auction of award winning entries, the bidding was often quite lively, with some one-pound jars of award-winning honey drawing bids of close to $50.00 each. Of course, the proceeds go to a worthy cause, the NJBA. Thank you to all who participated and worked to make this event such a successful one.

Thanks to State Apiarist Tim Schuler, I’ve gotten an old survey, “The New Jersey Beekeeping Industry in 1944.” I’ve been asked to scan this for the NJBA website. Briefly, the results, collected in 1945, and published in 1946, were a “truly cooperative project between the beekeepers and the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture.” In the forward of the document, the primary objectives of the survey were described as follows: “(1) to determine the size of the industry in 1944; (2) to find the causes of winter loss of colonies and to recommend remedies; (3) to ascertain the extent of damage to the industry by the poisonous sprays and dusts used by owners of adjacent farms to protect their crops from insects and diseases; (4) to determine the normal production of honey; (5) to ascertain the extent to which bees are used for pollinating purposes; (6) to find whether beekeepers prefer to keep bees in two-story or one-story hives; (7) to describe the marketing of honey, queens and bees; and (8) to estimate the 1944 gross income from bees.”

Follow me at @giaimojosephine. Email me at josephinegiaimo@gmail.com. How about we plan a #beechat soon, okay?
Colony Collapse Disorder—it sounds catastrophic and frightening. The Genetic Literacy Project’s Jon Entine separates fact from fiction.

It’s estimated that over the past five years, some 30 percent of bees in the United States have either disappeared or failed to survive to pollinate blossoms in the spring. That’s about 50% more than the rate expected. The problem is direr in some other countries. In Spain, recent data indicate a loss close to 80% of beehives. On the other hand, in Canada and Australia, there is no sign of Colony Collapse Disorder.

What may be causing the die-offs and why the dramatic disparities from one region to another? Scientists have a number of hypotheses but the activist community has coalesced around one explanation: They blame it on neonicotinoids, also known as neonics, which are the widest used class of insecticide ever.

“‘It’s time to ban dangerous neonicotinoid pesticides,’” declares Mother Earth News. “‘Bees need help now! Time to up the ante,’” declares the Pesticide Action Network announcing its suit against the Environmental Protection Agency. “EPA should cancel all uses of neonics where they can lead to harm for bees and other beneficial insects, and chemical manufacturers like Bayer and Syngenta that make neonics should use their resources to develop less harmful alternatives instead of defending the neonics,” writes Jennifer Sass of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Birds, bats and insects all pollinate flowering plants, but the most celebrated pollinator is the honeybee, and for good reason. United States commercial beekeepers take millions of bee hives on the road each year to pollinate blueberries and papaya, almonds and apples, and a cornucopia of other fruits, vegetables and nuts. Close to one third of our food supply is linked to pollination. Without the bee our diet would be less nutritious and less tasty. Bee die offs are a serious issue and need to be evaluated. But the question remains: are neonicotinoids the culprit?

Fingering neonics  Neonicotinoids are a new class of systemic pesticide popular in the US, Australia, Europe and elsewhere to help corn, soy, cotton and canola farmers. They were adopted over the past 20 years as a less toxic replacement of organophosphate pesticides, which are known to kill bees and wildlife, and have been linked to health problems in workers. By universal agreement, neonicotinoids are extremely effective. Applied to the soil, sprayed on the crop or used as a seed treatment, they eventually reach the pollen and nectar, which is ingested by insects, discouraging pests from wrecking havoc on crops. The seed treatment lowers the amount used 10 to 20 fold, decreasing the need for open spraying of the plant, a genuine sustainability benefit.

Neonics were phased in without incident in the 1990s. But an age-old problem in the bee world—a periodic and unpredictable dramatic rise in bee deaths in one region or another—reemerged in 2004. Bee death rates approached 60% in California Beekeepers called it the vampire mite scare because of its likely link to varroa mites—parasites that feed on the bodily fluids of bees.

The explanatory narrative began to change in 2006, when new waves of bee deaths were reported around the world. Anti-biotechnology activists blamed GMOs. “There are many reasons given to the decline in Bees, but one argument that matters most is the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and “Terminator Seeds” that are presently being endorsed by governments and forcefully utilized as our primary agricultural needs of survival,” argued the anti-globalization group Global Research, in what
amounted Science Collapse Disorder (Continued from Page 13)

to a rhetorical and circumstantial argument. But as GMOs have
gained favor with the science community, the focus of activist
groups shifted and a new culprit was identified: neonicotinoids.

Over the past few months, CBS News, NPR and Dan Rather have
run powerful segments and the popular media in general has
cheerled a recent lawsuit spearheaded by the Center for Food Safety and other anti-chemical groups
demanding that the Environmental Protection Agency ban the insecticide. In less than a month, the New
York Times ran a front-page article and editorialized twice on the subject, dismissing what it called
“manufacturers’ bland assurances” about its safety and all but calling for a ban.

History raises questions about the almost exclusive focus on neonics to explain the regional bee crisis.
Periodic occurrences resembling what has come to be known as bee Colony Collapse Disorder have been
documented as far back as 1869. In the last half century, the domesticated honeybee population has de-
clined by about 50 percent, with incidents common well before the introduction of neonics, which was
hailed by environmentalists because of their comparatively modest environmental footprint. The term
CCD was originally used to describe the phenomenon when worker bees suddenly and mysteriously dis-
appeared. The term, with its alarmist ring, was co-opted by activists in the mid 2000s to describe a new
development—mass bee deaths.

The research on bee colony deaths is dicey—and often political. The science based view of this issue took
a sharp turn in January when the European Food Safety Authority issued three studies raising questions
about the potential role of neonics in this latest wave of bee deaths. The studies did not link the pesticides
to the collapse of whole bee colonies, but did raise enough issues to lead to a vote last month for a 2-year
precautionary ban by the European Commission. The ban was blocked, temporarily, by Germany, Britain
and seven other countries, citing evidence that neonics were not the sole or likely the primary culprit, their
impact still unclear. The EC plans an appeal.

Last year, one study showed that bumblebees exposed to high doses of the neonic imidacloprid in the lab,
then released to forage in the field, had sharply reduced colony growth rates and produced 85 percent
fewer queens to found new colonies. In another study, more than 30 percent of free-ranging honeybees
whose brains were doused with the neonic thiamethoxam—which is not the way bees encounter the
chemical in the real world—got confused, failing to return to the hive.

Real world contradictions

The results were so dramatic—and so contradictory of real life experience of some beekeepers in Canada,
Europe and Australia who use neonics and where many bee colonies are thriving—that the United King-
dom’s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) decided to reevaluate existing
research. The agency pointed to the problem with much of the lab based data—it measures doses and
application methods that farmers don’t use. “The risk to bee populations from neonics, as they are cur-
tently used, is low.” DEFRA concluded in March. “Laboratory-based studies demonstrating sub-lethal
effects on bees from neonics did not replicate realistic conditions, but extreme scenarios… … While this
assessment cannot exclude rare effects of neonicotinoids on bees in the field, it suggests that effects on
bees do not occur under normal circumstances. Consequently, it supports the view that the risk to bee
populations from neonicotinoids, as they are currently used, is low,” the study concluded.

Farmers are almost universally opposed to even a temporary ban absent definitive real world research,
(Continued on Page 15)
Science Collapse Disorder  *(Continued from Page 14)*

calling it reckless. As they note, because of the ban on organophosphates, there are no real alternatives to neonics, which everyone agrees have been extremely effective. Insecticides are used for a reason: to kill pests and make our food safer to eat. Without neonics or a suitable replacement, farmers could face losses estimated by one industry study as $5.78 billion per year in Europe alone—and many multiples of that if a ban is instituted in the United States and other major agricultural economies, with the costs passed on to consumers.

Understandably alarmed at the economic implications to consumers and to their bottom lines, Syngenta and Bayer, the two primary manufacturers of the chemicals, have proposed a plan to accelerate bee health research. They’ve also proposed adding new flowering margins around fields to provide pesticide-free bee habitats and monitoring for the presence of neonics in crops.

Industry is concerned as to what they see as a ‘rush to judgment’—and should a “temporary” ban is instituted it will be difficult to unring the precautionary bell regardless of what new evidence might show. They point to real world contradictions that suggest that pathogens, parasites and habitat loss, which has been the driver of CCD for more than a century before the introduction of insecticides, are the likely prime cause this time as well.

Canada, the UK and Australia all provide provocative real world case studies. Canola is grown commercially mostly on the prairies in Canada, the largest single producer of canola in the world with more than 50,000 canola producers and 16 million acres. It’s a nutritionally rich crop for bees. Some 80% of Canada’s honey crop is from canola, amounting to 50 million pounds per year of Grade No 1 white honey. Approximately 300,000 colonies harvest open pollinated canola.

Despite the fact that neonicotinoids are widely used in Canada to protect canola from pests, Canadian
That Jersey Buzz is Raw Organic Honey: Local and Ready to Love

By Linda Eckhardt on May 20, 2013, Everybody Eats News Sustainable Food-Sustainable Living, everybodyeatsnews.com

Aaron Daniels, Beekeeper and Entrepreneur, Newark, NJ

You’ve heard about the dearth of bees? Well, not in Newark, New Jersey. Young Aaron Daniels, 24, has made quite a buzzing business for himself as a beekeeper in Newark. His hives are placed around the city, and Aaron minds the hives and harvests the honey for sale in outlets both local and as far away as Boston. He calls his business JerseyBuzz: www.jerseybuzz.net When I asked Aaron about Newark’s plentiful bees, he told me that no one in Newark sprays chemicals like they do in the suburbs. Can’t afford ‘em, he says. So poor, bombed-out Newark turns out to be a great place to start an urban organic raw honey bee-keeping business.

Beekeeper Aaron Daniels harvests the honey. And Aaron’s honey is carefully described. Aaron makes and sells only raw honey, which is the concentrated nectar of flowers that comes straight from the extractor. It is unheated, pure, unpasteurized, and unprocessed. Much of the honey found in the supermarket is not raw honey but “commercial” grade honey, which has been pasteurized (heated at 158°F / 70°C or more, followed by rapid cooling) and processed so that it is easier to handle and package. As a result, commerically processed honey’s delicate aromas, vitamins and minerals are lost. Raw honey is more nutritious and flavorful than processed honey.

Aaron is part of the Newark Conservancy, a 25 year old organization that supports urban agriculture, provides training for young people, and provision of local, organic produce and honey to the community through a series of neighborhood farmstands.. “People in Newark don’t have cars,” says Newark Conservancy Executive Director, Robin Dougherty, “and there aren’t enough supermarkets, so farmstands are welcome.”

Aaron, who maintains seven hives and hopes to grow to 200 hives in his business, says he just loves bees. Not stung yet? I asked him. Only once, he replied in his soft, impassioned voice. “Then I learned to do it right.” Aaron’s mentor and friend, Joseph Jay, was the treasurer of the Essex County Beekeepers Association, “I wanted to be him. I just loved him,” says Aaron. He gained strength and confidence from the patient tutelage he got from Mr. Jay.
Aaron’s worst experience as a beekeeper was once when his hives were attacked by hornets, the natural enemy of bees. See this UK piece from “The Daily Mail” for an example of what hornets can do to bees. [http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2086250/30-Japanese-hornets-kill-30-000-European-honeybees-video.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2086250/30-Japanese-hornets-kill-30-000-European-honeybees-video.html) Aaron is available to give workshops to school or clubs, and will make personal appearances this summer at Greenwood Gardens, Newark’s Ironbound Portuguese Fair, and the Washington Street Fair. Aaron loves to show people what a pleasure it is to raise bees and welcomes invitations for appearances.

**Health benefits of raw honey**

If you’re troubled by seasonal allergies, buy locally produced raw honey for a treatment. 1 tablespoon of raw honey daily is as good as an allergy shot for seasonal allergies. Raw honey has antimicrobial effects and acts like an antibiotic when applied to wounds. Useful for treating burns as well, honey will keep air away from burnt skin so that it may heal more quickly. Simply make a poultice of pure raw honey and paste it onto the skin. Works for rashes, burns, and abrasions. However, medical experts warn against giving raw honey to children under the age of one because of the potential possibility of transmitting botulism.

**Bee Swarms are done in May of every year. Watch for them.** May is the season when bees make new homes. If the old hive gets too crowded, a young queen will take off with a few thousand of her closest friends to claim a new site. In the process, the bees will swarm in several different places. For two Mays in a row, I have been privileged to have a swarm of bees in the trees in my back yard. It’s magical really. They never stay more than a day. Scouts go out from the swarm to tell them where to go next. As mysteriously as they came, they go. They are quite harmless unless you try to break up the swarm. Here’s a better idea. **Call Aaron Daniels, 973 374 1063**, and he will come and take those bees and make a new hive for them. But call quickly. They only stay in one place a short time.

Aaron is looking to find new locations for his hives. If you’d like to have hives on your property contact Aaron: [www.jerseybuzz.net](http://www.jerseybuzz.net), myjerseybuzz@GMAIL.COM, 973.374.1063 and Aaron will come and make a site inspection to see if your property is a suitable site for a hive or two.

**The Bees’ Knees: Where to buy Aaron’s raw,organic New Jersey Honey**

Go right to the source and buy the honey from Aaron’s website, [www.jerseybuzz.net](http://www.jerseybuzz.net).
bee populations have been largely unaffected and produce around 50 million pounds of canola honey. A large-scale Ontario field study funded by Bayer appears to back up the real life evidence challenging the activist doomsday scenario. It found no difference in colony health between hives exposed to neonicots and those that weren’t, in real life conditions. “The doses the bees are exposed to [in lab studies] are far above what a realistic field dose exposure would be,” says Dr. Cynthia Scott-Dupree, head of the Ontario study. Canadian canola farmers say they have had 10 years of large scale use of neonicots on canola with no observed ill effect.

Britain’s rapeseed crop, which is similar to canola but has a high acid content and is generally produced for animal feed, has not experienced serious bee losses either. The DEFRA study noted that oilseed rape (OSR) “requires insect pollinators to support its productivity. The fact that OSR treated with neonicotinoids has been a productive crop for over a decade in the UK is itself evidence that pollinator populations, including bees, are not being reduced by the presence of neonicotinoids.”

Varroa mites: The real culprit? Australia presents the most striking dilemma for those isolating their attacks on neonicots. On a per crop basis, it is one of the world’s heaviest users of the pesticide—and has among the healthiest bee colonies in the world. Government records indicate there has not been even one adverse experience report from either the public or beekeepers concerning the use of neonicots. The other thing they don’t see in Australia—but we do see everywhere else in the world where CCD is claimed—is the Varroa mite, the culprit in the 2005/06 bee death march.

While not deadly in themselves, these parasites act as a vector, attaching to honeybees and appearing to be “both a disseminator and activator of a number of bee viruses,” according to a report on honeybee disease in Europe by the Food and Environment Research Agency. In countries experiencing bee decline, varroa is a feared and growing presence among beekeepers—even or especially if neonicotinoids are absent. For example, in upland areas of Switzerland where the pesticide is not used, bee colony populations are under significant pressure from the mites; and in France, declines in the bee population in mountainous areas (where neonicots are uncommon) are similar to those in agricultural areas (where neonicots are widely used).

At one point in Dan Rather’s report, the President of the California Beekeepers Association, John Miller, opens a hive and picks out a bee with a red dot on its back. “That’s a varroa mite,” he explains. “That is Satan incarnate. That is the central challenge of beekeeping globally.” The spreading problem of disease itself is compounded by the desperate efforts of beekeepers to extinguish the mites and other pests by dousing their hives with miticides and antibiotics, which would increase if there were no approved and effective pesticides. As Miller says, “You can imagine how hard it is to kill a bug on a bug. It’s the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do.”

Bee deaths are not to be taken lightly. But the technology-intensive agricultural industry certainly provides an easy target for those who want to “do something yesterday,” without any regard to balancing costs and benefits and regardless of the long-term consequences. As the British Bee Keeper Association recently warned, rushing to ban neonicots, when the evidence remains contradictory, could well do more damage than good, as other pesticides, some known to be more harmful to bees, would of necessity be reintroduced. The EPA is now addressing the issue, sending a research team to California where more than 1.6 million hives are needed every spring. Let science—and scientists—do their work.
Two Canadian beekeepers have been fined $35,200 (US$33,900) by Health Canada for using unregistered pest control products in their beehives in an attempt to kill invading mites. The Edmonton Journal reports Russell Severson of Camrose and Miedema Honey Farm Inc. of Barrhead were fined after they used products on their hives in Alberta with the active ingredient amitraz.

It is an insecticide that is approved for use in Canada, but only in registered products. It is found in flea and tick collars for dogs.

Miedema was given two violations; one a C$4,000 (US$3,850) fine for the use of an unregistered product and the other for importing a product that contained thymol.

Six notices of violation were handed out to Severson for a total fine of C$31,200 (US$30,050) for using an unregistered product. Folkert Miedema told the newspaper he used the product Taktic, which is sold in Australia, as a way to combat the mites.

“It is used all over the United States and beekeepers in Canada use it too,” Miedema said.

He said Taktic was much more effective than products approved for use in Canada.

Alberta provincial apiculturist Medhat Nasr told the newspaper issues of non-compliance with federal law have to be taken seriously.

“These guys use word of mouth and don’t know how much of the product to apply and how to handle pesticides,” he said. “The danger is in three things – risk for the applicators...
Letter from the Editor

A Harrowing Experience

It all started out on a Tuesday morning while waiting in my car. I broke out in a cold sweat, so much that I steamed up the windows. For the rest of the day, I felt pretty good. In the middle of the night I woke up feeling really bad with a fever of 101° and a stomach ache. In the morning, I called out from school that I was sick, thinking that maybe I caught a cold or had the flu.

During the day I felt sleepy with no appetite at all. My temp was down, but I had the shakes and chills. In the early evening I got my fever back, but this time it got to 102°. Now thinking I had the flu, I went to bed and during the night I got the chills and sweats, so the next morning I got hold of my doctor and went right to the office.

I told him my problem and that I had been bitten by a few ticks. With the fever, he had a puzzled look on his face and he said it wasn’t the flu due to the symptoms. Upon further examination, he found I had a bladder infection and prescribed an antibiotic. Thinking I was on my way to recovery, I went home only to more misery with a fever all night and the next day, which was Friday. I stayed mostly in bed all day without eating, only drinking liquids hoping to feel better, but as night came the fever got higher.

Saturday was another bad day, but I had the fever all day with chills and trembling that I couldn’t even hold a spoon. I seemed to be getting worse, and my fever was going up. When it reached 104°, it was time to go to the hospital. At the emergency room the doctor said that I had to be admitted. After being admitted, they started to take blood samples to see if there was any infection. I told them that I had gotten bitten by a few ticks a couple of weeks ago. The doctor asked how I had gotten bitten. I told him I live in the country and was out in the field checking my bees and moving bees to blueberries.

All day Sunday they were checking me to determine where the infection was coming from; my liver, gallbladder, spleen, and my kidneys. The doctors from the hospital were stumped and had to call in disease specialist Dr. Louie from NY, who ordered more antibiotics and more blood work.

Sunday night the 104° fever returned and the nurses packed me with ice. By morning it had come down to 101°. They had me on a constant saline drip intravenously to keep me hydrated.

Early Monday morning, when the specialist came back. Dr. Louie and he seemed very interested in the tick bites, and he was going to take more blood samples and start treating me with more antibiotics for tick-borne diseases. Ticks can carry over 21 different diseases, some not even named yet, but he said he would start even before the results came back which could take a couple of weeks. With the new antibiotics, my fever only reached 102° that night.

On Tuesday my temp would be only 100°. It looked like the medicine was working. But I felt bad, my legs and feet were retaining fluid and looked twice their normal size. They started the new antibiotics and finally, on Wednesday, my fever broke. I still felt bad, so bad that I felt I wasn’t going to make it. My legs and feet were aching because of the fluid
and I had not been sleeping all week. A nurse finally got me a reclining chair, which was comfortable enough to finally get some sleep. By Wednesday night I started feeling better. They had cut back on the fluid drip, but my legs and feet still hurt. My temp was finally normal, and they said I could go home if it stayed normal for 24 hours. In the reclining chair I got a little more sleep that night and Thursday morning I started to feel a little better. By afternoon I was ready to go home. The antibiotics were working. So after a few days of antibiotics, the doctor would released me at about 8:00 pm. I was finally leaving but my feet were so swollen that I couldn’t put on my shoes. At home and in my bed at last.

The next few days, all I could do was lay around I felt so weak. My stomach felt so bad I didn’t have any solid food for a week and just thinking about food turned my stomach. I got nauseous just looking at food.

On Saturday night my dog, Lucy, looked like she wasn’t feeling well. She had to be helped to go outside. Sunday morning she could not walk, so I told Ann we had to take her to the vets. She had to be carried; we rushed her to North Star Vets in Allentown. After her examination and blood tests they found she had the same tick diseases plus she tested positive for lyme which I didn’t have. They had found out what she had in 15 minutes and I still didn’t have my diagnosis. Kiddingly, Anna asked the vet if he could check me and maybe I could get some results. To treat my dog they gave her the same exact antibiotics that I was taking.

By Wednesday I felt pretty good and I had to see the doctor. I told the doctor the meds were making me feel as bad as the disease. He finally told me that I could stop. I could smell the meds anywhere I went. Even my skin smelled of it and it would turn my stomach. I still couldn’t eat a meal. Even water tasted bad.

The next Monday I ate my first full meal in three weeks. I lost 20 pounds; a heck of a way to lose some weight! My legs and feet are back to normal size, but it may take another three weeks till I’m back to normal. What an ordeal.

I have to thank my wife Anna and son Cosimo for all their support.

“Don’t go in the woods, don’t go, It’s a jungle out their” Rodney Dangerfield.

Conclusion: get those ticks off as fast as you can.

Recipe Courtesy of Coral Bosch, Event Planner and Founder of Zikei Event Design.

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Branch Club Dates:
Jersey Cape: Third Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m., Cape May County Courthouse, 355 Route 657, Cape May Court House.
Northeast: Third Friday, Room 135S (the Amphitheater), Anisfield School of Business, Ramapo College, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, 7:30 p.m.
Raritan Valley: Third Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Somerset 4H Building, 310 Milltown Rd., Somer-
South Jersey: July 13, 9:00 a.m. to noon, home of Chris & John Hibbs, “Take Care of the Bees that Take Care of the Bees That To Into Winter.” No August meeting.
Morris-Somerset: June 28, 7:00 p.m., Martinsville Community Center.
July 18 to 21, Morris County 4H Fair, Chubb Park, Chester.
Essex: June 11, 7:00 p.m. Monthly meeting. August 13, 7:00 p.m. Monthly meeting.
Northwest: June 22, 10:00 a.m., branch BBQ and summer hive management, Leary residence.
July 27, 9:00 a.m., beekeeping demos. Aug. 21-28, 9:00 a.m., Hunterdon County Fair. Aug. 28, 3:00 p.m., Great Tomato Tasting Event.
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Membership Form

Check one:  ☐ New  ☐ Renewal

Name _____________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________
City _______________________ State _____ Zip ___________
Phone ______________________ E-mail ______________________

☐ Check here if you agree to have your name, city, phone and e-mail address published and made available to other NJBA members only (your full mailing address will not be published).

☐ Check here if you would like the NJBA newsletter sent to you by email, as a PDF attachment instead of a hardcopy via the US Postal Service. Make certain to provide a valid email address above.

Make checks payable to your local branch (e.g. “Essex Beekeepers”) and mail the dues with a copy of this form to the appropriate branch treasurer listed below.

Membership is for a full calendar year, ending December 31st. Dues are payable by January 1st of the current year and are considered delinquent as of March 1st. New memberships paid for after July 31st are good through December 31st of the following year. Dues must be current to receive the state newsletter, informational emails from the state, be listed on the product or swarm collector web pages and to enter the annual honey show. If you’d like to join additional branches once you have joined the NJBA through a primary branch, you can do so by paying the branch-only portion of the dues ($8) to the additional branch or branches.

☐ Junior Membership (under the age of 18)  $ 8
☐ Membership (State Association & One Primary Branch-Required)  $20

Select your primary branch below whose meetings are most convenient for you:

☐ Central Jersey Branch:  Curtis Crowell, 152 Broad St., Hightstown, NJ 08520
☐ Essex County Beekeepers:  Joe Lelinho, 15 Hill St., N. Caldwell, NJ 07006
☐ Jersey Cape Branch:  Marjorie Brooks, 21 East Station Rd., Ocean City, NJ 08226
☐ Morris-Somerset Branch:  Mary Hart, 54 Crest Dr., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
☐ North East Branch:  Karl Schoenknecht, 683 Summit Ave., Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417
☐ North West Jersey Branch:  Karin Weinberg, 337 Tunnel Rd., Asbury, NJ 08802-1120
☐ Raritan Valley Beekeepers:  Denise DeCristofano, 978 Evergreen Dr., Somerville, NJ 08876
☐ South Jersey Branch:  Doris Morgan, 838 Tuska Ave., Millville, NJ 08332
☐ Sussex County Branch:  Roman Osadca, 10 Old Stage Road, Newton, NJ 07860

☐ Secondary Branch-Only Membership (Optional)  $ 8
Secondary Branch: _______________________________________

Most branches will allow members of any NJBA branch to attend their meetings. Already a member of one branch, but want to get newsletters from another? Check the box next to ‘Secondary Branch’, write in the name of the branch you’d like to be an ‘associate member’ of and send the $8 branch portion of the dues and membership application separately to that branch’s treasurer. Remember, you must have a Primary Branch membership at one branch before requesting a secondary or associate membership at an additional branch or branches.