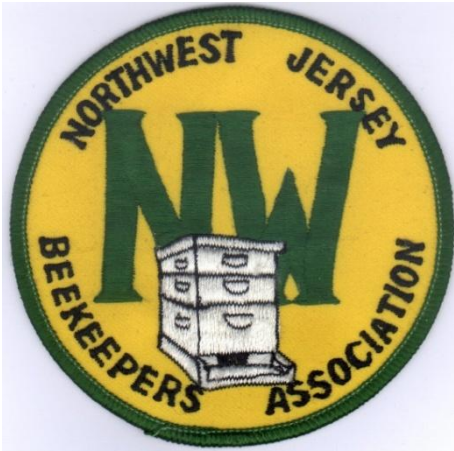




NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

May - June Newsletter 2009



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hi Fellow Beekeepers,

Hello fellow beekeepers,
Finally spring has arrived and we can start back to tending to the bees. Hopefully everybody had busy winter season building equipment in preparation of the arrival of packages, nucs or making splits. In addition, hope you found some time to do a little reading whether a book or a periodical. If you do not subscribe to one of the bee magazine I would suggest you sign up, it is great way to stay current with beekeeping and likely give you some ideas that you may want implement in your own apiary. I would like to thank all that came out to our Spring 2009 meeting at the Rutgers Snyder

Research Farm. It was nice to see a large turnout and hope everyone got a chance to meet and talk to others. I would like to thank Jake Matthenius, Frank "Woody" Wooden, John Peterson, and Robert Simonofsky for helping out and fielding questions from the group.

As we move thru the spring build up and thru the honey flow, please feel free to contact any of the officers if you should have questions regarding your bees, and if we do not know we will put you in contact with someone who can help.

We are planning to have another Branch meeting in mid June details to follow on the exact time and date of the event. In addition the NJBA Spring Meeting will held on June 6th in Medford at the JCC Camps and be hosted by the South Jersey Branch. Good luck to everyone for the 2009 season and hope to see you at the next branch or state meeting.
Scott Horsnall

Late Spring Meeting

NW Chapter Beekeepers:

Northwest Chapter Late Spring/Summer Meeting: The main focus of this meeting will be the installation of package bees, with demonstration. The meeting will be held at

Deer Path, Lebanon Township.

<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/guides/DeerPath.htm> The meeting is tentatively planned for May 30th pending package arrival.

Please e-mail an RSVP to the branch sec'y, typing: "I will/will not attend the May 30th meeting" in the subject box, to: AmberfieldHoneyBees@Yahoo.com so that we can inform you of the time and exact date of this meeting.

Bring your Late Spring management questions for the experts to answer. This meeting will be "in the field", Feel free to bring along snacks; we will supply beverages.

Seasonal Management Tips & Reminders

A copy of May/June Newsletter 2008 with tips for Late Spring/Summer Seasonal Management can be found on our website <http://nwba.njbeekeepers.org/> You will find information related to swarms, and the installation of package bees and nucs, written by Charles Ilsley our 1st V Pres. (As an aside, this site has not been updated in some time as your branch secretary is presently learning the skills necessary to maintain the contents). Anyone interested in helping with the process is welcome to e-mail or call the Sec'y.

Primary management concerns for late spring and summer are:

1. Monitor colonies for queen cells
2. Control swarming
3. Add additional supers as necessary.

For our new beekeepers; Those starting with newly installed packages on foundation, add the second hive body or super when the majority of the frames in the first hive body are fully drawn out, (8 or 9 frames). A second super should be added after the first super is about 7 frames full, (in about four to six weeks).

4. Install packages and Nucs.

Nice video showing installation procedure for packages, go to:

<http://www.nebees.com/package.php>

Be sure to feed-feed-feed these "babies". It is best to feed a mixture of sugar and water in a one to one ratio by volume in the spring. An additional stimulant to brood rearing for new packages is the feeding of a quality pollen substitute. This product comes in powdered form, is mixed with sugar syrup and formed into a patty, which is sandwiched between two sheets of waxed paper and placed directly over the brood nest area.

5. Split strong colonies
One of the best ways to prevent "strong" colonies from swarming is to split them or take divisions from them in late April or early

May. "The new division will usually become productive if established early in a year if a good nectar flow follows". Maarec, Beekeeping Basics, Penn State 2007

6. Capture Swarms

7. Cull and replace defective combs with full sheets of foundation.

This would also include replacing about 3 frames of your oldest foundation with comb per year as a method of minimizing the amount of residual pesticide/contaminant in your drawn comb.

8. Begin implementation of an IPM program for the control of mites, hive beetle etc.

State Calendar:

Spring Meeting State Beekeepers

This promises to be a great meeting and opportunity for learning from our experts, we hope to have a nice turnout of NWbeekeepers ...See you there!

June 6, 2009: Saturday, NJBA Spring Meeting, JCC Camps at Medford hosted by the South Jersey Beekeepers Association. This meeting will employ a hands-on format focused on beekeeping skills for beginners. The hope is to have activities such as hiving a swarm, performing a cutout on a bee tree, hive inspections and IPM. SJBA President Seth Belson is working with Blue Stone Perennials to have bee-friendly plants

available.

Guests should include Molly and Carly from "Hives for Lives" and John Clayton of beemaster.com fame. Details, directions and registration information will be posted when available on the NJBA website;
<http://njbeekeepers.org/Calendar.htm>

Northwest Calendar:

May 30th, 2009 - Tentative Date:

Deer Path, Hunterdon County Park, Lebanon:

<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/guides/DeerPath.htm>

Package installation, details to follow.

June 27, 2009: Summer meeting. Echo Hill, How to manage a honey flow & summer dearth, details to follow.

June 19 and 20, 2009: Rutgers Extension Course: Practical Hive Management Tools for Beekeepers - Beyond the Basics. Rutgers Office of Cont' Prof. Ed. held at Snyder Farm, Pittstown, NJ. Registration Desk phone: 732-932-9271. Contact the branch secretary for a brochure with a description of material covered.

July 26 to August 1, 2009: Warren County Farmer's Fair, Harmony Township

August 19 to August 23, 2009: Hunterdon County 4H and Agricultural Fair, County Fairgrounds, South County Park, Route 179, Ringoes, New Jersey

September, 2009: Fall meeting. Echo Hill Park, details to follow.

December, 2009: Annual Christmas party and Year End Meeting at Echo Hill Park, details to follow.

NORTHWEST BEE-GINNERS



QUESTIONS FOR THE EXPERTS

Send us your questions!

E-mail: AmberfieldHoneyBees@yahoo.com

Type: "Question for the Experts" in the subject box, and forward your question or call the secretary @ 609-466-9428. We will choose three for the experts to answer; You will find the answers in our next publication.

No questions for the experts were forwarded for this newsletter. Please don't be shy membership...our experts are here to help you...so send your questions and they will answer!

Miscellaneous for Bee-ginners



With an invitation to all NWNJ Beekeepers/Bee-ginners with any experience to share your valuable thoughts-ideas or experiences with our NWNJBA members. Just e-mail the branch sec'y:

AmberfieldHoneyBees@yahoo.com Type: "Info for our Bee-ginners" in the subject box and impart your wisdom, thoughts and/or experiences. The following was submitted by

a fellow Bee-ginner, Roger Gares.

" Guess I'm a beekeeper and a writer now. maybe it will generate more interest in the club"

Roger

News from NUBEE "Roger Gares"

Well I've been to 2 meetings now and met lots of nice folks. Last meeting I brought with me, a hive and a nuke, part of what I built over the winter. Got some great compliments on the work and my wife's painting. Had one critique, which I appreciated and then applied the appropriate correction. All my hives and parts were built from rough lumber which i had to plane to thickness to start. I did get one base hive from Stan (with lots of great advice) for Christmas, a gift from my wife.

I now have 4 conventional hives and 2 1/2 top-bar hives. Got interested in top-bars reading online so I decided to give these a try as well. Mind you I'm not a beekeeper yet. My wife says when i get interested in something I don't go slow, just jump in, one hive is now several.

Getting my hair cut one day, casually talking about building hives in my spare time this winter and a woman pops up and says "I have some old abandoned hives on my farm that are falling down. She offered that I could have any parts I wanted that were good." Well I didn't think I wanted old parts since I'd already built new, but I asked her if there were any bees remaining in the old parts. She said she didn't know but that I could check it out.

Several weeks went by and I finally got in touch with her husband and went up to check them out. Sure enough there were some bees

going in and out of rotted holes in the back of one hive, still standing, between the top 2 honey supers and between the top deep super and honey supers. There were 3 deeps on the bottom so rotted that they were ready to collapse as well. Multi-flora roses grown up around it all and the entrance full of rotted debris. I knew I couldn't touch it until it was warm enough to transfer the bees into better wood.

I brought pictures to the last club meeting and asked about the best way to do the transfer. As I've heard more than once, "ask 3 beekeepers a ?? and get 4 answers". Well a nice gent Bob Oppenheimer, offered that when I was ready he'd help me. So Last Sat. 70+deg. nicest weather so far, Bob, myself and my grandson went up to check it out. Popped the top and lots of bees. Took down the top super and started taking apart and transferring bees and good frames over into one of the medium supers I brought with me; lots of honey, pollen and brood. Fourth frame we pulled out found the queen. NICE! We transferred the rest of the other super over and put a deep super on top w/foundation. Hoping they will move up and i can throw away the rest of the old frames and comb. Bob said looked like I had a nice strong hive and should do well. My grandson got some good pictures.

The third super down had a large mouse nest and when bob got down to the bottom board there was the biggest nest of carpenter ants I have ever seen. This hive was a community dwelling LOL. So Now I guess I'm a beekeeper!

My other experiences with bees was going up

to check out the clubs hives with Pres. Scott Horsnal early last month. Found one hive hungry and the other frozen out. That was my first experience. The second was an invite by Barbara Hill to help install 3 packages of bees she got from Stan Wasitowski. This also was exciting, My son Scott went along to film it. The first package we opened and installed was quite aggressive. My son was wearing dark clothing and the bees went for him. I gave him a Tyvec suit I brought along and they left him alone, they got under Barbara's hat veil and shirt. So... for the next package Barbara wore her suit. The next 2 packages were much quieter and we had no problem. Good luck Barbara.

I also took 2 base hives over to George Shaffer to have splits put in them a couple weeks ago. Went by the other day and saw them setting out in the yard with bees buzzing around them. Stopped today and asked how long before they would be ready? They told me some would be ready this weekend depending on the laying pattern of the queens. Tim Schuler our State Apiary Inspector had already inspected them. So this afternoon I came home and went over to the vineyard where I'm putting them and finished the platform. Drove posts into ground and built floor on top and 1-2 feet off ground.

So I guess I'm real close to being a beekeeper. Pictures and posts of these happenings are on our groups yahoo site <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/northwestnewjerseybeekeepers/> check it out and join up. Were getting some good forum going there at times. I think there are 14 members now. It's a good way to keep in

touch, ask questions and get advice. Till next time BEE WELL roger
Thank you Roger Gares for sharing your enthusiasm with other members of our Association!
Editor's note: An update re: Roger's Nuc's can be found on our group blog referenced above.
Thanks for your input Roger and good luck with your first year in Beekeeping!

Remembering Joe Russo

On April 19th, Joe Russo, a long-time beekeeper, lifetime member of the Northwest Branch, and friend to many passed away. Joe was a great help at our fairs and a mentor to us all, friendly and willing to sit and chat "Bee talk" especially with us Newbee's ...Tim Schuler said of Joe Russo "Joe loved beekeeping and helping others become beekeepers. He was a nice, gentle guy." We will miss you Joe!

Russo, Joseph D., 77, of Woodbine, passed away on Sunday, April 19, 2009. Born in Philadelphia to Frank and Mary (DePerro) Russo, he moved to the area in 1960. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and later worked for Wheaton Glass. He was involved with The Raritan Foundation and an avid beekeeper and member of the NJ Beekeepers Association. He was active in the Belleplaine VFW Post #6257 and was the flag bearer. Joseph is survived by his loving companion Carol Yarnell; his children, Lil Williamson, Nick Russo, Josephine Forke, Frank Russo, and Ed Russo; as well as

grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Irene and siblings, Victoria, Salvador, Vito, Grace, Henry, and Mike. (Editor's Note) NWNJBA sent a large beautiful arrangement of flowers to the funeral. In addition we would like to add a book or two to our club library in memory of Joe. Anyone wishing to make a small donation to this cause, can forward their donation to the club Treasurer, Karen Weinberg, in Joe's name.

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