



Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association Newsletter

Spring - 2011

Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association,
Charles Ilsley - President
C/O Barbara Hill - Sec'y, PO Box 379, Ringoes, New Jersey 08551

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First Vice President Bob Kloss

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



*NWNJBA President - Charles Ilsley (Far Right)
Sharing Some Beekeeping Wisdom*

Fellow Beekeepers: This winter is a throwback to earlier times in New Jersey. I am at liberty to say that the cold and the amount of snow is to me reminiscent of the late sixties. We do know why we are concerned. Right now we are in the dearth of winter. We are waiting for natural sources of protein and nectar to become available so the bees can enhance their stores in the hive. We are waiting for signs of life from our overwintering bees and the explosive burst of life associated with spring. Proceed to our new website and check last year's Newsletter and the one before that. Now is the time to check for signs of life in the hive, if not done already. If suspicious, call one of the Executive Board Members of NW before you do anything, except moving and securing the non-viable hive until transmissible disease is ruled out.

Who's Who In NWNJBA & PRESIDENT's MESSAGE CONT'd



*Robert Simonofsky "Beeman Rob" with
Jake Matthenius NWNJBA's "First President"*



"Woody", Frank & Dea Wooden



*Stan Wasitowski (left) - NWNJBA Past President -
Hunterdon Cty Fair Chairman &
Owner of S & F Honey Farm*

Our State Apiarist, Tim Schuler, has requested that all membership of the State Association register their overwintering hives. In addition, he would like a visit to all of the membership experiencing complete losses over this winter in order to determine the cause. Please consider this offer. To facilitate this effort, NW Executive Board will attempt to group those Bee Yards. Please email your address to C.Ilsley@verizon.net prior to the March 12, meeting. I will group the Bee Yards according to location and have those ready to present at the March 12 meeting. We are trying to help Mr. Schuler manage his road miles to a minimum.

Congratulations are extended to Scott Horsnall - our outgoing President. During your tenure, Scott, the Association managed to continue our fund raising efforts and methods diversification at both the Hunterdon and the Warren County Fairs. In addition we have maintained and improved the quality of our Newsletter, and introduced a very high quality website available to one and all for use. Of particular significance is the quantity information available to the membership pertinent to every aspect of beekeeping. In technical areas there are a number of technical sources available. A wonderful resource is available for the new as well as the advanced beekeeper. The significance of this website will be realized more fully as it becomes a significant reference used by every member of the Chapter.

The State Association is exploring and producing a set of DVDs with the content of a Beginners Beekeeping Course. Produced by good number of very experienced beekeepers it can be used as a reference and as the suggested content of an annual refresher course conducted by our membership. There is an abundance of activity on-going at North West Beekeepers as well at the State Association. I am happy to coming into my tenure as President with a group of enthusiastic assistants and very experienced Treasurer & Secretary. We are asking that the Membership approve the change in the Chapter's By-Laws that would list the position of Treasurer and Secretary as separate positions. This change would decrease the work load of the Treasurer. *Charles Ilsley - President*



Fran Wasitowski- Hunterdon Cty Fair Chair



Kevin Inglin (Upper (L) 2nd Vice President, Website Creator & Webmaster in Bee Cage with Charles Ilsley

Who's Who in NWNJBA

Charley Ilsley President: "I have been keeping bees for over 40 years either as an assistant to my wife Patricia, my brother Patrick, or myself, running my own little bee yard in Finderne, Somerset County, New Jersey. I saw my first swarm when I was about 5 years old and chased it down as my Grandmother followed behind me. Grandmother had a sun bonnet with no veil. The farmer next door has his veil, as well as large copper bottom skillet and a big wooden spoon and I had nothing but youth and great speed to protect me. I thought the wooden spoon was for me, but to my great astonishment, the farmer beat on the skillet with the spoon and the bees flew to a low limb on a willow and gathered as a great big ball. I watched Grandmother and the farmer gather a bee box together and then place the bees in a new home. I have long since joined NW because I enjoy beekeeping and hope to facilitate the learning process for all new beekeepers".

Bob Kloss - 1st Vice President: "Married (29 yrs); two grown children. This is my third year as a hobby beekeeper - 5 hives. Have lived in Readington Township for 25 years. I have a B.S. in Psycho-biology and a M.S. in Environmental Health. Have worked in the pharmaceutical industry for GlaxoSmithKline for 25 years as an environment, health & safety manager and production manager. Other hobbies include wine-making and running".



Karin Weinberg Treasurer & Warren Cty Farmers Fair Chair

WHO'S WHO IN NWNJBA Cont'd

Kevin Inglin 2nd Vice President - NW Website Creator & Webmaster: Kevin Inglin is a married father of two who resides in East Amwell Township and spends much of his time with his family and volunteering in the community. He has been keeping bees with his wife Sharon since April 2008 and they maintain a handful of hives on their property. In his professional life, Kevin is employed as an informational technology project manager.

Scott Horsnall - Past President and 3rd Vice President - NWNJBA President 2009-2010. "My family consists of my wife Melissa and three children Juneabea, Robbie and Sean.... I started beekeeping in 2006 by taking the Rutgers short course, although my wife Melissa had more of an interest prior to the course, I was hooked after the first day of class. When I was in high school and early years of college I had worked on Richard Gulick's dairy farm in Rocktown. I attended Kutztown University and majored in Geology. Since graduating college I have worked in environmental consulting and engineering as a hydrogeologist. There has always been part of me that missed the days on the dairy farm and beekeeping has filled that void".

NW NOTE: Thanks for all of your hard work over the last few years Scott. You are the best!

Karin Weinberg - Treasurer & Warren County Farmers Fair Chair: "My parents were German immigrants. I was born in Warren County and raised in Bridgewater, NJ. an electrical engineer for PSE&G 11 years. My husband Ted and I have 2 children and live on a farm in Hunterdon County. I was recruited to the NWNJ bee club by Jake Matthenius and JD Ditson 17 years ago and have been an officer ever since". (Editor's note: Along with her evident duties as Fair Chair and Treasurer, Karin is a (behind the scenes) tireless worker/contributor to the club, always stepping up to the plate when an extra hand is needed and we do appreciate!"

Barbara Hill - Secretary: Administrator for Advantage Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, the married mother of four grown children with 10 grandchildren, keeps a small farm in Ringoes, NJ. where mini donkeys are bred, and bees are kept. My interest in bees began about 15 years ago when we discovered that bees had taken over our outbuilding. Not wanting to see them exterminated we called on a bee wrangler for swarm removal to the local Howell Living History Farm, when a section of wall was removed, I took one look at all of the hard work/honeycomb & bees inside and I was hooked! This will be my fourth year as a beekeeper.

Jake Matthenius: Jake was one of the founding fathers of NWNJBA. He worked many years establishing the By-laws and Constitution for the association. He served as President several times and was the chairman for the Warren Co. Farmers Fair for a good many years.

Over the years the club members enjoyed many summer picnics at his home in Phillipsburg. Anytime you had a problem with your bees or had questions, he was always there to give advice or take a look at your bees at no charge. As a young boy he learned about bees working for a large commercial beekeeper. Jake was also the State of NJ Apiarist and was on the Board of EAS.

Robert Simonofsky - "Beeman Rob" Past President, and has held all VP positions... Robert is our "Bee Wrangler a.k.a. swarm remover par none"; He does a fantastic beebeard!. Robert has made many various donations to our club besides giving of his time. Robert can always be depended upon to help out especially setting up and taking down at the fairs as well as manning the NW booth. He is always there to help out at a meeting and a tireless club friend/helper; He worked under Jake Matthenius with Karin,

Stan - Past President and Fran Wasitowski - Chairmen of The Hunterdon County 4H Fair: Major contributors of their time, effort and more, now and for many past years for "the bees" & NW. Stan started beekeeping 55 years ago with his dad and two hives "My dad and I read The ABC-XYC of Beekeeping and learned as much as we could about bees. While in the Air Force overseas in Europe, my dad took care of the bees for me.

My wife, Fran and I joined the NW branch in the early 70's. I was elected president twice, am the chairman of the Hunterdon 4-H Fair, and am appointed by the US Dept. of Ag. to be a delegate from NJ for the National Honey Board, I am also a member of the NJBeekeepers State Advisory Board.

My family and I started S&F Honey Farm Inc. in 1991".

WHO's WHO IN NWNJBA Cont'd

Fran Wastowski: My interest in bees and beekeeping brushed off onto me as a result of my husband, Stan's, passion for the honeybee. My goal is to educate children about the their state insect so they can appreciate the importance of the honeybee and to relieve the fear associated with the word "bee".

Dea & Frank Wooden: Woody: (Past President) was already in NW when Stan and Fran became members in the 70's. He is a long time friend of Jakes. He works at the Hunterdon and Warren Co Fair & is always there to help out when asked. He always cooked at the grill at Jake's annual picnic.

Dee Wooden: Is always there to lend helping hand. For many years she was in charge of hospitality. She would bring this large coffee pot and all the fixins to every meeting. Dee would also make sure there were some desserts for the membership. Dea helps at the Hunterdon and Warren Co. Fairs and is always there for us at the annual Holiday Party. (Editors' note: Many thanks from us all Woody & Dea for your help and Dea's delicious food for the 2010 Holiday Party, we couldn't have done it without you",

"YOU"

NWNJBA is as good as it's members! This year we will need your help with the Hunterdon County 4H Fair and especially with the Warren Cty Fair...(Is located in a most beautiful part of our State) Karin, (Warren Chair) has a family obligation which will take her away from New Jersey prior to and during the time of the fair ... The Warren Cty fair and the Hunterdon 4H fair provide NW with our primary source of income. We are in need of volunteers..... you can give as much or as little time as you are able, but we need your help! Please contact Karin through her e-mail address to tell her you are "on board", ... many little chores need doing in order to get ready for the event... we need our members to commit to a block of time to man the booth as well as to host the honey queen for the Fair...This is your Club... so step up and give your Association a hand! **WE NEED YOU!**

<i>Seasonal Management Tips & Reminders</i>

You've spent the winter fixing up your equipment and ordering any queens packages or nucs you anticipate the need for. You have by now checked your bees' food stores and added fondant or dry sugar to the inner cover where necessary. You are making a decision regarding spring treatments/medications that need to be applied and off of your colonies prior to the honey flow. (Attend our meeting on the 12th of March where you will hear/see the many options available to you related to these treatments and caveats for their application). Near the end of March beginning of April, on a day when the sun is shining and temps near 60 degrees you will make an inspection of your hive to determine the amount of honey remaining, a minimum of four frames of honey per hive should be present for the rearing of brood during the month of April. Many hives starve in late March/April due to low food stores. At this time you will not examine brood unless the temperature is above 65 degrees. If not sufficient food stores, feeding can begin of syrup (1 part water to 1 part sugar) use a hive top or division board feeder, (entrance feeders are not recommended at this time of the year). If you have a question related to the cause/ specifically, a possibility of disease in any dead colonies a call can be made to the NJ Apiary Inspector Tim Schuler, who will send a sample of your dead bees to Beltsville Lab in Md. About the first week of May dandelions should be in bloom, a good time for your first complete inspection of your hive, weather and temperature permitting. You are looking for signs of disease, brood pattern (several frames of brood in upper body) upper body full of bees, if brood pattern is poor and no disease present you might decide that you need to requeen the colony. This is also time to remove medications/treatment... If the upper hive body is full of bees and the lower relatively empty, you will need to reverse your hive bodies to prevent swarming, however (a caveat) be certain to keep all brood together... reversal is usually done 6-8 weeks prior to the main honey flow. If you are in doubt related to the process, ask your mentor to guide you or ask a question at the upcoming meeting March 12, on Spring Management. .



UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

SPRING MEETING - Saturday MARCH 12th from 11am - 2pm
Subject: SPRING MANAGEMENT

The meeting will include a discussion on the LIFE CYCLE of VARROA, & VARROA TREATMENTS
Including MAQS the "Mite-a-way Quick Strip"
Location Hunterdon County Extension Building - 6 Gauntt Place
Corner of Route 31 South and Gauntt Place, Flemington, NJ

Saturday MAY 14th, Location Warren Cty - Time to be Determined
Subject: Clinic - Managing the Honey Flow

Warren County Farmers Fair July 31st - August 6, 2011
Hunterdon County 4H Fair August 24 - 29th

Fall Meeting - Subject Date, Time & Location to be determined

Holiday Party - Covered Dish - December 10th, 2011
Location - Old York Cellars Vineyard, East Amwell Township
Details to follow

NORTHWEST BRANCH OFFICERS

CHARLES ILSLEY - President Ph: 732 469-0043

BOB KLOSS - 1st Vice President

KEVIN INGLIN - 2nd Vice President-Webmaster

SCOTT HORSNALL - 3rd Vice President

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VISIT YOUR BRANCH WEBSITE : <http://nwba.njbeekeepers.org/>

Please notify the Sec'y of any change in your e-mail phone or mailing address