SOUTH JERSEY BEEKEEPERS

January-February 2023 Vol. 17 Issue 1

President's letter

Happy New Year to all! My name is Denise. I was elected as the SJBA president for the year ahead. My husband, Rob, and I have been keeping bees for 10 seasons. We entered this hobby to "make" our own honey, but quickly got interested in the many aspects of beekeeping, biology, crafts, equipment, etc. We have enjoyed interacting with many interesting people that we have met along the way. We have grown from 2 hives during our first year to overwintering 26 at present. This year will likely be as busy as the previous years. Although it is not the active bee season, it is the time of year that the planning for the next season occurs. In January, we will add Apivar to our colonies for the full 56 days. This has been successful in having low, subthreshold mite counts in March/April. We will also be briefly checking the colonies every 1-2 weeks to assess food stores and adding fondant, as needed. We will be planning our new out-apiary. It is a great time to review past successes and failures, make goals for the following year, and catch up on reading material, such as books and journals, e.g. Bee Culture and American Bee Journal. I will probably be revamping and computerizing our apiary notes. This year, I will plan to do more queen grafting/rearing and, of course, optimizing colony health and honey production.

As for SJBA, we are planning many activities/events this year. Please see the schedule in this newsletter and on the website. In January, we will have a meeting on equipment. Tim Schuler will show us how to repair old equipment. Standard equipment and safety equipment will be presented and discussed, as well. In February, the NJBA will host the quarterly meeting with a schedule of interesting speakers, as usual. In March to April, we will have the Basics in Beekeeping course via Zoom. Rob Dietrich is our new education chair in the wake of the retirement of Ned Morgan.

This year, our branch will pilot a mentoring program for the many new beekeepers. This will build upon the information in the Basics in Beekeeping course. It will include scheduled Zoom chats on basic questions and time in an out-apiary, by which new beekeepers can become comfortable with the hands-on skills of beekeeping in a supportive environment. It will also pair mentees with informal mentors who will be available to answer questions as needed. The goal is to develop beekeepers to be independent and effective in the basics of beekeeping. We will also increase informal social aspects of beekeeping, which is a great way for all of us to learn from each other.

A few housekeeping tasks for the month of January.

1. Please register your colonies with the state of NJ at http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/beeinspection.html. It allows you to receive information about pesticide spraying and other bee-related issues in your area.

2. Join the NJ Farm Board. This allows local beekeepers to be represented in NJ agriculture. njfb.org

3. Renew your NJBA and SJBA membership. https://njbeekeepers.org

Anyway, I wish all a happy and safe new year. I look forward to talking to many of you. Please call or email any board member with questions or ideas to make our branch effective for the local community.

Sincere regards, Denise Dietrich

Meetings (Past/future)

<—Recap

November 7, 2023 Zoom presentation
By Randy Oliver, Scientific Beekeeping

December 4th
Honey tasting and SJBA Elections

Upcoming Schedule of Events

January 24, 2024 NJ state honey show

New Jersey Honey Show

Who? Any NJBA member can enter honey, wax products, photos, cosmetics, mead

What? Friendly competition of locally produced bee hive products

Where? Trenton State House, 125 West State St., Trenton

Why? to master the production of quality bee hive products and To showcase honey bee products to state officials

When? January 24th, entries need to arrive by 9:00am,

How? for categories, entry forms, rules of the honey show see https://njbeekeepers.org/Annual%20Honey%20Show.htm

January 20, 2024
Tim Schuler's home
Equipment—preparation for season, needs, repairs

February 24, 2024
NJBA meeting

March 23, 2024
SJBA Banquet

March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 and April 6 SJBA Basics in Beekeeping course

SJBA website

sjbeekeepers.org

About Us

The South Jersey Beekeepers Association is dedicated to teaching, connecting, and inspiring beekeepers and those interested in beekeeping. Our mission is to foster a supportive community of beekeepers who work together to create a sustainable environment and promote the practice of beekeeping.

Mission

Through our educational programs, informational meetings, and resources, we strive to provide guidance and support to beekeepers of all levels. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced beekeeper, we'll be right here to help you succeed and make the most of your beekeeping experience.

Swarm Retrieval & Colony Removal

If you have a swarm of honey bees or have honey bees living inside of a structure, there are many beekeepers willing to help! Please don't spray the bees and do your best to identify that they are in fact honey bees. Click on the Swarm List link below and you will be directed to the New Jersey Beekeepers Association website's map where you can locate beekeepers near you that you can reach out to.

SWARM LIST

We hope that this website helps us as a beekeeping community in South Jersey to share information, attend upcoming events, borrow SJBA equipment, etc. Please see these webpages, for details that are at present in the newsletter.

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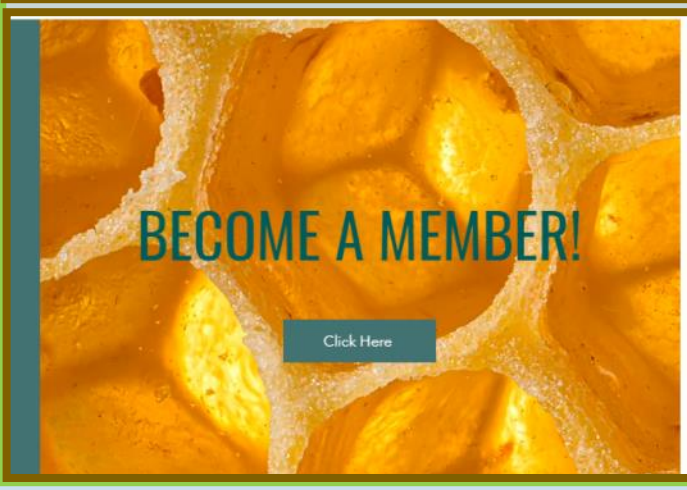
Thank you to Amanda Gaskill for developing this website.



To join the South Jersey Beekeepers Association, you would join the New Jersey Beekeepers Association and select the SJBA as your primary branch.

A Year in New Jersey

Beekeeping

December 2021 through December 2022

January Beekeeping Tasks

Order packages and nucs for spring. Businesses that supply packages, nucs, and queens advertise in New Jersey Beekeepers Association (NJBA) and SJBA newsletters

Order equipment for spring. It will need assembly and painting

Prepare your entries for the annual state honey show. The rules and classes can be found on the NJBA website

Pay your NJBA dues online at https://njba38wildapricot.org/ or to your branch treasurer; can register a second branch membership as well

Make sure hive covers are secure. All your colonies should have weights or straps on the outer covers to keep them on. Between the inner and outer covers place a 1/2" to 3/4" thick block of wood toward the front of the hive. This will slightly raise the outer cover, providing a top entrance and an escape for warm, moist air. If this is in place and the bees have access to it through the hole in the inner cover, you will never have to worry about an entrance blocked by snow. The bees can breathe and leave the hive through the top.

Check colonies for food reserves. Tip the colony to gauge the weight. Try to lift the hive: you should not be able to do that easily this time of year. You can also lift the inner cover briefly and look down between the frames for capped honey. If the hive seems too light or you can't detect any capped honey, supplemental feeding is necessary. See the back pages of the NJBA calendar for recipes and tips.

Deadouts: should have entrances sealed to prevent robbing or be removed from the bee yard until the disease status can be determined. It is recommended to have them checked by the stae apiarist for disease. This can be done at your bee yard or at an NJBA branch meeting, so others can learn also. If there is no sign of American Foulbrood (AFB), the frames and boxes can be reused.

Register your bee yard now:

It's time to register your wintering bee yard locations with the NJ Department of Agriculture. If you have not registered before, it is important to register annually for several reasons.

1) Epidemiology in the event of a disease outbreak,
2) Census numbers—for resource allocation and statistics
3) Updated swarm collector and pollinator lists.

http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/beeinspection.html

Please follow the directions. Thank you for helping to maintain a healthy bee industry in New Jersey. If you have never registered, just register as a new beekeeper. If you've registered in the past, you have an AIS number which when entered, along with your last name, will prefill the form.

A Year in New Jersey

Beekeeping

December 2021 through December 2022

February Beekeeping Tasks:

****Register your hives. The state Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) notifies beekeepers of pesticide sprays in the area if the spraying meets certain criteria. This is accomplished by checking the last box in the "Voluntary Information" section on the Apiary Registration Form section, when you register your hives at:** https:www24.state.nj.us/AG_Apiary/ApiaryApp

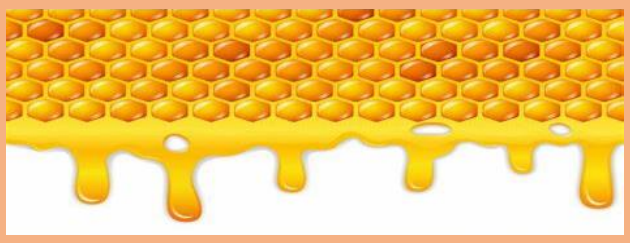
***Assemble and paint the equipment** you will need this season

***Check and clean all equipment.** Clean your hive and all other beekeeping tools. Clean your smoker and check the bellows. This time of year and as needed, clean the creosote out of your smoker with a hand-held blow torch. Working outside away from fire hazards, use the flame from the torch to burn off creosote in the smoker chamber, then wire brush the lid so it closes easily. Now is a good time to launder and patch gloves, jackets, or coveralls as needed.

***Continue monitoring food stores in all colonies**. Only feed it the hives are light and need the food. If you began supplemental feeding in January, you must continue to feed until bees are bringing in their own food. Now is the time for pollen patties, if using. Discontinue once fresh pollen is readily available.

***Seal up or remove deadouts.** Call the state apiarist if you think you need a disease inspection.

Kid's Korner!! (little and big)



Answers on last page

Yearly recap:

1. Bees live in a _____.

2. _____ bees collect _____ and _____ to feed to the colony.

3. Bees that clean the hive are _____ bees.

4. Bees that secure the hive entrance are _____ bees.

5. Bees use a _____ to defend their colony.

6. Bees that feed the young larvae are _____ bees.

7. The _____ is the bee who lays eggs.

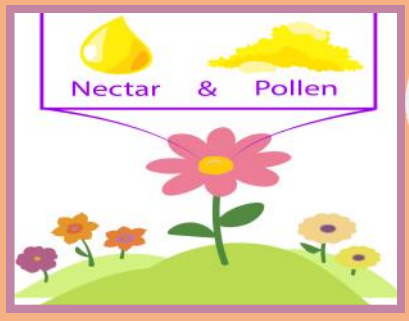
8. _____ are the male bees in the colony.

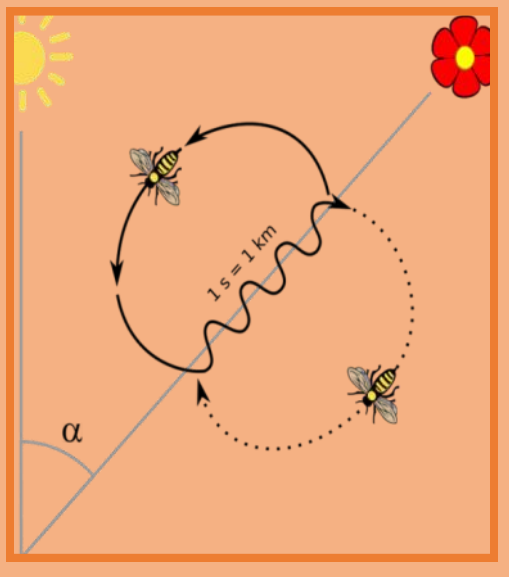
9. Bees communicate location of food sources with a _____ (2 words).

10. _____ bees are the female bees that do the various tasks around the hive.

11. Bees make _____, a sticky, sugary liquid, from nectar collected from plants.

12. Bees _____ to find a different place to live.





Want to be a New Jersey State Honey Queen?!?!

The New Jersey Honey Queen Program is a program for women between the ages of 17- 24 that are associated with beekeeping and/or other agriculture-related areas, such as 4-H, FFA, Girl Scouts and Civic Organizations. The New Jersey State Honey Queen will serve as the representative and spokesperson for the New Jersey Beekeepers Association (NJBA) and New Jersey Honey Bee Industry. The primary goal is to educate the community about honey bees, beekeeping, and the honey bee industry, regarding honey bees, products of the hive, and pollination. Applicable qualities of an applicant are 1.) an interest in beekeeping and a willingness to learn, 2.) knowledge of beekeeping, honey bees and products of the hive, 3.) Education: high school and/or some college education. It is a state-level program that is associated with the National level program administered through the American Beekeeping Federation. The program was founded in 1957 by Esther Piechowski, at the grassroots level in Wisconsin, with the intention to raise awareness of honey bees and beekeeping. This program affords young women the opportunity to represent the beekeeping community and industry. These young women gain knowledge of the industry and hone public speaking, education, marketing and related professional skills through presentations at various Trade Shows, School Presentations, County fairs, local fairs, Agriculture Shows, and other promotional events.

The 2023-4 NJ honey queen is Katie Culbert. The 2024 New Jersey Honey Queen will also have the opportunity to represent New Jersey and compete for National Honey Queen Title in 2025. For more information, please contact:

Nicole Medina at njhoneyqueen@outlook.com

Information extrapolated from internet sites

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honey_Queen_Program

https://www.abfnet.org/page/queens

Honey recipe

Honey Bee Cookies

From Barbara Thompson

Ingredients:

1/2 c. margarine or butter, softened

1/2 c packed brown sugar

1/2 c honey

1 egg

1 1/2 c all-purpose flour

1/2 tsp baking soda

1/2 tsp salt

1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

1. **Heat oven to 375 degrees**
2. **Beat margarine, brown sugar, honey and egg in a medium bowl on medium speed, scraping bowl constantly until smooth. Stir in remaining ingredients.**
3. **Drop the dough by teaspoonfuls onto an ungreased cookie sheet**
4. **Bake until set and light brown around edges (surfaces of cookies will appear shiny), 7 to 9 minutes. Let stand 3 to 5 minutes before removing from cookie sheet, then remove from cookie sheet with metal spatula onto a wire rack.**
5. **Makes 36 cookies**

Honey-Bran Cookies: Stir 1 cup of shreds of bran cereal into batter

Honey-Cinnamon Cookies: Mix 2 TBSP of sugar and 1/2 tsp and 1/2 tsp of ground cinnamon; sprinkle on cookies immediately after removing from oven

Honey-Coconut Cookies: Stir 1 c of shredded coconut into batter

Executive committee and education

South Jersey Branch of NJBA
2022/3 Current Executive Board Members

Title/Committee chair	Name	Phone	Email
President	Denise Dietrich	215-901-3199	das6594@aol.com
1st Vice President	Ed Penny	609-217-1624	eapenn2232@icloud.com
2nd Vice President	Bill Lore	856-392-0197	williamlore29@gmail.com
3rd Vice President	Tim Schuler	856-498-0558	tim.schuler@comcast.net
Secretary	Kelly Coughlan	856-981-2042	kelcoughlan@comcast.net
Treasurer	Louis Favieri	856-889-7966	loudiolus@gmail.com
1st Past President	Beth Ann Hall	609-517-4272	sjbeecharmer@gmail.com
Education	Rob Dietrich	856-649-9519	dietrichrw@aol.com
Auditing	Tim Schuler	856-498-0558	tim.schuler@comcast.net
Nominating	TBNamed		
Publicity: IT/Facebook	Amanda Gaskill	609-515-3916	manderjean@comcast.net
Publicity: Newsletter	Denise Dietrich	215-901-3199	das6594@aol.com
Publicity: Outreach	Ed Penny	609-217-1624	eapenn2232@icloud.com

An SJBA Intro Beekeeping course is planned for Spring 2024.

Six online classes will be held on Saturday mornings, in Spring 2024. The dates are March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 and April 6. This spring series fulfills the regulatory requirements of the State of New Jersey for beekeeper education. The course will cover: Honey bee biology and life cycle, Selecting hive components, Setting up an apiary, Purchasing honey bees, Honey bee diseases and pests, Honey harvesting, and much more. Rob Dietrich is the course coordinator and one of the instructors. Tuition is $125 per person and includes the text, The Beekeeper's Handbook 5th edition, by Diana Sammataro and Alphonse Avitabile. Three scholarships are available for students 12 to 22 years old. To obtain more information on the course, the scholarship, or registration, contact:

Rob Dietrich at dietrichrw@aol.com

Equipment for Rental

SJBA equipment available for SJBA members to borrow. Main equipment is seen below.

To borrow: Please contact: 1) Dave Elkner, 2) Ned/Doris Morgan, or 3) Rob/Denise Dietrich
(see executive board for contact information) or Doris Morgan at doriskmorgan@comcast.net

3 Tangential Extractors

- Mann Lake HH-160
- includes leg kit
- Holds 3 deep, 3 medium or shallow frames

1, 2, or 3

1 Radial/Tangential Extractor

Includes leg kit

(1) Maxant 3100H

- Holds 9 frames

#1

Branding Iron: Model 2100 Porto pro with Branding character kit and carrying case

#1

(3) Uncapping Tanks

#1, 2, or 3

Solar Wax Melter from Betterbee with stand # 1

+

NJBA & Bee-Awareness around the region

Around the State

NJBA website:
www.njbeekeepers.org

NJ bee registration: https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/beeinspection.html

Swarm Collectors' link:
http://cjba.njbeekeepers.org/swarms.htm

County Health Departments:
www.state.nj.us/dep/enforcement/county.html

DEP Pesticide Control register to be notified when licensed applicators spray near your beeyard:
www.state.nj.us/dep/enforcement/pcp/bpo-bee.htm

Report Pesticide Damage to:
Nancy Santiago, Agriculture & Bees ,609-984-6914 or Mike

Meghan McConnell
NJ State Apiarist
Email: Meghan.McConnell@ag.nj.gov
Call or text: 609-331-1229
Main Office: 609-406-6945
NJ Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry

Around the Country

Bee Informed Partnership (BIP)
Sentinel Hive Program, research, surveys, etc.
https://beeinformed.org/

USDA Bee Lab
Research
https://www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/beltsville-md-barc/beltsville-agricultural-research-center/bee-research-laboratory/

USDA Conservative Reserve Program
https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index

Connect with fellow beekeepers on Facebook:

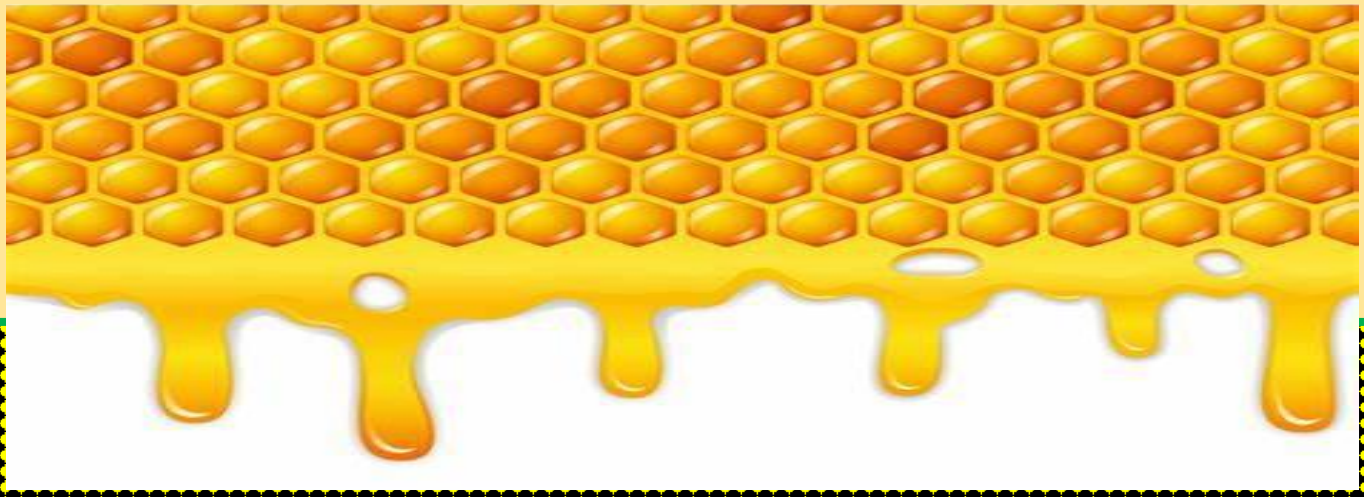
South Jersey Beekeepers Assn. page:
www.facebook.com/groups/sjba1/

Jersey Cape Beekeepers Assn.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/JCBAmail/

Mid-State Beekeepers
https://www.facebook.com/groups/235075960007806/

Kid's Korner Answers:

1. Hive
2. Forager, nectar, pollen, water
3. housekeeper
4. guard
5. sting
6. nurse
7. queen
8. drone
9. waggle dance
10. worker
11. honey
12. swarm, scout
13. honey comb



SJBA generously supports the beekeeping community.

Donations are being given to:

NJBA honey queen program

Chelsea Abegg, research on effects of pesticide on honey bees

Dr. Samuel Ramsey, research on tropilaelaps mites

Villages in Partnership supports beekeeping in Malawi

Randy Oliver, Scientific Beekeeping

Please let any board members know if there are other organizations that we could support with our donations.