

SOUTH JERSEY BEEKEEPERS

July-August 2024 Vol. 17 Issue 4

President's letter

Happy Summer, y'all!! It has been quite a spring starting with warm weather in February and March, then cold and wet weather from April to May, then finally hot weather in mid to late June. It was hard to get the time to perform appropriate hive management tasks, because of the weather, but we have finally caught up. We are looking forward to harvesting the honey over the next 4 weeks, especially using our new motorized honey extractor... less wear and tear on aging shoulders. After that, it is on to winter preparation and varroa treatment, as needed, in July and August.

As for the SJBA, in July, we will have a honey extraction demonstration by Tim Schuler. It will be very interesting to observe a large scale extraction process. Of note, SJBA has 3 extractors that are available for members to borrow/use. The mentoring program is off to a good start, and I would like to thank everyone for the support of this program. We have been regularly having the mentor/mentee Zoom meetings every 3rd Monday with good attendance. Our new beekeepers are asking great questions on-line and via text and in-person. The fire-side chats in-person and Let's Talk Bees Zoom sessions have been enjoyable meetings.

At the state level, NJBA has been actively working for us behind the scenes. The NJBA board is progressing with a revamped, informative website; please stay tuned! The NJBA BBQ and auction will be held on August 17th at Bob Hughes' house. It is worthwhile to attend to talk bees with people with the same interest in bees and possibly get good equipment at the auction. We welcome the new NJ honey queen and hope that she can attend one of our local meetings.

Regionally, the Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) conference is scheduled for August 5-9. It is relatively local. Due to work, I will try to go for only 1 day; even that will be informative and interesting.

I hope that your honey extraction is productive and fun. See you at the next meeting.

Best, Denise Dietrich, SJBA president



Picture by Rob Dietrich



Events/Meetings



Upcoming Schedule of In-Person Events

July 27, 2024 Harvesting Honey—at Tim and Patty Schuler’s home

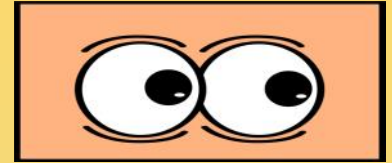
August 5 to 9 EAS conference, Maryland

August 17, 2024 [National Bee Day] NJBA picnic and auction

September 7, 2024 tour of Harvey’s honey and picnic

October 2024 TBD Preparing and Crafting Wax

November 2024—NJBA fall meeting date TBD



Cave painting of honey hunting 8000 BC, Spain, from internet, common pictures



Zoom meetings

Let’s Talk Bees with SJBeeA via Zoom, 1st Monday of the month

Mentor/Mentee meetings via Zoom, 3rd Monday of the Month

Fall beekeeping course dates October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2, 9



Forage—Mid to Late Summer

What are you seeing for spring plants? What is likely to be available? (see Xerces society listing ([22-024 01 NPPBI—Mid-Atlantic web.pdf \(xerces.org\)](https://www.xerces.org/2022-02-01-nppbi-mid-atlantic-web.pdf)) Near our yards, we have gone through berry (black-, rasp-, blue-), fruits (apples, cherries, etc.), black locust, honey suckle, clover, and candy tuft. At present, there is some milkweed, hostas, red and white clover, lobelia, sedum (just blooming), and mimosa tree (AKA: silkwood). Some areas in South Jersey are in dearth already. Being a beekeeper opens your eyes to the flower cycle of the year!



Silkwood (mimosa)

Photo by Denise Dietrich



Black-eyed Susan

Photo by Denise Dietrich



Button bush shrub

Photo from the internet

Trees

Silktree (mimosa)

Shrubs

Button Bush (Cephalanthus)

Crimson-eyed Rosemallow

(hibiscus)

New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus)

Flowers/herbs/"weeds":

Aster (Eurybia and Sympathotricum sp)

Black-eyed Susans (Rudbeckia sp)

Blue mistflower (Conoclinium)

Cardinal Flower & Lobelia sp

Culver's root (Veronicastrum)

Dense Blazing Star (Liatris)

Goldenrod (Solidago sp)

Joe Pyeweed (Eutrochium sp)

Milkweed (Asclepias)

Phlox species

Purple Coneflower (echinacea)

Sunflower (Helianthus sp)

Yellow Wild Indigo (Baptisia sp)



Mix of black-eyed susans, cone flower and hosta

in a neighbors' flower bed

Photo by Denise Dietrich

Local Beekeeping on-Line

South Jersey Beekeepers Association sbeekeepers.org (SJBA)

[New Jersey Beekeepers Association \(njbeekeepers.org\)](http://njbeekeepers.org)

What's new on the website:

SJBA Equipment to Borrow; Extractors, uncapping tanks, branding iron, solar wax melter

Meetings listed

Education course listed

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](#)

Thank you to Amanda Gaskill for developing and maintaining this website.



BECOME A MEMBER!

[Click Here](#)

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

Beekeeping

2024

July Beekeeping tasks

July is the month to extract your honey. It's best to do it early in the month before the honey flow has completely stopped. Remember that the sugar syrup that you feed your bees does not become honey. Honey is made from the nectar secreted by plants. It's much easier to remove bees from the honey supers when they are still gathering some nectar. If you wait until the nectar dearth, the job will be much harder. You should also do it early in the day if you live in a highly populated area, out of respect for your neighbors.

Methods to separate bees from their honey:

- Bee Escape Board
- Brush and shake them from comb
- Blower—make sure there is no exhaust in the air stream
- Fume board

Removing the honey supers (pulling honey) should be done on a sunny day, when the field bees are foraging. Before you remove your surplus honey, the brood should be checked for disease. You can potentially spread disease via the extractor and by returning wet honey supers from a diseased hive to a healthy one. You also need to make sure you leave 20-40 pounds of honey in the brood nest for the bees to eat during the summer dearth. If the brood nest does not have any honey, you need to leave a full honey super for them to eat. You don't want to take too much and starve your colony.

The best way to harvest honey is remove the honey supers in late morning, placing them in a garage or kitchen, stacked on a drip tray. During lunch, you will notice that straggler bees will leave the supers and fly toward the window light. After lunch you can open the window and allow the bees to return to the hive. Do not leave it open too long or you may get robbing. Now you are ready to extract. Uncap and spin out your frames. The honey should be warm from being on the hive, and the honey will flow nicely. You can extract, strain and bottle all in the same day. Your sticky extraction equipment should not be put out for the bees to clean. It should be washed with hot water to remove any honey and wax.

Towards dusk, put your wet honey supers back on the hives over the inner cover and under the outer cover. Doing it at dusk will minimize or eliminate robbing. By morning the bees will have licked the extra honey from the supers and brought it down into the brood nest. Leave the supers on top of the inner cover. As long as the hive is strong and queen-right, they will protect the combs from small hive beetles and wax moths.

Begin your varroa treatments once the honey is off and as weather conditions allow. Beekeepers who do not control Varroa will lose 40-65% of their colonies over the winter. Use the alcohol wash to check mite levels both before and two weeks after treatment to see if the treatment was successful. Review the directions for the alcohol wash on the August beekeeping tasks page (next).

Maintain a water source near your hives and keep it filled and clean

Comb honey supers should be removed as soon as they are capped to avoid staining of the comb. The sections should be packaged and placed in the freezer for at least 48 hours to kill any wax moth eggs on the comb.

Beekeeping

2024

August Beekeeping Tasks

August is the time for nectar dearth in most of New Jersey. If you have small or weak colonies in the same yard with strong colonies, reduce the entrances of the weak colonies to prevent robbing. If you have to feed those colonies, make sure you don't spill syrup on the outsides, and fill feeders as close to night as possible. Sometimes it's best to feed all the hives, weak and strong, or have a yard for weak colonies away from strong ones. Once robbing has started, it is very difficult to stop.

Do not leave colonies open for long. Check for strength, whether or not they are queen-right by looking for eggs, (you do not need to see the queen to know she is there) and food reserves. Correct problems ASAP, the sooner the better.

Treat for mites: If you were not able to treat for Varroa last month, you need to do it now. Use the alcohol wash to check mite levels both before and 2 weeks after treatment to see if the treatment was successful. Directions for the alcohol wash are below or demonstration on line at Betterbee:

[How to Count Mites Using the Alcohol Wash | Betterbee](#)

Participate in a local honey show. There are honey shows at the following county fairs Monmouth, Warren, Hunterdon, and Sussex. The entry rules can be found on the respective county website. Most county fairs have classes for liquid honey, beeswax, creamed honey, cosmetics and photography. They are fun, rewarding, and you can win a blue ribbon and often some prize money.

How to check for Varroa using the alcohol wash method by Tim Schuler, former NJ State apiarist, NJDA

Checking for varroa mite infestation is necessary to monitor the need, the type, and the effectiveness of a treatment. There are various methods for identifying the presence of mites in managed bee colonies. The most accurate and reliable method is the alcohol wash. It leaves little chance for mistakes and quickly gives an infestation rate. A count should be performed both before treating and several weeks after to determine if the treatment was successful. Due to the lifecycle of brood and the treatment method used, the true impact of a treatment may not be evident for two or more weeks afterwards.

- Take a frame of open brood with bees on it from the hive. Verify that the queen is not on the frame because the sampled bees will be killed.
- Shake the bees into a wash tub style container
- Tilt and shift the bees to a corner and scoop out 1/2 cup of bees (approx. 300 bees).
- Quickly place them into a jar and cover with 1/8in mesh lid. Add about a cup of alcohol (> 70% is best).
- Shake vigorously in a swirl motion from 30-120 seconds to dislodge the mites
- Pour the alcohol through the screen lid into a clean jar.
- Count the mites and divide by 3 to get the mite count per 100 bees (%)
- A mite count of 1-2 per 300 bees in summer is below the treatment threshold (1% in spring). If the mite count is > 3%, best management practice recommends varroa mite treatment. Record the mite count before and after the treatment and the treatment
- Dispose of the dead bees in trash/compost.
- You can reuse the alcohol. Rinse the bee jar clean and decant the used alcohol into it leaving the mites and debris in the bottom of the alcohol jar. Cover the jar with a solid lid for the next use. Properly dispose of the dirty alcohol
- Caution: Alcohol is flammable. Use great care when handling and storing, especially around live smokers.

Kid's Korner!!

From National Honey Board

HOW HONEY IS MADE



What is the water content of nectar? ____

What is the water content of honey? ____

What are the sugars in honey? ____

Are there vitamins in honey? ____

HONEY IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

Honey comes in many forms. But as long as the ingredient label says, "pure honey," it's straight from bee to hive to bottle.



LIQUID

The one we all know and love.



COMB HONEY

Honey still inside the honeycomb.



CUT COMB

Liquid honey with chunks of honeycomb in the jar.



CRYSTALLIZED

Naturally crystallized and safe to eat!



WHIPPED

Made to spread like butter.

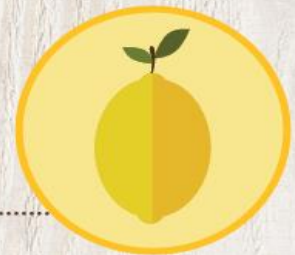
What is your favorite? _____

Kid's Korner!!

From National Honey Board
on-line educational materials

ACTIVITY: HOW SWEET IT IS

There are different kinds of tastes in every food you eat. But your tongue can only taste four! With the help of an adult, collect different foods from your kitchen, including honey. Can you identify which part of your tongue you're using to taste? Write down the name of the foods you tried next to the right taste receptor.



SWEET FACT:

THE FIRST STORY OF HONEY IS 8,000 YEARS OLD! AN ANCIENT CAVE PAINTING IN SPAIN SHOWS HONEY HARVESTING. AND IT'S BEEN USED FOR FOOD, MEDICINE AND MORE ALL OVER THE WORLD EVER SINCE!





Lemonade Honey Punch

From [Recipes | National Honey Board](#)



Ingredients:

For Ginger Honey Syrup:

1 cup - honey
5 - thin slices of ginger, peeled
1/2 cup - water

For Lemonade:

1 cup - freshly squeezed lemon juice
24 oz. - apple juice
5 cups - water
lemon slices, for serving

DIRECTIONS:

—Simmer the Ginger Honey Syrup ingredients in a heavy saucepan for about 30 minutes, set aside to cool. Remove the ginger slices and discard.

—In a large pitcher combine the lemon juice, apple juice and water. Stir in the cooled Ginger Honey Syrup.

—Fill each glass with ice and the lemonade, garnish with a lemon slice.



Photo from Denise Dietrich

We have a new New Jersey State Honey Queen 2024/5 Introducing Madeline “Maddie” Tubbs from Montville, NJ

She will spend the year representing the beekeeping community and business in NJ and will have the opportunity to represent New Jersey and compete for the National Honey Queen Title in 2025. We look forward to her attendance at a local SJBA meeting.

The New Jersey Honey Queen Program is a program for women between the ages of 18 and 25, who 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, including information about honey bees themselves, 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.



Photo from NJBA newsletter

For more information about the program, please contact: **Nicole Medina at njhoneyqueen@outlook.com**

Information extrapolated from the following internet sites and NJBA newsletter Jul-August 2024

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

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

South Jersey Branch of NJBA 2024 Current Executive Board Members

<u>Title/Committee chair</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
President	Denise Dietrich	215-901-3199	das6594@aol.com
1 st Vice President	Ed Penny	609-217-1624	eapenn2232@icloud.com
2 nd Vice President	Bill Lore	856-392-0197	williamlore29@gmail.com
3 rd 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
1 st 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	TBD		
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 Fall 2024.

Six online classes will be held on Saturday mornings, in Fall 2024. The dates are tentatively October 5, 12, 19, and 26 and November 2 and 9. This Fall 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 Members to Borrow For Free



Equipment is shown below.

To borrow: Please contact: 1) Dave Elkner delkner@yahoo.com, 2) Ned/Doris Morgan nedmorgan@comcast.net or dorismorgan@comcast.net, or 3) Rob/Denise Dietrich dietrichrw@aol.com or das6594@aol.com

3 Tangential Extractors

- Mann Lake HH-160
 - includes leg kit
 - Holds 3 deep, 3 medium or shallow frames
- # 1 or 2



1 Radial/Tangential Extractor

Includes leg kit

(1) Maxant 3100H

- Holds 3R/9T frames
- #3



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

#1



(3) Uncapping Tanks

#1, 2, or 3

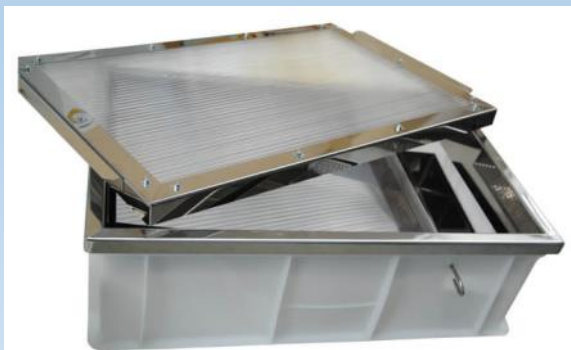


cappings scratchers and knives

#1, 2, 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 McConville, Bureau Chief, Pesticide Compliance, Main office #: 609-984-6568

**After hours call the DEP Environmental Hotline:
1-877-927-6337 (1-877-WARN DEP)**

Mention that the report is a suspected bee kill from pesticides.

NJ Farm Bureau: <https://njfb.org/>

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

**South Warren & Market Streets, PO Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625**

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>

Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS)

Education

<https://www.easternapiculture.org/>

American Beekeeper's Federation (ABF)

Represent beekeeping industry
<https://www.abfnet.org/>

***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/>

Many Beekeeping organizations have Facebook pages, which is a great way to share observations and experiences and ask questions. Communication is instant -- no waiting for a monthly newsletter!