

SOUTH JERSEY BEEKEEPERS

November-December 2024 Vol. 17, Issue 6

President's letter

Happy Fall → Happy Holidays, fellow beekeepers! We are rounding out another year of beekeeping. Fall is a favorite time of year for many people. For beekeepers, it brings continued honey bee observation and colony management. Are your bees ready for winter? Ask yourself these questions:

1. Are my colonies full with honey, about 60# or more?
2. Do they have a young, healthy, fertile queen? Is there a good population size of honey bees?
3. Are varroa counts low? Are there other pests in the colonies, e.g. small hive beetle, wax moths?
4. Equipment: Are the colonies in a good location: sunny site, + wind break, etc?
5. Are necessary mouse guards/entrance reducers on smallest opening placed in the entrance?
6. Are colonies appropriately insulated, as needed? Do the colonies have good hive ventilation? Is there a slight forward lean to the colony?

Continue to ask yourself these questions and other questions to check on the status of each colony and the apiary at-large. Winter is a great time to review the past year and to plan for the next year. Rob and I plan to review our year's successes and failures. A big task next year will be revising how we document our management. We will be planning next year's schedule, including nuc management and cut comb production trials again. Rob and I have a pile of equipment that needs to be repurposed, repaired, or removed from service this winter.

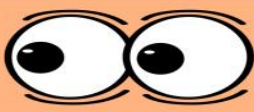
SJBA news:

1. T-shirt sale: The SJBA board is excited to offer a T-shirt sale this year, open from 11/1 to 11/22 with delivery by mail or at the time of the December 10th meeting for the election, honey tasting and honey show presentation. This is being done on-line through an independent vendor, at cost. (see page 3 for details).
2. Education: The Fall Beekeeping course is just finishing, and the Spring course is being planned in March to April 2025. If you know someone who is interested in learning to keep bees, tell them about the class. (see page 7 for details).

NJBA had a nice meeting in October with good food and good lectures by Dr. Peck of Betterbee, former president of American Beekeeping Federation, and a representative from Global Bioscience about a novel treatment for Varroa. Next year on June 7th, SJBA will be hosting the NJBA spring meeting. We hope that you can join us or even volunteer to help. We are planning a fun and informative meeting, including interesting talks, BeeLympics, fun events, and good camaraderie.

Best, Denise Dietrich, SJBA president





Events/Meetings



<—Looking Back

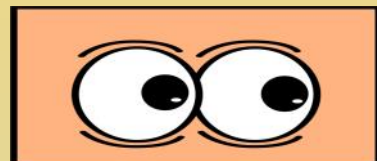
September 7, 2024
Harvey's honey tour
and picnic

September 29, 2024
SJBA Hive crawl

October 19, 2024 NJBA
fall meeting



Upcoming Schedule of In-Person Events —>



- November 9, 2024 Preparing and Crafting Wax with Marty Mendetta
- December 10, 2024 Election, Honey Show presentation by Tim Schuler, and honey tasting
- January 11, 2025 Beekeeping Jeopardy, Equipment Hacks, Honey show preparation
- February 22, 2025 NJBA winter meeting and election
- March 29, 2025 SJBA banquet, presentation on Rooftop Beekeeping with Joe Lelinho

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 starting in March

Spring 2025 beekeeping course dates March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5, with instructor-led field days after class, weather permitting





SJBA T-shirts for sale

[SJBA logo on front/NJ beekeeper artwork on back]

Time: November 1 to November 22 until 11:59pm

Where: On-line store <https://sjba2024.itemorder.com/>

Options:

- *Style: long sleeve Tshirt without pocket, short sleeve T-shirt with pocket, plain T-shirt (Y)
- *Size: unisex, see table on-line to choose appropriate size
- *Colors: maroon, yellow (Y), dark gray
- * For pickup at 12/10/24 at SJBA meeting; otherwise, shipping is available for a fee



Local Beekeeping On-line

SJBA website at <https://www.sjbeekeepers.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!

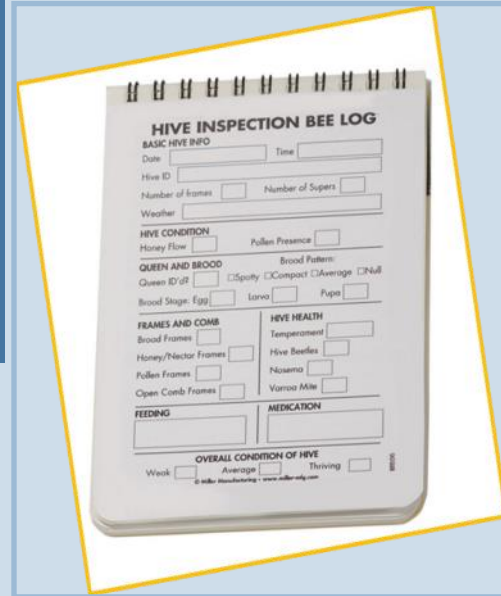
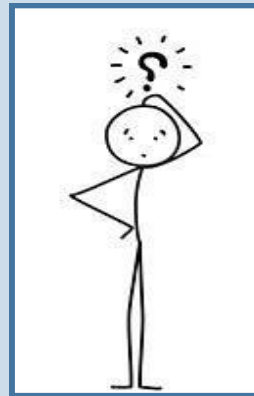
[Click Here](#)

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

November Beekeeping tasks

- **Covers:** All your colonies should have weights or straps on the outer covers to keep the lids on. Provide ventilation by placing a 1/2 to 3/4 inch block of wood toward the front of the hive between the inner and outer covers. This will slightly raise the outer cover providing an escape for warm moist air and a top entrance. Moisture from condensation is more destructive to the bees in winter than the cold. If this is in place and the bees have access to enter through the hole in the inner cover, you will never have to worry about an entrance blocked with snow or ice. The bees can breathe and leave the hive through the top.
- **Mouse guards:** Make sure mouse guards are in place.
- **Remove feeders:** Ideally you should be done feeding by now.
- **Finish winterizing:** Whatever you did not get done last month needs to get done now.
- **Evaluate your records:**
 - What was your percentage of winter death loss?
 - How many increases did you make this year?
 - How many swarms did you catch?
 - How much honey did you produce? What was your per colony average?
 - What are you selling honey for? Is it in line with other beekeepers' prices?
 - How many honey flows did you get?
 - Did your bees need supplemental feeding?
 - What did you use to control Varroa? Was it effective?
- An old saying goes, "if you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got." In the beekeeping world, if you did not have success in the past, you need to change what you do to change your results."
- Register your over-wintering apiaries with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. This is important so that the state apiarist knows who the beekeepers are in New Jersey, about how many colonies are in the state, and where they are located. In the event of a disease outbreak in your area, the apiarist will contact you to schedule an inspection and to make sure the disease has not infected your apiary. You can register online at <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/>



Hive # _____ Date: _____

Collecting Nectar, Pollen?									
Aggression: Lo, Med, Hi									
See eggs/young larva?									
See Queen?									
See Queen Cells?									
Drone Population: Lo, Med, Hi									
Brood Pattern (1-5)									
See Disease/Virus/Fungus?									
Hive Beetle Count									
Varroa Count									
#Frames Bees 4th body									
#Frames Brood 4th body									
#Frames Food 4th									
#Frames Bees 3rd body									
#Frames Brood 3rd body									
#Frames Food 3rd									
#Frames Bees 2nd body									
#Frames Brood 2nd body									
#Frames food 2nd									
#Frames Bees 1st body									
#Frames Brood 1st body									
#Frames food 1st									

Key Leading Indicators (KPIs) of colony health, nutrition, disease, infections & pest indicators.
 NI = Not Inspected every time; # Frames Brood/Bees x 100 = % Brood; # Frames Food/Bees x 100 = % Food

Beekeeping

2024

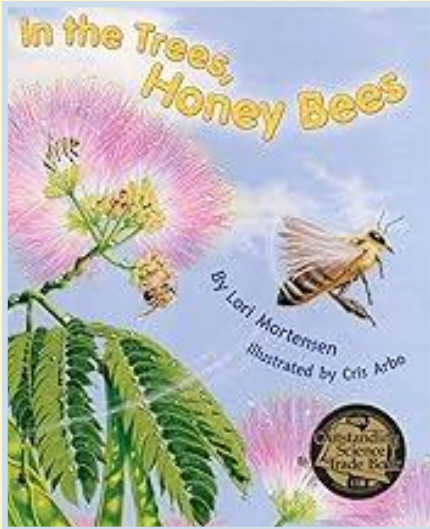
December Beekeeping Tasks

- Winter Cluster: Your colonies should be clustered by now. On a warm day, briefly pop the lid to see where the cluster is and how much food is still in the hive. Never break apart the cluster by pulling out frames. If the bees are low on food, feed fondant or other solid bee candy.
- Yard Location: If your colonies need to be relocated, now is the time to move them. Colonies need to be in full sun. If that is not possible, morning sun is best because it gets the workers out foraging early. In winter, colonies need full sun so that even on cold days, the bees can go on cleansing flights and the cluster can reposition itself to get at stored food. Full sun is not the same as sun filtered through leafless branches. Look for the location on your property where the snow melts first— that is usually the best place to keep bees. The location should drain well and be convenient from which to move 40-pound honey supers.
- Catch up on reading about beekeeping. Publications like American Bee Journal and Bee Culture are good magazine that have new research and timely articles you can use. Books like The Beekeepers Handbook, First Lessons in Beekeeping, and The Hive and the Honey Bee are just a few of the many good resources available for continuing education.
- Join the New Jersey Beekeepers Association. Become a better beekeeper as you attend meetings, network with local beekeepers, and learn from others' experiences. There are ten branches across New Jersey with over 1,500 members. There are four state meetings a year, and you get six bimonthly newsletters with timely information. Visit the Website at njbeekeepers.org for membership information or email membership@njbeekeepers.org. To join online, go to <https://njba38.wildapricot.org>
- Consider expanding your apiary. If you are going to expand next year, now is the time to plan. How many hives will you add? How much equipment will you need? Where will you put the new bees?
- Love your Neighbor. Share some honey with your neighbors. Nothing promotes good will with a neighbor like a gift of some locally produced honey.
- Beeswax: If you have surplus beeswax, make candles or other products for the holidays. Be safe—beeswax has a low flash point, is highly flammable, and should never be melted over an open flame. Never leave melted wax unattended. Have a fire extinguisher handy in case of emergency.

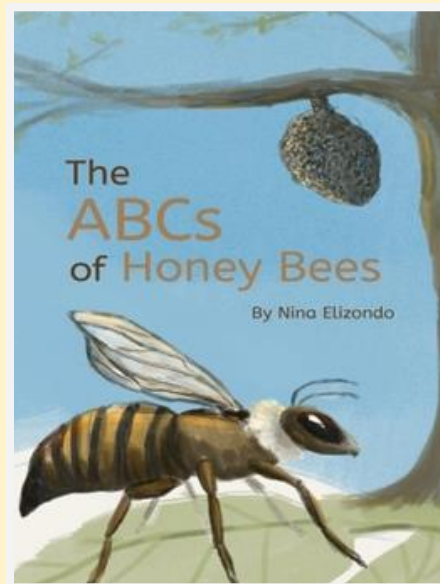


Kid's Korner (for little and big kids)!!

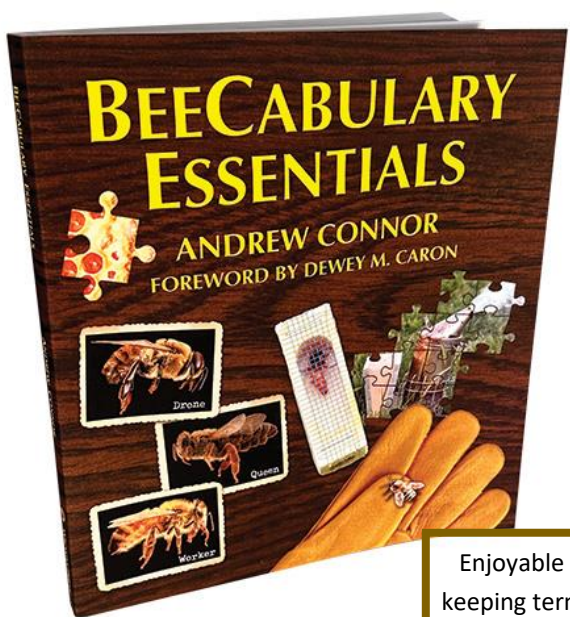
*Winter Reading Time...
Curl up with a Good Book*



Realistic book about honey bee jobs in a wild colony in a tree.
Fun poetry and prose



A to Z book on beekeeping biology, written by a 10 year old beekeeper.



Enjoyable book of bee-keeping terms for all ages.



"Buzzwing, the hard-working bee," takes us on a tour of her colony and life in this colorful, fun book on the science and folklore of honey bees.





SJBA board elections on December 10, 2024 7pm to 9pm meeting at Eco-center on Laurel Road in Blackwood.

Get involved in our branch by joining our executive board in an elected or appointed position. Please let a board member know of your interest in participating in this way, especially Nomination Chair, Theresa Boyle, @ chinacatsunflower17@gmail.com.

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	Theresa Boyle	856-979-8430	chinacatsunflower17@gmail.com
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 2025.

Six online classes will be held on Saturday mornings, in Fall 2024. The dates are tentatively **March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5**. 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