

SOUTH JERSEY BEEKEEPERS

May-June 2024 Vol. 17 Issue 3

President's letter

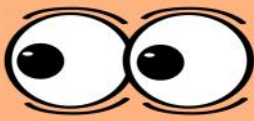
Welcome to Spring: It has been a brisk spring, and the weather has not been helpful. It seems that every day that we are off work, it is cloudy, cold and/or rainy, while days that we are working afford beautiful, warm, sunny days. As usual, we have concerns about our colonies being healthy and queen right. We have been doing various splits, including the classic vertical Demaree, and horizontal (walk-away) splits, making nucs, and using the Snelgrove board for a double colony. We have only had a few known swarms so far, our first on April 14, the day that we planned to do the Demaree splits at an outyard. A first for us is that we got a swarm that was not from our own colonies — a small swarm on a solar light of a friend in another town. In the near future, we have to inspect a few more colonies, then regularly check to see if supers need to be added through June. We are planning for spring honey extraction in late June to early July. At that time, we'll also check the varroa counts and plan for treatment in July/August, unless the counts require immediate treatment.

SJBA is buzzing along!! The March banquet was fun; we hope to have it again next March. This year, Rob and Lauren from Pine Barrens Post gave an excellent presentation on value added products. The venue, food, auction, and socializing were great. In April, Bill Lore gave a nice presentation on splits, despite the weather not cooperating. SJBA started the mentoring program and held the first fire-side chat at Bear's Head Preserve. It is hoped that these activities will continue to afford opportunities for beekeepers to meet and chat bees.

NJBA is looking forward to the BBQ and auction in August. This is always fun. On our first attendance, we were able to purchase an original AI Root extractor from the 1950s. This piece of equipment has been our honey extracting work horse. Per NJBA newsletter, please see the new materials from University of Michigan. It is an on-line tool that shows (verbally and in pictures) the characteristics of various hive maladies. There is also a game-show like video to test yourself in recognition of these maladies. [Diagnostic tools for honey bee diseases - Overview \(msu.edu\)](https://www.msu.edu/extension/beekeeping/diagnostic-tools-for-honey-bee-diseases-overview) Best to all!

Denise Dietrich, SJBA president





Events/Meetings

<—Recap

March 23, 2024
SJBA Banquet



April 20, 2024 TBD splits with Bill Lore

Upcoming Schedule of In-Person Events

May 2024 TBD 24 or 31 Fireside Chat at Bear’s Head Preserve

June 2024 TBD

July 20, 2024 Harvesting Honey—with Tim Schuler

August 5 to 9 EAS conference, Maryland

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

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

October 2024 TBD Preparing and Crafting Wax



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 TBD



Forage—Late Spring to Early 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 \(xerces.org\)](#)) Near our yards, we have gone through dandelions, crocuses, maples, red bud, wisteria. At present, there is some black locust, honey suckle, clover, and candy tuft.



Honeysuckle



White clover



Black locust

Trees

Apple/crabapple
Black locust
Bradford Pear
Catalpa
Cherry (choke, weeping higan)
Holly
Linden
Sassafras
Tulip tree/poplar

Shrubs

Catmint
Flowering quince
Honeysuckle
Lavender
Mints
Purple Coneflower
Pyracantha
Wild Mustard

Flowers/herbs/"weeds":

Blueberry
Butterfly weed
Clover
Hollyhocks
Sage

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.

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 maintaining this website.

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](#)

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

May Beekeeping tasks:

- **Feeding:** The only reason to feed now is to help draw comb on new colonies, (packages and nucs) or to feed a weak colony
- **Supers:** Check weekly for space in the supers. Add supers when you see the bees storing nectar in the top honey super. You need to stay ahead of the bees. If they run out of room, they will build swarm cells and leave.
- **Making splits:** Cutting out swarm cells is not advised. The result may be a queenless colony. If you see many queen cells, it is better to split the colony into two or more hives, leaving a frame with cells and some brood and honey on the original hive stand, giving them lots of empty space. This is the month most beekeepers in NJ split strong colonies. Splitting a colony will usually cost you in honey production.
- **SWARMS:** You should have extra equipment on hand to capture swarms as needed. Have it ready to go when the call comes in.
 - For swarm calls, question to ask the caller with a swarm:
 1. Is the swarm still there? Often it leaves shortly after it's discovered
 2. How high is it? You may need a ladder. Be careful because beekeepers have fallen off ladders and have been injured. A swarm is not worth that risk.
 3. Are they living in a tree or a building? If they are living inside something, it is not a swarm, but an established colony.
 4. What do they look like? Make sure it's not a wasp or hornet nest. Ask if it's a ball of bees or a grey paper nest to help make this determination.

General Beekeeping Tips

- All beekeepers, and especially urban beekeepers, need to make sure their water supply does not run out.
- When working bees, wear light colored clothing and no rings or jewelry. Use your smoke judiciously as needed. Smoke your hands and the hive entrance before you even touch the hive. Make slow deliberate movements, not quick jerky movements. Work your bees on sunny days when the temperature is above 60 degrees, between 10am and 3pm. Do not work them at night or in the rain. Do NOT wear perfume, cologne, or any strong scent when working your bees.



Photo by Rob Dietrich

Beekeeping

2024

June Beekeeping Tasks

June is the month to plan for extracting honey and for treating for Varroa in July

—Extracting: How are you going to harvest your honey? Do you have an extractor and uncapping tank? Can you reserve one through your local branch of the NJBA? Are you going to buy one? Do you have jars? What sizes are you going to use?

- Combs must be at least 2/3 capped off to be cured, i.e, the bees have evaporated excess moisture. Take off surplus honey but leave at least 40 to 60 pounds for feeding during the summer dry season. Put extracted supers back on colonies, over the inner cover (with half moon entrance facing down into the hive), to protect the from wax moths and small hive beetles.
- Always extract in a bee-proof room to prevent robbing
- It's best to extract the day you remove the honey supers to prevent problems from hive beetles, wax moths, and moisture in the honey
- Disease: Make sure you check the brood nest for signs of AFB or EFB before you pull honey supers. If you think you have one of these diseases, have the state apiarist confirm it. Extract that honey last to avoid contamination of healthy colonies via the extractor. When you pull honey from diseased or suspicious colonies, always put those supers back on the same colonies, then treat for the disease. The State Apiarist (609-406-6945) is a good resource for which treatment to use.
- You may see the bees hanging out on the front of the hive during the day and well into the evening. This is called "bearding" and is a normal behavior used to help cool the colony.
- Inspect your hive periodically to ensure the queen is laying well. Look for the eggs in cells and a good amount of larvae and capped brood.
- Maintain a water source near your hives, keeping it filled and clean.
- Varroa: Now is the time to decide what you will use to control Varroa mites to ensure a healthy, mite-free colony for winter. Treatments should be on hand and ready to use when honey supers are removed and weather conditions are correct, usually in July or August. Treatments that work well at this time of year are Apiguard, Api-Life VAR, Apivar, Formic PRO TM, MAQS (Mite-Away Quick Strips), Hopguard II and Hopguard III, although none of these are 100% effective. Follow the directions closely and recheck colonies after treatment. Check the treatment by doing an alcohol wash.



Kid's Korner!!

From National Honey Board
on-line educational materials

ACTIVITY

BUILD A BEE

Color the bee below, then with the help of an adult, use scissors to cut out the different bee parts. Use a glue stick to glue the bee parts together according to the yellow guides on the bee.



SWEET FACT:

WHEN A HONEY BEE STINGS A PERSON OR OTHER ANIMAL, THE HONEY BEE WILL DIE. THAT'S BECAUSE THE STINGER HAS BARBS THAT PREVENT THE BEE FROM PULLING IT OUT OF THE PERSON OR ANIMAL IT HAS STUNG. WHEN SHE FLIES AWAY, SHE WILL DIE BECAUSE LEAVING THE STINGER BEHIND DAMAGES HER BODY.



Honey oatmeal cookies

From American Honey Board

[Recipes](#) | [National Honey Board](#)



Ingredients:

1/2 cup hot water or hot black tea
 1 cup raisins
 2 cups flour
 1.5 cups quick cooking rolled oats
 1 tsp baking soda
 1 tsp ground cinnamon
 1/2 tsp salt
 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
 1 cup butter
 3/4 cup honey
 1 egg
 1 tsp vanilla
 1/2 to 1 cup chopped walnuts
 1 6 oz package of chocolate chips (optional)

Can substitute gluten free flour for flour

DIRECTIONS:

1. Pour hot water/tea over raisins; let stand at least 15 minutes
2. Combine flour, oats, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, and nutmeg. Mix thoroughly; set aside
3. Cream butter; gradually add honey until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla.
4. Drain raisins; reserve 1/4 cup liquid. Alternately add flour mixture and reserved raisin liquid. Stir in nuts, raisins and chocolate chips. Chill dough for at least 1/2 hour.
5. Drop rounded teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet +/- parchment paper
6. Bake at 350 degrees F. about 12 minutes or until browned.
7. Let stand one minute on cookie sheet; remove and cool on rack.
8. Store in airtight container.



Photo from Denise Dietrich

The New Jersey State Honey Queen Program!!

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.

The 2024 NJ honey queen is to be determined. The 2024 New Jersey Honey Queen 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>



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, 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

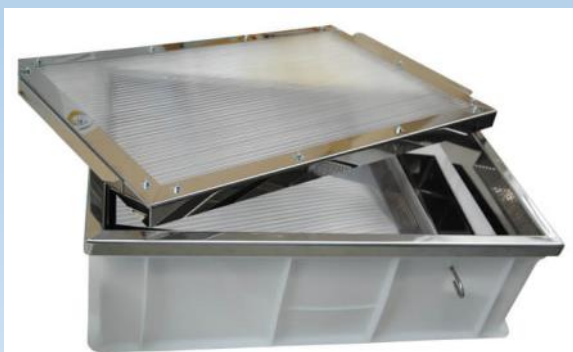


cappings scratchers

#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!