

SOUTH JERSEY BEEKEEPERS

November-December 2023 Volume 16 Issue 6

President's letter.

The cooler weather is finally here. Hives should be heavy, protected from NW wind, and mouse guards on. Ok, my mouse guards aren't on yet, but they will be after I make sure one hasn't already tried to move in. Even though it is getting colder, these warm days still have flight. Today, I found my bees at the watering hole and on a few of my zinnias that escaped the frost.

For me, this year has continued to go by fast. In the beginning of the year, the board had many ideas to add to SJBA. There was a discussion about a mentor program. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be this year, but I hope that it will be in the near future. On the brighter side, we now have a beautiful website by Amanda Gaskill, and Ed Penny has been busy keeping the outreach program growing. It has been great having them aboard this year.

SJBA Executive board strives to bring great information and fun to the members. Some ideas come from members, some come from a need. This year Ned Morgan told us that he was stepping down from running the Beekeeping Course. Many years ago, Ned saw a need to bring education to help new beekeepers get a good start and to learn the best beekeeping practices. He brought the idea to the Executive Board years ago and then he brought the idea to life. When his spring class sold out year after year, he volunteered to start a fall class to accommodate the need. We appreciate all the hard work he has done over the years. Thank you, Ned!

SJBA is not perfect. However, we have good people volunteering their time and friendly members who make it a great branch of NJBA. I am glad I have had the chance to be a part of it. I hope to see it continue to grow for many years. Now, as life is putting more demands on my time, I will be stepping away from the president position but I hope to see many of you in person at the December meeting.

Beth Ann Hall, SJBA president



Special Thanks to Ned Morgan for all his work and leadership with education for SJBA members. He has been instrumental in educating local NJ beekeepers, young and old, for more than 15 years. He is retiring from organizing/presenting the Introduction of 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.

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.

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.





Meetings (Past/future)

Photo by Denise Dietrich: taken at Albuquerque Balloon Festival October 2023

<—Recap

October 14 NJBA Fall Meeting—great talks and fellowship



Upcoming Schedule of Events



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

December 4th
Honey tasting and SJBA Elections

January 24, 2024 NJ state honey show

January 2024 TBD
Equipment

February 24, 2024
NJBA meeting



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

A Year in New Jersey **Beekeeping** *December 2021 through December 2022*

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/prog/beeinspection.html>



A Year in New Jersey Beekeeping

December 2021 through December 2022

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!! (little and big)

Online download from www.LovingHomeschool.com

Answers on last page



Honey Bee Word Search



Find the word in the puzzle.
Words can go in any direction.

C X P M D O P S O R P I Q Y O
F O A I D G P X R P O N K G L
R B L W B Y E N O H L S X E B
N P V O S X J E J D L E T B M
N P D R N E J H A J I C C P O
B W B J I Y E M I S N T O M C
Z S J T H H O B N B A H B B Y
P O L L E N L R U E T M U Y E
R E P E E K E E B R E Z T N N
B N O B S U D W R E Z U O Z O
M R E T H I V E C K F R Q V H
R U I C B L W O M R D Z U I M
P N Z W T O M A D O J Q Q C M
G K J Y L A A U R W R A O T W
E J O F A D R E L G G A W U S

BEEKEEPER
QUEEN
WORKER
DRONE
HIVE

COLONY
POLLINATE
BUZZ
HONEY
BEESWAX

HONEYCOMB
FLOWER
POLLEN
NECTAR
INSECT

STING
WAGGLE



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 NJ honey queen is Katie . 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-Zucchini bread

From Honey Queen brochure and Siouxhoney.com

Ingredients:

3 eggs

1 C. vegetable oil

1 C. Honey

1 T. vanilla

2 C. zucchini, shredded

3 C. all purpose flour

1 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. salt

1 1/2 tsp cinnamon

1/2 tsp nutmeg

1 tsp ginger

1 C. walnuts (chopped) optional

Directions:

1. Grease 2 8x4 in loaf pans
2. Beat eggs well.
3. Stir in oil, honey, and vanilla; fold in zucchini.
4. Wisk dry ingredients together separately and stir into zucchini mixture
5. Fold in nuts.
6. Pour into load pans
7. Bake for 45-55 minutes at 375° F

Photo by Denise Dietrich





Photos by Nicole Mazzitelli



Right upper: Tim Schuler; Right lower: Ed Penny, Amanda Gaskill

Left— Upper row: (from left) Ned Morgan, Dave Elkner, Lou Favieri

Left—Bottom Row: (from left) Denise Dietrich, John Ruhl, Kelly Coughlan, Beth Ann Hall, and Bill Lore

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

Table with 4 columns: Title/Committee chair, Name, Phone, Email. Lists board members including Beth Ann Hall (President), John Ruhl (1st Vice President), Bill Lore (2nd Vice President), Tim Schuler (3rd Vice President), Kelly Coughlan (Secretary), Louis Favieri (Treasurer), Dave Elkner (1st Past President), Denise Dietrich (Publicity/Newsletter), Ned Morgan (Education), Tim Schuler (Auditing), Dave Elkner (Nominating), Amanda Gaskill (Publicity: IT/Facebook), and Ed Penny (Publicity: Outreach).

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 17 to 21 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

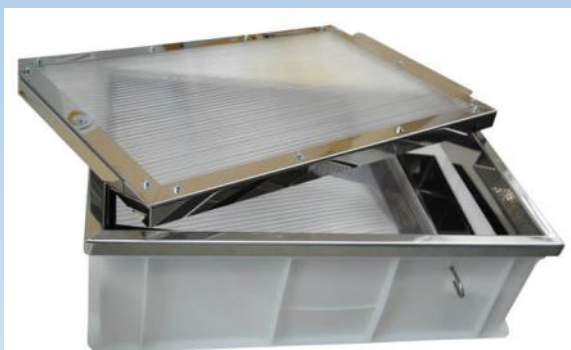


cappings scratchers

#1, 2, 3



Solar Wax Melter from Betterbee with stand # 1



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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

Sign-ups from Jan. 4, 2021 to Feb. 12, 2021

<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.

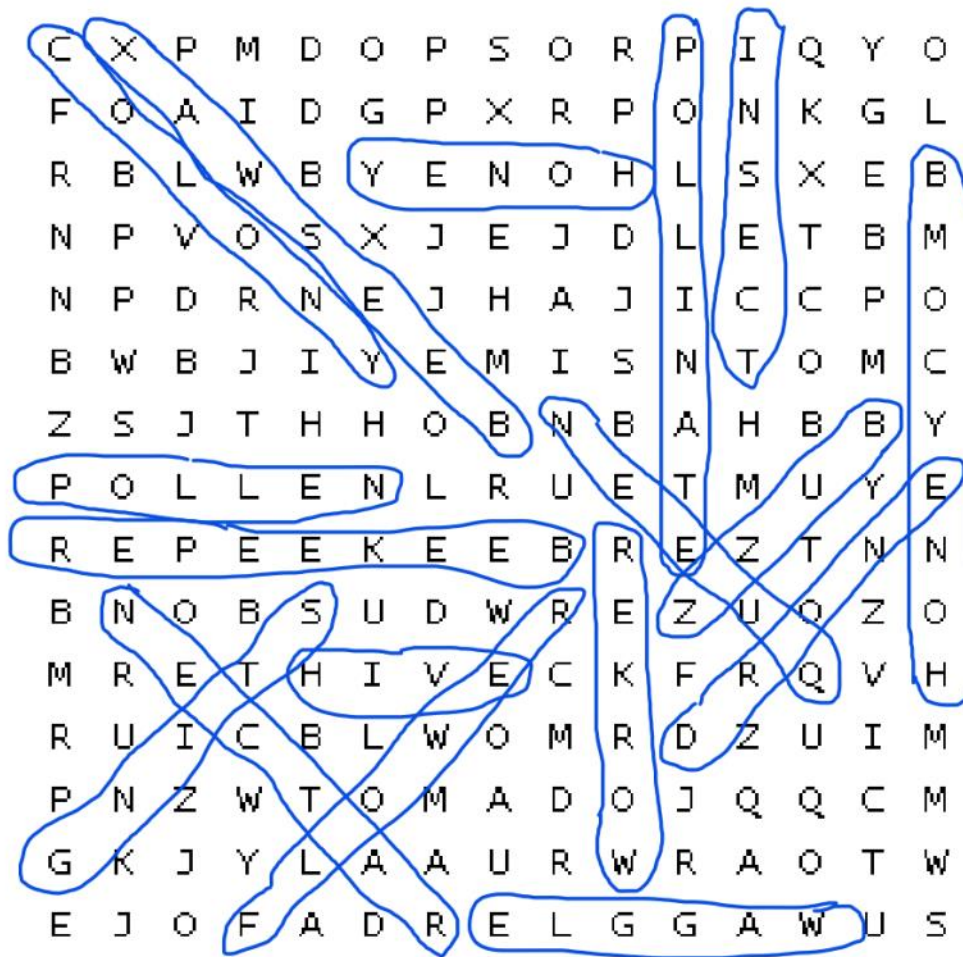
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/JCBAmail/>

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!

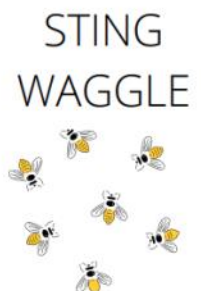
Kid's Korner Answers:



BEEKEEPER
 QUEEN
 WORKER
 DRONE
 HIVE

COLONY
 POLLINATE
 BUZZ
 HONEY
 BEESWAX

HONEYCOMB
 FLOWER
 POLLEN
 NECTAR
 INSECT



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