

# SOUTH JERSEY BEEKEEPERS

September-October 2024 Vol. 17 Issue 5

## *President's letter*

Hi All,

Good-bye summer, Hello winter prep in full swing! At the time of this writing, we just attended the NJBA picnic and summer auction. The auction was great.. interesting items new and old, many good bargains, much equipment to consider!! The camaraderie and the food was wonderful, as usual!! On the homefront, Rob and I just completed our summer honey extraction. We are partly through our mite treatment protocol. While only 2 of our colonies met treatment threshold, each colony is in different yard, so we are treating 2 full yards of colonies. After the treatment in 2-3 weeks, we will re-check our varroa counts, go into feeding mode as needed, and then complete winter prep on the colonies, including insulation, hive tilt, mouse guards, etc in September/October. We are looking forward to some fall markets and making new items for Christmas/holiday gifts.

SJBA continues to be active. Harvey's Honey is graciously hosting a tour of their facility on September 7. We will have a potluck lunch after the tour, with SJBA providing hoagies/wraps and members bringing small side dish. It promises to be enjoyable!! On Sunday, September 29, we will have a Hive Crawl. This will consist of caravanning to several newer beekeepers yards to observe their colonies and then hopefully finish with some honey sweetened treats. In November, we are planning a wax preparation and candle making workshop. Please bring your interest, enthusiasm, and ideas to this fun gathering, especially as we head into the holidays.

NJBA just had the annual auction and picnic. In October, Essex branch is planning the NJBA fall meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> at Pascack Valley Regional High School. While it is close to a 2 hour drive, it will be well worth the trip, as they are hard at work planning a very fun and informative meeting. SJBA members will arrange carpools. Please let us know if you are interested in doing so. It will give you extra time to "chat bees" with other local beekeepers. Eastern Apiculture Society just finished their annual meeting. As usual, there was good information on different topics, from basic beekeeping to regenerative beekeeping. The NJ beekeepers are looking forward to hosting the conference in 2025. We hope that people can volunteer their time and/or attend this excellent conference. For Rob and me, the EAS conference that we first attended was a game changer; it was held at Stockton University in New Jersey in 2016. It exposed us to the breadth and depth of beekeeping information and has inspired us to continue to learn and grow in this "hobby."

Regarding our newsletter, in order to shorten it, some recurring information, such as equipment that SJBA members can borrow from the branch and links to other relevant sites will be on the website only.

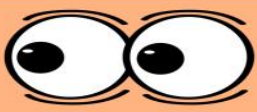
Anyway, I hope that y'all are well (as they say in the south) and that you attend some meetings, whether in person or via Zoom.

Best, Denise Dietrich, SJBA president

**Denise Dietrich uncapping a frame with Tim Schuler observing and providing feedback.**

**Picture by Rob Dietrich**





# Events/Meetings

## Looking Back

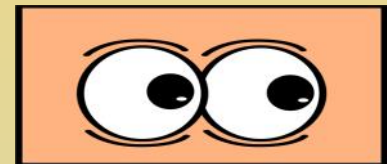
July 27, 2024 Honey extraction demonstration at Tim Schuler's home



August 17, 2024 NJBA picnic and auction



## Upcoming Schedule of In-Person Events



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

September 29, 2024 SJBA Hive crawl—Caravan to different members' apiaries

October 19, 2024 NJBA fall meeting at Pascack Valley Regional HS, Hillsdale, NJ

November 2024 date TBD Preparing and Crafting Wax

December 2024 date TBD Election, Honey Show presentation by Lisa Skoglund Johnson NJBA honey show chair, and honey tasting

## Zoom meetings



Let's Talk Bees with SJBeeA via Zoom, 1st Monday of the month (none on Labor Day)

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

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



# Forage—Late summer to early fall

What are you seeing for blooming plants? What is likely to be available? (see Xerces society listing ([22-024 01 NPPBI—Mid-Atlantic web.pdf \(xerces.org\)](#)) Near our apiaries we have gone through blooms of milkweed, hostas, red and white clover, lobelia, sedum, and mimosa tree (AKA: silkwood). At present, there is still some black-eyed susans (rudbeckia) in bloom. Japanese knotweed and goldenrod are starting to bloom, and we are awaiting joe pye weed and asters to bloom. Being a beekeeper opens your eyes to the flower cycle of the year!



Clematis



Goldenrod



Japanese Knotweed

## Shrubs

Lemonade berry  
Sugar bush  
Sumac

## Flowers/herbs/"weeds":

Aster—May to November  
Boneset /thoroughwort  
Buckwheat: June—frost  
Giant Hyssop—June to September  
Goldenrod  
Horsemint/BeeBalm/wild bergamot  
Knapweed/Star Thistle June-Nov  
Knotweed: May– November  
Sneezeweed  
Spanish needle/beggar ticks  
Sweet Clover—April to October  
Sunflower  
Thistle/Plumeless thistle  
Vervain

Photos by Denise and Rob Dietrich

# Local Beekeeping on-Line

South Jersey Beekeepers Association [sbeekeepers.org](http://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

## September Beekeeping tasks

**\*\* Check for food reserves:** Starving colonies can have a lot of foraging activity, but that does not mean they are bringing anything in—you must check inside the hive. A colony on a honey flow will have plenty of capped and uncapped honey in the brood nest to the top corners of the frames. Often nectar will shake out of the frame. Colonies in distress will have a dry brood nest where there is little or no food in the corners of brood nest frames. A colony beginning to starve will need to be fed 1:1 light syrup immediately.

**\*\* Goldenrod:** In most of New Jersey north of Columbus, there is usually a fall goldenrod flow followed by aster. You will know the flow is on because there will be a strange odor in your bee yard. That smell is often confused with American Foulbrood disease, but is the goldenrod nectar being processed by the bees. Keep alert for it, because it does not produce every year. Even if it does, rain can prevent the bees from working it. If colonies are light in weight, you need to start feeding heavy syrup. Do not wait till the end of October to decide if you need to feed. If you live in the pinelands or southern part of the state, you will probably not have a fall nectar flow, and you need to feed.

**\*\* Combine weak colonies with strong colonies** to allow them to prepare for winter.

**\*\* Consider re-queening colonies** that have old or failing queens. A colony with a large population of young bees will winter better than a failing colony with older bees. A young queen will lay more eggs in spring and be less likely to swarm.

**\*\* Bear fencing:** If you live in bear country, you need to have your bear fences in good order and freshly baited. Bear damage to apiaries is increasing every year and is happening in areas where it hadn't occurred previously. You need a well maintained electric fence with fresh bait. The bait insures that the bear will get shocked in the nose or mouth when testing the fence.



# Beekeeping

## 2024

### October Beekeeping Tasks

**\*\*Food:** Generally, you need 60 pounds of honey per hive stored and capped for winter food. This food needs to be mostly in the top deep. To help calculate winter stores, one full, capped, deep frame of honey weighs between six and seven pounds. If they do not have 60 pounds of stores, you need to get it to them fast. Feed 2:1 heavy syrup, i.e., two parts sugar to one part water by volume. Don't let the feeder run empty until the colony has enough. You may also want to feed Fumagillin for Nosema control

**\*\* Location:** Your colonies should be in full sun and protected to the north and west by a wind-break. This can be natural (hedges or shrubs) or manmade using fencing, tin, straw bales, pallets, etc. When protected from wind and in full sun, your bees will be able to take cleansing flights even on a cold winter day.

**\*\*Mouse guards:** These should go on entrances toward the end of the month. Take care not to close a mouse in the hive!

**\*\*Skunks:** Skunks will scratch at the entrances of your hives and chew bees when they come out to investigate. You will find dark balls of honey bee exoskeletons. The skunks chew the bees, suck the juice out of them, and then spit them out. It is reminiscent of spent plugs of chewing tobacco. To discourage the skunks, put a small fence of chicken wire around your colonies.

**\*\* Bears:** Keep your electric fences baited with fresh bait and your chargers hot.

**\*\* Hive position:** Check to insure hives tilt slightly forward to keep out rain. Hives can settle and tilt over the course of the year. Secure outer covers against strong winter winds.

**\*\*Remove honey supers:** Supers that have been stored above the inner cover should be removed after a killing frost and stored in a cold environment protected from mice and vermin.

**\*\* Sell some honey:** The fall is usually full of craft fairs and festivals. Rent a table, set up your honey, and earn some money to cover your beekeeping expenditures for next year.

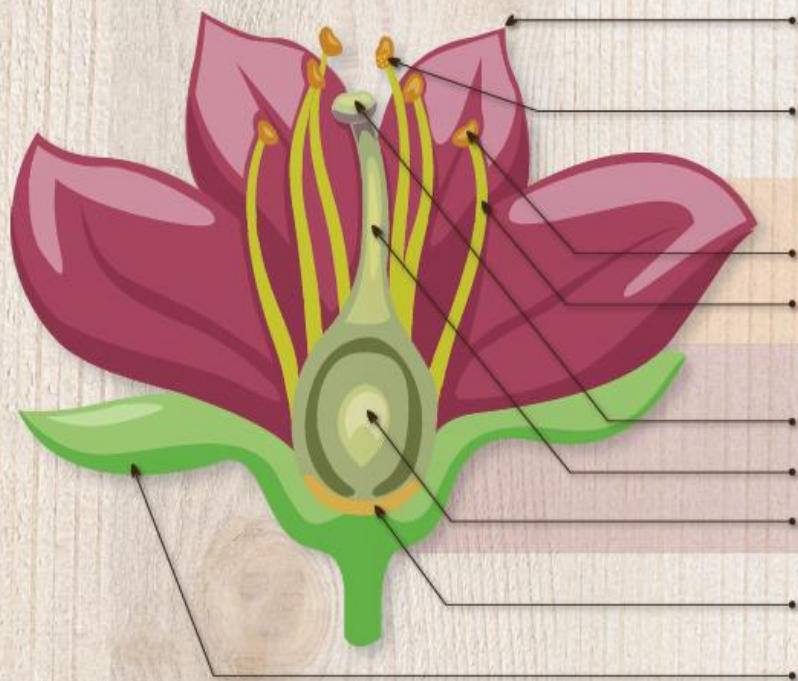


# Kid's Korner!!

From National Honey Board  
on-line educational materials

## POLLINATION

is a very important part of the life cycle of plants. Bees move pollen between flowering plants, which means the plants can make seeds that can grow new baby plants.



**PETALS** ..... the colorful, thin structures that surround the sexual parts of the flower; they attract pollinators and also protect the pistil and stamen.

**POLLEN GRAINS** ..... the powdery particles that contain the male sex cell (gametes); also a nutritious, protein-rich food for bees.

### STAMEN:

**ANTHOR** ..... a bright sac that makes and holds pollen grains.

**FILAMENT** ..... a stalk that supports the another.

### PISTIL:

**STIGMA** ..... sticky surface where the pollen lands and germinates.

**STYLE** ..... the narrow region of the pistil between the stigma and the ovary.

**OVARY** ..... the base of the female portion of the flower containing the ovules, which become seeds.

**NECTARY** ..... secretory gland at the base of a flower that produces nectar.

**SEPALs** ..... commonly green leaf-like structures that protect the bud prior to opening.

## WHAT FLOWER IS YOUR HONEY FROM?

Without flowers, there would be no honey! Bees collect nectar from different flowers and make it into the sweet honey we all love. The color and flavor of honey is different, depending on the plants the honey bees visit.

### ALFALFA



Honey made in Canada and the United States from the purple blossoms. It's light in color with a mild flavor and aroma.

### BLUEBERRY



Honey made from the tiny white flowers of the blueberry bush in New England and Michigan. It's light amber in color with a full flavor.

### BUCKWHEAT



A dark and full-bodied honey made in Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and even eastern Canada.

### CLOVER



The most commonly made honey in the united states. Clover honey varies in color from water white to light, depending on the location and type of clover.

### ORANGE BLOSSOM



Honey from lots of citrus flowers made in Florida, Southern California and parts of Texas. It's light in color, mild in flavor with a fresh scent and light citrus taste.

### AVOCADO



Honey gathered from California avocado blossoms. Avocado honey is dark in color, with a rich, buttery taste.

### WILDFLOWER



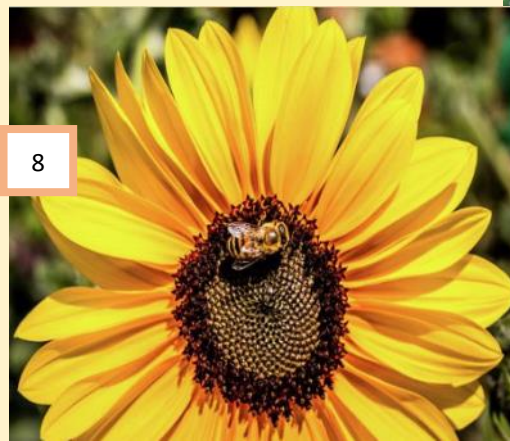
Honey made from lots of different flower sources.

# Kid's Korner—Flower Power!!

## Pollinator Plants and Season

Match the flower/plant picture to the list, and think about the season of bloom. Identify other plants that are good for bees, using previous newsletters, books, and the internet. [ Answers on the last page.]

- Black-eyed Susan
- Blueberry
- Clover
- Dandelion
- Goldenrod
- Honeysuckle
- Japanese Knotweed
- Maple
- Milkweed
- Silkwood tree
- Sunflower
- Vetch





## 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
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2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Bill Lore	856-392-0197	williamlore29@gmail.com
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1 <sup>st</sup> Past President	Beth Ann Hall	609-517-4272	sjbeecharmer@gmail.com
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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](mailto:dietrichrw@aol.com)**

# Kid's Korner—Flower Power!!

## Answers

### Pollinator Plants and Season

1. Goldenrod—fall
2. Clover—spring to summer
3. Silkwood— late spring to summer
4. Japanese knotweed—summer to fall
5. Black-eyed susan—summer to fall
6. Maple—spring
7. Milkweed— late spring to summer
8. Sunflower summer to fall
9. Dandelion—spring
10. Blueberry—spring
11. Honeysuckle —spring to summer
12. Vetch— spring to summer

