

# SOUTH JERSEY BEEKEEPERS

May and June 2023 Vol. 16 Issue 5

## President's Letter

Summer is beginning to wind down! I am watching my bees forage on the wildflowers I planted for them on my farm. For me, this season has flown by, but for a moment, everything is calm.

I had a lot of help getting my honey extracted this year. It was a crazy year where plans changed more often than I ever remember. I was unable to attend many Saturday meetings due to work and unplanned events, and, although I helped a few beekeepers, it is nice to get together with the group and just talk bee stories.

Feedback is very important to help make the planning of meetings go smoothly. Whether you think a meeting was great or maybe you want to hear a particular speaker or whether the feedback is in writing or told directly to a board member, it is important. This year, I have been told by quite a few members that they loved the meetings at which handouts were given and, we will consider giving handouts at other meetings. I have also been told that some would attend more meetings if there were a few more on the east side of South Jersey. I would like to see that too because that is closer to me, however, we need places to hold meetings. Please let us know if you can secure a meeting room for the winter months or an apiary during bee season. Also, please let us know the topics that are of interest to people in this local beekeeping group of ours, SJBA. All these inputs help to make our group worthwhile to all.

Elections are coming up in December. The term is one year. If you would like to run or to find out more information on any elected position, please reach out to the Nominations Chair, Dave Elkner. Chair positions are appointed, but if you are interested, he will pass the information to the executive committee. The input of all SJBA members is important.

I hope everyone had a great honey season. By now, everyone should have started mite treatments to help the bees, that will take care of the bees, that will go through winter. Check hive weights and colony health. Before we know it, it will be Thanksgiving.

**Beth Ann Hall**

**SJBA President**



\*\*\*SJBA has a website\*\*\*

*[sjbeekeepers.org](http://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)

## <—Recap

Field days July 23 & August 20 following colonies that have been installed as a package

July 16 Honey Extraction demonstration

July 31 to August 4 Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) conference



Beautiful frame of honey

Photo by Kelly Coughlan



New Jersey beekeepers enjoyed the EAS Conference  
photo by Mark Gingrich



August 12 Winter Prep



## Upcoming Schedule of Events

September 17, 1-4pm, SJBA picnic/social (see email for details)  
Germania Firehouse,  
312 S. Cologne Ave  
Germania NJ



October 14 NJBA Fall Meeting 7:15am to 5pm  
at Rutgers Cream Ridge Facility, just East of EcoCenter  
SJBA members can volunteer to help



November TBD

December 4th (tentative )  
Honey tasting and SJBA Elections



# Forage of the Season—Fall

What do you see blooming in your area? Is it early, late, same as last year? What flowers are good for pollen? Is it beneficial for nectar foraging?

What SJBA members are seeing:



## Trees & Shrubs

Japanese Knotweed  
*Polygonum affine & cuspidatum*  
 Pollen \*\*/Nectar \*\*



## Shrubs

Lemonade berry  
 Sugar bush  
 Sumac

## Flowers/herbs/"weeds"

Aster  
 Boneset /thoroughwort  
 Buckwheat: June—frost  
 Crocus  
 Giant Hyssop—June to September  
 Goldenrod Solidago  
 Horsemint/BeeBalm/wild bergamot Monarda  
 Knapweed/Star Thistle June-Nov  
 Japanese Knotweed  
 Sage  
 Sedum (Autumn joy)  
 Shasta Daisy  
 Sneezeweed  
 Spanish needle/beggar ticks  
 Sweet Clover—April to October  
 Sunflower

*Photo credits  
 From on-line*

Sage  
*Salvia guarantica*  
 Pollen\*\*/Nectar\*\*\*

Sunflower  
*Helianthus annuus "Maximillian"*  
 Pollen\*\*\*/Nectar\*\*

Thistle/Plumeless thistle  
 Vervain

Shasta daisy  
*Leucanthemum x superbum*  
 Pollen\*\*\*/Nectar\*\*



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

**REMINDERS for September**

**September Beekeeping tasks:**

**Check for food reserves:** Starving colonies can have a lot of foraging activity, but that does not mean that they are bringing anything in; you must check inside the hive box. 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 sugar– 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 it 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 until 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.

**Winter Prep Check list: “take your winter losses now”**

Strong population: combine weak colonies as needed, re-queen as needed; 2 deeps or 3 mediums

Healthy: varroa population <2%, check for PMS brood patterns; low wax moths, hive beetles

Pests deterred: mouse guards, bear fencing, elevated to minimize skunk issues, entrances reduced.

Adequate Nutrition/ food stores, > 60# of honey per hive—feed, feed, feed to attain winter weigh

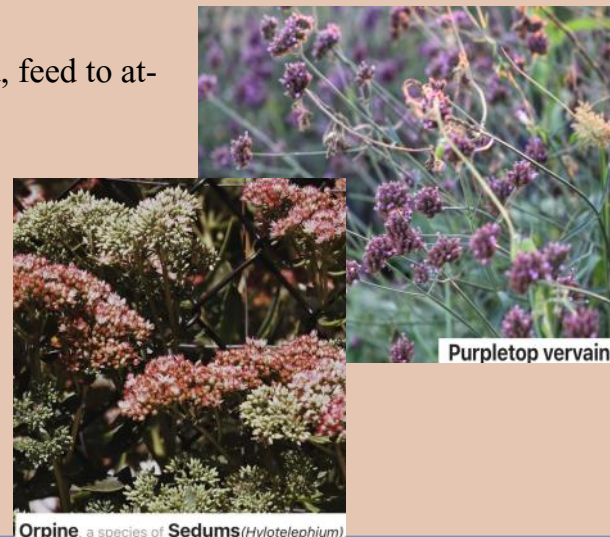
Location: South/SE facing,

Wind break to the north or northwest

Insulation and ventilation optimal, if needed

Hives tilted forward

Photos contributed by Nicole Mazzitelli



Purpletop vervain

Orpine, a species of Sedums (Hylotelephium)

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

**REMINDERS for October**

**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 6 and 7 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. 2 parts sugar to 1 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 windbreak. This can be natural (hedges or shrubs) or man-made — 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!

**Skunk:** 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 and suck the juice out of them, 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.



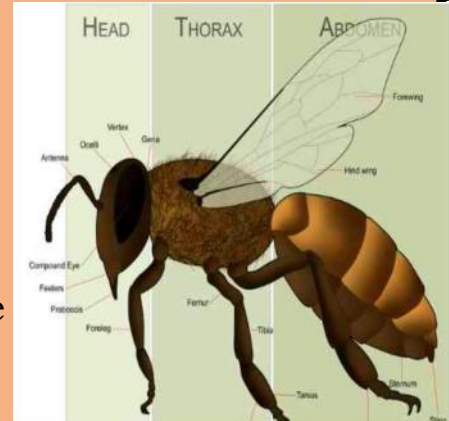
# Kid's Korner!!

## Winter Bees vs Summer Bees

adapted from ABF Kids and Bees program

### 1. The honey bee body is the same, but functions differently.

- A. In winter, the honey bee's waist will \_\_\_\_\_ to maintain warmth
- B. In winter, honey bees use their wings/bodies to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with other bees for \_\_\_\_\_. In summer, they use wings to do \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. What other reasons do honey bees use their wings for?
- C. In general, summer bees \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ honey, while winter bees \_\_\_\_\_ honey.
- D. Hormones/chemicals in body are the same. True or False
- E. Summer bees live for up to \_\_\_ days and winter bees live for up to \_\_\_ days



### 2. Activity and jobs in the hive. Match the following activity/job to

Summer (S) vs Winter (W) bees vs Both (B) honey bees

- \_\_\_\_\_ Collect/forage nectar to make into honey
- \_\_\_\_\_ Collect/forage pollen
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cluster for warmth
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fly for cleansing flight
- \_\_\_\_\_ Raise brood
- \_\_\_\_\_ Eat honey for energy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Feed and tend to the queen
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dance to communicate forage sites
- \_\_\_\_\_ Guard the entrance to the hive
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ventilate to cool hive
- \_\_\_\_\_ Scout for nutrition resources Name some resources.



**\*\*Answers on page 12, last page\*\***

# 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](mailto:njhoneyqueen@outlook.com)

*Information extrapolated from internet sites*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honey\\_Queen\\_Program](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honey_Queen_Program)

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



## Honey recipe

### *Gluten-free soft chocolate chip cookies*

*From King Arthur GF flour package*

#### Ingredients:

6 TB butter  
1/3 c granulated sugar  
1/2 c brown sugar  
3 TB honey  
2 tsp vanilla extract  
3/4 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp baking soda  
1/2 tsp baking powder  
1 TB cider vinegar  
1 large egg  
2 TB milk  
2 c GF flour  
2 c chocolate chips

#### Directions:

1. preheat oven to 350degrees F. In large bowl, beat butter, sugars, honey, vanilla, salt, baking soda, and baking powder until smooth. Beat in vinegar, egg, and milk, then stir in flour and chips
2. Drop dough by tablespoonfuls onto greased or parchment-lined baking sheets, leaving 2" between them.
3. BAKE cookies for 12 to 14 minutes, until bottoms are barely starting to brown. They may appear quite light and "undone" — that's OK. Remove cookies from oven and cool on pan for 10 minutes before transferring to rack to cool completely.
4. To make non-dairy, replace butter with vegan butter sticks or margarine and use your favorite non-dairy milk.







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 Current Executive Board Members**

Title/Committee chair	Name	Phone	Email
President	Beth Ann Hall	609-517-4272	sjbeecharmer@gmail.com
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	John Ruhl	609-381-7857	1674@comcast.net
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Bill Lore	856-392-0197	williamlore29@gmail.com
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Past President	Dave Elkner	609-703-9323	delkner@yahoo.com
Publicity/Newsletter	Denise Dietrich	215-901-3199	das6594@aol.com
Education	Ned Morgan	856-453-9345	Ned.Morgan@comcast.net
Auditing	Tim Schuler	856-498-0558	tim.schuler@comcast.net
Nominating	Dave Elkner	609-703-9323	delkner@yahoo.com
Publicity: IT/Facebook	Amanda Gaskill	609-515-3916	manderjean@comcast.net
Publicity: Outreach	Ed Penny	609-217-1624	eapenn2232@icloud.com

**An SJBA Introductory Beekeeping course is planned for Fall 2023.**

Six online classes will be held on Saturday mornings, in Fall 2023. The dates are September 30, October 7, 14, 21, 28 and November 4. 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. Ned Morgan 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:

**Ned Morgan at Ned.morgan@comcast.net.**



# 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](mailto: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

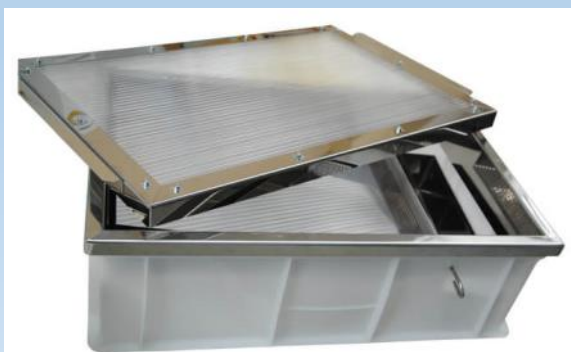


cappings scratchers

#1, 2, 3



Solar Wax Melter from Betterbee with stand # 1



+



# NJBA & Bee-Awareness around the region

## Around the State

**NJBA website:** [www.njbeekeepers.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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/](http://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:

1. The honey bee body is the same, but functions differently.

A. **Constrict** to conserve heat

B. In winter, honey bees use their wings/bodies to **produce heat** and interlock with other bees for **save heat**. In summer, they use wings to **fly and to ventilate to cool hive and evaporate honey**.

What other reasons do honey bees use their wings for? \_\_\_\_\_

C. In general, summer bees **make and eat** honey while winter bees **eat** honey.

D. Hormones/chemicals in body are the same. **False**

E. Summer bees live for up to **42** days, and winter bees live for up to **180** days

2. Activity and jobs in the hive. Match the following activity/job to

Summer (S) vs Winter (W) bees vs Both (B) honey bees

\_\_\_S\_\_\_ Collect/forage nectar to make into honey

\_\_\_S\_\_\_ Collect/forage pollen

\_\_\_W\_\_\_ Cluster for warmth

\_\_\_W\_\_\_ Fly for cleansing flight

\_\_\_B\_\_\_ Raise brood

\_\_\_B\_\_\_ Eat honey for energy

\_\_\_B\_\_\_ Feed and tend to the queen

\_\_\_S\_\_\_ Dance to communicate forage sites

\_\_\_B\_\_\_ Guard the entrance to the hive

\_\_\_S\_\_\_ Ventilate to cool hive

\_\_\_B\_\_\_ Scout for nutrition resources Resources: Minerals, vitamins, water, protein (nectar), resins, carbohydrate (nectar), vitamins



**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