

SOUTH JERSEY BEEKEEPERS

March—April 2023 Vol. 16 Issue 2

Letter From the SJBA President



I had a new beekeeper tell me once that he thought he should give up beekeeping because he couldn't keep one hive alive over winter. He thought he had done everything right. He treated for mites and checked the mite load after the treatment. He was sure that they had enough food for winter and added feed in January. Everything seemed good until March when he saw no flight and then found his bees dead inside. He asked "What happened?" "Looks like they starved" I said. Stuck in place keeping their brood warm during a weeklong cold spell.

March has always been the toughest month for my bees. I felt the loss of a hive more strongly when I only had a few hives then when I had 27. Not because I had less to lose but because I only had a few to look after. Over the past few years, I had slowly reduced the number of hives I had either by selling them or not replacing them, due to the added demands in my life. I went into winter with two. Now, this March, for the first time since I have become a beekeeper, I am officially bee-less. Sometimes you can do the best you can do and still lose. For a moment, I thought that maybe I should wait a year to get more bees. Then I snapped out of it. I have to have bees... Just two hives... For now.

I want to welcome Ed Penny and Amanda Gaskill as part of SJBA Outreach and Publicity committee. Ed will be working on Outreach efforts, and Amanda will work on creating an SJBA website and monitoring our FB page. Thank you, Ed and Amanda, for volunteering!

Beth Ann Hall, SJBA President



Upcoming Schedule of Events

SJBA Introduction to Beekeeping course
March 4, 11, 18, 25



March 25, 2023
SJBA banquet at Martin's
Guest speaker—Tim Schuler on Beekeeping in Malawi

Field days tentative Sundays at 2 pm, at Morgan house, on
April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17

April 29, 2023 Dave Elkner, On-the-Spot Queen Rearing

May TBD Tim Schuler, Nucs and splits

May 20, 2023 NJBA spring meeting

June 10, 2023 Bill Lore, Farming for Nectar Production and Forage Identification

July TBD Honey Extraction demonstration

August 12, 2023 Winter Prep



Meetings (Past/future)



←Recap

January 10, 2023 SJBA Zoom Meeting,

Local Queen rearing by John Gaut, EAS master beekeeper

https://drive.google.com/file/d/11LIFvu40zbwUVvI33FbvOQxe-QWzzzvm/view?usp=share_link

January 24, 2023 New Jersey Honey Show, see below for results

February 18, 2023 NJBA Winter meeting

Bordentown-Eco Center

Excellent topics, including

**Water sources by SJBA's Josue Feliciano

Mite Be Gone update

Bee photography

Bees wax art by artist Ceil Berg

Pollinator garden planning

Food safety



NEW JERSEY HONEY SHOW RESULTS 2022



It was a good showing of NJ beekeepers at the NJ state house. Congratulations to SJBA's John Ruhl for his first place win in Mead—fruit juice!

EXTRACTED HONEY

Division Best Rebecca Garvin - Class 3

Class 1 - Light Honey			
1	Rebecca	Garvin	97.5
2	Angela	Juffey	96
3	Susan	Visco	95.5

Class 2 - Light Amber			
1	Rebecca	Garvin	95.5
2	Gilles	Fenczak	95
3	Denise	Scaringe-Dietrich	94.5

Class 3 - Amber			
1	Rebecca	Garvin	98
2	Gilles	Fenczak	91.5
3	Susan	Visco	91

Class 4 - Dark Honey			
1	Herbert	Haderer	93
2	Susan	Visco	90.5
3	Adriana	Compagnoni	89

Class 5 - Black Box			
1	Gilles	Fenczak	20
2	Rebecca	Garvin	19
3	Angela	Juffey	18

HONEY COMB/SPREADS

Division Best Eileen Hyland - Class 6

Class 6 - Creamed Honey			
1	Eileen	M. Hyland	96
2	Herbert	Haderer	93
3	Joseph	Lelinho	89

Class 7 - Sections Rounds			
2	Lance	Tokash	82

Class 8 - Chunk Honey			
1	Lance	Tokash	95

Class 9 - Frame			
1	Maria	Lucy Sanchez	86
2	Eileen	M. Hyland	79
3	Lance	Tokash	78

MEAD

Division Best John Lyga - Class 24

Class 10 - Mead - Dry			
1	John	Lyga	90
2	Tracy	Colangelo	81

Class 11 - Mead - Sweet			
1	Lisa	Skoglund	94
2	Tracy	Colangelo	87

Class 12 - Mead - Fruit Juice			
1	John	Ruhl	91.5
2	Tracy	Colangelo	90
3	Lisa	Skoglund	85

Class 13 - Mead - Sparkling			
2	John	Lyga	87

MEAD (CONTINUED)

Class 24 - Honey Beer			
1	John	Lyga	95
3	Bob	Clark	70

BEEWAX

Division Best Rebecca Garvin - Class 15

Class 14 - Beeswax Block			
1	Denise	Scaringe-Dietrich	97.5
2	Lance	Tokash	96
3	Lisa	Skoglund	95

Class 15 - Novelty Beeswax			
1	Rebecca	Garvin	99
2	Angela	Juffey	98
3	Laura	Joiner	94

Class 16 - Candles - Tapers Poured			
1	Rebecca	Garvin	97
2	Angela	Juffey	94
3	Shona	Erlenborn	91

Class 17 - Candles - Tapers Dipped			
1	Rebecca	Garvin	94

Class 18 - Novelty Candles			
1	Rebecca	Garvin	98
2	Denise	Scaringe-Dietrich	87

COSMETICS

Division Best Angela Juffey - Class 19

Class 19 - Creams			
1	Angela	Juffey	95
2	Landi	Simone	93
3	Joseph	Lelinho	85

Class 20 - Soap			
1	Jill	Albano	99
2	Adriana	Compagnoni	97
3	Landi	Simone	93

Class 21 - Lip Balm			
1	John	Lyga	98
2	Adriana	Compagnoni	96
3	Jill	Albano	93

PHOTOGRAPHY

Division Best Lisa Tubbs - Class 22

Class 22 - Photo - People			
1	Lisa	Tubbs	98
2	Adele	Barree	94
3	Shona	Erlenborn	89

Class 23 - Photo - Beekeeping			
1	Rebecca	Garvin	96
2	Adriana	Compagnoni	95
3	Shona	Erlenborn	92



Kid's Korner!!!...HONEY BEE SWARMS

adapted from ABF Kids and Bees program

1. Why do honey bees swarm? _____
2. What is a honey bee swarm? What does it look like? What does it sound like? Describe it
3. What are the phases (see below) of a swarm? Match the pictures to the location and condition.

Inside the hive/Outside the hive

1. Preparing to Swarm
2. Swarm In Progress
3. After the Original Swarm



Answers on last page

Forage of the Season—Spring

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

Flowering cherry



Crocuses



Dandelions



Henbit



Trees & Shrubs

Black Tupelo, aka black gum
 Bradford Pear
 Flowering Crabapple
 Maple
 Redbud
 Rhododendron
 Serviceberry

Flowers/herbs/"weeds":

Borage
 Catnip
 Dandelion
 Rosemary
 Vetch
 Water Leaf

Local Bees for Sale

Name	Contact info	County	Nucs
Josue Feliciano	josuefeliciano@ymail.com 856-982-8707	Camden	+ nucs/queens
Joel Sternin	856-248-0233	Burlington, Camden	+
Rob/Denise Dietrich	R: 856-649-9519 D: 215-901-3199	Gloucester, Camden	+

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>



On the Go Peanut Butter Cheerio Bars recipe

By NJBA 2023 honey queen, Kaitlyn "Katie" Culbert



Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup honey
- 3/4 cup peanut butter
- 3 cups Cheerios



Directions:

1. Line 8" x 8" pan with aluminum foil and set aside
2. Combine honey and peanut butter over medium heat, stirring constantly, until completely melted and blended.
3. Remove from heat and stir in cereal; mix until evenly coated.
4. Place mixture in prepared pan and press in place.
5. Refrigerate for 1 hour before cutting into bars.
6. Cut into preferred size and enjoy!

A Year in New Jersey
Beekeeping
December 2021 through December 2022

March Beekeeping tasks:

- **Check for food in the hive** even if previous checks showed ample stores. March is a critical month for bees: as the amount of brood increases, the food demands of the colony increase. If the bees are not able to fly because of weather, or there is nothing blooming in your area, the colony could starve.
- Continue feeding if needed by placing hive-top feeders on the hive with 1:1 sugar water, (one Part sugar and one part water by volume). Depending on the weather and your location, fresh pollen and nectar should be coming into your colonies now. Pollen can be observed on the bees' rear legs and nectar will be observed as open nectar around the tops of the brood frames.
- Remove or open entrance reducers, if used, when you see traffic building up at the hive entrance on strong flight days.
- Reverse supers. On a warm day with strong flight, if the colony has occupied most of the top deep and the bottom deep is virtually empty, you can do your super reversal. That is where the top deep is placed on the bottom board, after you've cleaned it off, and the mostly empty bottom deep is placed on top. This will encourage the brood nest to expand upward and will help with swarm control. Do not swap deeps if both have bees and brood. Instead, you should add a honey super or two. This will avoid congestion in the hive, which can cause a colony to swarm.
- Seal up or remove deadouts. Call the state apiarist for a disease inspection.
- Check the condition of hive stands and if they are level. Make any corrections before the colonies are full of honey.
- **Hive location tips for new apiaries:**
 - Locate near good flower and water sources with good air and water drainage
 - Use some type of hive stand to preserve bottom boards and keep them slightly elevated. Stands should not be over 12" high.
 - The area should be inconspicuous, comfortable to work in, and convenient from which to move full, 40 pound honey supers.
 - South or east facing slopes in full sun are best. You want the bees to start working as early in the morning as possible. If you and I are in the same kind of business, and my employees start work at 7am, but your employees don't start till 10 or 11am, who will have the stronger business? It's the same with the bees. If you want strong colonies, put them in the sun
 - Provide a wind break to allow cleansing flights even when it's cold and windy.
 - Usually the best place for hives is where the snow melts first.



A Year in New Jersey
Beekeeping
December 2021 through December 2022

April Beekeeping Task: Inspecting Colonies for Diseases and parasites

** AFB(American Foul Brood) affects the pupae and is characterized by pupae that are dark, melted and coffee-colored. You will find this under the capped cells that have a concave or sunken appearance. If you take a twig and open the cell and twirl this in the melted material slowly pulling it out of the cell, the material is very elastic and will rope out an inch or two. If you see something like this in your colony, put the hive back together and call the apiarist.

** EFB (European Foul Brood is another brood disease that affects the larvae. It causes the infected larvae to dry out, turn yellowish color and often twist up the side of the cell. They will not be pearly white and glistening. If you see this, the colony should be treated with terramycin, two full tablespoons on the end bars of the frames once a week for three weeks. Terramycin must be obtained through the services of a veterinarian. To find a vet near you who will treat bees, go to www.hbvc.org.

* *Varroa*: When inspecting colonies in early spring, look at the drone brood in burr comb for signs of varroa mites. They are very visible on the early pupae. If you check 10 drone pupae and find varroa in 2 of them, it is advisable that you treat with something like formic acid to knock down the mites before the main honey flow.

**A Field Guide to Honey Bees and Their Maladies is an excellent bee disease document from Penn State, available for \$12 at the following link: <https://extension.psu.edu/catalogsearch/result/?q=honey+bee+maladies+handbook> .

**Download the free app from Alberta Agriculture. Search the App stores for “bee health”

**Check that your colony is queen-right by looking for eggs. If you don't or are unable, to see eggs, can you see larvae? If you see larvae, there was a queen in the colony within the last 9 days. The brood pattern should be regular, not scattered. The caps should be solid and uniform across the center of the frame. The larvae should be pearly white in color and glistening.

**Combine colonies. If you have colonies that are queenless or have a drone layer, now is the time to combine them with strong colonies. Always combine a weak colony with a strong one.

**Feed an overwintered colony only if they need it. Check for food reserves around the brood on a frame. The food will be at the top of the frame and in the corners. You may have nectar dripping out of the comb. This is a sign they don't need to be fed any more. If the weather has been cold or rainy and the bees have not been able to forage, you may need to feed them. It's a judgment call you will be better able to make as you gain experience. Attend your branch hive inspection meetings to gain experience.

**Open or remove entrance reducers when you see traffic building up at the hive entrance on strong flight days. This may be as early as March depending on your location, the weather, and hive strength

**Packages installed on bare foundation should be fed light sugar syrup (1:1) until all combs are drawn out in the first box. Don't add the second box until the first is drawn out. If you are installing packages or nucs on drawn comb, you should also feed light sugar syrup to give them a good start.

**Add honey supers as needed. If the colony is strong and occupying two deeps, you can add several honey supers with drawn comb at once. If you have honey supers with foundation only, do not add them over a queen excluder. The bees will not go up into the super, and you will force the colony to swarm. Swarms can be a real problem if you keep bees in an urban area. You may be thrilled with a swarm, but your non-beekeeping neighbor may not be. If you keep bees in an urban environment, it is recommended that you not use a queen excluder

**Be prepared to collect swarms as the need arises. This is a service the beekeeping community does to promote good relations between beekeepers and non-beekeepers. If you don't want any more colonies, you can always get them established for a few weeks and have the state apiarist certify them for sale.

**Equalize healthy colony strength. You can equalize the strength of healthy colonies by taking frames of brood with bees from strong colonies and giving them to weaker colonies. This will help control swarming in the strong colonies and build up the weak. Remember they must be healthy. Don't do this if you cannot tell if the colony is healthy. Make sure the strong hive's queen is not on the frames you give the weaker hive.

SJBA Resources



Photos by Nicole Mazzitelli



Above: Tim Schuler
 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 st Vice President	John Ruhl	609-381-7857	1674@comcast.net
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	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		manderjean@comcast.net
Publicity: Outreach	Ed Penny		eapenn2232@icloud.com

An SJBA Introductory Beekeeping course is planned for Spring 2023.

Six online classes will be held on Saturday mornings, February 25 and March 4, 11, 18, and 25, and April 1.

A fall schedule will be planned, as well September 30, October 7, 14, 21, 28 and November 4. These 2 course series fulfill 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

3 Tangential Extractors

- Mann Lake HH-160
 - includes leg kit
 - Holds 3 deep, 3 medium or shallow frames
- # 1, 2, or 3



Solar Wax Melter

#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

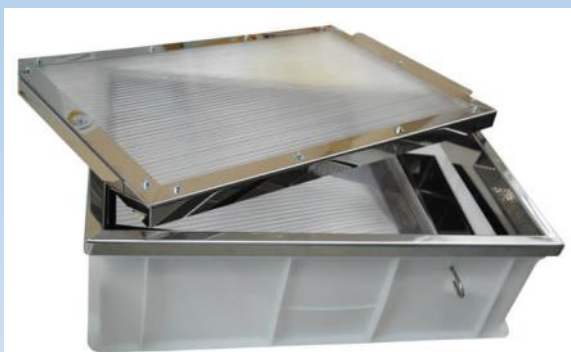
#1, 2, or 3



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 backyard: 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

Answers:

1. reproduction, poor hive conditions, (absconding), overpopulation
2. A honey bee swarm is a portion of honey bees in a colony that leave the original colony to move to a different site, 50+% of colony, old queen, many worker bees
3. Many bees quickly leaving a colony, flying around and landing in a clump near the original colony.
Sound of much buzzing wildly
4. Phases and Conditions Inside and outside the hive

Phase	Inside Hive	Outside Hive
Preparation to Swarm	Eggs deposited in queen cups Queen decreases weight, workers run her around, so she can fly with swarm. Overpopulation of workers.	Sunny day, warm weather
Swarm in Progress	Chaotic flight of many bees, pouring out of hive Bees clustered on tree or other location	Sunny day
After first swarm	30-60% less bees in colony Queen cells hatch and new queen starts to lay eggs Older brood, no eggs until new queen matures Old queen cells destroyed	Scout bees look for new site Waggle dance to decide new site Swarm bees make a beeline to new site



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 varroa and tropilaelaps mites

Villages in Partnership supports beekeeping in Malawi

Randy Oliver, Scientific Beekeeping