

# SOUTH JERSEY BEEKEEPERS

January-February 2025 Vol. 18 Issue 1

## President's letter

Happy 2025, my beekeeping friends!! The next season is coming up soon. January through March are important months to prepare for the upcoming beekeeping season. Tasks for Rob and me include a pile of equipment repairs/repurposing, building/painting more hive bodies, feeding the colonies as needed, putting Apivar treatments on all colonies (weather permitting), reviewing/revamping our record keeping, and making goals for our next season. It's a tall order for Team Dietrich, but we are looking forward to it as it is an important part of our "hobby."

SJBA is busy planning the schedule for the upcoming year. This includes the meeting on January 11, 2025 with equipment hack discussions and Team Bee Jeopardy. On March 29, 2025, SJBA will have our annual banquet at Merighi's Savoy. The speaker is none other than Dewey Caron, emeritus professor at University of Delaware. SJBA is planning for the NJBA meeting on June 7, 2025. Many hands will make light work to ensure that this meeting is a fun and educational event.

NJBA is having the annual honey show this month. It is a great way for you to get objective feedback on your honey and beeswax products. There are many categories to enter, including not only honey, but photography, candles, wax products, etc. Tim Schuler gave a wonderful presentation on the who, what, how, and why of honey shows, highlighting how to enter a good honey product. See page 2 and the NJBA website <https://njbkeepers.org/Annual%20Honey%20Show.htm> for details on the who, where, and when of the NJBA 2025 honey show. NJBA also will have its winter meeting at which the the 2025 honey show winning entries will be auctioned off. Non-winning honey show entries can be picked up then, as well. The key speaker is EAS master beekeeper, Erin MacGregor-Forbes. The educational and social events will make this another great NJBA meeting.

Lastly, I share with you a photo of a sculpture that hangs in the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The sculpture and information about it struck me as a reminder to us as beekeepers that we are part of the whole ecosystem.

While it has been a joy and a privilege to keep bees for the past 11 seasons, ultimately we strive to be good stewards of our small piece of a large natural/supernatural entity. It also reminded me that this is a piece of artwork; however, in just a few short months, natural artwork will occur in the form of the trees, shrubs, and flowers blooming in natural succession, reminiscent of a musical orchestra. It is a natural beauty that supports our amazing honey bees.

Sincere regards, Denise Dietrich, SJBA president



Elisabeth Nickles  
Philadelphia, PA

b. 1969

*Biophelia*, 2011

Latex, Medium Density Fiberboard, hardware

The archetypal sculpted shapes are reminiscent of and celebrate prehistoric plants, corals, birds and other organic forms. There is a whimsical exuberance of color and shape that rhythmically fills and expands into the space with the feeling of a surreal landscape. The shapes are born from imagination and are inspired by overwhelming beauty and the pulsing of life that one experiences when standing in a landscape or looking closely at a portion of the complexity that make up the systems that govern life on earth.

The title of this piece, *Biophelia*, was inspired by a hypothesis put forward by Edward O. Wilson and a term first used by Eric Fromm that simply translates as "Love of life or living systems." Wilson explains that humans evolved as creatures deeply enmeshed with the intricacies of nature, and that we still have this affinity with nature ingrained in our genotype. Because we physically evolved together from the same simple life forms, humans still have an innate bond with other species and ecosystems on earth.

Reproduced with Permission from artist, Elizabeth Nickles,  
and The Pennsylvania Convention Center

Photo by Denise Scaringe-Dietrich

## Meetings (Past/future)

←Recap

November 9, 2024 Wax preparation and candle making presentation by Marty and Zach Mendetta

December 11, 2024  
Honey tasting and SJBA Elections



## Upcoming Schedule of Events

### January 11, 2025 SJBA meeting

- Camden County Sustainability Center, 508 Lakeland Ave., Blackwood, NJ
- Equipment Hacks: bring equipment hack for presentation/discussion
- Team Bee Jeopardy! Fun competition, fun prizes, fun time
- Honey show entries can be brought to this meeting for delivery to the show by delegate



### January 21, 2025 NJ state honey show

The entries will be accepted at the Eco Center in Bordentown on 1/20. The judging will begin on 1/21/25. Honey show entries will be displayed at the NJ State House from 1/22 to 1/29. Winning entries will be auctioned at the NJBA Winter meeting on 2/22. All other entries can be picked up at the meeting.

### New Jersey Honey Show

**Who?** Any NJBA member can enter honey, wax products, photos, cosmetics, mead

**What?** Friendly competition of locally produced bee hive products

**Where?** Trenton State House, 125 West State St., Trenton

**Why?** to master the production of quality bee hive products and to showcase honey bee products to state officials

**When?** January 21th, entries need to arrive by 9:00am,

**How?** for categories, entry forms, rules of the honey show see

<https://njbeekeepers.org/Annual%20Honey%20Show.htm>



# Nutrition & Stuff

HEALTHY BEES · HEALTHY PEOPLE · HEALTHY PLANET™

## HONEY BEE NUTRITION

A REVIEW AND GUIDE TO SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING

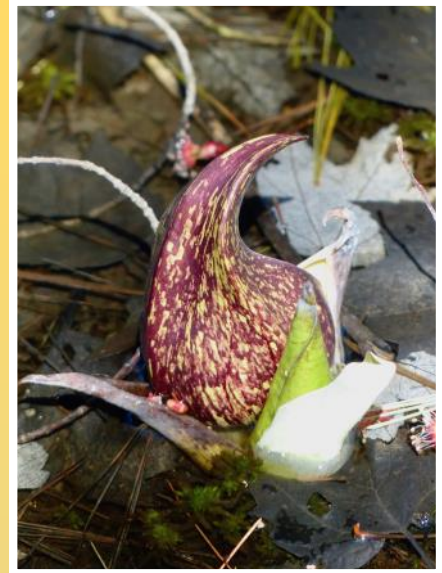


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Photo Credit: Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda, University of Tennessee Knoxville.



Skunk Cabbage:

photo from internet

There are many times of the year that concern about the nutrition of the honey bee is present. Winter is a particular time of concern about decreased honey stores, contributing to overwinter losses. This guide is a good source of current information, including gaps in our knowledge and regimens from 6 commercial bee keepers.

As with all things bees, you should have a reason for supplementation and an understanding of available food stores in your local area, as beekeeping is local.

### [HBHC-Honey-Bee-Nutrition-Guide-Supplementary-Feeding-Guide-2024.pdf](#)

#### Key points for sugar feeding:

1. If syrup is not completely consumed and left unattended in the feeder, mold or toxic yeast may grow.
2. Keep and mix syrup in clean containers.
3. Store syrup at a cool place to prevent formation of HMF.
4. Any syrup that may have discolored or fermented should not be fed to the honey bees.
5. Thoroughly clean feeders when convenient.

Hive condition or season	Suggested carbohydrate feeding
Starting a package or hive with no foundation	Honey bees will need to build comb and providing carbohydrates offers the energy needed. Continue feeding 1:1 syrup until at least there are five or six (preferably all nine or ten) fully drawn frames in the lower brood chamber (bottom box). Some beekeepers also feed until they have brood boxes with fully drawn combs. However, how long to feed depends on the beekeeper's resources and needs and the nectar flow.
Spring build-up	1:1 sugar syrup supplementation strengthens a colony coming out of winter, preventing colony starvation. However, beekeepers must stop feeding before the honey flow to avoid honey adulteration. Feeding during the flow when supers are on can result in contaminated honey and rejected loads. If you start supplementing syrup, do not stop until the honey flow starts. Colonies will rapidly start to expand with supplemental syrup and can crash without a sufficient nectar flow in the landscape to support brood production. Spring feeding boosts the colony, stimulates brood production and encourages worker honey bees to forage for pollen. Spring is also a great time to feed splits. If queen rearing, feed a small quantity (0.5 – 1 US gallon / 1.9 - 3.8 L) of 1:1 sugar syrup every few days to the cell builders and queen banks.
Summer colony maintenance	During nectar dearth, 1:1 syrup supplementation maintains critical colony functioning and may prevent robbing of weaker colonies. Honey supers should be removed from hives when the nectar flow ends, depending on the region. Additional sugar supplementation can occur after the honey supers are off.
Fall colony supplementation and preparation for winter	Feeding is done in fall to build colonies up for winter and prevent starvation. This is particularly important if the hive feels light and adequate stored honey is lacking. Sugar syrup fed to bees in fall should be a thicker 2:1 ratio of sugar to water. This thicker syrup is easier to ripen (concentrate) by the honey bees for storage. Ideally, 4 US gallons (~15 L) of the thicker 2:1 syrup is needed per full-sized colony, but this depends on the region. In addition, transfer honey frames for overwintering preparations.
Winter colony management	Once the first frosts have appeared, it may be difficult to get bees to store liquid syrup. If additional sugar is necessary, consider granulated sugar, fondant, etc. If warmer winter conditions return, fall formula for liquid sugar syrup may be an option again. If we must feed the colonies during winter, then dry formulations are preferred. Stronger colonies can forage for water to reliquefy dry sugars, however weaker colonies will not be strong enough to forage for water.

\*\*\*SJBA 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.



### New on the website

- Equipment for SJBA members to borrow
- SJBA Intro to Beekeeping registration forms
- Updates on Calendar of events

## 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

## 2025

### January Beekeeping Tasks:

**\*\*Order packages and nucs for spring.** Businesses that supply packages, nucs, and queens advertise in New Jersey Beekeepers Association (NJBA) and SJBA newsletters

**\*\*Order equipment for spring.** It will need assembly and painting

**\*\*Prepare your entries for the annual state honey show.** The rules and classes can be found on the NJBA website

**\*\*Pay your NJBA dues** online at <https://njba38wildapricot.org/> or to your branch treasurer. You can register a second branch membership, as well

**\*\*Make sure hive covers are secure.** All your colonies should have weights or straps on the outer covers to keep them on. Between the inner and outer covers place a 1/2" to 3/4" thick block of wood toward the front of the hive. This will slightly raise the outer cover, providing a top entrance and an escape for warm, moist air. If this is in place and the bees have access to it through the hole in the inner cover, you will never have to worry about an entrance blocked by snow. The bees can breathe and leave the hive through the top.

**\*\*Check colonies for food reserves.** Tip the colony to gauge the weight. Try to lift the hive: you should not be able to do that easily this time of year. You can also lift the inner cover briefly and look down between the frames for capped honey. If the hive seems too light or you can't detect any capped honey, supplemental feeding is necessary. See the back pages of the NJBA calendar for recipes and tips.

**\*\*Deadouts:** should have entrances sealed to prevent robbing or be removed from the bee yard until the disease status can be determined. It is recommended to have them checked by the state apiarist for disease. This can be done at your bee yard or at an NJBA branch meeting, so others can learn also. If there is no sign of American Foulbrood (AFB), the frames and boxes can be reused.

#### **\*\*Register your bee yard now:**

It's time to register your wintering bee yard locations with the NJ Department of Agriculture. If you have not registered before, it is important to register annually for several reasons.

- 1) Epidemiology in the event of a disease outbreak,
- 2) Census numbers—for resource allocation and statistics
- 3) Updated swarm collector and pollinator lists.

<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/beeinspection.html>

Please follow the directions. Thank you for helping to maintain a healthy bee industry in New Jersey. If you have never registered, just register as a new beekeeper. If you've registered in the past, you have an AIS number which when entered, along with your last name, will prefill the form.

# Beekeeping

2025

## February Beekeeping Tasks:

**\*\*Register your hives.** The state Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) notifies beekeepers of pesticide sprays in the area if the spraying meets certain criteria. This is accomplished by checking the last box in the “Voluntary Information” section on the Apiary Registration Form section, when you register your hives at: [https://www24.state.nj.us/AG\\_Apiary/ApiaryApp](https://www24.state.nj.us/AG_Apiary/ApiaryApp)

**\*Assemble and paint the equipment** you will need this season

**\*Check and clean all equipment.** Clean your hive and all other beekeeping tools. Clean your smoker and check the bellows. This time of year and as needed, clean the creosote out of your smoker with a hand-held blow torch. Working outside away from fire hazards, use the flame from the torch to burn off creosote in the smoker chamber, then wire brush the lid so it closes easily. Now is a good time to launder and patch gloves, jackets, or coveralls as needed.

**\*Continue monitoring food stores in all colonies.** Only feed if the hives are light and need the food. If you began supplemental feeding in January, you must continue to feed until bees are bringing in their own food. Now is the time for pollen patties, if using. Discontinue once fresh pollen is readily available.

**\*Seal up or remove deadouts.** Call the state apiarist if you think you need a disease inspection.



**Wild turkeys, Feral cats and honey bee colonies in an out-apiary.**

**Photo by:**

**Denise Dietrich**

# Kid's Korner!! (little and big)

Answers on last page

**SPOT THE DIFFERENCE** Can you find all 6 differences between the two pictures?



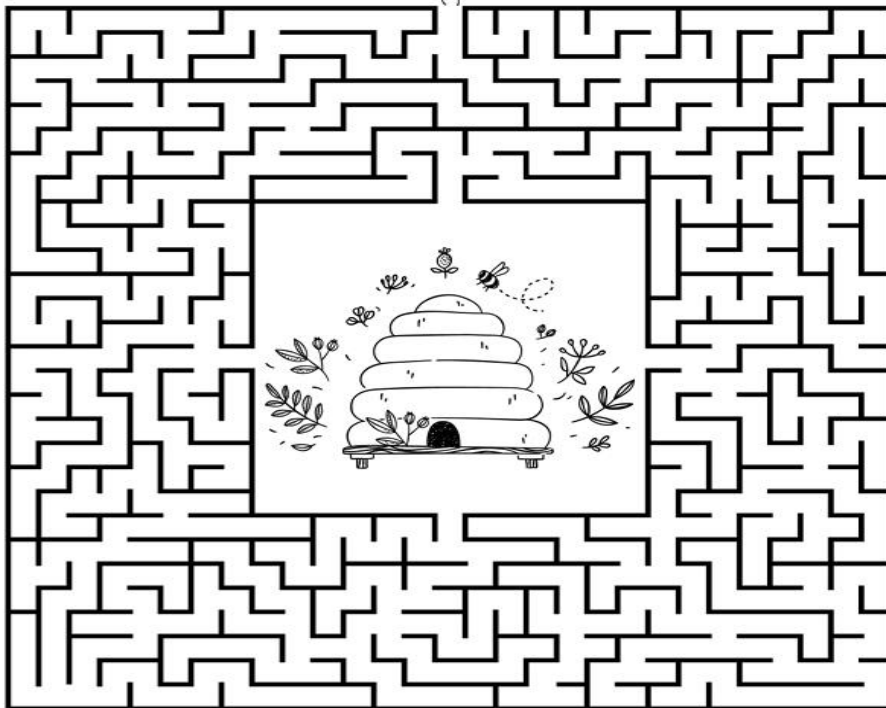
**BEE CURIOUS**



Provided by Bee Curious — a children's education program of the Michigan Beekeepers Association.  
Learn more at [www.michiganbees.org/bee curious](http://www.michiganbees.org/bee curious).

## BEE-LINE TO THE HIVE

Can you help the worker bee make it back to her hive?



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**South Jersey Branch of NJBA  
2024/5 Current Executive Board Members**

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Denise Dietrich	215-901-3199	das6594@aol.com
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Ed Penny	609-217-1624	eapenn2232@icloud.com
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Tim Schuler	856-498-0558	tim.schuler@comcast.net
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Alex Cunningham	609-709-6993	aman12141@hotmail.com
Secretary	Mary Kay Rossi	856-217-5183	rossimk@comcast.net
Treasurer	Louis Favieri	856-889-7966	loudiolus@gmail.com
1 <sup>st</sup> 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	Theresa Boyle	856-979-8430	chinacatsunflower17@gmail.com
Publicity: IT/FB	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

**SJBA Intro Beekeeping course is planned for Spring 2025.**

Six online classes will be held on Saturday mornings, in Spring 2024. The dates are March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 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 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 Answers:

6 differences



## BEE-LINE TO THE HIVE

Can you help the worker bee make it back to her hive?

