

SOUTH JERSEY BEEKEEPERS

March-April 2024 Vol. 17 Issue 2

President's letter

Spring is almost here!! Every year, in February and March, we go from the worry/risk of having our bees die in the winter to April and May's swarm season. That transition time is now! So far, Rob and my colonies have survived the ups and downs of the winter. We will continue to feed sugar and fondant into early March, as needed. Early March will be the time to remove the Apivar strips that we placed in the colonies on January 12; we have re-positioned them periodically to be near developing brood. We will plan to reverse our hive bodies in early March, if practical. We will check varroa counts by the end of March (weather-permitting), then start splitting and adding supers. We have to prepare another apiary site and move colonies, as well. We still have to paint boxes for nucs and an observation hive. Yikes! It is an exciting time of year; in general, different seasons in beekeeping have their enjoyment and challenges, often at the same time!

The SJBA board has been busy preparing some fun, social, and educational events. On March 4th, we will be restarting Zoom beekeeping chats, "Let's Talk Bees with SJBeeA." During the CoViD "era," this was a wonderful way for us to stay connected to fellow beekeepers. We are looking forward to talking about bees with fellow beekeepers around the state and hope that it will be as enjoyable as previously. On March 23rd, SJBA will have the annual banquet at Merighi's Savoy in Vineland, NJ. Rob and Lisa from Pine Barrens Post will give a presentation on value-added products. At the banquet, there will be an auction, with many items, including an observation hive. In April, we will have a presentation on splits. After the beekeeping course's completion, we will be initiating a formal mentoring program for SJBA, including on-line and in-apiary components. If you would like to be a mentor or to be mentored, please contact me for information. In May, we should plan to attend to the NJBA state meeting, with typically good information and camaraderie.

At large, beekeepers are preparing for the upcoming season. Online, there is a lot of good information from well vetted sites. In particular, Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC) just published a nutrition guide, detailing their best management practices for feeding bees.

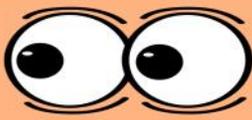
[<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/nutritionguide/>] It is a good synopsis of the current practices. HBHC also has their tools and comprehensive guide to the management and treatment of varroa in an integrative pest management approach. [[Varroa Management Decision Tool \(cantilever-instruction.com\)](#) and [HBHC-Guide Varroa-Mgmt 8thEd-082422.pdf](#)] respectively. It is beneficial to review these periodically. Both of these topics are appropriate at the Spring and other seasons.

Onward to Swarm Season!!!

Sincere regards,

Denise Dietrich
das6594@aol.com
215-901-3199





Events/Meetings (Recent Past)

<—Recap

January 20, 2024 Equipment talk ...great turnout on a cold, wintry day!...Engaging presentation!

January 24, 2024 NJ state honey show

February 24, 2024 good meeting with updates on:

- * NJ beekeeping legislation and NJBA status
- * Locally Adapted Queens
- * Honey queen program and research
- * NJ pesticide research
- * NJ Agrivoltaics project
- * State apiarist report
- * Apitherapy research
- * Honey Show items Auction
- * Great food and fellowship



2024 NJBA Honey Show Winners

Best of Show - Best Exhibitor -			
EXTRACTED HONEY			
Division Best James Zdepski Class 1			
Class 1 - Light Honey			
1	James Zdepski		98.5
2	Rebecca Garvin		97
3	Gilles Fenczak		95
Class 2 - Light Amber			
1	Rebecca Garvin		96.5
2	Jill Albano		95.5
3	John Lyga		94.5
Class 3 - Amber			
1	Rebecca Garvin		97
2	James Zdepski		96
3	Gilles Fenczak		92.5
Class 4 - Dark Honey			
1	Bert Haderer		97
2	James Zdepski		90
3	Susan Visco		87.5
Class 5 - Black Box			
1	Tanya Zimmerman		100
2	Miniam Dunne		99
3	Josue Feliciano		98
HONEY COMB/SPREADS			
Division Best Bert Haderer Class 8			
Class 6 - Creamed Honey			
1	Bert Haderer		98.5
2	Dave Weidner		95
3	Rebecca Garvin		90.5
Class 7 - Sections Rounds			
1	Landi Simone		91
3	Eric Schuber		75
Class 8 - Chunk Honey			
1	Lance Tokash		92.5
2	Eric Schuber		89
Class 9 - Frame			
1	Rebecca Garvin		97
2	Angela Juffey		94
3	Lance Tokash		90
MEAD			
Division Best John Lyga - Class 24			
Class 10 - Mead - Dry			
2	John Lyga		85
3	Dave Weidner		83
Class 11 - Mead - Sweet			
1	Lisa Skoglund		93
2	Dave Weidner		82
3	Josue Feliciano		75
Class 12 - Mead - Fruit Juice			
2	Dave Weidner		88
3	Bob Clark		78
Class 13 - Mead - Sparkling			
2	Dave Weidner		84

Bert Haderer Rebecca Garvin			
MEAD (CONTINUED)			
Class 24 - Honey Beer			
1	John Lyga		95
BEESWAX			
Division Best Jill Albano Class 14			
Class 14 - Beeswax Block			
1	Jill Albano		96
2	Rebecca Garvin		89
3	Lou Naylor		86
Class 15 - Novelty Beeswax			
1	Rebecca Garvin		90
2	Josue Feliciano		87
3	Angela Juffey		86
Class 16 - Candles - Tapers Poured			
1	Rebecca Garvin		90
2	Lou Naylor		88
3	Angela Juffey		84
Class 17 - Candles - Tapers Dipped			
1	Rebecca Garvin		94
Class 18 - Novelty Candles			
1	Rebecca Garvin		92
2	Lou Naylor		88
3	Angela Juffey		87
COSMETICS			
Division Best Jill Albano - Class 20			
Class 19 - Creams			
1	Landi Simone		96
2	Jill Albano		93
3	Angela Juffey		90
Class 20 - Soap			
1	Jill Albano		99
2	Miniam Dunne		96
3	Landi Simone		95
Class 21 - Lip Balm			
1	Jill Albano		99
2	Adriana Compagnoni		98
3	John Lyga		97
PHOTOGRAPHY			
Division Best Sean Garvin Class 22			
Class 22 - Photo - People			
1	Sean Garvin		98
2	Rebecca Garvin		97
3	Josue Feliciano		95
Class 23 - Photo - Beekeeping			
1	Adriana Compagnoni		91
2	Rebecca Garvin		87.5
3	Josue Feliciano		86



Meetings (future)

Upcoming Schedule of Events

March 4, 2024 Let's Talk Bees with SJBeeA via Zoom, link to be sent via email
Future dates pending



March 23, 2024
SJBA Banquet



March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 and April 6
SJBA Basics in Beekeeping course

April 20, 2024 TBD splits with Bill Lore

May 2024 TBD NJBA spring meeting

June 2024 TBD Flowers/forage in Spring

June 23, 2024 High Five for the Hive—Poker Run to support the NJ Honey Queen Program
[High Five for the Hive](#) | [Stiles Honey](#)

July 2024 TBD Harvesting Honey—with Tim Schuler

August 5 to 9 EAS conference, Maryland

August 17, 2024 [National Bee Day] NJBA meeting, picnic, and auction

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

October 2024 TBD Preparing and Crafting Wax

Fall beekeeping course dates TBD



Forage—Early Spring

What are you seeing for early spring plants? What is likely to be available? In our yard, there is:

Henbit

White Clover

Candy Tuft



Pictures taken by Denise Dietrich

Trees & Shrubs

Black Tupelo, aka black gum

Bradford Pear

Flowering Crabapple

Maple (swamp, red)

Redbud (Eastern)

Rhododendron

Serviceberry

Tulip Tree

Flowers/herbs/"weeds":

Borage

Catnip

Dandelion

Henbit

Rosemary

Vetch

Water Leaf

Photo by Nicole Mazzitelli



Xerces Society has a table for Midlantic forage

[22-024_01_NPPBI—Mid-Atlantic_web.pdf \(xerces.org\)](https://www.xerces.org/22-024_01_NPPBI-Mid-Atlantic_web.pdf)

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.



Beekeeping

2024

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# 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.

Photo by Rob Dietrich



Beekeeping

2024

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.

**Make splits. Be prepared to split strong colonies or those with swarm cells.

Kid's Korner!! (little and big)



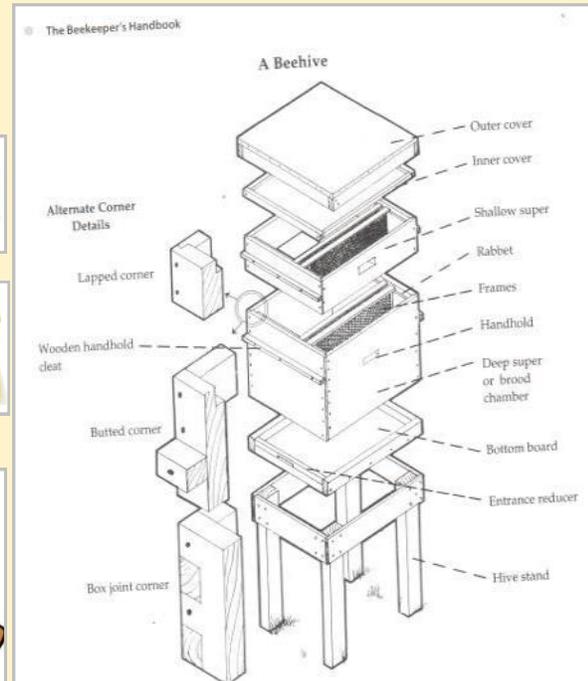
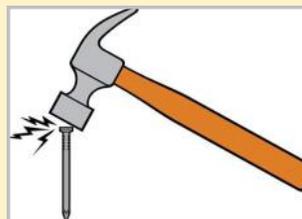
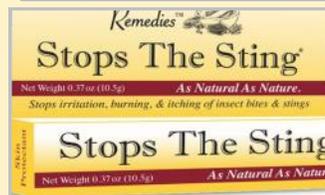
Answers on last page
 Pictures of equipment from Dadant
 Cartoons from Internet
 Hive picture from The Beekeepers Handbook

So you want to BEE a BEEKEEPER!! What are the Tools of the Trade?

Identify the tools that are used and choose how necessary each one is.

Essential, Optional, Seasonal, Health Management

- ___ Smoker, with fuel and lighter
- ___ Hive tool
- ___ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): (gloves, veil, jacket)
- ___ Hive boxes (shallow, medium, deep)
- ___ Frames
- ___ Queen excluder
- ___ Bottom board
- ___ Hive cover
- ___ Entrance reducer
- ___ Medicine/treatment
- ___ Sting Kit
- ___ Queen cage
- ___ Fondant/Sugar/sugar Water
- ___ Pollen patty
- ___ Hive Stand
- ___ Bee Brush
- ___ Fume Board
- ___ Uncapping knife
- ___ Paint
- ___ Hammer/nail gun/nails
- ___ Feeder (Boardman, division board, hive top)



Want to be a New Jersey State Honey Queen?!?!

The New Jersey Honey Queen Program is a program for women between the ages of 18- 25 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 2024-5NJ honey queen is Katie Culbert. 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 brownie recipes

From Lisa Skoglund

Ingredients:

1/4 c. semi-melted butter

1 egg

3/4 c. honey

1/2 c. flour (option for gluten free)

1 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp salt

4 TB cocoa powder

1/4 c. chopped nuts

1/2 c. chocolate chips

Directions:

— Combine all ingredients in order (liquids ← dry).

— Pour into 9x9 prepared pan.

— Cook for 20+ minutes at 325-350 degrees.

— Cool for 15 minutes before serving.

Photo from Denise Dietrich



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
1 st Vice President	Ed Penny	609-217-1624	eapenn2232@icloud.com
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	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	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 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 Avitable. 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

An SJBA Intro Beekeeping course is planned for Fall 2024.

Dates in September and October TBD



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

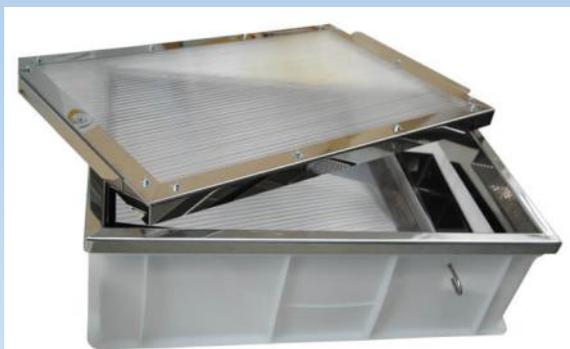


cappings scratchers

#1, 2, 3



Solar Wax Melter from Betterbee with stand # 1



+



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/>

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

<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!

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

Kid's Korner Answers:

(Answers may vary depending on your experience)

Essential

Smoker with fuel and Lighter
Hive Tool
PPE
Hive bodies— medium, deep
Frames
Hive Cover (telescoping, inner)
Bottom board (screened/solid)
Hive Stand

Optional (Personal Preference)

Hive Bodies—shallow
Queen excluder
Queen cage
Entrance reducer
Bee brush
Sting Kit
Paint
Hammer/Nail gun/Nails/Glue
Paint

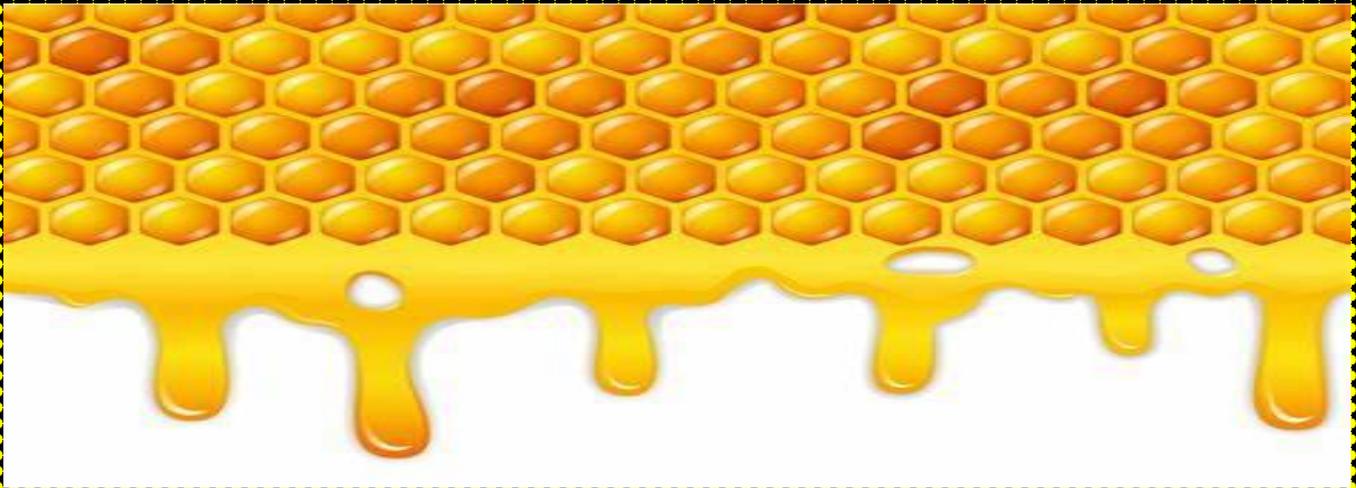
Seasonal Use

Fume Board
Uncapping knife



Hive/Health Management

Feeder
Medicine treatment
Feeder
Pollen patty
Fondant/sugar/sugar water



SJBA generously supports the beekeeping community.

Donations are being given to:

NJBA honey queen program

High Five for the Hive Poker Run

Villages in Partnership supports beekeeping in Malawi

Randy Oliver, Scientific Beekeeping

Please let any board members know if there are other organizations that we could support with our donations.

