

SOUTH JERSEY BEEKEEPERS

July and August 2023 Vol. 16 Issue 4

Letter From the SJBA President

If you haven't heard, SJBA now has its own website! Amanda Gaskill has worked hard to create a place for members to stay up to date. It is beautiful and informative. Please take a moment to check it out. <https://www.sjbeekeepers.org>

I thought swarm season was wrapping up but early this morning my son and I retrieved a small swarm in someone's backyard. I have heard from others that there are still swarms happening. This isn't necessarily a bad thing. It means there is still a nectar flow and a healthy hive is still trying to build and make room to store it. This season has been wet and cool. I haven't had to worry about my water running dry and my bees finding my neighbor's pool. Sooner or later though, summer will become hotter and drier, and we as beekeepers must keep our water vessels full.

My bees have been quite productive this year. Typically, I might only have one medium full of honey but this year I have two boxes full on my wintered hives. I hope that everyone has found their bees doing better than last year. Now is the time to make plans to start extracting so that you are ready to start mite treatments. For beekeepers new to extracting, the next meeting will be one not to miss. Denise and Rob Dietrich will be demonstrating and discussing honey extraction. Please register ASAP to hold your spot.

Beth Ann Hall, SJBA President



SJBA has a 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.

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 implementing this website.

We hope that this website helps us as a beekeeping community in South Jersey to share information, attend upcoming events, borrow SJBA equipment, etc.

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 May 7 & June 18 following colonies that have been installed as a package



May 6 Dave Elkner—On-the-Spot Queen Rearing

May 27 Nucs and Splits with Tim Schuler

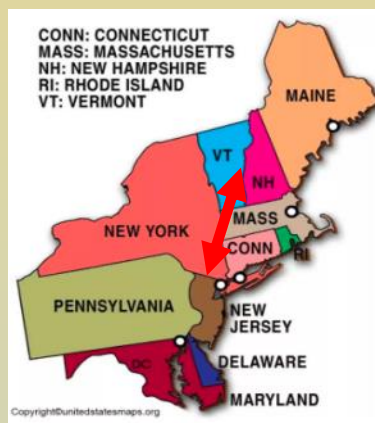
June 10 Bill Lore—Farming for Nectar Production and Forage Identification



Upcoming Schedule of Events

Field days tentative Sundays at 2 pm, at Morgan house on July 23, Aug. 20, and Sept. 17

July 16 Honey Extraction demonstration—
Old Pine Farm Land Trust
340 Pine Ave, Deptford, NJ
Advance sign up is needed (space limited)
12Noon



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

August 12 Winter Prep at Dietrich home
322 Crestview Ave. Blackwood, NJ 10am

August 26 NJBA picnic and auction
Home of Bob Hughes in Hamilton township, Mercer County



Forage of the Season—Summer

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? What SJBA members are seeing:

Trees & Shrubs

BeeBee tree

Linden/Basswood (June-Aug)

Plaintain Lily

(Hosta)

Pollen ++

Nectar +++



Sweet Pepper Bush

(Clethra)

++ Pollen

+++ Nectar



Shrubs

Sumac

Summersweet

Cardinal Flower

(Lobelia)

++Pollen

+Nectar



Flowers/herbs/"weeds":

Allium (garlic, onion, etc)

Beebalm/wild bergamot

Buckwheat

Cardinal Flower

Chickweed

Clover (sweet, Swedish)

Cutleaf

Coneflower (Rudbeckia)

Giant Hyssop

Honey suckle (April to August)

Joe Pye Weed

Knapweed/star thistle

Knotweed

Milkweed

Mountain Mint

Plaintain Lily

Purple loosestrife

Sassafras

Sedum

Sunflower

Sweet Pepperbush (Clethra)

Milkweed

(Asclepias)

+ Pollen

+++ Nectar



Photo credits:

*Clethra and Cardinal flower—
internet*

*Milkweed and Hosta –
Denise Dietrich*

A Year in New Jersey

Beekeeping

December 2021 through December 2022

July Beekeeping tasks:

July is the month to extract honey. It's best to do it early in the month before the honey flow has completely stopped. Remember that sugar syrup you feed your bees does not become honey. Honey is made from the nectar secreted by plants. It's much easier to remove bees from the honey supers when they are still gathering some nectar. If you wait until the nectar dearth, the job will be much harder. You should also do it early if you live in a highly populated area, out of respect for your neighbors.

Methods to separate bees from their honey:

- Bee escape board
- Brush and shake them from the comb
- Blower—make sure there is no exhaust in the air stream
- Fume board

Removing honey supers (pulling honey) should be done on a sunny day, when the field bees are foraging. Before you remove your surplus honey, the brood should be checked for disease. You can potentially spread disease via the extractor and by returning wet honey supers from a diseased hive to a healthy one. You also need to make sure you leave 20 to 40 pounds of honey in the brood nest for bees to eat during the summer dearth. If the brood nest does not have any honey, you need to leave a full honey super for them to eat. You don't want to take too much and starve your colony.

The best way to harvest honey is remove the honey supers in late morning, placing them in a garage or kitchen, stacked on a drip tray. During lunch, you will notice that straggler bees will leave the supers and fly toward the window light. After lunch, you can open the window and allow the bees to return to the hive. Do not leave it open too long or you may get robbing. Now you are ready to extract. Uncap and spin out your frames. The honey should be warm from being on the hive, and the honey will flow easily. You can extract, strain, and bottle all in the same day. Your sticky extraction equipment should not be put out for the bees to clean. It should be washed with hot water to remove any honey and wax.

Towards dusk, put your wet supers back on the hives over the inner cover and under the outer cover. Doing it at dusk will minimize or eliminate robbing. By morning, the bees will have licked the extra honey from the supers and brought it down into the brood next. Leave the supers on top of the inner cover. As long as the hive is strong and queen right, they will protect the combs from small hive beetles and wax moths.

****Review good management practices for honey processing [Good_Management_Practices_for_Harvesting_Honey-1.pdf](#)****

- **Begin your varroa mite treatments** once the honey is off and as weather conditions allow. Beekeepers who do not control varroa will lose 40 to 65% of their colonies over the winter. Use the alcohol wash to check mite levels both before and two weeks after treatment to see if the treatment was successful.
- **Maintain a water source** near your hives and keep it filled and clean.
- **Comb honey supers** should be removed as soon as they are capped to avoid staining the comb. The sections should be packaged and placed in the freezer for at least 48 hours to kill any wax moth eggs in the comb.



A Year in New Jersey Beekeeping

December 2021 through December 2022

August Beekeeping Tasks

August Beekeeping Tasks: Honey and Varroa Checks

—**August is the time for nectar dearth in most of New Jersey.** If you have small or weak colonies in the same yard with strong colonies, reduce the entrances of the weak colonies to prevent robbing. If you have to feed those colonies, make sure you don't spill syrup on the outsides and fill feeders as close to night as possible. Sometimes it's best to feed all the hives, weak and strong or have a yard for weak colonies away from strong ones. Once robbing has started, it is very difficult to stop.

—**Do not leave colonies open for long.** Check for strength, queen-right status (by looking for eggs, you do not need to see the queen to know she is there), and food reserves. Correct problems ASAP—the sooner the better.

—**Treat for mites.** If you were not able to treat for varroa last month, you need to do it now. Use the alcohol wash to check mite levels both before and two weeks after treatment to see if the treatment was successful.

—**Participate in a local honey show.** There are honey shows at the following county fairs: Monmouth, Warren, Hunterdon, and Sussex. The entry rules can be found on the respective county fair websites. Most county fairs have classes for liquid honey, comb honey, beeswax, creamed honey, cosmetics, and photography. They are fun, rewarding, and you can win a ribbon and often some prize money.

Directions for Alcohol Wash Varroa <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36oHVUI3INA> (Schuler video)

1. Take a frame of open brood with bees on it from the hive. Verify that the queen is not on the frame because the sampled bees will be killed.
2. Shake the bees off in a wash tub style container
3. Tilt and shift the bees to a corner and scoop 1/2 cup of bees (approximately 300 bees)
4. Quickly place them into a jar and cover with a 1/8in mesh lid
5. Add about a cup of alcohol (any kind will do; make sure the bees are covered)
6. Shake vigorously for 30 to 120 seconds
7. Pour the alcohol through the screened lid into a clean, clear jar.
8. Count the mites in the alcohol
9. Divide the number of by 3 to get the mite count per 100 bees for the hive.
10. Record the count for future reference
11. Dispose of the dead bees.
12. Rinse bee jar clean and decant the used alcohol into it leaving the mites and debris in the bottom of the alcohol jar. Cover the jar with a solid lid for the next use. Properly dispose of the dirty alcohol. ****Caution: alcohol is flammable. Use caution when handling and storing.**

****Use Honey Bee Health Coalition decision making tool to guide your treatment options.** The tool asks questions re: mite count, presence of honey supers, population trend, treatment type (synthetic, natural), presence of brood. Above is an example of treatment options for August. See full pdf of varroa management tools at :



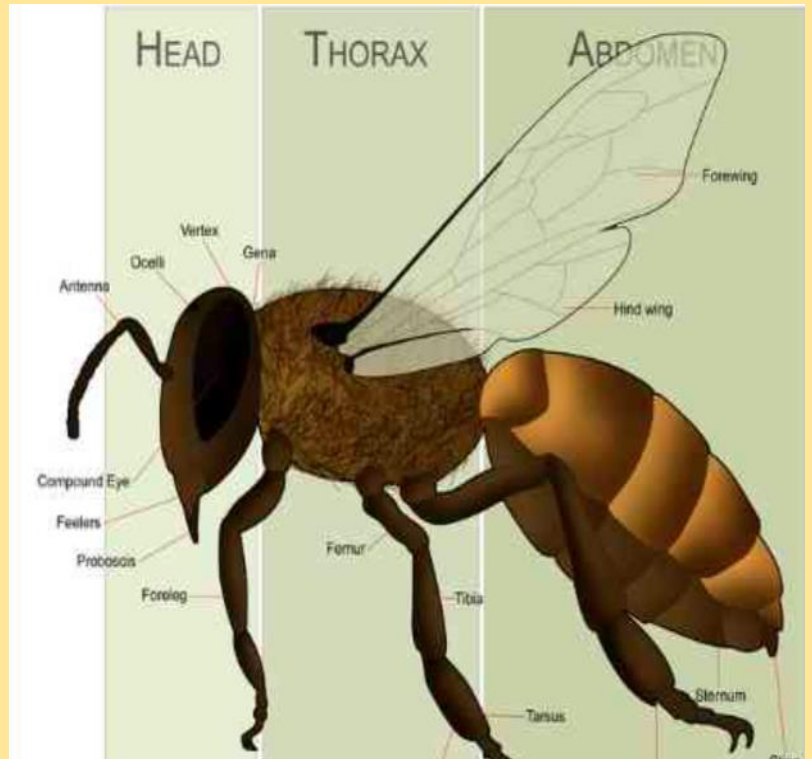
https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/HBHC-Guide_Varroa-Interactive-PDF.pdf

Kid's Korner!!!...Pollination (Part II)

The honey bee

adapted from ABF Kids and Bees program (answers on the last page)

1. Waggle dance video: <https://youtu.be/fskb4321KBQ>
Draw or demonstrate the waggle dance. Why do honey bees do that?
2. What are different parts of the honey bee that helps with pollination and foraging?
3. Name senses that bees use for Pollination.
4. Think about nutrition and hive products that bees get from flowers/plants.
5. What are some causes of a decrease in pollinator numbers?
How can we change that?



****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
Information extrapolated from internet sites
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honey_Queen_Program
<https://www.abfnet.org/page/queens>



Refreshing Summer Beverages with Honey

—Recipes shared by Mikhaila Sanchez

NJ Honey Queen 2019

Honey Raspberry Lemonade

Ingredients

6oz raspberries
1 cup lemon juice (fresh squeezed)
6 cups of cold water
3 Tbsp honey

Directions:

Mix ingredients together
and serve



Purple Monstrosity Fruit Smoothie

Ingredients

2 frozen bananas peeled and cut in chunks
1/2 cup frozen strawberries
1/2 cup frozen blueberries
1 cup orange juice
1 Tbsp honey
1 tsp vanilla

Directions:

Mix all together and use more or less liquids depending upon what thickness is preferred.



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 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

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



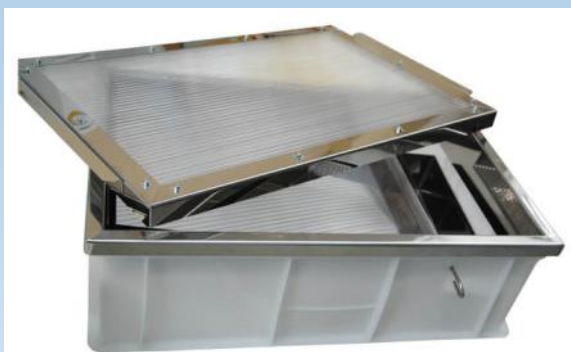
(3) Uncapping Tanks

#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 Part II:

1. Waggle dance is done to communicate direction and distance of a site to forage for nectar, pollen, new home site, minerals, water, propolis source, etc.
2. Anatomy of bee helping pollination: hairs (pollen sticks to it, especially as they have static), legs to push pollen into a pollen ball and store on the pollen baskets on the back legs (corbiculae), proboscis to collect nectar
3. Name senses that bees use for Pollination: vibration (waggle dance—communicates the distance and direction related to the sun), smell—pheromones (bees mark the flower to communicate forage availability at the flower), vision (sun direction, flower petals).
3. Nutrition and hive products from plants:
Protein from pollen
Carbohydrate from nectar which is turned into honey by the honey bee
Propolis—sticky resins from trees turned into propolis for various applications in the hive
5. What causes a decrease in pollinator numbers? Environmental changes, loss of forage/habitat, pesticide/chemicals

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