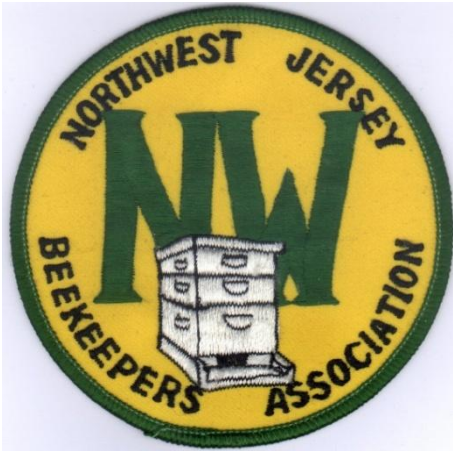




NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

January to March Newsletter

February 10, 2009



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hi Fellow Beekeepers,

I would like to welcome all the new members to the North-West Branch and say thanks to all the members for their assistance in the growth of the North-West Branch.

It was great to see the large turnout at the 2008 Holiday Party at Echo Hill and look forward to an exciting 2009. We are in the early stages of planning events for 2009 and will plan to announce events on the website in the near future. If anyone has any suggestions for branch activities/events that they would like to propose for the future, please contact any of the branch officers via telephone or email. Also, if you are just

starting out this year and you need any assistance or if you have experience and would like to help a new beekeeper, please feel free to contact one of the branch officers. Hopefully we can get a list together and pair up folks that are nearby to one another.

For the 2009 calendar as of now we have our two annual events the Warren County Farmer's Fair (July 26 to August 1) and the Hunterdon County 4H and Agricultural Fair (August 19 to 23) we will need plenty of volunteers for both these events to help make a good showing and promote beekeeping.

I hope everyone is busy assembling and/or repairing equipment in preparation for the spring, it will be here before we know it (although as I am writing these the temperatures are hovering in the teens). I am sure everyone is looking forward to the spring as much as the bees.

Scott Horsnall

Spring Meeting NW Chapter Beekeepers:

Northwest Chapter Spring Meeting will be Saturday, March 21st at Echo Hill Park.
<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/guides/EchoHill.htm> The main focus of this

meeting will be a workshop on early spring management.

Bring your questions for the experts to answer.

Seasonal Management Tips & Reminders

January 15 to February 15

Remember not to conduct any inter-hive work in the bitter cold. Wait for a 45 degree day in the sun-southern exposure. The bees might be out cleansing or they will be "shivering" inside the hive. Please allow yourself approximately 2 or 3 minutes with the lid off.

1. Check colonies for signs of viability-bees at the top of the inner lid vent. Strong hives will show you because the bees will be there to greet you.
2. Check colonies for food. Add sugar to the top as necessary. Do not restrict air flow to vent notch. As water of respiration wets the sugar, the bees will consume it.
3. Check for water condensation on top of the inner lid. Remove water using a towel. Water needs to be removed to prevent hypothermia. Increase the ventilation somewhat and check that water stays gone. This water is coming from the hives as they respire and condenses under the outer lid and collects on the inner one.
4. Check entrance guards to make sure they are in proper position.-usually at the intermediate sized hive entrance.

5. Check for winter stores. Get a feel for how much honey is on board.

February 15 to March 15

1. Check colonies for signs of viability
 2. Check colonies for food. Add sugar to the top as necessary. Do not restrict air flow to vent notch. As water of respiration wets the sugar, the bees will consume it.
 3. Check for water condensation on top of the inner lid. Remove water using a towel. Water needs to be removed to prevent hypothermia. Increase the ventilation somewhat and check that water stays gone. This water is coming from the hives as they respire and condenses under the outer lid and collects on the inner one.
 4. Check entrance guards to make sure they are in proper position.-usually at the intermediate sized hive entrance
 5. Check for signs of brood rearing.
 6. Spring Medication- Terramycin: Dust every week for 3 weeks starting March 15 if foul-brood was observed in the yard the previous year.
- Apiguard: **Consider** the use of, but only after carefully reading instructions, and "keeping "temperature" in mind".

End of March Priorities (weather permitting).

1. Check colony for a good laying queen.
2. Check colony for signs of disease.
3. Clean the bottom board.
4. Remove the entrance guard once it is consistently 55 degrees outside.
5. Check and replace defective comb/wooden ware.
6. Remove the burr comb and dispose of it. Burr comb cannot be left around because it might be a source of foul brood.

7. Reverse the boxes by the end of March.
8. Flip the inner cover. The deep side goes down in the spring-do this if you want, this is the way I do it.
10. Time medication such that all meds are off the hives by April.

Try to start all medications to hives around March 15 so that they can be off by the end of the 1st week April. This means now!

State Calendar:

February 14, 2009: 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM, NJBA Winter Meeting, State Beekeepers, New Jersey Museum of Agriculture, North Brunswick, NJ. The meeting will start with registration, followed by a business meeting (with voting on bylaw amendments--see your current state newsletter), speaker and lunch. Featured speaker will be Kirk Webster of Champlain Valley Bees and Queens. Located in Middlebury, VT, Webster has focused on producing hardy, northern-bred bees resistant to mites, eschewing chemical mite controls since 2002. The first place and division winners of the Annual Honey Show will be auctioned to the highest bidders. Cost is \$22 in advance per person 12 years and older for members (\$25 at the door). Cost for non-members 12 years and older is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Children and students are \$12 each. RSVP to Curtis Crowell by February 8, 2009 (609 651-4585). Make checks payable to NJBA and mail to Curtis at 152 Broad Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. For a detailed agenda, click here. Directions to the Museum.

Spring Meeting State Beekeepers

June 6, 2009: Saturday, NJBA Spring Meeting, JCC Camps at Medford hosted by the South Jersey Beekeepers Association. This meeting will employ a hands-on format focused on beekeeping skills for beginners. The hope is to have activities such as hiving a swarm, performing a cutout on a bee tree, hive inspections and IPM. SJBA President Seth Belson is working with Blue Stone Perennials to have bee-friendly plants available. Guest should include Molly and Carly from "Hives for Lives" and John Clayton of beemaster.com fame. Details, directions and registration information will be posted when available on the NJBA website; <http://njbeekeepers.org/Calendar.htm>

Northwest Calendar:

March 21st, 2009 Spring Meeting, Workshop: Early Spring Management. Additional details to follow At **Echo-Hill: 1000 till 1400 hrs.**

July 26 to August 1, 2009: Warren County Farmer's Fair, Harmony Township

Mid June, 2009: Summer meeting. Echo Hill, How to manage a honey flow & summer dearth, details to follow.

April 23-25, 2009 Beginners beekeeping course thru Rutgers Office of Cont. Prof. Ed. held at Bordentown, NJ, Registration Desk: 732-932-9271
9:00am - 3:30pm on the 23rd and 24th
9:00am - 11:30am on the 25th

Description

This 2.5 day course is designed to provide the necessary information needed for new beekeepers to start and care for a honey bee colony.

Day 1 & 2:

This course will cover the basics of: bee biology, hive management, purchasing queen bees, honey extraction, candle-making and more. People with little or no experience in beekeeping, as well as veterans, will gain valuable information on disease and mite prevention, hive management, and honey production.

Day 3:

Hands-on sessions will include: assembling hives, opening and examining colonies, as well as plenty of honey tasting. (Weather Permittiing)

August 19 to August 23, 2009: Hunterdon County 4H and Agricultural Fair, County Fairgrounds, South County Park, Route 179, Ringoes, New Jersey

September, 2009: Fall meeting. Echo Hill Park, details to follow.

December, 2009: Annual Christmas party and Year End Meeting Echo Hill Park, details to follow.

REMINDER

Dues for the year 2009 were due on January 1, 2008. We still have members who have not paid 2009 dues. Please remit *ASAP* or you will be removed from both the States' and our mailing list. This will be your last newsletter. Please send your payment to: Karin Weinberg, 337 Tunnel Road, Asbury NJ 08802. Thanks!

NORTHWEST BEE-GINNERS



QUESTIONS FOR THE EXPERTS

Send us your questions!

E-mail: Muscavaya@aol.com Type: "Question for the Experts" in the subject box, and forward your question or call the secretary @ 609-466-9428. We will choose three of them for the experts; you will find the answers in our next publication.

Miscellaneous for Bee-ginners

This is a "Helpful Hint Column", With an invitation to all NWNJ Beekeepers with any experience to share your valuable thoughts and ideas with our beginners. Just e-mail the sec'y Muscavaya@aol.com Type: "Info for our Bee-ginners" in the subject box and impart your wisdom.

"Here! I'll get us started":

"Notes from a 2008 Beekeeping Bee-ginner" At the suggestion of our 1st VP, I found this Book and DVD set to be very helpful: "A Year in the Life of an Apiary", by Dr. Keith Delaplane, a professor & life-long beekeeper at the U. of Georgia. Topics covered: where to buy the supplies; assembling equipment; obtaining the bees; getting bees installed and established in first hive; and managing them through the first year. DVD includes Eight 30 minute lessons in Beekeeping.

I would also highly recommend the excellent course for beginning beekeepers given by Rutgers University. The course is taught by Tim Schuler, State Apiarist for the New

Jersey Department of Agriculture, who has 21 years of beekeeping experience with honey production and pollination, and Bob Hughes, past president of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association, who has 25 years of beekeeping experience with honey production.

Additionally: One of our members has created a "Yahoo Group":

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/northwestnewjerseybeekeepers/>

Visit/join to promote the welfare of the BEES and beekeeping! Share your questions, thoughts and commentary...

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