



# Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association Newsletter

Late Summer-Fall 2010

Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association,  
Scott Horsnall - President  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



*An Excellent  
Ambassador & Our  
American Honey  
Queen Lisa  
Schlutenhofer  
Promoting the Honey  
Bee at the Warren  
County Farmers Fair*

I hope everyone had good spring with their bees whether this is your first year or you've been working bees for many years. Every spring is a little different some cold, some wet like last year, or warm like the spring of 2010. By now, if you had started out with package bees or nucs in the spring the bees should have two hive bodies build out and ready for the bees to store away the fall flow for the upcoming winter months. If you had a good location the bees may have provided you with a little surplus honey. If your hives appear a bit behind in winter stores you should probably start feeding in September to allow the bees time to process the sugar water to winter stores.

Hopefully the fall flow will be good and allow the bees to collect winter stores themselves, but with the extremely dry June, July and first part of August the fall flow may not be that productive.

During the month of August you should be evaluating your colonies to determine if varroa mite treatment is required. If you attended the June 2010 branch meeting, Bob Hughes (Assistant State Apiarist) noted that the ideal time to begin treatment for the varroa mite is from mid August to mid September.

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'd*



If you wait too far into September to treat the colony they will not have time to produce several cycles of non-parasitized young winter bees necessary to carry the colony to next spring. I would like to thank all those that assisted with the Warren County Farmers' and the Hunterdon County 4H Fairs with setup, helping at the honey booth, manning the Bee cage and the clean up. *Scott Horsnall* NW President



## *Seasonal Management - Tips & Reminders*

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*MANY THANKS TO:  
Bob Hughes who  
enlightened both NW  
and RV Beekeepers on  
the process of honey  
judging - June 2010  
NWNJBA Meeting*

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*Late spring hive  
inspection... frame from  
2nd deep - colony  
installed 2nd week in  
May 2010*

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### Late summer - Fall Management

By now you have looked into your hives and thought about feeding both a 1:1 syrup and/possibly a pollen substitute. In my location we have been in a dearth situation since late June. Spring was 3 weeks early this year and I received delivery of my replacement colonies from the second week in May through the second week in June. I have been feeding my bees, with the thought that I need many (young) bees going into winter with enough food stores (60 - 70 pounds for colonies in 2 deeps) to make it through to next spring. This has helped to build eight strong healthy colonies, If there is to be a fall nectar flow in your area... you will treat without the supers on ... adding them only after any medications are removed and according to package directions.

You have been thinking about checking your colonies for varroa mite levels.....Follow this URL if you do not have screened bottom boards with a sticky insert sheet. It will take you to directions for a powdered sugar roll to determine varroa levels in your colonies.

[http://www.extension.org/mediawiki/files/e/e1/VarroaMites\\_155.pdf](http://www.extension.org/mediawiki/files/e/e1/VarroaMites_155.pdf)

What are you going to do about them if you find an amount over the safe threshold? Whatever you decide, you can be certain that you must do something!... If you are considering an IPM method of using drone frames, screened bottom boards and sugar dusting, please consider this: according to Dr. Jamie Ellis of the University of Florida Extension service who ran a study on the method, it is NOT considered to be an effective method of varroa control).





## Seasonal Management Tips & Reminders Cont'd.

Neither do most of the NJ sideliner or commercial beekeepers I have polled., You can see excellent "lecture type" pest and disease videos related to the pests and diseases of honey bee by copying and pasteing the following URL into your internet browser:

<http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honeybee/extension/index.shtml>

As an avid organic gardener, eschewing chemical pest control, having 2 years of personal experience with this method, I personally found powdered sugar dusting to be too invasive, needing to be done far too often, it was necessary (due to an uptick in varroa counts in late September) for me to continue to dust from Mid July until late October and I still lost 90% of my colonies to *Varroa* and *Nosema Cerranae*, this was confirmed by the Beltsville Lab in Md. . This year I am using Apiguard with screened bottom boards. As a precaution I will also treat for *Nosema Ceranae*, another cause of my collapsed colonies from last year. The most significant difference between the two types (*Apis* and *Cerranae*) is how quickly *N. ceranae* can cause a colony to die. Bees can die within 8 days after exposure to *N. ceranae*, which is faster than bees exposed to *N. apis*. The foraging force seems to be affected the most. They leave the colony and are too weak to return, thus dying in the field. This leaves behind a small cluster and a weak colony, very similar to the symptoms of CCD. There is little advice on treatment but it has been suggested that the most effective control of *Nosema ceranae* is the antibiotic [fumagillin](#) as recommended for *Nosema apis*. Follow the directions on the package. Remember also that NOW is the time to feed syrup and pollen substitute for winter stores.....Barbara Hill - NW Sec'y & 3rd year Beekeeper



## The Warren County Farmers' Fair & The Hunterdon County 4H Fair



### OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all of you who gave of your time and talent to make our two venues a great success. You helped to set up and tear down, made runs from your locations to and from Echo Hill, a farm for hay for the maze sold honey and tee shirts, talked bees and manned the bee cage... (Stan-Bob, Kevin, and Charles) Ea. time we did a bee cage demo we sold lots of honey! A special note of gratitude to Karin Weinberg and Stan & (Fran shown here) Wasitowski our Fair Chairmen, who plan all year for these events. These Fairs are OUR ONLY SOURCE OF INCOME!



*On the left NW Webmaster Kevin Inglin and 1st VP Charles Ilesley and on the right Bob Kloss with helper Quinn Tomoro "In the Bee Cage", sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for beekeeping with Hunterdon County 4H Fairgoers.*



## THE CALENDAR - UPCOMING EVENTS

### UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

*FALL MEETING - Location: Old York Cellars  
88 Old York Road, Ringoes, New Jersey*

*SUBJECT: Fall and Winter Management - Hands on  
with Question & Answer session to follow.  
Coffee, tea, bagels and donuts to begin and  
Wine and cheese tasting to follow.*

*No Charge*

**HOWEVER:**

***For purposes of planning hospitality, an RSVP is required if you are planning to attend ...  
Please e-mail or call the Assn. Sec'y Barbara Hill - [Muscavaya@aol.com](mailto:Muscavaya@aol.com) or 609 466 9428.***

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