

*Sussex County
Beekeepers
Association
Newsletter
January/February, 2012*

President's Message

The Winter solstice has passed and spring will be here before you know it. What are you doing for your bees for this coming spring? One idea is to use the winter snows to scope out a new bee yard. Look for accessible places where the winter snows have melted with the morning sun. If you're expanding your hive numbers order bees and purchase and build up your equipment. Over the winter months I tend to look for Bee articles that I missed during the busy summer months. One bee researcher that I have been following is a beekeeper from California by the name of Randy Oliver. He has a tremendous amount of information on his web site, scientificbeekeeping.com/.

During the winter months the bees should be clustered and using resources they stored in the fall. If it's been warm as it has been this season I will make it a priority in January to go out and check the hives. I try and disturb the hives as little as possible so the checks must have minimal impact. My checks include tipping a hive back to gauge the hive weight as well as check the detritus trays. The detritus tray will show me how the bees are doing. If I see chewed up wax, things are generally the way they should be. If I see absolutely nothing this hive gets a quick inspection by removing the outer cover. If there are a large number of bees on the inner

cover this may be an indication they have run out of winter stores and need emergency provisions.

For emergency provisions I have used a few things. I will place an empty honey super or 3 inch shim over the inner cover of the hive that needs help. I will give fondant and have even used a 5 lb bag of sugar. I have had very good luck with the Mega Bee pollen substitute if I don't have pollen patties available. I have also learned that one of our members has found a resource for premade fondant that I may take advantage of this year.

The schedule has been set for this year with the club's usual dates but there are 2 events that I'm extremely excited about. The first is the queen rearing class that will be given with Tim Schuler and the second is the fall harvest festival at the fairgrounds. The queen rearing class is something that I have wanted to do for the past few years and hopefully we will be able to supply some queens for the club. The fall harvest festival will also be new for us but should be an excellent opportunity for us to showcase some products of the hive as well as talk about bees to the public.

As always volunteers will be needed from the club for all of our scheduled events. Please drop me a note with your ideas and or suggestions.



Bee Well,
Christopher

SCBA Calendar

Next Meeting: 1/21/2012, 11:00 a.m.

Fairgrounds Admin. Building
(dues can be paid at the meeting!)

February 17, 2012

NJBA Honey Show entries due

February 18, 2012

Fair Prep State

February 25, 2012

NJBA Meeting

March 10, 17, 24, 2012

Beginner's Course

May 19, 2012

Field Day – Spring Management

June 2-3, 2012

Field Day – Queen Breeding

July/August, 2012

Fair Setup, Booth

October 13, 2012

Honey Festival (Fairgrounds)

October 20, 2012

General Meeting

Sweet Links

N.J. Beekeeper's Association

List of coming events and courses

<http://njbeekeepers.org/Education.htm>

"Rutgers Beekeeping Class Looks to

Grow N.J. Colonies"

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/11/rutgers_beekeeping_class_looks.html

NJ Beekeeper's Blog (mostly posted
by Tim Schuler):

<http://www.njbeekeepers.org/blog>

Officers and Mentors

President: Christopher Tomlinson
(973) 222-6367

syncrostomlinson@gmail.com

1st Vice-President: Deb Cowell
(201) 704-7799

drc@warwick.net

2nd Vice-President: Liz Bisaccio
(973) 304-0192

liz.bisaccio@gmail.com

3rd Vice-President: Leeanne Coleman
(973) 670-3119

leeanncoleman@gmail.com

Secretary: Marsha Roemer
(973) 875-5378

muscoviagroup@gmail.com

Treasurer: Roman Osadca
oldstage@live.com

Librarian: JC Cowell
(201) 704-7799

jc@warwick.net

Newsletter Editor: Dan Perez
(201) 303-6209

dan@danperezlaw.com