

Sussex County Beekeepers Association

April/May 2011

President's Message

Welcome to all the new beekeepers who attended the beginner's course in March. This is one of the greatest natural wonders to be part of. It is a true honor to participate in the bee's life cycle.

A special thank you to all those who made the beginners course such a success, Deb Brodhecker, Linda & Mike Osborne, Cathy Skove, Bob Burkard, Tom Webb. Without this groups tireless support this course would not be as successful as it is.

With the weather, for the most part, getting warmer we should be seeing the spring blooms in their full glory. Maples, Elms, Willows are all on their way. The bees gather an abundance of pollen from these trees.

One of the initiatives that we are taking on in our bee yards is to plant bee friendly plants such as Bachelors button, Lemon mint and Borage. These plants are easy to care for and grow well in the soils found in our area. A link to the New

Jersey Beekeepers web site that shows common bee friendly bloom dates can be found here, www.njbeekeepers.org/PollenPlants.htm.

Any over wintered hives should by now have had their first minimum inspection. A pop of the cover and checking where the bees are located, will give you an idea of what the bees need. If the bees are on the top of the frames and a heft of the hive shows they are light it is a good indication you will need to add sugar. On the warmer days keep your eyes on the hive entrance a good number of bees should be pulling in pollen.

When you see the dandelions blooming it is time to reverse the hive bodies. Some of the conversations had with fellow beekeepers suggests that we may be reversing sooner rather than later with



some of the hive strengths coming out of this winter.

New packages of bees will need to have a continuous supply of nectar from plants or the friendly beekeeper giving sugar syrup. As long as there are frames not drawn out feeding is essential.

Many events are planned from SCBA and NJBA throughout the year. I would encourage you to get involved as beekeeping is a collaborative effort. Check our website, as well as the state's, for updates and scheduled events. It is always a good time to share your current experiences as well as listen to experiences of others.

There is a new web blog sponsored by NJBA :www.njbeekeepers.org/blog. We never stop evolving as beekeepers so have a look. As always any questions or comments do not hesitate to ask. Bee Well,

Christopher

SCBA Newsletter
April/May 2011

SCBA Calendar

Clip and Refrigerate

- **Saturday, April 16**
12:30pm Hands-on Spring management including installing a package. 59 Beemer Church Road, Branchville. Park in front of barn, bee yard behind barn
- **Sunday, May 22 12:30 pm**
Tim Schuler, state apiarist, will be leading a meeting on splitting a hive, re-queening and checking for diseases. Pot Luck picnic, School of Conservation. Stokes State Forest
- **Saturday, June 11 12:30 pm.** Honey House set up and extraction techniques, pot luck lunch, Cathie Skove's house.
- **Saturday, July 23**
Tentative Fair Set up
- **August 5-14 NJ State Fair**
- **Sunday, September 18**
Joint meeting with SENY at Brodhecker's
- **Saturday, Oct. 15 TBA**
- **Saturday, November 12**
Holiday Dinner

Check the website brodheckerfarms/SCBA for details and updates

Baked Chicken with Honey-Whole Grain Mustard Glaze

Serve this easy recipe with rice or pasta to soak up the lemony juices from the bottom of the pan.

Serves 4

8 chicken thighs
 1/2 cup olive oil
 1 lemon (juiced)
 Salt and pepper to taste
 Fresh rosemary (if you have it) or other fresh herbs

For the Glaze

1 tablespoon whole grain mustard
 2 tablespoons honey
 1/3 cup olive oil
 Salt and pepper

1. Marinate the chicken in olive oil, lemon juice, salt, pepper and herbs, for at least an hour



and up to a day in advance. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Rub baking pan with olive oil, place thighs skin side down. Discard marinade
2. Bake for 20-25 minute and turn skin side up. Bake for 10 more minutes. To make the glaze, add mustard, honey and oil in a bowl, whisk, add salt and pepper, whisk some more. Apply glaze with brush or spoon and broil for 5 minutes.
3. Take out and let rest for five minutes then serve with the pan juices. Enjoy!

Rutgers Beekeeping Courses

Rutgers offers two Beekeeping courses this Spring. Bee-ginners Beekeeping is offered May 16, 17 and 18 in Bordentown. Beyond the Basics: Practical Hive Management for Beekeepers is offered June 2 and 3 in Cape May.

Bee-ginners Beekeeping will cover the basics of bee biology, equipment, seasonal hive management, queen bee purchasing, diseases, New Jersey regulations and more. The third day of the class will be a hands on program including honey extraction, equipment assembly, hive production and organizations and publications.

Even if you have taken the Sussex County Beeginner course this is a valuable course and very worth the time and money involved.

The fee for NJBA members is \$135, non members is \$150.

Beyond the Basics is designed as the next step for apiarists who have knowledge of the industry and have

kept a colony of bees for at least one full year. Students will attend morning lectures in the classroom and spend afternoons in the bee yard applying the methods learned earlier in the day.

Featured Course Topics are:

- IPM (Integrated Pest Management) for honey bees.
- Methods and equipment for moving honey bees.
- Feeding methods and equipment.
- Honey removal methods.
- Small scale queen and nuc production.

Attendees should have a general knowledge of the language and terminology of beekeeping as well as a basic understanding of the biology of honey bees.

If you register before 5/19/11 the fee is \$225; \$245 after.

The instructors for both courses are Bob Hughes and Tim Schuler.

Bob Hughes is a sideline beekeeper

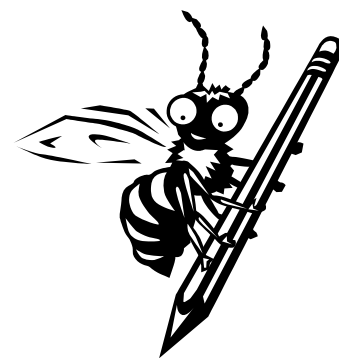
with over 25 years of experience .

Tim Schuler, currently serves as the State Apiarist with the NJ Department of Agriculture, and has 22 years of beekeeping experience.

To register for either course you may call 732-932-9271 M-F 8 am-4:30 pm. Have your credit card ready.

On the web go to www.cpe.rutgers.edu. These course fill up fast so don't delay.

Attending course around the state and even neighboring states is a great way to expand your beekeeping knowledge but also a fun way to meet fellow beekeepers .



Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, April 16, 12:30 pm at Chris Tomlinson's bee yard, 59 Beemer Church Road, Branchville. Park in front of the barn, the bee yard is behind the barn. Program is installing a package and Spring management.

May 21, 2011: Saturday, State Spring Meeting, hosted by the Jersey Cape branch at the Cape May County 4-H Fairgrounds, 355 Court House - S. Dennis Rd., Cape May Court House (GPS 39.10N/74.82W). Details to follow when available. Check <http://www.njbeekeepers.org/Calendar.htm> for details

Sunday, May 22, 12:30 pm at the School of Conservation in Stokes State Forest, 1 Waplanne Road, Branchville. Bring a dish to share for our picnic. Program is Tim Schuler, NJ state apiarist discussing disease detection, making splits and re-queening a hive.

Saturday, June 11, 12:30 pm at Cathie Skove's honey house, 21 Hunt's School Road, Newton. Bring a dish to share for pot luck lunch. Program is honey extraction techniques and setting up a honey house.



Remember to check the website Brodheckerfarms.com/SCBA

For directions, updates or changes to meeting dates.

Past newsletters are also available.

Beekeeper Help Needed with CCD Research

The following is from Dennis vanEngelsdorp, one of the industry's top researchers working on CCD and honeybee ailments. The information gathered by these surveys are for research purposes and will help all of us be better keepers of bees. I would encourage you to take the time to respond. Thank you!

Dear Beekeeper:

We need your help. Please take 20 minutes out of your busy day to complete these two surveys. Both surveys are only open from **1 April through 18 April 2011**.

1. Winter Loss Survey (<http://is-nri.com/take?i=166637&h=vZbUWfMhA1z9sEg54S0HCw>) This should take less than 5 minutes.

2. Past Year Management Survey (<http://is-nri.com/take?i=166638&h=wCvJELAvCqbkk3aIowhTMQ>): This should take less than 15 minutes.

The purpose of the Bee Informed Partnership is to use beekeepers' real world experiences to help solve beekeepers' real world problems. We will use the data generated from these two surveys to help you decide which management practices are best for beekeepers like you, who live where you do and have operations similar to yours. For this to work, we need as many participants as possible...so please take the time to fill out the questionnaire and **SEND THIS EMAIL TO ALL THE BEEKEEPERS YOU KNOW** asking them to fill out these questionnaires too.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at askbeeinformed@gmail.com or call us at 443.296.2470.

You can learn more about the Bee Informed Partnership at beeinformed.org.

BE INVOLVED, BE INCLUDED, BEE INFORMED.

Thank you.

The Bee Informed Partnership Team

April/May 2011



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Check for directions and updates.

