



“The Buzz”

*Sussex County Beekeepers
Association Newsletter*

Oct/Nov/Dec 2014

Fall Issue



President's Message

In the first issue of The Buzz I talked about several of the projects that were in the works. Your Executive Board (EB) and Committees have been working hard this year and here is a brief update on our progress. You should have received an email with Proposed Amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws, the Election/Nominating Committee has been actively seeking Members interested in assisting with the operations of the Club, our Young Ambassadors have been busy spreading the word about honey & Beekeeping, our Holiday Dinner has been planned, planning for our January Intro to Beekeeping Course is underway and our Honey Show Rules are being reviewed & updated in preparation for the 2015 Show.

We have added one more General Meeting to our 2014 calendar. It will begin at 7:30pm on November 19, 2014 at the Fairgrounds Administrative Building.

Inside this issue

President's Message

Calendar and Events

Bees in the News

Timely Tips

Beekeeper Profile

We will have a brief business meeting – bring your questions about the Proposed By-Laws changes and the upcoming Elections. Following the business meeting we will have “Movie Night”. Bring some popcorn & your favorite beverage. We will be showing the video of our 2014 Honey Show that Ed Balogh's grandson, Jack Balogh, produced and the video of Elena Hoffman, JC Cowell & Tom Webb doing the Bee Beard at the Fair.

There has been a lot accomplished this year but we could still use some help. The EB is looking for Committee Chairs and / or Members for the following committees: Membership, Program, Publicity, By-laws and State Fair. You do not need to be an experienced Beekeeper to participate on a Committee. A willingness to assist with Club activities is really the only “skill” necessary.

If you have skills that may be helpful or you have a desire to help the Club move forward please let me or one of the other EB members know. We also need a few members to fill out our Executive Board. The Executive Officers are elected/re-elected every year and every position is open.

I hope your winter preparations are well under way. Hives should be heavy with honey now & its time to get the mouse guards on. Reach out to one of our mentors if you think you have a problem or to confirm you are on the right track.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the November 19th meeting and November 22nd Holiday Dinner.
Debbie





Calendar and Events

Wednesday November 19, 2014 7:30PM - Meeting and Movie Night at the Fairgrounds Administrative Building

We will have a brief business meeting followed by showing Jack Balogh's video of our 2014 Honey Show, the NJBA's new Pollinator Video and a video of Elena Hoffman with her bee beard at the Fair. Bring popcorn & your favorite beverage.

Saturday November 22, 2014 6PM- Annual Holiday Dinner - November at the Green Olive, Rt 23 in Wantage. The cost is \$25 per person. If you worked 2 or more shifts at the Fair this Summer you are eligible to attend the Dinner on SCBA. All members are invited and may bring a guest. **Please RSVP to Denise Webb by 11/12/14.** E-mail: dw105720@yahoo.com 973-714-3696

Wednesday January 14, 2015 7:30pm - Annual Meeting, vote on Proposed By-Laws changes and Officer elections.

Saturday January 25, 2015 - Intro to Beekeeping Class
If you are interested in signing up for the course send an email to: scba.school@gmail.com

Saturday January 31, 2015 - Intro to Beekeeping Class

Saturday February 7, 2015 - Intro to Beekeeping Class
"Snow date"

Sunday February 22, 2015 2pm - Meeting & Program TBA

Wednesday March 18, 2015 7:30pm - Meeting & Program TBA

April 2015 - Package installation demonstration - Info TBA

May 2015 TBA

June TBA

July Fair Prep - TBA

July 31 through August 9, 2015 - Sussex County Farm & Horse Show/ New Jersey State Fair

www.scba.club
Work In Progress

The *new* SCBA website is under development!

1st priority:
Provide timely information to our members in the members only section. you will receive a password by e-mail shortly.

2nd priority:
To promote our club to the public!

Watch for more information coming soon!

Bees in the News!

This princess has no fear of fair's friendly honeybees



Photos by Daniel Freel/New Jersey Herald

Elena Hoffman, the American Honey Princess, gets a beard of honeybees during the New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show in Frankford Thursday. **MORE FAIR STORIES. PHOTOS. PAGES A7-10.**

Web Links

(click your cursor over type below)

[NJ State Apiarist Tim Schuler Judges the Honey Show](#)

[Bee Beard at The NJ State Fair](#)



Reflections Of a New Beekeeper

"I read somewhere that beekeeping would take less time than caring for a cat. NOT!

We dealt with a swarm and went from one to three hives because we configured them differently due to the circumstances.

I did expect it to be easier *but I wouldn't change it for anything!*

The bees have taught me patience. I love the association and the mentors have been amazing!"

Marney Ostrowski

Tom Webb... A Legend

Tom Webb is a legend in the Beekeeping Industry and has been a fixture at every Fair Beekeeping Exhibit for nearly 7 decades. Helen and Tom have been married for 61 years. Tom was a beekeeper before they even met!

His love of beekeeping began in 1937. One day while the rest of the family was away, young Tom was alone on their farm. A hive swarmed and settled in an old apple tree. Nine-year-old Tom jumped into action. With a few old boards, a hammer and nails he quickly built a box. Standing on his tiptoes he used a garden rake to rattle the branches and somehow got the queen and some of the workers to fall in the box. The rest of the bees followed. He knew at that moment he was beekeeper! He became involved in 4H and beekeeping. As a young married man he worked in a local factory in Sussex. One day around 50 years ago (he's not exactly sure) he had an epiphany. He didn't enjoy an indoor job so he walked into the factory and quit! He began working bees full time! As Helen says "I guess it worked out okay. He's supported a family all these years and sent our two children to college!"

At the height of his career Tom had an astounding 1200 hives in 3 states that he worked by himself! He became President of the NWNJBA, and NJBA and was one of the founding members of our Sussex County Beekeepers Association. He believes the challenges that bees face now are loss of pasture which was plentiful when he began, the unintended consequences of the interaction between different kinds of pesticides and disease brought over by European bees.

When asked what modern day beekeepers should do he talks about the difference between being a "bee keeper or a hive haver." Tom says "don't be afraid you'll be stung." He encourages getting in there and learning to read your bees. "I can tell if a hive is Queen Right just by putting my hand on top of the hive. If it's not Queen Right you'll hear a roar. The bees can tell you a lot just by looking at them. Go around with an inspector and see how things should and shouldn't be done. "



A Timely Tip From Tom

In the summer the flat side of your inner cover should be directly on top of the frames. Now as winter approaches (if your inner cover has a flat side) turn it over so the deep side is facing down. This allows more room for the bees to come up over the top of the frames. Place the outer cover on top of that. Without the added space the bees can't get to their stored honey and could starve.



Officers and Mentors

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Timely Tips...

*Evaluate your yard for expansion and get posts in now.

*Mouse guards should be on now.

*Start shopping the catalogues for equipment for winter assembly projects.

*If your hives aren't heavy with the 60 lbs of honey they need, feed them like crazy with 2 parts sugar to 1 part water.



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