

Sussex County Beekeepers Association

February/March 2011

President's Message

It is hard to believe that Spring is around the corner. This is the time to start planning for Spring with equipment repair, yard clean-up, scouting new apiary locations and assessing whether feeding may be required for the hive between now and when the first nectar/pollen becomes available—usually skunk cabbage about the first week of March. From there, we go into our Spring nectar flow.

It has been said that what you want to know about your hive can be learned watching the front entrance. I have found this to be true, but I still enjoy opening the hive and seeing the

bee dance, or a new bee emerging from its cell, or wondering what to do with those swarm cells.

Observation is an important skill a beekeeper needs to develop. It is the ability to observe what the bees are showing you regarding the health of the hive and the ability to observe the foliage and understand how that will coincide with seasonal hive development. There is always something new to observe in the hive and an incredible source of confidence can be had when something you heard in a lecture or read in a book is seen at your hive.

Winter is a tough time for beekeepers, we long to see the bees pulling in pollen, the hum of the bee tending to the needs of the hive and the smell of a hive packed with honey. Ah, the expectation of sunny days warming our skin will be here before we know it.

We enter this year with a new group of officers and I would like to extend a warm welcome to Lynne Cuomo-1st VP/Activities; Deb Cowell-2nd VP/Fair and Liz Bisaccio—3rd VP/Membership and SCBA history.

Bee well,

Chris

Register your Bee Yard, Protect your Bees

Pesticide applicators are required to inform beekeepers of pesticide application in the area of a bee yard but the bee yard must be registered.

Beekeeper notification forms from the NJ Depart of Environmental Protection must be filed by **March 1st**.

Obtain the forms at <http://www.pcpnj.org/bpo-bee.htm> and register your apiaries so that you are notified of pesticide application in the area. The forms can be e-mailed from the site.

You can also use the site to check the list to see if your bee yards are currently registered.

You can call 609-984-6601 with questions and requests for the forms.



SCBA Newsletter
February/March 2011

SCBA Calendar

Clip and Refrigerate

- **Satur day, February 19**
10 am Fair Administration Building. Spring Management and Swarm Control
- **Saturday, March 12 and 19** Beginner Beekeeping Course. Registration required, contact Linda at 973-875-5770
- **Saturday, April 16**
12:30pm Hands-on Spring management including installing a package. Place TBA
- **Sunday, May 22** 12:30 pm Splitting a hive, re-queening and checking for diseases. Pot Luck picnic, School of Conservation.
- **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

I Want Candy... I Want Candy...

Candy is good to use in the hives at this time of the year to keep the bees fed without over hydrating them.

Bee Candy:

1) Heat one pint of water to boiling in a large pot on the stove (or outside using a turkey cooker)

2) Stir in as much sugar as can be dissolved. This will be about 5 pounds. More sugar is better.

3) Boil uncovered until the mixture reaches 234 degrees F. Be patient, it takes awhile. The boil should be gentle not rolling.

4) Pour into jelly roll pans lined with wax paper. It should not be more than 1/8 of an inch thick—it has to fit between the top of the frames and the inner cover. The candy will harden as it cools—it may take overnight. Sometimes the consistency is like taffy and sometimes like a peanut brittle—either way cut into strips—wax paper and all lay on the frames. The bees will eat it eagerly and discard the wax paper.

Another Recipe

2 cups sugar

1 ½ cups water

1/8 tsp. Cream of tartar

Combine and heat until sugar dissolves. Heat syrup until it reaches 238 degrees. Make sure not to burn the syrup. Pour onto cookie sheet with a layer of waxed paper about an 1/8 inch thick. Let harden. You can put a piece of foil on top of the hardened candy for easier handling. Place the wax paper side down on the cluster of bees. The bees will eat through the wax paper.



Links We Love

Winter is a great time for personal bee education. Our library has some great books and DVDs but if you are stuck in the house and need a bee fix the internet can provide it.

Start with our very own njbeekeepers.org. Check out the calendar of upcoming NJ and regional events, classes and bee news.

The Bee Health Community web site <http://www.extension.org/beehealth> hosted by Rutgers has an ask the experts section and videos for basic beekeeping, diseases, etc.

The MidAtlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium (MAAREC) is on the cutting edge of colony collapse disorder and investigations into native pollinators visit maarec.cas.psu.edu

Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) easternapiculture.org has all the information you need about becoming a Master Beekeeper and attending the annual conference which will be in Rhode Island this year.

For geeks and nerds beehacker.com is an interesting combination of beekeeping and technology.

Amazing, detailed and beautiful photographs of bees are at thehoneygatherers.com/html/index_en.html

Beekeeping for Beginners—a Virtual Webinar Series

Penn State Cooperative Extension is conducting a virtual Beginner Beekeeping Class starting in February. The webinar course is designed to create a foundation of beekeeping knowledge to help beginners manage honeybees.

Webinars are web-based seminars which delivers training through the Internet directly to your computer. You are able to view the presentation via your home/office computer and

listen to the audio portion of the presentation through your computer's speakers. These are interactive allow the participants to ask questions and communicate with the presenters. If you can't join the session or would like to review a certain topic, sessions will be recorded and available to participants until the end of the year

The Beekeeping for Beginners is a one year course that will include the following:

1. A seven part live webinar series (all sessions will be recorded and available until December 31, 2011)
2. Virtual Beekeeping Field Day
3. Accessibility to instructors through virtual office hours and discussion forums

The registration fee for Beekeeping for Beginners is for \$150. Registration and agenda information can be found at: <http://clinton.extension.psu.edu/Hort/webinar/11Beekeeping.htm>

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Check for directions and updates.



**SUSSEX COUNTY
AND
NEW JERSEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

Membership Form

Check one: New Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Check here if you agree to have your name, city, phone and e-mail address published and made available to other NJBA members only (your full mailing address will **not** be published).

Please make checks payable to SCBA for \$20 and mail to:

Linda Osborne

23 Fox Hill Road

Lafayette, NJ 07848

Dues are due..don't be left out! Your dues entitle you to attend state meetings, local meetings and receive both organization's newsletters.

Just due it!