

Sussex County Beekeepers Association

June/July 2009

President's Message

Hello,

Well, we all wanted Spring to come, and now that it is here, a beekeeper's work is never done. Spring buildup of the colony is very important for the production of honey; more bees mean more foraging workers to insure hive survivability, once nectar flows stop in the fall.

Be observant at the entrance of the hives for returning workers with bulging pollen sacs. This is an indication of a solid nectar flow. Try to avoid opening hives up for inspections, unless warranted, during active nectar flows. The disruption of the hive will take several days to abate completely.

A lack of activity at the entrance may be a sign of trouble. Open her up and look for brood patterns and food stores. Anything less than an ideal pattern of brood at this time of year is a signal to look for diseases and/ or an inadequate queen.

If you see no brood at all, or if the bulging pupa cases of drones in worker cells are evident on the frame, a new queen is probably the only choice available.

As the spring builds toward summer, add supers

when the bees are occupying 80% of their available space. To delay giving them more room risks swarming. Check the bottom of the frames with a flashlight, peering in the entrance (evening/ early morning) to see if you can see swarm cells forming. Keep weeds from obstructing the entrance to the hives, and crack the telescoping cover with a stick to improve ventilation when the nights begin to go from cool to warm.

With all that and a little luck from the weather, you are well on your way to a crop of liquid gold!

Bill Foley

June meeting is cancelled



Have Fun at the Fair, Meet New People!

The New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show starts on Friday, July 31st and runs til Sunday, August 9th . The fair provides SCBA the opportunity to raise money and educate thousands of people about bees and beekeeping.

Lots of people are needed to sell honey, answer questions and share the

joys of beekeeping.

You do not need to be an expert beekeeper or a savvy business person to help out. It's a simple operation and you are more informed than the general public about bees and honey.

Our bee booth is open 10 am to 10 pm every day of the fair.

Please sign up for a few hours during the day or evening—you will receive a day pass to the Fair.

Contact Chris Tomlinson at 973-300-4860 or e-mail at syncrostomlinson@gmail.com or Helen Webb at 973-875-3889 to volunteer some time.

SCBA Newsletter
June/July 2009

SCBA Calendar

Clip and Refrigerate

- **Saturday, June 20th**
MEETING CANCELLED
- **June 22-28—National Pollinator Week**

- **July 18 or 25**
Fair set-up tentative dates. 10 am at the Fairgrounds. Check web site for confirmed date

July 31 –August 9—Sussex County Farm & Horse Show

- **Saturday, August 22**
National Honey Bee Awareness Day

- **Sunday, Sep 20th**
Joint Meeting with SENY Beekeepers at Brodhecker's

- **Saturday, Oct. 17**
Winter prep and fondant making

- **Saturday, Nov. 21**
Holiday Party



Honey Strawberry Tea Cooler

1 pint strawberries, stemmed and cleaned

1/4 cup honey

1 can (6 oz) frozen orange juice concentrate

2 cups brewed green tea cooled,

In a blender or a food processor container, combine strawberries and honey; process until smooth. Add orange juice concentrate; process until well blended. Stir into cooled tea. Serve over ice.



Survey Reports Latest Honey Bee Losses

Honey bee colony losses nationwide were approximately 29 percent from all causes from September 2008 to April 2009, according to a survey conducted by the [Apiary Inspectors of America \(AIA\)](#) and the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#).

This is less than the overall losses of about 36 percent from 2007 to 2008, and about 32 percent from 2006 to 2007, that have been reported in similar surveys. "While the drop in losses is encouraging, losses of this magnitude are economically unsustainable for commercial beekeeping," said [Jeff Pettis](#), research leader of the [Agricultural Research Service \(ARS\) Bee Research Laboratory](#) in Beltsville, Md. ARS is USDA's principal intramural scientific research agency. The survey was conducted by Pettis; Dennis vanEngelsdorp, president of AIA; and Jerry Hayes, AIA past president.

About 26 percent of apiaries surveyed reported that some of their colonies died of [colony collapse disorder \(CCD\)](#), down from 36 percent of apiaries in 2007-2008. CCD is characterized by the sudden, complete absence of honey bees in a colony. The cause of CCD is still unknown. As this was an interview-based survey, it is not possible to differentiate between verifiable cases of CCD and colonies lost as the result of other causes that share the "absence of dead bees" as a symptom.

However, among beekeepers that reported any colonies collapsing without the presence of dead bees, each lost an average of 32 percent of their colonies in 2008-2009, while apiaries that did not lose any bees with symptoms of CCD each lost an average of 26 percent of their colonies.

The survey checked on about 20 percent of the country's 2.3 million colonies.

A complete analysis of the survey data will be published later this year. An abstract is available on line at: <http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/pdfs/>

Fair Entries

Entering your honey and wax in the New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show is fun and you have the opportunity to win ribbons and premiums, not to mention bragging rights.

If you are a new beekeeper you may not have extracted honey to enter but you may have a frame of honey to enter. Check out all the classes.



Classes and entry information is available on line at www.njstatefair.org. Click on the link for Exhibitors and then on the link for the Honey Show. If you are unable to access the information via the internet the exhibitor catalog is available from the Fair office.

National Pollinator Week June 22-28

Declines in the health and population of pollinators in North America and globally pose what could be a significant threat to the integrity of biodiversity, to global food webs and to human health. A number of pollinator species are at risk, not just honeybees.

The Pollinator Partnership is a source for pollinator information for consumers, gardeners,

farmers and educators. You can download planting guides and other valuable information from www.pollinator.org

The Pollinator Partnership sponsors National Pollinator Week to highlight the importance of pollinators of all types, bees, bats, butterflies and even beetles.

Learn more about pollinators and how to attract them to your yard.

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