

# Sussex County Beekeepers Association

June/July 2011

## President's Message

Now that the warm days are here the bees are building up nicely. As stated before, everything you need to know about a hive can be learned from watching the front entrance. Lots of bees coming in with overloaded pollen baskets will definitely inspire the happy beekeeper dance and this time of year should also point to a substantial nectar flow.

We have seen a fair number of swarms this year and I have had 4 come out of my Lafayette bee yard to date. They just love the swarm trap I have there. I personally have never

considered swarming to be a bad thing as you have a good opportunity to catch the swarm and install them into your equipment making for an easy split, or if this is not possible you are populating your local area with bees that will ultimately help with local genetic diversity.

It has always been my way to try and figure out why my bees swarmed and try to do things a bit different so that perhaps they won't next year. Swarming is a sign of a healthy hive and is the natural process for the hive and results in a new queen.

At our recent meeting in May at the School of Conservation we had Tim Schuler, the New Jersey state bee inspector, talk to us about the current status or New Jersey's beekeepers. I was truly impressed with his custom power point presentation showing the different mite treatments and the percentage of success related to overwintering with those treatments.....Thanks Tim.

Tim was also able to demonstrate some good hive splitting techniques as well as show how to help out a weak hive by adding a few frames of brood from the donor hive. I do love to watch other dedicated experienced beekeepers work as I always learn something new.

A special thanks goes out to Roman Osadca for donating a hive for Tim Schuler's demonstration. From what I understand Roman had quite an adventure bringing the hive up to the SOC--two thousand friendly bees looking to distract you while you're driving is always a fun time.

The fair will be here before you know it. We have a fair committee headed up by Deb Cowell and still could use a few more committee members to help out with all the preparation tasks please reach out to her if you can help.

Cheers,  
*Christopher*

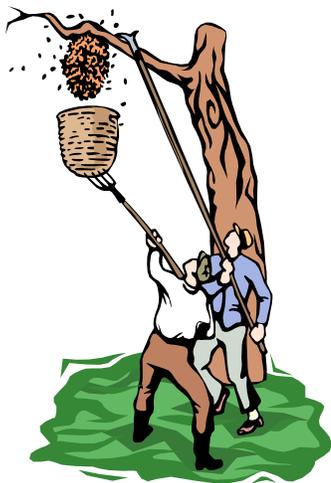
SCBA Newsletter  
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SCBA Calendar

### Clip and Refrigerate

- **Saturday, June 11 TO BE DECIDED.**
- **Saturday, July 23**  
Tentative Fair Set up and pot luck. Check the web site for details.
- **August 5-14 NJ State Fair**
- **Friday, August 5**  
**Honey Show** Entries due by 10 am. Entry forms and updates available through SCBA website
- **Sunday, September 18,**  
noon. Joint meeting with SENY at Brodhecker's, 75 George Hill Road, Branchville. Pot Luck, bring a dish to share and a chair.
- **Saturday, Oct. 15**  
Honey tasting and end of year review. Bring some of your honey for others to sample.
- **Saturday, November 12**  
Holiday Dinner.

Check the website [brodheckerfarms/SCBA](http://brodheckerfarms/SCBA) for details and updates



## Volunteer at the Fair

The Sussex County Beekeepers Association has a booth at the Sussex County Farm and Horse Show/NJ State Fair. This year the fair runs Friday, August 5 through Sunday, August 14 from 10 am-10pm. The club sells honey and other hive products and provides educational information to the general public.

The proceeds from this booth allow us to offer our beginning beekeeper course for a nominal fee, bring in speakers for other meetings and provide for other club expenses without any additional fund raising during the year.

Volunteers are needed to staff the booth for the ten days of the fair. Please call Chris Tomlinson, 973-222-6367 to volunteer for a shift or two—day time or evening. If you work a total of 8 hours you are eligible for a free Holiday Dinner. You will also receive a pass for the fair for the day you are volunteering. Your help is appreciated!

## Win Fabulous Prizes—Enter the Honey Show

Our Honey Show is part of the New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show. Entries are due by **10 am Friday, August 5th**. This is the correct date; the fair website was not updated.

Even if you don't have extracted honey to enter you may have an impressive frame of honey that will make a good entry. So start planning now to show off your bees hard work.

The fair website may not have the updated class information so keep checking the Sussex County Beekeepers website for updates to the classes, links to the entry forms, etc.

Once you have decided to enter you will need to prepare your entries. Competition honey is handled a bit differently than honey you are going to use yourself or sell.

It will take some time to prepare and all preparations should be completed several days before the judging takes place. The West Virginia Beekeepers Group has a great article on their website with detailed directions on preparing all types of entries for honey shows <http://tristatebeekeepers.com/node/124>

The good news is that once an entry is prepared it can be used for other shows including the state show after the first of the year.

So, take some time to prepare a few entries and you may win ribbons, cash prizes and most importantly bragging rights.



## WANTED: Newsletter Editor

Due to other demands on my time I will no longer be able to act as newsletter editor for SCBA.

I enjoyed the position and have always felt that a newsletter helps an organization work better together.

If you would like to take over please contact Chris at 973-222-6367 or [syncrostomlinson@gmail.com](mailto:syncrostomlinson@gmail.com).

Of course, I will share any materials or info with the new editor to make the transition smooth.



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## Officers and Mentors

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**Website:**  
brodheckerfarms.com/SCBA  
Check for meeting minutes, directions and updates.

