

# Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



Edition: December 2008  
Next Meeting: Joint Holiday  
Party with Morris County  
Beekeepers  
Date: Sunday, December 7;  
12 Noon  
Place: The Lamplighter, 190 West  
Main Street (Route 24), Chester

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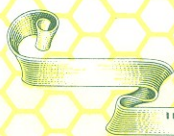
## President's Message

What happened to fall? Bet I'm not alone in saying the frigid November temperatures caught me by surprise. Here I'm still feeding bees and suddenly it's in the twenties overnight! Wait! I haven't done my winterizing!! There was a decent weather window of about two hours yesterday afternoon (the Monday before Thanksgiving) when I was able to visit and winterize two of my yards. All the bees were alive and seemed none the worse for wear, which was very reassuring.

For our new beekeepers, let me summarize the winterizing process, which is geared primarily to providing good ventilation so that excess metabolic moisture doesn't condense on the bottom of the inner cover and rain down on the bees – a sure fire way to kill them. Firstly, 1/2" hardware cloth mouseguards should be in place at the entrances. These go in in September or early October. I generally close off the open screen of my screened bottom boards on all but my biggest colonies. I know many beekeepers – even north of here – that leave them open, but it just seems like a bit too much ventilation for my taste. I do this by simply slipping my clean tileboard "sticky board" in place under the screen for the winter.

Last month I consolidated my colonies down to 3 mediums (or two deeps, if you're running deeps). They don't need any extra equipment right now; they need to be snug. So if there are, for instance 4 frames of bees in the middle of the two upper mediums, I would take the frames of bees from the top and switch them with frames of food in the middle super. I try to arrange it so the bees have the majority of their food stores above them, as they'll move up during the winter. Often there's not much in the bottom super at this time of year, and sometimes it can be removed altogether. They sometimes like to put pollen in the bottom, though, and they'll need this pollen when they start raising brood near the end of next month, so don't take away all of their pollen. I often put a frame or two in the top, one in from the outermost frame.

Now comes the venting part. There are a couple of ways to accomplish this. The traditional way is to reverse the inner cover so



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that the deep part is down, creating more of an air space above the frames of the top super. Then you take a small stone or piece of wood, perhaps 3/8" to 1/2" thick, and place it on the top of the inner cover, between the hole and the front of the hive. Set your outer cover on top of that, pushing it all the way forward so there's an air space in the front (also an exit for the bees). Place a brick or rock on the top, and you're done. I do it a little differently. I use a method shown me by Dewey Caron which I like a little better. I also reverse the inner cover, but before I set it down, I push two push pins in the front corners of the inner cover so they set on the corners of the super below. That props up the inner cover above the frames.

Then I set the outer cover directly above the inner cover. This provides just a little more ventilation than the traditional method, but either way will work fine.

Hope you'll be joining us for the Christmas party on Sunday December 7 at the Lamplighter Inn in Chester! And if I don't see you in the coming months, may your holidays be blessed and your bees, too, and may you and they winter well!

*Landi*

## Club News

Last call for the Holiday Party. This a brunch with great food, door prizes and a honey exchange. If you are planning to attend, please contact Joe Treimel immediately. Cost is \$15 for ECBS members and \$26 for guests.

If you would like to participate in the honey exchange, bring a one pound jar of honey.

The address is: The Lamplighter, 190 West Main Street (Route 24), Chester, NJ; 908-879-4080

## SHORT COURSE ON BEEKEEPING

Day 1: Saturday, February 21; Day 2: Saturday February 28; Day 3 (Field Day) TBA in April. Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The Essex County Beekeepers Society will present this short course appropriate for new beekeepers as well as those who need a refresher. We take you through a full year of beekeeping, including everything you need to know from purchasing and assembling equipment to harvesting, extracting, and bottling honey. Basics of disease and mite management and control are also covered.

For more information and to register, contact Joe Treimel at 973-633-9870 or [Sailbeejoe@aol.com](mailto:Sailbeejoe@aol.com).

Scholarships are available to young people (ages 12 to 22) for this course. Visit [www.njbeekeepers.org](http://www.njbeekeepers.org) for more details. Fee: \$70 per person; includes ECBS/NJBA membership and continental breakfast and afternoon snack

***Business Tools and Marketing Strategies for Beekeepers*** is being offered by Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Office of Continuing Professional Education. Aimed at the business side of beekeeping and how to turn a hobby into a business (or a sideliner operation into a commercial outfit), the instructors will include Tim Schuler (a sideliner pollinator and honey producer), Commercial pollinator and honey producer Grant Stiles and Landi Simone of [Gooserock Farm](http://www.gooserockfarm.com).

Topics will include aspects of commercial and sideliner beekeeping, developing a business plan, insurance, hive products, marketing, equipment selection and more. A tour of a commercial beekeeping and honey facility are planned for the second day.

For online registration for this December 5-6, 2008 course, go to:  
<http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu/courses/current/ae0402ca.html>

For a brochure, go to:

<http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu/brochures/pdfs/beeginnersbusiness.pdf>

