

Essex County Beekeepers Society, Inc.



Edition: June, 2009
Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 9
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Garibaldi Hall, Essex
County Environmental Center,
Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland
Subject: Varroa Mite Treatment
Speaker: Landi Simone

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“Hey! How’re Your Bees?”

That’s what my mentor and good friend, Lee Thompson, would always ask when he saw me.

Not, “Hey, how’re your kid’s, your job, your Aunt Tilley?” or “How’s your whatever?” Didn’t matter where or even who was standing there. Many times I’d be talking to someone else or in the middle of saying something, or doing another thing. Nevertheless, when I heard “Hey Joe, how’re your Bees?” it was the end of all other conversation and I’d walk over to him and we would talk about our bees. Seemed nothing else mattered and we’d go on and on talking and laughing as we shared, How Our Bees Are Doing!

So, I ask you, “Hey! How’re Your Bees?”

From those I’ve spoken to and my own experience, they seem to be doing very well. Many of the Spring Swarms have been hived and are moving along bringing in their winter stores, along with a surplus, for their keepers. The queens, for now, have given up on swarming and are going great guns building a strong air armada to work in the field, as she lays 1,500 to 2,000 eggs per day. Whew! Just forget the nasty mites for now. Happy days are here again, as our bees build their population much faster than the mites can reproduce. Our nuc’s and packages don’t look anything like the timid little 4 or 5 frames we picked up in May. They are now busting out of the original box and into another and possibly even another new deep or super. At the Training Field the graduates of the Short Course are also enjoying the build-up as they add new boxes, one and two at a time, and loving every minute of being with their “Girls” each week.

As our bees grow, so do we, with welcomed nimbleness of hands that can again hold a hive tool plus a frame of bees in one hand and puff a smoker in the other, all the while identifying the tiny egg freshly laid by The Queen. For our newer keepers, all the study in the Short Course has now come to life as we observe our bees first hand in the hive. Brood can be identified now, (worker, drone and even Queen), frames are neatly manipulated as necessary and our bees build foundation (20 cells to a square inch), from our constant feeding of syrup that we mix batch after batch.

So, to answer your question, “Yes. We and our bees are doing very nicely, thank you.”

Joe Lelinho

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June Beekeeping

This has been another odd Spring. It went from cold to hot and within one week everything bloomed, and then it got cold and rainy. It seems the basswood bloom suffered through cool weather and rain, so one wonders how well the bees did. We still have Black Locust and Tulip Poplar to provide honey flows along with the other wildflowers, so let's keep our fingers crossed.

For those of you who put on honey supers at the end of April, be sure to check that the bees have not already filled them up. In spite of bad weather, the bees will sometimes surprise us. If so, put on another super or two to get more honey and prevent a late swarm.

For those who started hives from packages or nucleus hives, keep feeding them until they have drawn out all the comb on two hive bodies.

Treatment for Acarine (Tracheal) Mites is simple: Grease Patties. To make them, you put one part Crisco shortening and two parts granulated or powdered sugar into a mixing bowl and use an electric beater to mix them together. Put about 1 Cup onto a piece of waxed paper or cellophane wrap, press into a 1/2" thick patty and put the grease patty between the two boxes of the hive's brood chamber. Grease patties may be used all season.

Hive inspection should reveal plenty of unsealed and sealed brood, the sign of a good queen and healthy hive. Lack of this finding indicates problems which need to be addressed sooner than later.

Club News

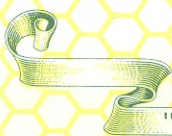
Tracheal Mites seem to be one of the biggest problems facing beekeepers in this area, as they can weaken a hive to the point it cannot function well and not survive the winter. Treatment is especially necessary in the end of the summer and early autumn to assure the hive enters the winter months with both sufficient population and bees strong enough to survive the four to five months where little, if any brood is raised and the hive population falls.

Our speaker on Tuesday will be Landi Simone, who can tell us all the forms of treatment for Varroa Mites and the advantages and disadvantages of each. Plan to be at the meeting to both hear Landi's presentation and to talk beekeeping with your fellow ECBS members.

Change or address or E-mail?

If you have a change in your mailing address and /or E-Mail address, please be sure to let me know.

Joe Treimel



FOUNDED 1921

"FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BEE CULTURE IN ESSEX COUNTY"

