



## General Membership Meeting Agenda

June 16, 2023

6:30 pm – Networking, 7:00 pm Meeting

- Call to Order: 7:03 PM
- Pledge of Allegiance
- In Memoriam: Thoughts sent to Nancy Armbruster (2<sup>nd</sup> VP), who recently lost her Mother-In-Law.
- Member Introductions: Each member introduced themselves and gave information regarding their beekeeping experience and where they live.
- Save the Dates
  - **July 26th - July 30th** Monmouth County Fair - Freehold, NJ
  - **Saturday, August 26th** NJBA Annual Picnic & Auction - Hamilton, NJ: beekeeping equipment will be auctioned at the picnic
  - **Friday, September 22nd** CJBA Membership Meeting - Lincroft, NJ
  - **Saturday, October 14th** NJBA Fall Meeting - Cream Ridge, NJ: CJBA may possibly host this meeting at the Rutgers Farm on Rte.539.
  - **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> – Thompson Park Day, Lincroft, NJ**
  - **Friday, November 24th** CJBA Membership Meeting + Election - Lincroft, NJ
- Committee Reports
  - **Membership Committee:** Jeff Burd and Nancy Armbruster. Jeff B. is holding the Novice Beekeeping Course tonight. We have 2 new extractors available for the membership. They are located in Manalapan and Neptune. The older extractors are in for repairs and members from the west side of NJ and Ocean County are welcome to take on the responsibility of housing these two extractors. It is possible that if the older extractors cannot be repaired, they may be auctioned at the picnic.
  - **Audit Committee** (Vacant)
  - **Education Committee** (chair: Jeff Burd): Another beekeeping course will be offered in the fall during September/October hopefully in the east side of the state or Monmouth County area.
  - **Events Chair** (chair: Geff Vitale): More labels will be purchased for the fair. Each order lasts approximately 3-4 years. A new banner will also be

purchased. The new design featuring facebook, the website and the QR code was displayed. It was suggested that the NJBA logo/website may be another addition to the banner. The fair will be held on July 26<sup>th</sup> through July 30<sup>th</sup> on the Monmouth County Fairgrounds located at 1500 Kozloski Road, in Freehold. There will be no Honey competition. Geff will send an email to the membership listing volunteer shifts. General tasks include selling, answering questions, bee demonstrations in the bee booth and opening/closing. Geff needs one 5 frame nuc and 1 deep frame with a marked queen and a honey frame for the observation hive. These should be delivered on Wednesday before the fair opens. The hours for the fair are: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 5:00 to 11:00, Saturday: 11:00 to 11:00 and Sunday: 11:00 to 5:00. Volunteers will have free access to the fair with guest passes. It is an outreach opportunity to expand your knowledge. Volunteers will also receive a CJBA shirt. The approximate cost of the fair is \$6,000.00.

Thompson Park Day – October 15th: Volunteers working shifts will be needed. We will also be selling lip balm, honey and handcream.

- **Donations Committee** (chair: Jeff Burd): The application process is being reviewed.
- **Social Media Committee** (chair: Danielle Garske): There is a Members Only Facebook page.
- **Nominating Committee** (chair: Jeff Burd) Virginia encouraged members to think about running for office in November since her term will be ending.
- **Statewide Updates:** The VP position has been modified due to the loss of a Board Member. Elections will be held in February. At the end of the year the swarm list will be recreated and updated.
- Old Business
- New Business
  - **Picnic Debrief:** Approximately 80-90 adults and 17 children attended the picnic. Children over 5 years of age will be charged full price. The Cost for the picnic was approximately \$4,600.00. Geff presented the possibility

of changing the picnic menu choices. After a brief discussion, it was decided that we would continue the discussion in November. Gene was thanked for the log demonstration and our speaker, James Wilkes, from HiveTracks was also thanked.

- Presentation:

- 8:00PM Using Scales in Beehives James Wilkes, HiveTracks (via Zoom)

**What is a Hive Scale?** A hive scale is a device that measures the weight of the hive at a given point in time. Prior to electronic hive scales, hive weight was often measured with an agricultural platform scale that you might see in a farm supply store. There are also devices that use a spring or other mechanical means for measuring the weight by tilting a hive attached to the device.

**What events change the weight of a hive?**

1. Bees entering or leaving the hive
2. Nectar, pollen, and water collection
3. Honey drying overnight
4. Honey consumption by bees
5. Harvesting, feeding, equipment changes
6. Weather – rain, snow, wind
7. Misc. items on the hive – rocks, etc.

**What are the options?**

1. Connectivity – connected to the internet or is data stored on the device?
2. Power – wired, battery, solar charged battery?
3. Cost – no real solutions less than \$100 – generally several hundred dollars
4. Sampling frequency – how often are weight readings taken?
5. Software/app support – alerts, web presence?

**Brands:**

SolutionBee, Broominder, Wifi HiveScale, etc.

- 8:30PM HoneyQueen Program- Nicole Medina, Chair

Nicole is from Sussex County and ran for Honey Queen in 2019. The program was dormant for approximately 12 years. The main goal of the Honey Queen Program is to educate the public. In order to apply, one must be 18-24 years old and have a willingness to learn and a passion for education. The program is funded by the NJBA Foundation (501c3). There are many costs involved such as: social media, lodging, gas, education materials, apparel, etc. The average cost for the American Honey Princess is approximately \$8,000 -\$10,000. It is possible that a fundraiser for the program (Honey Run) may be planned. CJBA has contributed \$1,000 to support the program. CJBA junior member, Katie Culbert is currently the Honey Queen.

- Raffle Drawings (50/50 cash)

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Juffey

Central Jersey Beekeepers Association, Secretary