



General Membership Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2022

6:30 pm – Networking, 7:00 pm Meeting

1. **Call to Order** (Virginia Spitale)
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** (Virginia Spitale)
3. Recognition of Thank you note sent by Cheri Klinker for the flowers she received on behalf of CJBA
4. Presentation by Rutgers Researcher, Chelsea Abegg regarding the effect of fungicides and varroa medication on honeybees that pollinate blueberries.
Pollinator declines began in 1946. Honeybees have been impacted by the Varroa mite in the early '70's. One in four native pollinators is at risk of extinction. In New Jersey, 192 million dollars is contributed by honeybees.
Chelsea teamed with Dean Polk to study the effect of fungicides on blueberry plants. After collecting data, brood declines and queen loss were noticed. This was due to fungicide and pesticide applications during the blueberry bloom. Blueberry pollen does not offer a sustainable diet for honeybees but the bees foraged on other plants to create a healthy diet. Large blueberry farms had more fungicide than small farms but the EPA maintains that fungicides pose little or no risk to honeybees or honeybee larvae. However, Rutgers data shows that Ziram kills more than 50% of larvae. Ziram is attractive to foragers yet toxic to larvae. When mixed with Apivar, Ziram is highly toxic to larvae.

What this Means Moving Forward:

- Abound acts as a repellent when dry.
- Communication between grower and their contracted beekeeper- should discuss potential synergism between miticides and fungicides.
- D.M.I. fungicides should not be used if miticide shows synergism.
- More work needs to be done to identify common insecticide and miticide synergism on larvae
- Pesticide alternatives should be used whenever possible.

Things to Consider when contemplating the use of a Pesticide:

IPM (Integrated Pest Management)

- Monitor
- Biological Control
- Weed management
- Soil health

What other organisms will be impacted by application?

- Spray timing
- Nesting sites
- Available water
- Are there non-target flowers present?

Contact information for Chelsea Abegg:

Email: cka35@njaes.rutgers.edu

Cell: (609) 828-0013

5. Committee Reports

- Treasurer Report + Audit Committee** (Lew Goldberg + Brian Haluska): Lew reported that as of September 22, 2022, the balance in our bank account is: \$24,233.96.
- Education Committee + Upcoming Events:** Jeff Burd reported that the fall Beekeeping Course (east) will conclude on September 24th. There were nine participants. Participants at the meeting introduced themselves to the membership. Mentors will be sought in the near future for the participants. A course may be offered in late February. Jeff announced that if any member is interested in running for an elected office (3rd VP vacancy), they should let him know. The election will take place during the November 18th meeting.
- Fair Chair + Monmouth County Fair + Fall Events:** Geff Vitale reported that the Monmouth County Fair was attended by 85,000 people. 36 volunteers and 2 children volunteered for various shifts. Honey was supplied by Pat Evans, Angelo and Anne Trapani, Gene Armstrong and Grant Stiles. Hand cream and lip balm was supplied by Angela Juffey and candles were supplied by Mary Kosenski. CJBA sold 420 (1lb.) jars, 96 (2lb.) jars, 222 (12oz.) bears, 72 hot pepper jars and 8,750 honey sticks. 117 hand creams, 422 lip balms and 239 candles were also sold. Honey bees for the observation hive were supplied by Geff Vitale. Many pamphlets were distributed. On Saturday and Sunday, October 8 and 9, we will be participating in a Food Truck Event held at Oak Tree Lodge. Volunteer signups will be coming. Virginia volunteered to help set up since Geff will not be

available. Also On Sunday October 16th, CJBA will participate in Thompson Park Day. Honey, honey sticks, lip balm, hand cream and candles will be sold at both events and pamphlets will be distributed. Volunteers will be needed. Please complete the online signup form for a shift that you can work.

- d. **Membership Committee** (Ray Pogwist + Catherine Wetzell): Ray is investigating the bulk purchase of Apivar for the members.
- e. **Social Media Committee** + Introduction of Private Facebook Group for CJBA Members Only (Danielle Garske): Private Facebook is set up for all members.

6. Old Business:

- a. **Statewide NJBA In-Person Meeting:**
The Statewide meeting is scheduled for October 15th in Basking Ridge. The Annual Meeting and Honey Show will be held on February 18th at the EcoComplex. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from July 8th.

- 7. **New Business:** CJBA members are encouraged to seek elected office during the November 18th meeting. Jeff Burd has been appointed as Ad Hoc Nomination Committee Chair. The 3rd VP position is currently vacant. Information to follow.

CJBA is seeking ideas for spending some of our accumulated funds. Ideas presented include a new mechanical extractor. Lew made a motion to investigate the price of a 9 frame mechanical extractor. No purchase will be made until further research is investigated. Other ideas include money for speakers, and creating a college scholarship program. We can seek an organization to administer the scholarship which would be funded by CJBA.

- 8. **Raffle Drawing** (50/50 cash prize, donations, new member items): The 50/50 for a lucky member was \$43. In addition, Pat Evans donated a metal sign and windchime which was also raffled off.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Juffey, CJBA Secretary