

The Nevada County Beekeepers Association ~ October 2013



Local Buzz

President's Message

Jeremiah Farrell, President

Hopefully every one has pulled and extracted their honey along with treating the bees for mites and having fall pollen substitutes to prepare your bees for winter. We all know how rough winter can be for our little friends in our area. Join us for a no host dinner at Lin-Q on October 7th at 5:30.

October 7th Meeting - 7:00 PM

Grass Valley Veteran's Memorial Building
255 South Auburn Street in Grass Valley

Our guest speaker will be Brian Brown from Bee Shield and our topic for night will be Bee biology. Randy Oliver be including some memories of Burt Spangler.

All members are welcome to join President Jeremiah and others for a no-host dinner, 5:30 PM at Lin-Q in the Raley's shopping center in Grass Valley. Come join us!

Bee Bits

Randy Oliver, Contributor

From the Librarian...

We finally have our new library (beautifully built by association member Hugh Cavallaro), with it's dedicatory plaque to Burt Spangler in place. Below is Randy's remembrance of Burt and the beginnings of the Nevada County Beekeeper's Association which we will mounted on the inside of the cabinet in it's entirety.

When I came to my first meeting of the NCBA in the late 1970's, a meeting consisted of a few older gents (Burt, Albert Jones, Dick Williams, Steve Chileski, and a few others) sitting around and telling the same old stories each month. They were great guys, but there wasn't much organization or program material. My wife



Burt Spangler, president of the Nevada County Beekeepers Association, watches activity in an observation hive he maintains. Beekeeping is growing in popularity as a hobby.

and I were the only members under 40 years of age.

Beekeeping was much simpler in those days. The only disease that we were concerned with was American Foulbrood--chalkbrood, tracheal mite, and varroa hadn't yet arrived, and no one had heard of bee viruses. Burt quickly took me under his beekeeping wing and we became lifelong friends, working together to build the NCBA. We started getting monthly educational speakers, and membership of the NCBA began to grow. Burt and I guided the members through the invasions of the above mentioned parasites, and the associated evolution of beekeeping practices.

Burt and his wonderful wife Betty (and daughters Erika and Gayle) lived on Mill Street in Grass Valley. He

typically kept a couple of dozen hives in his yard, which fronts on Wolf Creek. Burt was a very giving and sharing guy, who wrote monthly seasonal management tips for this newsletter. At that time the newsletter was cut and pasted on real paper by hand, and then run on a hand-cranked mimeograph machine. Later, when photocopiers became available, Betty would type of each month's handwritten submissions, and then Burt and Betty would again cut and paste together the newsletter. It wasn't until years later that personal computers and word processors became available.

Burt always had time to help anyone with beekeeping questions, and spent a ton of time helping other beekeepers and writing about beekeeping in Nevada County. He was instrumental in making our Association what it is today—he taught beginners classes, and mentored many beginning beekeepers. He wrote our bylaws, and helped to organize all aspects of the NCBA. He was the unofficial parliamentarian, sergeant at arms, librarian, and historian. Burt was instrumental in obtaining permission to build our bee booth at the Fair, and in all forms of public outreach, including the Swarm Hotline. In addition, Burt worked with the young Dr. Eric Mussen to form the Western Apicultural Society, and was an officer for many years.

Burt loved honey bees and beekeeping, but more importantly, enjoyed sharing his love and knowledge with others. He left a huge legacy, this Library being a part of it—he specifically left his personal collection of bee books to the NCBA so that he could continue to share after his passing.

Randy Oliver

Goodies Sign-up

Karla Hanson, Coordinator

Please let me know if you can bring a treat for any of the coming meetings. We still need treats for our September, October, and November meetings. Contact Karla Hanson, queenbeez@att.net

Raffle Prizes

Karla Hanson, Coordinator

Thank you all for bringing some great items for our raffles, keep it coming. Plants, eggs, jewelry, soaps, bee items, jams, beautiful metal garden art, the list goes on and on... Thanks to everyone!

The Honey Launderers: Uncovering the Largest Food Fraud in U.S. History

As Reported in Business Week

Americans consume more honey than anyone else in the world, nearly 400 million pounds every year. Some 60 percent of the honey is imported from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, and other trading partners. Almost none comes from China. After U.S. beekeepers accused Chinese companies of selling their honey at artificially low prices, the government imposed import duties in 2001 that as much as tripled the price of Chinese honey. Since then, little enters from China legally.

Full Story: <http://mobile.businessweek.com/articles/2013-09-19/how-germany-s-alw-got-busted-for-the-largest-food-fraud-in-u-dot-s-dot-history>

Mating Flight Recorded

May be the first documented mating flight of honey bees

Mini-helicopters and high-speed cameras capture an extraordinary video of the in-flight mating of a virgin queen bee. See this at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/video/2013/sep/06/queen-bee-wedding-flight-video>

Country Rubes Combo Screened Bottom Boards

Special NCBA Club Price! Call Janet for details. 530-913-2724 or rubes@countryrubes.com

Fall Bee Sale

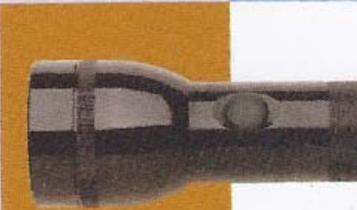
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Minutes from Last Meeting

Jack Meeks, Secretary

Pres Jeremiah Ferrell opened with Q&A. Fall is a critical time for controlling varroa mites.

Bee exhibit building at Fairgrounds needs a new roof! Do you know any contractors? 2013 Conference WAS Western Apiculture Society Oct 16-19 Santa Fe, NM

PROGRAM: Randy Oliver's video of the JZ'sBZ Texas mechanized honey operation. Labor saving devices included rolling stacks of supers on and off trucks, transferring all 10 frames from super to uncapper, loading 40 frames at once into cylindrical centrifuge, moving honey by pipe, and pouring honey into tank truck. Useful idea for small scale beekeepers, a fume board of butyric acid-soaked fabric on each super which clears a bee yard full of honey supers in a few minutes.

Poem by Khalil Hamdan, Holland

Submitted by Janet Brisson

This poem was submitted by Khalil Hamdan, resides in Holland, who is currently writing a book about beekeeping and who's beautifully written Beekeeping articles are on our website at

<http://countryrubes.com/information/khalilhamdanarticles.html>

The Glorious bees By Khalil Hamdan

Bees, busy little creatures
Adorned with stripy features
How remarkable their way of life is!
How deftly they build a nest,
Without a reference to a blueprint!
Though so frail, so little,
A wide array of talents they acquire
They are a miracle of nature
The angels of agriculture

In their city
They live together in a perfect harmony
They are all for one and one for all
They toil and toil
For the prosperity of their community
They are a symbol of hard work and industry
A perfect example of cooperation,
Perfection
And social life and activity

Tiny little bee,
Travels all day and far
To gather nectar from every flower
And offers her service to nature and humanity
For free
Bees, of all insects,
The most noble and well blessed
Deserve our admiration and respect.

The Nevada County Beekeepers Association is dedicated to apiculture education and promotion of the art and science of beekeeping among beekeepers, agriculturists, and the general public. This is a “not for profit” organization. Donations are welcomed.

Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7 PM at the Grass Valley Veteran’s Memorial Building at 255 South Auburn Street in Grass Valley. All visitors are welcome. Use the back entrance.

The newsletter is published monthly as a service to the membership. Articles, recipes, commentary, and news items are welcomed and encouraged. Contributions should be received by the 20th of the Month to be included into the next issue. Submit to garyg@newpress.com

Advertising space (3” by 2”) in this newsletter is usually available and need not be bee-related. Advertising rates are \$7 per year for NCBA members and \$16 per year for non-members.

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

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Nevada County Beekeepers Association



c/o Steve Reynolds
10838 Ridge Road
Nevada City, CA 95959
First Class Mail

October 7th Meeting - 7PM

Program:

Brian Brown from Bee Shield on Bee biology