



# Local Buzz

## President's Message

Leslie Gault, President



'President Leslie Gault'  
squinting into the warm Christmas day sun in her apiary

Hello beekeepers and Happy New Year!

I hope all of you are having a safe and fun holiday season, ready to start the new year refreshed. I'm happy to be back as president. Those of you with long memories may recall that I was president for a couple of years around 2002. Some things about the Association have not changed since then – Randy Oliver's vigilant guidance, Janet Brisson's skilled work as treasurer and membership chair, Jack Meeks' dependable quiet years of taking meeting notes for all of us. Other NCBA helpers have arrived more recently, Gary Gustafson is your newsletter editor, Steve Reynolds is the newsletter snail-mail mailing chief, Robin Reamer has been key-master and sergeant at arms, Tynowyn Slattery as masterful librarian, and Karla Hanson, Hugh and Debbie Cavallaro, and Deborah Morawski—who are all willing to step up and take on the as-needed jobs. Thanks to all of you for making the Association work.

A special thanks goes to last year's President, Jeremiah Farrell, who managed the job of President gracefully while working his busy job as a beekeeper, driving back and forth from Marysville, and welcoming a new baby! Jeremiah's reward is a place on our Board of Directors this year.

The Board met in December to work out a tentative program schedule for the year. We try to keep the programs varied, from basic education for new beekeepers, to social events, to detailed programs for experienced beekeepers. Brion Dunbar, your new Vice President, has the responsibility of following up and making the programs happen—a job that is in many ways more difficult than mine!

The Association needs many people to help it be successful, and help is always welcome. Please feel free to call or email me or the other officers/Board members with your needs and ideas. All contact information is on the back page of your newsletter—take a minute to get to know us and jump in to make the Association a success!

## January 6th Meeting – 7:00 PM

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

**Informal dinner before the meeting at Northridge, Nevada St. in Nevada City 5:30PM – Please join in!**

Pat Heitkam, of Heitkam's Honeybees in Orland, Ca. will be speaking. The subject is Changes in Beekeeping, focusing on the last 35 years. Pat is one of the most respected queen breeders in the country, producing over 60,000 queens each year. In addition his company produces honey, pollinates local fruit crops, sells package bees, and is involved with various groups researching problems with honeybee health. Pat is a great story teller and a lively program is expected.

# Bee Bits

Randy Oliver, Contributor

Funny, but as I opened my Bee Bits file to write this, the first entry that popped up starts with, “What a crazy winter! I've never seen a winter this rough for bees. We've had rough springs due to El Nino, but the nonstop cold and snow have been tough.”

Well, we're seeing the other side of the picture this winter! Does anyone remember the sound of rain? Farmers in the Valley are desperately praying for it. California is the nation's number one agricultural state, but we are completely dependent upon irrigation during the growing season, and that irrigation water is nearly gone. The entire nation may feel the consequences. If this is what climate change is leading to, it is not going to be pretty.

On the other hand, this unbelievably mild winter has sure been easy on the bees. Queens are already laying, and unless the weather seriously changes, we are in for an early swarming season, as well as sky high varroa levels this summer. And that's not to mention that unless we get some rain, there will likely be a very short honey crop yet again.

Now's the time to make sure that your colonies have enough to eat. Check to confirm that the cluster is in contact with combs of honey. You can kick start weak colonies by giving them some 1:1 sugar syrup. By Christmas, there was already some pollen coming in from either alders or hazelnuts, so they are ready to rock n roll.

After the snow earlier in December, we saw substantial bee mortality in front of the occasional hive, more so in some yards than others. The dead bees did not contain nosema, so I suspect virus issues. In one hive with serious mortality, the bottom board was covered with dying, trembling bees, which I suspect was Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus.

One of the trials that we are currently running is of the various pollen supplements on the market. The difference between those colonies fed the best patties, and those not fed any supplemental protein is striking. If you are interested in participating in a data collection or feeding day, let me know.

I wish you all a wet and happy New Year!

## This Month's Recipe

Submitted by Tynowyn Slattery

### Honey Buttercream Frosting

The secret to honey buttercream frosting is sour cream! Sour cream thickens the frosting without adding extra powdered sugar, cuts the sweetness, and adds a little zip.

#### Ingredients

- \* 1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- \* 2 cups powdered sugar
- \* 1/4 cup honey
- \* 1/4 cup full-fat sour cream

#### Instructions

1. In a medium-sized mixing bowl, beat butter for three minutes with an electric mixer on high speed until light and fluffy.
2. Mix in powdered sugar a little bit at a time until fully combined.
3. Mix in honey and sour cream until combined.

## Country Rubes Combo Screened Bottom Boards

Special NCBA Club Price! Call Janet for details. 530-913-2724 or [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

## Honey Extraction House

A to Z Supply has a honey extraction house available for rent. Equipment is provided and the room is heated and there's lots of hot water for clean up. For more information: 530.273.6608

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

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## Minutes from Last Meeting

**Jack Meeks, Secretary**

Finance Janet Brisson  
Nov Start \$4313.27  
Inc\$290  
Exp\$139.22  
Nov End \$4464.05

Board Meeting Dec 11

Leslie Gault, Janet Brisson, Jeremiah Farrell, Brion Dunbar, Jack Meeks, Randy Oliver. Agenda discussed 2014 program schedule, new roof for Fair bee building and review of April 1991 Beekeepers assoc. By-Laws.

MOTION:

Brisson; 2nd Gault: Approve \$400 honorarium to support Randy Oliver research and programs. Passed, unanimous.

# Treasurer's Report

Janet Brisson, Treasurer

## Donation

The board voted to donate \$400.00 to Scientific Beekeeping to help Randy Oliver not only his experiments, but to continue spreading this information to the Beekeeping Community throughout the world.

Thank you Randy,  
From the Nevada County Beekeepers.

## Of interest

Bee Inspired Calendars

John Miller is selling these calendars with beautiful photos of bees for \$12.00 apiece (normally \$17.99 at <http://www.koduaphotography.com/2014-Bee-Inspired-Calendar.html>)

A dollar of each sale goes to bee research and you can either pick up the calendars from John in Newcastle 916-718-4243 [john@millershoneyfarms.com](mailto:john@millershoneyfarms.com) or at the club meeting on January 6, 2014

## Membership Dues are DUE in January

Being a member of the Nevada County Beekeeping Associations has many perks. Your membership entitles you to our newsletter, "The Local Buzz," sent monthly, which informs you of our association's activities and lets you know what your bees should be doing at that time of the year.

As members, you receive coupons for 25% discounts on two major beekeeping magazines (pick up at February's meeting) and local discounts on equipment.

The NCBA works towards educating people about beekeeping and agriculture through our meetings and participation in community events such as the Nevada Co. Fair. We work to keep everyone up to date on the latest news and techniques for the beginning beekeeper to the very advanced.

Help us reduce paper and mailing costs, get your newsletters electronically and we will reduce your family membership fees to \$15.00. Deborah Morawski' will be collecting dues for the year 2014 at January's meeting.

Please pay by check or bring exact change.

\$15.00 for Newsletter via email delivery

\$20.00 for Newsletter through the mail

It costs a dollar more, but if you would like to pay by credit card, go to <http://countryrubes.com/nevadacountybeekeepers/membershipsignup.html> and fill out the form and use the PayPal Button.

If you would like to mail your dues, please send your check made out to NCBA or Nevada County Beekeepers Association and mail that to me at:

NCBA c/o Janet Brisson

20693 Dog Bar Road Grass Valley, CA 95949

Any questions, please feel free to email me at [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com).

You can call at 530-913-2724. Leave a message so I can call you back.

## Classes

Submitted by Janet Brisson

**Mead Makers' Short Course** – At U.C. Davis

Cost is \$500.00

Dates: February 6, 2014 – February 8, 2014 (All Day)

Contact: Amina Harris, [aharris@ucdavis.edu](mailto:aharris@ucdavis.edu) - 530-754-9301

Sponsor: Honey and Pollination Center

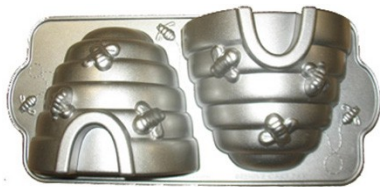
Location: Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science Ave

Covers topics on Fermentation, Filtration, Sensory Analysis, Meadery Design, Financing the Meadery.

## From the Librarian

**Tynowyn Slattery, Librarian**

Karla Hanson has donated some very nice children's books that have something about bees in them. If you want to share your knowledge & enthusiasm about bees with your children/grandchildren, this is the fun way to go. It will help to balance out the stings and hot sweaty days in the yard. Children's books can be checked out a couple at a time.



Karla has also donated a very fun, very nice bee hive cake pan to the library that can be checked out with a \$5, money back deposit. It has both sides on it...bake a cake in it, stick it together, frost it with some fluffy, honey butter cream frosting and voila! dessert for our Association meeting. A big thank you, Karla!

## Last Month's Meeting – Christmas Party

submitted by Diane Benton



## Film – More Than Honey (2012)

Hailed as a definitive work on the subject, this comprehensive documentary examines the disappearance of honeybee populations worldwide.

Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center – 985 Lincoln Way, Auburn, California 95603

Thursday, January 2, 2014 ~ 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Purchase tickets online at [www.livefromauburn.com](http://www.livefromauburn.com) or call 530-885-0156

Also available on Netflix streaming or DVD



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](mailto: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

### Officers

President – Leslie Gault	346-7092
<a href="mailto:lesliegault@yahoo.com">lesliegault@yahoo.com</a>	
Vice President – Brion Dunbar	559-1422
<a href="mailto:briond@aja.com">briond@aja.com</a>	
Secretary – Jack Meeks	432-4429
<a href="mailto:jackm@nccn.net">jackm@nccn.net</a>	
Treasurer – Janet Brisson	913-2724
<a href="mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com">rubes@countryrubes.com</a>	

### Board Members

Jeremiah Farrell	632-3303
Randy Oliver	277-4450
Karla Hanson	265-3756

### Committee Chairs

Swarm Hotline -	
Karla Hanson	265-3756
Lynn Williams	675-2924
Librarian – Tynowyn Slattery	265-6318
Newsletter Mailing – Steve Reynolds	268-2133
Newsletter Editor – Gary Gustafson	478-1216
<a href="mailto:garyg@newpress.com">garyg@newpress.com</a>	

## Nevada County Beekeepers Association



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

### **January 6th Meeting – 7PM**

#### **Program:**

PatHeitkam speaks on the changes in Beekeeping over the last 35 years