



Local Buzz

President's Message

Leslie Gault, President



Hope all of you are awash in honey by now...☺
That blackberry virus I mentioned last month probably was not...it turns out our neighbors decided to spray along the road just at blossom opening. Wonder how many of my bees they killed? I'm still in awe, it's such an obvious thing--leave the blossoms alone so the insects can forage! And yet people just don't make the connection: "gotta kill that nasty blackberry, and look it's trying to make seeds. Spray now!" What is this compulsion to create 100% order in the natural world? It would have made little difference in control of the blackberry to wait out the bloom, but it would make a lot

of difference to the bees, both honeybees and non-domesticated species.

So, all ranting aside, I believe that it is part of our purpose as beekeepers to educate those around us how to be kinder and take better care of the bees' habitat. At least to avoid heedlessly killing them at the height of pollination season! If you see someone mowing or spraying a nice flowering strip habitat along a road or edge of field, tell them how valuable it is. If you see someone spraying blackberries or trees or fields that the bees are working, point out that it can kill them and contributes to the decline. Encourage people to plant bee and butterfly plants (I just took out a Japanese maple and put in about 120 square feet of various plants) in their yards and orchards. Leave unruly strips of vegetation alone if you can, and remember that some native ground nesting species need undisturbed bare earth areas to nest.

A recent series of articles in the Reuters news service reports that the President of the US has recognized the issue of the bee population decline and has directed the USDA to fund 8 million dollars for bee habitat establishment. Really not that much money, but it's the attention to the issue that is valuable. You can Google 'Reuters honey bee decline' to locate the articles and learn more.

Meanwhile only one of my hives has made enough honey to harvest. Another year of 'sorry, not selling any, we only have enough for our family', sigh. With the likelihood of an El Nino weather pattern next year, this will probably be different next year. Hope to see you at the Northridge Restaurant and meeting on July 7th.

July 7th Meeting – 7:00 PM

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

Our speaker will be Jeremiah Farrell. The subject will be 'Fair Entry Preparation' for honey and related submissions. Jeremiah has won ribbons at the fair each of the last five years, so come learn how to win some of your own!

No-host Dinner before the Meeting

Join us for a no-host dinner at the Northridge Restaurant 773 Nevada Street, Nevada City at 5:30 PM on Monday just prior to the meeting. Please rsvp by Sunday July 6th to Leslie Gault at lesliegault@yahoo.com so we can try to get a table large enough for everyone this time!

Club Reminders

Fair Booth Shifts - The Nevada County Fair starts August 6th thru 10th and with that we need members to sign up for 4 hour shifts to fill the Bee Booth. Please contact Karla Hanson @ QueenBeez@att.net and let her know which day or days and shift you would like to do. Available shift times are 10:00AM to 2:00PM, 2:00PM to 6:00PM and 6:00PM to 10:00PM. Sign up early for your favorite time and day.

Bee Booth Cleanup - Don't forget the Bee Booth clean up and Bar B Que Potluck on August 3. Clean up starts at 5:00PM and the Bar B Que starts at 6:00.

Raffle Items - This is the best time of year to garden... So please remember to bring some of your plants to the Bee Meeting for the raffle. Or any other items that you think will be good raffle items including plants, eggs, jewelry, soaps, bee items, jams, beautiful metal garden art, the list goes on and on... Thanks to everyone!

Bee Bits

Randy Oliver, Contributor

As I type these words, the honey flow is ending at lower elevations, but still on in some yards above 2500 ft. Blackberry was again disappointing, but as I taste the honey in combs as I inspect colonies, I've been amazed at the wide diversity of honey flavors this season.

We're running a few experiments as usual. One to see whether there is benefit to feeding pollen sub during a natural pollen flow. Another to see whether mite treatment with amitraz has a negative effect upon colony buildup.

And then we're testing some methods for bringing down high mite levels at this time of year. This is the first time in many years that we've run colonies for a second season without completely nuking them up in spring. It amazes me how much harder it is to keep an overwintered colony in good shape than it is to build up a split for honey production. Swarming and varroa issues are far greater with 2nd-year colonies.

We've been doing dozens of mite washes to put together a group of highly-infested hives to test various mite treatment methods. There is a new Hopguard II product just registered in California, which seems to work quite well, based upon treatment of 40 nucs last week. We'll be testing it further. This is a food-grade "organic" treatment with great promise.

Changing subject to larger problems, the bears are active in Nevada County right now. We had three break ins last week. Check your electric fences and lay chicken wire on the ground if necessary.

On the research front, it's looking more and more like there is a single strain of recombinant Deformed Wing Virus (DWV) that causes most of our bee health problems. But it's only a problem when injected by varroa—so the two go hand in hand. The most recent study can be found at <http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.ppat.1004230>. It's a heavy read. The authors have already contacted me asking me for samples from California to see whether their findings hold true here.

On the national front, President Obama recently signed a Presidential Memorandum for a Pollinator Protection Task Force (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/20/presidential-memorandum-creating-federal-strategy-promote-health-honey-b>). This effort may result in the promotion of more sustainable agricultural practices, as well as more restrictive labeling of pesticides.

Due to the mild winter, varroa may be more of a problem this year than normal. I strongly suggest that you begin monitoring mite levels by either alcohol wash or sugar shake.

Due to the drought, be prepared to feed pollen sub to your colonies later this summer. Keep an eye on how well the bees are feeding the young larvae. If the nurses start to cut back on jelly, then feed.

Happy Beekeeping!

Logo Contest Deadline July 7th

Don't forget, Monday July 7th at the meeting is your last chance to deliver your submission for the NCBA's logo contest! The winning logo will be used on the Association's website, newsletter, and other applications. Please submit a large and small printed copy of your logo, plus an electronic version to Leslie Gault, PO Box 548, Chicago Park, CA 95712, or bring it to the July meeting.

Potluck at the Fairgrounds August 3rd

Karla Hanson, Coordinator

August 3rd is the Potluck BBQ for the fair. Which EVERYONE is welcome to come to. The more the merrier... Come help clean up the bee booth at 5:00PM and then dinner starts at 6:00PM. Enjoy an evening with fellow beekeepers. It's always an evening of learning something new, having fun, lots of laughter and plenty of good food. The club furnishes the gourmet hot dogs, hamburgers or vegetarian meat substitute when asked. With all the fixings too! Contact Karla Hanson at (queenez@att.net) know if you are coming and what kind of meat you prefer.

Nevada County Fair Competition Handbook

Entering the Nevada County Fair is fun and a good way to show off your bees' work. We need to keep supporting the County Fair honey competition, as we are one of the few remaining in the State. So enter! The Nevada County Fair competition handbook, which has all you need to know about entering an exhibit in the fair, is now available. You may obtain one at the fairgrounds offices or online at <http://nevadacountyfair.com/fair/2014-fair-enter-exhibit/competition-handbook-2014/>. Bee products are under the 'Adult' Category Division 38, "Honey". Entry forms are due by Friday, July 18 at 4 pm. Receiving is Thursday, July 31 from 11 am - 7 pm, and judging is Friday, August 1 at 10 am. Exhibits must be delivered to the Northern Mines building, and there is no entry fee. The categories are:

1. Three 1 lb. jars of liquid honey (white-light)
2. Three 1 lb. jars of liquid honey (medium)
3. Three 1 lb. jars of liquid honey (dark)
4. Three section boxes or rounds of comb honey
5. Three 12 oz. pieces or 1 lb. jar of cut comb or chunk honey
6. Three 1 lb. jars of finely granulated honey
7. Three identical novel-shaped containers filled with honey of any class
8. One novelty gift box of packed honey, may include honey, honey products or items related to honey
9. One frame (any size) of extracting honey
10. Pure beeswax, single block, not less than 1 lb.

Please see the competition handbook for additional entry rules and information.

Swarm Hotline List

Lynn Williams

If you would like to be on the NCBA swarm hotline list, to be called when there is a swarm to be retrieved, please let us know. This is a brand new list, so even if you were on any previous list prior to 2014, you must re-list for this season. If you have already contacted us this year then you don't need to re-list. If not, or if you just want to be certain we have added your name, send an email and include your name, phone, and how far you are willing to travel for a swarm. We get many calls from the Marysville area so please indicate if that is within your travel area. Email your listing information to iamlynn@hughes.net or leave a phone message with your information at 530-675-2924. Happy Beekeeping.



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 2014 meetings. Contact Karla Hanson, queenbeez@att.net

Club Membership

Janet Brisson, Treasurer

If you are a new member and want to sign up but can't make it to the meeting, you can sign up on line at NCBEEES.net or email Janet at rubes@countryrubes.com

Tidbits

Brion Dunbar, Vice President

One thing I learned about keeping bees this month.

If you open your truck door, and the 6 pound tub of Apiguard falls out and lands sideways on the ground, the lid will pop off, and approximately 80% of the contents will end up in the dirt.

One other thing is, it can be frustrating if you have a good strong colony of bees, and put a super filled with foundation on top. Even though there may be a decent honeyflow going on, the bees are reluctant to move up into the foundation and start drawing comb. One thing that can keep them from moving up is the width of the honey band that is at the top of the brood area. If its too thick, the bees don't have a sense of urgency to put more honey above. Reversing your two bottom boxes will put a solid brood area just below the honey super. Good luck.

Photo of bee working a chestnut tree at Lost Hill Farm in Nevada City on June 23rd. This particular tree is over 120 years old and was one of Felix Gillet's trees. This property also has some of his walnut and fig trees. Felix Gillet was a pioneer nurseryman in Nevada City and responsible for introducing many of the varieties of fruits, nuts, and grapes still grown in California and the Pacific northwest. Nursery Street is named because of his operation there starting in the 1870s. You can read more about him at <http://felixgillet.org>.



Country Rubes Combo Screened Bottom Boards

Special NCBA Club Price! Call Janet for details. 530-913-2724 or 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

For sale: 8 frame bottom boards.
Used 1 year, good shape. \$8.
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Top Bar Hive Group

Karla Hanson, Contributor

There is interest in having a group for people that are doing Top Bar Hives and using untreated bees. Contact Karla Hanson at (queeneez@att.net) and indicate if you would like to be included in this group.

Minutes from Last Meeting

Minutes for last month's meeting are unavailable at time of print



From the Librarian

Tynowyn Slattery

First, an apology to all for not being at the last meeting; it was a busy month, I lay down for a quick rest before going to the meeting and woke up much later in my going to meeting clothes.

If you bring back books or media, and I am not available... please just lay your material flat on a shelf and I will know that I haven't checked it in yet, and you won't have to remember it for another month. Win-win.

Randy has brought some good books in from Burt's bequest, stop by the library for a look.

Happy Reading.

The picture is a sand sculpture complete with bee, larvae, pollen and brood.

You can always mail returned books to:

Tynowyn Slattery

20493 Rome Road Nevada City, CA 95959

swoolman@saber.net ~ 530-265-6318



The Nevada County Beekeepers Association library is located in the foyer of the building. Our Librarian, Tynowyn Slattery (left), is usually available before and after meetings to help club members find both children and adult books, DVD s and videos on beekeeping. Stop by and browse the library!

Weed Killer Safe for Bees

Jodi & Bruce McDonald, Bracken Ridge Ranch

Every year we struggle with weeds in the garden and don't like to spray any chemicals that are harmful to our bee hives. We've finally hit on a solution that I think might benefit other beekeepers and gardeners as well.

Happy Bee Keeping!



Weed-Be-Gone

1 Gallon Vinegar

2 Cups Epsom Salt

1/4 Cup Dawn Dish Soap (The Blue Original)

It will kill anything you spray it on. Just mix and spray in the morning, after the dew has evaporated. Walk away. Go back after dinner and the weeds are all gone!

Cheaper than anything you can buy anywhere! Never buy Round-up again!

Followup

Leslie Gault, President

Our speaker last month, Gary McClaughry, brought in a sample plant for identification. He said the bees have been all over it, and there is an abundance in my yard too that the bees have been servicing for the last couple of weeks, in the morning only, even when the blackberries are open. No one knew what the plant was, but it so happened that Luci Wilson, the ag biologist from Nevada County Ag Dept, was in the audience. She took it away, and sent the information below identifying the plant.

This looks like *Poterium sanguisorba* (*Sanguisorba minor*), an introduced member of the rose family. It's a member of the Rosaceae family, typically wind-pollinated, but obviously there was enough there to be attractive to the bees. This is also known as salad burnet, and is often cultivated for salad greens.

Luci Wilson

Agricultural Biologist

Nevada County Dept. of Agriculture, Weights & Measures

530-273-2648



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
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First Class Mail

July 7th Meeting – 7PM

Program: Jeremiah Farrell
‘Fair Entry Preparation’