



Local Buzz

President's Message

Leslie Gault, President



Hello Beekeepers: Happy moist fall! Let's hope that we have many slow rainy days this wet season to soak our seriously dry soil profiles so we can look forward to robust, well-fed colonies next year.

Not much happening in my apiary now. The bees have been treated and fed pollen substitute, and are now being monitored for mite counts and to make sure they have sufficient food. When it's sunny out they forage, visiting the leftover garden flowers, some mustard flowers in the orchard, a few rosemary blooms, and my growing patch of michaelmas daisies. The michaelmas daisy is an aster

that blooms this time of year and into winter, providing a valuable source of pollen when little else is blooming. Thanks to the several members who brought me these daisy starts earlier this year! If anyone has more to share, it would be a good service to our members and their bees to spread the daisies around. (I should have enough to share a few next year.)

We will hold officer elections at the November meeting. The four officers include president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary, and carry on the monthly activities for the Association. These officers plus three board members make up the executive committee, which, along with the membership, is responsible for decision-making. The past president acts as a board member, in addition to two elected board members who serve two year terms each.

We will look forward to seeing you all at the November meeting.



November 3rd Meeting – 7:00 PM

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

Our speaker at the next NCBA meeting on November 3rd, is Neil Hannigan. Neil is the manager of the Woodland branch of Mann Lake and manages some of his own bees in Auburn. He will be talking to us about their offerings of bee feed supplements, varroa and other pest treatments, and winter preparations.

If you are interested in joining us for a no-host dinner at Cirinos at Main Street, at 5:30 PM, on Monday the 3rd of November, please RSVP to Brion Dunbar at (530) 559-1422 at least one day in advance.

Cirinos at Main Street is located at 215 W. Main Street in Grass Valley, across from the Holbrooke Hotel.

Bee Bits

Randy Oliver, Contributor

We're using this nice fall weather to get protein into the hives that need it in order to get a last round of broodrearing in before winter sets in. Colonies winter much better if they go into cold weather with a large cluster of healthy young bees.

The weather has been favorable to us this fall. Unfortunately, I'm hearing reports from beekeepers all over of mites being a serious problem. I strongly suggest that you check the mite levels in your hives.

This summer my sons and I struggled with varroa in our operation; seems that we should have focused on mite control a couple of weeks earlier than usual. I kicked myself for allowing the mite to get a jump on us. But it seems that we were not the only ones—I'm hearing reports from all over of operations already crashing from mites.

I'm not yet clear how much the problem was simply due to others also not noticing early mite build up, or whether amitraz losing its effectiveness, but things are not looking good for the bee supply for almonds. I also suspect that we will be hearing about a lot of "CCD" this winter.

Practical application: Beekeepers should not become complacent about mite management. Varroa will inevitably develop resistance to any synthetic miticide applied in back-to-back, season-after-season treatments. Wise beekeepers will rotate miticides, and always have a fallback position.

Along that line, I was happy to see the manufacturer of the miticide Hopguard® release an improved version: Hopguard II®. Hopguard has a lot going for it as a varroacide:

It's a "natural" food grade product (hops beta acids).

It appears to have no negative effects on normal hive activity.

It leaves no residues in the honey.

Typically only one application is required in a broodless hive.



The new strips are made with a heavier and Mylar-reinforced corrugated cardboard (Fig. 1) that holds twice as much of the active ingredient as the previous formulation (~25 g vs. 12 g). When Medhat Nasr (Saskatchewan) and Fabiana Ahumada (Tucson ARS) independently tested the new formulation as *fall treatments*, the efficacy looked pretty dangd impressive; so the moment that the product received Section 18 registration in California, I started experimenting with it.

The new Hopguard II strips hold much more active ingredient, and release it over a longer period of time.

Help wanted moving bees

If you are interested in working evenings and/or early mornings in January, please contact Brion Dunbar at brion@bourbonhillbees.com or (530) 559-1422

University of Maryland Sentinel Hive Program

Kirsten S. Traynor, Ph.D., a post-doctoral researcher at the vanEngelsdorp honey bee research lab at the University of Maryland works with beekeepers to help improve honey bee health. She has set up a Sentinel Hive program to monitor honey bee colonies health near the University. The Sentinel Hives monitor honey bee health in real-time using hive scales, monthly disease assessments, and pollen traps to determine available plant forage. These Sentinel Hives alert the researchers to potential problems developing in the hive, who will then issue alerts to beekeepers.

The program has set up a crowd funding LAUNCH platform at <http://ter.ps/bees>.

If you have any questions you can contact Kirstin at ktraynor@umd.edu

What I learned about beekeeping this month

Brion Dunbar

I have been checking all my hives for weight this last month. I bought a battery powered luggage scale on Amazon made by Camry for about \$12(they have lots of different manufacturers of course). You hook it on one end of your hive, lift that side with other side on ground, and get a reading, then hook it on the other end of your hive, get 2nd reading, add the two together to get your hive weight.



I have been writing down the weights over the last month, and have been surprised how quickly they can go down. Of course there isn't much nectar coming in this time of year, and some of the colonies are still pretty large so they are consuming a fair amount of honey. I have seen some colonies lose up to 15 pounds in two weeks! A more usual number is about 3-5 pounds per week. So now is an important time to be checking on their weight and feeding if necessary. Most beekeepers feed 2:1 syrup in the fall, which is 2 pounds of sugar for every pound of water. A quart of 2:1 syrup weighs about 3 pounds, so it may take many feedings to get up to desired weight.

My goal is to get my colonies above 100 pounds, that's inclusive of woodware. I use 8 frame equipment, so adjust accordingly for ten frame equipment. The bees won't take syrup if its too cold so get it done soon if they need it.

Bee working hibiscus in Nevada City in October. Looks like she's getting some pollen.

Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association Classes

Submitted by Bob Sugar

The Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association has planned a series of beginning beekeeping classes for 2015:

Saturday, February 21, 2015 – Instructor: Serge Labesque

Sunday, March 22, Instructor TBD

Sunday, April 19, Instructor TBD

May 23 Instructor, TBD

June 20 Instructor, TBD

July 25 Instructor, TBD

Class fees are \$35 per person for SABA members and \$45 for non-members. All classes are held at the UCD Extension Center, 4145 Branch Center Road (off Kiefer Road west of Bradshaw Road) in Sacramento. Classes start at 8:30 am. and end at approximately 4:30 pm. For additional information, contact Ron Nies or Debbi Gable, Course Coordinators, at sabaclassbees@gmail.com, or phone Ron at 530.941.3554, or Debbie at 916.202.8320.

Natural Beekeeping Group

There is a new Beekeeping group in Nevada County for those that want to keep bees without antibiotics, pesticides, or any chemical inputs. This is open to anyone with any type of hive.

If you are interested, sign up at: ncnaturalbees@googlegroups.com

Or contact Jenna Brager jennajbrager@gmail.com or Steve Hill stephenhillnc@gmail.com

Minutes from Last Meeting

Jack Meeks, Secretary

President Leslie Gault opened with Q&A with V-Pres Brion Dunbar.

Large Asian wasps have been attacking bees in other areas.

Program: Randy Oliver "Preparing Bees For Winter."

Pollen substitute encourages larval cells well filled with royal jelly. When pollen is in short supply, bees collect rust fungus spores, which is bright red, and harmful. Randy compared pollen substitutes Ultrabee with Megabee and uses dry crumbled product spread flat in a protected location. He described Hopyard, which is compatible with Amitraz, liquid formic acid diluted to 50% used in a fume board, thymol (Apigard) and several other *Varroa destructor* treatments.

How Honey Bees Stay Cool

American Bee Journal

Honey bees, especially the young, are highly sensitive to temperature. Recently published research led by Philip T. Starks, a biologist at Tufts University's School of Arts and Sciences, is the first to show that worker bees dissipate excess heat within a hive in process similar to how humans and other mammals cool themselves through their blood vessels and skin.

When temperatures dip, worker bees create heat by contracting their thoracic muscles, similar to shivering in mammals. To protect the vulnerable brood when it's hot, workers fan the comb, spread fluid to induce evaporative cooling, or – when the heat stress is localized – absorb heat by pressing themselves against the brood nest wall (a behavior known as heat-shielding). Until the Tufts study, scientists did not know how the bees got rid of the heat after they had absorbed it.

The complete article can be viewed at:

<http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=5fd2b1aa990e63193af2a573d&id=2ca024e561>

Honeybees get stung by California's severe drought

There's very little in California's agriculture industry that's been left untouched by the ongoing drought, and bees are no exception. Besides making honey, bees are crucial to pollinating about one-third of all U.S. crops. But the drought, heading into a fourth year, is threatening honey production and the ability of beekeepers to make a living in a state that was once the top honey producer in the country.

"My honey production is down about 20 percent from the drought," said Bill Lewis, president of the California Beekeepers Association. Lewis

explained that the lack of rain has reduced plants that provide food for the bees and the nectar they turn into honey. California has fallen from being the top honey producer in 2003. <http://www.cncb.com/id/102103489>

Leading Production States

State †	Pounds Produced ▲	Dollar Value of Production ‡
California	10,890,000	\$22,869,000
Florida	13,420,000	\$27,377,000
Montana	14,946,000	\$31,088,000
South Dakota	14,840,000	\$30,570,000
North Dakota	33,120,000	\$67,565,000

Source: US Department of Agriculture

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

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For sale: 2 bottom boards, 2 top covers, 2 deep boxes, 2 medium boxes, one internal feeder.
Call Kathleen at 477-0954

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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Raffle Prizes

Karla Hanson, Coordinator

Thank you all for bringing some great items for our raffles, keep it coming. Raffle prizes are necessary for the financial survival of the club and it's just plain fun! Plants, cuttings, eggs, jewelry, soaps, bee items, jams, beautiful metal garden art, the list goes on and on... Thanks to everyone!

Goodies Sign-up

Karla Hanson, Coordinator

Please let me know if you can bring a treat for any of the coming meetings. We only need a couple of folks each month, so pick a month and let me know. Contact Karla Hanson, queenbeez@att.net

From the Librarian

Tynowyn Slattery

Remember...If you can't make meetings to return books, you can always mail them to:

Tynowyn Slattery 20493 Rome Road Nevada City, CA 95959 swoolman@saber.net 530-265-6318

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
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First Class Mail

November 3rd Meeting – 7PM

Program:

Neil Hannigan, the manager of the Woodland branch of Mann Lake, addresses the Club.