

## The Nevada County Beekeepers Association ~ January 2015



# Local Buzz

## President's Message

Brion Dunbar, President



Season's Greetings! My name is Brion Dunbar and I am excited to be President of Nevada County Beekeepers Association for 2015. I first got into beekeeping and joined NCBA in 1992. I have had 2-4 colonies most years since then, until the spring of 2010 when I embarked on a plan to turn my hobby into a business. I bought 16 nucs from Randy that year, then over the next four years increased to 40, then 80, then 200, and then this year made it to 400 colonies. I am done increasing my colony count finally! My business model includes taking the bees to the valley for almond pollination in February, selling some package bees and nucs in the spring, and making a bit of honey in the summer. I haven't fully left my engineering career of 30 years, but at least I am down to two days a week there.

This last month I treated all colonies for varroa mites with oxalic acid. I have some leftover- if anyone needs some please contact me. The benefits of oxalic is that it is very cheap and effective when there is minimal amount of sealed brood- like December, and does not build up in the wax. I had done some mite level testing in early December and was surprised that many of my colonies had 5-9% infestation, and one even had 15%! This last year seemed to be a good one for the mites, so if you haven't done so recently, treating your own hives is critical.

I have a request of you all. Last year we decided to redo our logo, and are in the process of talking to a professional graphic artist. If you could send to me either photos, or website links, of a bee related logo that you find attractive, please do so. It can be either another club, or honeybee related company. Send to [briond@aja.com](mailto:briond@aja.com) or bring to January meeting. Thanks in advance.

## January 5th Meeting – 7:00 PM

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

Our January program will be on Apitherapy, by Tracey Stirling. Apitherapy, involves using products of the bee hive to improve health. One aspect of apitherapy is bee venom therapy, which involves the idea that bee venom is beneficial to human health- including claims of improvement of arthritis, MS, Lyme disease, and others. Tracey has been practicing apitherapy locally for several years, and will give us a power point presentation along with a demonstration. You can read more at her website at [www.blessedbeetherapy.com](http://www.blessedbeetherapy.com).

There is no dinner gathering previous to this month's meeting.

## **Bee Bits**

**Randy Oliver, Contributor**

My heart goes out to long time members, the Cavallaro family, who recently lost their son Micah. Many of us will remember him as the smiling young lad who always seemed to somehow draw the “wrong” gifts at our Christmas pirate exchange, and try to talk others into stealing them from him. Micah, you’re still there in our hearts.

We’ve been blessed of late with perfect weather for the bees. The rains have greened everything up, plants are producing pollen, and native perennials are growing buds. Plus, the temperatures have allowed colonies to start building. In preparation for almonds, we’ve given all our hives protein patties, to which they’ve responded wonderfully.

For those of you who don’t go to almonds, early buildup may be of benefit if you wish to split your hives in April to make up for losses (you can get queen cells from me). Otherwise, allow the colonies to build more slowly to minimize the swarm impulse.

This past year I’ve been handing more and more of the decision making and management over to my sons Eric and Ian, who plan to eventually take it over. This then leads to them asking me questions, for which I hope to provide knowledgeable answers. As the saying goes, if you want to learn about something, try teaching it. Their questions have made me go deeper and deeper into understanding bee biology and how to apply that knowledge to practical management.

I’ve been obsessive of late in my quest to better understand colony population dynamics, and have spent countless hours going over old data sets by researchers, and reworking them in Excel. The result is a series of articles that I feel will be of great use to beekeepers worldwide (I occasionally check my website to see who is viewing it; this morning there were 30 people on it, from 10 different countries). I’ll present my charts at an upcoming meeting. It is amazing to see how much there is to learn about this fascinating insect society, even for one who has spent much of his life studying it.

## **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](mailto:brion@bourbonhillbees.com) or (530) 559-1422

## **Bee Location Available**

Landowners Ross and Wynn Tessien would like to host a few hives on their property in exchange for a bit of honey. They have 4.25 acres down off Dog Bar on Feather Way. The property is fenced, 6' high. If you're looking for a location, please contact them directly [ross@planitsolar.com](mailto:ross@planitsolar.com). (Randy doesn't go that far down Dog Bar, so no competition from him).

## **Beginning Bee Keeping Classes**

Gary McClaughry, with support from a to z supply is offering Beginning bee keeping classes

January 24

Feb. 21

March 7

All classes are 8:30 to 4

Location Ophir Hill fire station #52

12668 Colfax Hwy.

Charge is \$40 and includes lunch and supplies.

Class size is limited. Call 273-6608 to sign up.

Ask for Rob or Dan or email [dan@atozsupply.com](mailto:dan@atozsupply.com)

## **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](mailto:sabaclassbees@gmail.com), or phone Ron at 530.941.3554, or Debbie at 916.202.8320.

## **Time To Pay Your 2015 Dues!**

**Janet Brisson, Treasurer**

Being a member of the Nevada County Beekeeping Associations has many perks.

Your membership entitles you to our newsletter, "The Local Buzz," sent monthly, provides information on our association's activities and lets you know what your bees should be doing each month. As a member you receive coupons for 25% discounts on a major beekeeping magazine and local discounts on equipment.

The NCBA works towards educating people about beekeeping and agriculture, keeping everyone up to date on the latest news and techniques for the beginning beekeeper to the very advanced.

I will be collecting dues for the year 2015 at the January 5th meeting. If you are paying in cash, please try to bring the exact change. If you would like to pay your dues through the mail, please send your check made out to NCBA or Nevada County Beekeepers Association, for either \$20.00 (to receive newsletter through mail) or \$15.00 for newsletters.

NCBA C/o Janet Brisson

20693 Dog Bar Road Grass Valley, CA 95949

Any questions, please feel free to call me at 530-913-2724 or email me at [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

## **Beekeepers Eye Appalachian Surface Mines For Hives**

Up a tree-lined trail still marked "no blastin on Sundays," swarms of bees now patrol a mountain once partially broken apart for coal. "Mining for honey" is the new extractive business here, one with no impact on the land.

<http://news.yahoo.com/beekeepers-eye-appalachian-surface-mines-hives-162132891.html>



# Minutes from Last Meeting

**Jack Meeks, Secretary**

Last month was the Christmas party. Hope you were there enjoying the festivities!



Winners - 2 Potluck and 1 Table Setter



## 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

## For sale

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

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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.

## A to Z Supply

13396 Ridge Road  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
530-273-6608/274-3871



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(916) 451-2337 fax (916) 451-7008

Web page at [www.sacramentobeekeeping.com/](http://www.sacramentobeekeeping.com/)  
email: [info@sacramentobeekeeping.com](mailto:info@sacramentobeekeeping.com)

Open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 – 5:30  
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## Calendars

The Nevada County Beekeeping Association is selling beautiful 2015 Beekeeping Calendars by Kodua Galiete. You can check it out here <http://www.koduaphotography.com/2015-Bee-Inspired-Calendar.html>. As you can see, they are selling on line for almost \$19.00, but our club is selling them for \$10.00. You can purchase them at the January 5, 2015 meeting. Kodua has some serious health challenges, so this is also a benefit to one of our own.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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 – Brion Dunbar	559-1422
<a href="mailto:briond@aja.com">briond@aja.com</a>	
Vice President – Jerry Van Heeringen	913-5709
<a href="mailto:jerryvan29@gmail.com">jerryvan29@gmail.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**

Leslie Gault	346-7092
Randy Oliver	277-4450
Karla Hanson	265-3756
Deborah Morawski	675-2924

### **Committee Chairs**

Swarm Hotline -	
Karla Hanson	265-3756
Lynn Williams	675-2924
Librarian – Tynowyn Slattery	265-6318
Membership – Janet Brisson	913-2724
<a href="mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com">rubes@countryrubes.com</a>	
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 5th Meeting – 7PM**

#### **Program:**

Apitherapy, by Tracey Stirling  
Using products of the hive to improve health