

The Local Buzz

February 2017



President's Message, Jerry Van Heeringen



I'm working in Truckee as I write this, indoors of course; I'll be here for a couple of weeks. The snow here is as high as I am. The plows and tractors have piled it up 20' high in parking lots and they're loading it into dump trucks and taking it out of town. They've had 300 inches in 23 days. It's so hard to imagine that just a couple of hours down the road the almond trees are getting ready to bloom and beekeepers are getting ready to unload their bees into what may well be very wet muddy orchards. From here it seems like the other side of the world.

With the number of rainy days and many of those dry days in between so very cold our bees haven't had much of a chance to fly making it critical to monitor the weight of our colonies and feed if needed. With some luck the rains will last late into spring giving us a chance at the great honey flow that we haven't seen in some years.

February 6th Meeting – 7:00 PM

Elina El Niño will be talking about her latest research project at the El Niño Bee Lab at UCD.

Dinner Before the Meeting – 5:30 PM

This month's dinner will be at 5:30pm at the Northridge Restaurant prior to the meeting.

Located at 773 Nevada St. Nevada City, CA

It is open to all club members and we look forward to seeing anyone who can make it.

If you plan on attending, please RSVP to fawkes1977@gmail.com by Sunday February 5th.

Bee Bits

Randy Oliver, Contributor

Northern California is finally enjoying a relatively "normal" winter—meaning that we get some rain and snow. This is really a good thing for us. Unfortunately, the long, cold storms without breaks for foraging means that colonies run out of reserves of good bee bread, which shuts down brood rearing. We almond pollinators can't afford for our hives to do that, so we've been spending many thousands of dollars on pollen supplement and syrup to stand in for the natural January forage.

This season now promises the best honeyflow that we've seen in some years. You may wish to start thinking whether you have enough honey supers on hand.

I recently published an article on using an extended release method for oxalic acid for varroa management. I'm excited by my testing of it last season. It's cheap, easy, organically-approved, and doesn't contaminate the combs. I hope to have the article up on my website soon.

I also need to repeat that I'm looking to pass the baton to someone who would like to be in charge of the Bee Booth at the Fair. I'd like it to be someone young enough to commit to doing it for several years, and it needs to be someone with flexibility as far as job commitments, since it requires being on call to solve problems at the Fairgrounds. There are others who will help, but one person needs to be in charge. I've done it for around 35 years, and will be happy to pass on hard won knowledge. Please feel free to call me to discuss 277-4450.

Volunteer Opportunity – Fair Booth Coordinator

Our club is looking for a "Fair Booth Coordinator". This person should be available before the fair to oversee the cleaning and prep of the booth and during the five days of the fair to make sure the booth stays stocked with supplies such as honey, tasting spoons, literature etc. After the fair everything in the booth needs to be properly and safely stored. Randy Oliver will guide you through the process. Interested persons please contact Jerry Van Heeringen at 913-5709 or Rand Oliver at 277-4450

Minutes from Last Meeting

From Jack Meeks, Secretary

No minutes to report.

Finance Report: NovStart \$5468.98; Inc \$0; Exp \$275.59; NovEnd \$5193.38.

Beginning Beekeeping Class in April

Submitted by Randy Oliver

I've booked a room for a Beginning Beekeeping class at the Fairgrounds on April 15.

Cost will be \$45. Those interested can email me at randy@randyoliver.com.

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

Library books are checked out for 1 month, if you want to extend it for a second month just call or e-mail.

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

From the Librarian...

A new book and a bee reference from the 1600s.

While reading from the Dairies of John Evelyn (1620-1706) I was interested to find the following reference to an early observation hive and, perhaps, a very early precursor to the Langstroth.

"We all dined at that most obliging and universally curious Dr. Wilkin's...he was the first who showed me the transparent apiaries, which he had built like castles and palaces, and so ordered them one upon another, as to take the honey without destroying the bees."

Evelyn, by the way, wrote the first recorded book on salads. (1699)

A new book...

Top-Bar Hive Beekeeping: Wisdom & Pleasure Combined, Wyatt A. Mangum, PhD.

Stinging Drone Publications

411 pages

Five page table of contents

Three page index

We have this book in the library at the suggestion of our treasurer, Janet Brisson, a top bar aficionado, who gave it a high recommendation and it certainly delivers.

Dr. Mangum, as most of us who read, *The American Bee Journal*, know, is thorough in his observations and extremely inventive and practical in setting them up.

He has traveled the world researching the Apis and it's husbandry, and despite several academic degrees has an engaging and accessible way of presenting a whole lot of information; this book will probably be the top -bar hive bible for a long time to come.

But you don't have to be a top-bar beekeeper to use the information in it, every page has something of interest, a list of the 12 chapter heads and four appendices, alone, would take up most of my review space. Let's just say, if you have a question, he probably, has an answer.

Another plus is the many, many wonderful photographs, which are used to great effect in demonstrating his points and showing some of the nightlife around the hive. These latter along with all the viruses, variable weather conditions and parasites (including us, I suppose) that they have to deal with makes one wonder how the bees survive at all.

This is a big book in every way (3 lbs) with mercifully readable print size. One of our more expensive purchases but, I can't imagine a serious beekeeper's library without it.

On a last note, Dr. Mangum appears to be one of those people who live and breath bees, and don't we know a few? I am always touched by his dedications to his wife Suzanne Sumner, the "bee widow", who is his "ever-constant supporter".

John Miller – update

Submitted by Diane Benton

Right now, John Miller, our guest speaker at January's meeting, is getting reading to send his bees to almonds for February and March. During April through June half the bees are in bee yards throughout Placer county from Colfax to Lincoln. The other half are in Washington pollinating Apple orchards. In July when things are too dry in California they ship their bees via semi trucks to North Dakota where they continue making honey throughout the summer. This also gets them out of the pesticides being sprayed throughout the state. From November to January the bees spend the winter dormant in North Dakota. Then the cycle starts all over again.



A few interesting tidbits from presentation: 1.6 million hives are needed to pollinate almonds. Half are delivered from Turlock to Bismark, North Dakota every summer in 120 semi trucks. In 1974 the going rate per hive paid by growers was \$11. Today the rate is \$200. The only scale on a trip between North Dakota and Almonds is in Truckee. A Semi has a weight limit of 80K lbs.

John Miller was very enthusiastic about the first BEE AUDACIOUS conference held in December 2016 where he was both an attendee and a presenter. "Bee Audacious is a unique collaborative working conference designed to envision bold evidence-based ideas through which honeybees wild bees, beekeepers and pollination managers can prosper." For more information go to beeaudacious.com.

Local Honey for Sale?

Submitted by Diane Benton

Jerry and I saw this "local" honey at Costco a few weeks ago. The producer, L. R. Rice has been in business since 1924 and they sell "local" honey all over the U.S. by contracting with beekeepers in different states. 3 lbs of honey for \$12.99 is a really affordable price.

Their definition of local honey is honey from beekeepers in all of Northern California. In southern California they sell SoCal local honey. What do you think of this?



In 1924, L.R. Rice began packing honey straight from the hive. Today, nearly 100 years later, Rice's is still a family run business in its 5th generation of producing, packing and working with local beekeepers to bring you 100% PURE RAW AND UNFILTERED HONEY.

LOCAL NOR CAL honey contains trace amounts of vitamins, minerals, amino acids and enzymes. We work with local Nor Cal beekeepers to provide you with the best 100% PURE RAW AND UNFILTERED HONEY. Local Nor Cal honey is a blend of beautiful flower types and nectars commonly found in Northern California.



EPA's decisions - sweet for growers, but sting environmentalists

January 13th 2017

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency backed away from tough restrictions on how pesticides can be used while honeybees are pollinating crops, and it declared that three of the pesticides most closely associated with bee deaths are safe in most applications.

The assessments, released late Thursday, conclude that clothianidin, thiamethoxam and dinotefuran can kill bees and their larvae individually, but that in "most approved uses" they "do not pose significant risks to bee colonies" at the exposure levels expected to be found on fields.

The moves came as the EPA prepares for its transition to the Trump administration. President-elect Donald Trump's pick to head the agency, former Oklahoma Atty. Gen. Scott Pruitt, has sued the agency over its enforcement of the Clean Water Act and other regulations.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-bees-epa-20170113-story.html>

Raffle Prizes

We always need more contributions to the monthly raffle! Almost everyone loves having more plants. Be creative. For every item you bring, you receive a free raffle ticket. The raffle helps with the club's expenses. Thanks!

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 cleanup.

For more information: 530.273.6608

Dadant Little Wonder Honey Extractor with stand.

Hand extracts 4 deep or shallow frames per load. Used twice. Excellent condition. \$380 for both.

274-1098 Kathleen

Used bee keeping supplies – for sale

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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 BEGINNING BEEKEEPING CLASSES WITH GARY MCCLAUGHRY

**JANUARY 21ST, FEBRUARY 18TH AND
MARCH 18TH, 2017**

\$40.00 PER PERSON

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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.

Visit Us at:
nevadacountybeekeepers.org

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

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| | |
|--|----------|
| President – Jerry Van Heeringen | 913-5709 |
| jerryvan29@gmail.com | |
| Vice President – Amy Hustead | 613-7171 |
| fawkes1977@gmail.com | |
| Secretary – Jack Meeks | 432-4429 |
| jackvmeeks@gmail.com | |
| Treasurer – Janet Brisson | 913-2724 |
| rubes@countryrubes.com | |

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| | |
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| Swarm Hotline - | |
| Karla Hanson | 265-3756 |
| Lynn Williams | 675-2924 |
| Librarian – Tynowyn Slattery | 265-6318 |
| swoolman@saber.net | |
| Membership – Janet Brisson | 913-2724 |
| rubes@countryrubes.com | |
| Newsletter Editor – Gary Gustafson | 478-1216 |
| garyg@newpress.com | |

All area codes are 530 unless noted otherwise.

Nevada County Beekeepers Association



c/o Janet Brisson
20693 Dog Bar Road
Grass Valley, CA 95949
First Class Mail

February 6th Meeting - 7PM

Elina El Niño on her research project at the El Niño Bee Lab at UCD.