

# The Local Buzz

May 2018



## President's Message, Jerry Van Heeringen



A couple of months ago John Miller generously donated to the club a certificate for 27 queens. It would have been difficult for the club to manage receiving the queens and distributing them to club members who wished to purchase one. Our member Dan Wheat from A to Z Supply saw our problem and offered to buy the queens from NCBA for \$20 each making John's gift worth \$540.00 to the club, quite a generous donation. As I announced at our last meeting Dan would sell them for \$25 and give NCBA members first right of refusal so we would be first in line to get high quality queens at a great price. I know for a fact Dan paid much more than that to re-queen his own colonies. I know I speak for the entire membership when I express my heart felt thanks to John Miller and Dan Wheat.

## May 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting – 7:00 PM

Randy Oliver will be speaking on bee management techniques.

There will be no dinner beforehand.

## Bee Bits

### Randy Oliver, Contributor

It has recently come to my attention that there will be a workshop in Nevada City promoting the use of log hives. Please realize that this is illegal in California--only movable frame hives are allowed. This is to allow for the inspection for the deadly disease American Foulbrood, which used to be of major concern in Nevada County. With the new restrictions on antibiotic use, we definitely do not want an epidemic of AFB to gain a foothold in the County.

It is also very difficult to monitor varroa in log hives, which will lead to the creation of "mite bombs" that affect all beekeepers within a two-mile radius. The members of NCBA would be doing the beekeeping community a favor by reporting any log-hive beekeepers to the Agricultural Commissioner Chris de Nijs by email at:

[Chris.deNijs@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:Chris.deNijs@co.nevada.ca.us)

## Rewilding Honey Bees - The Whole Hive Being

In this workshop, Michael Joshin Thiele will explore the indigenous craft of arboreal apiculture, (tree bee-tending) biodynamic practices, log hives and natural nest habitat. The workshop will provide tools for design and implementation of rewilded apiaries. This workshop is an opportunity to think literally "outside the box".

May 19 & 20, 2018 ~ Nevada City, CA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rewilding-honey-bees-the-whole-hive-being-tickets-44708305746>

## In The Yard

Submitted by Brion Dunbar

After selling the majority of my bees, I ended up with 5 large colonies and one small one. Wanting to avoid having my bees swarm, I divided the 5 large into 12 smaller colonies and inserted queen cells. This was on March 31. It takes about 5 days for the virgins to mature and get strong enough for their mating flight. Then it takes another 3-5 days for her to start laying eggs. Within 9 more days those first eggs will start to be capped. So 19 days after inserting a queen cell is a good time to both check for the laying queen, and give a dribble treatment of oxalic acid, since its effectiveness is much enhanced if there is no capped brood for the mites to lay into. When I checked on day 19, only two of the new queens were successfully laying- though I saw virgins in almost all the colonies.



I have learned over the years to not get too excited at this point, and will come back in another few days to check again. Looking back at the weather over those 19 days, there was only one day close to 70 deg., and it had some wind, which is not good for mating flights. If the virgin queen does not mate with 14 days, many commercial breeders destroy these queens as there is some evidence they will be inferior layers. Woyke and Jasinski (1976) found that #queens that were more than 14 days old stored only 1/3 the number of spermatazoa that queens 5-10 days old did, given the same amount of artificial insemination.

I was watching bees on my Hawthorne tree today (April 26). Hawthorne is a nice tree for bees and it was buzzing like a 30 ft tall rattlesnake. The downsides of this tree are A) the little prickles, and B) the smell of the flowers is very much like something died out in the yard! Watching the bees for a while I realized they weren't getting any nectar, just bouncing from one flower to another to get the pollen onto their bodies. Hope you enjoy your bouncing bees this spring.

## Help Wanted

Looking for seasonal full-time and part-time help in family beekeeping operation. We do pollination, queen rearing, honey production and need help in Yuba/Nevada counties now and in Montana in the summer. (close to Yellowstone and Big horn national parks). 15 \$/hr starting point. Need to be insurable for vehicle operation, strong back, and willing to work with a team of 40,000+ honey bees per colony. Email to [wingfieldhoneyco@gmail.com](mailto:wingfieldhoneyco@gmail.com)

## NCBA Swarm Hotline

It's that time again.

The NCBA Swarm Hotline List is in the process of being updated for 2018. If you want to be on the list as someone who can be called upon to retrieve a bee swarm then please send the following information via email to Lynn Williams at [iamlynn@hughes.net](mailto:iamlynn@hughes.net). NAME + PHONE + AREA LIMITATIONS

Even if you were on the list for last year you must confirm your participation for 2018. Note that many calls come from the Yuba City/Marysville area.

## Minutes ~ last meeting

Submitted by Jack Meeks

Pres Jerry Van Heeringen opened with Q&A and then introduced our guest speaker.

### PROGRAM

Samuel Ramsey, Univ of Maryland, described his research on the Varroa mite's predation against honeybees since 1987, spreading from southeast Asia worldwide. Mites were assumed to digest the bees' blood (hemolymph.) Ramsey's research with fluorescent staining dyes shows that Varroa instead digest the fatty body (liver) of the bee rather than the non-staining water soluble hemolymph.

Photographs of the internal organs, and the scales of the bee's abdomen showed how the mites wedge between the scales and bite through the soft tissue. The bee's fatty cell controls growth, development, metamorphosis, nutrient storage for flight and water and temperature regulation. It detoxifies pesticides, produces enzymes and immunity. Ramsey hopes to develop new approaches to Varroa control based on his research.

## UC Davis presents The California Honey Festival

Submitted by Karla Hanson

HONEY TASTINGS  BEE KEEPING  KID ZONE  FOOD  WINE & BEER  BEE FRIENDLY GARDENING



In Partnership with  
Honey and Pollination Center  
at the  
Robert Mondavi Institute UC DAVIS

DOWNTOWN  
WOODLAND  
CALIFORNIA | MAY 5 | 2018  
SATURDAY - 10AM to 5PM

The California Honey Festival's mission is to promote honey, honey bees and their products, and beekeeping through this unique educational platform, to the broader public. Through lectures and demonstrations, the festival will help develop an interest in beekeeping by the younger generation. <https://californiahoneyfestival.com/>



## **Club Dues R Due**

**Submitted by Janet Brisson**

Please continue to be a valuable member of the Nevada County Beekeeper's Association. 2018 Dues are \$20/yr. (print newsletter) or \$15/yr. (email newsletter).

Are you paid up? Look at your email Subject Tab or your mailing label. If you see the words "Dues R Due!" you are not current.

Please update your membership or join today. May is your final issue without a current membership.

You can pay dues at the May meeting or mail dues to (make check out to NCBA)

NCBA C/o Janet Brisson

20693 Dog Bar Road Grass Valley, CA 95949

Or go our website at <http://nevadacountybeekeepers.org> and look under the Join NCBA. You can pay through PayPal even though it says NEW MEMBER. I get notified and will figure it out.

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

## **Dr. Sammy! Samuel Ramsey Update**

**Submitted by Janet Brisson**

I am pleased to announce, the day after Sammy and his mom arrived home after a week in California, Sammy had his dissertation and became Dr. Samuel Ramsey. Can you believe he was away for a whole week, giving talks and meeting with people before, what had to be, one of the most stressful days of his life? Apparently the University of Maryland thought it wasn't going to be a problem as they put out a promotional video, featuring Sammy, the Thursday before his dissertation, already calling him a graduated student.

<https://youtu.be/iZ7dIPCI7Pw>

Our meeting had a huge turnout and our raffle had brought in \$235.00 which we donated to Sammy in addition to his honorarium. A big thank you to Spencer & Michelle Wingfield, owners of Wingfield Honey Co. for the grand prize of the raffle for 5 mated Italian queens won by Adam DesJardins. And a big thank you to everyone else who brought in equipment, plants and items for the raffle. And a secret thank you to the member who left me a tomato plant on my car that evening. That was so cool to find that. Please let me know who you are so I can thank you.

I hope everyone had a chance to see Sammy's Dr. Buggs Show [https://youtu.be/nLqbO\\_EXNmE](https://youtu.be/nLqbO_EXNmE) He does a wonderful job of explaining bees and varroa mites and kids absolutely love watching him and his series. It's a great video to share if someone is asking you about the current state of the bees.

And if you haven't had enough of a Sammy fix, Dr. Ramsey is also a talented singer who made it to American Idol twice before rejected, and then made his own video as a response [https://youtu.be/UWwuxlkm7\\_4](https://youtu.be/UWwuxlkm7_4). You can google Samuel Ramsey on YouTube and see him winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Apollo plus more. I was lucky to have been at the Nevada State Beekeepers Conference in Yerington this year where Sammy put on an hour show of him singing to raise money to return to Thailand to study the next horrible bee mite on the horizon, Tropilaelaps

. Sammy's fall-back job is a Wedding Singer. Yep, no fooling, that's how he earned money through college.

Sammy is now booked through 2020, but he loved California so much, he has vowed to come back, so watch this page for future engagements.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**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

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[bdh60@hotmail.com](mailto:bdh60@hotmail.com) or text 978 855 1140



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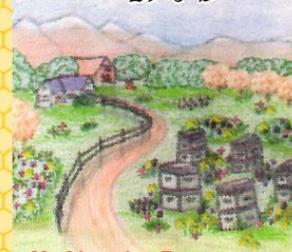


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(MEDIUM AND DEEP)

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**YOUR AD  
HERE**

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.

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. Please email Janet Brisson at [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

## NCBA Leadership

For 2018 all the Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs will remain the same with the exception of our new Fair Booth Coordinator, Rob Slay.

Nevada County Beekeepers Association  
[www.nevadacountybeekeepers.org](http://www.nevadacountybeekeepers.org)



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

May 7th Meeting - 7PM

Randy Oliver will be speaking on bee management techniques.

## Nevada County Beekeepers Association

### Officers

President – Jerry Van Heeringen <a href="mailto:jerryvan29@gmail.com">jerryvan29@gmail.com</a>	913-5709
Vice President – Amy Hustead <a href="mailto:fawkes1977@gmail.com">fawkes1977@gmail.com</a>	613-7171
Secretary – Jack Meeks <a href="mailto:jackvmeeks@gmail.com">jackvmeeks@gmail.com</a>	432-4429
Treasurer – Janet Brisson <a href="mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com">rubes@countryrubes.com</a>	913-2724

### Board Members

Leslie Gault	346-7092
Randy Oliver	277-4450
Karla Hanson	265-3756
Deborah Morawski	675-2924
Brion Dunbar	559-1422

### Committee Chairs

Fair Booth Coordinator - Rob Slay	263-5618
Swarm Hotline Karla Hanson	265-3756
Lynn Williams	675-2924
Librarian – Tynowyn Slattery <a href="mailto:swoolman@saber.net">swoolman@saber.net</a>	265-6318
Membership – Janet Brisson <a href="mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com">rubes@countryrubes.com</a>	913-2724
Newsletter Editor – Gary Gustafson <a href="mailto:garyg@newpress.com">garyg@newpress.com</a>	478-1216

All area codes are 530 unless noted otherwise.