

Local Buzz



December 2006

President's Message

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

Here it is November. The bees are put to bed so to speak. It's time to repair equipment and start preparing for the spring. I wish I could hibernate, but there's always too much to do around the farm.

Thank you for your vote of confidence in the re-election. I know the race was tight and thanks to my campaign committee I was re-elected as the President of the Nevada County Beekeepers Association again! Seriously though, I will do my best to serve the association. If there are any changes that you would like to see please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone or by email lawdawg911@earthlink.net. I will do what I can to accommodate your request.

Thank you to Rob Slay who has volunteered to be the Vice President this year, Jack Meeks who has volunteered to continue to be the secretary, Janet Brisson who has volunteered to be the treasurer again, Leslie Gault and Bonnie Bagwell for editing the Buzz and Gary Wood for sending it out, outgoing Vice President Detlef Osburg, and everyone else who volunteers their time to the association. Time is precious and hard to find sometimes. Without those who give their time freely, the association would be non-existent. Thank you.

Until our next meeting on December 4th, have a great Thanksgiving and happy beekeeping.

Your President, Shane Mathias

December 4th Potluck

The December meeting will be our annual potluck Christmas Party and pirate gift exchange, starting earlier than usual at 6:00 PM. Debbie Cavallaro and Karla Hanson have offered to cook us the main meats (ham and turkey). Each person or family group should also bring a potluck dish to share (no assignments, bring whatever you want). Bring your own place settings and eating utensils/plates, if you care to participate, we will provide a prize to the setting voted 'most popular', so if you feel like dressing up your setting by bringing the fine china, please do so! Coffee/tea will be available as usual, or bring your own favorite beverages.

Everyone who wants to participate in the pirate gift exchange must bring a wrapped gift in the \$15.00 range. (one per person, or one per family, you go home with as many gifts as you bring.) Deborah Morawski always does a great job facilitating the pirate exchange, and the evening is loads of fun! See you there!

2007 Officers

Congratulations to our new slate of officers for 2007:

Shane Cummings, President
Rob Slay, Vice President
Janet Brisson, Treasurer
Jack Meeks, Secretary
Karla Hanson, Board Member.

Bee Bits

By Randy Oliver

For you web surfers, see <http://funhight.blogspot.com/2006/08/beeman-in-japan.html>. He's really a South Korean protesting Japan's claims over the Tokto islands claimed by both countries. Ahn Sang-gyu covered his body with about 187,453 bees, which is the number of square metres of the disputed islands.

There is a new report out--Status of pollinators in North America-- at <http://newton.nap.edu/catalog/11761.html#toc>. Native bees and other pollinators are declining worldwide, with possible effects on the food chain.



Frank and Sandra Spenger sent me a webpage suggesting that you tape a penny over bee or wasp stings. It's supposed to work like magic to prevent swelling. Will someone who reacts to beestings please try it and let me know the results?

We're fresh back from the California State Beekeepers Association convention at Lake Tahoe. It was a chance to hear speakers give presentations on the state of the art of bee research. Going to such a convention also allows one to hobnob with the researchers themselves, and share stories with beekeepers from all over.

I'll give briefs on some of the presentations:

The almond pollination situation appears to be fairly stable, with strong colonies renting in the \$140-150 price range. Some are still predicting a shortage come bloom time, whereas others are offering bees at a surprisingly low \$120. We'll see in January what the real supply situation is.

The small hive beetle is unlikely to be much of a problem in areas with dry soils and low humidity. However, if you have any beetles, you can't store honey supers in a warm room for more than a few days without damage.

Honeybees are host to at least 18 viruses--many can lie latent in the bee's body, only to be activated by feeding wounds from varroa. Some are passed from queen to egg; others infect the honey and pollen.

Oxalic acid will "soon" be registered for use in the U.S. It will be recommended as a winter dribble. Dissolve 35g oxalic into 1 liter of 50:50 syrup; dribble 3-5 ml per seam of bees. I will have a lengthy article on oxalic published in this month's ABJ.

I attended the Research Committee meeting to screen the proposals from scientists for funding for bee research. The message I got was that bee scientists are tired of looking for "Silver Bullets" for mite control. The other message was that the big beekeepers are asking for more Silver Bullets. I address this issue more in another article that will also be in this month's ABJ.

There are indeed two more Silver Bullets on the horizon. One is 2-heptanone (the chemical that gives blue cheese its odor). It is a natural pheromone produced in the mandibular glands of guard and forager bees. It is a component of alarm response, attracts bees at low concentrations, repels them at high levels, and has fungicidal properties. It also kills varroa mites! Researchers are waiting for a private company to incorporate it into a mite-control strip.

The other Silver Bullet is Hivastan®, by the makers of Apistan®. Unfortunately, Hivastan contaminates the beeswax, and is very stable. I'm hoping it doesn't cause more comb contamination problems.

There was a good presentation on the formic acid pad MiteAwayII®. MiteAway allows beekeepers to use formic acid safely. It works well at a temperature of between 50 and 75°F.

Two presentations detailed hygienic behavior in honey bees as a way of controlling mites. Also, the possibility that propolis may be very beneficial in the hive at controlling disease, and possibly mites, too!

The book "The Hibernation Diet" has a U.S. edition being released, incorporating sound science. The gist is that by adding moderate resistance exercise to your schedule, and eating one or two tablespoons of honey before sleeping, your body will burn off more fat than if you jogged during the day! Sounds very interesting, and could both help Americans fight obesity.

The last big item is that Sue Cobey was funded to start a honeybee stock improvement program at U.C. Davis. This is great news for those of us who put great stock in bee breeding as a means of controlling varroa! U.C. Davis is also reestablishing the bee research lab that has all but disappeared in recent years. Beekeepers were asked to donate a dollar for each colony they move into almonds; I also suggest that our association make a donation to the endowment. The endowment will provide permanent funding for bee research.

Russians, SMR, Hygienic, Hawaiians (control), and Africanized honey bees. We were shown graphs that followed the life of the uncapped brood, from new egg to cell being capped. There were big jumps in the graph at two points, when the egg hatched, probably to indicate the larvae wants to be fed, and then two days before capping. That's the important one. The pheromone or odor given off to alert the worker bees that they need to cap that cell also alerts mites to enter so they can reproduce. The scientists have not been able to identify that volatile, but it won't be long now. What does it mean? Perhaps a way to trick mites into trapping themselves.

The work with essential oils was also very interesting. Bees have a very low immune system, almost none at all. The idea is to try and introduce essential oils (they are not saying which ones) and trying to introduce them into a bee food that can be used to strengthen the bee's immune system and ward off diseases.

They had a bee lab where we got to dissect bees and examine their tracheas for mites.

Hints that I picked up. Laying workers. The big discussion is a trick some one came up with to overpower a laying worker. They simply take a strong 5 frame nuke and deposit those frames with the queen and bees into the hive that has the laying worker. Apparently the bees in the nuke will defend their queen. It has been very successful.

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Notes from the 2006 Oregon State Fall Beekeeping Conference

By Janet Brisson

Most exciting is the work that Diana Sammataro is doing where they use a fiber that absorbs volatiles. The study involved 5 different strains of bees,

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Quote: "Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." –
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if you want to join the pirate exchange. We have been promised use of the basement hall every Monday from 7 to 9PM, (except Jan 1) for 2007. Next Jan meeting will be on the second Monday, Jan 8th. Finance: Janet Brisson: End Sept \$2243.46; Inc\$81; Exp\$997.45; OctEndBal\$1327.01 We have standing offer of \$300 for arrest and conviction of beehive thieves and vandals. MOTION Gault: Donate \$75 to Bee Journal's project to digitize their archive journals. Passed MOTION Oliver: Approve October minutes as printed in November Local Buzz. Passed PROGRAM Tom Harper: "Turning Liquid Gold Into Wine," making Mead from your honey crop. Tom showed how glass gallon jugs, winemaker's yeast, an air trap, and well water can produce, in a few months after aging, some good home brew. With a beer hydrometer, the fermentation can be controlled, sweet or dry, even up to 18% alcohol, and flavored with ginger, cider, pears, spices. If bottled early, it is carbonated, like champagne. Three pounds of honey will make a gallon of mead. Tom poured several types for tasting and provided instructions. Jack Meeks, sec.

The Hibernation Diet Book Report

Authors: Mike & Stuart McInnes with Maggie Stanfield.

By Janet Brisson

I dropped by the California State Beekeepers Convention last Tuesday up in Lake Tahoe to meet with a vendor. Lucky me, I got to browse the vendor's room where the latest in beekeeping inventions are available for you to look at. Some stuff is so new, you can only look at the proto types.

A few meetings ago, Randy mentioned that there were rumors of a diet where you take 1 to 2 tablespoons of honey within an hour of going to bed (my kind of diet). And we've been hearing that taking honey before bedtime helps stop cavities, which seemed like an oxymoron to me, coat your teeth with honey and that's supposed to stop

November Minutes

President Shane Mathias opened with introductions and Q&A. The honeybee genome has been deciphered, according to TIME Nov 6. Bees have weak immune systems and are most in danger from pesticides. Genetic engineering may produce a superior bee; meanwhile, selective crossbreeding has produced the African killer bee. For pollination contracts, the California standard colony is 70% bee coverage of nine deep frames in one or both supers @60F. MOTION Oliver: Approve the nomination committee's selection of all current officers to continue for 2007. Passed, by acclamation. Debra Morawski announced the Xmas party will be Dec 4, 6PM. Bring your drinks and place settings, and a \$15 maximum value 'White Elephant' (or otherwise) gift

cavities. At one of the booths, there was a doctor promoting Honey and Health. With the above book coming out next year, he was selling a \$2.00 publication of excerpts from the book explaining just how the Hibernation Diet works. '95 Theses on the Power and Efficacy of Honey with Respect to Liver Fueling.' by Mike McInnes lists just how this works, and after skimming the first couple of pages, I was fascinated. Why honey before bedtime? I'll quote a passage that seems to sum it up..."Honey optimizes liver glycogen storage via fructose and glucose uptake, honey activates sleep via the insulin - melatonin (HYMN) cycle, honey promotes optimal body recovery (fat burning) during the night fast and honey promotes good health via prevention of overproduction of the adrenal stress hormones.' He also states this will not hurt you, so why not try it for two weeks. According to the book, adding moderate resistant exercise, you can loose 3 pounds a month. I'm going to try it. I will be adding this book to the library at the Christmas party. Happy Hollandaise!
Janet

Deborah Morawski forwards an article purporting the following—if anyone has any specific references that support or contradict these assertions, send them along to educate the rest of us!

“It is found that mixture of Honey and Cinnamon cures many diseases. Honey is produced in most of the countries of the world. Today's science says that even though honey is sweet, if taken in the right dosage as a medicine, it does not harm diabetic patients. Weekly World News, a magazine in Canada, on its issue dated 17 January 1995 ! has given the following list of diseases that can be cured by Honey and Cinnamon as researched by western scientists.’ The article goes on with a long list of maladies that they say various studies have shown can be improved by either eating or making a poultice of a mixture of cinnamon and honey, including insect bites, arthritis, hair loss, toothache, stomach cancer, cholesterol, infertility, colds, upset stomach, pimples, fatigue, and weight loss.

(if any of this is true, maybe we're all in the wrong end of the business?)

Honey Pumpkin Pie

2 eggs
½ cup honey
½ tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. salt
¾ tsp. nutmeg
¼ tsp. ginger
1-1/2 cup prepared pumpkin
¾ cup hot milk
1 Tb. butter

Beat eggs just until yolks and whites are well blended. Gradually beat in honey. Add cinnamon, salt, nutmeg and ginger. Stir in pumpkin. Add milk with butter melted in. Pour into pie shell and bake at 450F for 10 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350 F and continue baking for 20-25 minutes or until filling is firm.

Courtesy: The Canadian Honey Council (and Janet)

Cottage Cosmetics

A how-to guide for making fine olive oil soap and all natural personal care products using beeswax is available from local author and herbalist, Linnie McNaughton. Detailed instructions are included.

To order send check for \$15(Cost of book is \$12, plus shipping and tax) to:
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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.

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, except for the January '07 meeting which will be on the second Monday. All visitors are welcome. The newsletter is published monthly as a service to the membership. Articles, recipes, commentary, and news items are welcomed and encouraged. Submission by email is encouraged. Please submit to Leslie Gault at lesliegault@yahoo.com. The deadline for the January 2007 edition is December 19th. A limited amount of advertising space (business card size 3" by 2") is accepted and need not be bee-related. Rates are \$1 per issue or \$7 per year for NCBA members and \$16 per year for non-members. All revenue from advertising goes to the Association treasury and helps offset the cost of producing and distributing this newsletter.

To receive the *Local Buzz* via email: please email your request to lesliegault@yahoo.com

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

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Nevada County Beekeepers Association

Local Buzz 

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December 2006

December Meeting

Our December 4th meeting will be a potluck and pirate gift exchange, starting at 6 PM at the Veteran's Hall in Grass Valley.