

# The Local Buzz

December 2019



## President's Message, Jerry Van Heeringen



Well here it is just a bit past Halloween and I'm writing about Christmas already, you'd think my name was Kmart. As we all know the December meeting is when we have our Christmas pot luck and pirate gift exchange. Since Thanksgiving is late in November this year and our December meeting is the Monday after, our esteemed newsletter editor and producer Gary Gustafson thought it would be a good idea to get the newsletter out a week early so no one would be caught by surprise.

Throughout my time as president I have always been traveling during the December meeting. Now after four years not only will it be my first NCBA Christmas party as president but also my last meeting as president.

I want to thank the membership for supporting me by showing up month after month and I especially want to thank all the officers, board members and committee chairs. Those are the people who do the real work keeping our bee club going.

## December 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting –6:00 PM **\*\* 1 HOUR EARLY\*\***

Yes, we just finished celebrating Thanksgiving, now it's time to celebrate the next holiday with our annual potluck and gift exchange. The event will start at 6:00 pm at the Grass Valley Veteran's Hall. The Pirate gift exchange will begin after the meal. A value of \$20.00 is suggested for your gift. Deborah Morawski will oversee the gift exchange and will have numbers for people to pick. Each person who brings a gift, will get a number and participate in the fun. Gifts should be wrapped.

The main courses, turkey with dressing and gravy, ham, and vegan roast and gravy will be provided by the Association and are being prepared Lynn Williams/Deborah Morawski, Leslie Gault, Sonnie Pickering, and Janet Brisson. Last names with A – M bring a side dish, and N – Z bring a dessert or salad. Please bring enough to feed 12 people. Also, please remember to bring your eating utensils and plates/bowls. These are not provided. Only tea and coffee will be provided by the Association. Please bring your own beverages and per Veteran's Hall policy, alcoholic beverages are NOT allowed.

As with every year, we will have a contest to see who will have the most creative place setting. The winner gets a free one year membership. Per Veteran's Hall policy, lighted candles are not allowed.

There will not be a formal meeting or a raffle. See you on December 2 at 6:00 pm to celebrate and have fun!!!

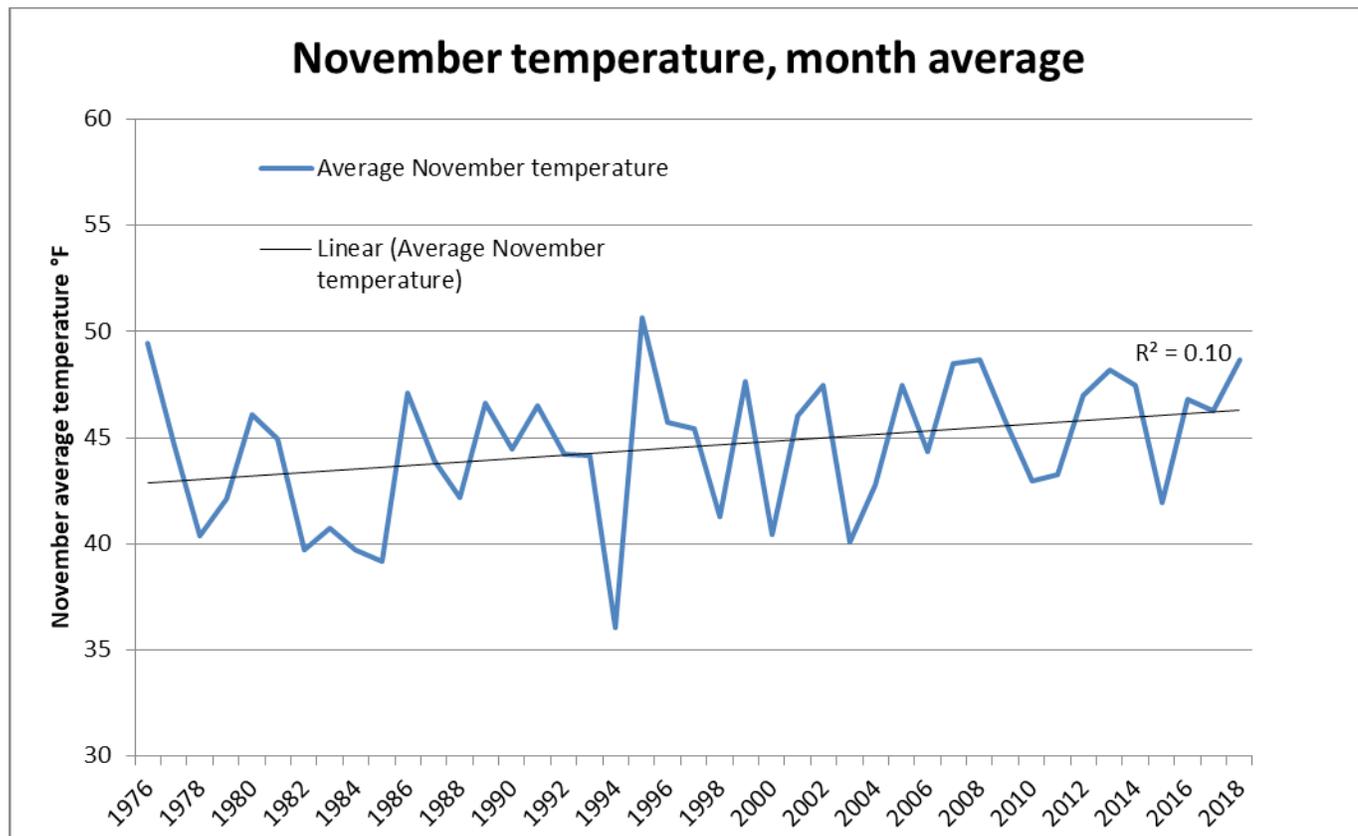
## Bee Bits

Submitted by Randy Oliver

It's mid November, and it feels like summer! Our promising September rainfall is long forgotten, and any hopes for an early start for wildflower seed germination are passed. We commercial beekeepers are freaking out, wondering whether we should be feeding pollen sub to our colonies to maintain broodrearing for the winter cluster, knowing that such brood would also provide food for another generation of varroa mites.

I first moved to Northern California (Iowa Hill) in 1976, then down to Colfax a few years later. My recollection is that back then, all my colonies would be broodless by mid November. Nowadays, we get only a brief brood break in December if we're lucky. I'm extremely concerned about climate change, and it's of course "obvious" that the difference is due to that. But as a scientist, I'm acutely aware of the human trait of "confirmation bias" – our tendency to search for, interpret, favor, and recall information in a way that affirms our prior beliefs or hypotheses.

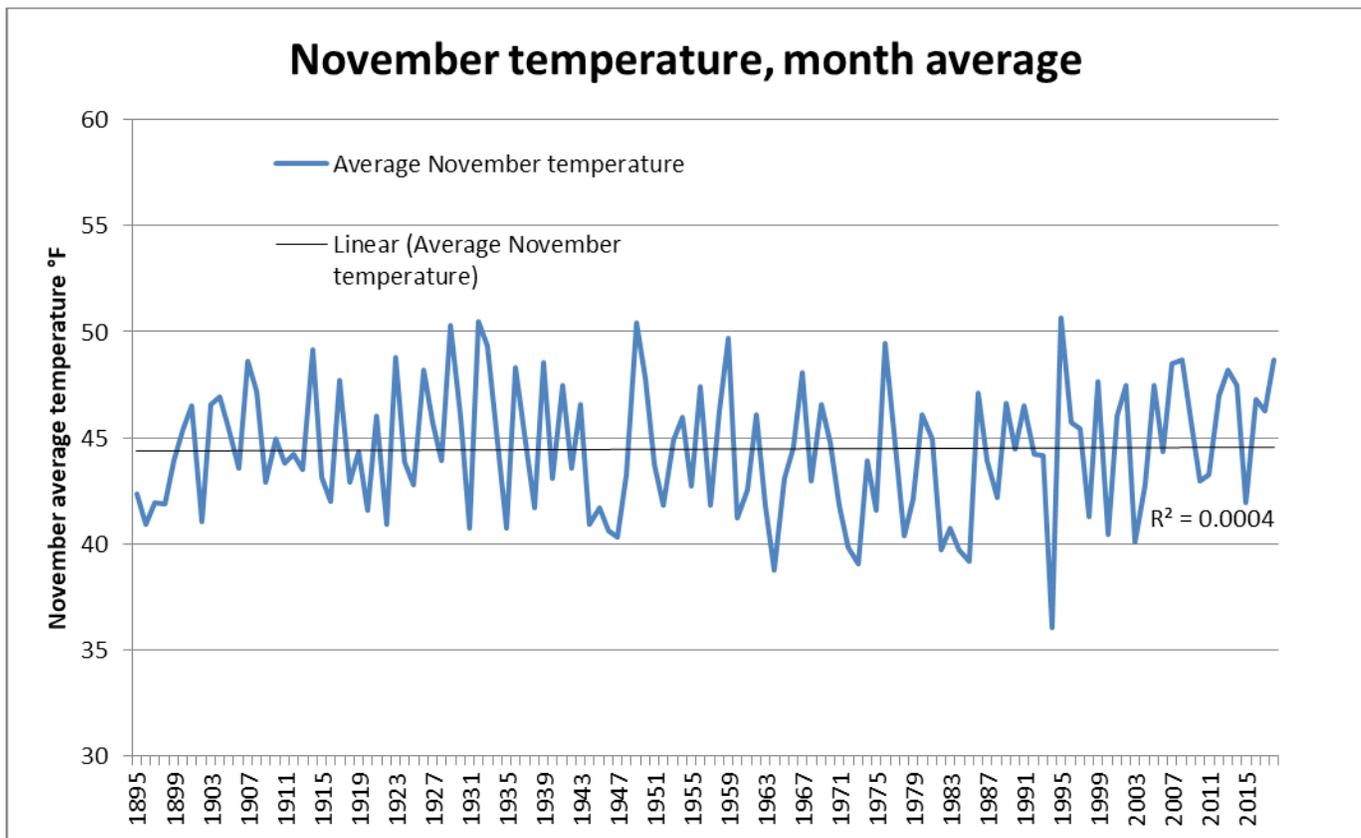
So we scientists look for objective supporting data. For climate, one place to fact check is at <https://cefa.dri.edu/Westmap/>. So I downloaded the average temperature data for the month of November for Nevada County from 1976 through 2018:



The chart above shows the average temperature of the month of November in Nevada County over time. The black line is a line of best fit for the data (linear regression). For the time period shown, the average November temperature appears to have gone from about 43°F to 47°F, so perhaps my memory is correct. But the very low  $R^2$  value indicates that only about 10% of the variation is actually explained by the trend. Such a low  $R^2$  makes me question my hypothesis. So I plotted out the data for a longer time period:

When we look at the temperature data from clear back in 1895 (chart below) to present, note that the trendline is flat. The very low  $R^2$  value suggests that November temperature in Nevada County is unpredictable, and that the apparent upward trend since 1976 may merely be a fluke.

This single data set does not support the narrative that our Nevada County climate is warming in the month of November. Of course this is hard to swallow for those of us who are concerned about climate change. But as a scientist, I must be careful not to pick and choose my data. The one thing that I have learned from the data above is that the November weather in Nevada County is unpredictable!



Back to our bees, what we are doing is to keep an eye on varroa, hoping that the temperature will drop, and the bees will cease broodrearing, so that we can hit the hives with a dribble treatment of oxalic acid. We're also using the warm weather to build up a hundred weak nucs that we had into stronger colonies, by supplemental feeding of protein patties and sugar syrup.

Update on our selective breeding program for varroa resistance: I've got one more day of alcohol washes to do, but it looks as though we'll be taking over 120 colonies exhibiting strong mite resistance into the winter. That number is roughly twice that of the previous two years. I'll have better data by the end of the week. The big question then is whether this apparent increase is a fluke, or whether we're actually locking in the genes for resistance?

## Club Dues R Due

Submitted by Janet Brisson

Dues are \$25/yr. (printed mailed newsletter) or \$20/yr. (email newsletter). You can pay dues at the January, 2020 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 hit the "JOIN" button to pay your dues. Any questions, please feel free to call me at 530-913-2724 or email me at [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

## Minutes ~ November Meeting

No minutes available

## Club Secretary Needed!

Our recent volunteer for Club Secretary will not be able to hold the position.

If you can step up for this important club office please contact president Jerry. The Club needs YOU.

## 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!

## 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, [queen-beez@att.net](mailto:queen-beez@att.net)

## Holiday Recipe

Submitted by Tynowyn Slattery

### Honey Buttercream Frosting

The secret to honey buttercream frosting is sour cream! Sour cream thickens the frosting without adding extra powdered sugar, cuts the sweetness, and adds a little zip.

Ingredients

- \* 1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- \* 2 cups powdered sugar
- \* 1/4 cup honey
- \* 1/4 cup full-fat sour cream

Instructions

1. In a medium-sized mixing bowl, beat butter for three minutes with an electric mixer on high speed until light and fluffy.
2. Mix in powdered sugar a little bit at a time until fully combined.
3. Mix in honey and sour cream until combined.



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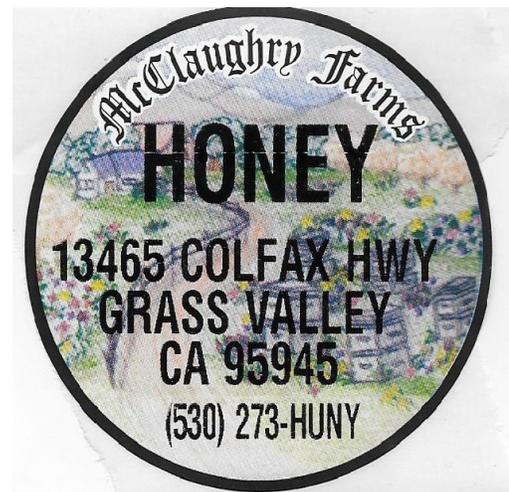
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Advertising rates are \$7 per year for NCBA members and \$16 per year for non-members.

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)

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**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

December 2nd Meeting 6:00PM  
**\*\* 1 Hour Early \*\***

Annual Pot Luck Dinner  
and Gift Exchange

## **Nevada County Beekeepers Association**

### **Officers**

President – Jerry Van Heeringen	913-5709
<a href="mailto:jerryvan29@gmail.com">jerryvan29@gmail.com</a>	
Vice President – Spencer Wingfield	300-3217
<a href="mailto:spencerwwingfield@gmail.com">spencerwwingfield@gmail.com</a>	
Secretary – Jack Meeks	432-4429
<a href="mailto:jackvmeeks@gmail.com">jackvmeeks@gmail.com</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
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	265-6318
<a href="mailto:swoolman@saber.net">swoolman@saber.net</a>	
Membership – Janet Brisson	913-2724
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<a href="mailto:garyg@newpress.com">garyg@newpress.com</a>	
Social Media	
Amy Hustead	
Jess Ferrer	

All area codes are 530 unless noted otherwise.