

The Local Buzz

November 2021



President's Message

From Spencer Wingfield

As we wind up our last few days of October and head into winter, I cannot help but compare year over year. What a stark contrast I have, when comparing 2020 to 2021. First of all, the weather. I do not think we got a drop of rain in October last year. It was a hot fall. I remember going into November much more worried about the health of the bees also. This October has been just amazing. I have seen some really nice buildup in the bees with some natural pollen, and also I see them responding well to pollen patties. And now, we are finally getting some much needed moisture. At the moment I am writing this, my weather station has registered 8.4" of rain on just today alone. Below the precipitation readings on the console, the readout actually shows "It's raining cats and dogs". The folks at Davis Instruments have a personality.

Make sure that your bee hive equipment is water tight with a good top, this will keep the bees warm, dry and happy. Also make sure there is a little fall one direction or the other to allow any water that enters the entrance to drip back out and not pond up inside on the bottom board. The bees are going to be extremely active at their first opportunity with a break in the weather, so be ready to standby and watch the frenzy. I love the flight after a day or two of rain.

November 1st Meeting at 7pm – **ON ZOOM**

Due to the on-going issues with the Covid pandemic, the meeting for November will be hosted on Zoom. At the appropriate time, the Zoom meeting format is expected to end and meetings will return to in-person and/or hybrid in nature. More about that later as a time table develops. For this November meeting, access information will be emailed to the membership prior to the meeting time, expected in the early afternoon of the 1st.

November Program: The History of Honey Bees in California, presented by Ettamarie Peterson

The presentation starts with the arrival of honey bees in Santa Clara County in 1853. Ettamarie will describe the growth of beekeeping throughout California in the 1800's and to the present. It is amazing how the bees were such a hot commodity early-on even before they were considered good pollinators. This will be a very interesting presentation about the historical impact of bees in California. More about Ettamarie further on in this newsletter.

Bio:

Ettamarie Peterson started beekeeping in Petaluma almost 30 years ago. She has been an active member of the Sonoma Co. Beekeepers Association all those years. For the past several years, she has been it's newsletter editor. The newsletter is available for reading on the website www.sonomabees.org. She has always loved California history, being born in the shadow of Sutter's Fort in Sacramento.

A few years ago, Ettamarie became interested in the history of beekeeping in California. Through the efforts of research, much gained through the study of old newspaper articles, Ettamarie developed a very interesting presentation on the history of our State's beekeeping activity, starting in the mid 1800's. She has presented to several beekeeping clubs throughout California.

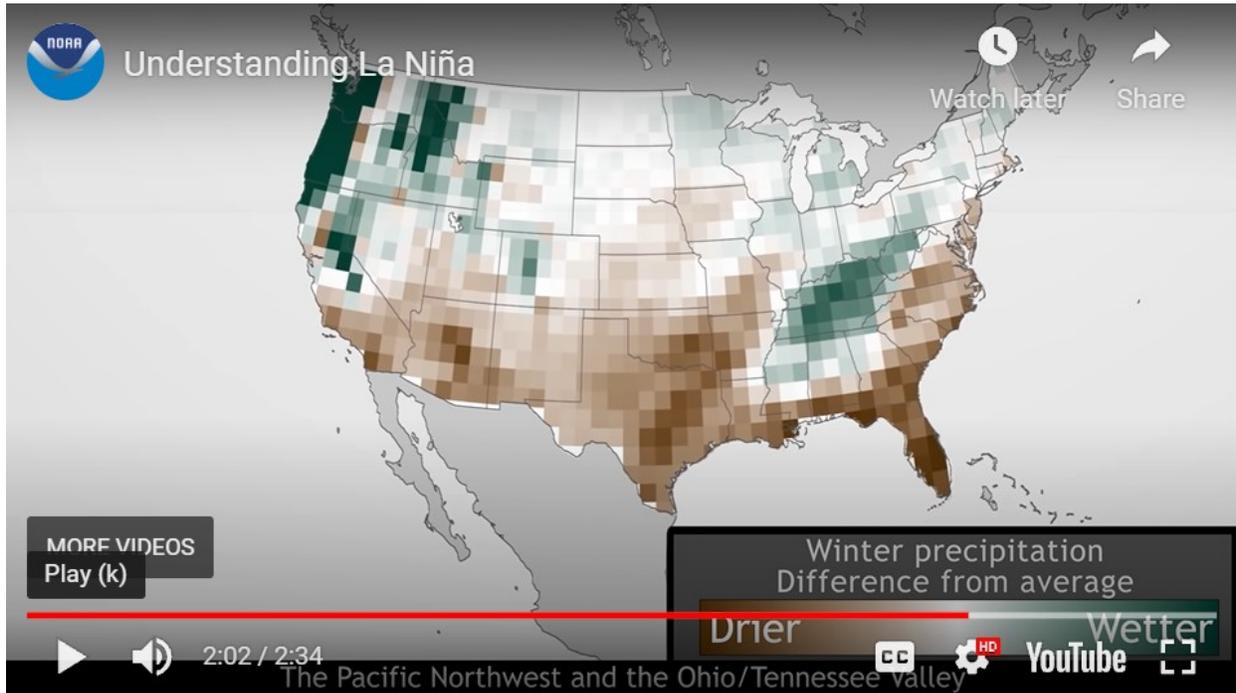
Bee Bits

Submitted by Randy Oliver

Autumn has arrived with rain, rain, rain! As I type these words on October 22nd, a cool “atmospheric river” is hitting Nevada County, with a really good drenching expected over a few days. Most of our precipitation in the foothills occurs from a few sporadic atmospheric river events each year, during which rain or snow fall heavily. So drought or wetness are largely luck of the draw. We’ve been unlucky for several years.

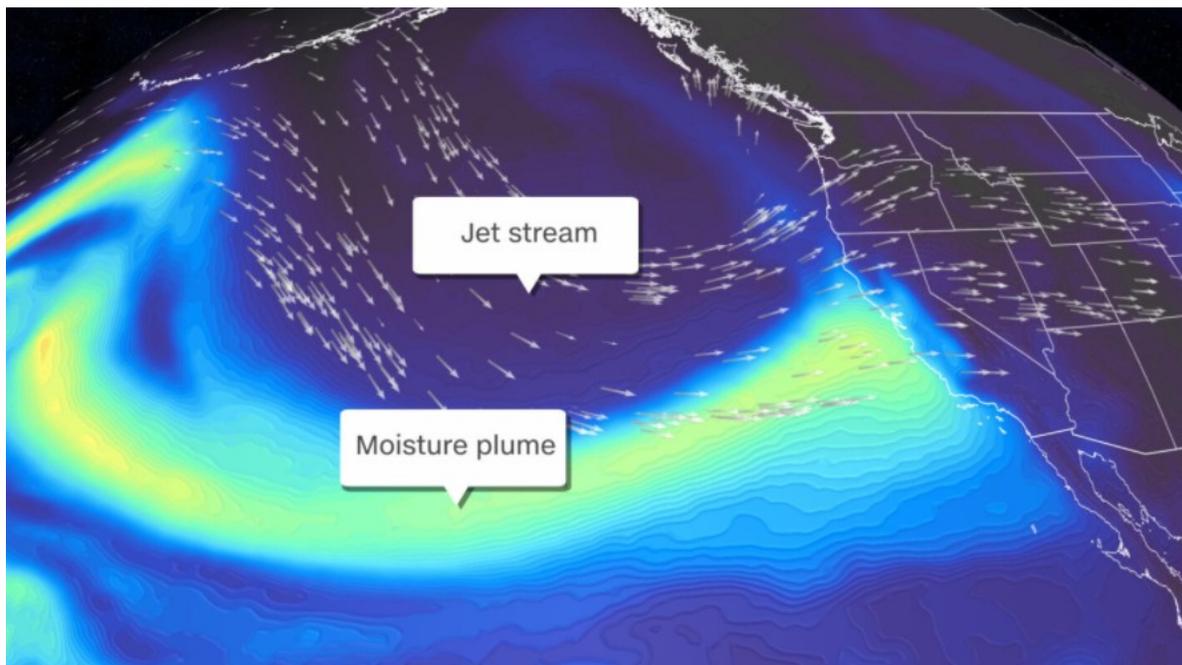
The Pacific Ocean is going into a cool La Niña condition. You can watch a nice video on La Niña at

https://youtu.be/fAvk4RXrW_E



La Niña is associated with less rainfall in southern California, but the above map suggests that we may luck out in the Sierra.

In this current storm, we are expecting a very strong level 5 atmospheric river:

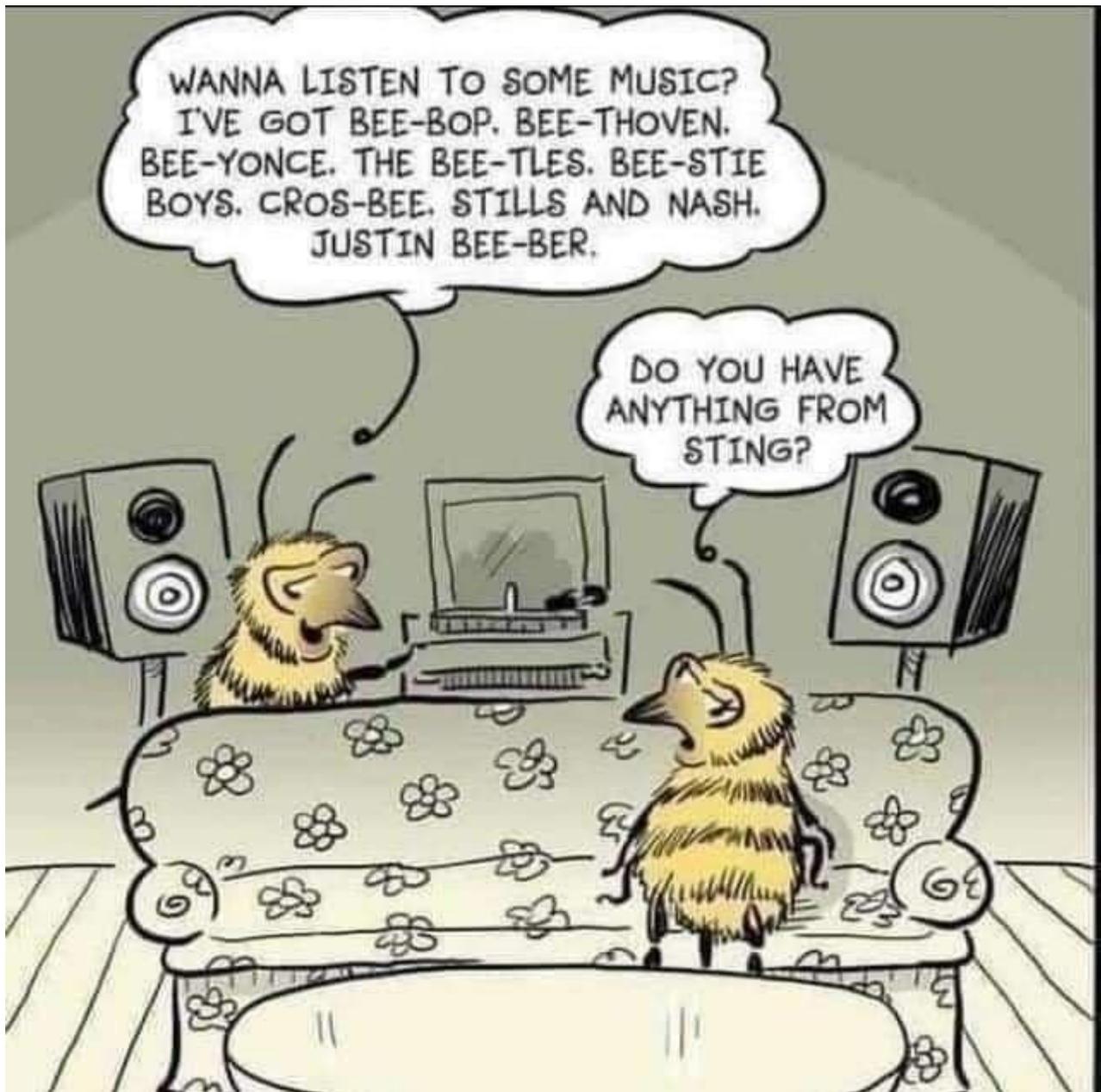


This storm will help to refill our reservoirs, but is unfortunately expected to be to intense to percolate into our groundwater aquifers. It will likely end the risk of wildfires in our area, but may cause serious flash floods or mudslides in areas recently burnt.

By the time this newsletter gets published, you'll be able to see in retrospect what actually occurred. We sure need the water, and hope for nature and luck to favor us with more precipitation this winter.

As far as your bees, make sure that all hive bottoms slope forward for drainage. So long as the weather is cold or rainy, there's not much you can do to help your colonies at this time of year. Our temperatures are not normally cold enough to call for hive insulation, but dry (Styrofoam) top insulation certainly helps colonies to thermoregulate during winter.

Happy beekeeping!
Randy Oliver



CLASSIFIEDS

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Sandy Honigsberg

Beekeeper California Master Beekeeper Program 



**Hive consultations One-on-one mentoring
Varroa testing/treatments
Grafting Swarm removal Honey tasting**

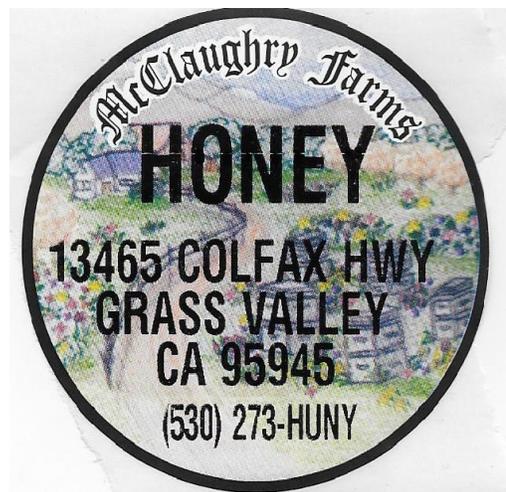
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Advertising rates are \$7 per year for NCBA members and \$16 per year for non-members.

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

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

Nevada County Beekeepers Association
www.nevadacountybeekeepers.org



c/o Janet Brisson
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First Class Mail

November 1st Meeting

History of Honey Bees in California,
presented by Ettamarie Peterson

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

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