

The Nevada County Beekeepers Association

Local Buzz



August 2011

President's Message

Well August is here, it's almost harvest time and time to treat for varroa mites. I hope everyone who wanted to entered honey in the fair got a chance to do so. Join us on August 7th for the fair booth clean up and potluck. There will be no meeting at the Veterans building this month, instead the aforementioned potluck will be a good time. The star thistle bloom has started in south Nevada county, which makes the best honey in my humble opinion.

Your President, Rob Slay

August 7th Meeting

Our August 7th meeting will our annual Bee Booth Clean Up and Barbeque Potluck, Sunday August 7, starting with the clean up at 4:00 PM and the barbeque following. (Please note that this means we are not meeting on the usual first Monday of the month in August) The club will be supplying the hamburgers and hot dogs and all the fixings plus dessert. Bring your favorite side dish to share, plus your own plates, cups, and utensils. Please let Karla Hanson at queenbeez@att.net or 265-3756 know how many of you will be coming so she can make sure that we have more than enough food to feed everyone.

Bee Bits

This has been a crazy season for beekeeping. There have been huge yard-to-yard variations in the honey crop. The lower elevation yards just didn't have enough time to build up after the rains to take full advantage of the bloom. Then hot weather hit, and dried up the nectar for several days.

When cooler weather returned, the flow resumed!

What I'm seeing is that, as expected, strong hives put on a lot of honey; weak hives may not have even been able to put on enough stores for winter. BTW, the honey this year tastes great!

I've just sent off my most recent article for ABJ—I've developed a really useful model that graphically demonstrates mite buildup in hives, and the effects of location, weather, mite resistance, splitting, and treatments. I'll demo it at a meeting soon!

Russian bee update: I'm liking the Russians more and more as an appropriate bee for Nevada County, and am expanding my number of Russian yards.

I also recently finished an early-summer test of the new formic acid product, Mite-Away Quick Strips (MAQS). This is an amazing product—easy to apply, and very effective. Plus it can be used even when honey supers are on! I'll put the full article up on my website after it comes out in ABJ in a month. Meanwhile, here is a photo from the article, demonstrating the amount of nectar shake on Hwy 174 on July 7.



Nevada County Fair Honey Competition

The Nevada County Fair runs Wednesday August 10 thru Sunday August 14th, with the theme “Gold! Rush to the Fair”. For those of you who have already submitted the application to enter your honey and hive products, the entries must be delivered to the Fair on Thursday August 4th between 11AM and 7 PM and judging will be Friday August 5th at 10 AM.

Fair Booth Sign-ups

Once again we will be staffing the Bee Booth at the Nevada County Fair August 10 thru the 14 of August. It’s time again to sign up for working. Please contact Karla Hanson at queenbeez@att.net for your time at the fair. Remember you get a free ticket and a free parking pass. First come first serve as far as dates go...

Karla will pass out all the Fair passes and parking tickets the day of the barbeque, August 7, so if you won’t be at the BBQ, please make other arrangements with Karla. To sign up, please respond to Karla directly at queenbeez@att.net.

Raffle HELP!!!

We always need more contributions to the raffle! We beekeepers are a creative bunch, and appreciate a wide variety of things; plants are always a great item to bring. Almost everyone loves having more plants. Do remember, for every item you bring, you will get a free ticket for the raffle. So look around the house and see what you can find for the next raffle.

Thanks, Karla

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July Minutes

No meeting was held in July so there are no minutes to report.

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. 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 September 2011 edition is August 23rd. 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

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Nevada County Beekeepers Association



c/o Steve Reynolds
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First Class Mail
August 2011

August 7th Meeting
Our August meeting will be held later than usual on August 7th. Join us for the fair booth clean up and a potluck starting at 4 PM at the bee booth at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. See inside for details.