

# The Nevada County Beekeepers Association

# Local Buzz



May 2011

## President's Message

Hope everyone had a great spring break. Bees are looking good this year, I've split 40 colonies into 158 nucs with more to follow. The bee year starts now so don't get left behind!

Your President, Rob Slay

## May 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

The program for the month will be John Miller speaking on honey production. Join us at Lin-Q Buffet in the Raley's shopping center in Grass Valley at 5:30 PM for a no-host supper.

## Bee Bits

By Randy Oliver

Swarming season is upon us! The heavy Manzanita flow and copious pollen have led to large colony populations and crowded boxes. The bees respond by swarming. Some of my yards are issuing several swarms a day, despite our efforts to split them in advance!

You can help to alleviate the swarm impulse by either giving your hives more empty comb in the broodnest, or by splitting them.

It looks like it could be a good year for honey production, so if you can keep your colonies from swarming, you could make a good crop!

For everyone's information, I am getting out of the "business" of selling equipment, now that Dan Wheat at A to Z Supply has agreed to stock beekeeping equipment locally. The sales were never profitable for me, and I only did it as a public service. I do have a few closeout items left—zipper suits, hive tools, smokers, but they are going fast. I encourage everyone to support A to Z so that Dan will continue to maintain

a local beekeeping supply. Please let him know of any items that you feel that he should carry.

The weather has not been cooperating for queen mating, so nucs are running a little late this season—please be patient.

Good news! I have finally found someone to maintain my website [ScientificBeekeeping.com](http://ScientificBeekeeping.com). The new site is up (with glitches) and contains about 15 new articles, including my Sick Bees series. I hope to soon have additional summary information on each topic.

Randy Oliver  
Grass Valley, CA  
[ScientificBeekeeping.com](http://ScientificBeekeeping.com)

## *From the Librarian...*

By Tynowyn Slattery

The library contains 5 small pamphlets: "Bee Venom Research", "Apium Virus Monographs", "Basic Bee Venom in Products", "Bee Acupuncture and Bee Sting Therapy", and "Bee Venom Therapy- Supplies and Books" authored by Mihaly Simics of Apitronic Services, British Columbia, Canada which advertises itself as the major continuous supplier of quality honey bee venom in North America and a major source for bee venom therapy materials such as: (1) hard to find books on treatment and the therapy protocols (allergy test, dose calculation, injection technique, nutritional guidelines, etc) for using bee venom to treat Lyme Disease, MS, Arthritis, Rheumatism and even canine and equine ailments and (2) the venom itself, in injectable solutions and, more pertinent to our use (since the venom can only be purchased with a physicians prescription) are three ointments for general purchase which serve as analgesics and claim to relieve bacterial, viral and fungal infections which makes one wonder why there hasn't been a lot more research and

development here in the US, but, oh yes, no patent = no big money for research.

Apitronics is also a major, if not the major, supplier of venom collector devices which consist of frames with electrical wiring that stimulate the bees to "sting" an attached rubber membrane which does not harm the bees. The beginner, expandable, kit is available for only a bit less than a small electric honey extractor which, unfortunately, puts it out of the range of most "just for home" users, but is a small investment for some enterprising beekeeper to make value added hive products, creams, lotions and ointments from Apis venom.

Of course, there is much, much more to learn about all this, after all, venom is a toxic substance and, once again we're climbing the, seemingly forever, learning curve, but the potential health benefits to the community and demand in the local market and possibility of buyers from drug companies, laboratories, research institutes, compounding pharmacies, etc., seem like enough reasons for someone to give this material some serious thought. Wouldn't it be great to be able to get a product like this from someone in the association?

Disclaimer...I'm not getting any kick back from Apitronics, in fact, Mr.Simics includes a very extensive list of web sites for Apitherapy Societies and other sources of products, I'm just very impressed by his willingness to make his devices, materials and information available to everyone.

## For Sale: Country Rubes Combo Screened Bottom Boards

Special NCBA Club Price! Call Janet for details. 530-913-2724 or email at [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

## Honey Donations Requested

NCBA member Tom Harper is requesting donations of jars of local honey to make a door prize for a lecture on native pollinators, presented by the Placer Nature Center. Dan Hart & Tom look after their observation hive.

The topic is "A Solitary Life: Our Native Bees." By speaker Dr. Robbin Thorp, UCD professor emeritus of entomology. The lecture is Friday, May 6 at 7PM at the Old State Theater in Auburn.

Doors open at 7 PM with complimentary locally grown goodies from Foothill Farmer's Market growers. Presentation starts at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$12 (\$9 students).

And here's a link to the web page for the event: <http://www.placernaturecenter.org/lectures/2010-2011/robbinthorp-nativecaliforniabees.html>

If club members would like to donate a small bear or jar of honey, please bring it to our May 2 meeting, Tom will collect them and convey to the Nature Center in time for the May 6 lecture.

Thanks,  
Tom

**A to Z Supply**

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## Need a Mentor?

If you're an NCBA member and are looking for a mentor, please call the person closest to you to arrange a meeting:

- Stephanie Hughes  
Grass Valley

(530) 320-5297  
 - Karla Hanson  
 Nevada City  
 (530) 265-3756  
 - Leslie Gault  
 Chicago Park  
 (530) 346-7092  
 - Hugh Cavallaro  
 Rattlesnake Rd.  
 (530) 272-7550  
 - Jeremiah Farrell  
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## April 4<sup>th</sup> Minutes

Vice-pres Jeremiah Farrell opened with Q&A. August is the critical time to monitor and treat for Varroa, or the winter brood may fail. Karla Hansen's swarm roster is at <ncbees.org> but Jeremiah warns us to question the species of insects and the height and terrain before investing time and gasoline on a wild-wasp chase. A swarm in a tree may be shaken into a carton or couple of frames raised on a pole. A swarm on the ground probably has no queen. Remove captured swarm at dusk. Smoke will disperse leftovers. With a virgin queen, egg laying will be in 10-

12 days. Starting with a queen cell may take longer. Full brood cycle is 21 days, 24 days for drones. A to Z supply on Ridge Road has a full line of bee supplies 273-6608. Janet Brisson 913-2724 has screened bottom boards, slightly blemished, for sale. FINANCE Janet Brisson MarchBeginBal \$3520.80; Inc\$432; Exp\$87.72; MarchEndBal \$3865.08. PROGRAM Randy Oliver Monday night classes will be at Peaceful Valley Farm Supply. Randy will provide suits and veils for weekend field sessions. Jack Meeks, sec

## Honey Glazed Ham

Recipe from the National Honey Board Website



Makes 4 servings

- 2 (8 oz. each) ham steaks, cooked
- 1/4 cup honey
- 3 Tablespoons water
- 1-1/2 teaspoons dry mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
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Pan-fry or broil ham steaks until lightly browned and thoroughly heated. Remove ham from skillet or broiler pan. Combine honey, water, spices; add to pan drippings and bring to a boil. Simmer 1 to 2 minutes. Brush over ham and serve with remaining sauce.

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](mailto:lesliegault@yahoo.com). The deadline for the June 2011 edition is May 25<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:lesliegault@yahoo.com)

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**Newsletter:**      Leslie Gault..... 346-7092  
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**Honey Extractor:**      Karla Hanson..... 265-3756

**Nevada County Beekeepers Association**



c/o Steve Reynolds  
PO Box 548  
Chicago Park, CA 95712  
First Class Mail  
May 2011

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> Program**

John Miller of Miller's Honey Farms will be speaking on 'honey production', 7 PM Grass Valley Veteran's Hall. No host dinner at Lin-Q Buffet at 5:30 PM.