

The Local Buzz

March 2016



President's Message, Jerry Van Heeringen

After such a cold rainy start to the winter February has been good to us beekeepers. I did have some losses and I understand others have as well. Early in the month I watched my bees returning to the colonies loaded with pollen and now I'm seeing the white blooms on "wild plum" trees all over so nectar should be abundant as well. Water is everywhere for them and the foreseeable forecast shows mild weather so they have everything they need for strong growth in this late winter. My apricot and pluot trees are also in full bloom and some of my early peaches are starting to bud out. I'm sure many of you are seeing the same thing. Pollination has of course not been a problem so if we can make it to spring without a hard freeze we may all have a nice harvest this year.

Diane and I will be traveling for a few weeks so our Vice President Dave Pfadt will be standing in for me at the March meeting.

March 7th Meeting – 7:00 PM

Grass Valley Veteran's Memorial Building – 255 South Auburn Street in Grass Valley

This Month we welcome return guest speaker John Miller. John has an extensive background in commercial beekeeping with a great understanding of keeping bees on a large commercial scale. We look forward to John sharing some of the current challenges and considerations of today's commercial beekeeping and beekeeping from 36,000 feet.

Dinner Before the Meeting – 5:30 PM

This month's dinner will be at 5:30pm at Maria's Mexican Restaurant prior to the meeting.

Located at 226 E Main St, Grass Valley, CA 95945

It is open to all club members and we look forward to seeing anyone who can make it.

If you plan on attending, please RSVP to beevp@pmail.name by Sunday March 6th

Bee Bits

Randy Oliver, Contributor

What happened to El Niño? He was off to a good start, and then petered out. Unless we get heavy spring rain, we're in for more drought.

Spring is coming on fast and hard. The almonds "flash bloomed" extremely quickly. Here in the foothills the late-winter bloom is full on, with decent moisture in the soil.

The supply of bees for sale looks to be short this season, due to widespread colony losses by some producers. We will be unable to fulfill all requests for nucs, as will Brion. We are also looking for regular part-time help this spring, if anyone knows of anyone eager, hard-working, willing to do a lot of lifting, and being immersed in bee work for a month.

As far as management, make sure your hives have room for incoming manzanita nectar. Prepare for early swarming (we'll soon have queen cells available for purchase). And get on varroa early this season.

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!

Traveling to Cuba

Jerry Van Heeringen

From July 17th to 22nd. 2016

A GOOD TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

You are invited to attend the 6th Cuban Congress on Apiculture in Havana, July 17 – 22, 2016.

Here is a wonderful chance to visit Havana and meet people involved in Apiculture from around the world. For more information follow the link below.

<http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=1529e2e798495b414603bfff&id=6d4f918d94&e=c1fb35be9b>



Minutes from Last Meeting

Pres Jerry Van Heeringen opened with Q&A. Brion Dunbar and Don Freeman will conduct a hot wax dipping for coating and preservation of hive bodies. Norm Wallace 530-392-2381 will seed your pasture for bee friendly forage with his 6ft wide 12 row no-till tractor drill.

Guest speaker in March will be John Miller. Monday July 4 meeting will be Wednesday July 6 instead. Some almond pollination contracts are now in the \$200/hive range. The small hive beetle is now continent wide.

Finance Janet Brisson: JanStart \$5897.52; Inc \$582.96; Exp \$88.54; JanEndBal \$6391.94.

PROGRAM: Bernardo Nino of E.L.Nino Bee Labs, UC Davis entomology <EINinoBeeLab@gmail.com> described research by Elena Nino testing synergistic mixtures of Amitraz miticide, Sivanto new agricultural insecticide, and others, on Queen bees. Queens, virgin, lightly, and heavily impregnated were not notably affected. More research is planned.

From the Librarian

Tynowyn Slattery

Library books are checked out for 1 month, if you want to extend it for a second month just call or e-mail.

Remember...If you can't make meetings to return books, you can always mail them to:

Tynowyn Slattery 20493 Rome Road Nevada City, CA 95959 swoolman@saber.net 530-265-6318

Hot Dip Bee Woodware

By Don Freeman

I'm working with Brion Dunbar to organize an opportunity to hot dip bee woodware. In this process your bee equipment will be submerged in a tank of boiling paraffin a gum resin. This weather treatment is superior to painting. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNdRRNfbN7o>

If you are interested in this treatment, contact me at 925-787-0763.

There will be a fee to be determined. We are looking at a date sometime in March.

Thank you, and thank you to Brion for making his equipment available to us.

Woodware is preferably dipped before stapling together.

NCBA Club Membership

Janet Brisson, Treasurer

Please continue to be a valuable member of the Nevada County Beekeeper's Association.

2016 Dues are \$20/yr. (print newsletter) or \$15/yr. (email newsletter)

Make checks out to NCBA or Nevada County Beekeepers Association

You can pay dues at the March meeting or mail dues to:

NCBA C/o Janet Brisson

20693 Dog Bar Road Grass Valley, CA 95949

Any questions, please feel free to call me at 530-913-2724 or email me at rubes@countryrubes.com

For March, if your mailing label says "Dues R Due!" or your email says "Dues R Due!", you are not current. Please update your membership or join today. April is the final issue without a current membership.

NCBA Swarm Line

By Janet Brisson

The NCBA Swarm Line is in the process of being updated for 2016. If you want to be on the list as someone who can retrieve a bee swarm then send the following to Lynn Williams at iamlynn@hughes.net

Your Name:

Phone Number(s):

Areas Worked:

Beginning Beekeeping Class

- March 19th with Gary

All classes are held at the Horseman's Lodge, located at 10600 Bubbling Wells Rd.

Times are 8:30 am to 4 pm

Cost is \$40.00 and includes lunch

Class sponsored by A To Z Supply. Contact them to reserve a spot at 530.273.6608.

Nevada County Ag Department

The county is no longer mailing out the apiary registration form.

Get it here: <http://ow.ly/Xn5IU>

Registration is free for hobbyists and is a good idea so as to be notified of any pesticide application in your area.

Small Hive Beetles and Pollen Patties

By Janet Brisson

There are reports of Small Hive Beetles in California. We found several in our hives and don't think they have over-wintered, but will know for sure soon. Check your pollen patties as soon as you get them. There have been reports of Small Hive Beetles in pollen patties from beekeeping stores. Small Hive Beetles love pollen patties and many beekeepers have opted to go the dry protein powder in a pail (laid on their sides) to avoid attracting these nasty little insects. I was told, you cannot store your supply of patties, even in a sealed box in your garage, Small Hive Beetles will find them.

Once you get your supply of patties and check them out, store in a cool place like your refrigerator.

All You Ever Wanted to Know About...

By Karla Hanson

Mark your calendars for July 6th 2016! Barbara Dwyer, the judge who judged our pathetic honey display at the 2015 Nevada County Fair is coming to give a demonstration on "All You Ever Wanted to Know About Entering Your Honey at the Nevada County Fair". She will be coming on July 6 at 7:00 PM which is a Wednesday. This is a NEW day and time for all of us. We will not be meeting on that Monday because that Monday is July 4! So be sure to mark your calendars...

My understanding is that there are lots of people who are puzzled by the honey entries form at the fair. She will answer all your questions. So bring them ALL!!!!!! Here is your chance to get them answered by the judge who has been judging our display for many years.

Bee Yard Help Wanted

By Brion Dunbar

Need strong young person occasionally for help in bee yards.
No experience necessary. Call Brion 559-1422.

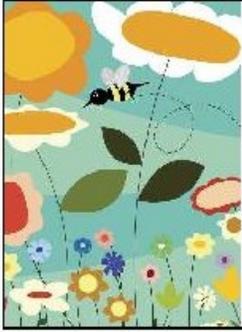
Need strong young person occasionally for help in bee yards. No experience necessary. Brion 559-1422.

Insect Hotel

Provide a home to pollinators and pest controllers. Tidy gardens, lawns and lack of dead wood, mean less and less habitat for wild bees, spiders and ladybugs. - See more at: <http://www.inspirationgreen.com/insect-habitats>



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www.CountryRubes.com

Special NCBA Club Price! Call Janet for details.
530-913-2724 or rubes@countryrubes.com

Honey Extraction House

A to Z Supply has a honey extraction house available for rent. Equipment is provided and the room is heated and there's lots of hot water for cleanup. For more information: 530.273.6608

Dadant Little Wonder Honey Extractor with stand.

Hand extracts 4 deep or shallow frames per load. Used twice. Excellent condition. \$380 for both.
274-1098 Kathleen

Advertising space (3" by 2") is available here and need not be bee-related. Advertising rates are \$7 per year for NCBA members and \$16 per year for non-members.

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, queenbeez@att.net

A to Z Supply

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530-273-6608/274-3871



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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. 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.

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

Officers

President – Jerry Van Heeringen	913-5709
jerryvan29@gmail.com	
Vice President – Dave Pfadt	
Secretary – Jack Meeks	432-4429
jackvmeeks@gmail.com	
Treasurer – Janet Brisson	913-2724
rubes@countryrubes.com	

Board Members

Leslie Gault	346-7092
Randy Oliver	277-4450
Karla Hanson	265-3756
Deborah Morawski	675-2924
Brion Dunbar	

Committee Chairs

Swarm Hotline -	
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Lynn Williams	675-2924
Librarian – Tynowyn Slattery	265-6318
Membership – Janet Brisson	913-2724
rubes@countryrubes.com	
Newsletter Mailing – Steve Reynolds	268-2133
Newsletter Editor – Gary Gustafson	478-1216
garyg@newpress.com	

Nevada County Beekeepers Association



c/o Janet Brisson
20693 Dog Bar Road
Grass Valley, CA 95949
First Class Mail

March 7th Meeting – 7pm
Dinner 5:30pm

Program:
“today’s commercial beekeeping”
presented by John Miller