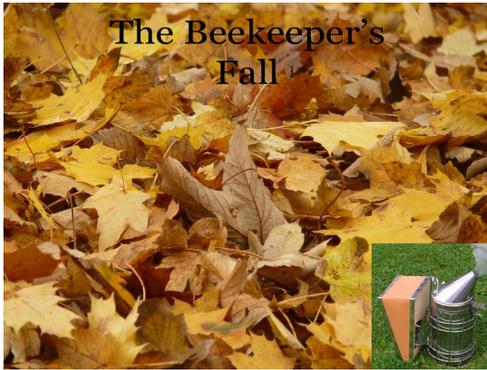


The Local Buzz

October 2017



President's Message, Jerry Van Heeringen



The Beekeeper's
Fall

My work as a General Contractor has brought me to Truckee again. I've been working up here for several weeks and with the mild temperatures it's been a welcome respite from the very warm days in the lower elevations. Until last week I was quite comfortable in shorts and a tee shirt but this week it all changed. Suddenly the mornings were in the 30's and daytime highs in the mid 50's. Then on this last full day of summer we had snow. The morning started out cold as usual but the clouds thickened, rain started and the temperature dropped. Soon the rain turned to snow and built up a couple of inches on the deck where I'm staying. Not a blizzard but not bad for the last day of summer. While we don't expect such extreme

weather this early in the season in our area it's a reminder of how quickly the weather can change. This time of year we need to monitor the weight of our colonies and feed if needed. It is critical that our bees go into winter with adequate stores to see them through the cold months. If you are at all uncertain what to look for or how to feed please ask at the next meeting. We want our colonies to stay strong and healthy through the winter.

As we typically hold elections for officers in November we will begin accepting nominations at the upcoming October meeting. If you are interested in a position don't be shy. Either speak up yourself or ask someone near you for a nomination. We're always excited to have more people get involved.

October 2nd Meeting – 7:00 PM

Amina Harris, director of the UC Davis Honey and Pollination Center will be speaking to us about honey tasting and the diversity of honey flavors and sources found in California and beyond. It's going to be a fun and informative night!

Dinner Before the Meeting

Please join us for a dinner at 5:30pm before our regular meeting. Amina will join us at Maria's in Grass Valley.

Bee Bits

Randy Oliver, Contributor

Wow, what wild weather—we went from scorching summer to cool autumn weather overnight! But the weatherman says that summer weather isn't over yet. If you haven't got your mite levels down yet, you're really pushing it—it takes a while for the colony to clear a mite-induced virus epidemic and the winter bees must be virus free for the colony to survive 'til spring.

We're stimulating brood rearing in our hives by feeding pollen sub and a bit of syrup. This works like magic to create winter-ready, healthy colonies.

Regarding our breeding program for mite resistance, it's looking promising. I'm now in the middle of my third round of mite washes. It looks like we'll have several dozen colonies going into winter that have kept mites to minimal levels all season long, without any treatments whatsoever. From those, I'll pick the best to be breeders next spring. I'm not about to make any claims, but it's pretty exciting to see this many colonies that control mites on their own!

This winter there will be two major beekeeping conferences close by—the California State Beekeepers on November 14-16 at Harrah's Lake Tahoe, and the American Beekeeping Association conference January 9-13 at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno. Register soon for discounts. These are two of the largest conferences in the U.S., with big trade shows, and generally good speakers and exhibits.

Minutes from Last Meeting

From Jack Meeks, Secretary

Pres Jerry Van Heeringen opened with Q&A

Leslie Gault demonstrated ant controls to protect hives. Laundry Borax, sugar and water solution in a plastic clamshell with ant-size holes drilled above the liquid level keeps bees out and attracts ants. The borax poisons the ants and low cost traps can be left in place all season.

Janet Brisson uses powdered sugar dusted on frames to stick to varroa mites' feet so they can't get a grip on bees and fall to the hive's bottom board. The bottom board is coated with Vaseline to capture them. Scraping the bottom board into a pail of water dissolves any sugar and the mites float on the top. Then taking a photo, which can be enlarged, allows for an easy mite count. Janet has several bottom board hive stands of previous design, for sale at a discount.

After the spring honey flow, hives raid each others' stores, and a colony without enough guards to protect the entrance can be robbed out of honey. A wire mesh screen around the entrance extending three or four inches above the entrance keeps robbers outside, while the home bees, having to fly over the top of the screen to get out, remember to fly back over the top.

To avoid wasted honey and uncap unevenly filled frames, a roller with plastic teeth will open the cells for extraction, much easier than uncapping with a hot knife. Available from Amazon.

Finance J Brisson: July Begin \$5429.02; Income \$66; Expense \$19.90; July End \$5475.12

In The Yard

by Brion Dunbar

Retirement happens

In 2011 I had 2 colonies, and decided to make a push to build a beekeeping business. I had 30 colonies at the end of 2011, and built it up to 500 this year. It has been a great thing for me, and now that I turned 60 its time to give my back a rest.

I would love to sell the business to someone who is interested. If I can't find the right person I will sell my bees off in the springtime, along with the various accessories. It is a lot of work at certain times of the year, not so much at others(I am going on a 4 day camping trip today!). I would be willing to mentor someone over a years period of time. It is actually fairly profitable- I am happy to discuss if anyone is interested.

DIY Clingwrap with Beeswax

Submitted by Karla Hanson

These are the greatest!!!

These are wax covered materials for storing food and sandwiches without using plastic. So unbelievably easy to make.

Go to this link to see the complete guide.

<http://sophieuliano.com/diy-beeswax-wraps/>



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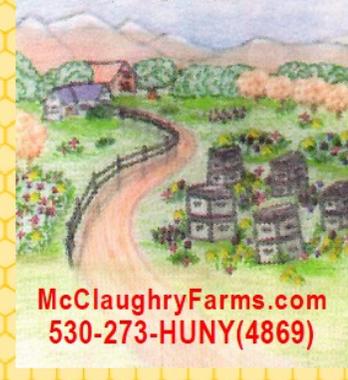
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Advertising rates are \$7 per year for NCBA members and \$16 per year for non-members.



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

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Visit Us at:
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Nevada County Beekeepers Association



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First Class Mail

October 2nd Meeting

Amina Harris speaks on honey flavors and sources found in California