

The Local Buzz

August 2018



President's Message, Jerry Van Heeringen



I got an email today from someone who had 50 colonies of bees set on a vacant 10 acre parcel next door to them with no water source. The bees have invaded their Koi pond and must be scooped out by the handful. They've all been stung and can't use their back yard. While we may not all have 50 colonies we still need to keep fresh water available to the colonies we do have. Nobody welcomes bees from their neighbor when they invade ponds, spas, pools or dog bowls. This email served as a good reminder to me. If my bees cause a nuisance to my neighbors it can reflect poorly on all beekeepers.

Hot, hot, hot, what a summer it's been. I don't remember the last time we had this many days with the temperature getting over 90°. This weather does however tell us August must be near and that means the Nevada County Fair which of course means we hold our annual fair booth cleanup and barbecue. Instead of our regular meeting date/time we will meet at the fair booth

Sunday August 5th. The cleanup starts at 5pm and the barbecue at 6pm. NCBA will provide hot dogs and hamburgers, please bring a side dish if you're going to attend.

August 5th Meeting – **5:00 PM SUNDAY** Annual Clean and BBQ

There is no regular meeting this month. Instead we will meet at the NCBA fair booth for our annual Clean Up and Bar-B-Que on Sunday August 5th!. Clean up of the bee booth will start at 5:00PM followed at 6:00PM with the annual Potluck Bar-B-Que.

Bring your favorite dish to share. The club will supply the hamburgers, gourmet hot dogs, veggie burgers, paper plates and plastic ware and ALL the fixings! The free fair tickets will be handed out at this time.

The Bar-B-Que is ALWAYS delicious so come one come ALL! It's a great way to really get to know your fellow bee keepers!

Bee Bits

Submitted by Randy Oliver

Welcome to the new normal as we warm our planet. Our bees are struggling with the heat by foraging madly for water—I can shake water from the combs. I've been using an infrared thermometer to measure temperatures. Today at noon the ground temperature (dry grass) was 120°F; the tops of the wooden hive covers ran from 145-160°F. It helps your bees if you give the top of the hive some shade.

Yellow star thistle is in bloom, along with some ornamentals. Some colonies are still making honey. Our prime concern now is mites—control varroa in August, so that your colony can rear healthy bees in fall.

Happy beekeeping!

From our Australian guests at the July Meeting

Submitted by Jerry Van Heeringen

Hi Guys, just wanted to say a big thank you to your club and its members for welcoming Emma and myself to your July meeting. The topic of Late Summer varroa management was of particular interest as we had only just had our first confirmed Varroa incursion into Australia the week before i arrived in the US (luckily it looks like we contained it before it spread) and normally our talk is of ways to prevent it entering the country rather than available treatment options should we eventually get it here.

As Emma still have family in Nevada county we will be back many times and hope to catch up with you all again, i would also like to extend an offer to anyone visiting Victoria, Australia that if they wish to attend a Ballarat Bee Keepers Club meeting feel free to contact me (elmsshort@gmail.com) and i can pass on details. Kind regards, David & Emma

From the Yard

Submitted by Brion Dunbar

I went thru my colonies today and was pretty impressed with the surplus the girls had built up: I averaged almost one deep of honey per colony, best overall average I've had to date. Mite counts were all less than 2% via alcohol wash. I did not see any incoming nectar at my two yards, though a friends colonies were still shaking nectar today at about 4000 feet. Of course- the year I get out of the business is the best nectar flow in quite a while.

We put in a small (4' x 10') pond on our property this year, our third. Each large colony needs a liter of water per day to cool themselves on these hot days, so the ponds are heavily utilized by our bees. But they are also visited by wasps and native bees and frogs and insects of all types and of course birds.



It is fun to watch the bees collecting water right next to the wasps. The wasps are able to land fully on the water to drink, something the bees have not figured out yet. I highly recommend a pond if you don't already have one- it will bring many hours of enjoyment to you and your critters. This morning we saw a dragonfly nymph in one of the ponds. I'm happy to share my experience on pond installations with anyone considering it.



Minutes ~ last meeting

Submitted by Jack Meeks

Finance Report by Janet Brisson

May 1 \$5431.14; Inc \$500.36; Exp \$149.50; End \$5792.00

June 1 \$5792.00; Inc \$308.05; Exp \$ 90.50; End \$6009.46

PROGRAM

Amy Husted and Janet Brisson presented photos and diagrams of varroa mite control.

Integrated Pest Management – Apiguard with thymol and Mite-Away with formic acid. Members discussed their use and results they found. Wide variations were reported with different methods of counting fallen mites and applying products, which vaporize differently depending on temperature.

Mite control is most important in mid-August, when mite population is highest, and may decimate the winter bees, which the queen starts producing in late summer. Oxalic acid can also be applied in autumn, and repeated in midwinter. Powdered, sifted sugar dislodges mites from phoric (mobile) mites, which can be counted as they fall through a screen onto a sticky sheet. A cup of sugar twice a week for three weeks should contact a life cycle of mites on the hive bees, as long as more than a few mites are observed. Once a month is enough in winter

Fair Schedule

We have one empty slot in our Booth shifts. Friday the 10th of August – from 9:30 to 2:00

If you can fill this slot please contact Karla at QUEENBEEZ@ATT.NET

Nevada County Beekeepers Association					
Fair Booth Staffing Schedule					
August 8th thru August 12th 2017					
Time Slot	Wednesday August	Thursday August	Friday August	Saturday August	Sunday August
9:30 AM to 2 PM	1 Debbie Cavallaro 272-7550	Karla Hanson 265-3756	Amy Husted 613-7171	Mark Kerns 916 410-9906	Tom Harper 823-9096
	2 Hugh Cavallaro 272-7550	Terri McConnell 432-7556		Christa Kerns 916 410-9906	Phyllis Harper 823-9096
2 PM to 6 PM	1 Norm Wallace 530 885-8626	Ken Mann 273-4689	Leslie Gault 346-7092	Grant Lineham 831 840-4136	Tynwyn Slatery 265-6318
	2 Dan Wheat 273-6608	Frazer Jeffery 913- 9021	Jimmy Green 346-7092	Windy Stopnintzky 831 331-8890	Tom Slatery 265-6318
6 PM to 10 PM	1 Toni Smith 448-3777	Alison Anderson 798-8222	Rob Slay 268-8656	Randy Oliver 277-4451	Pete Bailey 916 206-9317
	2 Paul Smith 448-3777	Lauren Van Dyke 978 390-0110	Eric Oliver 277-5004	Sandy Honigsberg 263-2029	Emily Bailey 916 206-9317
	Eldon Cyrus 263-9130	Back up	Spencer Wingfield 530 300-3217	Back up	

Neonics: From Bees to Birds

From American Bee Journal



Health impacts of neonicotinoids may go well beyond bees, according to a new University of Guelph [study](#). Turns out that wild turkeys can end up with neonics in their livers, providing evidence that this common agrochemical is being ingested by free-ranging animals. The researchers from the Ontario Veterinary College are among the first to study the broader effects of neonics on wildlife. Published in Environmental Science and Pollution Research, the study showed that nearly 10 of the 40 wild turkey carcasses tested had detectable levels of neonicotinoids in their livers.

<https://mailchi.mp/americanbeejournal/june-22-2018-neonics-from-bees-to-birds>

Scientists Find Evidence of 27 New Viruses in Bees

From American Bee Journal



“The scientists developed a novel high-throughput sequencing technique that efficiently detected in bees both previously identified and 27 never-seen-before viruses belonging to at least six new families in a single experiment.”

Credit: Jeff Kerby, National Geographic

We’ve all heard of Deformed Wing Virus and most of you can probably list another 3 or 4 honey bee viruses. But what other viruses still lurk undiscovered? An international team of researchers uncovered evidence of 27 previously unknown viruses in bees. The finding could help scientists design strategies to prevent the spread of viral pathogens among these important pollinators.

"Populations of bees around the world are declining, and viruses are known to contribute to these declines," said David Galbraith, research scientist at Bristol Myers Squibb and a recent Penn State graduate. "Despite the importance of bees as pollinators of flowering plants in agricultural and natural landscapes and the importance of viruses to bee health, our understanding of bee viruses is surprisingly limited."

<https://mailchi.mp/americanbeejournal/june-21-2018-scientists-find-evidence-of-27-new-viruses-in-bees>

Fun Facts

- The honey bee is the only insect that produces food eaten by man.
- A honey bee can fly for up to six miles, and as fast as 15 miles per hour when gathering honey
- A honey bee would have to fly around 90,000 miles, 3x times around the earth, to make 1 lb. of honey.
- It takes one ounce of honey to fuel a bee’s flight around the world.
- The average honey bee will actually make only one twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.
- Honey bees must consume about 17-20 pounds of honey to be able to produce each pound of beeswax.

CLASSIFIEDS

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.
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Amy Hustead, Bear River Bees
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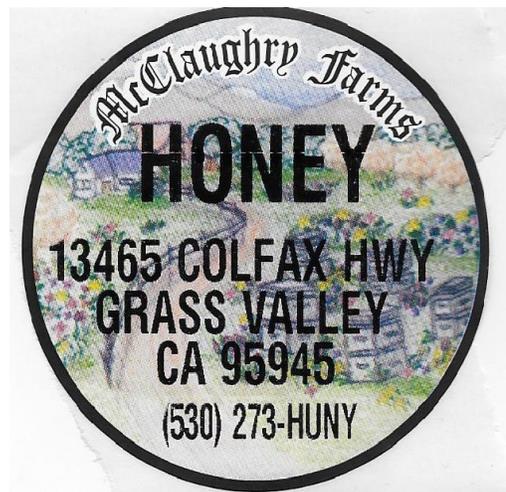
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**YOUR AD
HERE**

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.

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

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

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All area codes are 530 unless noted otherwise.



c/o Janet Brisson
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First Class Mail

August 5th Meeting 5:00PM

Fair Booth clean up and BBQ

SUNDAY 5PM