

## The Nevada County Beekeepers Association ~ December 2012



# Local Buzz

## President's Message

**Rob Slay, President**

Well its another bee year in the books. Another year of learning. Please join us for our annual Christmas potluck dinner and take a peak at the bee quilt my lovely wife made for the club to raffle off.

## December 3rd Meeting - 6:00 PM **\*\*ONE HOUR EARLIER\*\***

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

This meeting will be our Holiday Potluck and Pirate Gift Exchange and will start at 6 PM at the Grass Valley Veteran's Hall. Thanks to Debbie and Karla, who will cook the main course items provided by the Association. Last names beginning with A-M please bring a side dish to share; N-Z please bring a dessert to share. Please bring serving spoons, knife etc. to serve your item, and bring your own place settings and drinks.

Per Veteran's Hall policy candles cannot be lit. We have a creative place setting contest but no lighted flame candles are allowed. After dinner we will have a pirate gift exchange.

Please keep your gift at a \$15.00 value. Once again, Deborah Morawski will be overseeing the gift exchange and have numbers ready for people to pick. Each person that brings a gift will get a number and participate in the fun. Ho-Ho-Ho! See you there!

## Bee Bits

**Randy Oliver, Contributor**

Winter has finally arrived in Nevada County. Bees are now in cluster, and I'm seeing more queen shutdown than in recent years. Back in the 1980's, nearly all the queens shut down in November—this no longer is the case, presumably due to climate change. As I type these words, this got me curious. So I searched out actual Sierra region climate data (<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu>). \*See first chart.

Sure enough, we had cold autumn temperatures in the 1980's; autumns are warmer these days. This could account for the colonies continuing broodrearing into winter.

Then I was curious as to why my yards no longer support as many colonies as they used to. So I checked on our annual rainfall. \*See the second chart.

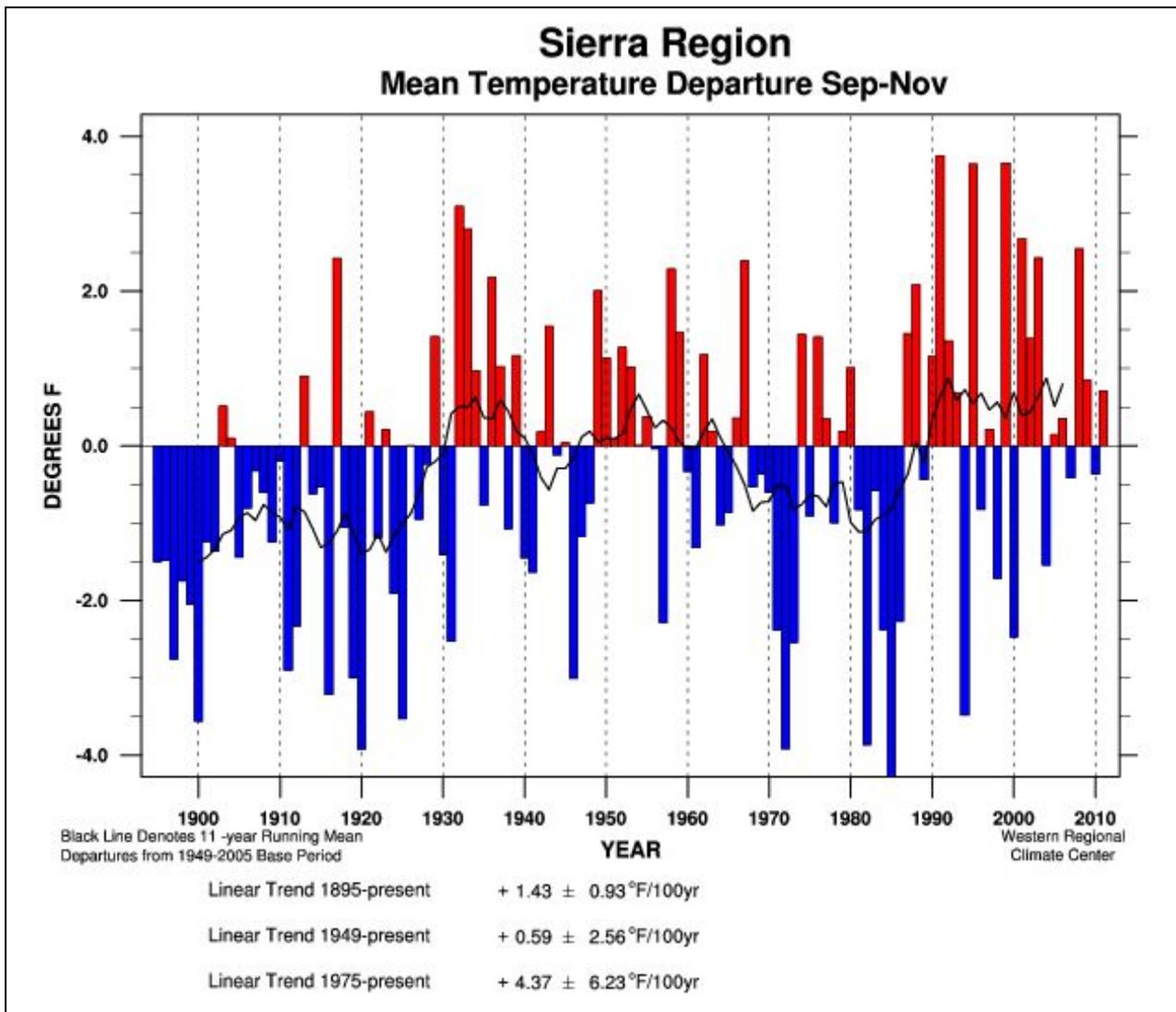
Rainfall hasn't changed much over the years. My suspicion is that the changes that I see have mostly to do with varroa. Colonies in Nevada County used to survive the summer fine until varroa arrived, at which point I could no longer keep them alive unless I either moved them to better pasture or artificially fed them. The critical factor appears to be the maintenance of broodrearing during late summer.

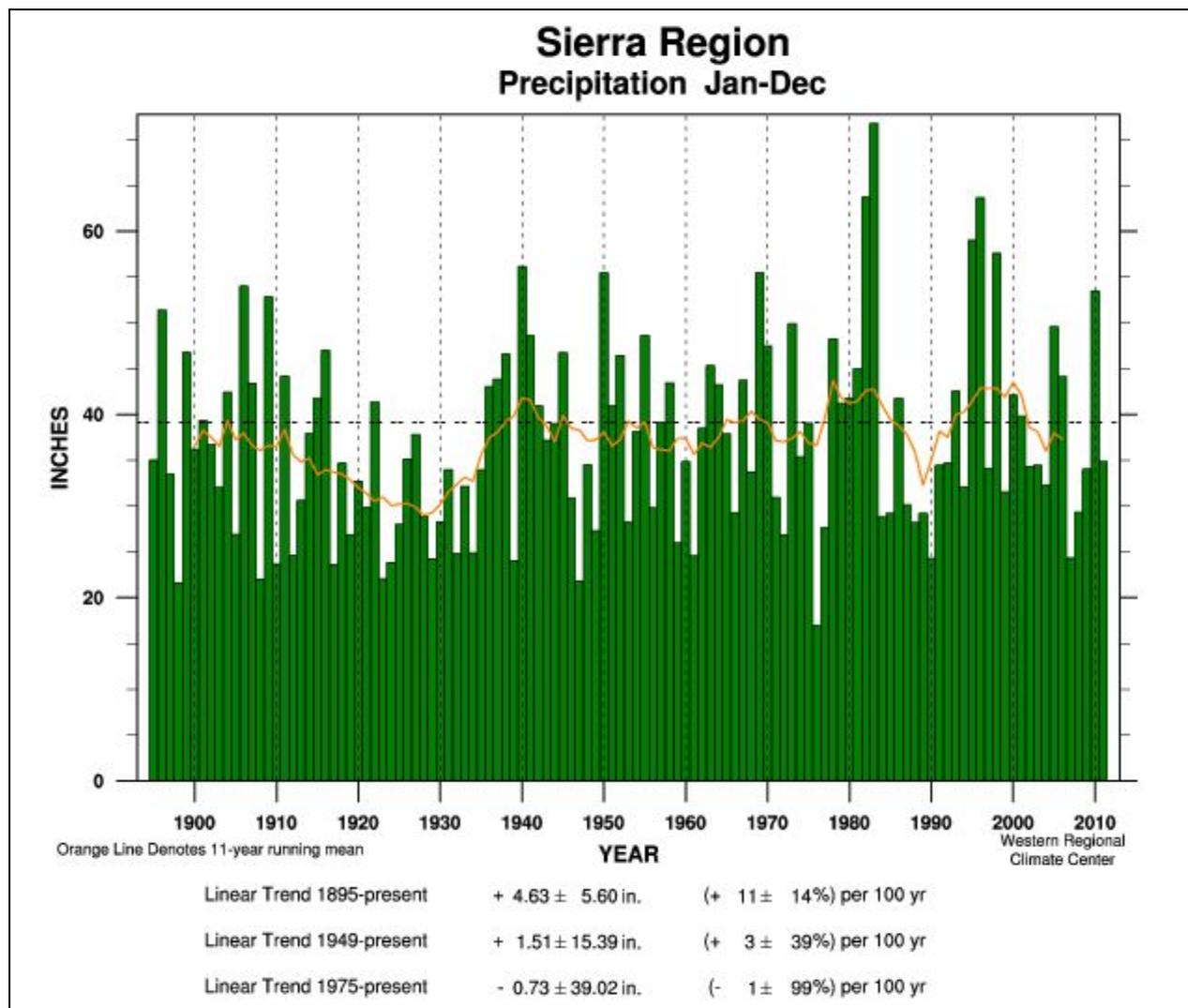
If the colonies shut down broodrearing in July and August, both colony strength and the amount of sealed brood rapidly decrease, thus concentrating the colony's mite population onto fewer bees and pupae. This is when we see DWV epidemics take hold. If, on the other hand, colonies get enough forage to maintain broodrearing, relative mite infestation rates remain lower.

But this all depends upon the seasonal behavior of your bee stock. I find that the Russian bees respond to the summer dearth by shutting down broodrearing, and then using that opportunity to scour off the mites by grooming. So in the case of Russians, they take advantage of the summer dearth to keep mites in check. Anyway, colonies are now into full winter mode. It's best not to disturb them unless the weather is warm enough that they are flying. You should heft each hive for weight throughout the winter, and give them combs of honey or heavy syrup if they start to get light. Generally, they don't start to lose weight seriously until January.

I'm freshly returned from the California Beekeepers state convention. Not much new to report except for a recently completed study at U.C. Davis designed by Eric Mussen, and performed by Dr. Brian Johnson. In short, they started 200 nucs on fresh foundation, feeding them sugar syrups, and different antibiotic treatments. They found that as far as colony growth was concerned, hitting them hard with a mixture of all the antibiotics upon installation didn't hurt them, and that feeding dog probiotics didn't help them. They did better on Mann Lake's 50:50 sucrose:HFCS blend than they did on sucrose alone.

**Note:** On Nov. 22nd I was surprised Thanksgiving morning to see bees working paperwhites (Narcissus) in my yard! Paperwhites don't normally bloom until early spring—at least after the winter solstice.





## From the Librarian

**Tynowyn Slattery, Librarian**

The library books are checked out for a month, which can be extended by another month by calling, or preferably, e-mailing me. If problems arise with returning material it can be mailed to:

Tynowyn Slattery, 20493 Rome Road, Nevada City, CA 95959, 530-265-6318 - [swoolman@saber.net](mailto:swoolman@saber.net)

## Raffle Prizes

**Karla Hanson, Coordinator**

Thank you all for bringing some great items for our raffles, keep it coming. Plants, eggs, jewelry, soaps, bee items, jams, beautiful metal garden art, the list goes on and on... Thanks to everyone!

## Club Membership

**Janet Brisson, Treasurer**

If you are a new member and want to sign up but can't make it to the meeting, you can sign up on line at [NCBEES.net](http://NCBEES.net) or email Janet at [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

## Country Rubes Combo Screened Bottom Boards

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## Meeting Minutes

Jack Meeks, Secretary From November 5, 2012

MOTION Janet Brisson: Donate \$120 for four Heifer Int'l .beekeepers packages. Tabled since uncertain whether compatible with local bees ?African? and with hive type ?Langstroth box design? in destination area.

Finance: Janet Brisson: Sept. Bal \$3721.80; Inc\$389.50; Exp\$799.00 Sept. End \$3312.30.

Oct. Start \$3312.30; Inc\$00; Exp\$250.97; Oct. End \$3061.33.

Xmas Party 6PM not 7PM Monday Dec 3 Potluck and Pirate Gift (wrapped, no ID) Exchange.

2013 Dues \$15 e-mail; \$20 postal mail

2013 Officers nominations Pres, Jeremiah Farrell, other officers renew their positions. Board of Directors: Rob Slay, Debra Morawski, Randy Oliver, Karla Hanson. All nominated by voice vote.

PROGRAM Traci Sterling "Apitherapy" Traci showed photos and explanations of bee sting therapy for arthritis, shingles, asthma, fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis and other pain conditions of immune system.

# **This Month's Recipe**

**Submitted by Leslie Gault**

Here is some info on substituting honey in recipes plus two recipes.

## **Substituting Honey in Recipes**

Baking with honey not only sweetens baked goods, but also helps extend shelf life. To substitute honey in your favorite recipe, the National Honey Board recommends:

- Honey's acidic nature requires the addition of a small amount of baking soda (about 0.2 ounces or one teaspoon of baking soda per 12 ounces or one cup of honey).
- Honey can replace up to one-half of the granulated sugar in a recipe, and in some bakery foods, honey can replace all of the sugar.
- Reduce the liquid called for in a formula by one-quarter cup (2 ounces) for each cup (12 ounces) of honey used.
- When honey is added to a formula, reduce oven temperatures by 25°F to prevent over-browning.

## **Pumpkin Honey Bread**

- 1 cup honey
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 can (16 oz.) solid-pack pumpkin
- 4 eggs
- 4 cups flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg

In large bowl, cream honey with butter until light and fluffy. Stir in pumpkin. Beat in eggs, one at a time, until thoroughly incorporated. Sift together remaining ingredients. Stir into pumpkin mixture. Divide batter equally between two well-greased 9 x 5 x 3-inch loaf pans. Bake at 350°F for 1 hour or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Let loaves cool in pans for 10 minutes; invert pans to remove loaves and allow to finish cooling on racks.

## **Bees as Food**

**FAO AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BULLETIN No. 124**

Adult and larval honeybees contain reasonable amounts of protein and are non-toxic. They could therefore serve as a direct food source once the beekeeper has no more need for extra bees or brood, or when undesired colonies have to be removed. Honeybee brood of all ages is eagerly consumed by honey hunters in Africa and Asia and is generally considered a delicious treat. For several cultures, brood is said to form a considerable part of the diet (Hill et al., 1984 and Bailey, 1989; as cited in Schmidt and Buchmann, 1992). In China and Japan, drone larvae are canned for export or, after being covered in chocolate, become a sweet treat. Bee brood is regularly sold alongside honey in markets in many parts of Asia (Schmidt and Buchmann, 1992).

Whether fresh, boiled or fried, larvae have a rich nutty flavour. When fried, they maintain their shape and become nice and crunchy. Eating insects in general is considered normal in many cultures, while others have developed strong inhibitions to this practice.

*The makings for a new holiday recipe? Let us know how that goes...*

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](mailto: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: Rob Slay..... 263-5618  
Vice President: Jeremiah Farrell..... 743-2842  
Secretary: Jack Meeks..... 432-4429  
[jackm@nccn.net](mailto:jackm@nccn.net)  
Treasurer: Janet Brisson..... 913-2724  
[rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

### Board Members

Larry Merritt..... 613-3923  
[lameritt@theunion.net](mailto:lameritt@theunion.net)  
Randy Oliver..... 277-4450  
Charlie Whittlesey.....292-3249  
or 755-0468  
Deborah Morawski...675-2924  
Karla Hanson..... 265-3756

### Committee Chairs

Swarm Hotline: Karla Hanson..... 265-3756  
Lynn Williams ..... 675-2924  
Librarian: Tynowyn Slattery..... 265-6318  
Newsletter Mailing: Steve Reynolds..... 401-4654  
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Newsletter: Gary Gustafson..... 478-1216  
[garyg@newpress.com](mailto:garyg@newpress.com)  
Honey Extractor: Karla Hanson..... 265-3756

## Nevada County Beekeepers Association



c/o Steve Reynolds  
10838 Ridge Road  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
First Class Mail

### December 3rd Meeting - 6PM

Program: Holiday Potluck and Gift Exchange

**\*\*ONE HOUR EARLIER THIS MONTH\*\***