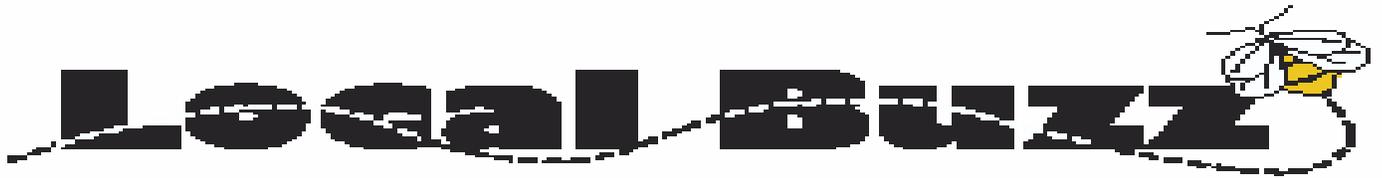


The Nevada County Beekeepers Association



August 2005

President's Message

Here's a song that we sang at Randy Oliver's BBQ at Randy's house on Monday, July 11, 2005. My wife Judy wrote it and its to be sung to an old traditional tune, "Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley Grow."

The Nevada County Beekeepers Association Anthem
(Tune: Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley Grow)

Chorus

Almond, Apple, Pear and Date.
These the bees all pollinate.
You and I and all of us know.
That bees all make the flowers grow.

Verse 1

In the hive, the bees convene.
First and foremost is the Queen.
Female workers are complex.
Drones are men - they just want sex.

Chorus

Almond, Apple, Pear and Date.
These the bees all pollinate.
You and I and all of us know.
That bees all make the flowers grow.

Verse 2

Beekeepers, keep up the fight!
Crush the dread Veroa Mite.
Nurse the Brood, the Queen exclude
And never let your Smoker cool.

Chorus

Almond, Apple, Pear and Date.
These the bees all pollinate.
You and I and all of us know.
That bees all make the flowers grow.
Yours in beekeeping,
-Gary Wood, President

August Program

The Nevada County Beekeepers Association will be meeting August 1, 2005, at the Veteran's Memorial Building on South Auburn Street in Grass Valley at 7pm. All visitors are welcome. We will be viewing a

timely video "Small Scale Honey Harvesting". This wonderful video shows in detail how to handle bees in removing supers, setting up a small extracting area and various methods of uncapping, straining, filtering, bottling and of course, a neat way to clean up. This video has ingenious tips for everybody, beginner and longtime beekeeper as well.

Fair Volunteer Schedule

Don't forget The Nevada County Fair is August 10-14. We need two things for the Fair: 1 - workers to man the NCBA Booth at the Fair for all 5 days. 2 - Folks to submit Honey items for the Fair contest. For item 1 the signup list already follows. All we need is for folks to show up.

The fair runs every day from Wednesday, August 10 thru Sunday Aug 14 for 12 hours, 10 AM to 10 PM and we need to be there. We have divided each day into 3 shifts of 4 hours each. Here is the **signup list** so far.

Wednesday Aug 10

10AM to 2PM

Frank Spengler (432-2325)
Janet Brisson (346-6439)
Karla Hansen (265-3756)

2PM to 6PM

Hugh and Debbie (272-7550)
Deborah Morwski

6PM to 10 PM

Carol Winter (265-2234)
Larry Sulimas

Thursday Aug 11

10AM to 2PM

Alan Burnside
Frank Spengler (432-2325)

2PM to 6PM

Tina, Kayla & David (477-8879)
Alan Blonsch

6PM to 10 PM
Detief and Thelma Osburn

Friday Aug 12

10AM to 2PM

Larry Schmidt
Karla Hansen (265-3756)

2PM to 6PM

Tina, Kayla & David (477-8879)
Alan Blonsch

6PM to 10 PM

Randy & Stephanie
George Barta

Saturday Aug 13

10AM to 2PM

Cindy Gilmore
Larry Schmidt
Tim and Tynowyn Slattery (265-6318)

2PM to 6PM

Gerry Kopec (274-8274)

6PM to 10 PM

Randy & Stephanie

Sunday Aug 14

10AM to 2PM

Arlie Thompson
Leslie Gault

2PM to 6PM

Sherry Skolfield (755-0468)
Charles Whittlesley

6PM to 10 PM

Sherry Skolfield (755-0468)
Charles Whittlesley

Notes: Available to fill in the schedule but call first.
Jill & Shane Mathias (530-346-2660)
Jeff Barbao (530-271-5533)

Bee Bits

By Randy Oliver

Attention~someone dropped bee gear out of their truck by KMart last week. New NCBA member Shane Poole picked it up and brought it over to my house. If it's yours, call me (277-4450). Thanks, Shane!

Our last meeting, the barbeque hosted by Stephanie and I, was great fun. Thanks to all for the

wonderful dishes! Special thanks to Jill Poole for arranging the food and service, and to her husband, Shane, for acting as barbeque chef. Also, thanks to Judy Wood, for writing a song for our entertainment.

The Fair is coming up soon. If you haven't signed up for at least one shift, please call Gary Wood (477-9202) and do so now. It is always a great time in the booth, sharing our fascinating hobby with the general public.

Stephanie and I are gearing up to leave tomorrow for Moscow, Idaho for the Western Apicultural Society convention. We'll report on items of interest at the next meeting.

This season's honey crop has been spectacular! If your bees made it through the wet Spring in good shape, they should have put on a huge crop of excellent honey. This is the highest quality honey I've seen in years~the epitome of a good blackberry honey. Light in color, delicate and spicy in flavor.

I mentioned at last month's meeting that yellow star thistle has been greatly reduced in certain areas, apparently by the biocontrol flies and weevils. However, there are still some large patches in existence. The plants are robust this year due to the water, and producing nectar well, due to the heat. If you are near large thistle fields, you may wish to super up in hopes of collecting a crop of this excellent honey.

Speaking of heat, it's not only rough on us, it's rough on the bees. It takes a lot of energy to cool a colony that is baking in the sun. Make sure your bees have a good source of water (if they are not using it, be assured that they are getting water elsewhere~perhaps from your neighbors). A bit of afternoon shade would not hurt, either. Small colonies especially suffer in hot weather, since they have fewer bees to fan the air. An extra cover over the top helps to keep them cool.

As usual, I was overly optimistic this year, and booked large orders of nucs to sell. Then we got slammed by the wet weather, an outbreak of AFB, rampant queenlessness, bears, and truck problems. The bottom line was that by the time we filled all the orders, we wound up making up our own replacement nucs too late. We fell behind the seasonal progression of bloom, and missed the 2nd cutting alfalfa crop in Nevada for the first time in 20 years. This crop is our bread and butter~the flow upon which we draw out thousands of frames of foundation to make up for our

nuc sales, and various comb losses. So we're being creative-moving bees to star thistle locations, feeding, and praying for one last chance with the 3rd cutting. We're also extracting deep combs of blackberry honey like mad, so that we can put wet drawn combs on nucs, to allow them to build up quickly.

We've never worked so hard at beekeeping as we have this Spring. Long day after long day, often assisted by new beekeeper Chris Crebbin, who's been driving up from Placerville each day to apprentice (a great year to apprentice, when everything seems to go wrong). Just when we start to get discouraged, and wonder if it's all worth it, a honeyflow will kick in, or a round of new queens will mate out well, and we are inspired again. So on we go, now to move the rest of our colonies up to Nevada, and to spend the rest of the Summer dealing with Varroa mite control.

July Meeting Minutes

There was no business conducted at the July meeting.

~Jack Meeks, secretary

The "Show is Over" - What's Next?

Harvest your honey NOW, around July 4th, before the wax is travel stained, and it is HOT, so extraction is so much easier than trying to do it with 70° honey. Don't extract a frame that isn't about 90% capped, or you run the risk of having the NON ripened honey cause all your ripened honey to ferment. Further, since all honey is hygroscopic (absorbs water out of the air), while you are extracting, straining, settling, and bottling, keep the honey covered at all times so it doesn't get a chance to absorb any water vapor that might change its quality from a desirable 16%-17% moisture concentration to a moisture over 18.6% which causes the honey to ferment.

Without going into great detail, let me explain fermentation. All honey is made up of several different sugars, the two most important ones are liquid Fructose which might run from 35%-50% and normally solid Glucose which might run from 25%-40%. Dust, small pieces of wax, pollen, or air that are in the extracted honey act as a starting point for the dissolved glucose to crystallize back to its normal solid state and this raises the moisture concentration of the

rest of the honey mixture where natural yeasts can grow that cause the honey to ferment into vinegar or controlled into alcoholic mead. The "lesson" here is "Don't allow your honey to be exposed to humid air any more than possible, and don't give fermentation a good start by extracting frames that are less than about 90% capped".

Be a PROUD beekeeper and show the world what your bees have produced for you,' and your skills in bringing that honey to market or gift by EXHIBITING the honey at our local county FAIR; and you might WIN SOME MONEY PRIZES and surely a fancy ribbon. And since you are at the FAIR hoping all will see your BEST OF SHOW ribbon, you are badly needed to give the FAIR attendees just 4 hours of your time as a volunteer explaining the importance of honey bee pollination of our human food supply. By the way, California wanted 1 million colonies of bees to pollinate their almond crop this past February, but were only able to get about 650,000 colonies which means poor pollination resulting in increased prices for almonds this year.

The same thing could happen to the pollination of apples, oranges, cranberries, blueberries, cucumbers, watermelons, cantaloupe, squash, lima beans, broccoli, and numerous other fruit or vegetables. Our honey bees pollinate 35% of all our human food, so they are pretty important "critters"; but the UNINFORMED people, including our legislators, only think of our bees as "honey and sting". It is your RESPONSIBILITY to correct the public thinking about honey bees, because "old George" can't do everything.

(George's PINK PAGES July
2002/www.beekeeper.org)

Notable, Quotable Honey

Extracted from honey.com

"If you want to gather honey, don't kick over the beehive."

- Abraham Lincoln

"The only reason for being a bee that I know of is making honey... and the only reason for making honey is so I can eat it."

- Winnie the Pooh House at Pooh Corner by A.A. Milne

"The pedigree of honey

Does not concern the bee,
A clover, any time,
to him
is Aristocracy."

- *Emily Dickinson*

"The secret of my health is applying honey inside and oil outside."

- *Democritus (lived to be 109)*

"Honey is either the exudation of the sky or a sort of sap of stars, or a juice released by the air."

- *Pliny*

"When you shoot an arrow of truth, dip its point in honey."

- *Arab Proverb*

"Instead of dirt and poison we have rather chosen to fill our hives with honey and wax, thus furnishing mankind with the two noblest of things, which are sweetness and light."

- *The Battle of the Books by Jonathan Swift*

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil and choose the good."

- *God (Isaiah 7:15)*

"And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a land flowing with milk and honey."

- *God (Exodus 3:8)*

"Eat honey, my son, for it is good."

- *King Solomon (Proverbs 24:13)*

"More Flies are taken with a Drop of Honey than a Tun of Vinegar."

- *Gnomologia by Thomas Fuller*

"Honey is a remedy for every illness and the Koran a remedy for the illness of the mind."

- *Muhammad (founder of Islam)*

"The sweetest honey

is loathsome in its own deliciousness

And in the taste confounds the appetite

Therefore love moderately."

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

"Who in his pocket hath no money,

In his mouth must have honey."

- *Flamma Sine Fumo by Rowland Watkins*

"Thus may we gather honey from the weed,
And make a moral of the devil himself."

- *King Henry V by William Shakespeare*

"Honey nourishes very much and breedeth good blood and prolongeth life and old age."

- *Sir Jonas Moore*

"The fruit of bees is desired by all, and is equally sweet to kings and beggars and it is not only pleasing but profitable and healthful; it sweetens their mouths, cures their wounds, and conveys remedies to inward ulcers."

- *Saint Ambrose*

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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.

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 Bonnie Bagwell at arwg@infostations.com. The deadline for the September 2005 edition is August 15th. 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 arwg@infostations.com.

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

2004 Officers

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Secretary: Jack Meeks..... 432-4429
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Treasurer: Janet Brisson.....346-6439
rubes@infostations.com

Board Members

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Leslie Gault.....346-7092
Randy Oliver.....272-4450
John Miller.....823-1369

Committee Chairs

Swarm Hotline: Leigh Johnson.....273-1382
Lynn Williams.....675-2924

Library: Tynowyn Slattery...265-6318

Newsletter Dist. Gary Wood.....477-9202

Newsletter: Bonnie Bagwell....878-3622

Nevada County Beekeepers Association



C/o Gary Wood
10396 Mountain Lion Lane
Grass Valley, CA 95949

First Class Mail

August 2005

Next meeting: August 1, 2005 at 7:00 PM. We will be viewing a timely video "Small Scale Honey Harvesting". This wonderful video shows in detail how to handle bees in removing supers, setting up a small extracting area and various methods of uncapping, straining, filtering, bottling and of course, a neat way to clean up.