

The Nevada County Beekeepers Association ~ November 2013



Local Buzz

President's Message

Jeremiah Farrell, President

November is election time for our officers so any one wanting to nominate fellow beekeepers speak up or if you are interested in being an officer all are welcome to run for positions let the board know who you think will be a good leader also we need a knowledgeable beekeeper to run the Q&A so we are accepting a volunteer that comes to every meeting. Hopefully everyone's bees are doing well and you all have pulled your honey and have finished your winterization.

November 4th Meeting - 7:00 PM

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

Recent honey bee research in Grass Valley. Randy Oliver receives donations from beekeepers to use for research. Randy will show how he runs experiments, and the results of several of his recent research projects.

Bee Bits

Randy Oliver, Contributor

This is an unusual fall for the bees. Despite there being warm weather and an unusual abundance of fall pollen, colonies are tending to shut down broodrearing early. I recently attended the California Queen Breeders meeting, and the beekeepers in the Sacramento Valley are observing the same thing.

We've found that a bit of stimulative feeding with pollen supplement and light syrup quickly gets the colonies rearing new brood—helping them to enter into winter with a younger population of bees.

It looks as though most colonies are going to shut down broodrearing this fall, as opposed to recent years when they continued broodrearing all through the winter. If so, a cheap and safe dribble of oxalic acid, per the instructions at my website, will kill most of the varroa mites.

We experienced strong mite pressure this summer, suggesting that your hives may have, too. If you haven't assessed your mite levels, I'd recommend that you do so.

We treated close to 1000 hives this summer with a full dose of two formic acid Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQS). Upon later checkback, we found that the full dose knocked out about 1 queen out of 25, generally those that we had already marked as having some sort of problem. Mite kill was erratic, with the MAQS being effective in about 4 out of 5 hives, but not in the 5th. I don't know why. A follow-up with Apiguard thymol gel brought all mite levels down to acceptable levels.

Now's the time to make sure that your colonies are ready for the winter. Low mite levels, frames of sealed brood ready to emerge, and enough honey above and around the broodnest. If there is dark honeydew stored immediately above the broodnest this may cause dysentery in the middle of winter as the bees eat their way into it. You can help the bees by feeding them some heavy sugar syrup now. Colonies fed heavy syrup at this time will store it in the right place.

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

Fall Bee Sale

Call 2B HONEY for prices: 530.263.5618

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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 clean up. For more information: 530.273.6608

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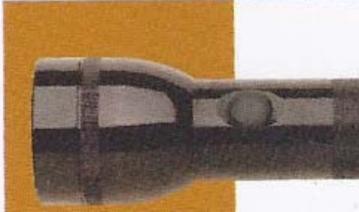
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Minutes from Last Meeting

Jack Meeks, Secretary

Pres Jeremiah Farrell opened with Q&A.

Oxalic acid varroa treatment interrupts brood raising this time of year. Wait until Christmas when brood is stable. Formic acid "Quick Strips" now effective at half dose, less effect on brood. Check each hive for size of cluster. If too small to regulate temperature, no amount of stored honey elsewhere will save them in cold weather. Open and inspect hives only when air temperature is above 55F. Check brood cells for amount of royal jelly surrounding eggs. If scant, pollen protein should be provided. A new CA pest is the phorid fly—resembles fruit fly.

The California State Beekeepers Assn convention meets at Harrah's South Lake Tahoe.

PROGRAM: Justin Brown of 1st Light Trading described "Bee Shield" organic protectant against viruses and pesticides by binding to reactive elements.

NECTAR: A Honey Bee Quest, the game

Submitted by Leslie Gault

As we all know, honey bees need help! And kids need to be inspired by nature. Both of these goals come



together in NECTAR: A Honey Bee Quest, a game app for kids. This game is the inspiration of Malachi and Chad, two artistic and technically savvy young people. It's a game in which kids "become a bee" and gather nectar, pollinate flowers, do the waggle dance, and much more. Along the way, kids will have lots of fun as they learn how very important bees are!

Mal and Chad are doing this on their own—an enormous undertaking—so they launched a Kickstarter campaign. We at Dawn Publications are so excited by it that we have pledged to match a successful campaign.

Can you help NECTAR: A Honey Bee Quest become a reality? Check out their proposal at: <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1696576220/nectar-a-honey-bee-quest>

BTW – Mal and Chad are offering a bunch of incentives —and you'll get a free game with a pledge of only \$15.

Reflections on the state of bee-ing

Reprinted from the Auburn Journal

It was allergies that got beekeeper Diane Benton interested in hives.



“She lived on the coast for many years and never had any allergy problems,” her husband, Jerry Van Heeringen said. “She moved up here and the allergies (appeared). A friend suggested trying some of the local honey.” That sparked the idea of tending their own bees. So the couple joined the Nevada County Beekeeping Society and signed up for a beginning beekeeping class. Along with classroom discussions, there was hands-on interaction with the bees. It captured their imagination immediately.

“Just about every aspect was fascinating,” Van Heeringen said. After studying and mulling the idea, Van Heeringen and Benton brought their first hive to their farm near Grass Valley several years ago.

For others who may be considering beekeeping as a hobby, Van Heeringen highly recommends it and said you don't need a lot of space. “A beekeeper can have a hive in the back yard,” he said.

And the honey has helped Benton's allergy problem.

Read the full story:

<http://www.auburnjournal.com/article/reflections-state-bee-ing>

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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Nevada County Beekeepers Association



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

November 4th Meeting - 7PM
Program:
Randy Oliver discusses recent honey bee research and projects in Grass Valley

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

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