



Local Buzz

President's Message

Jeremiah Farrell, President

I hope everyone's bees are doing well. If you haven't done some form of mite treatment yet you had better get on it. Honey production seems to be better this year from last year although it isn't as good as the year before. Almost all the honey is late season and isn't capped yet.

September 2nd Meeting - 7:00 PM

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

For this month's program, Randy dusted off an old (1980's vintage) primitive video by Jim Payson, a successful commercial beekeeper and mechanical genius, who built a fully mechanized extracting system from scratch. The video is corny but charming, and will fascinate anyone with a mechanical bent, or who is interested in seeing how the "Big Boys" do it!

Bee Bits

Randy Oliver, Contributor

This season continues to amaze! I cannot recall ever seeing colonies look this good at the end of August! As I write these words on Aug 23, colonies in some of our yards are still shaking nectar, are plugged with white wax, and the larvae are floating in abundant milk—indicating good colony nutrition.

However, varroa levels are above normal for this time of year (in my operation), so we are in the process of hitting all our hives with a full treatment of MAQS formic strips. We are choosing this treatment at this time (after already treating most hives with thymol gel followed by a single MAQS) for a few reasons:

1. There is still honey to be pulled on many hives, and MAQS does not contaminate the honey.
2. The full treatment with MAQS shuts down broodrearing for about 4-5 days. I like this brood break, since it appears to break brood pathogen transmission cycles.
3. And most importantly, since mite levels in some hives had gotten into the 8% range, our usual "knockback" treatments wouldn't have gotten mites down to the 2% "safe" level. So we needed a high-efficacy mite treatment that would (hopefully) hold us until late November.

Regarding the honey crop, I'm also surprised that instead of getting our typical excessively strong-flavored late season honeydew, much of the late honey/honeydew is of table quality, saving us from a total bust this season. Thank you, Mother Nature! And once again, she has chastised me for ever attempting to predict anything regarding bees.

But don't let the excellent condition of bees think that you should ignore your hives. If your apiary is out of town, we have found that the bees greatly benefit from the feeding of protein supplements in late summer. We've already started in some yards, and will continue until fall.

We've also started a large-scale (162-hive) field trial of the various pollen supplements on the market. We are testing 7 different substitutes, plus a negative control (no supplementation) and a positive control (patties of bee-collected natural pollen and sugar). Not surprisingly, the bees are consuming the natural pollen patties the most eagerly. The experimental design is to see whether we can build 5-frame nucs placed into hives of foundation only at the beginning of August, into strong doubles by next February for almond pollination, solely based upon artificial feeding of pollen sub and syrup. This is not something that I wish to do in practice, but the extreme case will, I hope, tell us which pollen subs are of the best nutritional quality. We are feeding the test yard every few days, and can always use interested volunteers to help.

The Nevada County Fair



painting the bee booth



lunch break at the booth work party



Ron shows off the bees



pretend your a bee!



Tom pours samples



deciding which one to try

Goodies Sign-up

Karla Hanson, Coordinator

Please let me know if you can bring a treat for any of the coming meetings. We still need treats for our September, October, and November meetings. Contact Karla Hanson, queenbeez@att.net

Minutes from Last Meeting

Jack Meeks, Secretary

It was all about the Fair. Hope you were there!

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!



Country Rubes Combo Screened Bottom Boards

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

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 clean up. For more information: 530.273.6608

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Medical Honey

Leading doctor at Winchester's Royal Hampshire County Hospital using medical honey

THE healing powers of honey have been known about for thousands of years, dating back to the Ancient Egyptians, who put it on wounds.

But with the invention of penicillin and other antibiotics last century, it fell out of use in modern medicine.

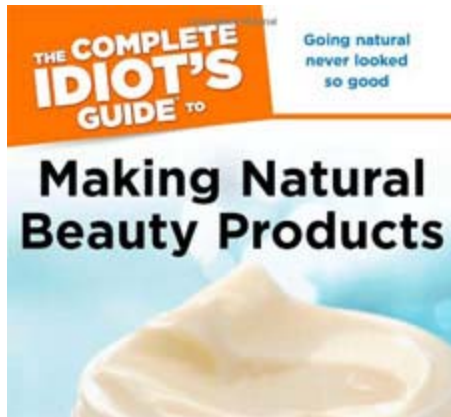
Now, a leading doctor at [Winchester](#)'s Royal Hampshire County Hospital is using honey to tackle wound infections in patients from newborns to the elderly.

Full story: http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/10541479.Honey_has_golden_touch_in_helping_beat_bacteria/

From the Librarian

Tynowyn Slattery, Librarian

A new book...



The Complete Idiot's Guide to Making Natural Beauty Products

Sally W. Trew with Zonella B. Gould

Alpha Books 2010

286 pages

This is the second book from Randy's reading list for his beekeeping classes that has been reviewed.

Wanting to touch on the uses of hive products in make up and body care products but not wanting to invest in more than one book on the subject, I have chosen this one as it offers so much information. There are whole sections on essential oils, butters & oils for lotions, creams and body

butters, extracts and infusions of herbs and (synthetic) mica and oxides for color and clays for use in masks and facial peels.

The make ups are given half the book...foundation powders, blushes and bronzers, eye shadows, including instructions on how to make eyeliner pencils and mascara (which is not so usual to find) and everything for lips...including getting the colored stuff into the little tubes; this is where beeswax is most used.

The men are included with shaving cream and after shaving lotions and splashes, and something called "His Seriously Dry and Cracked Foot Mask," which would be useful for, really, anyone in our area in the summer. Several important issues of safety are emphasized; wearing a mask while working with the powders and keeping work areas and ingredients clean and sanitized; this point is repeated through out the text and another important section addresses the need for preserving the final product from molds, yeasts, gram negative and gram positive bacteria, this is a section with a learning curve all its own but, fortunately, all the information is in appendix E. In appendix C, we are directed to FDA sites for information on "Regulatory Requirements for Labeling of Cosmetics Marketed in the United States", in case one wanted to sell home made cosmetics.

All this wonderful information makes for a careful read and I had to go section by section with some internet research in between, making it as much like a chemistry class as an arm chair read, but, on the other hand, finding out what really goes into the things we and our loved ones put on our faces and bodies was fascinating and well worth the time and effort. I could have wished that a book dealing with color in such detail would have had some color plates but I suppose it would have made the cost higher, in this case it would have been worth it. A future purchase will be a homemade cosmetic book with emphasis on simpler ingredients, but this "Idiot's Guide..." is a great reference book for our library.



keeping bees from bothering the hummingbird feeder, from Karla Hanson

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

September 2nd Meeting - 7PM

Program:

Video by Jim Payson from Randy's collection

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

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