

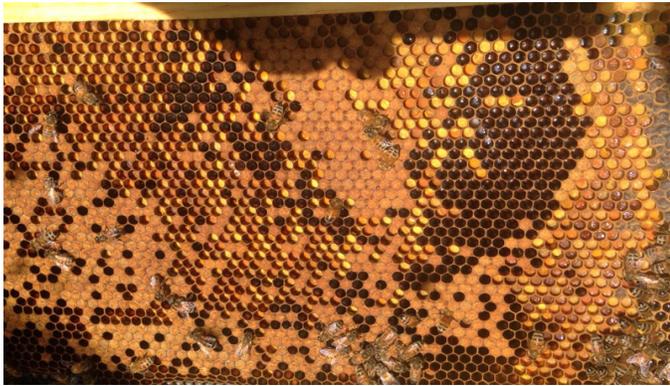


Local Buzz

President's Message

Brion Dunbar, President

What an incredible March it has been for the bees. I had all my bees back in the county (from almond pollination) by March 2nd. It has been very busy for me dividing colonies, installing queen cells, checking for mateout, and treating with oxalic acid. The pollen flow has been strong locally, and some colonies were filling in the brood area of their hive with pollen instead of brood (see first picture). Bees are natural hoarders when the availability is there. This can interrupt the buildup of colony strength, so its a good time to put in drawn comb if you have any, give the queen more room to lay. Hopefully your frames are looking more like the second picture below. Notice on this the swarm cell at the bottom edge of the frame. It promises to be a very early swarm season, so give your colonies lots of room, and consider dividing if they are getting too large now. You can always recombine later if you do not wish to increase your colony count.



April 6th Meeting – 7:00 PM

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

Program this month: Jeremiah Farrell will speak about swarms and their capture and prevention.

There will be no dinner before the meeting.

Bee Bits

Randy Oliver, Contributor

Swarming season is upon us! When I first moved to Nevada County in the late '70's, swarming season typically occurred the last week of April through the first week of May. During the geological blink of an eye since then, we now see swarming starting the last week of March. Although there may be some politicians denying climate change, nature is well aware of it.

Colonies hereabouts have been building well on our abundant nectar and pollen flows. We saw incidences of EFB early this season (January), so prophylactically treated our hives with OTC for the first time in many years. Happily, the treatment eliminated EFB from our operation, and the bees look great.

I've mentioned before that varroa will likely be an issue this season. I strongly suggest that you start monitoring mite levels.

Of interest is a bee breeding program that I'm involved with in Marin County. Bonnie and Gary Bollinger were dismayed by the excessively high loss rate of newbie beekeepers in the county (something like 85% of their package colonies died a few years ago). Of course, being from Marin, most are "treatment free" beekeepers who erroneously imagine that flooding an area with package colonies of commercial stocks, and then allowing them to die, in some way constitutes helping the honey bee. To me, this is simple cruelty to animals.

Better, I suggested to start a breeding program for survivor bee stock. But they didn't have enough hives to do so. I so proposed that they rear their own queen cells from local survivor stock, and I'd supply the queenless nucs for them to get a program going. We've now done this for a few years.

The results are impressive. The loss rate has plummeted to typically about 30%, without any treatments whatsoever. Some of their breeder stock is exhibiting odd behaviors, such as going broodless for periods of time, even during spring.

But the colonies are remaining alive despite varroa, and producing honey. This is extremely encouraging.

However, allow me to make one caveat completely clear. They do not allow colonies suffering from an overload of varroa to die and spread mites to adjacent hives (like those of their neighbors). Doing so starts a domino effect that can wipe out other hives that are barely holding their own. I beg Nevada County beekeepers to also be aware of this, and not to be nuisances to neighboring beekeepers.

Apple bloom is underway as I write these words. Afterward, we typically suffer from a 2-week nectar dearth. And then the main honey flow begins (if we have one this drought year).

Colonies will want to swarm this spring. You can help to prevent this by reversing your brood chambers, and giving the colonies boxes of drawn comb (not foundation) immediately above the brood.

For hobbyists wishing to split their colonies, if you have an apiary within a mile of any of my yards, I will give you queen cells for free.



Swarm Hotline Update

The NCBA Swarm Hotline is in the process of being updated for 2015. If you want to be on the list as someone who can retrieve a bee swarm then send the following to Lynn Williams (iamlynn@hughes.net):

1. Name
2. Phone Number(s)
3. Area you are willing to cover

Free Novice Beekeeping Class in Auburn

Date: April 18th

Nathan Smith is teaching a novice beekeeping class in Auburn on Saturday April 18. The class starts at 10 AM at the Odd Fellows building in Auburn, 1226 Lincoln Way (near where hiway 49 meets Lincoln Way in downtown Auburn, across from city hall). The class is free and all are welcome. Snacks will be provided. The class will cover how to get started in beekeeping, tools needed, prices, where to buy, etc. Mr. Smith is a local Auburn beekeeper who likes to help people get started in beekeeping.

RSVPs are appreciated if possible: 916-824-5074 Nathan Smith

Facebook: Nathan's beekeeping

Beekeeping Symposium

www.registration.ucdavis.edu/Item/Details/147



Saturday May 9, 2015
8:00 AM - 6:30 PM

Gen. Admission: \$75
Student Admission (Reduced!): \$15

Speaker Needed to Talk on Bee's Wax

We are looking for someone to speak at our November 2 meeting about uses for bees wax. If this is you or if you know someone who would be interested please contact Jerry Van Heeringen at jerryvan29@gmail.com (530) 913-5709.

Bee Location Available

Landowners Ross and Wynn Tessien would like to host a few hives on their property in exchange for a bit of honey. They have 4.25 acres down off Dog Bar on Feather Way. The property is fenced, 6' high. If you're looking for a location, please contact them directly ross@planitsolar.com. (Randy doesn't go that far down Dog Bar, so no competition from him).

Time To Pay Your 2015 Dues!

Janet Brisson, Treasurer

Being a member of the Nevada County Beekeeping Associations has many perks.

Your membership entitles you to our newsletter, "The Local Buzz," sent monthly, provides information on our association's activities and lets you know what your bees should be doing each month. As a member you receive coupons for 25% discounts on a major beekeeping magazine and local discounts on equipment.

The NCBA works towards educating people about beekeeping and agriculture, keeping everyone up to date on the latest news and techniques for the beginning beekeeper to the very advanced.

I will be collecting dues for the year 2015 at the January 5th meeting. If you are paying in cash, please try to bring the exact change. If you would like to pay your dues through the mail, please send your check made out to NCBA or Nevada County Beekeepers Association, for either \$20.00 (to receive newsletter through mail) or \$15.00 for newsletters.

NCBA C/o Janet Brisson

20693 Dog Bar Road Grass Valley, CA 95949

Any questions, please feel free to call me at 530-913-2724 or email me at rubes@countryrubes.com

Minutes from Last Meeting

Jack Meeks, Secretary

President Brion Dunbar opened with Q&A comments.

Leslie Gault is conferring with Logo designers; Randy Oliver's all-day beekeeping class is April 4

Hannah Nordhaus, author of "The Beekeeper's Lament" a year with John Miller's beekeeping business, will be a speaker at March-April program in Auburn <www.auburnoboc.org>

Finance Jan Start \$4569.70; Inc \$674; Exp \$22; Jan End \$5221.70.

MOTION Debbie Caballero: Purchase larger coffee maker. Passed voice vote.

Volunteers wanted for CA State Fair beekeepers exhibit, second and third week in July
Lynn Williams 530-675-1924 swarm hotline sign ups. Please indicate areas interested. He expects most calls will be from Yuba county. Varroa control will be critical this year; Apivar (amitraz), Apistan (fluvalinate), Apigard (thymol), Mite-Away (formic acid) can be used (high temp 50-80F days) before honey flow. Oxalic acid should be limited to low breeding times (midsummer, midwinter.)

PROGRAM: Randy Oliver, Bee Biology. Honey bees practice 'altruistic self-destruction' Dying workers, and dying hives, fly off, never return. Peak hive population 50,000+-, during June, when recruitment exceeds attrition. If pollen is available. the colony replaces 50% every five weeks. Only nurse bees consume pollen, convert it to royal jelly. Worker lifespan mean 35 days; a few may live to 270 days. Disease loss is minimum in summer, worse spring and fall. Collapsed Colony Disease is caused by Nosema spores, treated with Fumagilin.

The Beekeeper's Lament 2015

April 4, 2015: "Beekeepers' Dinner" 5:30 PM – Blue Goose RSVP Required

April 9, 2015: "Panel Discussion" 6:30 PM – Placer HS Auditorium Free to the public

April 16, 2015: "Evening w/ the Author" Hosted by: Beth Ruyak

6:30 PM – Placer HS Auditorium Free to the public

For more information, visit www.auburnoboc.org or email auburnoboc@gmail.com

Recipe - Honey Jelly

From 'Putting it up with Honey' by Susan Geiskopf

2 ½ cups honey

½ cup water

½ cup liquid pectin

Combine honey and water. Bring to just to the boiling point, heating slowly to prevent scorching. Remove from heat, add pectin slowly, stirring constantly. Pour at once into hot sterilized jars. Complete seals and let stand at room temperature for 24 hours.

White House Beehive

Submitted by Janet Brisson

We are Washington DC and walked around the White House. Suddenly, we realized, we were looking at the famous White House Bee Hive. I thought the put up two, but could only see this one through the fence. Pretty Cool!



Buckbrush which is in genus ceanothus. Submitted by Brion Dunbar

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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

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.

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Web page at www.sacramentobeekeeping.com/

email: info@sacramentobeekeeping.com

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Calendars

The Nevada County Beekeeping Association is selling beautiful 2015 Beekeeping Calendars by Kodua Galiete. You can check it out here <http://www.koduaphotography.com/2015-Bee-Inspired-Calendar.html>. As you can see, they are selling on line for almost \$19.00, but our club is selling them for \$10.00. You can purchase them at the January 5, 2015 meeting. Kodua has some serious health challenges, so this is also a benefit to one of our own.

Goodies Sign-up

Karla Hanson, Coordinator

Please let me know if you can bring a treat for any of the coming meetings. We only need a couple of folks each month, so pick a month and let me know. Contact Karla Hanson, queenbeez@att.net

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.

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

Officers

| | |
|--|----------|
| President – Brion Dunbar | 559-1422 |
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| Vice President – Jerry Van Heeringen | 913-5709 |
| jerryvan29@gmail.com | |
| Secretary – Jack Meeks | 432-4429 |
| jackvmeeks@gmail.com | |
| Treasurer – Janet Brisson | 913-2724 |
| rubes@countryrubes.com | |

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|------------------|----------|
| Leslie Gault | 346-7092 |
| Randy Oliver | 277-4450 |
| Karla Hanson | 265-3756 |
| Deborah Morawski | 675-2924 |

Committee Chairs

| | |
|--|----------|
| Swarm Hotline - | |
| Karla Hanson | 265-3756 |
| Lynn Williams | 675-2924 |
| Librarian – Tynowyn Slattery | 265-6318 |
| Membership – Janet Brisson | 913-2724 |
| rubes@countryrubes.com | |
| Newsletter Mailing – Steve Reynolds | 268-2133 |
| Newsletter Editor – Gary Gustafson | 478-1216 |
| garyg@newpress.com | |

Nevada County Beekeepers Association



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

April 6th Meeting – 7PM

Program:

Jeremiah Farrell will speak about swarms and their capture and prevention