

# The Local Buzz

December 2015



## President's Message, Brion Dunbar

Well I can't believe its been 12 months now as your president. It has gone fast and I had a great time. I am looking forward to next year with Jerry van Heeringen as president and Dave Pfadt as Vice-President. Please offer them your support in 2016.

The bee booth renovation is going well. Thanks to Dave Pfadt we have new lighting, new electrical box, repaired dry-wall, and a plan to get a fan and observation hive lighting in place. We should have new doors in the next month, new paint, new cabinet, and high end countertop. Also planned is a step in front of one of the hives, so youngsters won't need a boost to see the bees.

My bees are doing well, but only after 3 rounds of pollen sub feeding and a fair amount of sugar syrup. It was another tough year for beekeepers in California. Hopefully this coming spring will be a good wet one resulting in lots of nectar and pollen.

Hope to see you on December 7th for our annual Christmas party and White Elephant exchange. Its a fun non stressful way to cap off a year with NCBA.

## December 7th Meeting – 6:00 PM **\*\* 1 HOUR EARLY\*\***

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

### Annual Holiday Potluck

HoHoHo!!! It is time for our Holiday Potluck and Pirate Gift Exchange. The event will start at 6:00 pm at the Grass Valley Veteran's Hall. The main courses, turkey and ham, will be provided by the Association and prepared by Leslie Gault and Karla Hansen. 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. You will also need to bring your own place settings and drinks. Per Veteran's Hall policy, alcoholic beverages are not allowed.

We have a creative place setting contest. Per Veteran's Hall policy, lighted candles are not allowed. The winner gets a free year membership.

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 will have numbers ready for people to pick. Each person bringing a gift will get a number and participate in the fun.

See you on the December 7th at 6:00 pm. Come celebrate and have fun!

## 2016 Sustainable Food and Farm Conference

Submitted by Leslie Gault

The sixth annual Sustainable Food and Farm Conference will be held from January 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at various locations in Grass Valley. The 3-day schedule of events includes an exciting variety of farm and ranch tours, speakers, and workshops. The conference will have a local emphasis, with information presented about everything from biodynamic farming, permaculture, interactive cropping and ranching systems, healthy gut and soil microbes, natural beekeeping, business planning, cheese making, and everything related. Speaker

highlights include Paul Stamets (mushrooms and fungus), Gabe Brown (holistic ranching), and Jean-Martin Fortier (organic and biologically intensive cropping practices).

For more information and registration log in to <http://foodandfarmconference.com/>

## **Friend of Beekeeping Award**

Submitted by Janet Brisson

On November 19, 2015 during the Awards Banquet, which concluded the 2015 California State Beekeepers Convention, Bob Sugar received the Friend of Beekeeping award. Bob was raised in North Hollywood, California and graduated from Hollywood High School. He attended Los Angeles Valley College but was interrupted by the draft during the Vietnam War. He served in the army on active duty 1966-1968 as a military policeman both at the U.S. Military Academy (West Point, NY) and with the 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile) in Vietnam. Upon separation from active duty, he returned to college. While at the University of California at Riverside, he met his wife.

In 1977 while residing in Midpines (Mariposa County) he bought his first bee hive from Daniel Fuller. The following year he moved to Sacramento. Bob has been a sideline beekeeper involved with the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association (SABA) for nearly 40 years and has held almost all positions more than once. He has coordinated and publicized SABA's beekeeping courses for many years and volunteered time and bee hives. He has also promoted beekeeping at schools, garden clubs, community events, the state fair, and the Gold Country Fair (Auburn, CA). He is the SABA representative to the California State Beekeepers Executive Board and has been a long time member of both CSBA and the Western Apicultural Society.

Bob has two sons and a daughter. Four years ago he lost his wife of 39 years, Barbara, to viral pneumonia. In 2012 after 40 years of public service he retired as an Associate Chemical Testing Engineer from the California Department of Transportation's Transportation Laboratory where he worked in the chemistry lab, hazardous waste management (project development), the Strategic Highway Research Program, and the cement and concrete lab.

## **Marvin's Nifty Invention**

Submitted by Diane Benton

Marvin built this little drawer to avoid having to open the hive to put in a miticide strip. He puts it between the hive and the super.

Two miticide strips were recommended for a 10 frame so I'm thinking maybe 1 1/2 strips for my 8 frame hives.

It was also noted at the meeting that there are no mites while lavender is in bloom!



## **Bees and Pesticides 'missing link' Found**

Submitted by Diane Benton

A new study shed light on unanswered questions about the risks of pesticides to bees.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-34846629>

# Minutes from Last Meeting

## Jack Meeks, Secretary

Pres Brion Dunbar opened with announcements, Q&A. December 7 dinner at 6PM and \$15 pirate gift exchange. Invading beekeepers are setting hives in Placer and Nevada counties, and Ag agents are working on ordinances to restrict hive density. One single strip of Mite-Away Quick Strips(formic acid) applied once and then another one week later may be enough. Two at once can be hard on the bees. Apivar (amitraz) may be losing to resistant Varroa.

## Finance, Janet Brisson

SeptStartBal \$6237.86

Inc \$192.70

Exp \$349.27

SeptEndBal \$5961.15

## 2016 Officers elected by acclamation.

Pres. Jerry VanHeeringen

V Pres Dave Pfadt

Treas Janet Brisson

Sec Jack Meeks

## Program

Wax cappings and scrap from extracting are heated with water in a double boiler, leaving honey and scraps below the floating wax. Purified wax can also be used to recoat old plastic frames for the bees to rebuild.

Debbie Nowland, Rocklin, demonstrated preparation of beeswax for candles, balms and salves, with instructions and formulas available on internet links and blogs.



## Breathing Air From a Beehive is Very Beneficial

### Submitted by Diane Benton

Apitherapy has been known since the Egyptian times. The image is from a place in Slovenia. It's proven that breathing air from a beehive is very beneficial for ones health. Hive air contains ingredients that boost the body healing capacity. Would you try this?

<https://www.facebook.com/Save-the-Bees-Australia-1485185251762708/?fref=photo>



Jean Hilton described using herbs and flowers to make boiled water infusions and alcohol tinctures from dandelions, lavender, honeysuckle, camphor and other botanicals. Tinctures made with strong vodka last for years and have many therapeutic uses in lotions and creams.



# New threat to European honeybees

## Vita News Source

A new threat to honeybees is spreading rapidly in France and may reach the UK within the next few seasons. As if British beekeepers didn't already have enough to worry about with Varroa mites, colony collapse and crops of honey from fields of oilseed rape, but now the potential threat of the Asian Hornets is looming ever closer.

The invading predator is the Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina nigrithorax*), and it has the power to destroy a honeybee colony within weeks.

First identified near Agen in France in 2004, when a farmer destroyed two of its nests, the Asian hornet is thought to have arrived in Bordeaux from China, in a consignment of pottery destined for the horticultural trade.

By 2007, apiaries around Bordeaux were suffering up to 70% colony losses as the Asian hornet munched its way through its prey. Unlike the European hornet (*Vespa crabro*) which will eat the occasional honeybee, the Asian hornet is slightly smaller but far more deadly to honeybees. Groups from five to 50 hornets hover in front of a hive, picking off single honeybees, decapitating them and stripping off their wings and legs before making off with the "meat ball" to their nest to feed their young.



As the attacks continue, the honeybee colony stops flying and has to consume its own stores, eventually weakening it to such a point that an invasion force of many hornets enters the hive to rob it out.

Studying the interactions between hornets and honeybees, Dr Alexandros Papachristoforou and a team at the University of Thessaloniki have found how the Cypriot honeybee (*Apis mellifera cypria*) withstands the Oriental hornet (*Vespa orientalis*), which in Greece and Italy has long posed similar threats to honeybees. The Cypriot bees have developed a unique defense. They engulf the hornets en masse killing them by "asphyxia-balling".



But in France, bees are not so well organized, since they have not yet co-evolved with the predator. Instead of "balling" the hornets, brave bees vainly sting them to death, but their stinger cannot penetrate the hard exoskeleton of the hornets. As yet honeybees in France have developed no effective defense.

Dr Max Watkins of Vita Ltd said: "As yet there seems no way of controlling the spread of the Asian hornet, despite the best efforts of fire fighters who are the only ones equipped to destroy their nests, which are usually high in tree tops.

## Combo Screened Bottom Boards



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530-913-2724 or [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

## 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

**Dadant Little Wonder Honey** Extractor With stand.  
Hand extracts 4 deep or shallow frames per load. Used twice. Excellent condition. \$380 for both.  
274-1098 Kathleen

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.

## 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](mailto:queenbeez@att.net)

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- Wide variety of books - children's, beekeeping, DIY soap & candle making

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
briond@aja.com	
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	

### Board Members

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 Janet Brisson  
20693 Dog Bar Road  
Grass Valley, CA 95949  
First Class Mail

**December 7th Meeting - 6pm**  
**\*\* One Hour Early \*\***

**Program:**  
Annual Holiday Potluck