



# Local Buzz

## President's Message

Brion Dunbar, President

The last month was very humbling for me as a beekeeper. I had my son home from college in December, and took advantage of his labor to help with my mite treatment. I had some high mite counts so wanted to hit them aggressively. I followed Randy's lead using a 1-2 punch of oxalic acid plus thymol gel. I mistakenly put the thymol on the top bars of the lower chamber. The correct method is to put thymol gel on a paper card in between top and bottom boxes. I didn't kill any of my colonies, but I set many of them back fairly severely. For some of the queens they would only lay into the area between the center of the box (where they thymol was placed) and the side, essentially limiting themselves to half the available area. Several learned lessons, including 'be absolutely sure of the details of any kind of treatment', and 'don't do a new technique on your whole operation'!

At the last meeting we had demonstration of bee venom therapy by Tracey Stirling. My elbow was used as the example 'sting receiver', as I'd been suffering from tendinitis. I noticed a reduction in pain for about 24-48 hours, then it started creeping back in. Since then I've self administered 2-3 stings in the elbow area twice a week or so, and I have to say the pain reduction is pretty dramatic. This is not to be construed as medical advice, please consult a professional (Tracey) before trying this on your own!

## February 2nd Meeting – 7:00 PM

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

Program this month is Amigo Bob Cantisano, Bee friendly gardening, the Felix Gillet project

Felix Gillet, a nurseryman in Nevada City of the gold rush days, was the first to introduce hundreds of significant plants into California and American Agriculture, many of which are still grown today. The mission of the Felix Gillet Institute is to properly place Gillet in the history of California and United States agriculture through a thorough process of research and education. FGI will educate the agriculture community about his life and its implications. It is important to educate farmers and gardeners about the many tree and plant species he introduced because they provide valuable genetic material for propagation of excellent food, fiber and ornamental crops with great hardiness, resistance to disease and insects, excellent culinary qualities, and longevity. FGI will identify the sites of historic Gillet introduced perennial plants, evaluate their crops, propagate the cream of these varieties and species, and reintroduce these plants into modern agriculture.



Bay tree blooming near Bridgeport

If you are interested in joining us for a no-host dinner at Plaza Jalisco, 760 South Auburn Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945, at 5:30 pm on Monday the 2nd of February please RSVP to Jerry Van Heeringen (530) 913-5709, jerryvan29@gmail.com, at least one day in advance. Please be advised they only accept cash, no credit cards.

## **Bee Bits**

**Randy Oliver, Contributor**

Right now in lower elevation yards, silk tassel, willow, and manzanita are all blooming, which is way ahead of schedule. Expect a very different springtime. Mites could be big problem. Some almonds are starting to bloom in North Valley, but there has been lots of fog in south valley and those almonds are more likely to bloom at the more normal Feb 10th date. Looking like could be shortage of bees for almonds, some reports of commercial operations having crashing colonies.

## **Top 10 Signs to Retire from Beekeeping**

**(a la Dave Letterman)**

10. Your friends think you look better with your veil on.
9. You take off your hat in a restaurant and someone throws a dollar in it.
8. You're heading back to Montana after the almonds and see a sign saying "Welcome to Phoenix".
7. You put a little Bee-Go behind your ears before heading out for a night on the town.
6. The Mayo clinic requests permission to use you as an example of the cumulative effect of bee stings.
5. You find your coveralls stuck to the seat at the local cafe and are forced to leave them behind.
4. A biker asks directions to the nearest restaurant and you perform a short waggle dance. He punches your lights out.
3. You wear an Apistan strip around your neck to formal events.
2. You're asked to give a talk at a local school and you give an hour demonstration on frying varroa with a magnifying glass.
1. Your wife kicks you out of the house in the fall and doesn't let you back in until spring.

## **Capital Public Radio Project**

**Janet Brisson, Contributor**

Exciting news. Mike and I have been asked to be consultants for Capital Public Radio's 'The Garden' Project that will incorporate 4 beehives complete with monitoring systems by Arnia ([www.arnia.co.uk](http://www.arnia.co.uk)).

"The Garden" will have a complete outdoor kitchen, raised beds for fruit trees and vegetables and lots of displays and signs letting people know what is going on. Not only will the project provide food for special CPR events cooked by local chefs, but excess food will be donated to several schools in the area.

All the beekeeping equipment will come from Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies and will be weatherproofed by us. Mike is already constructing equipment to integrate the monitoring system's scale and make sure everything is a good fit.

Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies will bring the bees towards the end of April. I'll let you know more details as the project continues.

## **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](mailto:ross@planitsolar.com). (Randy doesn't go that far down Dog Bar, so no competition from him).

## **Beginning Bee Keeping Classes**

Gary McClaughry, with support from a to z supply is offering Beginning bee keeping classes

Feb. 21

March 7

All classes are 8:30 to 4

Location Ophir Hill fire station #52

12668 Colfax Hwy.

Charge is \$40 and includes lunch and supplies.

Class size is limited. Call 273-6608 to sign up.

Ask for Rob or Dan or email [dan@atozsupply.com](mailto:dan@atozsupply.com)

## **Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association Classes**

**Submitted by Bob Sugar**

The Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association has planned a series of beginning beekeeping classes for 2015:  
Saturday, February 21, 2015 – Instructor: Serge Labesque

Sunday, March 22, Instructor TBD

Sunday, April 19, Instructor TBD

May 23 Instructor, TBD

June 20 Instructor, TBD

July 25 Instructor, TBD

Class fees are \$35 per person for SABA members and \$45 for non-members. All classes are held at the UCD Extension Center, 4145 Branch Center Road (off Kiefer Road west of Bradshaw Road) in Sacramento. Classes start at 8:30 am. and end at approximately 4:30 pm. For additional information, contact Ron Nies or Debbie Gable, Course Coordinators, at [sabaclassbees@gmail.com](mailto:sabaclassbees@gmail.com), or phone Ron at 530.941.3554, or Debbie at 916.202.8320.

## **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](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

## **Minutes from Last Meeting**

**Jack Meeks, Secretary**

Pres Byron Dunbar opened with Q&A

Ultrabee pollen patties were contributed for members.

Our website is being revised, and we still need ideas for new Logo.

Wax moths are not a problem in winter, only when night temperatures reach 70degrees.  
When a hive of two deep supers is unwieldy, try hives of three shallow supers.  
John Miller and Randy Oliver will have presentations in Auburn. Also Hannah Nordhouse, author of "Beekeepers Lament.

#### PROGRAM

Leslie Sterling "Bee Venom Therapy" Since ancient China. Treatment for arthritis, tendinitis, Lyme disease, multiple sclerosis, autoimmune disease and more. Bee venom has 60components, and may be used 2 or 3 times a week. Swelling and redness are common, fever and anaphalactic shock are rare. An epinephrine "EpiPen" for first aid, and Benadryl antihistamine for mild reactions.

## **The Beekeeper's Lament 2015**

#### SCHEDULE

March 26, 2015: "More Than Honey" 7:00 PM - State Theater Free to the public  
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](http://www.auburnoboc.org) or email [auburnoboc@gmail.com](mailto:auburnoboc@gmail.com)



## Combo Screened Bottom Boards



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Special NCBA Club Price! Call Janet for details.  
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

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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.

## A to Z Supply

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M-F: 730 AM—530 PM

SAT: 8 AM—5 PM

SUN: 9 AM—4 PM

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## Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies

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- American dealer for Sheriff suits
- Gifts—bee themed children's wear, tableware, garden décor
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(916) 451-2337 fax (916) 451-7008

Web page at [www.sacramentobeekeeping.com/](http://www.sacramentobeekeeping.com/)

email: [info@sacramentobeekeeping.com](mailto:info@sacramentobeekeeping.com)

Open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 – 5:30

Mail Orders Receive Quick Service

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

## From the Librarian

**Tynowyn Slattery**

Remember...If you can't make meetings to return books, you can always mail them to:

Tynowyn Slattery 20493 Rome Road Nevada City, CA 95959 [swoolman@saber.net](mailto:swoolman@saber.net) 530-265-6318

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](mailto: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
<a href="mailto:briond@aja.com">briond@aja.com</a>	
Vice President – Jerry Van Heeringen	913-5709
<a href="mailto:jerryvan29@gmail.com">jerryvan29@gmail.com</a>	
Secretary – Jack Meeks	432-4429
<a href="mailto:jackvmeeks@gmail.com">jackvmeeks@gmail.com</a>	
Treasurer – Janet Brisson	913-2724
<a href="mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com">rubes@countryrubes.com</a>	

### 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
<a href="mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com">rubes@countryrubes.com</a>	
Newsletter Mailing – Steve Reynolds	268-2133
Newsletter Editor – Gary Gustafson	478-1216
<a href="mailto:garyg@newpress.com">garyg@newpress.com</a>	

## Nevada County Beekeepers Association



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

### **February 2nd Meeting – 7PM**

#### **Program:**

Amigo Bob Cantisano, Bee friendly gardening