

# The Local Buzz

September 2015



## President's Message, Brion Dunbar

Despite a few issues with robber bees at the booth and bee cage, the fair was a grand success. Many thanks to all who helped with booth duty and coming out to the cleanup party. There is so much interest in honeybees by the public these days, and I think we do a pretty good job of helping people learn more about our insect friends. Special thanks to Karla for organizing the cleanup BBQ and booth duty.

I'm hoping you all are keeping an eye on your mite levels. August/September is easy time for the mite counts to get to dangerous levels as the bee population reaches a maximum and starts declining. I have just finished up 2 rounds of treatments with Apiguard thymol gel. The queens tend to move away from the application area, and some stop laying for the week or two after treatment.

Should be a very interesting program next meeting on mead making. Hope to see you there.

## September 7th Meeting – 7:00 PM

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

The program for our September meeting is "Mead Making" presented by Chris Bushman. I know it's a long weekend but Chris has graciously given of his time and it will be an interesting presentation. If Chris can make time for us I think we can make time for him, I encourage all who can attend the meeting to do so, I would love to have a nice crowd for Chris to present to.

## Bee Bits

### Randy Oliver, Contributor

The drought is not making things easy for our bees. I'm seeing established trees dying, apparently for lack of soil moisture, and the bloom of some late-flowering plants seems to be especially brief. Yet in some yards we're still seeing bees bringing in nectar.

Colonies away from town are reducing broodrearing, which exacerbates the impact of varroa. We are struggling with trying to keep the mite under control—it's taking more treatments with either thymol or formic acid than usual. We're also experimenting with alternative methods of applying these miticides. And I'm currently testing a new experimental formulation for MAQS, which has much better shelf life.

Back to our bees, this is when we really keep an eye on the amount of jelly that the nurses give to the young larvae. We use the amount of jelly as our indicator of when colonies start to go into protein deficiency, and we hop on giving those yards pollen sub.

On another subject, I'm appalled what gets published these days as "science." Harvard's anti-neonic Dr. Alex Lu recently released another paper, which I've reviewed at <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/a-review-of-dr-lus-paper-on-neonics-in-massachusetts/>. The point of my review was how skeptical we all need to be of anything purported by the press to be a scientific finding. Since my posting of the review, my inbox has been flooded by thankful letters from bee researchers everywhere. We're all fed up with the sloppy science that makes headlines these days.

## Honey Display at the 2015 Fair

Submitted by Karla Hanson

What a pathetic showing we had at the Nevada County fair this year! I can't say a whole lot because I also didn't turn anything in.

But NEXT year hopefully it's going to be different. We will make sure that we get something on the program schedule so that we will know the in and outs of showing our honey.

Maybe not a whole meeting, but at least an hour or so. Here's a picture of this years Nevada County Fair Honey display.

My hats off to those of you that entered your honey!



## Honey Display at the Draft Horse Classic

Submitted by Karla Hanson

Here's our chance to have a great **HONEY** showing at the Draft Horse Classic, September 24th thru 27th. The Harvest Fair is going on at the same time. There is a category in the Harvest Fair for honey and **LOTS** more.

So let's turn in our HONEY! There are no entry form fees, plus everyone who turns in an entry form receives two complimentary tickets to Friday evenings September 25th performance. The division for honey is **Division 046**. You can enter light, medium or dark honey. Let's show everyone that the Nevada County Bee Club really exists...

Here is the link....

<http://nevadacountyfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2015HF-Full.pdf>

or you can simple Google the Draft Horse Classic.



*Bees are living in my Clematis!  
by Karla Hanson*

## What are Animals Thinking?

Submitted by Karla Hanson

PBS has a great program called What are Animals Thinking? Nova Science Now. Starting at 34 minutes into the video they introduced the Bees! Great program on collective thinking.

We humans have long wondered how animals see the world—and us. Does your dog really feel shame when it gives you that famous "guilty look?" What is behind the "swarm intelligence" of slime mold or a honeybee hive? How can pigeons possibly find their way home across hundreds of miles of unfamiliar terrain? In this episode of NOVA

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/nature/what-animals-thinking.html>

## Pretend Your a Bee (at the Fair)

Submitted by Diane Benton



## Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association Classes

**Sunday, September 27th**—Beginning Beekeeping

Class fee: \$45

**Course Coordinator: Ron Nies;** 530.941.3554 or [sabaclassesbees@gmail.com](mailto:sabaclassesbees@gmail.com)

Location: UCD Extension Center, 4145 Branch Center Road  
(off Kiefer Road west of Bradshaw Road).

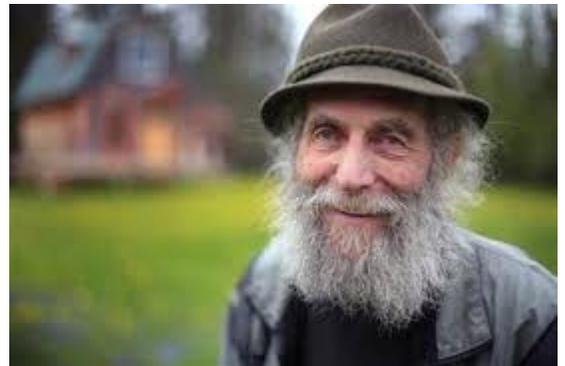
Classes start at 8:30 a.m., end at approximately 4:30 p.m.

For additional information, contact Ron, or register online at <http://www.sacbeekeepers.org>

## Burt Shavitz of Burt's Bees 1935 - 2015

The man whose bearded visage adorns one of America's best known natural brands — and the co-founder of a multimillion-dollar company who missed out on a large part of its good fortune — is gone. Burt Shavitz, the face of Burt's Bees, died at 80 on July 5.

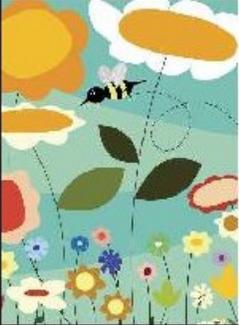
Arguably, the most famous beekeeper in all history was an unlikely hippie living off the land in Maine's remote woodlands. He was living the good life, a reclusive member of the back-to-nature, granola-chewing crowd. In his case, Burt Shavitz had left New York City for a self-imposed exile in the northeast corner of America. He was seeking solitude and the chance to live a life of hard independent work. It was a primitive, subsistence life. In the 1980's, while in his 40s, he was living in a turkey coop. To earn a small bit of cash, he kept bees.



“I realized I had it made,” he once said, “because you don't have to destroy anything to get honey. You can just use the same things over and over again, put it in a quart canning jar, and you've got \$12.”

Before long, what had been a \$3,000-a-year subsistence business was transformed into a multimillion-dollar purveyor of eco-friendly lip balm, lotions and soaps packaged in school bus yellow containers. So long Burt, and thanks for helping bring the gift of bees to millions.

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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

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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.

## 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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## Sacramento Beekeeping & Honey

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## Minutes from Last Meeting

Last Month's meeting was not held in lieu of operating the Club's booth at the County Fair. Thanks goes out to everyone who help clean and prepare the booth and run it during the Fair!

## Kudos to our Friends

By Diane Benton

Every year mother and daughter beekeepers Phyllis and Julia show up at the Fairgrounds beekeeping booth clean up day and potluck. They have been keeping bees for 10 years and have three hives on their property plus a couple more at another location.

They use most of the honey themselves but also sell at local Farmers Markets. Thank you Nevada County beekeepers association members Phyllis and Julia for your dedication!



## Anyone have bee hives to put on my property?

Five acres on Wolf Creek Road, Grass Valley  
Contact Melanie Tillotson 530-217-9293

## 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

## Bee-Saving Dogs?

Submitted by Diane Benton

Klinker is the only certified dog in the United States that can sniff out a specific bacteria that is killing our bee populations. The bacteria is called American foulbrood.

<http://www.upworthy.com/this-special-dog-is-saving-our-bees-shes-the-only-one-that-can?c=upw1&u=e47fb5fc045de55d06795841cb594af47a717608>



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

### **September 7th Meeting - 7pm**

#### **Program:**

"Mead Making"  
presented by Chris Bushman

