

The Local Buzz

August 2016



President's Message, Jerry Van Heeringen

Well the County Fair is almost upon us. Between Karla's comments about our poor honey content showing at last year's fair and Barbara Dwyer's helpful tips on how to enter, I made the decision to enter my honey for the first time. It was quite simple to enter online, it just took a few minutes.

We still have some time slots that need to be filled by volunteers for the Bee Booth during the fair. You don't need to know everything, if you can pour honey onto a spoon and help look for the queens you're qualified. It's a lot of fun and you get into the fair for free that day. If you're interested please contact me jerryvan29@gmail.com or Karla Hansen queenbeez@att.net. See you at the Bee Booth on August 7th!

August 7th Meeting – Sunday at the Fair Booth **Change!**

It's County Fair time! This means our regular monthly meeting time and venue is changed for August. We will gather at the club's fair booth for a potluck BBQ preceded by a booth cleanup.

The cleanup starts at 5pm followed by the BBQ at 6pm. The your Bee Club supplies the gourmet hot dogs and hamburgers and ALL the fixings. Just bring a side dish to share like salads, fruits salads or just your favorite dish to share. We always have a great time listening to all the Bee stories. All Club members and their families are welcome!!! The more the merrier!!!

The admission tickets for the Nevada County Fair Booth will be given out at the Bar B Que. If you haven't been to the NCBA Booth just drive to gate 5 at the back of the parking lot.

Bee Bits

Randy Oliver, Contributor

Wow, what a surprise! After a dismal early season, as the normal main honeyflow from blackberry bloom ebbed, our colonies started to put on honey. I can't even venture a guess where it is coming from. Blackberry often puts out a final gasp of nectar at the end of its bloom, and in some yards we got nice flows that certainly tasted like blackberry (some also flavored by basswood). In other yards, the flavor was mild and pleasant, but certainly not blackberry.

And now Yellow Star Thistle is looking good in some areas. Despite the drought and poor start to the season, there is a goodly amount of wildflower bloom out there—apparently in response to the blessed rainfall this winter. Any healthy colony should have at least put on winter stores by now, and the better hives should have honey to extract.

At this point, I've completely given up on attempting to predict how the bees are going to do each season. To my great surprise, during the past few years of drought, we've seen major honeydew flows in August, but I wouldn't be a nickle on any prediction for this season.

Varroa, on the other hand, is largely predictable, so please be a responsible beekeeper and manage the mite levels in your hives, so that you don't flood your neighbors with mites should your colonies collapse from varroa. To that end, we are testing various hot-weather treatments, and should have data in by next newsletter.

Findings to date at temps over 90°F, Apiguard works, but use a shaded cover, and a 1½" rim, or apply 25g in a lump on an index card, applied between the brood chambers. A single MAQS knocks back mites in hives containing honey, but may also knock out a few poor queens.

Oxalic acid dribble also knocks mites back—we are testing a new method of application, which I will write about next issue.

Bee Booth HELP NEEDED!!

Submitted by Karla Hanson

HELP!!! The club desperately needs people to help man the bee booth for the Nevada County Fair August 10th thru the 14th. We need two people for every shift. Attached is the sign up list. PLEASE review it and see if you can help out for a shift. Remember you get a free admission ticket to the fair and the club will reimburse you for parking. Please contact Karla Hanson if you can help out, 530 265-3756 or queenbeez@att.net.

Nevada County Beekeepers Association						
Fair Booth Staffing Schedule						
August 10th thru the 14th, 2010						
Time		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:30 AM to 2 PM	1	Debbie Cavallero 272-7550	Karla Hanson 265-3756	Martha Dixon 273-6562	Mark Kerns 916 410-9906	Tom Harper 823-9096
	2	Hugh Cavallaro 272-7550	Diane Benton 271-7180		Christa Kerns 916 410-9906	Phyllis Harper 823-9096
2 PM to 6 PM	1	Carl Ubis 916 532-0215	Lynn Williams 675-2924	Leslie Gault 346-7092	Larry Jones 477-2957	Tynowyn Slattery 265-6318
	2	Jeremiah Ferrell 632-3303	Deborah Morawski 675-2924	Stu Clancy 305-2048	Randy Oliver 277-4451	Tom Slattery 265-6318
6 PM to 10pm	1		Al Moody 632-2305	Randy Oliver 277-4451	Eric Oliver 277-5004	Pete Bailey 916 206-9317
	2					Emily Bailey 916 206-9317

YELLOW = SHIFT AVAILABLE

Minutes from Last Meeting

From Jack Meeks, Secretary

Pres. Jerry Van Heeringen opened with Q&A. Next meeting Sunday August 7 at 5PM at the Bee Booth Gate 5 Nevada County Fairgrounds, for setup of booth, followed by barbecue, side dishes welcome.

Leslie Gault conducted the raffle of the beautiful quilt. Jerry drew the winning ticket of Mark & Emily Kerns. Janet Brisson has good results in detecting varroa mites by shaking half a cup of working bees in a jar with powdered sugar to loosen the mites, then releasing the bees, and dissolving the sugar in water in the bottom of a white pail, where the mites will be visible in the clear water. More than three mites indicates treatment needed.

PROGRAM

Barbara Dwyer, who has judged Nevada County honey for 20 years, noted that the only fairs that have judging of honey are ours and Los Angeles County. To make judging more significant, we need more entries in the classes of comb honey, novelty containers, block purified beeswax, single frame (with transparent wrap) and novelty honey gift baskets. Liquid honey jars should have cleaned caps--one jar of each entry is tasted and another is inverted to check how long the air bubble rises. Jars should be filled to bottom cap thread.

Fair Story

From Janet Brisson

July 11, 2016

It was so much fun have Barbara Dwyer speak to us at the NCBA meeting last week. Marilyn and Barbara both spoke at one of my meetings has a first year beekeeper back in 1997. We had just got our bees in May and it was my first time volunteering at the Bee Booth at the fair. For some reason, I picked the opening morning of the fair. I immediately read all the literature on the walls and pamphlets to refresh my scanty knowledge of beekeeping. You have to take that beekeeping class twice, once before you get bees and once after to make all those classes make sense.

I was doing quite well in the booth, answering question, serving honey, etc. My booth mate took a break during a quiet period, and there I was, alone in my thoughts when Barbara and Marilyn appeared at the window. They were upset..... Very upset. Hardly anyone had submitted honey entries to the fair. They spent all that time talking to our club and NO ENTRIES. I stammered out that I was just a first year beekeeper and had no honey, but they were not taking that part in. I promised them next year I would submit entries. And I did, every year for 15 years. For the last 4 years or so, we have taken our trips at the same time as our Country Fair (EAS conference, family and so on) and haven't been able to submit, plus we really didn't get a honey flow.

Barbara made the plea this year to please submit, so she doesn't have to look at an empty display case. We are so lucky to have a county that judges our honey samples. We don't want the fair to take away our display case for lack of entries. I'm going to EAS in NJ this year and then spending time with family back east, so again, I won't be able to enter the fair, but I really encourage you all to do so.

Below is my letter to the fairgrounds after having a disappoint time entering my honey sample. And below that, their reply.

August 13, 2001

A Fair Experience, By Janet Brisson

Well, I entered the honey competition and won a 3rd place ribbon, how, I am still trying to figure out. After taking the beekeeping classes twice, listening to Barbara, the honey judge guest speaker at our meeting and getting coached by Randy Oliver at the last minute, I successfully filled 3 jars out of 6 attempts cleanly (an amazing feat considering I had help from my husband and son who had all sorts of new ideas for getting that honey into jars).

Getting to the fair was a challenge, the first leg off my trip was getting down our very steep driveway, pattern after an Olympic ski jump, and keeping those jars level. Then I had to attack Dog Bar Road and that steep incline to town. I had visions of having my husband invent a carrying case for those 3 matching jars and attaching it to a gimbal in the car ceiling to stay level. Randy said to bring 3 extra caps in case any honey gets into the top of the cap. When I got to the fair, I put all of the veggie entries into a red wagon and pulled that while I carried the jars of honey carefully to the fair building. Since I had our honey entries in plastic Queen right jars, I was worried the fair helpers would hold them by the front and back, and thus would easily be able to squeeze them and mess up the lids. The poor girl must have thought I was totally uptight, I made her carry the jars one at a time to the table, holding them carefully by the sides. As I was entering our other entries, I saw another fair helper scoop up all three jars tightly and carried them away. I couldn't believe it, all that work and the fair helpers were not being very careful. I talked to another beekeeper who also had entries and he told me the fair helper actually tipped the jar on its side carrying it to the table. From that point on, he couldn't look anymore. What is the point to be so careful and doing all of that extra work, just to have the fair helpers goof up our entries? I know its not their fault, they need to be taught and cautioned about handling honey entries as they get marked down for any messiness. I was thinking again about that box to hold 3 jars, and thought maybe the bee club should make a couple of these for the fair helpers to transport the honey entries to the judging table. And it wouldn't hurt to educate the fair helpers before we bring in our entries.

Sincerely, Janet Brisson

Janet --

Thank you for sending your article regarding your experience entering honey at the Fair. We hold meetings with all of our exhibit staff and impress on them over and over again -- that all the Exhibits are precious and should be Handled very carefully. Yearly it seems that there is a "challenge" in one exhibit area or another.

May I have your permission to copy your article and include it in our exhibit employee training packet for next year? If you prefer, I could remove your name from the article. Your feedback on your experience with our exhibit employees might have more of an impact than our "lectures" to the staff.

I regret that some of the honey entries were not handled properly. I'm hopeful that next year your experience will be more positive -- please let me know if it is not!

Thank you for your feedback and participation.

Sandy Woods
Deputy Manager
Nevada County Fairgrounds



Stopped along Hwy 70 to look at these hives set against the backdrop of the Sutter Buttes. You can see where this smart beekeeper has his name engraved on each hive box. - Diane Benton

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 cleanup. 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

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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nevadacountybeekeepers.org

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

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Nevada County Beekeepers Association



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August 7th Meeting **CHANGE!**

At the Bee Booth on the NC County Fair Grounds. Join us for a booth cleanup at 5pm followed by a BBQ at 6PM