

The Local Buzz

March 2019



President's Message, Jerry Van Heeringen



Well the snow predicted on the day of February's meeting never materialized, I sincerely hope everyone got the message in time. We made the decision to cancel the day before the meeting in order to have time to get the word out. I realize many of our members have four wheel drive and have lived here long enough to be familiar with driving in adverse conditions, however not everyone is comfortable driving on snowy roads. We wanted to put neither our speaker nor our members at risk.

Looking back at my March 2016 president's message I mentioned then that the wild plums around town as well as some of my fruit trees were in full bloom. The past couple of years have certainly been different. As beekeepers we were spoiled by the mild winters of the drought years. It was easy to forget that the weather pattern this winter is much more typical for the foothills. We have to stay diligent and continue to monitor the weight of our colonies as between the cold and wet the bees may not get much flight time, and when they do get out there may not be much forage for them.

I'm hoping for the sake of the commercial beekeepers that we have some milder, dry weather when it's time to bring their bees home. It would be a nice break for the rest of us and our bees as well.

March 4th Meeting – 7:00 PM

Randy will report on the very interesting results of his projects last summer on pollen sub improvement, bee and mite drift, breeding for mite resistance, and almond pollination, depending upon how much time we have.

Bee Bits

Submitted by Randy Oliver

Just when I thought that we might not ever see a winter like in the “old days,” we’re not only getting a good drenching, but a nice snowfall. Good for ground moisture, but sure hit some of the plants that had already begun to flower. And then there’s our poor bees—they were expanding their broodnests in response to the alder pollen coming in, and then were suddenly forced to contract.

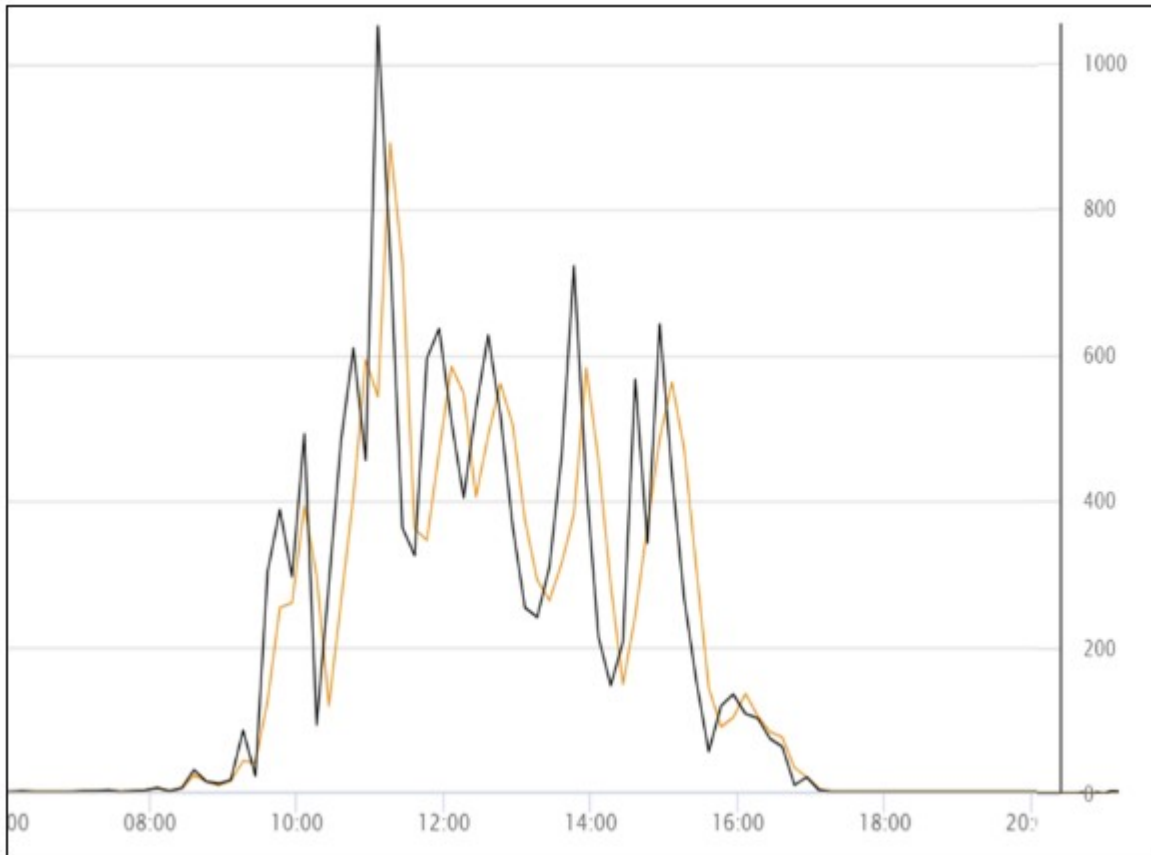
Those of us who moved our hives to almonds had to worry about them getting drowned. Eric and Ian went back down to the Valley to drag hives out of the water.

During the rain, Huw Evans from Arnia hive monitors, flew over from Europe to install some custom-built entrance flight counters on some of our hives placed in four different orchards. The devices record in real time the number of bees flying out, and then number returning. I’m coordinating with the orchard managers so that I can see how the bees respond to fungicide spraying.



In this orchard in Durham, the water had risen above the hive entrances, but we were able to drag the hives up onto slightly higher ground.

Huw took this picture of me installing some entrance counters.



This is a snip from the bee flight record from one day. The black line indicates the number of bees exiting (counts on the right vertical axis), and the orange line the number returning. As expected, more bees exit than return.



When it rains during bloom, the growers typically apply fungicide sprays. I took this photo a few days after setting up the hive monitors in the U.C. Davis experimental almond orchard in Arbuckle.

I'm typing these words the following day, so haven't yet seen whether the spray caused bee mortality.

Club Dues R Due

Submitted by Janet Brisson

Please continue to be a valuable member of the Nevada County Beekeeper's Association.

2019 Dues are \$20/yr. (printed mailed newsletter) or \$15/yr. (email newsletter).

Are you paid up? Look at your email Subject Tab or your mailing label. If you see the words "Dues R Due!" you are not current. Please update your membership or join today.

You can pay dues at the February meeting or mail dues to (make check out to NCBA) NCBA C/o Janet Brisson 20693 Dog Bar Road Grass Valley, CA 95949 Or go our website at <http://nevadacountybeekeepers.org> and look under the Join NCBA. You can pay through PayPal.

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

World's Largest Bee

Submitted by Brion Dunbar – from NPR.ORG



You might think the world's biggest bee would be easy to find. But that's not the case:

Until recently, the last time anyone had reported seeing a Wallace's giant bee living in the wild was in 1981. That changed in January, when the rare bee was spotted on an island of Indonesia.

The Wallace's giant bee — *Megachile pluto* — towers over European honeybees. The female's size has been recorded as at least an inch and a half long, with a tongue that's nearly an inch long. Add to that a pair of gigantic mandibles, and it's a bee like no other.

"It was absolutely breathtaking to see this 'flying bulldog' of an insect that we weren't sure existed anymore — to have real proof right there in front of us in the wild," said natural history photographer Clay Bolt, who was part of a small team that sought out the Wallace's giant bee.

The team found a female bee living in a termite nest on the side of a tree...

https://www.npr.org/2019/02/21/696626918/worlds-largest-bee-is-spotted-for-first-time-in-decades?utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=news

Minutes ~ Last Meeting



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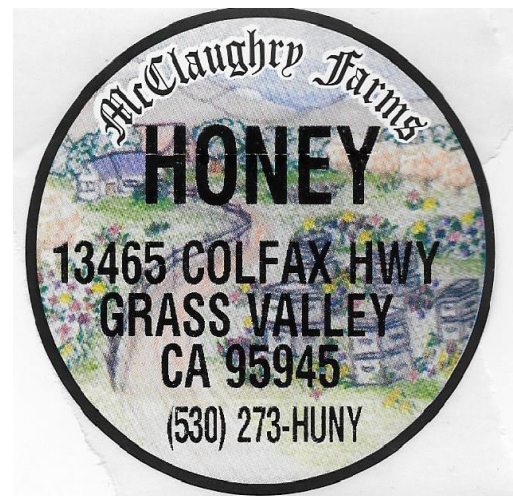
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Advertising rates are \$7 per year for NCBA members and \$16 per year for non-members.

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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Nevada County Beekeepers Association
www.nevadacountybeekeepers.org



c/o Janet Brisson
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First Class Mail

March 4th Meeting 7:00PM

Randy will report on the very interesting results of his projects.

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

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