

# The Local Buzz

October 2021



## President's Message

From Spencer Wingfield

Well what a very nice September we have had. The weather is very pleasant at the moment and those two rain showers we got were welcomed by all. I hope that somehow this September rain is a sign that we will have a nice wet winter. In the past couple weeks I have seen the hives around the county bringing in pollen, which is nice for them, only if I could figure out what species of plant it is coming from.

Just when I started falling behind in just about everything in life, a guy from Argentina phoned me up wanting to work in the bees. I jumped on the opportunity to have help and it has been a fun experience, both having the help and learning how things are so different on the other side of the equator. The biggest difference in beekeeping is that our year revolves around having big beehives for almond pollination. (That being the majority of earnings for most commercial beekeeping operations, giving us an opportunity to have more than one revenue stream).

The next biggest difference is that in the USA, we are largely importers of honey because our population consumes way more honey than what we can produce. Argentina is the opposite and only consumes a fraction of the honey they produce, and rely on the good ol' US of A to buy their glut of honey (unfortunately at an unfair price). Another big difference is the bees' demeanor. My helper is amazed at how docile my bees are. He said it is a dream to work my bees, because we do not wear any protective gear. He had to take photos to send to a group of beekeepers back home when my 19 month old was in a bee yard with us walking around unperturbed by the 20 some odd hives surrounding her. He said that he puts his full bee suit on, in the truck before getting out to work the bees. They sound like very aggressive bees, probably having the "killer bee" genes.

However the differences in the two countries, one thing is surely similar, beekeepers are a quirky group.

## October 4th Meeting at 7pm – ON ZOOM

Due to the continuing current state of events relating to the pandemic, the meeting for October will be hosted on Zoom. At the appropriate time, the Zoom meeting format is expected to end and meetings will return to in-person gatherings. More about that later as a time table develops. For this October meeting, access information will be emailed to the membership prior to the meeting date and time.

### October Program: Reading Bee Hives, presented by Dr. Dewey Caron

Have you read a good book lately? We can read a hive like a book. Turn the page (other side of a frame or remove a different frame) and a mystery might be resolved or deepened. Unfortunately, we might be looking at deadouts this month or next spring, when we return to our bees. This program is about how to read frames and hives with emphasis on how to do a necropsy on dead hives. More on Dr. Dewey further on in this newsletter.

## Bee Bits

Submitted by Randy Oliver

We're in the "last chance" window for this season for varroa control and colony buildup for winter. As far as mite management, if your colony has a high mite wash count (say 20 or more per half cup of bees), then a slow-

acting treatment may not be quick enough to save the colony. A fast-acting treatment for this time of season could be formic strip(s), repeated oxalic dribbles, or maybe Hopguard 3 repeated at 14 days. Only once you've reduced the mite level should you think about encouraging brood rearing. As far as brood rearing, if you are at an elevation where it gets cold during winter, then you want your colonies to go into winter with a decent-sized cluster of bees. Be aware that cluster size will drop by about half in November as the last of the "summer bees" fly off to die outside the hive. You'll want to have a cluster of at least six solid frames covered with bees afterwards. So you want a cluster at least double that size by the end of October.

We almond pollinators want an even larger cluster, but that is not necessary for the hobbyist, since a large cluster will build up rapidly in late winter, and want to swarm in late April. Luckily, as the weather cools, plants breathe a sigh of relief and start to grow again. In some areas, there is nectar and pollen coming in, which will allow your colonies to produce some rounds of brood that will emerge to become "winter bees." If you don't see such increased brood rearing taking place, you can supplementally feed the colony to stimulate it. Feed them a combination of pollen sub and light sugar syrup (heavy syrup if you want them to put away "honey" stores for winter).

In my field trial last year, we found that Global, Mann Lake Bulk, and Dadant AP23 patties performed well. Bears are also hungry this time of year, and the soil is dry (and thus is poorly grounded). Make sure your electric fence is in good operating condition.

I found an interesting bee-mimicking fly the other day, (photo on right).



I've been experimenting with placing humidistats and thermometers between the frames of hives, to watch how various colonies maintain temperature and humidity between the combs during our hot, dry weather.

Even at very low ambient relative humidities (the figures with % signs), bees tend to maintain humidities in the 30-50% range between the honey combs, and in the 50-60% range (occasionally up to 80%) between the brood frames. Bees place water around the periphery of the cluster (in outer frames and on the top bars) to cool the colony by evaporation (which raises the RH there).

Happy beekeeping!  
Randy Oliver

## October Program: Dr. Dewey M. Caron

Dr. Dewey M. Caronis is Emeritus Professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and Affiliate Professor, Department of Horticulture, at Oregon State University.

Dr. Caron retired from the University of Delaware in 2009 and moved to Portland, OR to be closer to grandkids. In retirement, Dr. Caron remains active in bee education, writing for newsletters (regular monthly Beekeeping Basics column for the ABJ), giving Bee Short Courses, assisting in several Master beekeeper programs and giving presentations to local, state and regional bee clubs. He is the author of Honey Bee Biology & Beekeeping, a major textbook used in university and association bee courses and has a new bee book (his 10th), The Complete Bee Handbook, published by Rockridge Press in 2020.

Dr. Dewey wrote 2 book chapters for Honey Bee Medicine, started studies with Africanized bees in Panama in 1982, published a book on them (Africanized Honey Bees in the Americas) and keeps family Africanized bees in Bolivia, where he spends some of our winter (their spring and summer) each year.

## Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Janet Brisson

July/August 2021

Beginning Balance \$5808.27

Deposits 733.71

Sub Total \$6541.98

Debits \$-446.05

Total R/C 9/24/21 \$6095.93

-  
September 2021 Balance as of 9/24/2021

Debits -767.68

Not Reconciled \$5,328.25

## Our Thoughts and Prayers go out to Dan Wheat

Dan recently lost his wife Karen.

Karen Wheat - October 18, 1945 – September 19, 2021

In December 1964, Karen married Danny Wheat. They spent 57 wonderful years together, most of them in Grass Valley with their two children, April Wheat Reese (deceased) and Danny W. Wheat II.

[Obituary for Karen Wheat in The Union](#)



CLASSIFIEDS

**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

**Spring NucS — taking orders now**

Available for pickup in Napa or Waterford in late April. For more information on bulk orders, deliveries and pricing please visit <https://abeeprovisions.com/>

**A to Z Supply** 

13396 Ridge Road  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
530-273-6608/274-3871

**FULL LINE OF BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES**

**HOURS:**  
M-F: 730 AM—530 PM  
SAT: 8 AM—5 PM  
SUN: 9 AM—4 PM  
www.atozsupply.com  
sales@atozsupply.com




**QUEEN BEES & PACKAGES FOR SALE**

OVER 45 YEARS OF QUEEN BEE REARING EXPERIENCE



PRE-ORDER FOR 2021  
SHIPPING EARLY APRIL  
Reserve Yours Today!

**ITALIANS  
CARNIOLANS  
RUSSIANS**

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED  
ONLINE ORDERING

**SURVIVOR STOCK BREEDER QUEENS, TESTED FOR HYGENIC BEHAVIORS  
TRUSTED BY PROFESSIONAL BEEKEEPERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

ORDERS@HONEYBEEGENETICS.COM - (707) 449-0440  
WWW.HONEYBEEGENETICS.COM

 **SACRAMENTO HONEY COMPANY**

2110 X Street  
Sacramento, CA 95818  
(916) 451-2337  
www.sacramentohoneycompany.com  
info@sacramentohoneycompany.com

Formerly Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies!  
Family owned business since 1985

Open Tuesday through Saturday  
10:00-5:00  
Call now to order!

- DIY skincare ingredients - butters, oils, containers, essential oils!
- DIY candle and soap making - scents, molds, dyes, wax, etc.
- Honeycomb sheets for rolling candles - 25 different colors!
- Bee themed gifts & decor for home and garden
- Wide variety of books - children's, DIY skincare & soap/candle-making, honey recipes, bee products & your health
- French soaps & all natural skincare lines!

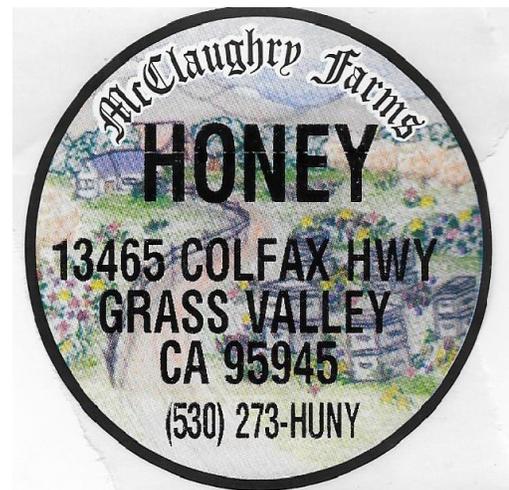
**Sandy Honigsberg**

Beekeeper California Master Beekeeper Program 



**Hive consultations One-on-one mentoring  
Varroa testing/treatments  
Grafting Swarm removal Honey tasting**

text or voice 530.263.2029  
sandy@sandyhonigsberg.com



**Country Rubes Screened Bottom Boards**

10% off for NCBA Members  
Handmade and weatherproofed.  
Will last years and years and never needs painting.  
Check them out here [www.countryrubes.com](http://www.countryrubes.com)

Janet Brisson 530-913-2724 rubes@countryrubes.com

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.

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. Please email Janet Brisson at [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

**Nevada County Beekeepers Association**  
[www.nevadacountybeekeepers.org](http://www.nevadacountybeekeepers.org)



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

**October 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Program: Reading Bee Hives  
presented by Dr. Dewey Caron

**Nevada County Beekeepers Association**

**Officers**

President – Spencer Wingfield 300-3217  
[spencerwwingfield@gmail.com](mailto:spencerwwingfield@gmail.com)  
Vice President – Mark Machado  
[markmconsult@gmail.com](mailto:markmconsult@gmail.com)  
Secretary – Leslie Gault  
[lesliegault@yahoo.com](mailto:lesliegault@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer – Janet Brisson 913-2724  
[rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

**Board Members**

Leslie Gault 346-7092  
Randy Oliver 277-4450  
Karla Hanson 265-3756  
Deborah Morawski 675-2924  
Brion Dunbar 559-1422

**Committee Chairs**

Fair Booth Coordinator – Rob Slay 263-5618  
Swarm Hotline  
Karla Hanson 265-3756  
Lynn Williams 675-2924  
Librarian – Tynowyn Slattery 265-6318  
[swoolman@saber.net](mailto:swoolman@saber.net)  
Membership – Janet Brisson 913-2724  
[rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)  
Newsletter Editor – Gary Gustafson 478-1216  
[garyg@newpress.com](mailto:garyg@newpress.com)  
Social Media  
Jess Ferrer

All area codes are 530 unless noted otherwise.