

# Local Buzz



January 2008

## President's Message

By Rob Slay

2007 has been a great learning year for me, from simple assembly of hundreds of frames, making my own nucs, speaking at farm day in Yuba City and at the Nevada County fair, and finally heading up a 4H beekeeping class. It's truly all good! Now I'm converting a flatbed trailer to accommodate a bee hoist, and my back is already thanking me. I've also been contemplating the fact that the pollen and syrup put on colonies now will feed the last cycle brood that will be mature for almonds.

Looking forward to a great year serving as your president! Please join us in taking Dr. Larry Conner out to dinner (no-host) at 4:45 PM at Tofanellis restaurant on the 7th. Everyone welcome.

Rob Slay 2B Honey Co.



## January 7<sup>th</sup> Program

Back by popular demand, Dr. Larry Connor, noted entomologist, publisher and author of many articles in 'American Bee Journal', 'Bee Culture' and books including his latest, "Increase Essentials", will be our guest speaker Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Dr. Connor has been touring the United States, visiting beekeepers, picking up tips and reporting them in his latest series in the American Bee Journal, "The Traveling Beekeeper". His top priority has been educating beekeepers in topics such as beekeeping management, queen rearing and the state of the hive. This will be a wonderful time to stock your libraries, Dr. Connor will bring some of his books to sell.

Lynn Williams and Deborah Morawski took a couple of pictures of local beehives during a recent trip to Bali. The owner of this hive said there were a "lot" of bees in it. But, notice only a few are in the one picture, not nearly as many as we would see on one of our hives in the summer. Also, the bees appeared a bit smaller than ours.

## Bee Bits

By Randy Oliver

Happy New Year to all! I'm catching up from overextending myself going to conferences in November and December. Since you've all seen the disaster that I call my home beeyard, you can laugh with me at my

“celebrity” status. Next conference is the “mega” conference in Sacramento in January (be sure not to miss it—the vendor’s display should be awesome!). I’ve also been trying to upgrade my website, and should soon have several new articles up (I just installed high speed internet this morning!).

From my point of view, Nosema ceranae is going to be a huge topic in beekeeping circles. It already is in Europe and elsewhere. The French beekeepers who had Gaucho insecticide banned may have to eat crow if the problem turns out to have actually been nosema! The problem in France was noted in sunflower fields. However, sunflower pollen is notably a poor bee food, and could have been a major contributor to a nosema problem. We have much to learn about this new disease!

I noted that the bees I summered in Nevada County had more nosema than those out of state. Later this year I will give the Association a demonstration on microscopic technique to diagnose nosema infection, and will offer members to bring in samples of their bees. Look at my microscope recommendations before you make a purchase!

With member Thom Staser’s help, my sons and I began a field trial this week to test various nosema control treatments. We’re testing four methods of applying Fumagilin B-- in syrup, dribbled over the bees, dribbled at high strength, and in pollen supplement patties. We’re also testing strong thymolated syrup (weak did not work), HoneyBHealthy, and bleach in syrup dribbled. We will need to perform three more treatments, and then take spore counts under the microscope of 192 bee samples!

We are also experimenting with various formulations of pollen supplement. I should have supplement cake available in January and February at \$1.50 per pound (which is cheaper on a protein basis than Mann Lake patties). Feed about three pounds per colony.

For those of you going to almonds, the market is settling at about \$140-\$160 for “good” colonies (for some, that is 4-frame or better, for others, 8-frame average). You should check your bees by January 10th to make sure that they are brooding up, and well fed.

It looks like the weather pattern has finally changed, and we may get enough precipitation for a honey crop next season. I wish you all the best of luck this coming year!

## December Party Report

No business meeting was held at the December potluck Christmas Party on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sherry and Charlie won the favorite place setting contest, and everyone had a good time. If anyone acquired a small red-handled knife at the party, please contact Leslie at 346-7092.

(there would have been some party photos if editor had not left her camera at work)

## Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors met at newly-elected President Rob Slay’s house on December 19th. Present: Janet Brisson, Rob Slay, Larry Merritt, Steve Reynolds, Jack Meeks, Karla Hanson, Leslie Gault. Absent: Randy Oliver.

MOTION KHanson 2d JBrissson: Circulate sign-in sheet (please PRINT name) at meetings; prepare reusable name badges to be collected at close of meeting. Passed: voice vote.

FINANCE Brisson: Projected budget for 2008:

\$300 reserve for theft tip-offs

100 Dr Larry Connors honorarium

116 Insurance

500 Reserve for honoraria and dinners

50 December party

960 (\$80/mo) mailing and copying

100 Library

240 (\$20/mo) raffle

MOTION: RSlay 2d Larry: Raise annual dues to \$15 e-mail, and \$20 postal for Local Buzz. Passed, voice.

MOTION: JMeeks 2d RSlay: Fund \$50 and dinner for Dr. Mussen Oct 1 '07 mtg; also dinner when Randy is Program; future honoraria by vote of Board. Passed 6-1. (Jeffrey Pylman, Nev Co Ag Commissioner was mentioned as future speaker.)

DRAFT Meeting Schedule for 2008:

JAN Dr. Larry Connor

FEB John Miller spring buildup.

MAR Randy, beginner class opening

APR Karla H, Lynn Williams, swarm control

MAY Etta May Peterson, Sonoma County Beekeepers Association

JUN Randy Nosema testing

JULY Fair entry preparation, mite control

AUG Bee Booth cleanup & picnic

SEPT Fair recap, seed & plant swap, fall hive management

OCT Gadgets & gizmos, invitees from fair

NOV Dr. Mussen, election 2009 board, officers

DEC Party, pirate gift exchange

Jack Meeks, sec

\*\*\*\*\*

DW Transport  
MC# 486738  
We move BEES !  
Experienced  
Call us for a price quote !  
We can move anything on our flatbed or van !  
530-885-8220  
dwtransport@aol.com  
references available



\*\*\*\*\*

## New Dues

December has been a big month. Not only did we have additional expenses o the Christmas party and two years of liability insurance, a few members had saved their receipts for reimbursement and turned them in. And they were large amounts. Suddenly, our club was a little short of money. Our board talked about this at the December 19th Board meeting. So much has gone up in the 10 or so years since we have raised the modest dues for the NCBA . Equipment, raffle prizes, honorariums and dinners for awesome guest speakers are some of costs that make our beekeeping club one of the best in the country (I know, I've been to a few). We realized we have fallen way behind the times, not raising our dues in at least the 11 years I've been a member. We voted to raise our dues to be in line with other clubs in the area. For those receiving their newsletters through the mail, the 2008 dues are \$20.00 and those receiving their newsletters by email are \$15.00.

Please bring your check or cash (exact change please) to the January 7th meeting and see me. If you are not going to make it, (you must have a good excuse to miss a great program by Larry Connor), please mail your dues to

NCBA  
c/o Janet Brisson  
20693 Dog Bar Road  
Grass Valley, CA 95949

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 530-913-2724 or email at [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

See you at the meeting,

Janet, Treasurer

## Don't Forget

Tuesday Jan 8 to Saturday Jan 12 in Sacramento is a rare opportunity to attend the joint National Conferences of the American Beekeeping Federation and the National Honey Producers Association. See information on the website at <http://www.abfnet.org/node/12> .

Also, hive registration for Nevada County Beekeepers is due by the end of January 2008. You may submit the form published in the December 2007 Buzz to the Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner's office (upstairs from where we meet), or contact them directly at 530-273-2648.



### Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies

- Complete line of all beekeeping supplies
  - Candle making supplies (molds, wicks, dyes, scents)
  - Glycerin soap making supplies (soap base, molds, scents, and dyes)
  - Honeycomb sheets for rolling candles (50 colors and in smooth)
  - Beeswax and paraffin, special container candle wax
  - Gifts, books, ready made candles
- 2110 X Street, Sacramento, CA 95818  
(916) 451 - 2337 fax (916) 451 - 7008  
email: [sacbeek@cwnet.com](mailto:sacbeek@cwnet.com)

Open Tuesday through Saturday 9:30 - 5:30 MAIL  
ORDERS RECEIVE QUICK SERVICE

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.

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. The newsletter is published monthly as a service to the membership. Articles, recipes, commentary, and news items are welcomed and encouraged. Submission by email is encouraged. Please submit to Leslie Gault at [lesliegault@yahoo.com](mailto:lesliegault@yahoo.com). The deadline for the February 2008 edition is January 21st. A limited amount of advertising space (business card size 3" by 2") is accepted and need not be bee-related. Rates are \$1 per issue or \$7 per year for NCBA members and \$16 per year for non-members. All revenue from advertising goes to the Association treasury and helps offset the cost of producing and distributing this newsletter. To receive the *Local Buzz* via email: please email your request to [lesliegault@yahoo.com](mailto:lesliegault@yahoo.com)

Nevada County Beekeepers Association      2008 Officers  
President: Rob Slay.....263-5618  
[robslay@peoplepc.com](mailto:robslay@peoplepc.com)  
Vice President: Steve Reynolds  
Secretary: Jack Meeks..... 432-4429  
[jackm@nccn.net](mailto:jackm@nccn.net)  
Treasurer: Janet Brisson..530-913-2724  
[rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)  
Board Members Larry Merritt  
Leslie Gault ..... 346-7092  
Randy Oliver..... 277-4450  
Karla Hanson..... 265-3756  
Committee Chairs  
Swarm Hotline: Karla Hanson..... 265-3756  
Lynn Williams .....675-2924  
Librarian: Tynowyn Slattery... 265-6318  
Newsletter Mailing: Gary Wood..... 477-9202  
Newsletter: Leslie Gault..... 346-7092  
[lesliegault@yahoo.com](mailto:lesliegault@yahoo.com)  
Honey Extractors: Karla Hanson.... 265-3756

Nevada County Beekeepers Association



c/o Gary Wood  
10396 Mountain Lion Lane  
Grass Valley, CA 95949  
First Class Mail  
January 2008

**January 7<sup>th</sup> Program**

Our January program will be Dr. Larry Connors, the intrepid traveling beekeeper. No-host dinner 4:45 PM at Tofanellis restaurant. 7 PM meeting at the Grass Valley Vets Hall.