



# Local Buzz

## President's Message

Ron Slay, President

Hello everyone and welcome to a full tilt honey flow. So far blackberry is going strong and star thistle is on the way. I saw some thistle blooming in Looms a few days ago. I hope your bees are doing well because this year has almost been perfect as far as bee keeping goes. Don't forget to sign up for a shift at the fair booth. See Karla at next meeting to do so.

## July 2nd Meeting - 7:00 PM

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

Our program will be Honey Extraction and Fair Preparation, presented by Jeremiah

## No Host Dinner - 5:30 PM

There will be a no host dinner at Lin-Q buffet just before the meeting.

Everyone is invited. 682 Freeman Ln. Grass Valley, in the Raley's shopping Center

## Bee Bits

Randy Oliver, Contributor

Wow, I don't know what happened! We had the best spring ever for bees—warm, continual nectar and pollen flows. Our colonies put on large amounts of Manzanita honey. Conditions looked perfect for the main flow after the fruit bloom, and then we even got two good shots of rain just before, and during blackberry bloom. The bees were rapidly starting to draw comb and then, nothing happened!



**Last season I took the photo shown here at one of my yards during blackberry bloom.** This year I'd be lucky to be able to shake out a half dozen drops! I do not know what happened to cause this lack of nectar flow—the plants looked lush, and there appears to be plenty of ground water, at least near the surface.

We are not the only ones experiencing this. I spoke with a large commercial beekeeper in the Valley, and he says that a similar thing is happening there—colonies are starving.

We are only making honey in a few of our yards—quite a disappointment, since when I saw how good things were going, we bought and assembled 700 deep supers of foundation in which to hold the expected honey crop. All those supers now need to be removed, empty, and stored over winter.

Practical application: you may need to help your bees through a difficult summer. Keep an eye on varroa, since it is at high levels due to the early brood rearing this season. Large mite populations combined with small bee populations are a recipe for disaster. You may wish to encourage brood rearing with sugar syrup and pollen patties once things dry up.

To change the subject, a fresh scientific paper demonstrated how Deformed Wing Virus, once it gets to a certain level in a bee, is able to suppress the bee's antiviral response. Once this tip point is reached, the virus then explodes in the bee, causing rapid mortality of the individual bee, and at a larger scale, the entire colony. This effect is exactly what I've observed in a number of experiments—that there is a tip point for pathogen load that overwhelms the bee immune response, at which point rapid colony collapse follows.

What we as beekeepers want to do, is to help prevent that tip point from occurring in our hives.

**Update June 20th** - We are starting to see a bit of late flow coming in, similar to last year. Colonies that have not touched supers of foundation during the first weeks of blackberry flow are finally starting to draw comb, so don't give up all hope!

## **Goodies Sign-up**

**Karla Hanson, Coordinator**

Please let me know if you can bring a treat for any of the coming meetings. [queenbeez@att.net](mailto:queenbeez@att.net)

## **Raffle Prizes**

We always need more contributions to the monthly raffle! Almost everyone loves having more plants. Be creative. For every item you bring, you receive a free raffle ticket (up to 5). The raffle helps with the club's expenses. Thanks!

## **Library**

Anyone interested in setting NCBA library policy please email Randy [randy@randyoliver.com](mailto:randy@randyoliver.com)

## **From the Librarian**

**Tynowyn Slattery, Librarian, Reviewing 2 new books**

A new book has arrived.

*Decorating Eggs: Exquisite Designs with Wax and Dye*

Jane Pollak

Published by Sterling Publishing , 123 pages

This well formatted book on Pysanky, Ukrainian Easter Egg decorating, is really a pleasure to read. Jane Pollack is an artist who loves her art and communicates her expertise and enthusiasm on every page, every one of which has beautiful, full color photographs of every stage of creating these little jewels; from the basics like choosing the egg to some high tech tools available for cutting.

There are chapters on history, and design, (traditional and modern) and the process itself, with step by step explanations of technique that are very well illustrated and easy to follow with a detailed discussion of the tools needed to create the designs.

One important chapter on color layering, which I thought might be the most technical after the very clear and detailed explanation from Ms. Pollak, turned out to be the part that made me lose all practicality and want to take on a new art form. Almost. Beware, you might be sorely tempted, as well, when you see the ear rings, brooches and holiday decoration /gifts that can be made using this book.

A couple of small negatives; there are no patterns, other than in the illustrations, and no sources for dye and tools; of course, we all have the wax, but the rest can easily be found on the web.

Thanks to Stephanie for the recommendation.

You might have noticed the spiffy new library cabinets made by Hugh Cavalero and funded by a much appreciated bequest of the late long time Association member Burt Spangler. Burt donated his library of bee-related subjects as well and as soon as the books are in order a print-out of titles will be available to help with finding what you need. A note about late books: The library books are checked out for a month, which can be extended by another month by calling, or preferably, e-mailing me.

If problems arise with returning material it can be mailed to:

Tynowyn Slattery

20493 Rome Road, Nevada City, CA 95959 265-6318 ~ [swoolman@saber.net](mailto:swoolman@saber.net)

## **Free Honey Super Cell Frames**

**Submitted by Randy Oliver**

These are free items. I have about 20 deep super's worth of plastic Honey Super Cell frames. See this [article](#) for more information on these combs. These combs are used, but serviceable. Hive bodies not included.

Contact Randy at 530/277-4450



Typical initial nectar and pollen storage on combs to sides of cluster. The bees appeared to readily accept the HSC combs (left) for storage. Surprisingly, overall weight gain was greater for the control combs built on foundation (right).

## **This Month's Recipe**

**Submitted by Leslie Gault**

Lemon Honey Squares (from National Honey Board website)

Makes 12 servings

- 2 cups flour
- 3/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup honey
- pinch of salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 Tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 lemons, grated (rind and juice)

Sift flour and confectioner's sugar. Blend in butter as for pie crust. Pat evenly in bottom of 9 x 13 inch pan. Bake 20 minutes at 350°F. Meanwhile, beat together eggs, sugar, honey, baking powder, cornstarch, salt and lemon rind and juice. Pour over baked crust. Return to oven for 25 to 30 minutes. Cool. Cut in squares. Serve with ice cream or sherbet, or top with berries, if desired.

## **April Minutes**

**Jack Meeks, Secretary**

Pres Rob Slay opened @ 7pm with questions from the floor. Providing water for bees - a burlap sack or concrete block, dampened by water drip is best--deep dishes drown bees. Don't divide a colony with less than six frames full of bees and a queen each.

Finances for May - Janet Brisson

Opening balance \$4941.10 ~ Income \$407.00 ~ Expense \$68.15 ~ Closing Balance \$5280.73

Our program was Leo Chapman speaking on "Living Lands". Leo is founder of LLAN "Living Lands Agrarian Network" which trains and mentors young farmers and promotes co-ops nationwide. Local, sustainable agriculture and urban gardens promote health, social life and modern methods, with interns, journeyman programs, and farm visits for school kids. More information on their [website](#).

Worldwide and local beekeeping practices and ceremonies, commercial and individual, with interviews, related problems with diseases affecting bees. Dr. Eric Mussen, Randy Oliver, Thom Staser, Gary McClaughry and Briar Patch were featured. The explosion of non-native almond culture in California caused bees from all over to circulate widely. Cereal monocultures like corn and wheat which provide no nectar and exclude beekeeping from large areas of farmland, while city beekeeping in yards and roofs produce local supplies.

## **Nevada County Bee Booth**

**Karla Hanson, Contributor**

It that time again to sign up for the Nevada County Bee Booth.

This year the fair runs from August 8th through the 12th.

Please email Karla Hanson at [queenbeez@att.net](mailto:queenbeez@att.net) with the day or days that you would like to work.

Each shift is 4 hours long and start at 10:00AM and close at 10:00PM.

Each shift will include a ticket to enter the fair grounds. I am hoping to get free parking tickets too but I don't know for sure yet. Be the first to email Karla and pick the time slot best for you and a spouse or friend.

## Country Rubes Combo Screened Bottom Boards

Special NCBA Club Price! Call Janet for details. 530-913-2724 or [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

## Club Membership

Janet Brisson, Treasurer

If you are a new member and want to sign up but can't make it to the meeting, you can sign up on line at NCBEES.net.

You can always mail your dues.

\$20.00 (includes newsletter through mail)

or

\$15.00 (includes newsletter through email)

NCBA

c/o Janet Brisson

2093 Dog Bar Road

Grass Valley, CA 95949

Help us reduce paper and mailing costs, get your newsletters electronically and your family membership fee is reduce from \$20 to \$15.

Email Janet at [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

## 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

### A to Z Supply

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## Bees in a Car

### Note from the Editor

Jim Whitaker is the owner of the car in which a swarm landed for a short time on Saturday after the Nevada City Foreign Car show. He would like to obtain some of the photos that were taken of that event. If you can help, please contact him at [jimwhitakerinrnr@gmail.com](mailto:jimwhitakerinrnr@gmail.com)



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



c/o Steve Reynolds  
10838 Ridge Road  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
First Class Mail

### **July 2nd Meeting - 7PM**

Jeremiah Farrell will be discussing,  
" Honey Extraction and Fair Preparation".

Lin-Q - 5:30PM - no host dinner before the meeting

## Nevada County Beekeepers Association

### **Officers**

President: Rob Slay..... 263-5618  
Vice President: Jeremiah Farrell..... 743-2842  
Secretary: Jack Meeks..... 432-4429  
[jackm@nccn.net](mailto:jackm@nccn.net)  
Treasurer: Janet Brisson..... 913-2724  
[rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

### **Board Members**

Larry Merritt..... 613-3923  
[lameritt@theunion.net](mailto:lameritt@theunion.net)  
Randy Oliver..... 277-4450  
Charlie Whittlesey.....292-3249  
or 755-0468  
Deborah Morawski...675-2924  
Karla Hanson..... 265-3756

### **Committee Chairs**

Swarm Hotline: Karla Hanson..... 265-3756  
Lynn Williams ..... 675-2924  
Librarian: Tynowyn Slattery..... 265-6318  
Newsletter Mailing: Steve Reynolds..... 268-2133  
Newsletter: Gary Gustafson..... 478-1216  
Honey Extractor: Karla Hanson..... 265-3756