

Local Buzz



November 2007

I'm Not a Beekeeper ... Yet!!!

Wondering why you received the November 2007 issue of the Nevada County Beekeepers Association newsletter?? Check your address label....if the word 'Fair 07' is printed by your name, then you signed up for information about beekeeping information and classes at the Nevada County Fair at the Bee Booth. Our beginning beekeeping classes will start March 08, and we will send you another newsletter to let you know, but we thought our November program would be of great interest to you. Check it out!! Beekeeping is not only about honey and pollination; you can use the hives byproducts to make lotions, furniture polish and many other useful goods for you and your home. It's free, it's fun. Hope to see you there.



November 5th Program

Members Greg and Linnie McNaughton have been long time beekeepers in the Placer-Nevada County area for years. Not only a master canner and gardener, Linnie has been making and selling natural soaps, lotions and other skin products out of nature's best using bee products, herbs and plants from her garden. Linnie McNaughton is a published author, had a shop in Meadow Vista for years and held workshops to share her crafts. This is a must-see program for people getting ready for the holidays or the person needing a great gift to give, or someone wondering what to do with all of that beeswax they have. Linnie will talk about all sort of products with ingredients from the hive and bring samples of her work that you can easily make at home. And she will have available to buy, her two books, 'Kitchen Cosmetics' (\$10), a culmination of her recipes of natural skin products from her classes and "Lovely Lavender's (\$5), filled with tips on growing and using this wonderful herb for recipes, herbal crafts and skin products.

November Elections

The NCBA will be holding elections for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer at the November meeting, and we're looking for candidates. We also need volunteers to perform various other jobs to help run the meetings. Our esteemed librarian, Tynowyn Slattery, is temporarily incapacitated while she's getting a pacemaker, so we especially need help here. Contact Shane Mathias at 308-1376 if you're interested in any of these positions.

Bee Bits

By Randy Oliver

(These is an excerpt from Randy's upcoming article in the American Bee Journal. Please read the full article

when it comes out, as there is significant detail omitted here due to space issues)

No matter how well your bees are fed, the benefit will be moot if they're unable to digest it!

Timing

The honeybee colony is a biological system that goes through an annual cycle, tied closely to the progression of the seasons. The successful beekeeper must always be aware of this fact, and make sure that his management is timely. Timing is everything—nature does not accept excuses nor delays. Supering up halfway through the honeyflow is too late. Feeding after a colony has shut down brood rearing due to protein deficiency is also too late. The beekeeper needs to be observant and proactive.

If you want to maintain colonies that are as big as Sumo wrestlers, they must continually eat like Sumo wrestlers—either from natural forage, or by supplementation. You can't wait until the last minute to beef up a contender! Feeding only in late fall or winter may be too little, too late. This point was brought home with a vengeance to California beekeepers this season. Our early summer drought shut down colonies in July. Those beekeepers who began supplemental feeding in July now have much stronger colonies than those who waited until late August. ***It is easy to lose colony "momentum" – once they start to ramp down due to dearth, they are much harder to restart, than they are to maintain with minimal supplementation.***

Here's another nutritional stress tip: The outcome of a stress event is often not apparent until a month or more later. ***When you see colonies having problems, it may be due a stress event that happened two or more months ago.*** Beekeepers with problem bees would do well to get in the habit of looking back at events a couple of months prior, in order to try to figure out what happened. Note that one of the common denominators of CCD colonies was a stress event two to three months prior. There is a lag time for the consequences of nutritional stress to appear—it is easy to be caught

by surprise, and then it may be too late to do anything about the problem.

I've found that by wintering strong, pollen-rich colonies with plenty of quality honey stores, that there is no need for spring syrup feeding. Those colonies build up just fine on their own if they have adequate pollen—either from early spring alders and brassicas, or from supplement. So how much honey should you leave on for the California winter? I just heft my colonies and judge by the grunt. However, for those of you needing a more precise number, I hooked a spring scale to the front cleat, and lifted appropriately heavy colonies until the front rose clear of the ground. The scale read in the range of 60-70 lbs. My son uses a more colorful set of measurements: "If you can heft the front with two fingers, it's too light. If tipping it up makes your balls (Editor's note: you women out there may substitute some measure of upper body strength) hurt, it's too heavy." Too heavy is a problem since a honeybound colony has inadequate empty brood comb on which to cluster and later fill with brood.



Hefting a colony for weight in fall. Ian's saving his back (and other parts) by levering off his knees.

The bees have a natural cycle in temperate climates, and you are fighting their instincts if you try to stimulate them to brood up between the first of November and the winter solstice. However, by New Year's day, they are ready to roll, if the weather is warm enough (as it usually is in California), and they will respond to feeding ***if the colony is composed of well-fed winter bees who***

have not previously reared brood or foraged, and have not been compromised by varroa or nosema.

October Minutes

Vice Pres Rob Slay opened with Q&A with Dr. Eric Mussen. Wasps eat honeybees only when other insect prey is scarce. Yellow-jacket wasps "meat bees" sometimes a plague, can be controlled with microencapsulated diazinon (now scarce) in cat food bait, carried back to hidden nest and wipes it out. A plastic jug with meat hung just above soapy water traps those which invade your picnic. Pure blackberry honey can be very light color if extracted early.

PROGRAM: Dr. Mussen. Cornell professor Tom Seeley studied feral bee colonies around Ithaca, NY reports bees and varroa can balance--symbiosis--varroa reproduce slower. The parasporal body and protease inhibitor in Bt bacillus attacks caterpillar gut, but not a problem with bees.

Colony Collapse Disorder still lacks specific cause but nutrition is involved. Bee immune system is weak. High-fructose corn syrup is cheaper than sugar as bee food. Fructose byproduct hydroxymethylfurfural is toxic to bees above 140F @150ppm. For Dr. Mussen's UC Davis links, Google "Eric Mussen."

Jack Meeks, sec

reason this generation of slippers was made with shaggy cloth.)

Don't forget to go out and pick up a couple bags of pine needles for smoker fuel to last the year. The needles are always freshest in the piles caused by these first few storms.

The National Beekeeping Conference, from January 8-12, is a not-to miss event for all beekeepers from hobbyist to the big commercial guys. They will have the most noteworthy scientists, authors, and other people of the bee world, and it's in Sacramento, at the Doubletree Hotel. No excuses! Discount tickets in advance. Check out the flyer. See you there,

Janet



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



This and That

Editor observes that JC Penney in Grass Valley has the coveted bee-feet slippers for sale in the Women's section right now. (although for some

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

The 2008 National Beekeeping Conference

The 2008 Conventions of
American Honey Producers Association
American Beekeeping Federation



EVENTS OF THE WEEK

- Tues., Jan. 8** Boards and Committees
Trade Show Set-up, 2 p.m.
Symposium for the Committee for the Promotion of Honey and Health in America
Welcome to California Reception, sponsored by CSBA, evening
- Wed., Jan. 9** Opening Session, Keynote Speech, morning
Trade Show opens, noon
Shared Interest Groups (SIGs), afternoon
Honey Queen Reception, evening
- Thur., Jan. 10** General Session, until 3 p.m.
Ladies Auxiliary breakfast meeting, morning
American Bee Research Conference, all day
OPTIONAL EVENT: 3 p.m. depart for UC-Davis tour and Dinner
- Fri., Jan. 11** General Session, until 3 p.m.
American Bee Research Conference, all day
Serious Sideline Symposium, all day
OPTIONAL EVENT: 3 p.m. depart for Mann Lake Ltd. and Agriculture Tractor and Truck Museum and Dinner
- Sat., Jan. 12** Interactive Workshops, morning
Trade Show closes, noon
Serious Sideline Symposium, afternoon
AHPA and ABF Business Meetings, afternoon
ABF and AHPA Banquets, evening
- Sun., Jan. 13** Board Meetings, morning

**All Together
At One Time
In One Location**

**The National
Beekeeping Conference
Includes meetings of:**

- American Association of Professional Apiculturists and the American Bee Research Conference
- Symposium for the Committee for the Promotion of Honey and Health in America
- National Honey Packers & Dealers Association
- Apiary Inspectors of America



HOTEL:

Doubletree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way
Sacramento, California 95815
For Reservations Call: (916) 929-8855
Group Rate: \$95.00 -- 1 to 4 persons
Free Parking — Room for Trucks

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES:

	<u>Advance</u>	<u>At Conference</u>
• Family (couple)	\$200.00	\$275.00
• Single person	\$175.00	\$250.00
• One day/One person	\$75.00	\$100.00

**For More Information: www.americanhoneyproducers.org — OR — www.abfnet.org
ABF • P.O. Box 1337 • Jesup, GA 31598 • Ph. 912-427-4233 • Fax 912-427-8447 • info@abfnet.org**

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. The deadline for the December 2007 edition is November 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

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

2007 Officers

President: Shane Mathias..... 308-1376
lawdawg911@earthlink.net
Vice President: Rob Slay 268-8656
Secretary: Jack Meeks..... 432-4429
jackm@nccn.net
Treasurer: Janet Brisson....530-913-2724
rubes@countryrubes.com

Board Members

Past President Gary Wood..... 477-9202
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
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
November 2007

November 5th Program

Our November program will be member and author Linnie McNaughton speaking about making soaps, lotions and other skin products out of bee products, herbs and plants from her garden. 7 PM at the Grass Valley Vets Hall.