

Local Buzz

December 2007



December 3rd Social

The December meeting on 12/3/08 will be our annual potluck Christmas Party and pirate gift exchange, starting earlier than usual at 6:00 PM. Debbie Cavallaro and Karla Hanson have offered to cook us the main meats (ham and turkey). Each person or family group should also bring a potluck dish to share (side dish or dessert, no assignments, bring whatever you want).

Bring your own place settings and eating utensils/plates. If you care to participate, we will provide a prize to the setting voted 'most popular', so if you feel like dressing up your setting a bringing the fine china, please do so! Coffee/tea and hot apple cider will be available as usual, or bring your own favorite beverages.

Everyone who wants to participate in the pirate gift exchange must bring a wrapped gift in the \$15.00 range. (one per person, or one per family, you go home with as many gifts as you bring.)

Deborah Morawski always does a great job facilitating the pirate exchange, and the evening is loads of fun! See you there!

Bee Bits

By Randy Oliver

I'm "enjoying" a hectic schedule, speaking at a number of state beekeepers conferences this fall and winter. It's making it difficult for me to take care of my own colonies! However, as Janet can attest, it is wonderful to meet beekeepers from other areas, and amazing how much beekeeping varies from one area to the next. For example, many beekeepers in Oregon are migratory pollinators—some get paid for four (or more) different crops (including almonds in California). Their main interest was colony nutrition.

On the other hand, the New York beekeepers were largely stationary, with a few pollinating apples and blueberries. *They* wanted to know about mite control and oxalic acid. Interestingly, exotic weeds have now created a nectar flow during what used to be their post fruit bloom nectar dearth! Weather permitting, they have continuous honeyflow for most of spring and summer, plus a nice goldenrod flow in fall. We California beekeepers can't even imagine having a honeyflow all summer long. The New Yorkers stack their honey supers as high as they can reach.

Dr. Marion Ellis gave a great photo presentation of his summer in France. Beekeepers are honored professionals there, and once a professional beekeeper, always a beekeeper for the rest of your life. They wouldn't consider changing careers. In France, 30% of income is spent on food—largely in local growers markets. They celebrate food, and the colorful variety of ways that honey and wax are sold would be great examples for us.

Dr. Ellis was studying an apiary of the European black bee that has been maintained without any treatment for varroa for eight years. The bees showed strong varroa sensitive hygiene. However, they were a bit more defensive during colony inspections.

The French countryside had huge areas of lavender commercially grown. Entire hills are completely covered. By law, the flowers can't be harvested until the nectar flow is over, so beekeepers move in by the thousands to collect the precious honey, which sells for a premium.

Speaking of which, each time I speak, I am given samples of the local honey. It is incredible to taste all the different flavors! And on the subject of honey, in Oregon Virginia Webb spoke on how she has won seven U.S. national honey competitions, plus best honey in the world at Apimondia (which has major attitude against U.S. honey). Tips: put plastic wrap over the tops of the jars before you put the lids on. After transport, remove the plastic. Jars should be filled to the bottom of the lid rim.

Gus Rouse, owner of Kona Queen, showed slides of his queenrearing operation on the Big Island. However, his crowded yards are hungry in paradise, and he needs to feed syrup and pollen supplement constantly!

I had the pleasure of hearing both Jay and John Miller speak at different conferences. They both have a gift, each different. John detailed the costs of moving 10,000 colonies to and from Gackle, ND for the honey crop. Only 8,000 live colonies returned. When he added up transportation costs, labor, medication, etc., he spent an average of \$71 per colony for the round trip. The sale of the honey returned \$72 per colony. The exercise gave John's employees work for the summer.

November Minutes

No old business. New business: NCBA needs liability insurance to continue meeting at the Grass Valley Vets Hall, motioned and seconded to spend \$116/year plus \$80 for 2007 for insurance thru the County. Jeffrey Pylman, Nevada County Ag

Commissioner, visited to remind us all to register our bees, letter and form to appear in next Buzz. Officers were designated for next year. December's meeting will start at 6 PM. Bring a Pirate Exchange gift, potluck concoctions, beverages and utensils. Dr. Larry Connors has agreed to speak at our January 7 meeting. Don't forget the beekeeping convention in Sacramento January 8-13.

TREASURY: Starting balance October \$1,329.40, receipts \$12.50, expenditures \$152.72, ending balance \$1,189.18.

PROGRAM: Linnie McNaughton demonstrated her books and cosmetics line based on bee products, herbs and garden plants. A dozen fragrances and lotions in gift jars were displayed.

Jack Meeks, sec

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2008 Officers

Thanks to all to the following persons for volunteering to be our NCBA officers for 2008:

Rob Slay, President
Steve Reynolds, Vice President
Janet Brisson, Treasurer
Jack Meeks, Secretary.

Debbie Cavallaro offered to be librarian temporarily while Tynowyn Slattery is recovering. Leslie Gault will continue to prepare the newsletter, Janet Brisson sends out the email version, and Gary Wood sends out the snail mail version. Karla Hanson continues to do the raffle, manage the extractor rentals, and work on the swarm hotline. Finally, Lynn Williams leads the swarm hotline.



Janet Brisson, right, speaking at the Southern New England Beekeeper's Association last month. With her are Dr. Jennifer Berry, Dr. Dewey Caron and Dr. Larry Connor. She was invited to be on the panel at the very end and help field questions.

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Substituting Honey for Sugar when Baking

By experimenting, honey may be substituted for granulated sugar in baked goods, cup for cup, with the following alterations to the recipe:

For each cup of honey used, reduce the amount of liquid in the recipe by ¼ cup.

Add ½ teaspoon baking soda for each cup of honey used. This will neutralize honey's acidity and help the food rise.

If the recipe contains sour cream or sour milk, however, you can forego adding baking soda.

Reduce the oven temperature by 25 degrees Fahrenheit to prevent over-browning.

When using honey in jams, jellies, or candies, increase the cooking temperature just a bit to allow the extra liquid to evaporate.

Moisten a measuring spoon or cup first with water, oil, or an egg before measuring the honey to prevent it from sticking to the measuring utensil. Honey is heavy by weight. A 12 ounce jar equals one standard 8 ounce cup. A quart weighs 3 pounds.

NEVADA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

APIARY REGISTRATION

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2008

NAME: _____ PHONE: () _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

- PLEASE CHECK IF ADDRESS CHANGE
PLEASE CHECK HERE AND RETURN IF YOU NO LONGER HAVE BEES IN NEVADA COUNTY.

LOCATION OF APIARIES IN NEVADA COUNTY ON JANUARY 1, 2008

DESCRIBE LOCATION SO IT CAN BE PLOTTED ON COUNTY MAPS USING ROADS, CANALS, INTERSECTIONS, LANDMARKS AND RANCH NAMES, GIVING DIRECTION, DISTANCE AND SIDE OF ROAD; OR SHOW QUARTER SECTION, SECTION, TOWNSHIP AND RANGE.

OF COLONIES LOCATION OF COLONIES

Table with 2 columns: # OF COLONIES, LOCATION OF COLONIES. Multiple empty rows for data entry.

USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NEEDED

THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO USED FOR TOTALS IN NEVADA COUNTY'S YEARLY CROP REPORTS

REQUEST FOR PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION

I hereby request to be notified before pesticide applications as provided for in Section 29101 of the California Food and Agriculture Code and Title 3 California Code of Regulations, Section 6654.

I am available for notification during the two-hour time period from _____ to _____, Monday through Friday by collect call to the following phone number(s) () _____ or () _____.

I understand that if I fail to submit my request for pesticide notification to the Agricultural Commissioner IN WRITING within the 72-hour period before relocating, I may not be entitled to recover damages for any injury from pest control operations. I also will not recover damages if I fail to properly post an identification sign at my apiaries or am not available for notifications at the hours I have designated above. I understand that this "REQUEST FOR NOTIFICATION" will expire next December 31.

DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

PRINT NAME _____

DATE RECEIVED BY AGRICULTURE _____ BY: _____

AGRICULTURAL STAFF



**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER**

255 South Auburn Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Mail: 950 MAIDU AVENUE NEVADA CITY, CA 95959-8617

(530) 273-2648 FAX (530) 273-1713 www.mynevadacounty.com

Steven L. DeCamp
Community Development Agency Director

Jeffrey Pylman
Agricultural Commissioner

Dear Beekeeper:

State law requires all apiaries to be registered with the County Agricultural Commissioner during the month of January of each year. On July 28, 1993, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors approved Resolution Number 93-393 waiving the Registration Fee for hobbyist beekeepers.

A Hobbyist beekeeper is defined as having LESS than 10 hives in the apiary. If you have 10 or more hives you are NOT considered a hobbyist beekeeper and a \$10.00 registration fee is required when you return the registration form.

BOTH HOBBYIST AND NON-HOBBYIST BEEKEEPERS MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THE APIARY REGISTRATION FORM.

Please fill out the Apiary Registration Form and return to the Nevada County Department of Agriculture office **before** the date noted on the Registration Form. **Please be specific.** If you relocate your bees at any time during the year, you must notify this office as to the new location. Informing this office of where your bees are located is very beneficial to all beekeepers when a complaint call is received regarding bee problems. **If you no longer have bees in Nevada County, please indicate on the form and return the form to this office.**

Also included on the registration form is the "Request for Pesticide Notification." Please sign if you wish to receive notification of pesticide treatments, so you can move your bees. Please note that you must be available during the two-hour time period each weekday and you must accept collect calls.

The final deadline for apiary registration is Thursday, January 31, 2008.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pylman
Agricultural Commissioner

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 January 2008 edition is December 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
December 2007

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