

The Nevada County Beekeepers Association

Local Buzz



October 2008

Karla



Karla Hanson doing a bee removal in Truckee

What Karla Does in Her Spare Time...

The owner of the Cottonwood Restaurant in Truckee called me and told me he wanted these bees removed. There was a colony of bees at the restaurant that had been living there for over 2 years. They were located right above the heater. Smart bees... The owner of the restaurant didn't mind the bees until one day he went to work to discovered that a bear had destroyed part of the siding on one part of the building trying to get at a wasp nest. He know that it would be only time before the bear would discover the bee colony and he didn't want any more damage to the building.

So now I have a new colony of bees at home plus the honey which is quite good. I'll try to remember to bring some to the next meeting. (Ed: someone remind her! Another photo of her husband preparing for the hunt is on page 5 inside.)

October 6th Program

The Nevada County Beekeepers Association will be meeting October 6, 2008 (Monday night), at the Veteran's Memorial Building (back door off parking lot) on 255 South Auburn Street in Grass Valley at 7PM. All visitors are welcome. Wondering about pollination and how it can help your garden and orchard? What should you be doing next in the BEE YARD? Join our lively question and answer session starting promptly at 7PM followed by a brief meeting, refreshments and a fun program.

It's our annual Gizmos and Gadgets night. Here is your chance to show off your homemade or unusual beekeeping ideas, gizmos and gadgets. Bring in your inventions and ideas to display and talk about. If you have any questions, please contact our vice President, Steve Reynolds at 530-268-2133.

Bee Bits

By Randy Oliver

Following are excerpts from an upcoming article by Randy about the 'drench' method of treatment for *Nosema* –Ed.-

Nosema ceranae is of great concern to the many beekeepers who have discovered that their bees are infected. It is indeed widespread, although I have sampled a number of operations in which it is virtually undetectable. Unfortunately, the standard treatment of fumagillin dissolved in heavy syrup has not always proved to be effective. In a trial that I ran last winter of several different ways of applying fumagillin, plus some alternative treatments (in prep), I was surprised to find

that no treatment appeared to result in “clean” bees in the spring.

Since I now had a yard of nosema-infected bees going into a spring nectar flow, I was in a position faced by many beekeepers—how to treat your bees when it is impractical to feed two gallons of medicated heavy syrup. In my case, there was a nectar flow on, and the bees were not likely to take syrup consistently, or if they did, they would likely store it, rather than consume it. Some colonies were sick, and not likely to take syrup well. There are also other times when feeding gallons of medicated syrup is impractical, such as when the bees are storing honey, when the colonies are already plugged out with honey, or when feeding that much syrup is just too expensive. A concern of large commercial beekeepers is the potential degradation of fumagillin in their large tanks of syrup between the time that it is mixed, and when it is finally put into a feeder and fully taken by the bees—mixing fresh small batches that can be applied immediately alleviates this potential problem (this is not a problem if the syrup is fed within a day or two).

At these times, some beekeepers are using the “drench” method, in which the appropriate dose of fumagillin is dissolved in a cup or so of light syrup, and dribbled or sprinkled over the bees. The rationale is that the bees will lick up all the syrup off each other, and through the process of trophallaxis (food sharing), spread the active ingredient evenly through the colony, with minimal storage of the product.

An important, but frequently misunderstood, point is that drenching with a dose of strong medicated syrup does not necessarily mean that that you are increasing the dose of active ingredient (a.i.) to the colony—it simply means that you are giving the same dose in a lesser amount of syrup.

However, a single drench will only give a temporary dose. To control nosema, it appears that the treatment must be given continually over a period of at least one full brood cycle, in order to prevent reinfection of the new generation of bees. When treating with gallons of heavy syrup in the fall, it is easy to give a continuous dose to the bees as they eat their way through the stored medicated “honey.” In order to get the same effect with the drench method, it must be repeated more than once, and at frequent intervals. The question is: how frequently, and for how many doses? Higes (2006) found that treatment of colonies with 30mg of fumagillin a.i., repeated weekly four times was effective at controlling *N. ceranae*. However, note that it took until a week after the fourth treatment until no more spores were detected.

I performed this experiment in order to answer two questions:

1. Would fumagillin, applied as a “drench” at the rate of 1 cup per 10-frame colony (30mg a.i. per colony), repeated weekly, stop an incipient *N. ceranae* infection in its tracks?

2. Would any other of several alternative treatments, applied similarly, be effective?



Application of the first drench. I made sure that the bees were evenly wetted to ensure distribution of the treatment to the entire population.

Drench treatments were applied at the following rates:

Treatment letter	Product	Amount per cup of 1:1 syrup
A	Fumagilin-B®	30mg a.i., equivalent to 1- 454g bottle dissolved in 20 gallons of syrup
B	Thymol	0.5g
C	HoneyBHealthy®	5ml
D	Nosevit®	10 drops
E	VitaFeed Gold®	35ml
F	6% bleach	17ml of 6% sodium hypochlorite
G	Control	No addition

(Ed interlude: Here Randy's detailed article gives several pages of charts, graphs, and discussion of colony strength, treatment timing and details, and measurements taken to determine results. In a nutshell...:)

The lack of nosema eradication by any treatment is surprising, given that the colonies were treated four times a week apart, and under near ideal conditions for coverage of the bees with the medication. It suggests to me that we need to look more carefully at improving the efficacy of drench treatment. It also suggests that those beekeepers who are splashing on a single drench treatment, and expecting it to do more than give them exercise, are wasting their time.

We are grasping for answers in dealing with this new parasite, and I've spoken with other researchers. New questions arise if we start using regular summer treatments. Dr. Robert Cramer notes that nosema does not exist in a vacuum--it is associated with a suite of beneficial and/or pathogenic bacteria, fungi, and viruses. Any treatment may affect any or all of them. Dr. Marla Spivak wonders whether regular summertime nosema treatments will contaminate honey, or cause nosema resistance to the medications. We don't know the long term effects of any kind of treatment (although fumagillin has a good track record to date). Finally, Geoffrey Williams questions whether treatment with fumagillin may give a competitive edge to *N. ceranae* over *N. apis*. At this time, there are still more questions than clear answers as to *Nosema ceranae* virulence, threshold treatment levels, effective treatment doses, and optimal application methods.

Randy

Rent the NCBA Extractor!

Remember to call Karla Hanson for the Honey Extractor. She has already started a list for people reserving the extractor. Karla Hanson 530 265-3756. Also give Karla a call if you don't have a place to extract your honey, she may have some suggestions.

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September Minutes

Meeting held in Vets Bldg parking lot, with plants and seeds for exchange and raffle prizes.

PROGRAM: Randy Oliver projected pictures and diagrams of bee immune systems, plus his research on several methods of *Nosema ceranae* control which will be published in the Bee Journal. Randy is also measuring several commercial pollen substitutes and supplements, comparing them to gains in hive weight, costs and bee acceptance. Brewers yeast is a common component.

Jack Meeks, sec

Cottage Cosmetics

A how-to guide for making fine olive oil soap and all natural personal care products using beeswax is available from local author and herbalist, Linnie McNaughton. The guide includes detailed instructions. To order send a check for \$15 to:

Green Blessings
21055 Dog Bar Road
Grass Valley 95949
Call (530) 906-0831

Green Blessings - Class Schedule 2008

October 13- Luxurious Lavender

November - 4 Felted Pumpkins

November 1 - Cheesemaking

November 15 - Kitchen Cosmetics

November 22 - Soapmaking

December 6 - Kitchen Cosmetics for Holiday Gifts

For more information & to register for classes go to secure website: greenblessings.com or call Linnie at: (530) 906-0831

Last Month's Limericks

Stuart Ching, of the Nottinghamshire BKA (Beekeepers Association) in the UK pointed out that he should have been given credit as the author of the limericks in Sept edition. Thank you Stuart!

Janet's Bringing Strawberry Plants

Get your strawberry beds ready because I'm bringing in strawberry plants. These are a Day Neutral Variety, like

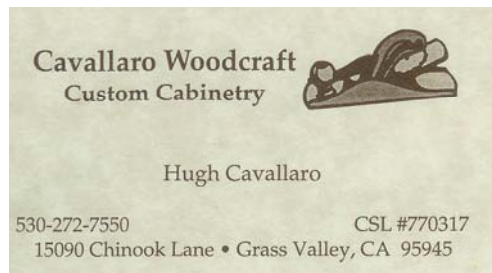
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Webpage at www.sacramentobeekeeping.com
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California State Beekeepers Association Annual Convention

Dear Fellow Beekeepers and Friends,

You are cordially invited to attend the 118th Annual California State Beekeepers Association Convention, November 13-15 at Harrah's, Lake Tahoe. This has been an unprecedented year for the beekeeping industry. With this in mind, I have tried to invite outstanding speakers who will address current issues and topics. At our Research Luncheon, Amanda Ellis, Florida Dept. of

Tri-star that bears really sweet medium to large size berries all summer long until frost. It's a great time to plant them. Please bring a bag to put these clumps into.

Agriculture, will discuss 'The Effects of Parasites on Honey Bee Pollination Efficacy'. During the convention, honey bee colony size and strength, nutrition, bee lab research, the seedless mandarin issue and, of course, CCD will be addressed.

Orin Johnson, President, CSBA

A membership and preregistration form for the convention is on the next page. Preregistration is due Oct 28. Or see website at <http://www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/> and membership and registration form at

<http://www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/pdfs/MembershipRenewalform.pdf>



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 November 2008 edition is Oct 22nd. 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

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Nevada County Beekeepers Association



c/o Steve Reynolds
PO Box 548
Chicago Park, CA 95712
First Class Mail
October 2008

October 6th Program

Our October 6th program will be our annual Gizmos and Gadgets program, 7 PM at the Grass Valley Veteran's Hall. See inside for details.



California State Beekeepers Association, Inc.

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(209)667-4590 • castatebeekeepers@hotmail.com
www.californiastatebeekeepers.com

Name _____

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2009 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

ANNUAL DUES (Please check appropriate below)

- Commercial (500+ colonies) \$75
- Hobbyist (less than 50 colonies) \$25
- Sideline (50-499 colonies) \$40
- Friend (all others) \$25
- Affiliated Club \$75
- Packer, Supplier, Dealer \$100

Total Membership Dues \$ _____

2008 CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION FEE (In advance - \$80 • At the hotel - \$120.00) \$ _____

ADDITIONAL ADULT FAMILY MEMBER(S) (In advance - \$45 • At the hotel - \$60) \$ _____

RESEARCH LUNCH ... @ \$50 Please check for vegetarian meal \$ _____

ANNUAL BANQUET @ \$60 Please check for vegetarian meal \$ _____

RESEARCH FUND DONATION (voluntary contribution) \$ _____

KING BEE DONATION (Minimum of \$125) \$ _____

RIGHT TO FARM DONATION (voluntary contribution) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mail to above address ♦ Make checks payable to CSBA, Inc.
Pre-registration deadline is October 28, 2008 ♦ Thanks!

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