

Local Buzz



September 2008



Photo submitted by Brion Dunbar

September 8th Program Please Note Date!

Due to the availability of our meeting room, we are holding the September meeting a week later than usual.

The Nevada County Beekeepers Association will be meeting September 8, 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. Interested in becoming a beekeeper? Wondering about pollination? Questions about the state of your hives? Join our lively question and answer session starting promptly at 7PM followed by a brief meeting, refreshments and a great program by Randy Oliver on Fall Hive Management.

And it's our annual Seed & Plant Exchange. Bring your best, your favorites, and even your leftovers and be prepared for a great time.

Bee Bits

By Randy Oliver

I've noticed a surprisingly late nectar flow continuing in Grass Valley and Nevada City yards this season. At a time that bees are normally hungry, colonies are making white wax, drawing comb, and building up well. Last year, my operation was plagued with American Foulbrood (AFB). I burned over 70 deep boxes of combs. I didn't use any antibiotic, since I wanted to flush out any remaining disease so as not to run the problem of selling contaminated nucs. Surprisingly, I haven't seen a single case this year!

However, I am still unhappy with "spotty brood" in many of my colonies. This spotty brood appears to be associated with colonies that do not thrive, and can come and go. I suspect one or more viruses, but the limited testing that I've gotten back has not fingered any in common (most colonies have one or more viruses present). I also see a lot of sick yellow larvae that do not look like EFB. I have samples into three different research teams, and hope to discover what the culprit is. Varroa pressure has not been especially strong in my yards. Every beekeeper should make sure that their mite levels are brought down in mid August (that means before you read this). I have both thymol gel and formic acid pads for sale. Both are safe and effective, and can be used with good efficacy even in hot weather. I just finished counting many dozens of samples of nosema spores from a test that I ran of different treatments. I will log the data into a spreadsheet tonight, and hope to publish next month (I'll report at the meeting).

I'm starting a pollen substitute feeding trial this week. We equalized 60+ 6-frame singles with new queens, and will be feeding them one of five different substitutes. We've already mixed, weighed, and frozen 2-lb patties for the trial. I will track the progress of the colonies as I feed them sugar syrup and patties for the rest of our dry season, while they build into a super of foundation above. I hope to find if there is any difference in frame

strength of the colonies correlated with type of supplement, when I move them to almonds in February.

I'm finding myself spread a bit thin. I've got several projects going in which I'm working in conjunction with researchers from several universities. They vary from mite control to viruses to feed supplements to chalkbrood control to nosema. If I had any sense at all, I'll scrape a few projects off my plate.

By the way, every company with a product to sell for disease control in bees seems to approach me to try their product. Yesterday I received several gallons of slightly salty water that has been electrically charged to produce oxidative or surfactant ions. One product is a sterilant, the other for killing small insects such as aphids (or varroa mites). If any of you would like to try either as bee feed, varroa control, garden mite or aphid control, or food sanitization, let me know. They are food grade, and you can drink them. They are used in hospitals, food processing facilities, and greenhouses.

Randy

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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.

For Sale

For Sale: Country Rubes Combo Screened Bottom Boards

Special NCBA Club Price!

Call Janet for details. 530-913-2724 or email at rubes@countryrubes.com.

August Minutes

The August meeting was a fair booth cleaning and social, no minutes were taken.

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

September 13- Luxurious Lavender

October - 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

Beekeeping Limericks

There was a beekeeper so kind,
Who, when asked, "Do you mind?"
"Tell me do your bees sting?"
Said "they can't do such thing
"Stay in front and don't go behind."

There was a young beekeeper from hell
Who wanted lots of honey to sell
Used his frames which were sealed
And to better his yield
Extracted the brood frames as well.

There was an old man long ago
Wanted to make candles, you know.
Wax was heated too high
And he found, by and by
The firemen put on a good show.

A forgetful beekeeper, we hear
Was smoking his bees without fear.
When his mobile phone rang,
Quickly to it he sprang,
But smoker he put to his ear.

National Pesticide Information Center

Our librarian, Tynowyn Slattery, brought some brochures to the July meeting from the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC). Tynowyn highly recommends the website as a straightforward source of information, including **Bee Colony Collapse Disorder**



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The website states: "In response to several inquiries about the phenomenon currently called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), NPIC presents this collection of science-based articles, fact-sheets and resources. Our goal is to promote informed decision-making based on sound science." The website contains links to articles on CCD from Government, University, and Independent sources.

It also covers a wide variety of such interesting (Editor knows, she just spent the last half hour looking at it) topics as:

- Is it ok to use treated lumber in my vegetable garden?
- Are insect repellants containing DEET safe?
- Will mothballs control rats?

<http://npic.orst.edu> If you have questions about CCD, or any pesticide-related topic, please call NPIC at 1-800-858-7378 (seven days per week, 6:30am-4:30pm PST), or email at npic@ace.orst.edu.

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

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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 October 2008 edition is Sept 24th. 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
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First Class Mail
September 2008

September 8th Program

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