

# The Monthly Extractor



Volume 47, Issue 3

March 2022

*This is our newsletter that reflects the various techniques, theories and art of sustainable beekeeping.*

## SCBA General Meeting

Date: March 14 2022, 6:00 – 8:30 (pst)

We are excited to be hosting our first hybrid (in-person/Zoom) meeting. Join us in person at Druid's Hall (1011 College Ave., Santa Rosa) or use the Zoom link. When we introduce our speaker for the evening, Susan Kegley, we will present on Zoom for those who are not able to make it.

Susan Kegley, Principal Scientist for Pesticide Research Institute and Co-Owner of Bees N Blooms will be talking to us about "The Importance of Pesticide-Free Food for Pollinators."

Depending on where your landscape plants were sourced from, visiting pollinators might be getting more than they bargained for. This talk will address the use of pesticides and how you can ensure your garden is the true bee haven you'd like it to be.

Join Zoom meeting (standing link for the year).

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86514254718?pwd=cHZqcERVdG5HZIR1eXF5MDNaQkRGUT09>

ID: 865 1425 4718

Password: 768368

## President's Message

Hello SCBA Members,

Honeybee swarm season is here, and the bees need our help. In Sonoma County, our honeybees begin to swarm in February and continue until mid-summer as swarming is a natural process that happens every year. Honeybee swarms are one of the most beautiful and exciting phenomena in nature, and as the swarm starts to emerge, it is a thrilling sight. That being the case, SCBA has raised a swarm season awareness program and rolled out a press release, for that matter. We reached out to local public media and large-scale businesses and continuously utilizing our social media platforms to spread the word to keep our pollinators safe and find them a happy home.

By now, SCBA annual survey should be in your inbox as you are currently an active member. This year's survey has sections for you to provide input for all our programs, including Bees, Gardening, Members, and Community Education. If you haven't done it already, I encourage you to take the survey. Your input is vital towards growing our programs.

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## SCBA March Member Events

- March 1 – [North Cluster Café \(Zoom\)](#)
- March 13 – [Garden Dig](#)
- March 14 – [General Meeting](#) (see above)
- March 21 – [New Beekeepers Forum](#) (Zoom)
- March 19 -- South Cluster Cafe
- March 23 -- [G4Bs Core Meeting](#)
- March 28 – [Seasoned Beekeepers Forum](#) (Zoom)

Click on the event to get more information.

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It has been a busy start of the year for the association. Our volunteers hit the ground running like a bee colony coming out of the winter with such high energy! It is awe-inspiring to see new members stepping up for leadership volunteering positions and taking roles passionately. It is also delightful to see many of our new SCBA members joining our meetings and getting the support they need from our experienced members.

Our board of directors, cluster leaders, educations, program director, monthly extractor staff, and all other SCBA volunteers are working on multiple aspects of improvements and new ideas that will enhance our association and take it to the next level. Spring Fling planning is underway, and the date has been set for May 14th at Bees N Blooms. I am super excited about this event and looking forward to it—more details to come.

Our February general meeting and all-cluster Zoom café were a great success. Our spectacular swarm catchers' volunteers are standing by and ready to respond to those expected swarm calls at any moment. BeeShare committee is astonishingly getting all the documents ready for our members on the swarm or BeeShare lists. Gardening for Bees Core Group is developing and had the kick-off meeting on January 25th, and they had a great second meeting on February 22nd.

Finally, I hope you are all ready for the 2022 season and did your first coming out of the winter colony inspection. The sound of the propolis seal breaking between hive boxes lingers with me, and I am so grateful to have that first handshake with my bees at the start of the new stewardship season. Many of us lost colonies in the past winter, including myself, and I am in no doubt we all did our best to keep the bees alive. However, those high losses don't mean managed honeybees are disappearing; the overall number of bee colonies is relatively stable. Beekeepers divide their surviving bee colonies to create new ones that replace those lost, or they may capture a swarm or even start fresh to continue their bee journey.

Beekeeping is a fun personal journey; enjoy it, and may the buzz be with you!

*Mohammed Ibrahim  
1st Vice President/Acting President*

## From the Desk of the Program Director

As winter's grip eases, I have enjoyed watching the pollinators – honey bees, native bees, ladybugs – and salamanders discover the new haven I have created with help from G4Bs and Garden Digs with Ellen Sherron. If you are interested in learning more about G4Bs and being a part of this fantastic program, you can contact our Gardening coordinator, Angelo, at [gardening@sonomabees.org](mailto:gardening@sonomabees.org).

Sonoma County Beekeepers Association is continuing to grow as well, and we need the help of our members to continue that growth and help SCBA thrive. Committees are forming for upcoming events and programs that need our members participation.

**Fundraising Committee** – Do you have ideas on how to help raise funds to help our programs thrive? How to get community partnerships and sponsorship? Do you have contacts within our community who we can reach out to? We would love to hear from you! Being a part of this committee will help all our programs grow and thrive.

**Education Committee** – You don't need to have been an educator to be a part of this committee. We are looking for people with ideas on innovative ways to reach out to schools, children, and our community. Being a part of this committee will help SCBA's outreach into our community and into our schools.

**Apple Fair Committee** – Sebastopol's Apple Fair will be back this year! We are all excited to be getting back out into our community. This is a fun event every year and we need a team to coordinate the SCBA activities at our booth. Being a part of this committee will be some work, but it will be a lot of fun and you will make great memories as well as provide great memories for our community.

**Spring Fling** – This event is being pushed back a month to May 14. This will be a lot of fun for our members to get together and reconnect. We will have activities, workshops, and a silent auction. Help is needed with coordinating and collecting donations and volunteers will be needed the day of.

If you are interested in being a part of any of these committees, please reach out to me, Shannon Carr, at [programdirector@sonomabees.org](mailto:programdirector@sonomabees.org).

## SCBA Bee Share Program

SCBA's Bee Share Coordinators have been hard at work getting things organized for another busy season. SCBA's Bee Share Program helps coordinate new homes for bees on the move. When extra swarms are collected by our public swarm catchers or members and/or hive splits become available, they may be donated to the bee share program. The Bee Share coordinators then work to locate a member on the "needs bees list" who has an apiary ready to receive bees.

One of the sections in the 2022 SCBA Member Survey asks whether you may have bees to share or need bees and this information is passed along to your cluster's Bee Share Coordinator. Whether you think you will have bees to share or need bees, please help your cluster's Bee Share program by filling out the 2022 Member Survey. The survey was sent out on February 10. Look for "SCBA 2022 Member Survey" as the subject. If you can't find it in your inbox, please send an email request to [programdirector@sonomabees.org](mailto:programdirector@sonomabees.org).

While our coordinators do their best, due to the nature of bees and many other variables, we cannot guarantee everyone on the list will receive bees.

SCBA's 2022 amazing Bee Share team consists of Rorie Sweeney and Ann Jereb in Central, Bruce Harris in West, Nick Freedman and John McGinnis in South, Maralee Joseph in East, and Maureen Bufton-Landwehr in North.

**Rorie Sweeney and Ann Jereb** are our Central Cluster Bee Share Coordinators and have been working together since they became "Bee Buddies" years ago. Rorie Sweeney will be taking the lead with Central Cluster's Bee Share. She has been a beekeeper for six years and with SCBA for five. She has been a Cluster Coordinator, Regional Coordinator, and loves the people in this association. She enjoys learning about honeybees and other pollinators and continues to share what she learns with members of association. She has also enjoyed sharing this amazing adventure with her 7-year-old grandson who has had a bee suit since he was 3 years old.

Rorie will be aided by Ann Jereb, who served as SCBA's President in 2020 and has been with SCBA since she started beekeeping 9 years ago when a huge and amazing swarm of bees landed in her garden. That experience led her to SCBA and becoming

a beekeeper. She has found a passion for tending bees, continually learning about pollinators and growing healthy forage through gardening and sharing the knowledge she has gained with other members of SCBA.

**Nick Freedman and John McGinnis** are teaming up to be the South Cluster Bee Share Coordinators. This will be Nick's 9th season beekeeping and he has been with SCBA for 8 years. Every year Nick sets up multiple swarm traps and answers the calls from our community to relocate swarms. Some of his favorite things about SCBA are the new friends he makes, the community and that his garden is full of plants from the gardens of fellow SCBA members. He believes that sometimes the best way to help bees is NOT by being a beekeeper, but to plant, plant, plant forage for the bees.

John (Johnny Mac) McGinnis has been keeping bees, and has been a member of SCBA, for more than six years. He has caught hundreds of swarms over the years. He loves tending to his bees and making wooden wares for keeping bees (Buzz Off Honey at Goah Way Ranch). He finds honeybees and their behavior fascinating and enjoys the opportunities to teach others all about bees. He really misses the in-person meetings and hopes we will be able to get back to those soon.

**Bruce Harris** will be taking the helm for West Cluster Bee Share. Being Bee Share Coordinator is just one of the many hats Bruce wears for SCBA. He often works on many SCBA projects, most notably as our IT Support. He has been with the association since he started beekeeping more than seven years ago. He loves sharing what he has learned over the years and is always there to support his fellow beekeepers.

**Maureen Bufton-Landwehr** has spent the last couple years organizing bee cafes, hive dives, and workshops for North Cluster during her time as North Cluster Coordinator. She has been an SCBA swarm catcher for a while and is now taking the reins of Bee Share Coordinator for North Cluster. She has more than seven years of experience beekeeping and has been with the association nearly as long. She loves the educational aspect of SCBA and helping new beekeepers learn the ways of beekeeping. She is excited to be building a greenhouse this year with her husband and is looking forward to planting more flowers for the bees.

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**Maralee Joseph** became a member when she started beekeeping in 2016. She loves Gardening for Bees and understands that providing forage is just as important as tending to the hives of the bees. She loves the connections she has made with the people in the association, is grateful to the mentors she has had, and the opportunity to have taken classes from Serge Labesque when he was teaching at Santa Rosa Junior College. She is looking forward to mentoring and guiding new members and is excited for

the opportunity to help swarms find new homes with members in SCBA through the Bee Share Program.

Here is how to contact your Bee Share Coordinator:

Central – [centralbeeshare@sonomabees.org](mailto:centralbeeshare@sonomabees.org)

East – [eastbeeshare@sonomabees.org](mailto:eastbeeshare@sonomabees.org)

North – [northbeeshare@sonomabees.org](mailto:northbeeshare@sonomabees.org)

South – [southbeeshare@sonomabees.org](mailto:southbeeshare@sonomabees.org)

West – [westbeeshare@sonomabees.org](mailto:westbeeshare@sonomabees.org)

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## What Goes Into Making a Package of Bees?

*Editor's Note: This time of year, people are are interested in acquiring bees. One way to get bees is via purchase of a package, and I thought you would like to know what goes into creating a package. So I asked Katia and Doug Vincent of BeeKind to describe how their packages are created. -- Editor*

Since we opened our store in Sebastopol 18 years ago, Beekind Honey and Beekeeping Supply has coordinated with BZ Bees (third-generation beekeepers) in Esparto (in the beautiful organic region of Capay Valley) to provide our package bees. Esparto is only 42 miles (as the crow flies) from Santa Rosa.

In 2012, we started using local queens mated with local drones here in Sonoma County to raise daughter queens that would go into our packages. We call these packages Beekind's Local Stock. These local queens are mixed breed mutts that have proven themselves in our area. Any drones produced by them would carry only our local genetics. As an option for our customers, we also carry Italian and Carniolan queen packages produced by BZ Bees.

Package bee and queen production in Northern California begins with encouraging strong colonies near the queen mating area to rear drones in mid-February by feeding and providing frames of drone comb. Drone eggs laid in mid-February will emerge in the second week of March and be mature enough to mate two weeks later, in the last week of March. Queen cell builder colonies are set up in first week of March and grafting begins. Eleven days later, queen mating nucs (small nucleus colonies) the size of half of a shoebox are assembled with three mini frames of comb, a cup of syrup, a cup of bees, and a queen cell. The mini mating nucs are spread around a mating yard near the drone producing colonies and four

to six days later in the last week of March, the queens will take mating flights, weather permitting.

Catching the queens starts two to three weeks later in early to mid-April. The queen crew evaluates the laying pattern of each mated queen and then cages the good ones. Another queen cell is put in her place for a second round of queen production. The queens are stored in a queen banking hive filled with young nurse bees until they are needed for assembling the Bee Packages a few days later.

To assemble Bee Packages, you need a lot of bees in one place at one time. Keepers have identified the strongest hives in a bee yard and have put the queens in the lower box with a queen excluder between the boxes. To depopulate these hives, they are smoked from the entrance, driving the bees up into the top box and then the top box is taken off and placed onto a large cage. A leaf blower is then used to gently blow the bees down into the cage and the box is returned to the hive. The large cage will hold about 25 pounds of bees and it takes bees from a lot of hives to fill the cages. This mix of field bees and nurse bees is what is used to fill the package cages. The empty package cage is put on a scale (which is under a large funnel) and bees are poured into the funnel from the large cage until the scale says 3 pounds. A freshly mated queen (ready to lay eggs) held in a small queen cage and a can of syrup is placed in the package for easy removal. All this is usually done early in the morning and packages are then placed in a dark cooled room with fans circulating air overnight.

We pick-up the packages the next morning and bring them to Beekind in Sebastopol. They are loaded into

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a screened tent completely in the shade. If the weather is warm, we will mist them with cold water as needed to keep them cool. Customers come for the following two days between 10AM-6PM (on their pre-selected week-end) to pick-up their prepaid packages.

For customers who have purchased bees from Beekind, we have developed a drive through package pick-up system where you can sign up for a certain hour for pick-up. This minimizes wait times and traffic issues. We try to have our package bee pickup weekends the last two weekends in April because we feel that the weather and number of drones for the queen mating will be much better in the first two weeks of April than the last two weeks of March.

Contact information for all of our business members is available on the last page of *The Monthly Extractor*.

## March Bee Plant of the Month: Wild Mustard

*by Elizabeth Newton*

From January to May, wild mustard (*brassica campestris* or *brassica rapa*) blooms profusely throughout our state. An invasive species originating in Europe and Asia, it is considered a pest by some ranchers and farmers. But to others, its benefits are manifold. In the early weeks of late winter and early spring, long before fruit trees start to blossom, honeybees busily gather nectar and pollen from vast fields of golden mustard flowers.

Wild mustard (or field mustard) is a member of the *brassica* family, related to crops such as turnip, radish, kale, and cabbage. Like other *brassicas*, it is frost-hardy and favors cool weather. As the weather warms, it will gradually bolt and release its seeds, which are sturdy enough to be viable for decades. Any *brassica* crops left to flower after harvest will closely resemble mustard. All are a great benefit to bees.

Mustard has been cultivated for thousands of years for culinary and medicinal purposes. In addition to the familiar condiment made from its seeds, the young greens may be harvested and eaten raw or cooked. Once gone to seed, mustard may also be turned over into a green manure crop to enrich soil.

And then there is sheer beauty. The golden fields of flowering mustard provide a seasonal gift of dazzling color, inspiring hikers, cyclists and artists alike.



*Dry Creek Vineyard with Mustard*  
*Photo by Tong Lai Ginn*

## Tips for Giving Your Bees Pesticide-Free Plants

By Ann Gallagher White,

Second VP Gardening Program

Did you know that Gardening for Bees (G4B) was created (partly) to grow plants that are pesticide free? This was because G4B understood pesticides and insecticides – especially neonicotinoids – are deadly to bees and other pollinators. If treated with “neonics,” pollen is contaminated and poisons bees and other pollinators on an ongoing basis. These neurotoxic insecticides permanently bind to insect nerve cells, overstimulating and destroying them — commonly causing uncontrollable shaking or twitching, paralysis, and (eventually) death. There can be sublethal effects as well, meaning the bees and pollinators are hopelessly damaged.

If you buy plants at a nursery (or seeds from a seed company) buyer beware. We can't assume, as many of us have, that the plants/seeds are not treated with neonics. Neonics are applied to plants in many ways (soil drenches, irrigation water, foliar sprays, trunk injections) and applied as powdered seed coatings. Here are some tips to keep your pollinator gardens safe.

**Nurseries:** 1. Ask your nursery before you buy as it comes down to the grower/supplier. I've bought pollinator plants at Urban Tree Farm, Sprig (formerly Bennett Valley Gardens), Harmony Farm Supply and Kings and in the past (gulp) Home Depot. I asked the local nurseries if they treated their plants. Everyone agrees that the grower Blooms who sells to most nurseries and is local is bee and butterfly safe. Sprig and Urban Tree Farm reassured me the pollinator plants had not been treated (Sprig checked with the supplier while Urban said NONE of its plants were treated with neonics). Kings consulted its growers and also said none of its plants were treated with neonics. Harmony Farm Supply said it has a list of the growers that do not treat but the list is not up to date, and it is not on their website as it changes a lot. If the plants are grown at Harmony, they do not treat them. 2. Buy organic plants that have not been treated – these are usually for consumption (herbs and vegetables).

**Seeds:** 1. Look at the seed packet to see if it says untreated or ask the seed seller what they do because some smaller companies do not print a lot

on the labels. I recently emailed Swallowtail Seeds, which responded that the seeds were untreated. 2. Look for heirloom seeds, as many heirlooms were introduced before synthetic fertilizers and pesticides were created. The heirloom label doesn't guarantee that the plants will be organic or that no chemicals were used in the growing process, but it is likely that heirloom seeds, even without the organic label, are chemical-free. 3. Buy organic seeds. 4. Use or buy G4B seeds.

**Products/Insecticides:** Avoid insecticides or fertilizers that have insecticides. Certain ingredients will kill all pollinators along with pests, but the labels are not clear on this detail (i.e., no labels say “kills bees and pollinators” but rather they list the pests killed and add “and more”). These systemic treatments (e.g., Bayer Rose and Garden Care) cause the plants to take up the insecticide through the roots to continuously poison pollinators. Read the label and avoid: Thiamethoxam, Imidacloprid, Clothianidin, Acetamiprid and Dinotefuran. A comprehensive list of products: <https://www.greatsunflower.org/GardenNeonictinoids>.

**Mitigation:** If you are not sure whether a plant has been treated, you can 1. cover the plant to keep pollinators off it when it is blooming and 2. remove the garden soil the plant came in and throw it out. That way, the plant will not soak any more of the systemic insecticides going forward and minimize the poisoning. For more information on this topic please see <https://xerces.org/pesticides/understanding-neonicotinoids>.

**G4B Plant Sales:** Because G4B knows about the importance of having pollinator-safe plants, G4B grows plants from their own nontreated seeds, propagates plants from their plants and shares plants that are grown pesticide-free all to provide consistently healthy pollinator forage. G4B has generally been using a soil that has good ingredients and no pesticides added, but is not certified organic. In this way, G4B continues to play an important role in beekeeping by supplying safe plants for pollinator gardens. G4B knows what plants support bees and other pollinators (and what plants do not). Look for emails regarding upcoming plant sales in Spring of 2022 to get pollinator-safe plants for your gardens grown in pollinator-friendly G4B home nurseries and gardens!

**Join G4B:** Join us to become part of a nationwide movement to provide safe forage for bees and other pollinators! If you want to join G4B and grow bee and butterfly friendly plants, please reach out to Angelo at [Gardening@Sonomabees.org](mailto:Gardening@Sonomabees.org)

## Notes from the Ag Department

# Apiculture IS Agriculture

It's not quite Spring, but tell that to the bees...

I had a number of phone calls during early February when we had some very warm days. Folks were asking what they could do about all the bees! One caller was perturbed by the bees "pooping all over the yard."

When I asked for more information, the caller described the dozens of hives in the neighbor's field, and the predictable path that the bees took over their property to wherever the bees forage on the other side. This phenomenon only happens for a few days each spring, but this year it came early.

The property is zoned "Ag Residential." The county Right-To-Farm ordinance does not apply to this zone. In this case, if the caller wanted to take the complaint to an official level, they would call the Sheriff's office to file a nuisance complaint. I encouraged the caller to talk with the hive owners about a location adjustment. If the bees are on a "beeline" to a certain forage area, perhaps a different starting point would adjust the flight path. This seems to have helped. In addition, the property owner will establish more winter-spring forage plants and a water supply for the bees.

While the caller does appreciate the importance of bees for our local ecology, they felt inundated and overwhelmed by the sudden appearance of masses of bees. I directed the caller to SCBA to learn more about bee behaviors and foraging.

The County Ag Department fields multiple questions each month from homeowners, vineyard and orchard operators, as well as beekeepers. The ultimate goal is pollinator protection. This year, we will also be conducting hive inspections among our registered hive keepers to get a baseline of our pollinator health. If you would like to participate, please contact me.

Hive registration can be completed on the BeeWhere website: [beewherecalifornia.com](http://beewherecalifornia.com)

If Sonoma County is your "home county", then your \$10 registration fee (regardless of number of hives) and registration number can be phoned in at our main office: (707) 565-2371 or mailed to:

Sonoma County Department of Agriculture  
133 Aviation Blvd, Suite 110  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Feel free to contact me with any questions:  
Beverly Hammond  
[Beverly.hammond@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Beverly.hammond@sonoma-county.org)  
Sonoma County Senior Agricultural Inspector

## SCBA'S Book Nook

[A Bee's Guide to Managing  
Beekeepers](#)

by Peter Sieling



In short, humorous stories, Peter, a lifelong beekeeper, explores the mysterious world of bees. From bear traps and tanging to dangerous bee removals, he describes the sometimes-painful art of being kept by bees.

We have more than 250 books and DVDs in the SCBA Library. *A Bee's Guide to Managing Beekeepers* is just one of many books in our collection. You can view all our books available to you at [SCBA-Library.org](http://SCBA-Library.org). If you are interested in checking out a book, email our librarian at [Librarian@sonomabees.org](mailto:Librarian@sonomabees.org).

## From My Apiary to Yours: Member Tips

*This is something new that we are trying out. If you want to send a tip that has helped you and your bees, send it to [ettamarie@petersonsfarm.com](mailto:ettamarie@petersonsfarm.com).*

### **Protecting the Youngest Bees,** from Rachel Parker (our newsletter formatter)

A friend reminded me that nurse bees aren't yet familiar with the outside world, and I should try to prevent them from flying off when doing a hive inspection. In one of those pandemic-era purchases from Amazon, I ended up with 8 netted food covers to protect delicious picnic foods from bugs. I have dedicated one to put over the bees when I'm going into the lower supers. A few bees sneak out, but most stay near the frames and are easily returned to their home when the hive is buttoned up.

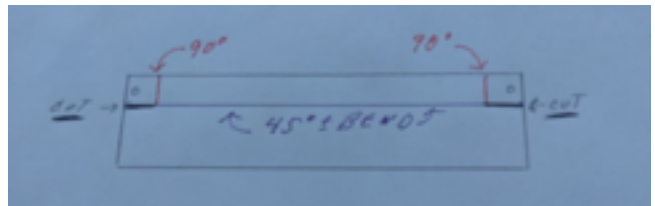
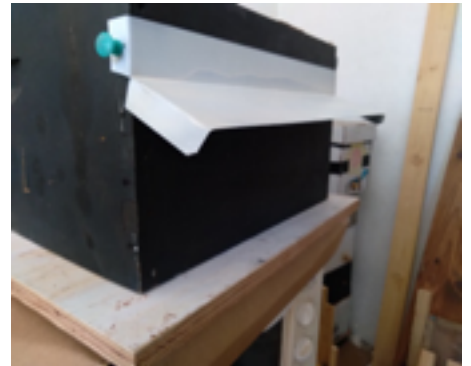
### **Keep Your Colony Dry,** from Leonard Riepenhoff

Home Depot sells a black plastic tub in its concrete section that is used to mix small batches of concrete. When inverted and placed over your 8- or 10-frame supers, it helps protect them from the rain; put a stone or brick



on top to help prevent the wind from blowing it off. Stop whatever you're doing and go buy one before they are sold out.

Adding a ROOF above the entrance board will help keep the rain off the entrance (see pictures). A piece of 24-gauge galvanized sheet metal (about 5"X 19") works well. It is easy to make bends by cutting a 1 3/8" slot in a piece of wood with a table saw and inserting your piece of metal into the slot, then folding the exposed piece over until you have the desired bend. And it is stiff enough to hold its shape. This will make a roof for a 10-frame super. You could even spray some pink paint on it and make your girls happy.



### **Missing SCBA Equipment**

Do you have any SCBA equipment (projector, screen, or the like), materials (to be used in education, events, and so on), or keys (for storage)? Please connect with our program director, Shannon Carr at [programdirector@sonomabees.org](mailto:programdirector@sonomabees.org), to let her know.

As things start picking up and getting busier, we need to know where things are and who has what. Thank you.

### **The Extractor Team**

Editor – Ettamarie Peterson

Formatter – Rachel Parker

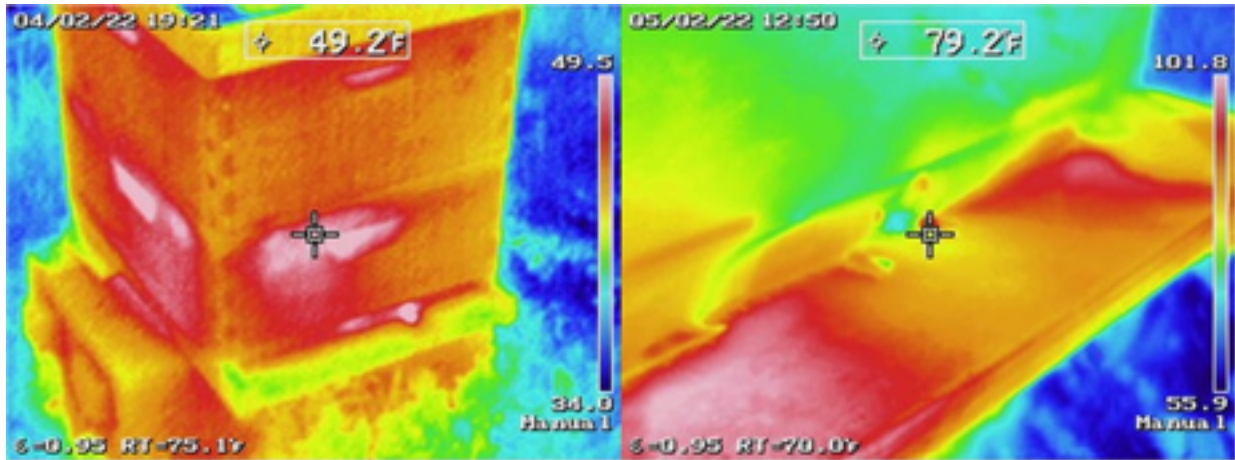
Proof Reader – Kathleen Fatooh

Technical Support – Bruce Harris



## THE MONTHLY EXTRACTOR GALLERY

*The Monthly Extractor* is dedicating a page to members' photos from their apiary or garden, with captions. Please note, because *The Monthly Extractor* is publicly published, if members send photos featuring human individuals (whether adults, children, or teens) in those photos, we need to have their consent. Email written consent should do the job. Send photos to [editor@sonomabees.org](mailto:editor@sonomabees.org).



Infrared (IR) images for an overwintered beehive. The image on the left shows where the bees cluster at night (pink-colored area). On the right is an image for the same beehive during daytime operation, where bees break the cluster and maintain the brood nest temperature. (+10F error rate for actual inside temp).  
-- Mohammed Ibrahim



I don't know if this worker is tired or just found it easier to sit while pollinating my apples one year in March. -- Ettamarie Peterson



When bees are getting old after 3 weeks or so of pollinating their wings start to wear out. Note her wings. -- Ettamarie Peterson

## SCBA is on Facebook

Social Media is a wonderful way to connect and educate our community and our members on beekeeping and gardening for bees. Did you know that in addition to our main Facebook page, Sonoma County Beekeepers Association has private, SCBA Members Only, Facebook groups set up? We have one for each cluster, Gardening for Bees, and Alternative Hives.

These groups were created to help educate our members and make it easier to connect and share information. Through these groups you can ask questions on what you are seeing in your hive, how to prepare for the seasons, make “bee-buddies” and connect with your fellow members with similar interests. If you are an SCBA member and on Facebook, I would suggest joining one, or more, of the SCBA Facebook Groups.

Central Cluster – Sonoma County Beekeepers Association

East Cluster – Sonoma County Beekeepers Association

North Cluster – Sonoma County Beekeepers Association

South Cluster – Sonoma County Beekeepers Association

West Cluster – Sonoma County Beekeepers Association

Gardening for Bees – Sonoma County Beekeepers Association

Alternative Hives – Sonoma County Beekeepers Association

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## 2022 Board Members and Other Helpful People

Click Here  
for the Up-to-Date  
Roster of SCBA Resources



Support SCBA by signing up for [eScrip](#) and [Amazon Smile](#)  
A small percentage of each sale will be donated back to  
SCBA, at no extra cost to the customer.

# SCBA Business Members, Donors, and Sponsors

## SCBA Business Members

Anderson Ranch Honey  
Darius Anderson  
[info@andersonranch.com](mailto:info@andersonranch.com)

Baker Lane Vineyards  
Michel Boynton  
[info@bakerlane.wine](mailto:info@bakerlane.wine)  
[bakerlanevineyards.com](http://bakerlanevineyards.com)

Bee Conscious Removal  
Chris Conrad  
[chrisbconrad@comcast.net](mailto:chrisbconrad@comcast.net)  
[www.beeconsciousremovals.com](http://www.beeconsciousremovals.com)

Bee Focused  
Joy Wesley  
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<https://bee-focused.com/>

Beekind Honey and  
Beekeeping Supply  
Doug & Katia Vincent  
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[www.beekind.com](http://www.beekind.com)

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## Habitat Sponsors

### **Pollinator Garden – \$500**

Pollinator gardens are designed and created with specific nectar and pollen producing plants to attract pollinators – honey bees, native bees, and other diverse pollinators. Our Pollinator Garden community partners help create the nutrients for the garden that is SCBA

\* Samtec Inc.  
[www.Samtec.com](http://www.Samtec.com)

### **Hedgerow – \$1,000**

Hedgerows are vital nectar and pollen sources amidst barren landscapes such as vineyards and other monocrops, and our Hedgerow Level Community Partners embodies this support.

### **Meadow - \$2,500**

Meadows are beautiful sights for us and oceans of forage for honey bees and pollinators. Help us transform Sonoma County into one sweet bee-garden with our Meadow Level Community Partnership.

### **Canopy – \$5,000**

Above the meadows and hedgerows is the canopy. These mighty trees sink carbon and water, provide home for wild bees and countless pollinators, shade the ground during our hot, dry summers, and often bloom as well. Our Canopy Level Community Partnership shows the deepest commitment to our work and ongoing mission.