

# The Monthly Extractor



Volume 40, Issue 1 January 2015

**Monthly Meeting: Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> - 6 pm** Social time to meet beekeepers and ask questions. 7 p.m. Speaker will be Rob Keller, Napa Queen Breeder.  
**Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> - 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Redwood Empire Chapter Rare Fruit Growers Scion Exchange – Vet's Memorial Santa Rosa

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

Table of Contents	
1. From Our President	2. January To-Do List by Serge Labesque
3. Serge cont.,	4. SRJC Beekeeping Class Schedule, Bee Wise by Emery Dann
5. Bee Plants of the Month – Alice Ford-Sala, Regional Cluster -Thea Vierling	6. Scion Exchange, Board Minutes
7. Board minutes cont. &	8. Treasurer's Report, Bottle Brush with Bee photo
9. Ads	10. Contact & Extractor Rental Information
11. Bee Kind Ad	
<b>TIME TO RENEW?</b> On the Membership page ( <a href="http://www.sonomabees.org/membership/index.html">http://www.sonomabees.org/membership/index.html</a> ), scroll down where there are three options and instructions for paying your membership: Online, New Member, and forms for payment in person or by mail with check or cash.	<b>Many members have a renewal date of January 2015. Check your membership. If you want to stay on the swarm list, you must be current in your dues! You can renew at the meeting or on line.</b>

## From Our President:

Hello Beekeepers and Happy New Year!

It another year and I can't wait to see what's in store for us, bee-wise and otherwise. It is my pleasure to serve as the 2015 President of the Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association. I am a newbie and I surely don't have all of the answers – but that's one thing we learn in beekeeping – no one has all of the answers!

I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all of the volunteers from 2014. Thank you to each of you who helped out in so many ways. SCBA surely could not run without you.

The 2015 Board and Staff members are really excited for the upcoming year and are happy to serve you. We want to know what you think. Please feel free to talk with any one of us about your ideas for and thoughts about the organization. We are always working to improve and streamline what we're doing.

Also, please think about volunteering. Regional cluster groups, teaching and mentoring, the swarm program, event tabling, the auction, starting up new programs – all of these happen for us because of the work of volunteers. We would love to work with you to keep this thriving organization buzzing, growing and expanding, getting better every year. Happy New Year!

*Laura Baker, President*

## **My January Beekeeping To-Do List By Serge Labesque © 2015**

### **Choosing our equipment**

There are three main types of users of our hives: the beekeepers; the bees; and all the interlopers, mites, Small Hive Beetles, wax moths, ants, robber bees, yellow jackets, mice, etc. The design of our equipment affects them all in many ways, sometimes vitally. If only for this far-reaching reason, we should be very careful when we choose our equipment.

We can select wisely the hives for our apiaries only by considering the real advantages and shortcomings of different hive designs, not by letting wishful thinking, fads or unproven theories influence our choice. Yes indeed, some beehives are more fashionable than others without being better for the bees.

Our hives must be the shelters that protect our colonies from weather extremes and from predators. They must be havens where the bees can raise their young and amass stores safely. Inside, the bees must maintain an environment that is propitious to their health and to the development of their populations. Although bees are adaptable and will make the best out of any situation they are placed in, they should not have to work to compensate for stressful in-hive conditions that are due to poor hive design.

Of course beekeepers want their bees to remain healthy and productive. But the prime criteria that lead to the selection of our hives are too often their cost, their ease of manipulation, or their looks. These points matter to us beekeepers even though we are only occasional users of the equipment whereas our colonies live in our boxes year round. Are we perhaps being selfish, shortsighted, or callous, at times?

Just like the bees, their parasites and pathogens may be affected positively or negatively by the hives we choose. And whatever helps these pests hurts the bees. For example, let's compare the solid bottom boards and the screened hive bottoms. The latter allow the debris produced by the colonies to fall away from their brood nests. Along with bits and pieces of cappings and discarded brood, mites drop through the screens and are eliminated, exactly as they would be in a hollow tree. Solid bottom boards, on the contrary, allow the debris to accumulate on the hive floors and the mites to climb back on the bees and re-infest the nests. Solid bottom boards force the bees to walk on their garbage! This would not happen in a sound natural nest cavity.

So, it is helpful to carefully weigh the pros and cons of several types of beehives before proceeding to the purchase or the fabrication of any of our gear. But remember that what is in fashion is not necessarily good for the bees, and what may be a good hive under a set of climatic conditions may not necessarily perform as well in a different situation.

At this stage in my beekeeping adventure, I have acquired preferences in regard to hives. Since the bees do better in vertical nesting cavities than in horizontal ones, I prefer hives that have a vertical configuration? Knowing that the bees do not fare well in damp situations, features built into the hives should eliminate excess in-hive moisture effectively. It must be possible for the bees to regulate their environment without struggling, and they should have access to all the nooks and crannies of the hives to chase the ants and other invaders out. Even though I do not practice migratory beekeeping, my hives have to be easy to manipulate. Aesthetics are not a primary concern of mine. To me, what works well for the bees looks good.

Few decisions are irrevocable, and in fact, we would do well to frequently revisit our earlier decisions and change paths when we see that we have erred. But it can be difficult to switch from one type of beekeeping equipment to a different one. So, the initial choice of our hives is a decision that is worth weighing carefully.

### **January in the apiaries:**

The hive inspections conducted during the fall made it obvious that, once again, bee malnutrition would be the cause of concerns this winter. More precisely, the pollen that the bees normally store during the summer was lacking in most hives. This bee bread is usually found in the center part of the stores that are amassed above the brood nests. It is a source of nutrients that the nurse bees use in January and February, when the brood nests are growing in preparation for spring, and it is particularly important when fresh pollen cannot be collected. No amount of honey can replace it. Without it and without good foraging conditions and enough foragers to gather fresh pollen at the end of winter, the development of the colonies may be compromised. Yet, not all colonies are equal, and we will have to watch and see which ones do well and why.

Inside the hives, the clusters have moved up into their stores by consuming honey to remain warm. The emptied cells have become available to the queens, which have resumed egg laying. At first minuscule, the tiny brood nests are growing a little larger every day. To maintain the temperature required for the

incubation of the brood, the bees consume honey at an increasing rate and they form tight clusters around the brood. It is at this time of year that the colonies are the most fragile, as their populations are at their minimum.

On sunny and mild days, the foragers can display an exhilarating frenzy of activity, as they bring colorful pellets of pollen and nectar back to their hives. But this lasts only for a few hours at most, and the bees still spend most of their time inside.

Watching the flight paths and the entrances of the hives provides some indication of the strength and health of the colonies. When combined with the observation of the monitoring trays, which show the size and location of the brood nests, we can tell how the colonies are developing. As the brood nests are still rather small, the varroa mites that remain in the hives may parasitize the brood heavily. Then, signs of viral problems such as Deformed Wing Virus become obvious, especially in the hives that were unable to get rid of the mites by grooming during the December period of broodlessness.

Spotting on the fronts of the hives may be a sign of dysentery due to poor quality or spoiled stores, or of Nosema disease.

The December rains brought a welcome reprieve in this long drought, and although it is too early to tell, we can at least hope for a decent spring honey flow this year.

It is time to start thinking about gently nudging our colonies out of winter. Towards the end of the month, weather permitting; I'll perform cursory inspections of my hives. These brief examinations provide additional information about the colonies and at the same time an opportunity to place the first supers. On a nice sunny and windless day, I'll peek through the center slot of the hive top feeders. When the dense mass of the clustered bees is visible, this indicates that the cluster has reached the top of the hive. When this is the case, I insert a warm super with a few frames of empty drawn comb and two follower boards directly on top of the cluster, and I replace the top parts of the hive immediately, without going deeper into the hive. Doing this provides the bees with empty combs above the brood nest, the location where they would normally unload the nectar they will collect on nice days. If this were not done, the nectar would be placed into cells of the brood nest area, which could prevent the queen from laying eggs freely. When the cluster is still not reaching the top of the hive, I add one or two frames of empty drawn comb in the uppermost super by spreading the follower boards apart to offer nectar storage space. Most of the time, these additional frames are inserted between the follower boards and the frames that were in already in place, but I may occasionally place one of these new frames in the center part of the upper super. These first hive manipulations of the year are important because they help the colonies come out of winter, yet they must be performed rapidly in order not to set the colonies back. If the weather conditions are not favorable it is better to wait until February to perform these manipulations.

#### **In summary, this month:**

- Inspect the exterior condition of the hives:
  - Hive tops should remain properly set and secured.
  - Observe the entrances and the ground in front of the hives.
  - Verify that the hive entrances are unobstructed.
  - Maintain adequate and safe ventilation through the hives.
- Examine the monitoring trays.
- Verify that mice have not entered hives. Telltale clues of their presence, coarse pieces of comb and mouse feces, etc. are also visible on the monitoring trays.
- When no activity is observed, place your ear against the side of the hive, and listen for bee noises.
- In the latter part of the month and weather permitting, quickly peek into the top of the hives to assess the location of the clusters.
- Place supers where and when warranted.
- Watch for the appearance of drone brood cappings, and make a note of the date.
- Clean and scorch tools and equipment.
- Plan next season. Evaluate the need for equipment and bees.
- Procure, build and repair beekeeping equipment.
- Plant bee forage!
- Read and learn more about bees and beekeeping.

May your bee colonies bring you good health and intense joy in 2015!

Serge Labesque © 2014

## **Beekeeping Classes at Santa Rosa Junior College- Instructor Serge Labesque**

### Introduction to Beekeeping

Section #9045

Tue, February 3 through February 24, 2015, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

2004 Lark Hall

Santa Rosa Campus

Course fee: \$90

### Intermediate Beekeeping for spring and summer

Section #9044

Tue, March 3 and March 10, 2015, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

2004 Lark Hall

Santa Rosa Campus

Course fee: \$57

These classes are presented through SRJC Community Education

To register

This can be found at: <https://portal.santarosa.edu/CommunityEducation/Information.aspx>

The options are:

- Online
- By phone: (707) 527-4372 during regular business hours
- By mail: with a check sent to Community Education Registration, 1501 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
- By fax: (707) 522-2731

Or in person at Community Education

## **BEE WISE: "STOP HIVE LOSSES!" By Emery Dann**

As beekeepers, our job is to assist our bees. Honey bees are wild, "undomesticatable" (new word created by Emery) creatures. We cannot do their job for them! But what **can WE** do to **stop beehive failures**? We need to understand how **WE** may be **contributing to their demise**. **If so, we must have the courage to change our beekeeping practices to help them survive and thrive!**

I have some strong hives thriving for years from the time I retrieved a healthy swarm. I have also lost a few hives that have died out. I have a list of **primary reasons I have found as to why beehives fail...your experience is very important to determine why beehives fail to survive!**

- 1. LOCATION.** My most successful, long-lived hives are in full sun or up against a sunny south facing building or garage. Clients I work for too often want hives on their property where it is convenient for *them*, not for the bees. Commercial beekeepers have good reasons for moving hives to better locations at different times of the year. As local beekeepers, our hive placement is *critical!* Cities often have more bee forage available throughout the year than the surrounding countryside. We have to realize there are marginal bee areas that may create weaker hives and "NO BEE" areas where beehives cannot survive there. This also applies to keeping too many beehives together in one location (see #2).
- 2. BEE STRESS.** Plentiful forage within a 2-mile radius from the hive is best. This reduces bee stress. Acres of grapevines in vineyards nearby and forested areas can drastically reduce close forage and increase the distance honeybees must travel, creating more bee stress. Bees swarm to leave their "mother" hive to avoid competition. Be sure you have enough forage in your area of Sonoma County. While we do not like to move our hives, moving a hive to a better location can save a beehive especially if done in the fall *before* winter.
- 3. DRY AND COMPACT.** Bees cannot survive in damp, wet living conditions. Check your ventilation and your monitor trays for moisture. I use 4-foot clear polycarbonate panels on top of every one of my beehives for rain protection. Keep your hives dryer by using follower boards for better air circulation! Only use the same size frames and boxes--all mediums or all deeps. That way you can move frames out or lower them to the box below adding the right-sized follower boards when needing to reduce the size and number of frames in the hive. **I cannot stress how important this is!!!** Remove excess empty hive space to keep them compact in the fall and winter and then provide them enough room, *as they need room to expand* in numbers of bees with storage of precious food during the spring and summer. Too much shade from trees or buildings is not good for beehives. Bees need sunshine!
- 4. ENTRANCE REDUCTION AND PEST PROTECTION.** I keep my entrances reduced all year. Bees like it because it is easier to defend. I have seen natural hives where only one or a few bees can enter or

exit at a time. My bees love a circular hole I drill in a box the size of a nuc box cap. I will cover it with a piece of wood or cardboard to reduce the circle about one half during the winter. It keeps them secure! City bees also need ant protection. This is a must! Too many ants and the bees will leave and you will have a very expensive ant colony!

**5. LOCAL BEES.** Keep local bees! Bees from other areas do not adapt well to Sonoma County. Besides there is the threat of bringing new pests or diseases from outside this area.

**6. DO SPLITS IN SUMMER.** This produces young queens that do well through the winter. Doug Vincent, from Beekind, has had excellent results with splitting hives (June-July) instead of doing splits in the spring.

**7. COMBINE HIVES.** This can help both hives survive better. But first know **why** a hive is weak before you combine them.

**8. REGULAR HIVE INSPECTIONS.** I ask beekeepers, "When was the last time you checked your hives? I know we are in trouble when they say 3 to 6 months ago, "But the bees are flying in and out bringing in pollen!" That is not a good answer! Not only can the frames be almost impossible to get apart, but we do not know the health of the queen, brood and hive. Sometimes when there have been no inspections the crazy comb has to be cut out and put into frames with rubber bands just like extracting bees from a building. Not good for the bees or the beekeeper! Know the state of your bees by keeping current with regular inspections at the right time of day and temperature during the spring, summer and fall!

We need to know by trusting our experience with what works for bees and what does not work! BEE INSANITY is doing the same thing but expecting a different result! WE CAN HELP STOP HIVES FROM FAILING, IF WE LOOK AND LISTEN TO WHAT THE BEES ARE TELLING US! WHEN WE GIVE OUR BEES WHAT THEY NEED AND WANT, BOTH OUR BEES AND WE WILL **BEE HAPPY!**

### **Bee Plants of the Month By Alice Ford-Sala**

#### **Native Plant of the Month *Rhus ovata* Sumac Family Sugar Bush**

Why don't I have this beautiful plant in my garden? There is so much to recommend Sugar Bush- it is an important habitat plant for native insects, honey bees, birds and small mammals. A closely related sister is *Rhus integrifolia*, or Lemonade Berry. The two are so closely related they hybridize freely. Lemonade Berry does better in cool, but relatively frost-free coastal areas, while Sugar Bush can handle inland heat and frost down to very low 20°F or even colder.

A nice hedge plant, evergreen, growing up to 4-10 feet tall and wide, allowing pruning when needed, and drought tolerant once established. Of course it needs good drainage. Native to Southern California, it grows on hot rocky hillsides, though can surprisingly also thrive in part shade. The blossoms are clusters of light pink to white tiny flowers that appear in spring and are highly attractive to bees and hummingbirds. You can even soak the berries in water to make a refreshing drink that is lemony flavored, even the Sugar Bush berries.

Now- where can I fit Sugar Bush into my small garden?

#### **Beneficial Plant of the Month *Camellia***

You might not think of Camellias as being bee plants, but if you have some single flowered ones blooming right now, you will notice bees eagerly collecting pollen and nectar when there is not much else blooming in late fall through winter. *Camellia sasanqua* blooms in fall, usually with smaller but more abundant blooms than *Camellia japonica*, which blooms in late winter to early spring. My *C. sasanqua* 'yuletide' has been blooming since November, attracting bees when they can get out and fly, and hummingbirds all through the day, even in the rain. *C. sinensis* is our tea camellia- from which we get delicious and beneficial green and black tea. It has fragrant single white flowers that appear in autumn.

So when choosing a Camellia for your part shade to full shade garden, choose one that has single or semi double flowers – if you can see the pollen rich stamens, then the bees can get in and access them. Camellias need regular water, but once established can get by on moderate amounts. You can prune them after blooms have fallen to keep them in bounds if needed.

May 2015 be a happy and healthy new year for you and your bees!

## Regional Cluster January 2015

Hi all,

Our clusters are off to a great start. There are already several cluster meetings organized regarding equipment maintenance and essentials. If you want to know what is going on in your clusters, please contact your leaders. And if you do not know what cluster you are in or you have questions about anything, you can always email me, your regional coordinator at: [regionalcoordinator@comcast.net](mailto:regionalcoordinator@comcast.net) (By the way, regional coordinator is all one word in the webmail address!)

**South Cluster:** South Cluster has a new leader, Sally McGough. [southcluster@sonomabees.org](mailto:southcluster@sonomabees.org)

**East Cluster:** East Cluster has a new cluster leader, Lizanne Pastore [eastcluster@sonomabees.org](mailto:eastcluster@sonomabees.org)

**West Cluster:** No changes in your cluster leader! It is still Chris Dicker. : [westcluster@sonomabees.org](mailto:westcluster@sonomabees.org)

**Central Cluster:** Chris Conrad is your new cluster leader and he has an assistant, Susan Konanz. [centralcluster@sonomabees.org](mailto:centercluster@sonomabees.org)

**North Cluster:** Lynne Black is still your cluster leader [northclusterr@sonomabees.org](mailto:northclusterr@sonomabees.org)

**Top Bar Hive Cluster:** Jim Spencer is now the cluster leader for the Top Bar hive. Send all your communication to him.

## CRFG Redwood Scion Exchange will be Sat Jan 24

Fruit tree cuttings/scions, and expert custom-grafted apple, pear, peach, fig, citrus, plum trees and more will be for sale to the public at low cost by the California Rare Fruit Growers (CRFG) garden club annual Scion Exchange on January 24th 10:00AM until 2:00PM, at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building at 1351 Maple Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95404, across from the county fair grounds. CRFG members are allowed in an hour early at 9AM. You can join at the door.

The annual [CRFG-Redwood.com](http://CRFG-Redwood.com) Scion and Plant Exchange is where over 500 varieties of common, rare and experimental scions (cuttings) and fruiting plants from all over Northern California are available. \$5 entry fee is covered by your CRFG-Redwood membership if you are paid up. Custom grafting by expert grafters of your scion selections to rootstocks is available for just a few dollars more. There are grafting and planting demonstration classes for beginners, plus experts and hobbyists to answer questions for more advanced gardeners. Proceeds fund agricultural scholarships and donations to worthy fruit-oriented non-profit organizations. Bring a gallon baggie, tape and Sharpie to mark your scion acquisitions.

There are literally thousands of varieties of trees, vines and shrubs that bear edible fruit. Most people are familiar with only the most common varieties of fruits that are available commercially in stores. Many of these commercial varieties are available primarily because of the durability of the fruit for shipping, handling and storage rather than for best flavor. Even though the best tasting fruits can be too fragile for commercial distribution, they are perfectly suited to the home-gardener.

Anyone with at least a six foot by six foot patch of open sunlight can successfully grow a tree with delicious fruits, even if only in a box of soil on pavement. Some fruit-bearing vines, like strawberries, can even grow from a hanging basket without using any ground at all. Properly selected fruit-bearing plants can also be used for edible landscaping, proving a pleasing visual display in addition to gourmet treats. Multiple fruit varieties can be grown on the same plant by means of simple grafting techniques, resulting in a "fruit salad" tree!

Many of the best tasting fruits are only available from specialty catalogs and growers, or through hobbyist organizations like California Rare Fruit Growers (CRFG). CRFG promotes interest in all aspects of fruit growing, with special emphasis on rare and unusual fruits. North Bay CRFG members in "Luther Burbank country" get together regularly to taste fruits, trade plants, and to swap tips on local growing techniques and what grows best in local conditions and microclimate pockets. One recent meeting featured over 100 different locally grown fruits to taste!

More details at [cfrg-redwood.org](http://cfrg-redwood.org)

## Board of Directors Meeting December 1, 2014

Board members Present:	Board members Absent:	Others Present:
Ettamarie--President	Jen Espinoza--Education	Christine Kurtz--Past Pres.
Laura Baker--1 <sup>st</sup> VP		Thea Vierling-Regional Coord
Rita Maloney--Treasurer		Chris Conrad- new At Large
Becky Jackson--Secretary		John McGinnis-new At Large
Cheryl Veretto--1 <sup>st</sup> At-Large		
Denise Wright--2 <sup>nd</sup> At-Large		

Cathy Kopshever—Volunteer		
Hasna Wood—2 <sup>nd</sup> VP		

Held at the home of Cheryl Veretto.

Meeting called to order at 6:15 pm.

Hasna made a motion to accept the Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Minutes as presented, Laura seconded and all approved (8 ayes).

President's Report by Ettamarie—Chris Dicker is going to the SF Academy to get the finished videos on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. Rita says we get a digital copy for our use. She also says one of the students now wants to keep bees! Ettamarie reports that Beekind is giving the Board a 10% discount as a thank you for the Board's hard work. Thanks very much Doug and Katia.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Laura Baker reports 396 members now. Membership renewals will be taken just during the pre-dinner time, and then closed down. Christine talked to Sabin and he has been cleaning up in the member database for us—thanks!

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Hasna Wood reports January speaker will be Rob Keller. February will be Serge. March will be Alena Nino from UC Davis.

Treasurer Rita Maloney reports our expenditures are within 99% of our actual budget. She asks receipts be turned in ASAP after the auction so the year can be closed out quickly and accurately. She and Denise are working on the 2015 budget and will present it at the January Board meeting. Ettamarie asked that member education and children education be divided for tracking. Rita pointed out that Jen is already tracking school donations for future grant writing. Dues and the Dec. Silent Auction are our main income sources. John McGinnis suggested raffling a beehive set-up (with bees?) as a fundraiser.

Group Reports—John Krafft included a written Swarm report. Very few complaints this year—only one! But there are still improvements that will be made as time and energy allows, perhaps a survey will be circulated. John ended by saying "it is not the swarm chairperson nor the cluster leader's responsibility to find you a bee buddy nor to arrange a connection with an expert. You do have to reach out!"

Thea Vierling, Regional Coordinator reports that upcoming pre-meeting time will be spent teaching and redefining swarm etiquette. Each of us has a duty to educate the public when we go on swarm calls in the name of SCBA. Explain what you're doing and what they can expect after you take the bees away (expect stragglers).

Thea also wants to work on a list of on-line sources and YouTube videos of recommended beekeeping practices to make available to members. Many don't know the good info from the not-so-good info. We need to stress the importance of our members educating themselves rather than expecting their Cluster Leaders to do it for them. Nadya Clark, librarian, can help immensely in choosing appropriate books from our extensive library.

Technology Committee, Cheryl Veretto will work on a survey again and see if CVCRM has that capacity. Thea reports Survey Monkey is free for a max of 10 questions long and only to 100 people. It's \$228 annually for no limits.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Dinner Thank you's—Cathy, Jen, Christine and Thea are organizing a board to post with the names of this year's volunteers. Ettamarie will present gifts to the board at the start of the program. 6:00 auction starts; 6:30 dinner starts; 7:20 auction ends; 7:30 program starts. There will be a slide show while people eat.

Election- Cheryl will send a ballot by email and there will be printed copies for voting during the dinner. One change to the ballot: Cheryl withdrew her name as 1<sup>st</sup> VP of Membership. Kelli Cox accepted that nomination at the Board Meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

The Editor would like to make changes in the Newsletter to mail a stripped down copy to people who don't have Internet. After some discussion, it was agreed that no changes would be made. The few who can't get newsletters will be handled on an individual basis.

Thea announced that Chris Conrad is the new Central Cluster leader.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

January 5<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting at Denise Wright's in Sebastopol.

January 10<sup>th</sup> will be an afternoon Board Retreat @ Guayaki from 12 to 5 pm, 6782 Sebastopol Ave.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Jackson, Secretary

**Treasurer's Report January 1, 2015**

The Silent Auction brought in just over \$9,000!!! Thank you to all who donated items and/or bid on items.

We ended the year with a profit of \$7516.47, which has been transferred to our Savings Account. The combined bank account totals are \$24,707.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your Treasurer these past two years. I am now turning over the responsibility to Denise Wright and I am confident that she will not only do an able job, but also improve upon it.

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A black and white illustration of a traditional skep beehive, which is a dome-shaped structure made of woven straw or similar natural materials. It is shown sitting on a small patch of ground with some foliage around its base.





Dream about spring.

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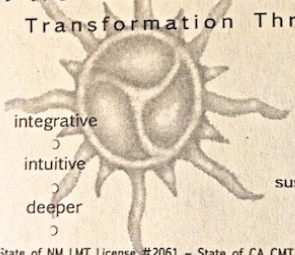
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*Organically Grown in Accordance with the COFA of 1990*

*Regular monthly meetings of the Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association are held on the second Monday of each month, at 7 pm. The meetings cover a wide range of topics of interest to beekeepers. Everyone wanting to learn about honeybees is cordially invited to attend. You do not need to be a member nor a beekeeper to attend these meetings. Dues can be paid online at our website [sonomabees.org](http://sonomabees.org), at our monthly meeting or by mail. Please see our web site for the application and various kinds of memberships available.*

*Our mailing address is*

Sonoma County Beekeepers' Assoc.  
P.O. Box 98  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0098

#### **2014 Board Members and Other Helpful People**

Pres. Laura Baker [President@sonomabees.org](mailto:President@sonomabees.org)

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**Extractor Techs- Call Ettamarie 707-479-1613 or Janet Leisen 707- 528-2085 or Denny Pederson e-mail [denny1@sonic.net](mailto:denny1@sonic.net) to rent the electric extractor for \$5 a day. Rental fee is \$5 per day. Denny is located in Forestville. Janet is North of Santa Rosa. Ettamarie is in Petaluma. There is a hand extractor at Deborah Rogers' home and her e-mail is [deborah@olivequeen.net](mailto:deborah@olivequeen.net) She lives in Glen Ellen.**

Try using barbeque skewers in the frames to support your combs. This was an old frame I cleaned up with the propane torch and then put wax in the top and bottom to secure the barbeque skewers. You can see how the bees were drawing out the comb.



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