

The Monthly Extractor



Volume 37, Issue 6 June 2014

Monthly Meeting: June 9th- 6p.m. Social hour-Bring your own cup for tea, talk to beekeepers who can help you with your questions, check out our library, and renew your membership.
7 p.m.- Doug Vincent on hive splitting. Mark Dolan from the Sonoma Co. Children's Museum will also give a short talk about our role in the bee exhibit there.

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

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From Our President

May found many of us chasing swarms. Some people have found that they now have enough colonies and do not want any more. I know I have my share and enough for all my 4-H beekeeper project children. Now I am giving swarms to people who need them. I will also be contacting the swarm chairman John Kraft (swarms@sonomabees.org) to take me off the listed posted on our web site. Be sure you do this too if you do not want any more calls. This is important to do because the public will lose faith in our list if they make a lot of phone calls and get no one who wants to catch the swarms.

The smaller swarms are good for saving in nucs to use in replacing queens. Holding them in a wooden nuc box is the best as I find they can chew on the cardboard ones. If you keep them for a week or two, you can get a good idea of how good the queen is. Sometimes these small swarms have virgin queens as they are what is called "after swarms" or "secondary swarms." It takes awhile to evaluate those queens so be patient. Share swarms you don't want. It is amazing how grateful other beekeepers are when you are so thoughtful.

Ettamarie Peterson, President

From Our Swarm Chairman John Kraft Swarm List Etiquette

Greetings fellow swarm savers! Well it's almost June now and swarm season has come and, well it will linger around for some time I am sure. Most of you who think you are on the swarm list have probably actually looked to verify you are in fact on the list. There have been a number of bumps along the road this season with the new list and the methods used to maintain it. Thanks to each of you that have provided feedback and asked questions during this time.

Swarm season is slowing down and many of you may have already captured enough swarms to fill your apiary. If this is the case for you please email me to remove your name from the list. This will save you any unwanted calls but moreover it will slim down the list for anyone using it to find someone to take a swarm. One of the most frustrating things for a user of the list if trying to get someone to answer their phone. Trust me, I've had to do this and it

really isn't any fun.

Thanks to everyone for helping the bees!

Ads in This Newsletter

Check with Treasurer Rita Maloney for annual costs of running ads. It is cheaper than the monthly costs for ads, which are \$10 for a business card size, \$20 for ¼ page, and \$40 for a half page. The editor needs to know you have paid her and needs a jpg copy of the ad. The current and back issues of the newsletter are on the www.sonomabees.org web site so many people besides the 400 or so members view the ads. Contact information is on the last page of this edition.

My June Beekeeping To-Do List

By Serge Labesque © 2014

Solar wax melters and tomatoes

Our tomato plants grow above a deep layer of mulch. Up close, you would recognize the dark brown, almost black material that covers the raised beds. It's the remains of discarded brood combs after they have lost most of their wax in solar wax melters. This mass of cocoons very likely provides nutrients to the plants, since thousands of bee larvae have relieved themselves in the cells before entering pupation, and also from the occasional leftovers of beebread the combs contained.

The source of this unusual ground cover is a pair solar wax melters, which stand a few feet away from the tomato plants. These are hard-working pieces of equipment that seldom receive much care. They spend the entire year in all weather, in the heat, cold, full sun and rain, and yet they have to function well.

Basically, solar wax melters are containers that trap heat energy from the sun, which is used to melt capping wax and old combs. I have built several of them over the years, enough to learn what qualities I like them to possess. Most importantly, they need to become very hot inside and they must remain bee proof. As we quickly learn by accidentally leaving a few frames exposed to the sun, it does not take much heat to soften beeswax. But to reach the elevated temperatures that are necessary to melt large masses of combs requires paying attention to a few features. The larger the surface area that is exposed to the sun for the volume that needs to be heated, the better. Hence, wax melters should be rather shallow. Alternatively or additionally, sheets of reflective materials may be placed around these devices to gather supplemental solar energy. Insulation and seals between operable parts can help retain heat. A stainless steel cladding of the bottom, where the melted wax flows, is great to have, as, unlike aluminum or galvanized steel, it won't stain the wax. One bottom I use came from a defunct dishwasher door. A queen excluder screen can be used as a false bottom to prevent the loose cocoons from blocking the flow of the wax to the tubs that collect it. Inexpensive non-stick metal cooking pans are the best tubs I've found, because they do not require any release agent and they retain their shape in spite of the heat. And for a lid, an old window works very well, especially if it is double-paned and made out of tempered glass, because it can retain more heat than a single pane window, and it won't crack when exposed to the large temperature differences it will experience in this use.

I've seen a thermometer climb above 270°F on a sunny April day inside one of these boxes. This is hot enough to destroy most pathogens. So, the wood frames may be safely reused after they've spent a day in a solar wax melter. On the other hand, plastic frames and foundation just will not survive a stay in these hot boxes.

On occasion, I have even used our wax melters to heat my lunch. Yet, their main use is to cull old and misshaped combs, a beekeeping practice that helps keep our bees healthy. But, if I ever needed another reason to discard combs, now I have it: It's to produce mulch for our tomato plants.

June in the apiaries:

Nutrition is one of the most important factors affecting the health, growth, strength and overall wellbeing of bee colonies, not to mention their productivity. As we are approaching this summer, the markedly varying condition of the bees from apiary to apiary clearly demonstrates this. Certainly, the huge differences in the availability of nectar and pollen from the vegetation that surrounds the hives cause this disparity.

In places where plants depend on rainwater that normally accumulates in the ground during winter and spring, the situation is bordering catastrophic. There is no honey flow. The colonies are obviously struggling. There was little comb building this spring, and the hives are dry. And then the toxic offerings of the California buckeye trees have added to the dramatic condition of the bees. On the other hand, the bee colonies that have access to irrigated vegetation or that are in areas under the influence of the ocean or the Bay can be remarkably good, with large brood nests, stores, and new white combs to attest of the generosity of the local honey flows. Water is life.

My home apiary is in one of the less favorable areas of the land. It's heartbreaking to see the bees working so hard in order to barely stay alive at a time of year when there should be an abundance of nectar and pollen. The immediate threat to the colonies is not a pathogen or the mites. It is the lack of food. So, I am reducing the number of colonies I keep there, as the surrounding vegetation is providing nothing more than pittance.

By comparison, it is comforting to see colonies growing well and amassing nectar in the areas that enjoy favorable conditions. The young queens can show what they are worth, and the honey supers are filling up reasonably well. In those apiaries, it's time to harvest some of this surplus spring honey. However, this needs to be done with great caution, particularly where summer may still bring nectar dearth. To avoid triggering robbing situations, the wet extracted frames and cappings must be placed back in the colonies during the evenings, when the foragers are returning to their hives. Where the honey flow justifies it, supering is done when the previous supers are three-quarters full at this time of year. The colonies that are not performing well need to be combined or requeened, as deemed appropriate.

With a lull in the honey flow, or at the onset of nectar dearth, the risk of robbing increases and the bees tend to become more defensive. So, the open-hive inspections become brief, and they are performed only when necessary and when the conditions are suitable. Be careful with the smoker: They can be hot, and the grass is very dry!

As the afternoons become longer and hotter, the hives can benefit from some shade and from having access to sources of water.

In summary, this month:

- Keep an eye on the health of the colonies.
- Provide adequate air circulation through the hives, yet without dehydrating the brood.
- The hive entrances should be wide open, except those of the developing colonies or when there is a risk of robbing.
- Be aware of situations and manipulations that can trigger robbing.
- Make sure that the components of hives fit tightly to prevent secondary entrances that might allow robber bees to enter hives.
- Ensure that steady sources of water are available to the bees.
- Provide filtered afternoon shade, if at all possible.
- Follow-up on the development of young colonies.
- Combine or requeen inherently weak colonies or those that are not developing properly.
- Evaluate the quality of young queens. Replace failing or undesirable queens.
- Monitor swarm traps.
- Keep some equipment at the ready to catch the occasional swarm.
- Manage honey supers (less space is needed as the nectar flow decreases).
- Harvest surplus spring honey.
- Discard old and misshapen combs.
- Render wax from discarded frames and from cappings.
- Routinely clean and scorch tools and equipment.

Serge Labesque © 2014

Bee Plants of the Month By Alice Ford-Sala

Note: Continuing with drought tolerant plants that would make a nice replacement for a lawn, save you money and be loved by pollinators of all types. Shrubs are this month's theme.

Native Plants of the Month *Ribes malvaceum*, Chaparral Currant

Ribes are one of my favorite native plants. They are gorgeous year-round, though some varieties will go dormant in the summer with lack of water. They will leaf out again in the fall with the rain.

Chaparral Currant has piney-sagey scented leaves that are aromatic when you brush up against them. The shell-pink flowers that appear in Dec-Feb. are beloved by bees as well as hummingbirds. Currants can take some summer water, or can grow in a dry garden under an oak. They usually grow 4-6 feet tall and wide. You can prune them to shape or limit height.

***Arctostaphylos*, Howard McMinn Manzanita**

Howard McMinn is an attractive, adaptable Manzanita. Very widely used in native landscaping and for good reason.

Unlike many manzanitas, he can grow in a variety of soils, including clay, and can take some summer water. Also handsome in the classic Manzanita sense: shiny green leaves, twisting red-barked branches and hanging fairy lantern white to pink blossoms. Another bee and hummingbird winter favorite, Howard McMinn can grow up to 8 feet tall. He accepts pruning to shape.

Beneficial Plants of the Month: *Lavandula stoechas*, Spanish Lavender

We all know that bees like lavender, and you really can't go wrong with any variety, but one of my favorites is *L. stoechas* 'Winter Bee'. The foliage is a fuzzy gray green that contrasts beautifully with the deep purple winter flowers. Low-growing, up to 2 feet high and wide, you could combine 'Winter Bee' with other lavenders for year-round bloom. Prune after flowering, and you might get another bloom in later summer.

Rosmarinus officinalis, Rosemary 'Blue Spires'

This is the rosemary that has those gorgeous dark blue flowers. 'Blue Spires' grows up to 5 feet tall and wide. Very hardy, rosemary likes lean, well-drained soil, but can take regular light summer water. Pruning keeps it compact and well-branched. Use the prunings to brush sauce on grilled veggies, or dry them and place them in your hive-top feeder for insulation. Bees love it, of course.

BEE WISE: MOVING BEE HIVES by Emery Dann

Commercial beekeepers move hives frequently. But as local beekeepers we do not want to move our beehives for several reasons. We refer to our hives as "stationary". Our hives are often near where we live or in our back yard. There are some hives that if left where they are cannot survive. These hives are in areas that cannot support beehives or there are too many hives competing with one another. Yes, there are areas in Sonoma County that I have found this to be true. This year with the drought we need to carefully consider hive location!

I have already seen hive robbing and it is very early in mid-May. Some hives (feral and managed) may be more desperate for food than in past years, especially in marginal bee areas. What I mean by marginal is that in some locations the bees do not have enough forage within a 2 to 3 mile radius from their hive. The nectar they do find is consumed by them to stay alive and nectar is not being stored and turned into capped honey. One hive I have within the city limits had a full honey super of capped honey several months ago. The comb in these frames is now completely empty. I removed the empty box because the bees were all down in the hive below the box with empty comb. Clean, drawn comb is very valuable this year that can be re-used in a hive because the bees cannot draw out enough wax due to the drought.

Do you have a back-up plan to move a hive to a better area, if you need to? This is not an easy question! But leaving a hive where it is can be a costly mistake. We need to check the honey storage in our hives to know what is happening. The capped honey we have seen a month ago can be gone in a short time period. Remember a few lavender and bee plants in your garden is not enough to feed the bees, if there is not enough forage in your area approximately 1,500 acres in a circle from your hive. Vineyards, forested dry mountain areas, even some urban areas subtract the amount of available forage for our bees. The dry Mark West Springs area going toward Calistoga, the St. Francis road area in Rincon Valley close to the foothills, the area near Chalk Hill Road close to Windsor and an area near St. Helena are a few examples I know from experience that it is very difficult to keep honey bees alive due to lack of forage and the number of hives in one location.

There are other areas in Sonoma County that you may know that cannot sustain beehives very well. I would like to compile a list if you know of other areas in this condition. Send them to me at ekdann@att.net. The drought we are in now makes it even tougher! The blackberries will bloom short and early this year (unless they have a water source) and generally may not contain the nectar they normally produce. We may have a long hot, difficult summer for our bees! If you have questions about how to move and transport beehives contact me or experienced beekeepers in the Sonoma County Beekeepers Association for information and suggestions.

What I am saying is that we must evaluate the conditions in our hives as well as the surrounding bee forage area. Location is especially true as we prepare for the winter. I have moved hives to a better location before winter and they have survived. Even though it is not easy to move beehives, location is very critical this year and can make the difference between a survival hive and one that dies. Is there a better location? Plan ahead! Don't wait until it is too late! The bees you save may be your own!



**Free Colony given to beekeeper that refers
Chris Conrad & he gets a job from that.**



Some SCBA Members Visited the Harry H. Laidlaw, Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility With the Santa Rosa Museum People – Christine Kurtz is showing us art techniques on the sign.

A Visit to UC Davis Apiary Research and Haagen Dazs Garden By Christine Kurtz

On Monday May 19, a collaborative group of Board members from the SCBA and the Santa Rosa Children's Museum, spear headed by none other than our worker bee extraordinaire Thea Vierling, went for a visit to the Häagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven pollinator gardens at UC Davis. The goals of the garden are to provide bees with a year-around forage, to raise public awareness about the plight of honey bees and native bees for that matter, and to encourage everyone to plant bee-friendly gardens of their own. They have now identified 85 species of native bees since it opened up from 19 before the garden was planted. We all got to pet a male Carpenter bee, called the Fuzzy Teddy bear, and feel the incredible vibration such a small creature can create. In the garden were lots of art exhibits of bee themed sculptures from an art and science fusion program. If you ever have a chance to visit it is very inspiring. All the plants are labeled to make it easy to record your favorites or the ones bees favor at the time of your visit.

Included in the field trip was a couple hours visit with Dr. Eric Mussen about bees and especially about keeping bees in an observation hive in a public place like the Children's Museum. There was discussion about the exciting and wonderful knowledge that can come from an observation hive to the challenges to keeping bees thriving in that environment. We talked bees and learned a few more fun facts that Eric so easily drops like pearls of wisdom that made us realize how much more there is always to learn when it comes to bees.

Did you know that?

-To be viable and have a good chance of survival a hive needs a least two thousand bees (one side of a deep frame that is fully covered with bees is equivalent to about one thousand bees).

-Out of a 100 hives 90% will have a single queen and 10% can have multiple queens most often mother/daughter working together temporarily

The Children's Museum is a dream and a passion that Mark Dolan got whisked into starting as a volunteer and now is pursuing with fervor as its President. Mark is a beekeeper himself and a member of our association. The museum caters to ages 10 and under, but from what I have seen and experienced so far it caters to all the 10 and under inside of us! I can't tell you how exciting it was to play there! In Mark's own words "The Children's Museum is going to be a source of innovative thinking for our community's children. Kids learn so quickly, but just like bees, you never know what or where their ideas of inspiration will originate. We all want the children to appreciate the wonders of bees and how to sustain them, but there are so many other lessons as well that go deeper. Engineering of honey comb structures, social roles, autonomous software communication, and aerodynamics are all next level thoughts that can be seeded from learning about bees."

The Children's museums mission statement is: "to inspire children's creativity and stimulate their curiosity to discover the world through playful exploration of the arts and sciences." The museum opened it's outdoor garden recently with Mary's garden...Mary standing for Mariposa, an outdoor education center including a pollinator garden, play components illustrating the life cycle of the butterfly including where one can sit inside and cocoon and feel the

transformation and a miniature Russian River where kids can physically put salmon on the upper part and watch them travel down, then fish them at the bottom and run them up again. The water is cleansed and filtered by plants themselves, no chemicals!! There is a wonderful section of water play with hand pumps, knobs and pulleys, tubing and hydroelectric energy production involving many aspects of the uses of water. There is a farm play area including a 1940 refurbished and re-use into a play structure tractor, a windmill and a produce market. There is also a reconstructed farmhouse, which is going to house art activities as well as many pathways meandering with pollinator friendly plants and picnic tables to rest and snack.

What does all this have to do with bees? Well, while the outdoors is open to the public, the inside of the museum is under construction with saws a whirling and saw dust a flying! There, though tucked in room, Mark and his wife are personally sponsoring an educational bee room including an observation hive (more sponsors are always welcome!). The observation hive still needs to be designed and the exhibits on the wall and hands on still needing creating! There is the chance for collaboration between the SCBA and the Museum, sharing expertise, ideas, potential for educating even more youngster about bees and as we have seen at the UC Davis pollinator garden the potential for art and science fusion and perhaps an additional pollinator garden here in Sonoma County with play bee components outdoors. What about crawling inside a human size hive, wearing bee wings and climbing on giant flowers collecting pollen and nectar, bringing them back to the hive or how about straws full of nectar to deposit in giant cells? Education through artful exhibits, the possibilities are endless. And here too is where it could involve you! Do you have observation hive expertise? Would you like to use your artistic talents to make exhibits or have that organizational eye to make a room artistically and educationally appealing? Would you be interested in creating a pollinator garden or make educational bee components for kids to play on? Would you like to help fundraise for this amazing project that will be enjoyed by thousands in Sonoma County and beyond. A committee is starting to form. Please contact Thea Vierling to join this amazingly creative committee. regionalcoordinator@sonomabees.org



Kathy Keatley Garvey took the photo of the group that made the visit to U.C. Davis. Front row left to right: Becky Jackson, Laura Baker, Ettamarie, Thea Vierling, Christine Kurtzsecond row Chere Secrist, Theresa Giacomino, Robin Thorpe and in the Middle is Mark Dolan

Regional Clusters and” Magical Thinking” By Thea Vierling

There is a lot of magical thinking going on these days. What does that mean? It means that you are magically thinking that a cluster leader should be guessing that you need a workshop! Maybe you want a workshop but you have not asked for it! Do you think your cluster leader magically knows what you need? WRONG! If you want action, you need to ask the cluster leader for it. So if you want help with something or you need the group to meet about a topic, don't have Magical thinking. Email them!!!! Here are some pictures from some cluster meetings that have been very successful!



Cheryl inspecting a frame for the queen, looking for queen.>

South Cluster Update: South cluster had a hive dive that included a recently acquired small nuc that had three swarm cells, one fully capped but has not issued a swarm, a honey extraction that yielded over 4 gallons and beekeepers helping each other sharing eggs and brood for a queen less hive. The surprise was that 8 days later both hives the donor and the recipient were queen right. Not enough time for either to have raised a queen and have her mated. Lots of

scratching of heads on this one. Two possibilities came to mind. One, the donor colony had two queens and one went with the donated frames and the other stayed put. There are situations of mother/daughter working together for a while. Two, the donor colony was preparing to swarm. We were so intent on finding the right frame to donate we did not go deep enough to see the swarm cells (hive is 5 supers high and bursting with bees), as soon as we had the frames we needed we closed the hive up. So when the queen left with the donated frames there was no queen to swarm with and the hive switched to supercedure mode. Both hives will be checked again in a week, especially the donor hive to see if the eggs and very young brood seen are the right kind of brood and that is worker brood.

South cluster is communicating via a restricted yahoo group, if you are a Petaluma SCBA member and would like a place to chat bees, ask questions, get help and find out about hive dives please join southcluste@yahoo.com, go to yahoo.com, then to groups, put southcluster in the search bar and join. You need a yahoo e-mail but you can forward it to your regular e-mail. If you are having trouble please e-mail patyperkins@yahoo.com, the group is restricted to south cluster members or Southcluster@sonomabees.org

Keep your eyes peeled for and invitation to the next bee cafe.

West Cluster: had a social meeting and our group would like to learn how to make foundation-less or wired frames and discuss equipment.

Bill may be able to lead this but we will also ask Geoff Whitford.

Lots of energy in our group, and new members excited to learn as quickly as possible. Everyone is very appreciative of the cluster group concept and we all have so much to talk about. This time we let the newest members explain their bees and any problems or successes they are having.

We are going to do a group hive dive with other members assisting a new member on Thursday. Gina, Bill and

I have been mentoring the 'new-bees' too.

Email: westcluster hive.@sonomabees.org



Thea and Jim inspecting a top Bar

East Cluster: The east cluster members have been sharing brood and eggs for queenless hives. Some hives have swarmed and some of them have been caught and given to other members. There is a bee cafe on June 8 demonstrating the honey extractor that will be housed in Glen Ellen. Discussion will include beekeeping and what to expect this summer.

We will have a presence during the Kenwood 4th of July parade and later that day have a booth during the Rotary Club of Glen Ellen-Kenwood after the parade. If you wanna help, please email:

eastcluster@sonomabees.org

Education

The Education group has had a very busy month... Lots of presentations and lots of kids... The things that kids say are always amazing, ... "Kids say the darndest things"... Now who said that? Kids make it so much fun.

We always need new presenters. In fact, we are including pictures of a few new presenters: Mike Turner, extractor of bees from walls and windows and any where else you do not want them.... and Patsy Young, Spanish professor from SRJC and Elsie High School., and Joyce Coll who helps Ettamarie out with presentations.

If you want to get involved, please contact the Education coordinator at Education@sonomabees.org We need you and you need us! (sounds like Friedmans... If we don't have it, you don't need it!"

Anyway from preschool to high school, students have been wowed by the honey bees and the beekeepers that talk about them.





**A Special Hive Dive
by Paty Hermsillo Perkins and Christine Kurtz**

(Please note that all members can write articles about beekeeping experiences. This particular recapping of two hive dives is worth reading. It includes several important points made which you may want to use in your own hive dives!)

The South Cluster had a hive dive that included: a recently acquired small nucleus colony that had three swarm cells, one fully capped, but the colony has not issued a swarm; a honey extraction that yielded over 4 gallons; a hive dive where members helped with a 50/50 divide of a large colony; and beekeepers helping each other by sharing swarms, eggs and brood for a queen less hive. The surprise in the latter case was that 8 days later, both hives, the donor and the recipient, were queen right. There was not enough time for either to have raised a queen and have her mated. Lots of scratching of heads on this one. Two possibilities came to mind. One, the donor colony had two queens and one went with the donated frames and the other stayed put. There are situations of mother/daughter working together for a while. Two, the donor colony was preparing to swarm. We were so intent to find the right frame to donate

that perhaps we did not go deep enough to see the swarm cells (hive is 5 supers high and bursting with bees). As soon as we had the frames we needed, we closed up the hive. So when the queen left with the donated frames there was no queen to swarm with and the hive switched to supercedure mode. Both hives will be checked again in a week, especially the donor hive to see if the eggs and very young brood seen are the right kind of brood which would be worker brood.

Another South Cluster hive dive: a member's colony had grown to 7 medium supers high - it was a swarm captured a year ago. She knew that the time had come to decide to divide or not, so prepared everything for the possibility of a 50/50 divide. This was a first attempt at this type of a divide. In the past, taking smaller splits from large colonies has been our experience. But a small split wouldn't begin to make a dent in this colony's population, so 50/50 it was! The beekeeper was so grateful for the south cluster members that joined her: Lisa, the brave and willing note taker; Sally, the observer, always asking thoughtful and important questions; Michael, willing to work by her side helping to heft those tall heavy supers; Christine, with her invaluable experience, guidance and eye for eggs and the queen! Together this task was accomplished efficiently and smoothly. We talked first about the purpose of the dive and then outlined the process. We decided to use Thea's method of beginning at the bottom super. In this way, we would disturb the bees minimally. We also used Serge's method of removing the follower board and then heading straight to the center frames. Again, minimal disturbance but we got the info needed to decide where to place that super. It was in that process that we saw eggs and the queen. So we were able to insure that the divide without the queen had viable eggs for making a queen. We also turned the two divides so that they were facing one another. This is a method that Michael Bush uses in the hope that the foragers will equally enter each divide. Initially, the majority of foragers entered the divide without the queen as that was closest to the old location. Eventually, over a week's time, they did indeed equalize themselves. At 7 days, the beekeeper entered the queenless divide and found three beautiful queen cells! Hopefully, one of these will result in a successfully mated queen!

SCBA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes May 5, 2014

Met at the home of Ettamarie Peterson. Present: Hasna Wood—2nd VP; Ettamarie Peterson—President; Denise Wright—2nd At-Large; Christine Kurtz—Past President; Rita Maloney—Treasurer; Cathy Kopshever—Volunteers; Becky Jackson—Secretary; Laura Baker—1st VP; Thea Vierling—Regional Coordinator

The minutes of the April 7th meeting were reviewed. Denise moved to accept the minutes as presented, Hasna seconded and all approved (6 ayes).

President Ettamarie reports that the requests for Earth Day activities by various groups was overwhelming mixed with Swarm calls and Hive dives. Do we need to plan for this next year? Christine K. reports she attended one in Petaluma and it wasn't worth the time she spent. Ettamarie asked, and was directed, that requests for children's educational events should go to Jen Espinoza (education), and adult events should go to Cathy Kopshever (volunteers).

The Association educational materials, printed at our expense are to be used by us at our own booths. SCBA Business cards can be given freely, however, to those beekeepers not specifically representing us, but wanting to share our website and info with others.

There is a Children's Museum field trip with Mark Dolan to Davis on June 7th. But Thea will meet with Mark at the Schulz museum on May 8th. All are welcome; contact Thea. She hopes to have a regular relationship with our volunteers and the Schulz museum observation hive.

1st VP of Membership, Laura reports 372 total members now. Requests for email changes should go to Laura, and she can get help from Sabin if needed.

2nd VP of Meetings, Hasna reports July's speaker may be Rob Keller or Michael Thiel. August is Sam Comfort. Hasna has a colleague from Syria who may be able to speak in November. All agreed that the gadgets slated for that night could be arranged around on tables to have people present them at the Pre-meeting time. September is Amina Harris on honey tasting. Ask people to bring in their honeys to be tasted. Thea generously gave us all a taste of buckwheat honey! Wow, indescribable. It will be interesting to see what words Amina comes up with for it. October's speaker is Kate Frey, a Master gardener from Melissa Gardens.

Treasurer, Rita gave a corrected March Financial Report, and April's report. It shows a balance of \$17,517.95 with \$888 monthly income and \$790 in expenses. Rita will get a reduced Health permit of \$89, which covers us with pre-packaged honey stix. The member vendors who wish to hand out honey samples will have to get their own health permit (Ettamarie will contact Dan Tennyson and Hector Alvarez of the change).

Group Reports

Regional Cluster leader, Thea reports there are some changes in Cluster Leaders. Paty Hermosillo Perkins will be the primary leader (with Christine Kurtz) for South Cluster. Lynne Black leads the North cluster; Chris Dicker is West Cluster leader; Becky Jackson is Central; Jim Spencer is East, and Jon Sevigny is Napa Cluster leader.

Linda Hale, former 2nd VP returned the computer and engraved hive tools. Thea gave the computer to Laura to use in membership, and the hive tools to Hasna to use as speaker gifts. The computer should be brought to each meeting as a backup for the program presentation.

Education—Jen Espinoza was absent, but Thea reports they went to the French Charter School in the rain, and there were tents. Ettamarie had the observation hive in a classroom with live bees. It was very successful, and the school sent a nice Thank You letter.

Technology—Cheryl Veretto was absent, and the survey group hasn't met yet.

Pre-Meetings—Christine asks for Show and Tell items to be brought. Becky will bring wonky comb. Some "Ask Me" volunteers might bring up questions at the beginning of the regular meeting.

Swarms—John Krafft absent but it will be announced during the meeting that if anyone on the swarm list has had their fill of swarms to please take their name off the list themselves through their member dashboard. Alternately, those still wanting swarms will be asked to let their Cluster Leaders know.

Volunteers—Cathy asks that all volunteer requests be forwarded to her rather than have everyone get involved independently, as did with a recent garden tour. Cathy will store and keep track of educational materials (banners, puppets, etc.). When they are used, they can be returned to Ettamarie, but ultimately to Cathy. Upcoming events: Valley Vista School on May 10, Healdsburg Garden Tour on May 16 & 17. The BBQ will be at Janet Leisen's on July 19th, 3-6 pm. And Kelli is organizing that.

OLD BUSINESS

Thea will work with Cheryl about making changes to the website for Jen to have education on the public page.

Microphone intermittent problems—Rita says the mic works fine, but maybe the button needs to be taped so it doesn't activate. There is a good wireless headgear mic for the speaker to use. Rita will ask her husband, Pat to look for and price a new, better handheld mic.

NEW BUSINESS

Denise and some other new board members could use some website and webmail tutoring. Denise volunteered to write up an instructional sheet accessible to all new (and old) people and keep in Google Docs, once she is shown how to access those areas.

Next Board meeting is at Denise Wright's home at 6:00 pm. 5381 Thomas Rd, Sebastopol.

Ettamarie will be gone during the next meeting and asked Laura to take over for her and lead it.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50 pm

Respectfully submitted, Becky Jackson, Secretary

Treasurer's Report June 1, 2014

The combined bank account totals are \$17,527.24. For the second month in a row, our income matched our expenses, \$955.30 and \$946.01 respectively.

The education outreach is bringing in quite a bit in donations as we suggest that for each child \$1 be donated to the Association. The children witness a presentation by our volunteers on bee biology, the importance of bees in our world, the current plight of the bees and how they can help save the bees. To visually add to each presentation, our volunteers take rollup banners and our laminated photographs. We give each child a memento of the lesson: a packet of seeds, honey sticks, bee puzzles, and/or bee pencils.

Please consider volunteering your time to make a presentation. Contact Jen Espinoza, education@sonomabees.org

General Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2014

Held at the Rohnert Park 4-H Building, 7:00 pm. About 120 members present.

The South Cluster under Christine Kurtz and Paty Hermosillo-Perkins has started their own yahoo group for communicating. She can share details.

Questions about Member's Only Website? Contact Jim Spencer, eastcluster@sonomabees.org.

Cathy Kopshever is looking for volunteers for many upcoming events. Sign up at Volunteers@sonomabees.org.

Ettamarie announced that Mike Harris working with Caltrans confirmed that they will NOT be planting CA Buckeye along the freeways where they've removed redwoods.

Speaker tonight is Dr. Hasna Wood on Apitherapy. She is also our new Vice President!

Hasna has studied Oriental Medicine (Chinese) and is a Bee sting therapist. She gave a disclaimer, very important to note, that she isn't giving medical advice tonight. You can contact her at hasna819@gmail.com

She gives some tips about working with your bees, if you are allowing occasional stings:

Don't take ibuprofen or beta blockers before hand, it could compromise the reaction. Don't drink or smoke before hand.

Don't take any steroids (i.e.: prednisone). Eat a good meal.

The body wants to heal, and usually does a good job at it without drug intervention. Don't take Benadryl after being stung.

Her patients are given bee stings, up to 3 times per week. A red itchy circle around the sting site is Stage 1. Stage 2 is a big reaction, and she encourages her patients not to get scared, but she monitors them constantly. The body starts healing (whatever ailment you are seeking treatment for) after the big reaction. Stage 3 is the immune stage, where the body is responding.

She gave the recipe of 1 TBSP honey and 1/8 to 1/4 tsp. turmeric to help cure pain and sleeplessness. Lowers insulin response, doesn't elevate triglycerides, lowers blood sugar levels, lowers cancer risk by lowering obesity, helps the liver enzymes detoxify alcohol.

Also 1 TBSP honey to 1 tsp. cinnamon as a way to strengthen artery walls (good for heart attack patients) or as an anti-inflammatory, and shares the benefits listed above.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Submitted by Becky Jackson, Secretary

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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, 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. Ettamarie Peterson 707-765-4582 President@sonomabees.org
- Past Pres. Christine Kurtz –(707) 849-3220 pastpresident@sonomabees.org
- 1st Vice Pres. Membership– Laura Baker - 1stVP@sonomabees.org
- 2nd Vice President –Hasna Wood 2ndVP@sonomabees.org - 707 827-3515
- Secretary – Becky Jackson - Secretary@sonomabees.org
- Treasurer Rita Maloney Treasurer@sonomabees.org
- Librarian –Nadya Clark Librarian@sonomabees.org 707-938-4762
- Reps. at Large – Denise Wright – atlarge2@sonomabees.org
 Cheryl Veretto Webmaster@sonomabees.org
- Volunteer Coordinator – Kelli Maciel 707-762-1800
- Editor Ettamarie Peterson – Editor@sonomabees.org 765-4582
- Swarm Chairperson- John Krafft swarms@sonomabees.org
- Webmaster- Cheryl Veretto Webmaster@sonomabees.org
- Historian – Kirstie Stramler historian@sonomabees.org

Extractor Techs- Call Ettamarie 707-765-4582 or Janet Leisen 707- 528-2085 or Denny Pederson (cell)707-328-4692 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.