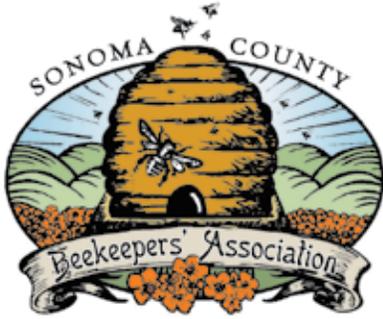


The Monthly Extractor

Volume 40, Issue 9

September 2015



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

From Our President

Hello Everyone and welcome to September!

It's been a busy but amazing past few months! There are many people to thank.

Many of you had a chance to attend a workshop with Sam Comfort. Thank you to Sam! Sam is inspiring and fun, as well as insightful about beekeeping. I send so many thanks to Thea Vierling for masterminding the workshop weekend and making it all come together so beautifully. Thank you to all of the beekeepers who held workshops in their homes, and to Jim Spencer for generously donating his time and home to Sam. I'm sure you'll all agree that we'd love to see more of these workshops in the future.

Also, I hope you've had a chance to see SCBA's new website at www.sonomabees.org. This was a huge undertaking by a dedicated (primarily) volunteer team and Wow! it looks amazing! Thank you to Chris Dicker and Thea Vierling for spearheading the project, to Kaiya Kramer of Hangar94 whose services we used, to Kelli Cox, Jim Spencer and Linda Burns for driving the membership side (more to come on that), and a big thank you for Cheryl Veretto for her many years of creating and upkeeping the website. I can't thank each of you enough and we will use and enjoy your work for many years to come.

Believe it or not, we are beginning to think about next year's Board and there will be many positions open. I am sure you are interested in assisting! Could you please approach me or any Board member to discuss the possibilities? Next month we will officially announce the open positions.

I hope you are enjoying the sun and your bees!

Wishing you a beautiful month,

Laura Baker, President

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This Month's Calendar:

Monthly Meeting

Sept. 14 Gadget Night

Bring your favorite gadget to share! It can be your own invention or one you bought and want to show how it helps your beekeeping. Also it has been suggested that you can also share your goofs in beekeeping. What did you do that turned out to be a mistake? Don't be bashful; we learn from these mistakes!

Heirloom Exposition

September 8 -10 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

We will have a display there. Check with Cheryl Veretto atLarge1@sonomabees.org if you want to volunteer. See www.theheirloomexpo.com to learn more about this fabulous event. The bee garden that was at the County Fair will be part of this event too!

My September Beekeeping To-Do List by Serge Labesque

© 2015

Beekeeping notes

When we think about beekeeping gear, it's understandably the hive tool or the more emblematic veil and smoker that come to mind first. Indeed, inspecting a hive without a hive tool can be challenging at times, and the age-old image of shrouded beekeepers working with bees in clouds of smoke is engraved in memory. But why do we physically open hives? And what do we see and do when we interact with our bees? The answers to these and many more questions may be found in our notes.

Can you tell when you last inspected a particular hive? Can you describe the condition of the colony and what manipulation you performed? Do you know where the queen came from and how old she is? A few months from now, when you try to understand why a colony was particularly successful or, on the contrary, why it failed, will you be able to review the management of the hive, its development, behavior and performance? And next spring, what basis will you use to decide which colonies should be preferred as sources of brood to rear queens, if it is not in your notes?

Well, unless you have an exceptionally sharp memory, a pencil and paper are often a more reliable means of keeping records of our colonies than our gray matter. At least, this is the case for me. Beekeepers also use smart phones, voice recorders, tablets, computers and all sorts of gadgets to log their observations. But, when our fingers are coated with propolis, we can appreciate the simplicity and forgiveness of pencil and paper. Even though pencils become sticky and the paper propolis-stained and dog-eared, our notes will nonetheless be faithfully at the ready to answer questions we may have months or years later. To me, these are the most valuable beekeeping tools, and they cost practically nothing. However, I must add that I frequently use a gluey and propolis-encrusted pocket camera along with my notepad. As long as its battery is charged, I have found it to be a benevolent assistant to the pencil and paper in spite of the countless times I dropped it on the ground or inside an open hive. Because the camera allows the review and enlargement of comb details at a later date, fine points that may have been missed while in the apiaries can sometimes be seen from the living room.

Over the years, my hand-drawn notes have gradually become graphic assemblages of a few abbreviations and symbols. My penmanship being horrible, these notes can serve only me. Yet, hive inspections can be recorded in just a few seconds, and key pieces of information stand out at a glance when I review them.

Our notes help us to know our colonies and manage them as best we can. They are a tremendously powerful learning tool, which aids us in avoiding replicating mistakes. In addition, they are great time savers, since they indicate which particular colonies in the apiaries need to be inspected, when, and to what extent. If only for this reason, they protect the bees from excessively frequent, needless, and intrusive disruptions. Before opening our hives, a quick review of our notes helps to anticipate the equipment we should have at hand, and we can assess how the colonies progress when they are inspected.

So, here comes a bit of advice: Make clear and succinct notes about your colonies, about the weather and honey flows, and review them occasionally. They'll help you become a better beekeeper. We should rank our notes first in importance among our beekeeping tools, don't you think?

September in the apiaries

My fall beekeeping routine is usually underway by Labor Day. The main focus of the end-of-summer and fall hive inspections is the preparation of the hives for winter. In good years, there is also summer honey to harvest, but this won't be the case this fall in my apiaries. A first round of inspections is performed to assess the colonies and to decide how to manage them until they will have to face winter on their own. There will be another round of follow-up inspections at about the end of the month to verify that the bees are on track or to modify my plans. Although some colonies may actually be ready for winter at that point in time, the final hive manipulations of the year will be performed in late October. After that, there will be no open-hive inspections until next year.

Fall hive management is entirely different from spring hive management. In the spring, when the colonies are growing rapidly and the honey flow provides large amounts of nectar and pollen, we need to enlarge our hives. In the fall, it's exactly the opposite: The colony populations and the brood nests decrease steadily, except for a brief period when the nurse bees that will take care of the developing winter bees are raised. This modest but hugely important production of brood happens normally in September in this area. Since the fall honey flow is pretty much non-existent here, the bees do not need any more space to store nectar than they already have. In addition to this, the bees prepare for winter by making their nests more compact. So, it's a good time to begin shrinking the volume of the hives by removing some of the frames that are unused by the bees. It is also a great opportunity to get

rid of old brood nest combs, which are typically found at the sides of the brood nests, since new frames were added in their centers earlier in the year.

As the bees begin to relocate the uncapped honey within the hives by bringing it next to the brood, the brood nests are gradually repositioned closer to the entrances, amidst combs that contain fresh pollen and nectar that the foragers collected during the latter part of summer. This methodical rearrangement of the hive contents, which is performed spontaneously by the bees, is fascinating to observe, and I do not interfere with it. Actually, I consider this trait in bee colonies to be an important selection criterion, as it enhances the chances of the successful overwintering for the colonies that possess it. On the contrary, the colonies that act during the fall as if it were eternal spring seldom make it past New Years. However, this problem may also be caused by the beekeeper's untimely expansion of the brood nests or stimulating feedings.

The varroa mite populations reach their peak at this time of year. Observing how the colonies handle these pests is an integral part of fall hive monitoring. This is another characteristic of the colonies that is worth noting. To this end, I examine the monitoring trays that are inserted under the hive bottom screens for fallen mites and other clues, which may be bits and pieces of discarded brood. During the open-hive inspections, the brood nests are also carefully scanned for more signs of infestation by the pest, the so-called "Parasitic Mite Syndrome".

If there is any doubt about the health of a colony or about its queen, it needs to be addressed without delay, because a few weeks from now, it will be too late to requeen or combine colonies.

Yellowjackets are very active in front of the colonies at this time of year. They collect every sick or dead bee that is removed from the hives and dropped to the ground. In doing so, they help keep the bee colonies in good health. But unfortunately they may also attempt to enter the hives.



Reducing the size of the entrances makes them defensible by the guard bees against these insects as well as robber bees.

What is happening in the hives in autumn is vitally important to the bee colonies. So, we need to pay attention to what will be necessary to carry our colonies to next spring: good health, good queens, enough stores, protective hives and adequate organization of the hive contents.

In summary, this month:

- Assess colonies, their health, queens, brood nests and stores.
- Monitor the progress of the colonies in their preparations for fall and winter.
- Requeen or combine hives that are not performing satisfactorily and those that have failed or failing queens.
- Reduce the unused volume of the hives (Follower boards greatly facilitate this.)
- Consolidate honey in honey supers (Reduce the volume of the honey supers with follower boards).
- Manage frames in preparation for fall culling of the old and misshapen ones.
- Beware of yellowjackets and of the risks of robbing. If necessary, reduce the entrances of developing colonies and of those that are under attack.
- Avoid hive manipulations that can trigger robbing.
- Provide and maintain sources of water.
- Provide some afternoon shade, if possible.
- Ensure that hives are adequately ventilated.
- Harvest surplus honey, if there is any, and with moderation.
- Extract and bottle surplus honey.
- Return wet frames and cappings to the bees for cleaning (by placing them above hive top feeders or inner covers during the evening).
 - Render wax from discarded frames and from cappings.
 - Beware of the fire danger when using the smoker in dry-grass areas.
 - Routinely clean and scorch tools and equipment.

Serge Labesque © 2015

SCBA at the Fair

We had a super effort at the Sonoma County Fair this year with many members contributing to an exhibit that took a blue ribbon!

Thanks Ettamarie for taking these pictures!



Fall Beekeeping Classes

at Santa Rosa Junior College

Class Name: **Intermediate Beekeeping for Fall, Winter, & Early Spring**
Weekly - Wed 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM;
2 sessions starting 9/30/2015, ending 10/7/2015
Lark Hall, 2004

Note: Students can register for classes on SRJC's new registration portal at srijce.augusoft.net

Even though the link hasn't been announced to general public yet, it is live and it will work. All students need to create a user profile (both new and returning to Community Ed).

For additional information and registration:

Santa Rosa Junior College
Community Education
1501 Mendocino Ave Santa Rosa CA, 95401
707-527-4372
communityed@santarosa.edu

Bee Plants of the Month

By Alice Ford-Sala

Native Plant of the Month:

Germander *Teucrium fruticans* *Teucrium chamaedrys*
aka *T. lucidrys*
Family Lamiaceae

These bee magnets make great drought tolerant landscaping choices. *T. chamaedrys* grows up to 1 foot high and 2 feet wide. Covered with rosy pink blossoms all summer,

you can cut it back after bloom to keep it compact. Evergreen, it is attractive year-round and makes a nice groundcover. *T. fruticans* or Bush Germander grows 4-8 feet tall and wide (some sources said up to 8 feet, others said up

to 4 feet). Pretty lavender flower spikes top the evergreen gray-green leaves. 'Azureum' has deep blue blossoms and 'Compactum' grows only 3 feet high and wide.

Germander is usually not favored by deer and can grow well in poor, dry soil. It can take regular watering if it has good drainage. Plant it with other bee-friendly, drought tolerant plants such as lavender, sage, cistus for a gorgeous display year-round.



Germander

Beneficial Plant of the Month:

Bidens ferulifolia Family Asteraceae
Family Asteraceae

Bidens is an easy to grow and attractive plant, the yellow, red, orange or bi-colored flowers top pretty ferny foliage almost all year. Most are ground covers and do quite well in hanging baskets or spilling over the side of a large container. Bidens likes moderate to light water, can handle heat and sun, or light shade. Cut them back if they get unruly. There are many varieties, here are a few:



Bidens

'Golden Eye', 'Goldilocks Rocks' and 'Peter's Gold Carpet' are shades of yellow. The series, Bidens Hawaiian Flare, 'Red Drop' is deep red, 'Orange Drop' is orangey-red with lighter orange tips and 'Yellow Brush' has light orange centers with darker orange tips.

Bees like them all, so have fun growing a variety!

BEE WISE: “SIMPLIFY”

by Emery Dann

What do bees experience in a hive before it swarms? Nurse bees have prepared for swarming by making queen swarm cells. By instinct, bees know what to do and when to do it. There are too many bees for the available hive space. The hive prepares to reduce bee numbers by splitting into two hives. The bees all pick a number (who stays and who goes). I’m just joking! But they figure it out. The old queen leaves with the swarm. Then the new queen replaces the old queen in the mother hive.

What can we learn from a bee swarm? This is how bees reproduce and SIMPLIFY their lives with one hive becoming two and moving away from the mother hive! The honey bees then camp outside in a cluster with the old queen until the scouts find a new home, inside something with enough space where they can live, expand and be protected from the elements. Bees start from scratch with only themselves and the food carried in their stomachs.

Thankfully we do not have to go to this kind of extreme! Most human beings I know are accumulators, gatherers and collectors, including me! We have strong attachments to the past and all the things that we surround ourselves with in our lives. We have garages and homes filled with what “once upon a time” we bought and thought we HAD TO HAVE?!!! We then have what we need for our next garage sale or to add it to our storage unit we pay for every month! Like a hive with too much stores, brood or too many bees, WE become congested and run out of available space! We have all heard professional “Clutter Reducers” (who irritate us to death) tell us, “If you haven’t used _____ in 6 months or 1 year, get rid of it!” “What if I may need it someday”, right? Sound familiar? But I don’t figure what it is costing me to “store” all my “junk” because I cannot let go of it! I can throw it away, sell it, give it to someone or donate it to a worthy non-profit organization.

Can we learn from our bees in a “swarm”? We don’t have to move to a new location like bee swarms. How can we reduce the clutter and stuff we don’t use, have too much of or haven’t seen in years because it is buried where we can’t access it even if we did need it?!!!

Please don’t shoot the messenger! I am writing this to my life and me! I want to BEE WISE and bee smart—doing what my bees do—to be able to live better, breathe deeper and travel LITE with much less stress! I recall the saying, “I have never seen a hearse pulling a U-Haul trailer!”

The biggest reason I see to SIMPLIFY is to reduce my stress for others and myself in my life! Whether I have too many hives, too many bees in a

hive or too many accumulations in my life, I need to reduce my burden of too much stuff, clutter or whatever is distracting me from my most important priorities. Taking inventory frequently can benefit and help me to live a better life. I want to follow a “bee line”! Every day I work with bees, their BEE WISDOM inspires me to SIMPLIFY my life!

SCBA’s Time with Sam Comfort

Photos by Thea Vierling



Sonoma County Beekeepers Association

General Meeting

August 10, 2015

Met at the Rohnert Park 4-H building at 7:00 pm. About 230 people present. President, Laura Baker welcomed everyone and especially our distinguished speaker, Sam Comfort.

Cheryl Veretto announced our County Fair display won the Best of Theme award. The booth will be kept there for the upcoming Heirloom Festival! Heirloom volunteers please check the list for their timeslot on either Sept 8,9,10. Set up on the 7th.

Kelli Cox didn't introduce new people, too many! She spoke of the Apple Fair that just finished; everyone had a FUN time there. Thanks to Cathy Kopshever who filled all the slots and set up the booth.

Ettamarie is off to Germany next month and it's also Gadget Night. Please let Ettamarie know if you have something you'd like to share.

Christine Kurtz announced the Silent Auction on Dec. 14th. It's a big potluck too, organized by Kelli and Cathy. Christine is taking donated items NOW; they don't need to be bee-related (dinner certificates, wine, beer, etc.). All items are tax deductible. Contact Christine at petaluma-beelady@yahoo.com

The 50/50 raffle winner got \$211, and another received a bee canvas bag. Come each month and buy tickets for your chance to win half of the pot.

Thea Vierling, Regional Coordinator, thanked the people who allowed hive dive workshops for Sam Comfort and gave them gifts of olive oil. 120 people participated in the workshops! Thea's goal is to get people out of the "beginner" stage of beekeeping and into an intermediate stage where they can help other beginners.

Sam was introduced and started out by singing his Drone song. Sam met Thea about 5 years ago at a bee symposium in Hawaii; just about the time the hive beetle and varroa had arrived. He said he is inspired by our organization, SCBA, for it's culture of sharing. Thea, Kelli and Denise then got up and sang their own variation of the "Worker Girl" song. Hilarious, thanks for sharing!

Sam currently has 700-800 hives, but wants to work down to 5 hives, a fishing pole, and a network of similar beekeepers. He embraces the pay-it-forward concept and sharing among each other of bee resources. He sells queens, nucs and packages of treatment-free bees. He claims a person can't make a living just selling honey because of foreign imports.

Describing the history of beekeeping: before 1851 everyone made their own hives, skeps, flower pots, etc. Then Langstroth patented his hive with removal frames and the concept of bee space. It was caught up in the Industrial Revolution. Combs were re-usable! Laws were made requiring removable frames for inspectors. But this caused people to have to buy these new hives, and many people couldn't afford them. They quit beekeeping and it became less common on the small farms.

Sam has modified the Warre hive concept as his favorite way to keep colonies. It's an eternal hollow tree, with the brood nest closest to the entrance and the honey farthest. But he cautions that Warres are NOT for beginners. One must learn to be a beekeeper first.

He creates about 100 caged mated queens per week. He uses bamboo skewers as the top bars with 4 frames per nuc then a division board, then another nuc within the same "double nuc" box. He's been using Russian bees. He creates splits by putting the new split in the place of a well-established hive to make use of its field bees returning to them.

Cell-builder hives need to be bursting with bees. He shakes 2-3 lbs. of bees into a box and comes back later in the day and puts in frames of his grafted queens. Then the active cells are divided into mating nucs. He has attrition of about 50%.

He advises everyone to keep some 4-frame empty nucs on hand to put swarm queen cells in when you find them in the spring. They make the best queens. Do an "artificial swarm" by moving the old queen, brood, honey and 4 to 5 shakes of bees into it.

Every beekeeper should have a bait hive during swarm season! 10-gallon cavity (a 10-frame deep) is the proven preferred size (according to Tom Seeley). Don't put all 10 frames in; use an old comb and lemongrass oil. Place 7-15 feet up with a 1 ½ inch wide entrance. These are the ideals, if you can manage it.

Sam closed asking everyone to "Bee-it-forward." Give! It's the gateway to a sweeter economy. He closed with his song about Zombees.

Submitted,

Becky Jackson

Minutes

<http://sonomabees.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/08-2015-General-minutes.pdf>

<http://sonomabees.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/SCBA-Aug-2015-Board-Minutes.pdf>

Bee Education in Schools

We need your help!

By Jen Espinoza

If you've been wondering what it would be like to share information about honeybees with the community, specifically children, this fall is a great chance to come observe a classroom presentation. We really get busy in the spring when many teachers talk about insects, so observing this fall is an opportunity to check things out. Come see how rewarding it is to share fascinating facts with children.... and perhaps learn something new about bees yourself! Teaching children will allow them to become 'stewards of the honeybee', and perhaps encourage future beekeepers.

We have great props and lesson plan ideas that can be adapted to your comfort level and teaching style. You really don't have to have teaching experience to enjoy sharing information about bees - kids are so curious and bees are so amazing!



Jen Espinoza Teaching About Honey Bees

Limerick

By Ettamarie Peterson

(What do you expect when the editor goes off to Ireland?)

There was a young fellow named Sonny
Who went through life with no money
Because in one spring
He discovered this thing
He thought would get plenty of honey!

Extractor Techs- Call Ettamarie 707-479-1613 or Janet Leisen 707- 528-2085 or Denny Pederson e-mail 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 She lives in Glen Ellen.



On Pondering about Bees

By Christine Kurtz

Fall is in the air and August is still in full swing. Not surprising since everything this year was so early, but it's still jarring as I've been staring at ripe pumpkins for a month and half debating whether to make ginger pumpkin soup, but I just couldn't, not yet. My chickens are molting too in warm weather to boot and egg production has plummeted to the chagrin of my customers, the bees are decreasing in size filling the brood nest with nectar to decrease the area where the queen can lay, and the trees are turning already.

Fall is a very precarious time for bees, partly due to the varroa mite who ramps up it's population while the bees decrease theirs. The crux will be due to varroa or not, whether the bees can raise healthy, well fed, I mean nutritionally well fed, winter bees. Some of us, and probably more than I'd like to brace myself for, will lose hives. The first time it happened to me I cried my eyes out, now it humbles me deeply. It teaches me to be a better student of the bees, to learn and understand more about them, to look back at my notes, to make new and better plans and to change my life to tread more lightly on this earth.

What to do then when a hive dies? First giving a good knock and immediately put your ear to it. Is it actually dead? Is there just a hollow sound or did you just wake up a small cluster still hanging on? Don't be fooled by a small activity at the entrance; are those foragers or robber bees? If unsure, wait till dark and knock on the hive again. No sound? Time to take it apart.

The most responsible thing to do if the hive is gone is to dismantle it immediately and while doing that check for the one disease where it's absolutely imperative that the equipment be burned and not re-used next season and that is American Foul Brood (AFB). Every beekeeper should know, experienced or not, how to identify it as it is very contagious and if the hive is left abandoned robber bees will find it and bring the spore back to their own hive where the cycle can begin again. Please do not think that letting bees rob out a hive will help another hive. They will carry disease and mites back and challenge them even further to survive.

To identify AFB look for several symptoms. They may not all be there but check for these.

The most telling is the stringiness or ropiness of a sealed pupa. To determine this take a little sturdy twig that is smaller than the radius of a cell. Find in the brood nest area where sealed pupating cells are still present, a sealed cell. Stick the twig in, stir and pull it out. If there is a brown stringy substance that pulls out with the stick (see photo), that is AFB.



Photo Christine Kurtz

Then check for a spotty brood nest pattern and sunken cappings. When a pupating larva dies the slightly convex capping becomes concave, not only with AFB but also with AFB it is usually very evident.



Photo: Christine Kurtz

Check for scales. Once the pupae dies it dries up in a blackish color and nothing you can do will remove it. The bees can't remove and neither can you.

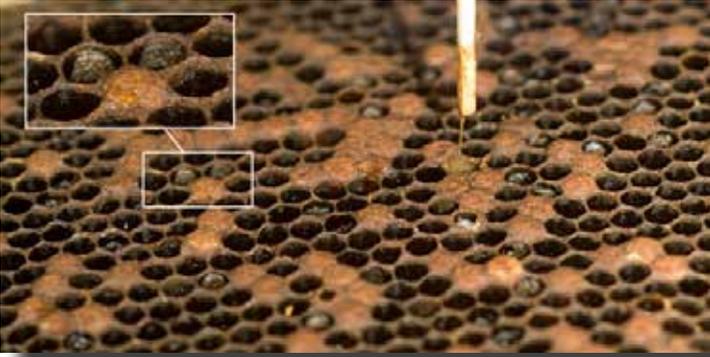


Photo from: <http://skagitvalleybeekeepers.org/101/8.html>

The next symptoms are seen or smelled sometimes but not always present. The picture below shows a dying pupa that is starting to melt into that irremovable scale. Its tongue is extended and stuck to the other side of the cell.

The smell from an AFB is foul. It's not always there but the only way I can describe it and the description may vary from person to person is "stinky dirty teenage socks". Regardless the description, it varies greatly from the sweet smell of honeycomb and honey. Familiarize yourself with the smells of healthy hives, and then it will be unmistakable.



Photo from <http://skagitvalleybeekeepers.org/101/8.html>

The challenge then is to dispose of the equipment and unfortunately this tenacious spore is virtually indestructible and can live up to 70 years. There isn't a place to bring and have it incinerated and so it is left to you to have a burn day. If you use plastic foundation you will have some toxic fumes to mitigate. If you can dig a deep hole, make a fire, burn the equipment and when all is done bury it. That might be best. Some people wait for the next drizzly morning between spare the air days and do a burn in their fireplace. If there is no fireplace, procure a barrel to contain the fire (watch out though wax burns fast and hot. Meanwhile keep the contaminated equipment contained in thick contractor's plastic bags away from any possibility of bees getting to it.

If ever in doubt or uncertain, please contact a more experienced beekeeper. This is when having networked with your cluster groups can come in real handy. And if all fails bring the frames from the brood nest nicely sealed in something to the general meeting and I'll have a look. You can also hire my services if none of those work for you, see my e-mail below. Now let's hope none of us have to deal with this.

A couple of helpful websites:

<http://www.ent.uga.edu/bees/disorders/bacterial.html>
<http://www.extension.org/pages/23693/european-foulbrood:-a-bacterial-disease-affecting-honey-bee-brood>

Christine Kurtz
Honey Bee Consultant
Petalumabeelady@yahoo.com

Contact Information

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

2015 Board Members and Other Helpful People

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northcluster@sonomabees.org Lynne Black
eastcluster@sonomabees.org Lizanne Pastore
westcluster@sonomabees.org Chris Dicker
centralcluster@sonomabees.org Chris Conrad

Reminder: December Silent Auction

At our annual pot luck in December, the SCBA also runs a fantastic silent auction.

We are then looking for donations, not necessarily bee-related although we do like those too. Are you a crafter, a hobbyist, have a service or talent to share? Do you make your own beer, mead or wine? Or perhaps own a winery? Sometimes we have a connection, know someone who could donate, would you mind asking? It could be your hairdresser or your neighbor crafting in the garage or a family member who makes something awesome or another. Even smaller items are welcome as we put together themed baskets and they come in handy. If you are not sure drop me a line.

Christine Kurtz
Silent Auction Chair
Petalumabeelady@yahoo.com

Ads in This Newsletter

Check with Treasurer Denise Wright 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.



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