

The Monthly Extractor

Volume 42, Issue 10

October 2017



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

This Month's Calendar

Monthly Meeting: October 9

- 6 pm – **Gizmos and Gadgets Presentations** [See Below] Also check out books and videos from our library—**Don't forget your overdue library books!**
- 7 pm – **Steven Coy**, of Coy Bee Company. Steven is a breeder of mite-resistant Russian bees from Mississippi and will be speaking about the breeding program they use to ensure transmission of the desired genetic traits in an apiary. (See more in the article by Susan Kegley.)

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- Oct. 6, 7 & 8 – Sonoma Co. Harvest Fair
- Oct. 14 & 15 – Farm Trails Weekend
- Saturday Oct. 28th 10 am to 4 pm - North Bay Science Festival at Santa Rosa Fairgrounds – This event is free and many children will be attending with their families. We need volunteers.

At both the Oct 9th and Nov 13th meetings there will be *Gizmos and Gadgets Presentations* from 6:00PM to 7:00PM. If you want to present a gizmo or gadget you must email 2ndvp@sonomabees.org

President's Message

October already?? So fast, and so slow, this year, these seasonal shifts.

My grandmother was right (of course), when she told me that life would go faster as I aged. I didn't believe her at the time, when I was younger and less seasoned about reality.

We beekeepers and allies do indeed practice slowing down, right? Each time we are in a hive, or plant for the pollinators, or listen to a lecture, etc. It's important to remember that there are actual moments when we aren't sped up!

I noticed yesterday (Tuesday 9/26) that the bees were sped up, with the heat. Investigating more closely, at each of the 5 hives where I live, I saw potential robber bees trying to get in the hives, not in the entrance (I have made the entrances small at this point, as Fall feels early), but in the back of the hives. It seems to be that yesterday was different - something had shifted, and bees were making an attempt to get any easy honey, from a weaker or sick hive. It might be a good idea to survey your hives during foraging hours!

As we shift and transition into autumn, I hope, as I tend to do, that you/we get to practice slowing down, as needed. Repeat. Practice. Repeat again.

The bee season is closing up soon, the light is changing, the air is cooling (sometimes!), the plants are turning, the rains are on their way (we think!)... It's always changing.

It's been an interesting year, eh? May the fall bring you gentleness.

Serving as President of the SCBA has been a learning process. Please consider being part of the SCBA Board this year, starting January 2018.

Thank you for being part of the SCBA.

Best,

Jason Berkman
President



Contents

President's Message	1
This Month's Calendar.....	1
Beekeeping To-Do List by Serge Labesque	2
Mid-Fall Checklist	4
News From Central Cluster	4
October 9th Meeting With Aimee Code	5
Bee Plants of the Month	6
BEE WISE	7
Another Successful Heirloom Expo	7
News From South Cluster	8
Time to Get Ready for Our Silent Auction	9
Education Group	11
Contact Information	12
2017 Board Members	12

My October Beekeeping To-Do List by Serge Labesque

© 2017

How much honey should we leave in our hives for winter?

Much of our hive work tends to facilitate and increase our bees' production of honey. Therefore we can rightfully expect to harvest some of it, at least when the weather, colony health and apiary location among others factors, are also favorable. So, the question is: What is our equitable share of this bounty? Or, to rephrase it from the vantage point of the bees: How much honey must we leave in the hives for them?

As I inspect the brood chambers of my hives in mid-fall, I consider the volume of brood, which then is mostly sealed, because the queens are reducing their egg production. Since the brood nests project the size of the future winter clusters, they are good indications of how much honey needs to be left in each individual hive at this time of year. In my Glen Ellen, California apiaries, this may be anywhere between ten and forty pounds. Indeed, whereas a small, nuc-size colony will be safe on well-organized combs that hold as little as ten to fifteen pounds of honey, very large colonies that still nourish a lot of open brood might need forty pounds. For example, I've learned over the year that, in my location, thirty-five pounds of honey is an adequate amount for a mature colony that carries a decent-size brood nest of about four deep Langstroth frames of mostly sealed brood. In other locales or under conditions that differ this number might have to be shifted up or down, possibly quite a bit. Only pertinent experience can tell by how much. Knowing that a deep Langstroth frame of honey holds approximately five pounds of honey and a medium frame three pounds, it's easy to arrive at an estimate of the amount of honey the hives contain without weighing anything. For example, seven deep frames of honey or their equivalent in comb surface area hold about thirty-five pounds of honey. This is a sufficient amount for this colony as long as it will be accessible by the cluster. The honey does not need to be a solid mass; it may be spread over many frames and placed on combs that also contain brood or beebread. Regardless, if a comb contains beebread or brood along with honey, it is needed in the brood chamber and it is not harvestable.

Any honey that is in excess of what the colony will need is surplus honey, and it may be harvested. I might even say that it should be harvested, as a large thermal mass of superfluous stores may harm the colony during its effort to emerge from winter. So, except for adding a little safety margin, there is no good reason to leave much more honey in the hives than will be necessary. It's important to remember that the configuration of the hives and of their contents matters greatly: The bees should be in direct contact with their stores when they are forced by cold weather to form tight clusters.

Based on these observations, here is a rule of thumb that is easy to implement during the preparation of

the colonies for winter: I leave from one-and-a-half to two frames of honey for every frame of brood that is found in the hives in early to mid-fall, during the production of the winter bees. This is assuming that all the frames in the hive are of the same size, or that an adjustment is made to compensate for different frame dimensions. To apply the same approach in your apiaries, you may want to adjust this, in order to take into account your past experience and various conditions that affect your hives, such as your local climate, whether the queen is still actively producing eggs or not, etc.

When we manage the contents of our hives responsibly we give our colonies a good chance of living well between honey flows and from fall to spring. And when it comes to honey, the bees are to be served first. As I see it, the skill in harvesting it is to figure out how much the bees need and to harvest surplus honey and only surplus honey.

October in the apiaries

The beekeeping season is winding down. While some colonies have already completed their preparations for winter, others are still at it, topping off their stores and raising winter bees. On sunny fall days, there is still a lot of activity in the flight paths and at the entrances of the hives. Most often, these are forager bees flying in and out of the hives to gather the last nectar and pollen that is offered by the meager fall flow. However, robbing is also a threat at this time of year. Soon, all these aging summer bees will have disappeared. The future of the colonies will then depend on the young that are inside the nests, the winter bees.

Before the end of the month all the hives will have received a little more of the beekeeper's attention to secure them against the weather and various predators. Possibly, we will also harvest any surplus honey. If so, we will preferably take the dark honeydew honey and leave the lighter honey for the bees. Here are two reasons for doing this: Bees that overwinter on honeydew honey frequently have dysentery, as they cannot digest it very well; to us, honeydew honey is very tasty. The entrances will have been adjusted to reduce draft and to prevent robber bees and yellowjackets from becoming a problem. It will be time to install mouse guards, if they are not already in place. Actually it's interesting to see how some colonies amass propolis at the hive entrances. In effect they are spontaneously reducing the size of the openings and warding off predators. It's a lot of hard work that we can easily spare our bees by using our entrance reducers judiciously.

The queens have diminished or stopped their production of eggs and most of the brood is sealed inside the shrinking brood nests. We verify one last time that no health problems have developed since our previous

inspections, and we address any issue that we may encounter without delay. The contents of the hives have become quite compact, with stores taking over the cells freed up by emerging brood. This is a good opportunity for us to remove old or misshapen combs, an important task that helps keep the bees healthy and that facilitates frame manipulations. As these frames are removed, the follower boards are brought closer to the remaining frames. This results in relatively tall and narrow hive configurations and in increased lateral air gaps, all of which provide for better overwintering conditions than squat hives. I place dry lavender in the upper parts of the hives to serve as moisture-absorbing insulation, and I verify that the upper ventilation slots are open.

Before we harvest any honey, we make sure that the bees will be left with adequate amounts of stores. Just as important as the quantity of honey and bee bread we must leave in the hives is their placement relative to the brood nests and future winter clusters. I give particular attention to the center of the mass of stores that the bees have packed above the brood nests, mainly to verify that I have not inadvertently compromised the bees' natural set-up during earlier visits: There, I should find one or two combs with patches of bee bread typically covered by a glaze of honey. Most of these combs should be comprised of worker-size cells. These two points are important because the colonies will establish and grow their new brood nests in these areas, in January and February. We also frequently find some uncapped honey there. This will actually be beneficial to the bees as they'll be able to consume it easily, without struggling to remove cold hard cappings. Once emptied, these cells will then be readied to cradle the new generation. Replacing these combs and their special content with solid honey could penalize the colonies at the end of winter, when they need to develop. Normally, these conditions occur spontaneously in the hives, but, as beekeepers manage their contents during the summer, they sometimes upset the work done by the bees. The list of the details that deserve beekeeper attention to complete the preparation of a hive for winter is not unlike an airplane preflight checklist. Neglecting any one step, no matter how trivial it may seem, can compromise the future of the colony.

Having performed these tasks, we will not disturb the colonies for a few months. Yet, we will regularly walk through the apiaries during the cold season to make sure that the bees are all right.

At this point, all that's left to do is to place a clean monitoring tray under the screen of the hive bottoms, secure the hive tops against the wind, and hope for the best.

In summary, this month:

- Assess colonies, their health, queens, brood nests and stores. Verify that they are queenright.
- Examine how the bees have organized their brood chambers and how the stores are packed around them. Ensure that there is some comb with empty cells, uncapped honey and pollen centered above the brood nests, surrounded by honey.
- Combine or requeen hives that are not performing satisfactorily (early in the month). Better yet, reduce their volume to strengthen them.
- Adjust the volume of the hives to match individual colony strength and needs.
- Remove old and misshapen combs (follower boards greatly facilitate this).
- Early in the month, configure hives for the consolidation of honey stores (Scratching the cappings of patches of poorly located sealed honey helps.)
- Harvest, extract and bottle only surplus honey.
- Render wax from discarded frames and from cappings
- Return wet frames and cappings to the bees for cleaning (by placing them above hive top feeders or inner covers).
- Watch out for yellow jackets and any instances of robbing. Reduce the entrances of the hives that are threatened.
- Ensure that the hives are adequately ventilated.
- Install mouse guards and reduce hive entrances.
- Routinely clean and torch tools and equipment.
- Store unused equipment to protect it from wax moth or mouse damage, and from the weather.
- Secure the hive tops against high winds.

Serge Labesque
© 2017



Mid-Fall Checklist by Serge Labesque

Colony:

- Queenright
- Queen reducing production of eggs

Population size:

- Sufficient to cover all brood plus three additional frames (minimum recommended)

Colony health:

- No sign of disease
- Parasites under control by bees

Brood nest:

- Minimum 2 frames of brood, preferably 4 (these will be the “winter bees”.)
- Low open-to-sealed brood ratio (i.e. mostly sealed brood; brood nest shrinking as the queen is reducing her egg production.)

Stores:

- Adequate for colony size (from 10 lb. of honey minimum for a very small nuc to 35 lb. for a mature colony with good population)
- Bee bread in and around nest
- Areas with bee bread in center of upper store chamber (one to two frames with areas of empty cells or uncapped honey in the center of the stores is desirable)

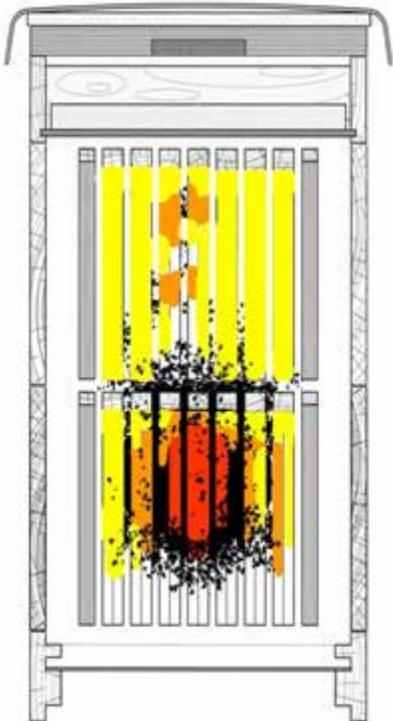
Hive organization (See Diagram Below):

- Compact nest and stores
- Brood nest centered in lower part of brood chamber
- Brood nest surrounded by stores
- Stores above brood nest
- “Chimney” in the center of stores, with worker-size cells
- Empty comb below brood nest is okay.
- Empty or partly empty comb above stores is okay (not shown).
- Reduced number of frames between follower boards

Hive:

- Upper ventilation slot
- Reduced entrance
- Mouse guard in place
- Top secured against wind
- Hive top feeder in place, filled with insulating material
- Hive configuration to be tall and narrow rather than short and squat
- Protected from cold gusty winds
- Should receive at least two hours of sunlight on sunny winter days

Serge Labesque
© 2011 - 2017



Hive organization Diagram

News From Central Cluster

By Joy Wesley, SCBA Central Cluster Co-Coordinator

We had the good fortune of having our latest bee cafe on September 14, at the children's museum in Santa Rosa. Thank you Theresa Giacomino for your generosity in providing this great space! Ann Jereb and Maggie Weaver put together a fabulous comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on the many aspects of winterizing your hive. We had 28 enthusiastic Central Cluster beekeepers in attendance who brought with them not only delicious snacks to keep everyone fueled up, but also relevant and inquisitive questions.

We were also able to introduce our newest Central Cluster Coordinator Rory Sweeney, who will work alongside Maggie, Ann and one other new coordinator in 2018.

centralcluster@sonomabees.org

October 9th Meeting With Aimee Code

By Susan Kegley

Our speaker for this month will be Steven Coy, of Coy Bee Company. Steven is a breeder of mite-resistant Russian bees from Mississippi and will be speaking about the breeding program they use to ensure transmission of the desired genetic traits in an apiary. For those breeding local Sonoma County bees, it will provide useful information for ensuring the spread and survival of our local stock. Steven holds a Bachelor's Degree in Plant Science and a Master's Degree in Biology, both from Arkansas State University. He is a charter member and current President of the Russian Honey Bee Breeders Association as well as an Executive Board member of the American Honey Producers Association. In addition to his work as a beekeeper, he also worked as a research technician at the USDA Biological Control Research Unit in Stoneville, MS and as a Research assistant on the control of Tarnished Plant Bug in Cotton at Arkansas State University.

Next month, we will have Dr. Jonathan Lundgren, of Blue Dasher Farm.

Editor's Note: At both the Oct 9th and Nov 13th meetings there will be **Gizmos and Gadgets Presentations** from 6:00PM to 7:00PM. If you want to present a gizmo or gadget you must email 2ndvp@sonomabees.org



**Local Candle Maker
Looking for Beeswax !!**
I am a SCBA member looking to buy beeswax in
large and small quantities.
If you have some for sale or trade,
please contact Jonah at:
narrowbridgecandles@gmail.com or
707.669.4866



Christine Kurtz

Honey Bee Consultant
707-849-3220
petalumabeelady@yahoo.com



Bee Plants of the Month

By Alice Ford-Sala

WSalvia Lamiaceae (mint) family

We will spend autumn with an exploration of this important pollinator and habitat plant.

Salvia apiana White sage

You know with a name that includes 'apiana', "of or belonging to bees", this is a bee plant. Traditionally, beekeepers would site hives in the chaparral hills of California to give their bees the benefit of the nectar-rich white flowers.

The strongly aromatic leaves are white-gray-green, large and oval. They persist all year, lending a nice glowing presence to a native plant garden.

The flower stalks are tall – up to 4 feet above the plant- and bear white, pinkish or pale lavender flowers that are constantly visited by honeybees and native bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

The seeds are appreciated by goldfinches and other small birds.

This California native plant has a long history of medicinal and sacred use by native peoples. A tea made from the leaves was used to treat colds and congestion, or stomach problems. A cooled infusion is said to be a great shampoo. Some studies have shown an anti-bacterial properties in salvia.

White sage leaves are also traditionally used dried or fresh for purifying smudge sticks. Used widely now days in New Age ceremonies, native stands of *S.apiana* have been decimated in some areas, so please don't collect them from the wild.

As you can imagine from where she grows wild, white sage can grow in a variety of soils as long as they are well drained. No summer water is needed, growth occurs in fall and winter with the rains.

Salvia mellifera Black sage

Mellifera is Latin for "honey-bearing", so here is another bee favorite.

Black sage is known for helping bees produce high quality and abundant honey.

It grows in scrub communities all along the California coast. Small gray-green leaves grow on stems that clump in 3 to 4 feet wide and tall shrubs. The flowers are arranged in attractive whorls, then set seed heads that are attractive all summer, and enjoyed by birds.

Medicinal uses include rubs or soaks for pain relief. The leaves are also bundled into smudge sticks.

Needing good drainage, all sages are not generally attractive to deer.



White Sage

Thank you for supporting us, we appreciate you!

Bees & Supplies



921 Gravenstein Hwy. S.
Sebastopol
(707) 824-2905
beekind.com

beekind.
Order Bees Now!

BEE WISE “TWO WORDS...”

by Emery Dann

Here are two dangerous words: “(_____ will) “NEVER HAPPEN” (to me)!

Allow me to get a little personal... We are aware of stupid drivers who have done dumb things while driving. I heard of a driver throwing his open beer can out the window and seeing it bounce across the hood of a Highway Patrol car next to him here in Sonoma County. Another was a woman putting on her nylons while driving her car to work! We may think that we have never made the extreme dumb mistakes others have made while driving...but it is not always the other guy or gal. When I look at my own experience, I have made a number of driving mistakes, driving for over 48 years. To be honest, only a minuscule number happened with the red and blue lights flashing in my rear view mirror! One of many reasons stupid things happen on the road is that we all can be easily distracted!

What does driving have to do with BEEKEEPING, you might ask? We may think “we have done this before” and nothing bad has happened... yet. Not good enough! We can make “bee assumptions”—that this time will be the same as our past bee experience. Not necessarily! We can become distracted by thinking “_____ will never happen to me!” We need to keep our eyes on the bees similar to keeping our eyes on the road, as we must drive defensively! “I only looked away for a couple of seconds” can definitely ruin your day or life!

The point here is: The two words we need to ask ourselves more often are: “WHAT IF _____ happens...?” We need to observe our behavior, from a distance or another perspective. We can have blind spots in our bee work or personal lives.

Asking “what if _____...?” questions will help us avoid unexpected bee emergencies as we work with honey bees. Here are a few “what if _____...?” questions:

What if... the stores present at this time of the year are not enough for the winter?

What if... the capped honey is not where the bees need it most?

What if... a hive is becoming weaker?

What if... I am not appropriately dressed, as honey bee attitudes do change throughout the year?

What if... I am too distracted, or under too much stress in my life and beekeeping?

There are so many more, “What if... questions” to help us evaluate what we need to do. Many “WHAT IF _____” questions can help us prevent present or future emergencies and accidents by considering what we can do differently for our bees and our beekeeping results! “What if questions...?” can also keep us safe while we drive down the road!

Another Successful Heirloom Expo

The Heirloom Expo was a wonderful experience for all and we sold over \$700 worth of Honey Sticks to the public, amazing! All the kids were adorable and we had fun asking them what they knew about bees and they knew a lot!!!

Thank you all for coming to volunteer. Especially I thank Cheryl Veretto for all of the help she gave me this year. She is a very organized and loving person- fun to work with and really has so much knowledge- I learned a ton, thanks Cheryl. Also every volunteer added his or her own information and expertise to the event, which made it fun and different each day. Hopefully next year we will be in a better spot so we can educate more and more people about SCBA and our friends the bees and pollinators. Here are some photos from the event:

Blessed Bee!

Karen, Sonja, Emily and Carol
Your Volunteer Coordinator Team

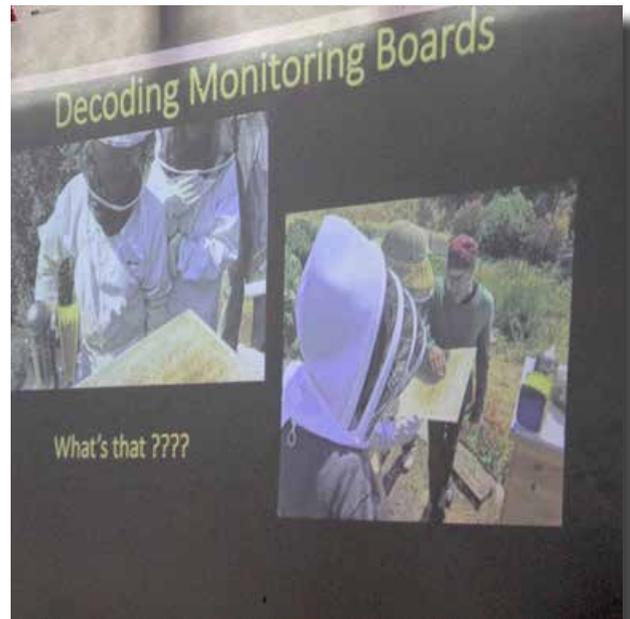


News From South Cluster

By Ettamarie Peterson, Editor

On Sept 16th members of South Cluster gathered at John and Darlene McGinnis' ranch up on Sonoma Mountain to learn about reading and decoding monitoring boards. Christine Kurtz put together an extremely detailed power point presentation showing all kinds of debris bees leave on monitoring boards. The arrangement of this debris varies from situation to situation. If one knows what to interpret after looking at these various patterns, he/she will have plenty of clues as to what is happening above in the hive. Sometimes, she pointed out it can be a sign of good, healthy brood rearing and other times it can be the demise of the colony. It was amazing to see how many photos she had organized and how carefully she explained each one. Everyone learned something important.

This presentation will be shared with all the other clusters in the near future. When your cluster announces it, be sure to attend if at all possible. You will have great respect for the use of monitoring boards!



Agricultural Games Honey Bee Hustle Is a Big Hit

By Ettamarie Peterson

After the South Cluster had its presentation on monitoring boards many of the people headed for the Petaluma Fairgrounds to volunteer along with other members at SCBA's Honey Bee Hustle Game as part of the Agricultural Games. Lew Spengler dreamed up the fun activity last year. The participants were given an eyedropper and a set of antennae and told the object was to be like a bee. Each person "flew" to a flower (fake flowers with test tubes of water attached) sucking up "nectar" to deposit in his/her piece of "honey comb" (plastic three dimensional comb made with a 3-D printer). When the comb was filled the "bee" was rewarded with a honey stick. Volunteers helped giving instructions, rewarding the "bees" and selling honey sticks. It was a big hit. Some children came back at least three times.



The Honey Bee Hustle "Garden"



Kelli Cox and John McGinnis helping the "Bees."



Little "Bee" gathering "nectar" in the Honey Bee Hustle

Time to Get Ready for Our Silent Auction

By Darlene McGinnis

This year's Silent Auction is in full swing! So far, we have gotten some great items and also some promises for some really cool stuff. What we could really use is wine for our "Wine Pull" and gift certificates would be great. Cash donations are also welcome. Darlene can email you an auction request form and Letter of Intent to give to your donors to fill out and keep for their tax returns. Remember to ask your donors for signage, business cards and other promotional materials before you go to pick up their donation gift.

We will be having a committee meeting on November 18th at 10:30am at John and Darlene McGinnis's house in Petaluma to assemble baskets and organize all the wonderful donations. Anyone creative wishing to help with this task is welcome.

Please bring your donated items to the general meetings in October or November. **AVOID THE HOLIDAY RUSH!** Please try to have donations turned in by December 4th! There is a lot of work behind the scene to figure out how to display and store, make bid sheets, paper work, and hours on the computer etc....so, the sooner we have your items the easier it will be for the committee.

Looking forward to a successful silent auction this year. All your help and donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for being part of the biggest funder for our organization this year!

Our Auction Needs Your Help!



Symposium:

Better Beekeeping in the Bay Area

By Jerry Przybyiski

Saturday, November 4, 2017, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Organized by the Alameda County Beekeeper Association
at the Ed Roberts Campus, 3075 Adeline St., Berkeley, CA 94703
(at the Ashby BART)

For more information, visit <http://www.alamedabees.org/2107symposium/>

To Register, visit www.acba-2017.eventbrite.com

\$60 for ACBA members | \$70 for non-members
register on-line, or pay at the door

Box lunch included with online registration

Commercial beekeeper, author, Michael Bush will present his "Whole Bee Concept" talk with excursions into related topics. Beekeeper, author, TED talk presenter Noah Wilson-Rich will discuss the importance of urban beekeeping, and the honey the bees produce. Grand master beer and mead judge and brewer, David Teckam, will discuss mead making and judging. PhD Ecologist Joseph Sullivan will describe the two-year sample collection and discuss detected levels of pesticides, fungicides, and bee treatment chemicals measured in nectar and pollen from urban hives. Technologist Jonathan Zamick will describe the ACBA's swarm-hotline system for conveying swarm contact information to members of the swarm-list in a way that fairly distributes swarms, and efficiently serves the community.

Beekeepers of all skill levels are welcome, and non-beekeepers too.



R Honey Pots
Pottery, Beekeeping & Metalwork

Liz Russell & Joey Romo R
Forestville, Ca

A husband and wife team
specializing in the extraction
of bees from buildings
since 2001
(707) 696-0861/540-2551

www.RHoneyPots.com email: RHoneyPots@gmail.com



Providing Quality Hives and Components at an Affordable Price

- ~ Complete Hives ~ Screened Bottom Boards ~
- ~ Supers with Frames and Follower Boards ~
- ~ Top Feeders ~ Vented Top Covers ~
- ~ Wired Frames ~ Follower Boards ~
- ~ Telescoping Top Covers ~ Hive Stands ~
- ~ Wooden Swarm Traps ~ Solar Wax Melters ~

*Designed and endorsed by Serge Labesque
Recommended by Christine Kurtz*

John McGinnis

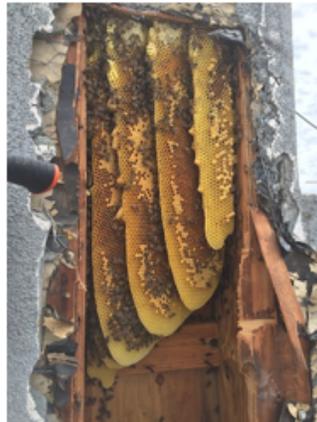
(707) 478-9787

803 Lynch Rd, Petaluma, CA 94954

By appointment only

goahwayranch@gmail.com

Bee Conscious Removal



---LIVE BEE REMOVAL---

We specialize in removing bees alive from
Walls, barns, sheds, and trees.

“Difficult” extractions are our specialty.

Beekeeping lessons offered at reasonable prices.

Wild bee colonies for sale.

We have been doing wall extractions for 10 years and have done over 450 to date.

Call Chris Conrad at 415-350-5700

Santa Rosa

Free Bee Colony for successful referral.

Education Group A Smashing Success!

By Thea Vierling

Thea Vierling, Jackie Mendoza and Linda Hagel visited Wright extended school program for a presentation about the honey bees. This was an unusual group of 40 kids because the ages ranged from 5 to 8. That's a wide range of ages but everyone thoroughly enjoyed himself or herself including the adults. For such a diverse group, the behavior of the kids was exceptional, no stings and no swarms! Jackie did a great job presenting several topics. She found her "calling" in life being the queen bee in the big costume. Wearing that costume gives every-one a sense of what it is like to be appreciated by the kids. The kids come up and hug and kiss the queen! Linda our other presenter did such a superb job sitting at a table with a large group of youngsters going over honeycomb, wax, queen cages, and honeybee behavior. It is through small group discussions with one person that the kids learn so much. They got to touch, feel, smell the wax, compared wax of different colors, and asking questions at their own age level. All in all it was a great day! If you want to join our team of presenters, please email our education coordinator at education@sonomabees.org.



Do you have overdue library books from the SCBA Library? Please don't forget to bring those to the next meeting so that others may also enjoy them!

Contact Information

Regular monthly meetings of the Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association are held on the second Monday of each month, at 7 pm at the Rohnert Park 4-H Building. 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 meetings or by mail. Please see our Website 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

Extractor Techs- Call Ettamarie 707-479-1613 or Janet Leisen 707-528-2085 or Cheryl Veretto e-mail cheryl@cbfreelance.com to rent the electric extractor for \$5 a day. Rental fee is \$5 per day. Cheryl is located in Sebastopol. Janet is North of Santa Rosa. Ettamarie is in Petaluma. East Cluster's extractor is in Susan Simmons' home in Kenwood and her phone number is 925-408-4529 Susanjsimmons@gmail.com. The Top Bar Hive group has a fruit press available for use in honeycomb crushing. Contact Jim Spencer at topbargroup@sonomabees.org

2017 Board Members and Other Helpful People

President - Jason Berkman president@sonomabees.org
1st Vice President - Ann Jereb 1stVP@sonomabees.org
2nd Vice President - Susan Kegley 2ndVP@sonomabees.org
Secretary - Peter Jones secretary@sonomabees.org
Treasurer - Lew Spengler treasurer@sonomabees.org
Volunteer Coordinators - Karen Kappa, Carol Ellis, Sonja Moug and Emily Gaines volunteer@sonomabees.org
Representatives at Large
Ettamarie Peterson atLarge1@sonomabees.org
Chris Conrad atLarge2@sonomabees.org

Assistant - Linda Burns assistant@sonomabees.org
Auction - Darlene McGinnis auction@sonomabees.org
Bee Sharing - Christine Kurtz beesharing@sonomabees.org
Education Coordinator - Maggie Weaver education@sonomabees.org
Extractor Editor - Ettamarie Peterson editor@sonomabees.org
Gardening - Ellen Sherron gardening@sonomabees.org
Historian - Kirstie Stramler historian@sonomabees.org
Librarian - Nadya Clark librarian@sonomabees.org
Regional Coordinator - Kelly Cox – regionalcoordinator@sonomabees.org
Regional Coordinator 2 - Sally McGough – regionalcoordinator2@sonomabees.org

Cluster Leaders:

Central - Molly Kuhl, Joy Wesley, Ann Jereb centralcluster@sonomabees.org
East - Laurie Dorman, Susan Simmons, Nadya Clark eastcluster@sonomabees.org
North - Cheryl Caletti, Laurie Smith, Candice Koseba northcluster@sonomabees.org
South - Nikki Campbell, Cynthia Rathkey, Brian Martinelli southcluster@sonomabees.org
Topbar - Jim Spencer topbarcluster@sonomabees.org
West - Chris Dicker, Bruce Harris westcluster@sonomabees.org

Swarm - John McGinnis swarm@sonomabees.org
Webmaster - Bill MacElroy webmaster@sonomabees.org