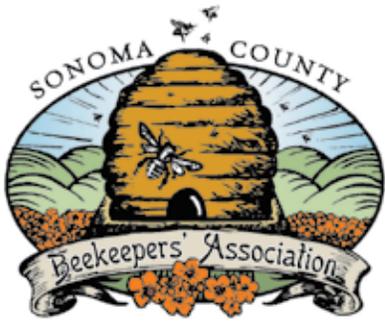


The Monthly Extractor



Volume 42, Issue 12

December 2017

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

President's Message

This Month's Calendar

Dear Community,

As I take tea and pluck away on this typewriter of sorts, the rain is falling, the northern hemisphere of earth is tilting away from the sun (Winter Solstice is on the agenda soon!), the season is slowing us down, the electricity bills are increasing, and we remember to celebrate and to help others.

Thank you to the members, supporters, and friends of the beekeepers' association of Sonoma County, the SCBA. Thank you for caring about honeybees and native bees and pollinating insects and birds and bats and plants and habitat and gardens and life. Thank you for helping the SCBA provide education and resources to others about these topics. And, thank you for caring about other humans in our community/communities, be it rain or shine, and especially when it's really needed, in recent times.

Being president this year has been for me an experience of commitment and focus, working with other amazing humans, being challenged (speaking in front of a group of people can be intimidating!), learning, and of growing.

I shall soon pass the baton to the next President, and I thank the current board, many of whom will be staying on, and friends of the board, and regional cluster leaders and supporters, and volunteer coordinators and volunteers, and garden group, and librarians, and educators, and all who help put on the general meetings, and speakers, for their incredible work and care.

But wait, there's more! The annual holiday party and auction is approaching, on Monday December 11. Hope to see you there, those of you who can.

As our side of the Earth tilts towards the sun, the Queen Bee will begin again to grow the Hive.

May you have a good winter season!
Cheers to Renewal, Recharge, and Restoration.

Sincerely,

Jason Berkman
President



Monthly Meeting: December 11

- 6 pm – **Annual Pot Luck and Silent Auction** – Bring your own table ware, a dish of food to share, a side dish, salad or dessert. The Association will provide turkey and soft drinks. Read more on page 2!

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- Dec 2 to Jan 1 – [Holidays Along the Farm Trails](#)

Be sure to read the very important Membership Renewal Message on Page 3!

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It's Party Time!

Our annual Holiday Feast and Silent Auction event is almost here!

Our Silent Auction is at the December Meeting! Hope You Come!

Monday, December 11th, 2017

6:00pm to 9:00pm

4-H Center, Rohnert Park

Some changes:

We will be having a "Wine Pull" (\$20 per bottle). No need to bring your own Booze to the party. Both wines pulled will be a surprise to you but valued up to \$50 per bottle and swappable and sharable! You can't lose on this one!

Please bring your most delicious dish enough to serve 8. All types of food are welcome:

- Appetizers, salads, veggies sides, vegan vegetarian main and dessert
- BYO – Place settings for each person (plate, cup/glass, cutlery and napkin)
- SCBA will provide the Turkey

6:00 – Party Begins –

- Sign up for your Bidding number
- Pull your bottle of wine for dinner
- Pick up a complementary BINGO Card (additional cards \$5).

6:00-7:20 – Peruse Auction Tables – Lots of fabulous stuff for example: Two tickets to Giants game of your choice, seats behind home plate including an on field experience! Dinner for 12 featuring local organically grown foods served pool side (start thinking now of who you may want to go in together with and enjoy the experience as a group), Honey Themed dinner for 8, an adult bike, Tent, Benches, BroodMinder, Canopy Tours, Hives, Solar wax melters, Wine Tasting Experiences, Lots of Gift Certificates, Jewelry, Beer, Wine & Spirits, Gift Baskets, Original Artwork...just to name a few items. Bring cash, check and charge... all accepted!

6:30 – 8:00 – Eat and Schmooze

7:20 – Auction Closes

7:30 – 8:20 BINGO - Featuring the Two Chris's

8:20-8:45 - Pick Up Auction Items

8:45 Clean-up

Not too Late to Donate



****READ THIS**** ***IT IS IMPORTANT!***

Membership Reminder

SCBA membership is on a calendar year.

ALL 2017 memberships will expire on December 31st and need to be renewed by January 1st for the 2018 year.

Renew anytime now and don't miss out!

If you joined as a new member anytime after August 1, 2017, your membership is current through December 31, 2018.

How to renew for general and business memberships:

- Online at: <http://sonomabees.org/new-membership-page/>
- Or, download and complete a membership application and mail it with your payment to: SCBA, P.O. Box 98, Santa Rosa, CA, 95401
- Or, apply at the next SCBA meeting. Bring the completed application to the meeting, and payment can be made with Cash, Check, or Credit Card.

Everyone (new and renewing) must complete an application with his or her payment. This is the only way we can ensure that the information we have for you is current.

Thank you,

Ann Gereb

SCBA 1st VP Membership 1stVP@sonomabees.org



My December

Beekeeping To-Do List by Serge Labesque

© 2017

Was the firestorm a good reason to feed our colonies?

When the horrific October fires broke out in Sonoma, Napa and Lake Counties, there were some beekeepers that were saying that our hives should be fed, as the bees, having been exposed to so much smoke, would consume their stores. That opinion was even expressed during one of the radio programs that related to fire damage. I disagreed then and, after inspecting many colonies in the weeks that followed, I am convinced that it was an unwarranted and unsound recommendation. My reasoning was that bees can only ingest and hold in their crops up to fifty percent of their body weight in honey. This means that a four-pound bee population, which is an average for the weight of the all the adults in a hive in mid-fall, could withdraw, at most, two pounds of honey from their winter stores. It would then take the bees three to four days to consume this honey, if they were really forced to do so. From this, it can be seen that the mass of winter stores that were in the hives would not be significantly reduced. The premise that a colony would deplete its winter stores in a matter of hours or even in a few days just does not hold. Therefore, feeding surviving colonies in these conditions was not even necessary to begin with. You may look at it this way: Could you eat the contents of your refrigerator and pantry before evacuating your home? Probably not. At most, maybe you'd grab something you could take with you.

But it gets worse. Feeding colonies in these circumstances could actually harm them. How? Simply because they had nearly completed the preparations of their nests for winter and were transitioning to their cold-season routine. Consider this: Providing sugar syrup can entice the queens to resume or accelerate egg laying. In October, this is exactly the opposite of what is normal and highly desirable. As a consequence, such a late bout of brood rearing would weaken the winter bees, as they would be forced to become nurse bees too early in their lives. Furthermore, the winter bees would also be compromised for having to process the syrup provided by beekeepers. Feeding might in effect have turned the winter bees into short-lived summer bees at the worst possible time of the year for this to happen. In addition, the rebounding brood nests would become powerful mite nurseries just when the varroa populations should have begun to decrease.

Rounds of inspections of many hives that had been affected by the fires confirmed that the colonies still had ample amounts of stores in perfect condition. There was indeed no need to feed them. Attesting to the trauma the colonies had experienced, however, were bee parts, mostly wings and legs that were visible on the monitoring trays of the hives. Evidently, the bees had been fanning frantically while attempting to dissipate the smoke, or to cool their nests when much around them was ablaze. But life went on even in places where everything around them

had been turned to ashes, and foragers could be seen bringing in supplies. They were certainly flying beyond the fire-ravaged areas to collect them. Understandably, the colonies remained defensive for a few weeks afterward. This behavior could have been caused by the lingering odor of burned vegetation or by robbing, a condition that feeding would certainly have exacerbated.

Although the idea of feeding the colonies might have sounded like a caring thought, I saw it as a dangerous suggestion. When the fires broke out in October, most colonies had already prepared their nests for winter. They could face just about any emergency short of total destruction. The other hives, those that were not ready for winter, were unlikely to make it to spring, fires or not.

December in the apiaries

A few bees may come out of the hives for a few hours during the mildest of these short days. Most of the time, they are inside, huddled in calm, compact clusters. This is good. The queens can rest, too. With no brood to feed or keep warm, with no disturbance, the colonies consume very little of their stores. It's a time of relative inactivity, or so it seems. And yet, it's a phase in the life of the colonies that is important for their future health. Since there is no brood in the hives, the varroa mites have no place where they can hide and reproduce. The bees can eliminate these unprotected pests by grooming. These are the winter bees that were raised earlier in the fall. In a few weeks, after the winter solstice, the queens will resume egg laying, and then, all of a sudden, life will be different in the hives. But thanks to this period of broodlessness and good grooming behavior, there will be few of those nasty parasites left to harm the young.

We are not opening hives during this season. So, unless we can watch our bees through the side panes of an observation hive, not much of the colony's winter life is directly visible. But there are ways to know what is going on inside our hives, even when there is no activity at the entrances or in the flight paths. We can listen to the soft and very faint hum coming from the clusters by placing an ear on the sides of the hives. However, short of using some of the sophisticated electronic hive monitoring devices that are now becoming available, the simple monitoring trays we keep under the screens of the hive bottoms are among the best tools to remain informed about our bees' condition.

I swing by the apiaries for occasional leisurely walks. The exterior of the hives is checked to make sure that the wind or some other element has not caused any damage. The monitoring trays are pulled out from under the screens for a minute, long enough to examine the amount and type of debris cast off by the colonies. I take a few pictures, which I will enlarge and study closely at home for details I may have missed while in the field. There is usually very little debris on the trays in late fall and early winter,

as there is no longer any brood emerging. But the varroa mite fall can increase while the bees are eliminating these parasites. This is actually a welcome sign that the bees are controlling them. On the contrary, the colonies that maintain large brood nests are cause for concern. Not only do they consume their stores faster, but they also allow the mite population to grow. These will not be my favorite sources of queens during the spring, even if they stay alive until then.

It is quite useful to review the apiary notes we collected during the year. This exercise helps us draw lessons from what happened and makes us better beekeepers. We can make plans for next year. Will we need more equipment, more bees? What will we do differently and how?

It's time to clean and repair our equipment and tools, to procure or fabricate whatever we will need, frames, supers and whatnot, and have it at the ready next spring.

Let's not forget that, sadly, many beehives were lost to the October fires. Come next spring, those that will have survived the ordeal and come out of winter successfully will be valuable sources of new colonies to replace the lost ones. We might as well prepare nuc boxes to make numerous splits that we can offer to the beekeepers that will need them.

It's also a good time to plant bee forage. Isn't this a good way to warm up on a cold winter day?

In summary, this month:

- Inspect the exterior condition of the hives:
 - The hive tops should be properly set and secured.
 - Observe the hive entrances and the ground in front of the hives.
 - Verify that the hive entrances remain unobstructed.
 - On nice days, observe the flight paths and the bee activity.
- Examine monitoring trays.
- Verify that mice have not entered hives (telltale clues of their presence are visible on the monitoring trays, as coarse pieces of comb, mouse feces, etc.).
- Ensure that the hives are adequately ventilated.
- Clean and scorch tools and equipment.
- Pour the ashes out of the smoker and scrub the tar build-up.
- Repair and build beekeeping equipment.
- Review notes from the year.
- Plan next season (evaluate the need for equipment and bees).
- Read and learn more about bees and beekeeping.
- Enjoy some honey.

Happy Holidays to all of you from the Labesques!

Serge Labesque
© 2017



Seemingly untouched by the flames that burned everything around them, these two hives survived the October firestorm. The hives had to be propped up by Lizanne Pastore and Will Bucklin, as they were sinking into a hole created by roots burning underneath.

Bee Wise

“A BEE POSITIVE, THANKFUL ATTITUDE!”

By Emery Dann

I started my bee keeping adventures 12 years ago after I broke my back and recovered from a climbing accident, July 19th, 2005. My second lumbar was shattered and I could not walk or stand up on my own strength. I was lying in the Intensive Care Unit at Memorial Hospital in Santa Rosa, California for a week strapped to an undulating bed 24/7. During this very long week in my life, I had 9 hours of successful back surgery. My second lumbar was surgically removed and titanium bolts and screws attached my first lumbar to my third lumbar in my back along with a titanium cage installed to protect my spinal cord. I fully recovered 3 1/2 months later without any pain or limitations since. I have been able to lift over 100 pounds. My flexibility was the same as before, being able to touch both hands to the floor while keeping my legs straight. Since the surgery I am continually aware that I could now be paralyzed-- sitting in a wheel chair, or lying in a box somewhere! I am so thankful for the medical help I received and encouragement from family and friends. Every step I take is a very precious gift! During these 12 years after my accident, beekeeping has been one of my life's greatest privileges as I have worked and shared bee adventures with many of you! Thank you for your help and all I have learned from so many of you. Swarms, extractions, bee rescues, transporting bee hives and logs with bees inside, hive inspections, honey extractions, being mentored and mentoring, inventing some bee equipment or using tools in unusual ways when I have forgotten to bring the right tool with me! I have gratefully met hundreds of bee lovers and those curious about bees at events, school and bee presentations.

What I have learned from spending time with bees and many of you is the value of a “BEE POSITIVE, THANKFUL ATTITUDE”!!! This changes EVERYTHING!!! Turns out Instead of just counting our blessings...the very best way (scientifically proven) to increase happiness in your heart and mind with health benefits for your entire body is from expressing thanks personally to those who have made your life better! Give sincere appreciation and saying thanks to those in your life who have made a difference in your life! Don't forget saying, “Thank you” to your family, friends and neighbors. How many practical ways can you be positive avoiding taking someone's contribution in your life for granted? Put your thanks in writing and deliver, give them a hug, buy them lunch or get together for coffee or a beverage or a walk in the park (forest bathing). We can give words of affirmation, appreciation and thanksgiving for and to them! BEE POSITIVE=do something! As we know from our own lives and the lives of our bees, “Life here is short and temporary!” You can bless someone you don't know with intentional acts of kindness as you wait in line or “reach out and touch someone” you do know! So many possibilities to be positive! Being positive is contagious and health giving to both parties. Taking this action will brighten your day and life! Who needs you to positively thank them TODAY or TOMORROW? It's “the road less traveled”! Keep your eyes and heart open for many new opportunities to thank those in your life this month, December 2017, and throughout 2018, as we move into and through the coming New Year!



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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

Closing the year.

What a year it has been. We've seen destruction by wildfire of unimaginable proportions. Births and deaths. Delightful occasions, unspeakable tragedies. And yet, we endure. The earth endures. Mother Nature is right now healing burned lands. We are learning from our joys and pains.

Let us hope we have all deepened our wisdom to help us deal with the times to come.

Salvia

Yes, salvia for wisdom, for healing, for cleansing, beautiful in her diversity, useful in leaf and flower, root and branch.

Salvia leucophylla Purple sage Carpeting hillsides with gray-green texture; purple sage at times appears to have woven itself into the very matrix of the soil. Cascading down a dry slope, purple sage is festooned with whorls of purple or lavender blossoms that rise up to 12 inches above the foliage.

'Point Sal' has a compact form, growing 2 to 4 feet tall and wide, yet can also have a large form that grows 6 feet tall by 12 feet wide. The pale pink-lavender flowers attract native and honeybees, as well as hummingbirds. Goldfinches and other native birds delight in the seeds.

'Amethyst Bluff' can grow 5 feet tall and 10 feet wide. The gorgeous flowers rise in whorls of brilliant magenta-purple. Plant purple sage on a well-drained slope or in gritty soil, needing no additional irrigation if planted with the winter rains. Sage also has weed-suppressing properties that help with fire resistance.

Salvia nemorosa Woodland sage Native to Europe and central Asia, this compact plant (1 to 3 feet tall and wide) grows well in ordinary garden conditions. With some water and lots of sun, *Salvia nemorosa* co-habits with other plants in beds and borders to bloom from late spring through fall. 'Mystic Spires Blue' has indigo blue flower spikes that bees love.

'Ostfriesland' has blue-deep violet flowers.

'Caradonna' is bedecked in glowing blue purple flowers that contrast with purple-black stems.

'Snow Hill' has abundant white blossoms that are extremely attractive to bees.

Keep them well trimmed and Woodland sages will bloom two or three times over summer.

May 2018 bring health, prosperity and abundance to you and your loved ones.

Alice Ford-Sala



Purple Sage

Just a reminder:

Burn times of native plants:

http://www.laspilitas.com/classes/fire_burn_times.html

Deer and fire resistant natives:

<http://www.laspilitas.com/easy/deerfire.htm>

Fire retardant plants, mostly natives:

http://www.fourdir.com/garden_fire_retardant.htm

From the California Native Plant Society. Lots of information on how to plant in fire prone areas:

http://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/pdf/fire/frem38.2_38.3_schettler.pdf

Seeing Past Scorched Earth

By Miles Sarvis-Wilburn

The fires have come and gone and we all have been affected in some manner. This article looks at our position as beekeepers and how we can move forward with one item in particular: forage for our bees. In all honesty, nothing is more important than the flowers upon which our bees feed to support their colony's health. No flowers = no bees. And we as Sonoma County residents have a major hurdle to overcome as we head into winter: the lack of natural forage resulting from the extensive fires.

The good news is that it is raining and nothing is needed more at the moment than thorough saturation of burned soil. Plants are resilient and some that appear burned and dead may not be; many simply require ample water and time to recover. We are fortunate that the natural process of things is geared towards rapid regeneration of greenery. This said, we must confront this dearth in coming spring with action and planning now.

Burned Soil

Our bees need nectar and pollen collected from flowering plants, plants which themselves require nutritious soil. The health and welfare of our bees cannot be separated from that of the soil, thousands of acres of which were severely burned. If your property has burned soil, please consult this excellent article in the Press Democrat for more information on how to proceed:

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/lifestyle/7531859-181/first-aid-for-fire-damaged>

Burned Trees

Other than human structures, trees are the most obvious remnant of the fires. Many appear charred, burned, and dead. Do not cut down trees simply because they appear burned! They may well recover and spare you time, energy, and money. Here are three excellent resources to explore while considering options:

<http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2004/FS0457.pdf>

http://articles.latimes.com/1993-11-14/realestate/re-56884_1_large-plants

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/7640022-181/burned-trees-in-north-coast?artslide=0>

Flowers for Spring

As to the coming spring, those of us who have not been directly affected will need to redouble our efforts in regards to planting pollinator-friendly flowering plants. There is no shortage of options so please do not hesitate to reach out to the Gardening For Bees group for suggestions (we will have more articles on this topic as we move through winter). For now, here are five excellent and easy options to consider:

1. *Phacelia californica*: a native perennial herb, this plant flowers from March to August and offers beautiful purple blooms. Drought-tolerant and deer-resistant, it grows 1-2 feet tall and wide.
2. *Calamintha nepeta* (calamint): another easy to care for option, calamint has fragrant green leaves and compact mounds of tiny white flowers. Deer-resistant, it grows 1-2 feet tall and wide and blooms spring through fall.
3. Rosemary and lavender: familiar to most, these culinary herbs are excellent pollinator plants. Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) blooms late in the year (August-October), while lavender comes in many varieties that have different bloom times.
4. *Thymus vulgaris* (thyme): another culinary herb, this compact grower can be contained nearly anywhere as it rarely exceeds a foot in diameter. It blooms late spring to early summer with whorls of tiny, lilac flowers.
5. *Symphotrichum novae-angliae* (New England Aster) and *Helianthus maximiliani* (Maximilian sunflower): I am grouping these together as they both grow ~4 feet tall with long slender stems. The aster blooms almost daisy-like ray flowers of purple from summer through late fall. The sunflower blooms mid-fall in bright yellow.

These five (well, seven) options give the fire-hardened gardener and beekeeper choices to work with in terms of size, bloom, and additional uses. This is a small list but shows how little effort is really needed to make a huge difference for our bees. The Gardening For Bees group is working on a concrete action plan regarding post-fire revegetation and will have that circulating as soon as possible. For now, if all beekeepers could keep the soil, plants, and soon-to-be-needed flowers in mind, we can collectively prepare for a busy year as we overcome the hurdles of disaster.

Gardening for Bees

by Bo Kearns

Amidst the sounds of happy families and excited kids, members of SCBA's Garden Club gathered at the Children's Museum of Sonoma County (CMOSC). CMOSC received a \$1.8 million grant from the State of California Parks and Recreation in 2011 to build an outdoor nature education area called Mary's Garden. The name derives from mariposa the Spanish word for butterfly. The museum and garden occupy 4.2 acres in Santa Rosa. Theresa Giacomino, SCBA beekeeper and Visitor Experience Manager led the group on a tour of the site.

A large red helicopter presides over one of several activity areas. With protruding eyes and its rotor replaced by transparent wings, the chopper resembles a giant dragonfly. A metal swallowtail butterfly sculpture sits atop a tall pole. A turn of the wheel at the bottom, and its wings move, simulating flight. There's a garden of raised beds with healthy plants and vegetables to smell, touch and sample. "We have squash, cucumbers, beans, lettuces and artichokes to name a few" Theresa said. "I get lots of nature and gardening questions from parents and grandparents. They want to keep up with what their kids are learning in school." within the museum is a quiet room dubbed the Bee Haven. It's home to an observation hive. With the help of Etta Marie Peterson, last year the museum launched a "Visit with a Beekeeper" program. It's held on the second Friday of each month from 1-2:30pm. "This program has been a huge success," Theresa said. "Now we'd like to expand to a weekend day." Interested beekeeper volunteers can contact her at Theresa@cmosc.org.

Following the tour, garden club members met in the picnic area. There Theresa outlined plans for the creation of a pollinator garden. The garden would enhance the museum's nature education and gardening practices. Plans include a hotel habitat for native bees and other beneficial insects. There would also be a solar powered water feature to demonstrate sustainability along with a variety of flowering plants.

When Theresa solicited plant ideas from the group, there was no hesitancy.

"Bees need food year round," said Kelly Corbett.

"Rosemary, thyme and lavender would help with that.

And some goldenrod, too. "

"You have to have a butterfly bush," added Tamara Brown.

"Coffeeberry is evergreen and attracts a range of pollinators. And catmint, but it can take over. Best to plant in a half wine barrel," said Rita Maloney.

"I'm excited and grateful to have the support and expertise of the SCBA Garden Club," Theresa said.

Club members volunteered to prep the area, provide plants and help with planting prior to the winter rains.

The Children's Museum of Sonoma County, a special place for families to gather, is open Wednesday- Sunday.

www.cmosc.org.

Honey Extractor Rental

Members have use of the association's honey extracting equipment, as available. Rental fee is \$5 per day. Extractors must be returned clean.

Email or Call to reserve:

South

Ettamarie Peterson
707-479-1613

editor@petersonsfarm.com

Central

Paul Quistgard

PaulQuistgard@aol.com

West

Cheryl Veretto

cheryl@cbfreelance.com

East

Susan Simmons
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



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SCBA Monthly Meeting November 13, 2017

Location: 4H Building, Rohnert Park
Meeting started: 7:04 PM
Approx. attendance: ~ 112

Items covered

- 6 pm – Gizmos and Gadgets Presentations
- October Fires in Sonoma & Napa County
- Approx. 20 SCBA members were impacted by the fires
- Sonoma Bees Fire Fund (SBFF) taking donations to help SCBA bee keepers impacted by the fires
- Members shared observations about the October fire and previous fires
- 2018 Board Member Ballot Nominations
- Members asked about overview of board positions and time commitment
- Board meets first Monday of each month

Voting on nominated members to be voted on in December meeting

1. Ettamarie Peterson motioned to nominate Kelli Cox for President. Seconded by Chris Conrad
2. Jason motioned to nominate Ann Jereb for 1st VP. Seconded by Roger Simpson and Joy Wesley
3. Peter motioned to nominate Susan Kegley for 2st VP. Seconded by Brian Martinelli
4. Lew motioned to nominate Bill Kinsley for Treasurer. Seconded by Peter Jones
5. Kelli motioned to nominate Sue Owens for Treasurer. Seconded by Ann Jereb
6. Kelli Cox motioned to nominate Peter Jones for Secretary. Seconded by Lew Spingler
7. Remaining board positions are appointed
 - Swarm
 - Bee Share
 - At Large / Reg Coord.
 - At Large / Editor
 - Education Coordinator

Ann Jereb reminded members to renew your yearly membership now for 2018!

- Current membership is about 450 strong!

Bee sharing program discussed by Kristine Kurtz

Darlene McGinnis and Kelli Cox talked about the December party and silent auction

- Give final auction items to Darlene by December 6th!
- Bring checkbook for wine/beer sharing and for plants for December party
- We need help on Monday Dec 11 (the day of) to prepare auction items
- Planning on approx. 200 people
- Pot luck! Appetizer, side salad, dessert @ 6 PM
- Need help tearing down table and chairs at party

8 pm – Dr. Jonathan Lundgren, Blue Dasher Farm

- “A 6-legged march to regenerative agriculture”
- South Dakota winds and corn country bees are dying. Often hear around 2006 ~ 2008 are beginning of significant uptick in reports
- This is not a bee problem (solely)
- Biodiversity is in decline. Not just loosing bees.
- Central problem: agriculture is far too simplified (mono culture)
- “Are you miners (taking) or farmers (leaving something behind) ? “
- Heal the soil! - Soil health is the direct cause to help bees
- Diversified Farms (no longer just sustainable)
- 501C3 Non- profit— [Ecdysis www.ecdysis.bio](http://Ecdysis.com)
- Demonstration Farm - Blue Dasher Farm www.bluedasher.farm

Check out the super cool Sonoma Bees Fire Fund (SBFF) Donation Box! Created and donated by Brian Martinelli!

Peter Jones

Secretary





Providing Quality Hives and Components at an Affordable Price

- ~ Complete Hives ~ Screened Bottom Boards ~
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- ~ 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

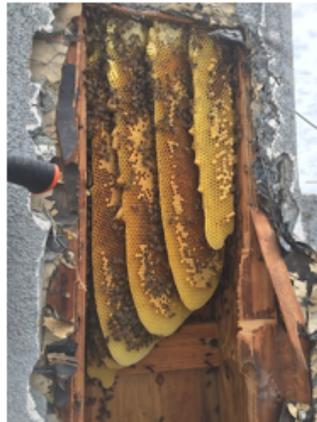
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Free Bee Colony for successful referral.

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

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
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Chris Conrad atLarge2@sonomabees.org

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Bee Sharing - Christine Kurtz beesharing@sonomabees.org
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Extractor Editor - Ettamarie Peterson editor@sonomabees.org
Gardening- Ellen Sherron gardening@sonomabees.org
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Librarian - Nadya Clark librarian@sonomabees.org
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Regional Coordinator 2 - Sally McGough – regionalcoordinator2@sonomabees.org

Cluster Leaders:

Central - Molly Kuhl, Joy Wesley, Maggie Weaver, Ann Jereb centercluster@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
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