

The Monthly Extractor



Volume 47, Issue 11

November 2022

This is our newsletter that reflects the various techniques, theories and art of sustainable beekeeping. Articles are contributed by SCBA members.

SCBA November General Meeting

Your choice: You can join us in-person at Druids Hall or use the Zoom link.

Date: November 14, 2022 6:00 – 8:30 (pst)

We are excited to have Michael Thiele join us as our presenter for our November general meeting. Michael is a member of SCBA and is the founder of Apis Arborea.

[Apis Arborea](#) is a non-profit organization in Sonoma County and was founded to preserve the life and resiliency of honeybees through "wilding" and the use of a holistic framework of apian ecologies for conservation and apiculture. Michael will speak about their 7-year research study of wild, unmanaged honeybees in a Wildlands Preserve in Mendocino County that is owned by Sonoma State University. They use beelining as a tool to track bees and locate Bee Trees. He will share some of the new revelations of beelining, including tips and challenges. He will also talk about how we can integrate the qualities and conditions that allow honeybees in the wild to thrive into our own backyards and apiaries.

President's Message

November Greetings!



Another year is winding to a close. The bees are preparing for winter, the flowers are tucking themselves in, and we are embarking upon the season of holiday celebrations and reflection.

At SCBA, it's nomination time for the SCBA Board of Directors! If you have been a member of SCBA for any length of time, you know that November is the month when we nominate people for our next Board of Directors. Nominations are made during our November General Meeting and/or by sending an email to our Program Director.

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In person location:
Druids Hall
1011 College Ave
Santa Rosa

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86514254718?pwd=cHZqcERVdG5HZIR1eXF5MDNaQkRGUT09>
ID: 865 1425 4718
Password: 768368

This Zoom link is a recurring link and will be used for ALL general meetings for 2022.

President's Message, continued

Voting then takes place in December.

This means that you, or anyone you think would be a good addition to the Board, can get their name on the December ballot by turning in a nomination in November.

At this month's General Meeting, we will accept nominations for the five elected positions that make up the SCBA Board who will step forward to help make our various programs and goals a reality. The good news is that some members of the Board are willing to stay in their positions for 2023, if you will have them.

Carol Ellis will accept a nomination for President

Mohammed Ibrahim will accept a nomination for 1st VP - VP of the Bees

Ann Gallagher-White will accept a nomination for 2nd VP - VP of Gardening

Andrew Baxter will accept a nomination for Secretary.

George Herrmann is stepping down from the Board at the end of 2022. George has served as our Treasurer for the past few years, and has helped make the job significantly easier for the next person, but he has moved out of Sonoma County and is busier than ever in his retirement. Congratulations George! Therefore, we need your help to find a new Treasurer for 2023. George has offered to help guide the new Treasurer into the position, but has also reassured us that the job has been made much easier by our investment in the bookkeeping and accounting wizards. In fact, George is going to come to the November General Meeting, at Druid's Hall, to discuss the responsibilities of the job of treasurer.

If you are interested, or if you know someone who might be interested, please reach out to Program Di-

rector, Shannon Carr. Email her at: programdirector@sonomabees.org

The role of treasurer is a great way to ease into a leadership position at SCBA .

Also, please note: Nominations will be accepted for ALL the positions on the board. The more names on the ballot, the better!

What if you want to serve the association, but you are not ready for a position on the Board? There are also many other volunteer roles that need to be filled this coming year.

Please make sure to read the program director's message for a description of just a few of the jobs that need volunteers.

Being a volunteer makes you a contributing part of the mission of one of the biggest beekeeping/pollinator advocate associations in the country, as SCBA enters another year of educating our members, the public, and most importantly, the next generation of bee tenders!

Please think about how you would like to help and reach out to us; we can guide you toward the best fit for you.

Just like a bee colony, there is a job for everyone at SCBA!

*Don't forget, these are the last couple of months to find donations and sponsorships for 2022. So, let's do this!

Carol Ellis, President
president@sonomabees.org

SCBA Member Events November

[SCBA Calendar](#)

The SCBA on-line calendar is updated frequently. Check it out to see current event listings.

Bee Talk!

by Mohammed Ibrahim 1st Vice President

By now, most of you have secured your bees for the winter. If you have not done so, you still have a chance the first week of November. The forecast shows that we will likely have rainy days starting in the second week of this month. I recommend avoiding working your bees after the first week of November unless it is urgent.

You should notice bees still bringing pollen in to rear the winter brood. Colonies' sizes continuously shrink, noticing fewer activities at the entrance are normal. Your entrance reducer should be between 1 and 3 inches wide max during the winter. I would avoid wrapping beehives with any sort of insulation material or plastic. Make sure no drafty air is coming into the hive. Be sure there are no other openings except the entrance and no gaps between boxes. If you are in a windy area, ensure a wind break. Colonies in exposed, windy locations will quickly become weaker because bees at the periphery chill, drop, and may eventually starve as the populations no longer can cover adequate stores.

October's general meeting was very informative: Lauren Rusert shared details of current bee diseases, pests, and Varroa Mite management. I highly recommend you check out the recording on our website under members-only tab/ Video Recordings.

Let me elaborate on winter loss causes to give you an idea of what to expect during the winter; I like to quote from *Overwintering of Honeybee Colonies*, a book

published in 1977 by Dr. Floyd E. Moeller, research entomologist at the USDA.



Winter loss results primarily from starvation. Starvation results from (1) lack of honey (Beekeepers should leave an adequate honey reserve). (2) improper position of honey (honey reserves below or to one side of the winter cluster, rather than above it), and (3) small population (unable to cover their honey stores adequately). A small population can result from no queen, Nosema infection, lack of fall brood rearing, insecticide damage in late summer, or poor colony management from overcrowding a colony

with honey by inadequate supering, which restricts fall brood rearing. However, expected winter losses can happen even when all requirements for good overwintering are met.

Winter is a very challenging season for both bees and beekeepers. We ensure that we help the bees as much as possible and leave the rest up to them and mother nature. Do not be disappointed if you lose colonies during the winter. This is expected since most of us rely on nature's selectivity and the common goal of increasing the resiliency of honeybees.

Thank you for your stewardship throughout this year. I am sure winter will always be a learning experience for all of us, new and seasoned beekeepers. Feel free always to reach out to me for any questions or concerns at 1stvp@sonomabees.org

From the Desk of the Program Director

by Shannon Carr

Sonoma County Beekeepers Association is a MEMBER-driven association. Our members are the heart and soul of SCBA and it is your passion for honeybees, native bees, and pollinators that keep this association moving forward.

EDUCATION is SCBA's mission. Our mission is to educate beekeepers on sustainable and responsible beekeeping and educate our community on the importance of pollinators. With our Gardening for Bees



Lauren Rusert, PhD candidate at UC Davis, speaking at the October General Meeting. Photo by Shannon Carr

Continued next page

Program Director, continued

program, we are working on propagating pollinator plants and educating members and our community on creating sustainable environments and habitats for pollinators.

VOLUNTEERS are key to the success of our association. When our members volunteer, not only does the association benefit but so do our members, the honeybees, and all pollinators.

As 2022 comes to an end and as we enter 2023 a number of leadership volunteer opportunities will be available. This is your opportunity to help guide the future of Sonoma County Beekeepers Association.

- Board Member – Be a part of guiding and directing the association. Keep SCBA moving forward to create a positive environment for members educating them about sustainable beekeeping methods and creating safe habitats for pollinators, especially the honey bees.
- Co-Cluster Coordinator – Help guide the education opportunities within your cluster. Work with members in your cluster to coordinate hive dives, workshops and cafes.

- Regional Cluster Coordinator – Help guide the 5 clusters and offer support to their leaders as needed.
- Educators – Work with students by volunteering to do classroom presentations or be a mentor and mentor a classroom.
- Gardening for Bees – Help our G4Bs home nursery program by propagating pollinator plants for plants sales and habitat programs. Be a part of creating pollinator habitats through our school pollinator program and educating youth on gardening for bees.
- Worker Bee – Not all volunteer opportunities are leadership roles. Be there when help is needed at general meetings, community outreach events, offer your hive for hive dives and gardens for propagation workshops. Be a mentor to new members, share your stories, experiences, and answer questions.

There are lots of ways to volunteer. These are just a few of the opportunities available and you can always create something new. Contact me if you are interested in volunteering – programdirector@sonomabees.org.



Here is member Sylvia Cook giving a classroom presentation using materials SCBA has available for volunteers

We Need You on SCBA's Board of Directors!

Join the Board! We need your enthusiasm, organizational and financial skills to help run SCBA. We are looking for a Treasurer for 2023 to start on the board as soon as possible so that you can familiarize yourself with the current responsibilities of our outgoing SCBA Treasurer, George Hermann. Board members attend a monthly meeting (usually the first Monday of the month) and contribute to the running of our organization. If interested, please reach out to electedboard@sonomabees.org or talk to someone on SCBA's board to get the low-down. The position begins in January of 2023.

What's Happening in the Garden

By Ann Gallagher-White, 2nd VP of Gardening

Hello Fall! The bees' favorite plants so far this fall in my garden: purple aster (New England/tall), red and white salvia (hot lips) and blue trailing rosemary. Joining the bees, butterflies and hummingbirds outside, I have been removing and thinning out roses that never had a chance to bloom (aka deer candy) and crowded bearded iris bulbs to make room for a new pollinator strip along my street. Energized with optimism and hoping for rain, I am planting and transplanting water-wise plants and bulbs the deer won't touch, including grape hyacinth, narcissus, woodland hyacinth and freesia and favorites such as pineapple sage, lambs ear and catmint. For the plants the deer like (I have stubbornly insisted on keeping - mallow and believe it or not, oakleaf hydrangea), I am trying out a new thing I heard about that involves tying a bar of Irish Spring soap to keep them away. I'll let you know if it works.

Nominations Needed for Board and Extraordinary Volunteerism at SCBA - The SCBA Board appreciates your help and support keeping our bees and our gardens healthy and thriving throughout each season. We need your help volunteering and recognizing our volunteers. Please nominate someone for each category of volunteerism and do not forget gardening. Our members will vote on the nominations, and we will announce the winners in December. Look for a



Program Director Shannon Carr helped us deliver plants to Santa Rosa High School's Bees Club in October.

two-part survey from our Program Director in the near future.

School Pollinator Garden Program - We have been busy growing plants and making connections with schools that meet our criteria and want pollinator gardens.

Santa Rosa High School – Program Director Shannon Carr and I delivered pollinator plants to the SR High Bee Club on October 19 to the teacher and a mentor who will help the kids plant them and maintain them on the SR High campus. (See photo below, left.) The enthusiastic students learned about nectar-producing plants they received including Maximilian sunflower, aster, lavender, catmint, and pineapple sage.

G4B learned that the School Garden Network wants native plants for their school habitat program and we are discussing whether we should focus on growing what they are asking for as they provided a list of desirable native pollinator plants. If you would like to join the conversation about what to grow and help grow pollinator plants, please reach out to our G4B gardening coordinator Kim Bergstrom at Gardening@sonomabees.org

We are investigating opportunities to get pollinator gardens into Sonoma County Schools as we restart our program this year. If you are aware of a school that wants pollinator plants, please reach out 2ndVP@sonomabees.org

Plant Sale at November General Meeting – Join us at the in-person meeting and purchase plants to get into the ground this fall grown by G4B. Support SCBA and grab pollinator plants to get a jump on providing forage for the coming year!

Lavender Propagation Workshop – SCBA held a workshop and garden dig (bearded iris bulbs) at my home in Bennett Valley. Kelli Cox our new gardening liaison for Central Cluster and our President Carol Ellis joined our Program Director and about 16 SCBA members (from Petaluma, Sebastopol and from right around the block) to propagate lavender and take home starts and iris bulbs on a beautiful fall day. Lots of lavender plants are growing as a result of SCBA members' efforts. Thank you for joining us and for growing valuable (and lovely) pollinator forage. So far so good with my starts – they should be ready to plant in the spring.

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2nd VP continued

Sonoma County Children's Museum Pollinator Garden - G4B planted a gorgeous pollinator garden at the museum and it needs some refurbishment. If you are interested in helping out on November 18 from 9 to 12, please reach out to Shannon Carr at Program-director@sonomabees.org. It will be a fun morning and the results will be worthwhile.



Lavender propagation workshop: Lots of starts for spring planting!

Update on AB 2146 – Sadly, the governor had vetoed this bill that would have outlawed the use of certain bee-killing pesticides (neonics) in California: <https://www.pctonline.com/article/newsom-vetoes-ab-2146-neonic-bill/#:~:text=Gov.%20Gavin%20Newsom%20does%20not,for%20nearly%20all%20nonagricultural%20uses>. Thank you for your help if you contacted your legislator. I am hopeful that this fight is not over as California is already far behind New Jersey, Maine and the European Union which have banned neonic use, while Rhode Island has curbed neonic use. <https://calmatters.org/environment/2022/07/california-pesticides-restrictions/>

Strategic Planning Event G4B – We are going to be getting together to plan what we want to do in 2023. Please join us for (November date TBA) and be a part of the magic making. We need your enthusiasm and garden skills. If you are interested, please reach out to Kim Bergstrom at Gardening@sonomabees.org

Gardening for Bees

Looking for Gardening Liaisons for the South Cluster!

by Kim Bergstrom, G4B Coordinator

Dear G4B enthusiasts,

In 2023, we would like to incorporate Gardening Liaisons into our five SCBA Clusters. We have successfully recruited "liaisons" for North, Central, East, and West Clusters but are still in need of a liaison for each of the South cluster.

Gardening liaisons will get together to discuss a couple of fun and fairly simple activities related to "Gardening" that can be done within the clusters. The ideas and "how to's" will come out of this group and then each liaison can implement them with help from inside their individual clusters.

Also, a strategic planning meeting will be held in November (weekend date to be determined) for the "Gardening for Bee's group" and we would love to have your presence, support and ideas at this meeting. Please be on the lookout for a Doodle poll to respond to for possible dates if you would like to participate. Please email me back at gardening@sonomabees.org if you are interested in being a gardening liaison for the South cluster and/or are interested in coming to the planning meeting in November.



Steve Heglin and Elaine Dolcini working with students from Santa Rosa High School Bee and Garden Club

Cluster Report

Hello From East Cluster

by Bonney Philbin

Thank you to the folks who attended Saturday Bee Café at Flat Bed Farm on October 1st.

Thank you to our amazing presenters for a very fun and informative time. Lisa Salamone discussed taking honey, Thea Vierling shared equipment and techniques for wax melting and candle making and Erin Grey discussed methods for making salves, lotions and votives. Even if you were not crafty, helpful hive tips were shared as well as creative ideas for Gifts from the Hive.

After the presentation we had time for our fun raffle and a discussion on feeding your bees. There was even time to meet new and experienced members and socialize a bit.



Join us **November 5th at Flat Bed Farm at 11:00** with Lynn Koch discussing gardening for bees. This topic will give you time to plan and develop your garden once spring is upon us.

Please bring a chair, pencil and paper for your notes and questions!



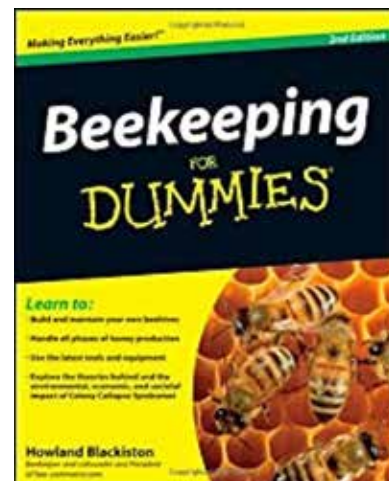
SCBA BOOK NOOK

[Beekeeping for Dummies](#)
By Howland Blackiston

Beekeeping for Dummies is an excellent resource for beginner beekeepers – simple, easy to read, and well illustrated with great pictures. The latest edition of *Beekeeping For Dummies* gives you the most trusted and up-to-date information on safely keeping your own bees, including complete instructions for assembling and maintaining bee hives, handling all phases of honey production, using the latest tools and equipment, and much more. Perfect for beginners.

We have more than 250 books and DVDs in the SCBA Library. *Beekeeping for Dummies* is just one of many books about bees, gardening for bees, and products from in the hive in our collection. You can

view all our books and DVDs available to you at [SCBA-Library](#). If you are interested in checking out a book, you can checkout and return books at in-person general meetings and/or email our librarian at Librarian@sonomabees.org, to make arrangements to pick up one or two of the books or DVDs available to SCBA members.



November Bee Plant of the Month

Maximillian Sunflower

by Elizabeth Newton

The Maxmilian sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*) is a tall beauty that has an extensive range throughout North America, from Canada to Mexico. Unlike many sunflowers, it is a perennial. It begins pushing up from the soil in late spring and, during its peak of glory in from late summer to mid-autumn, boasts masses of bright gold blooms.

This tough, water-wise flower is a perfect choice in any pollinator-friendly garden, as it attracts not just honeybees, but also birds, native bees and butterflies. It also deer resistant and, at least in my experience, seems not to be of much interest to gophers or squirrels.

This show-stopping sunflower is perfect for the lazy or inattentive gardener. My eight-inch plant start came from an SCBA giveaway. It was just a spindly green

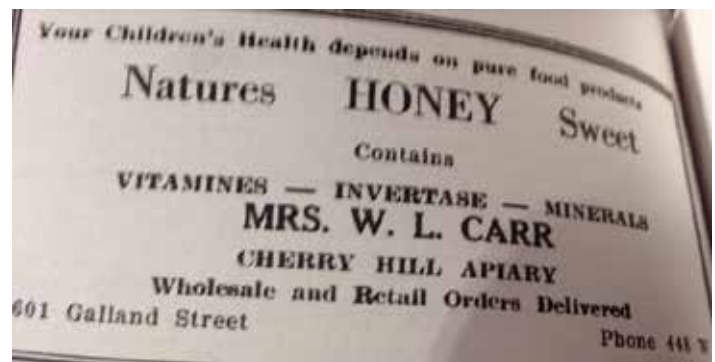
stem in a pot, not terribly impressive. I stuck it in the ground with no gopher protection or amendments and promptly forgot about it. Later that year, it began shooting up so fast I could almost watch it grow. After its spectacular display, it went dormant and once again, I forgot all about it. Nonetheless, she persisted! By August, the plant was towering over my head and the number of buds had doubled from the previous year. The flowers made abundant pollen and nectar for weeks during the season of dearth. And, given such abundance, the bees did not mind when I cut some stems for a gorgeous autumn bouquet.



Beekeeping in Petaluma Many Years Ago

by Ettamarie Peterson

This advertisement was found in *The Egg Basket Cook Book* published by Petaluma High School Parent Teacher Association in 1927. The house is still there but the people living in it had no idea it was the Cherry Hill Apiary. I wonder how many bee hives Mrs. W. L. Carr had and if they were all near her home or around the city or out in the county.



"Children of the Vine"

By Ann Gallagher White, 2nd VP

I joined about 200 people to watch this film at the Rialto in Sebastopol on a Tuesday night in October and sat in the back row because the theater was packed (and I was late). The threat to human health and our children from the use of pesticides and the herbicide Roundup, which is pervasively used in Napa and Sonoma Counties in the wine industry, is carefully and gently unpacked in a way that is both interesting and very human. As a person with leaky gut syndrome (self-diagnosed) the film put together some horrifying information. Wheat, for example, if not organic, is often sprayed twice with Roundup: when it is first planted to kill the weeds and then again to dry it out before it is harvested. (A double dose of glyphosate toast or cereal anyone?)

U.S. juries have concluded (even while the EPA has not) that the health ramifications for the people who apply it are real, as certain cancers are known to be associated with use. <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/legal/product-liability/roundup-lawsuit-update/>

Film creator and director Brian Lilla interviews people whose health has been negatively impacted by Roundup, who have learned to farm without it, who lead the fight against the corporations that profit from it, and who are dependent upon it to farm, among others. Who did not want to be interviewed for the film? The EPA and the corporations Monsanto and Bayer (who bought Roundup from Monsanto) did not accept interview requests to explain why Roundup is good or bad for people/the environment.

At the conclusion of the film, a panel discussed the film in a way that felt positive as this is clearly an overwhelming issue. Lilla joined a panel discussion following the film which included Duskie Estes from Farm to Pantry and Darek Trowbridge from Old World Winery, and was moderated by Megan Kaun from Sonoma Safe Ag Safe Schools.

Information on the film can be found here <https://child-renofthevinemovie.com/>

Thank you to SCBA member Megan Kaun for engaging our community in this important conversation.

SCBA Photo Gallery

A selection of photos by EttaMarie Peterson



Bees on Blanket Flower (Gaillardia).



Bulbine

Cooking with Honey

Biscotti Packed with Honey and Flavor of Italy

By Rachel Parker

Joanne Chang is both a cookbook author and an owner of a wildly popular collection of restaurants in the Boston area. Two of our daughters attended a college just outside Boston, and I'd make a point on each visit to have breakfast at the Flour location in the Back Bay at least once. Her latest book, *Pastry Love*, includes a recipe for a biscotti that uses $\frac{3}{4}$ cup honey, and lots and lots of nuts. When I made them recently, I was transported to a bakery in San Francisco's North Beach – anise seed and honey perfuming my kitchen as the cookies baked.

Mixed Nut and Honey Whole Grain Biscotti

By Joanne Chang, in *Pastry Love*

140 grams whole almonds
120 grams walnut halves
140 grams whole pistachios
2 large eggs at room temperature
2 egg yolks, at room temperature
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup honey
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon almond extract
110 grams whole wheat flour
150 grams rye flour
160 grams raisins
50 grams almond flour (or 55 grams raw sliced almonds, ground until fine in a food processor)
4 teaspoons anise seeds, finely chopped
1 teaspoon baking powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees and place a rack in the center of the oven. Place all the nuts on a baking sheet and toast until pale golden brown, 8 to 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool. Leave the oven on.

Line a baking sheet with parchment or butter it lightly.

In a stand mixer with a whisk attachment, whisk together the whole eggs, egg yolks, honey, vanilla, and almond extract on medium-high speed for 3 to 4 minutes, until the mixture is light and airy.

In a large bowl, combine the flours, raisins, anise seeds, baking powder, salt, and toasted nuts. Pour the egg mixture into the flour mixture and use a wood-

en spoon to mix until thoroughly combined into a thick dough. Switch to mixing the dough with your hands if it is too stiff to mix with the spoon. Pat out the dough on the prepared baking sheet into a log roughly 5 inches wide by 12 inches long and 1 inch thick. (Wet your hands with cold water as you are shaping the log to keep them from sticking to the dough.)

Bake the log for 30 to 40 minutes, rotating the sheet midway through the baking time, until the log is browned and firm. Check it by pressing a finger firmly into the middle – it should not give at all. [I needed to leave the log in the oven for 45 minutes to get to this level of doneness.] Remove from the oven and let the log cool on the baking sheet for about 30 minutes, until it is cool enough to handle comfortably. Turn the oven down to 175 degrees.

Transfer the log to a cutting board and, using a serrated knife, slice it on a slight diagonal into 1/2-inch-thick cookies. (At this point, you can transfer the biscotti to an airtight container and store them in the freezer for up to two months before finishing them.)

Lay the biscotti flat on the baking sheet and bake until they are completely baked through – about two hours. Test the biscotti by poking at the middle of one of the cookies. It should be completely hard. Turn off the oven but leave the biscotti in the oven overnight to dry out and harden further.

Biscotti can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature for up to four weeks.



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Habitat Sponsors

Bees find forage in all kinds of environments -- from pollinator gardens to hedgerows of blooming plants, to meadows of wildflowers, to tree canopies. Your organization can be part of the effort to support the bees. To become a habitat sponsor, click here www.sonomabees.org/donate

Pollinator Garden – \$500



Meadow - \$2,500



Canopy – \$5,000

Hedgerow -- \$1000

2022 Board Members

and Other Helpful People

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for the Up-to-Date
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Support SCBA by signing up for [eScrip](#) and [Amazon Smile](#). A small percentage of each sale will be donated back to SCBA, at no extra cost to the customer.

