

# The Monthly Extractor

Volume 48, Issue 2

February 2023



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

## SCBA General Meeting

February 13, 2023, 6:00pm to 8:30

Join us for our monthly General Meeting on Zoom. We have lots to share and announcements to make, and at 7:00 we will have our speaker.

SCBA member and longtime beekeeper, Chris Conrad, will speak about everything SWARM – the do's and don'ts, safety and etiquette – as well as share some of his experiences. The presentation will start at 7:00pm and will be followed with lots of time for questions. There are many experienced "swarm catchers" in SCBA that we hope will be present to join in this potentially lively and very informative meeting. Get your questions ready.

Zoom Information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89716641903?pwd=Z1FJTmt3UmhlY1dtWXZQTzRsd3J4dz09>

Meeting ID: 897 1664 1903

Passcode: SCBA

Save the Date for March 13, general meeting will be in-person!

## President's Message

Happy February!

We had some crazy weather in January, didn't we? Lots of rain and then lots of sun. Hopefully, it will



mean that the forage will be bountiful, and the bees will emerge from winter to a flourishing, colorful environment! Start planting now! Spread your wildflower seeds while there are still some cold nights.

But remember, the days are also getting warmer and

warmer. So, it's time to be on the watch for the earliest swarms. Prepare your apiary for new colonies.

You can get prepared by getting involved. Join your cluster activities. Our cluster leaders have been meeting and planning feverishly for all the cluster events this year. It's going to be fun! The calendar is already filled with Cluster Cafes, Hive Dives, and special gatherings. We are bursting at the seams with opportunities for you to get involved.

First thing to do is renew your membership! Do this because, not only do you receive a year's worth of guidance and information about everything to do with being a bee/pollinator advocate, but because you become a proud SCBA sponsor, supporting our community outreach, school mentor programs, workshops, clinics, events, and more.

At our first Board Meeting of 2023, we discussed our goals for this year. The biggest goal is to get back to in-person gatherings! You can help us with this goal

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# From the Desk of the Program Director

By Shannon Carr

From the Desk of the Program Director  
February is here and spring is right around the corner. What a wild and wet January we had, and we hope everyone fared well through the winter storms last month.

We got a lucky break in the storms on January 2nd and we were successfully able to empty out our storage unit and move into our new office at the Druids Hall. Thank you to Maryann Walsh, David Willson, Nick Ahumada, Andrew Benson, and Carol Ellis for showing up with your trucks, trailers, and willingness to help. Together we were able to empty the storage unit in one trip. Once the dust settles, we will be able to have small meetings in a centralized location, a volunteer desk and computer will be available for members to use, and we will have easier access to the SCBA Library and other education materials. Access to the office is available to all members by appointment.

SCBA's School Education Programs are growing. Last fall we rebooted our Education Program, started going back into schools and we were once again able to work with youth in Sonoma County. With winter break behind us, more schools are asking for spring presentations. In addition to one-time presentations, we have started a yearlong mentorship program with schools that have honey bee related programs in place. Our pilot program with the students at Santa

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*Ann Gallagher-White with students*

## *President's Message, from previous page*

by going to as many in-person gatherings as you can. General meetings, cluster activities, and community events are opening more and more. So, get out and get involved. It's going to be a fun and informative year! Keep your eye on our calendar. The link is on the front page of our website, on top. Click on that and you will see all the upcoming events, forums, lectures, etc.

Let me know if you have any questions or need any help. Write to [president@sonomabees.org](mailto:president@sonomabees.org).

And don't forget to register your hives with the county!

Have a great February. The forecast is bright. And be proud to be a member of SCBA!

See you out there in the hives and in the dirt!

Carol Ellis, SCBA President

## SCBA Member Events February

### [SCBA Calendar](#)

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

Feb 4 – [G4Bs Garden Dig](#)

Feb 4 – [Central and West Cluster Meet & Greet](#)

Feb 5 – [North Cluster Meet and Greet Potluck](#)

Feb 12 – [G4Bs Garden Dig](#)

Feb 13 – [SCBA General Meeting](#)

Feb 18 – [Central and West Cluster Café](#)

Feb 18 -- [South Cluster Cafe](#)

Feb 20 – [Beginner Beekeepers Forum](#)

Feb 23 – [G4Bs Committee Meeting](#)

Feb 27 – [Seasoned Beekeepers Forum](#)

***Program Director's Message, from previous page***

Rosa High School's Bee and Garden Club has been going great. While their club is still small, the students have been very enthusiastic. Last fall Steve Heglin hosted a hive dive with the students and inspected their hive for them. He returned in November to give a talk on bees. Last fall G4Bs provided plants for their gardens. In January our VP of Gardening, Ann Gallagher-White, returned to talk to the students about the importance of gardening for bees and the need to provide pollinators with a steady source of pollen, nectar, and nutrition. In February, Roger Simpson

In addition, we are working on our members only Spring Fling, a fun social gathering with educational workshops, our new public fundraiser Flower to Table: Pollinator Brunch and reestablishing our monthly cafes and workshops and increasing the number of hives dive and garden digs.

2023 is lining up to be an amazing year and I am looking forward to working with everyone and seeing all that our members do to increase education both internally and externally in our communities.

Lastly, keep an eye on your email for SCBA's Annual Member Survey. There are many aspects to the survey, and it helps us understand our members and their needs better. It will also be your way of getting on the Needs Bees List which SCBA Bee Share Coordinators use to connect swarm catchers with members who need bees, local stock, for their apiaries. The survey will be out to our members by mid-February.

Shannon Carr  
Program Director  
[programdirector@sonomabees.org](mailto:programdirector@sonomabees.org)



*Volunteers that helped move our equipment to the new office. Left to right: Nick Ahumada, David Willson, Maryann Walsh, Carol Ellis, Andrew Benson*

will be giving the students a talk on bee behavior and swarming. So far, it has been a fantastic program and it has been great to develop a relationship with the students. We are reaching out to other education facilities in our community with bee related activities and hives on campus to expand this mentorship program. If you are interested in being a mentor for a school, or helping with one time presentation, reach out to me to get more information.

With the start of the new year, we are also starting to book up our Community Outreach calendar. February 25 we will have an information booth at the Scion Exchange, March 11 we will be interacting with children at the North Bay Science Discovery Day and in the Summer, we are planning to return to the Petaluma Art and Garden Festival, County Fair, and Gravenstein Apple Fair. Stay tuned for more information and if you hear of an event you would like to see SCBA at, send us the information.



*SCBA's new office space!*



# Bee Talk!

by Mohammed Ibrahim, 1st Vice President



It is February! The tipping point in colonies' ability to survive to the next season. This is the time of the year when colonies fail because of starvation, humidity, diseases, frosty nights, and many other stressors that challenge the colonies in our region. On the other hand, other colonies hit the ground running into the new season.

it is to be back in person. I encourage you to attend your cluster café, workshops, hive dives, general meetings, and forums to get the spirit back to where it was before Covid.

Do not hesitate to reach out to me for any questions, suggestions, comments, and feedback at [1stvp@sonomabees.org](mailto:1stvp@sonomabees.org)

During those warm days above 55F°, you should see activities at the hive entrance. Pollen is coming in, and some orientation flights are being observed. The traffic will not be heavy as in summertime. Still, you should see noticeable activities between 11-1 pm and fewer activities through the early afternoon. Colonies with no activities for a couple of warm days in a row are a sign of most likely a dead out.

However, it is still early to open a hive. The entrance activities could tell you a lot. Pollen coming in is a sign of a new generation of brood, the queen is back in business, and she is laying. Pay attention to the dead bees that are being cleaned out by the housekeepers. Are the wings intact? Is there any discoloration, any mummies, or deformed pupae? Too many drones around this time of the year is generally a sign of a laying workers.

This is the time that beekeepers put a plan for the season based on the survivors' colonies or a fresh start. If you need to order a package, do it now. If you have a chance of splitting, get the equipment ordered or cleaned up if you already have it. Build your swarm trap and keep maintaining your garden for forage resources. It is not a bad idea also to refresh your memory with some bee math and recorded sessions on the SCBA website. Keep an eye out for the annual survey. This is important to our association to get everyone's input. It helps us roadmap the season and help the bees and their habitat.

Our regional cluster coordinator, Kelli Cox, is working with the gardening program and the cluster leaders to put the final touches on the year calendar. I am very excited, as well as the team, for how much things are planned out for the members this year and how good

## February's Hive To-Do List

By Serge Labesque

- Inspect the exterior of the hives:
  - Verify that hive tops are still properly set and secured and that the hive entrances remain unobstructed.
  - Observe the landing boards and the ground in front of the hives.
  - On nice days, observe the flight paths and the bee activity. Adjust the entrance reducers, if necessary, to facilitate the forager traffic.
  - Make sure the upper ventilation slots are open to prevent the accumulation of metabolic moisture inside the hives.
- Examine the debris on the monitoring trays.
- Early in the month, on a sunny, windless day, perform cursory inspections of only the upper part of the hives.
- Provide additional hive volume: Place supers with a few frames of empty drawn comb and follower boards. Add frames alongside the clusters.
- Take care of or dispose appropriately of any equipment that held colonies that failed, as warranted.
- Build and repair beekeeping equipment.
- Plan for spring.
- Set up swarm traps.
- Plant bee forage.

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# What To Do In the Winter Garden

By Ann Gallagher White, 2nd VP

Winter is an excellent time to analyze our gardens' forage. Spring is just around the corner, and we can certainly make a greater impact later by getting started now. Being relatively new to beekeeping, I recently learned about honeydew (aphid excrement) as a nectar source for woodland bees. (We live near Mt. Taylor Open Space so I was interested to hear that certain trees can provide a source of food as aphid excrement.) The fact that bees can make honey out of aphid waste shows the awesome adaptability of honeybees. But, if you are like me, you may want to do all you can to help the bees find forage all year round and here's a few thoughts to get started.

**Soil improvement:** We need healthy soil for healthy gardens. Composting kitchen scraps and leaves to add organic matter to planting areas creates beneficial organisms in soil and adds moisture – these attributes help plants thrive all year and especially when it is hot. Leaf mulch, compost, aged manure and other green waste (grass clippings) may be added before you plant your beds to get them ready or at any time during/after planting. Here's some info on how to make a compost pile: <https://extension.illinois.edu/soil/composting> and when/how to add animal manure to the garden. <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/using-manure-in-the-home-garden/> Whether you get bagged compost/manure, are making your own compost or getting it in bulk or doing all of the above, adding organic matter to beds makes summer and fall gardens more rewarding with more blooms and healthier plants. Like many other people, we have clay soil. During winter adding manure or compost to raised beds will pay dividends in the summer and fall when it is dry.

**A word about weeding:** We all know that it is easier when the ground is soft and wet (and it is saturated at the moment due to recent atmospheric river rainfalls) so winter is an ideal time for getting out there and pull weeds or you may choose to wait until they are nice and big! SCBA supports mechanical methods for weed control (manually pulling them out, smothering with mulch or cardboard or both) because they are better for bees, the planet and people than poisoning the ground and other insects with herbicides. (If you decide to use chemicals to kill weeds, read up and follow directions, including application times/conditions to make sure you are not harming pollinators and other beneficial insects.)

**Timing for seed planting/last frost:** Many flower and veggie seed packages say to plant 2 – 4 weeks before last frost and that, according to the [Farmers Almanac](#), is March 7 this year. So, mid- to late-February is a great time to plant seeds and get a jump on your spring garden (veggies and flowers). If you plant outside (versus starting indoors or in a greenhouse), I recommend adding a cover (fabric or plastic) to keep the birds from eating seeds/sprouted plants before they can grow and produce. Remember to ask before you buy seeds to make sure they are not treated with neonics or better yet, buy organic.

**Space:** If you have the space, consider planting a tree. When you think about the volume of forage a well-placed and healthy tree can provide, it may pay off over the years with abundant flowers and food. Last year I planted a linden tree after doing some research and this spring I am looking forward to its blooms, hoping the location has sufficient sun. This year, I am planting a flowering crabapple (prairiefire) because I saw one in Oregon last fall and could not believe the amount of blooms or the bees' buzz. If you decide to plant a tree, January is a great time to do it since it will have time to get settled/established long before hot weather and hopefully more rain. Always consider the growth rate of the variety you plant since some trees take a while (years) before they produce flowers/fruit. Ask the nursery/supplier if any plant you buy has been treated with neonics or other pesticides, so you know what you're planting and whether it is safe forage and free of harmful pesticides.

Because we have limited space in gardens and planting a tree may not be possible, look at other options that will provide a volume of forage. Shrubs can produce abundant nectar/pollen or finally, planting a grouping of plants. SCBA's website under the [gardening tab](#) has an excellent list of plant/tree/shrub options that work in Zone 9. My favorite shrub for a volume of continuous bloom is split between rosemary and tagetes.

**Light and water requirements:** If you have a sunny location, you have more options. I have a lot of shade and it is often challenging to select shade loving pollinator plants the deer won't eat that will do well in drought. With some research I have found some that use less water and tolerate shade, such as heuchera

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(the burgundy type “coral bells” add color), hellebore (amazing varieties and colors are available and bloom in winter/spring), and all kinds of bulbs (paperwhites bloom in winter, while iris, daffodils, narcissus, and crocus bloom in late winter/spring), and don’t forget rosemary (blooms all year) – all drought tolerant.

**Deer and other pests:** Deer will eat anything, including “deer resistant” plants (oakleaf hydrangea for example) if they’re hungry enough. I plant some things knowing the deer will eat them (roses). Plants gophers/deer won’t eat are often the same plants the bees love because they have a strong fragrance, including oregano, lavender, mints (catmint, mint, catnip, calamint) and thyme. Also, the gophers and deer in my garden do not eat lavender, foxglove (poisonous), hellebore (poisonous), all sages/salvias, all mints, bearded and Dutch iris, day lilies and many natives (including sticky monkey-flower, gaillardia/blanket flower and California fuchsia).

**Timing of nectar and pollen offerings:** It is helpful to ask WHEN will honeybees and other pollinators have abundant forage and WHAT does each blooming plant supply (nectar and/or pollen) when deciding what to plant. The bottom line - analysis of dearth in the garden helps us plant to supplement forage (pollen and nectar) during sparse times. During dearth, bees rely upon native plants based upon this study. <https://labs.biology.ucsd.edu/nieh/papers/Park-Nieh2017.pdf>

Bees benefit from a wide variety of flowering plants to get forage. Observing and charting what is blooming by season can be a useful exercise to know what source (nectar/pollen) is lacking and when (winter/spring/summer/fall). I am going to work though this exercise this year – drawing two circles - one large and another smaller inside of the larger circle. In the outside circle I will note what season (divide into four by winter, spring, summer and fall) and record what is blooming in the garden by season. In the inside circle, I’ll note plants from my neighborhood (oak trees in the open space behind me, flowering cherry trees on my street, lavender (200 plants) across the street) and add them to the chart to get a picture of what forage exists and in what season. I’ll let you know if it is helpful or not.

Dearth (a time of hardship for honeybees/without adequate nectar) certainly occurs in winter where I live so I am curiously watching what is flowering in winter (manzanita, hellebore, tagetes, cherry trees, rose-

mary, borage and camelia) to see what I might add to my garden or street (common space) that will bloom in winter with the existing drought, gopher/deer and light conditions. SCBA’s website under the [garden-ing tab](#) has a useful form with major/minor pollen and nectar attributes for many pollinator plants, plus the peak time for blooms.

**Maintain roses/trees** – Winter (February) is the best time to prune fruit trees and late winter or early spring is when you should prune roses to keep them healthy, happy and productive. Here’s an article with guidelines to consider: <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/lifestyle/beware-the-unpruned-garden/>

If you have any input or want to reach out, please email [2ndVP@sonomabees.org](mailto:2ndVP@sonomabees.org) and Happy winter gardening!

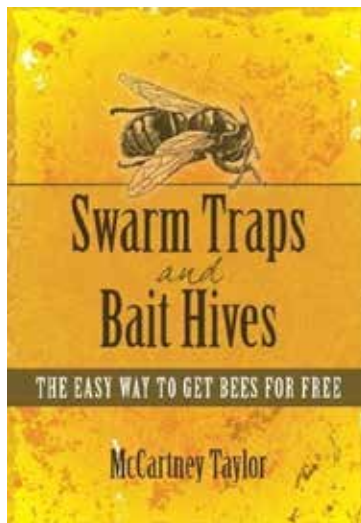
## SCBA BOOK NOOK



### Swarm Traps and Bait Hives

By McCartney Taylor

*Swarm Traps and Bait Hives* is a comprehensive how-to for beekeepers and a definitive guide to catching free bees using swarm traps and bait hives. This book dives into how to create an ideal space for a wild swarm to occupy so the bees come to the beekeeper.



We have more than 250 books and DVDs in the SCBA Library. *Swarm Traps and Bait Hives* is just one of many books about bees, gardening for bees, and products from the hive in our collection. You can view all our books and DVDs available to you at [SC-BA-Library](#).

SCBA Library is now available to members during the week by appointment. If you are interested in checking out a book, email our librarian at [Librarian@sonomabees.org](mailto:Librarian@sonomabees.org) to make arrangements to pick up one or two of the books or DVDs available to SCBA members.



# SCBA Volunteer Positions

SCBA is run by its members. There are lots of ways to help and volunteer. If you are interested in one of these positions, OR if you have ideas on other ways to contribute, reach out to our Program Director, Shannon Carr at [programdirector@sonomabees.org](mailto:programdirector@sonomabees.org).

**Cluster Coordinator** – Help lead your cluster through coordinating monthly cafes and workshops and maintain communication with cluster members. We still need these:

- West Cluster – Cluster Coordinator and Co-Coordinator
- South Cluster – Cluster Co-Coordinator

**BeeShare Coordinator** – Be a part of the team that helps distribute bees caught in swarms and donated through splits to your cluster members who registered to receive donated bees. We are looking for:

- Central Cluster – BeeShare Coordinator

**Gardening for Bees** – Creating diverse pollinator habitats is essential to beekeeping. Having a variety of plants that provide pollen and nectar throughout the year will ensure a sustainable environment for bees.

- **Garden Liaisons for Central and South Clusters** – Help the cluster coordinators manage the cluster calendar particularly the "Garden" focused elements, but securing sites for garden-related activities, and helping to put on garden-related workshops
- **Home Nurseries Coordinator** – Communicate with members propagating and growing plants in nurseries at home. Ensuring a variety of plants are being propagated for the needs of the plant sales and community garden projects.

**Host a Hive Dive or Garden Dig** – These are great opportunities to meet your fellow cluster members, make bee and garden buddies and to learn. Contact your cluster coordinator on scheduling a hive dive or garden dig.

- **Hive Dive** - No two hives are the same, sharing your hive with members of your cluster provides an educational opportunity for members to learn about honey bees and beekeeping practices.

- **Garden Dig** – now is the time to cut back your plants and thin them out for new growth in the spring.

By hosting a Garden Dig members can take the excess plants and transplant them into their gardens and help clean up in the process.

**Join a Committee** – Join one of our committees and help make plans and make a difference in our community, both internally and externally. Committees include (but limited to) Education, Fundraising, and Events.

## 2023 Scion Exchange

WHEN: Saturday – Feb. 25, 2023  
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

WHERE: Santa Rosa Veterans Building  
Across from the Sonoma County Fairgrounds  
1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa 95404  
Free cuttings for grafting – often over 500 varieties!  
Grafting demonstrations by expert grafters.

Various rootstocks available for sale.  
Custom trees grafted at your request (limited).  
Fruit Experts available to answer questions.  
Tree Sales, Bee Blocks, Crafts, Preserves, Honey!  
Bring big baggies, tape to write-on or labels, and a "Sharpie" pen for labeling cuttings



*Happy Valentines Day! This bee's pollen sack looks like a heart! Photo by Bill Bowlus, South Cluster*

## Cluster News!

By Kelli Cox, Regional Cluster Coordinator

How excited I am to be supporting our extraordinary Cluster Coordinators this year!

We met last month and collectively created a robust and exciting calendar for you, our members. You will be hearing (if you haven't already) from them for your first invitation to February's Bee Cafe. At that cafe you will get a copy of the calendar so you'll know what to expect this year. Both the Cluster Coordinators and our Gardening team (including the gardening liaisons) are planning themed based cafes and workshops providing you with great information. Additionally, I encourage you to go to your Cluster cafes to meet other beekeepers and gardeners in your area. I hope to be dropping into as many of the cafes as I can and really look forward to seeing old faces and meeting our newbees!

Kelli Cox  
Regional Cluster Coordinator

**South Cluster** – The South Cluster is welcoming new members and returning members to our community of beekeepers. We have two Cluster Cafes already in the works. For February and March, we will meet at John and Darlene McGinnis' home, (February 18 and March 18). We'll kick off 2023 with a meeting All Things Swarm, with presentations and hands on activities alike. And, John will surely have his equipment for sale if you need any new supers, frames, and so on.

For more information, contact me, Rachel Parker, at [Southcluster@sonomabees.org](mailto:Southcluster@sonomabees.org)

**East Cluster-- by Jodi Falconer**

I wanted to share two YouTube presentations regarding bees I happened upon.

Lucy King, Zoologist, (a TEDWomen talk from December 2019) [How Bees Can Keep the Peace Between Elephants and Humans](#).

Lucy heads the human-elephant coexistence program for Save The Elephants. She studies the rising problem of human-elephant conflict as people and pachyderms compete for space and resources in Africa.

In the 1970s there were about 1.2 million elephants roaming across Africa. Today, there are only about 400,000 elephants left, while at the same time, the human population has quadrupled, resulting in the land being fragmented at an astonishing pace. As the elephants' migratory paths for food, water, and sacred sites are blocked by new farms and villages, the elephant families find themselves blocked in and having to resort to seeking water and food from within the villages – destroying water tanks, eating crops, and terrifying the villagers. This has led to an increase in human-elephant conflicts where no one is the winner. So, how can beehives help? Watch and see.

The second YouTube is [Mushrooms As Medicine with Paul Stamets at Exponential Medicine](#).

I stumbled upon this information while researching Turkey Tail mushrooms and their ability to fight cancer for my Western Herbalism class. Paul Stamets is a world-renowned mycologist and researcher "exploring the diverse role medicinal mushrooms may have in activating our immune systems and helping treat cancer," as well as ... "new data supporting the role of fungi in biosecurity and the health of the bees that pollinate our planet." About halfway through, Paul shares his discovery of the connection he witnessed between bees feeding from mycelium and the increased health of the hive. This one is very exciting to me. Can we grow mushrooms with their accompanying mycelium in our own backyards so that the bees can "drink" from this and increase the health of their hives? I'd love to hear if anyone has explored this way of supporting colony health.



**North Cluster's November Potluck bunch**



# So, You Want To Be a Master Beekeeper?

*By Andy Baxter, SCBA Secretary*

The California master beekeeper program is an educational course run out of UC Davis. It, in their words, seeks “to use science-based information to educate stewards and ambassadors for honey bees and beekeeping”. It shares the science first approach with the other UC program of note, the master gardener program.

The course itself is a year-long experience containing both theoretical and practical components. There are different grades to suit all levels of experience and is a thoroughly enjoyable undertaking. The SCBA has multiple graduates from this program already and I strongly encourage everyone to consider taking on the challenge. It'll improve your own skills as well as benefit the SCBA as a whole.

Whether you are a member without bees just starting out on this fascinating journey (Apprentice assistant level); a beginner with a little experience under your belt (Apprentice level); a seasoned beekeeper, comfortable with all aspects of the craft (Journey level); or that special individual, ready to try to advance beekeeping with a capstone project (Master level) there's a course level for you.

Personally, I just completed the apprentice level in November. Now I'm looking forward to applying new knowledge and skills to the coming year. As an example, I'm sure seasoned beekeepers will laugh at my naivety, but in the two years I've kept bees I'd never worked my hive without gloves. Why would I want to – they can sting you know? Part of the apprentice level course involves learning to mark bees with a paint dot. A useful skill when working with queens and one you really can't do wearing thick gloves.

No problem they said. Practice on drones and take your time. Which is fine, unless like me, you're doing this in September. First time pulling out frames from a bustling hive barehanded -- stressful. First time picking up a worker (nope, still no drones available) nerve wracking. Second, third, fourth time or more doing each activity -- well, really not that bad after all.

If all the course had given me was the schooling on taking things slowly and steadily and the incentive to learn how to mark queens I would be happy with the outcome. It provided much more than that, however.

The study groups were entertaining and educational. It was great to get into various textbooks and exercise the grey matter simply for the pleasure of learning. I also now have access to a wealth of information including past lectures and videos, a support group of other master beekeepers and the challenge of when to tackle the next level.

If anyone is interested in finding out more, go to the [CMBP website](#) where there's a lot of info on the program and what it entails. I'm also happy to answer questions so grab me at a meeting or send me an email. The courses are open now for 2023 enrollment so why not sign up and join the SCBA master beekeepers?

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## COOKING WITH HONEY

### Refreshing, light, and naturally sweet

*By Rachel Parker*

During January, many folks put away the corkscrew and bottle opener, opting for non-alcoholic beverages. A design magazine that appeared in my mailbox in early January profiled bartender Elliott Clark and his design choices and included his recipe for a sparkling honey grapefruit mocktail. I had to give it a go. Cool and refreshing, it reminded me of a hot toddy -- without the booze or boiling water.

#### SPARKLING HONEY GRAPEFRUIT MOCKTAIL

By Elliott Clark, Apartment Bartender

##### Ingredients

2 oz green tea  
1 oz grapefruit juice  
¼ oz lime juice  
¾ oz honey  
Sparkling water

Combine ingredients (except sparkling water) into a cocktail shaker and shake with ice.

Strain into a glass filled with ice and add a splash of sparkling water. Garnish with a sprig of rosemary.

Cheers!

## MORE SCBA PHOTOS



The most swarms ever caught in one day in one location happened here! Photo by Ettamarie Peterson



January 28th's Meet & Greet brought out lots of beekeepers and gardeners. Above: Central Cluster members, who won the bee trivia contest. Left: North, South, East Cluster. Below: West Cluster Photos by Kelli Cox.





## Swarm Season is Fast Approaching

Years ago, Lela Dowling was a member of SCBA and contributed cartoons to our newsletter every month. I loved this full page one and asked her permission to re-use it. She said yes and sent me her original file. It is full of great advice, believe me! Editor's hint: One thing that has helped me a lot with swarm calls is asking the caller to send by message a photo or two of the swarm with the location. When Lela created this cartoon that wasn't an option as you can see.





# FLOWER TO TABLE POLLINATOR BRUNCH

## BENEFITTING SONOMA COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

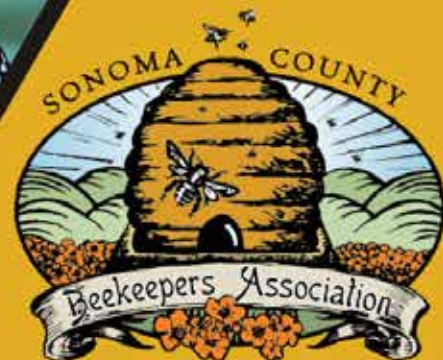
ENJOY A DELICIOUS MEAL  
INSPIRED BY POLLINATORS  
AND SUPPORT SCBA  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**MARCH 19, 2023**

LUTHER BURBANK  
ART & GARDEN CENTER

\$55 FOR TICKETS /  
\$45 FORMEMBERS

[HTTPS://SONOMABEES.ORG/  
EVENT-5087973](https://sonomabees.org/event-5087973)



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POPPY BANK

# SCBA Business Members, Donors, and Sponsors

## SCBA Business Members

Baker Lane Vineyards  
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