

The Monthly Extractor

Our goal is to increase interest in and knowledge of bees and beekeeping for the hobby and commercial beekeeper, and to educate the general public in the value of bees.

Monthly Meetings- Held at 6th and Wilson (New College) in Santa Rosa

November 13th - Gourmet Potluck – prizes given to 4 categories of dishes (Entrée, Salad, Desert, Made with Honey), Nominations of new officers (again). Besides your contribution to the dinner bring something to our first ever-silent auction. This may be bee related or not.

December 11th- Gadget Night – bring the gadget you have found to be the most helpful in beekeeping or your own latest invention. This will also be election night.

Hey, Beeks!

I am reeling from the time change as I write this. I couldn't get it all done in the daylight before, but now I'm trying to cram it all in with an hour less to do it. Sheesh!

I am enjoying the fall, the leaves, the pumpkins and the crisp air. There seems to be something out there that the bees are finding to forage on (coyote bush), as there is new nectar in the brood nest! I am replacing grease patties and still reversing hives as the cluster shifts between the two boxes. Time to cull old frames and scorch those boxes. Check the stores of the colony and move food closer in, if possible. There are still some nice days to paint, too. Make sure to separate your light comb from your dark brood and pollen comb. The first is okay to stack, but the latter needs air and light passing through to discourage wax (pollen) moths.

As I think back on our year together, I am reminded of how great a group we have. So many have contributed so much. **Fred and Donna Nelson** gave 2 weekend workshops, complete with a great meal! **Serge** has diligently gotten us incorporated and we have just about got our by laws sorted out. (Non-profit status to follow!) **Beekind** started many new beekeepers, as did **Bloomfield Bees Honey** and **Serge**, with his Santa Rosa Junior College Beginning and Intermediate Beekeeping classes. After our rather rough year at the Farm Bureau, **Spring Maxfield**, past President, led us to our new home at New College. (For those of you who were not members last year, we had a difference of opinion on the measure to put a moratorium on genetically altered seeds and as a result, the Farm Bureau raised our rent from "free to members" to \$100 per night.) The Western Apicultural Society for his innovative changes to beekeeping honored **Serge Labesque**. **Ettamarie Peterson** took on the Petaluma anti-beekeeping ordinance, still pending, I think. **Sean Straw** has housed our new website, besides building it and keeping it current. This has been a boost to the swarms we all collect. The response of those who find us is fantastic. **Jackie Whitford, Michael Johnson and Leonard Rippenoff** stepped up to the jobs of: Historian, Librarian and Raffle Chairperson, respectively. We gave grants to Bees for Development in Africa and the digitization project of Cornell University to make the first 20 issues available on line. (They have the entire Hive and the Honeybee on line. <http://bees.library.cornell.edu/>.) We provided the Harvest Fair with a more reasonable set of judging guidelines for apiary products and expanded the number of entries. **Hector Alvarez** won the professional division and **Glenn Murphy** won

the amateur contest! Those who spoke or helped demonstrate at our meetings have given valuable knowledge to those who are getting started. More of our members are going IPM than ever, which shows a true commitment to the bees. I am proud of all of us for helping promote beekeeping here and around the world. Thank you all.

On another note, we cannot hold our election without by laws, as was pointed out to the board by Serge, so we are approving the final changes by email this week. That means there will be a **ballot** that will be in your copy of the **December Extractor** with directions on what to do with it. So, at our potluck in November, we will all enjoy the honey dishes, each other's company and the silent auction. See ya there!



SCBA General Meeting, 10 OCT 2006 (TUESDAY)

Topic: Honey Tasting

Meeting begun at 7:10 pm. 38 attendees. Board members present: Kathy Cox, Donna Nelson, Katia Vincent, Sean Straw

Katia read an article by Serge Labesque

Glen Murphy commented on Crystallization - in his experience, Marin honeys seem not as prone to crystallizing as Sonoma nectar sources.

Sucrose:Glucose ratios control crystallization rate.

Temperature of extraction can also affect crystallization - if the honey is heated, it will delay the process. At 50-55°F it will crystallize quickly, whereas 75-80, won't be as prone to crystallize. Hans offered that mustard and cabbage crystallizes readily. Madrone and eucalyptus doesn't.

Glen Murphy won Best of show Honey in the Amateur class at the Harvest Faire, and Hector Alvarez won in the professional class.

Kathy Cox reminded everyone to think about fair entries for next year.

Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) - Blooming now. Has dry white fluffies about the size of a pea.

Next meeting is 13 November

New faces: Rich White. Has been beekeeping for 30 years.

We held nominations for 2007 SCBA Board offices. [Please note that due to changes in the corporate bylaws, the nomination process will be repeated at the in November general meeting].

Kathy Cox nominated Ettamarie Peterson for President. Sean Straw seconded. Ettamarie nominated Sean Straw for Vice President, Kathy Cox seconded. Kathy Cox nominated Donna Nelson to continue in her role as Treasurer. Michael Johnson seconded. Serge Labesque nominated Katia Vincent for Treasurer Mike (?) Seconded. Kathy Cox nominated Kathy Kellison for Secretary. Katia Vincent seconded.

A handful of items had been brought by members for raffle, although the Raffle has been discontinued, owing to the time and resources put into handling it. These items were either quickly paid for with proceeds to the association coffers, or put up for a quick and informal auction.

A variety of honeys were available for tasting, with many members bringing their own honeys, and some honeys from out of area (and even out of the country).

SCBA Board Meeting, 13 OCT 2006 (FRIDAY)

Held at the office of Dr. Michael Johnson in Petaluma

In attendance: Kathy Cox, President; Katia Vincent, Vice President; Donna Nelson, Treasurer; Sean Straw, Secretary; Michael Johnson, Librarian; Ettamarie Peterson, Editor.

Quorum established

Also: Fred Nelson, Serge Labesque, Member at large and Hector Alvarez, Member at large.

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm

Serge commented that we must ratify the bylaws by the next general meeting (i.e. before the election). He further suggested that with just four board members, it is more difficult to establish a quorum and to have a voting majority should anyone be absent. He suggested that we have two vice presidents: with a 5-officer board, a quorum could be established even with two board members absent.

Serge further cited that there is a requirement of a 4-day notice of board meetings. [Sec. note - the draft corporate bylaws actually allow for 48 hours provided that notice is personally communicated].

A quorum of the general membership is 1/3 of the general membership. After initial adoption, any future changes to the bylaws would require an approval by the general membership.

Serge reports that we are currently incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, although we have not yet obtained TAX EXEMPT status. Donations to the association are tax deductible as charitable contributions.

TO DO: Determine income required for tax filing. Below some set amount, filing isn't necessary. The general consensus is that we are probably well below that threshold, though we need to verify this.

Voting: individuals must announce candidacy. Voting must be anonymous - envelope can have identifier so that we can match them up to a voting membership, but the ballot itself should not identify the member.

If we are to continue the club-originated honorary memberships, we need to incorporate that into the bylaws or adopt a resolution after ratifying the bylaws.

Pay dues, have a vote. No multiple memberships under one umbrella membership - all memberships the same price, or we'll find ourselves policing qualifications for types of memberships.

We resolved to discuss the bylaws via the board discussion list to arrive at a document that the necessary signatories could agree on, and meet on 26 OCT at the Nelsons to adopt the edited corporate bylaws.

Candidates must be a member of record in the year of the vote.

Hector Alvarez raised a concern he has with the way the Harvest Faire fees were levied. Although he didn't pay much more than the previous year, he believes that without a cap on the fees, he could be forced to pay a considerable sum if he experiences exceptional sales. Various members of the board, as well as other meeting attendees offered explanation as to the method of applying an equal percentage charge to all sales, rather than dividing the faire costs amongst the individual participants based on their relative sales, as had been done in past years. Some participants spent a lot of time helping out with the SCBA aspect of the booth, to the detriment of their own honey sales. Ettamarie suggested that perhaps we could place an advisory item on the ballot - flat 10% of gross sales, or a flat percentage of the computed costs of the faire event (i.e. as it was previously, though with the additional real costs of the event, such as insurance, being included).

Membership form - solicit simple donations there?

Michael motioned to increase individual membership dues to \$25/year. Vote: 4-0

Members only benefits: Borrow from the library, Rent extractors, Vote, Receive a mailed newsletter, Participate on the swarm list, Faire participation, and discounts at affiliated stores.

Nonmembers can attend meetings and access mentors.

We need to revisit member seating in the new space. Donna suggested we provide refreshments

Kathy reported that Harvest Fair says we now have to provide our own Health Certificate (basically a per-event food sales permit), which costs \$58 and is obtained through the county. Apparently this is because we offer samples. A point was made that we cannot recycle plastic spoons, as if people actually do that. There is apparently also a requirement of a water-dispensing bucket with a spigot and a catch basin below, along with paper towels. All this will be a duty of the event coordinator to organize.

Hector reports that he has a health certificate, and it costs \$300-400 per year. This is not cost effective for the association to obtain on a yearly basis given the number of events that we attend.

The board is in general agreement that although the prior board meeting decided to cease the raffle for 2007, since word got out that we wouldn't be continuing it as of the October general meeting, it makes sense to forego the raffle for the December meeting. The November meeting will have a Silent Auction, as previously announced.

Katia raise issues with used equipment sales. Ettamarie suggested that we could place a general disclaimer about used equipment and bee diseases at the top of the classified section.

Donna delivered the Treasurer's report.

Ettamarie reported that the Liberty 4H beekeepers group meets at her barn on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. There are about 11 children involved.

There was discussion of VP duties.

Kathy read a letter from Dr. Carla Deike Grady of the SRJC, seeking speakers for her course. Kathy Kellison's name came up as a prospect, and perhaps we could arrange a second person to assist, and possibly act as a substitute if the initial speaker were unable to present on the as yet undetermined date. Meeting adjourned at 10:29 pm

SCBA Special Board Meeting, 26 OCT 2006 (THURSDAY)

Held at the home of Fred & Donna Nelson

In attendance: Kathy Cox, President; Katia Vincent, Vice President; Donna Nelson, Treasurer; Sean Straw, Secretary; Ettamarie Peterson, Editor Quorum established

Also: Fred Nelson and Serge Labesque

Meeting called to order at 8:10 pm by Kathy Cox.

Members interested in serving on the board must volunteer and state their interest and qualifications.

Sean motioned that owing to the ongoing discussion about a fifth board seat, we should hold fresh nominations for board offices in November, and hold a ballot election in December, so that the additional board position being discussed for the bylaws can be properly filled by member participation. Donna seconded. Vote: 4-0, carried.

Vice President & Second Vice President duties?

General discussion on this revolved around possibly assigning the Second VP event coordination duties (fairs and such). Specific duties not pertaining to legal responsibilities (as per the state) should be outlined in a text separate from the bylaws.

Much of the meeting was spent hashing out various edits to the corporate bylaws, which by legal necessity must be more thorough than the bylaws under which the unincorporated club operated.

At some point, the association needs to develop and have a seal produced (a simple book stamp affair could suffice, or we can go with something more elaborate). This would be for official recordkeeping.

Sean reported that he's still investigating tax issues with the IRS as they pertain to the organization and our ability to approach local governments about anti-bee ordinances as an organization rather than individuals.

Meeting adjourned at 11:54 pm.

Sean Straw

My November Beekeeping To-Do List

By Serge Labesque © 2006

November brings a kind of closure to the beekeeping year. But it is not the end of it. In fact, there is no end to beekeeping. It is a continuous life cycle that must go on, that we need to maintain in our apiaries. To make sure this is so, early this month we have to complete the preparation of the hives for winter. As we are doing this, we should remember that we are already setting the foundations for the next season.

For several years my goal has been to have all my colonies installed and set in their winter quarters by the end of the first week of November. This has worked very well for my bees. I look at this milestone as the most important one on the beekeeping calendar. Some years, the weather interferes with last-minute tasks. So, it is good to be prepared for such an eventuality, and to carefully watch the weather forecast to button up the last colonies in a timely manner.

Looking back a few weeks, the most noteworthy observation I made during my October hive inspections relates to the pollen stores: Judging by the monitoring trays and the landing board activity, bees were bringing back pollen in rather nice quantities. But the amount of pollen that was actually being accumulated in the hives was comparatively small. I attribute this to the generally large brood nests the colonies have maintained during this fall. Fortunately, all the hives will go into winter with at least the equivalent of two frames of pollen, but unlike last year, few will have very large pollen stores. So, the location of this pollen in the hives becomes more critical, because it will have to be available to the cluster in January. It will also be necessary to keep an eye on the late winter and early spring pollen flows.

By mid-October, Parasitic Mite Syndrome had vanished as quickly as it had appeared in September, probably due to the reduction in the production eggs by the queens. House bees could finally regain the upper hand (leg?) on the condition of their brood nests.

In the bee yards:

The completion of the preparations of the colonies for winter is definitely the task at hand, and there is no time for procrastination.

- Early in November is the last chance to transfer the bees into clean, scorched equipment.
- Consolidation of the brood nests in the lower part of the brood chambers, between follower boards.
- Removal of unused, empty and old frames

- Placement of the stores in the upper part of the brood chamber, also between follower boards, and with some space in the center.
- Last application of sugar-shortening mix on the top bars of the brood chambers.
- Reductions of the entrances, as needed.
- Installation of mouse guards on the colonies that are at risk.
- Weights (brick, stone) should be set on the tops of colonies that are placed in windy areas.
- Upper ventilation notches are open.
- Cleaning of the screened bottom monitoring trays.
- Watch the grass turn green again.

At home:

- Scrape, scorch and store the equipment that has been returned from the apiaries.
- Cull old, empty frames.
- Look forward to next season. Start planning.
- Start building frames and other pieces of equipment.
- Review notes from the year.

Harvest Fair - Thanks and Awards

Hector Alvarez, Ettamarie Peterson, Doug & Katia Vincent, Fred Nelson, Harry Strouse, Dan Tennyson, Kathy Cox and Scott Nelson all worked hard Thursday evening setting up a very nice display. These same people also took turns working at the booth with the exception of Ettamarie who couldn't spare time away from selling pumpkins and honey at her farm.

Janet Leisen, Julie Dilley, Peter Fallon, Donna Nelson, Daphne Luke, Robert Veit, April Lance, Ellen McKnight and Daphne Luke, all pitched in to help talk about bees and sell T-shirts and honey sticks. Quite a lot of sticks were sold over the three days.

The amateur trophy was won by Glenn Murphy for his honey. Hector Alvarez won the commercial class trophy for some of his dark honey. It was great to see so many members enter a great variety of apiary items. Even two of the 4-H children had items entered. Jessie Peterson won a blue ribbon for her bees wax. Her grandmother won only a silver for her bees wax as a commercial exhibitor!

Kathy Cox entered an encaustic painting with an explanation of what it was. Unfortunately this entry must have been over the judges' heads or something. Maybe next year we can have a category just for encaustic painting since she is planning to give classes on this technique which she learned at Gormanston, Ireland.

It was disappointing that the judges did not light the candles that were entered. This had been promised in the new premium book. Oh well, it takes time to make changes after years of tradition.

Congratulations to all who took home ribbons. We hope even more people venture into this competition next year!

What's In Bloom?

Borage, asters, chrysanthemums and zinnias.

Reminder to those who want to purchase ad space that the business card size ad is \$5, the 1/4 ad is \$10, and the 1/2 page ad is \$20. Classified ads are free to members.

Member Ad Space

(Free ad space to all dues payers)

Frank Bardella is selling very nice deep hives with queens that were born July 2006. These are gentle bees. Please call 823-8385

Leonard Riepenhoff is selling very nice plastic tubs for selling and storing honey. The 1-½ pound size is \$7 for 50 (14¢ each) or \$65 for 500 (13¢ each).

The 3-pound size is \$9.50 for 50 (19¢ each) or \$85 for 500 (17¢ each).

These will not melt in the microwave if you are warming honey at half power properly.

Call Leonard at 525-8424. He will bring samples to the meeting again this month.

Leonard is also looking for a young, strong apprentice to work with him and his bees.

April Lance and Linda Clary have a lovingly cared for "up and running" healthy beehive with bees that can be delivered to your location. Please call us!

Fine, established, producing, very clean and healthy, well cared for bees and hive components for sale.

Hives have been requeened with beautiful 2006 queens this year. No pesticides ever used. Bees from 80 dollars --- then you select any hive parts you wish to incorporate (bottom boards, deep and honey supers, additional bees, inner cover, lids and more, or you provide your own ---- all at very reasonable prices to get you started. Simple or elaborate.

We will also have nucs for sale in the spring of 2007.

Please Call 707-431-1569

Kathy Cox and Scott Nelson:

Sale: 5 frame Nucs, \$125. '07 queen, her bees and brood, with honey and pollen. 5 frame exchange. Price includes a free class at Wine Country Honey, 4979 Occidental RD, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. 707-578-0797. www.winecountryhoney.com Deposit of \$60 is required.

For Sale: Whole hives, \$250. '07 queen, her bees and brood, with honey and pollen. Price includes a free class at Wine Country Honey, 4979 Occidental RD, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. 707-578-0797.

www.winecountryhoney.com Deposit of \$125 is required.

For Sale: Queens. \$20. Available May '07. Wine Country Honey, 4979 Occidental RD, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. 707-578-0797. www.winecountryhoney.com Full amount due when ordering.

Available in November from Wine Country Honey: 10 Frame Top Feeders, boxes, frames, IPM bottom board with pollen trap, syrup feed and more. We buy in large volume at a significant discount and pass the savings onto the beekeeper.

Apprenticeship Opportunity. Call to spend a day or a week apprenticing with Wine Country Honey beekeepers. Wine Country Honey, 4979 Occidental RD, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. 707-578-0797.

www.winecountryhoney.com

Linda Bodwin is selling 15 oz. glass jars with lids - 12/box (case). I have 85 boxes to sell. Price: \$2.00/box. Call Linda (h) 575-3687 or (C) 484-7511

Bee Trivia

Tracheal mites, *Acarapis woodi*, complete their whole life cycle inside the breathing tubes of adult honey bees. They were first found in the USA in Texas on July 3, 1984.

Letter to the Editor

Serge Labesque sent this letter to our newsletter:

The October issue of the *Monthly Extractor* included a letter by Scott Nelson. In the introduction, Scott brought to everybody's attention that his beekeeping operation had been the target of "*emails and comments [...] (and) damaging propaganda*" (sic). By describing the author as "*a well-known local beekeeper*" and omitting to provide a name, he turned every one of us into a suspect in the eyes of others.

Several members of the SCBA, some of the Beekeepers of the Napa Valley, and also a few students of the classes I present at the Santa Rosa Junior College have told me that they thought I was that unnamed author. For this reason, I am placed in the unenviable position of having to publicly deny this, as I perceive it is damaging to *my* reputation. True, I have strong opinions when it comes to beekeeping practices, and I openly disapprove of some ways that are followed by too many beekeepers, including several Scott mentioned he uses in his apiaries, but, for the record, **I am NOT the author of those emails!**

Since the publication of the last *Monthly Extractor*, as more and more people were letting me know that they thought I was the writer who remained unnamed in Scott's letter, my resentment grew deeper. So, I wrote him a three-page letter loaded with criticisms, and serious questions about the validity of his statements.

As chance would have it, Scott's and my path crossed this Saturday afternoon. Pure coincidence led us at the same time to the same aisle of our local Home Depot.

Needless to say we had a direct and open discussion about his letter. I point-blank asked him to confirm that I was not the person he was alluding to, and he did... to me.

We then talked for nearly an hour about the contents of the balance of his letter: Obviously, when it comes to beekeeping, he and I are in two separate universes. Scott uses bees to meet his business goals, which are his priority, whereas I personally find it revolting that bees be subjected and sacrificed to the harmful vagaries of profit-driven human endeavors.

Back to Scott's letter:

Subsequent to his incriminating introduction, Scott goes on to depict his business and his plans. Of course, there are reasons to be impressed by the numbers he provided and by his business accomplishments. But I feel that several of the points

he mentioned about beekeeping need to be commented upon, or at least questioned.

Here are, in short, some of the questions I asked Scott:

- How can you claim adherence to the European Organic Standards when, according to your own statements,
 - you treat your colonies with substances that are objectionable,
 - you are using plastic foundation,
 - you are using non-organic beeswax,
 - you feed your bees corn syrup by the tank-truck load (in all likelihood GMO and non-organic),
 - you are placing hives in locations that are not in compliance with the requirements of any organic standards,
 - you import bees and queens massively from non-organic operations?
- How are you in effect transitioning these imported bees to have them reach organic standards?
- Do you realize the irreversible impact your large imports of bees have on our local bee genetic pool?
- Do you realize that, because of the large number of hives you own, you have a great responsibility towards our ecosystem (much more than towards your business)?
- How can you claim that you are raising local bees in view of these huge imports of foreign bees?
- How can you, at the same time, fulfill pollination contracts and say that you are running bee colonies organically?
- How many apiaries and hives can you, in all legitimacy, say you are managing organically, if any, in Sonoma, Marin or Napa County?
- How can you teach organic beekeeping when your practices are in opposition to organic principles?
- Who is certifying that your operation is run organically (I am not aware of anybody authorized to do this in California)?
- Aren't your claims of running an organic beekeeping operation based more on wishful thinking than on actually managing colonies according to generally accepted organic beekeeping practices?

Our environment needs more bees and as many environmentally responsible beekeepers as possible. I love bees. I have a great respect for them, and I admire their generous contribution to our lives. I want as many people to share in this passion as possible. This is why I present classes on beekeeping, and why I write on this subject.

I wish Scott the best possible success in his business... as long as the bees do not suffer from it. We need him and his thousands of hives, and the bees need his good stewardship.

Serge Labesque October 23, 2006

Apimondia 2007 Will Be in Australia

Next September 9th to the 14th will be the world conference for beekeepers in Melbourne, Australia. For all the details, go to <http://www.apimondia2007melbourne.com/>. There will be exciting pre- and post- tours too!

Biodynamic Beekeeping Conference in Ruskin Mill, Nailsworth UK

by Barbara Schlumberger

Ruskin Mill is a converted mill that has become a school for teenagers with special needs. It is entirely based on Rudolf Steiner's methods of schooling and agriculture. The place was simply glowing with life and vitality. Beekeeping has just been added to the curriculum.

Jacques and I attended this amazing class given by German beekeeper, Michael Weiler. This was also the beginning of his book tour, [Bees and Honey- From Flower to Jar](#).

The book is a thorough primer on bees and beekeeping and the appendix on Demeter Beekeeping by Gunter Friedmann will enthrall those of you interested in becoming registered Biodynamic Beekeepers.

To begin with, Biodynamic Methods are based on Rudolf Steiner's methods of sustainable agriculture. His book BEES, written in the 1920's actually predicted the crisis we are now facing with hive diseases due to the beekeeping methods adopted at that time, and continuing throughout the world.

There are several practices that allow a beekeeper to be certified by the Demeter Society (the Biodynamic Society). I will mention them briefly here as to give you an introduction to their guidelines:

- Demeter principles seek to put *culture* back into *agriculture*
- Concern is for keeping bees in accordance with their true nature to ensure productivity and vitality of bee colonies in the long term
- Demeter beekeepers allow the colonies to build natural honeycomb. Comb construction is an integral part of a bee colony.
- Bees, brood, queen, stores, comb etc. all form a unity which should not be disrupted- thus in the brood nest region, all comb should be constructed by the bees alone—natural comb-building.
- The basis for bee reproduction, growth, rejuvenation and breeding is the process of swarming
- The urge to swarm is not repressed but allowed by the process of artificial swarms with the old queens of such colonies
- The hives' own honey is the mainstay for supporting the colony through the winter
- Interventions are not measured against maximizing honey yield but against the requirements of bee colonies themselves.
- Demeter beekeepers feel that queens are not queens in the full sense of the word unless they have developed naturally: that is, they must be swarm or supercedure queens
- Beekeepers are free to choose only cells from good colonies in order to keep bees that are adapted to the

landscape and region and to avoid crossing them with bees from other continents.

- Honey from Demeter beekeeping should be bottled for sale before the first setting,

Weiler spoke with great passion about the CULTIVATION OF BEES. This theme was repeated again and again to emphasize the importance of seeing the bees and the hive as a totality. Always observing to see and hear what they are telling us, what their needs are --NOT what the beekeeper requires.

He spoke about the chaos that beekeepers create as a NECESSARY thing if we are to be respectful of the bees—such as feeding as necessary, and allowing them to “swarm” as a necessary part of the hive health.

Much time was spent detailing artificial swarming methods. Feeling the **fearlessness** of the bees at this time—going into the unknown, naked, away from their safety, warmth and intuition, leaving all they had done in the past, with only a mouthful of honey---- helped us understand the importance of this ritual and the necessity of allowing the bees the simulation of swarming—not preventing this natural phenomenon.

Allowing the bees to construct their own combs—another instinctual act we have taken away from them which has added to their stress level ---decreasing their immune system.

All in all, our heads were swimming with new and familiar ideas. Being newbees may help us integrate some of these methods. We have already allowed the deep frames to be drawn entirely by the bees. Next season to observe for swarming signals, counting days and allowing swarming conditions in a separate deep for several days will be our next challenge.

Anyone else interested in learning more — come to the Holistic Beekeeping classes at Beekind.



SCBA Executive Board 2006

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*Regular monthly meetings of the Sonoma County
Beekeepers' Association are held on the second Monday
of each month, at 7 pm. The meetings cover a wide range
of topics of interest to beekeepers. Everyone wanting to
learn about honey bees is cordially invited to attend. You
do not need to be a member nor a beekeeper to attend
these meetings. Please contact the treasurer to pay dues.*



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921 Gravenstein Hwy. South, Sebastopol
(next to Foster Freeze)

21 West 7th St. Santa Rosa **Western Farm Supply** 707-545-0721

Visit them to find many bee supplies and your other animals' feed and supplies.

Larry and Lou Bertolini, Owners and Sponsors of our Day Under the Oaks Display.

The Monthly Extractor
 Sonoma County Beekeepers' Assoc.
 P.O. Box 98
 Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0098

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Meetings are normally held the second Monday of each month at New College, 6th and Wilson in Santa Rosa, CA.

Plan to come the second Monday in November with some wonderful gourmet dish to share! Bring your own eating utensils, plates and glasses.

