

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 Meeting June 11 at 7 pm-Held at the new Wine Country Honey Building

2971 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa one half mile past Fulton going West. Second right turn driveway past Abramson Road.

Mead maker presentation by award winning mead brewer Bryon Birch using honey donated by members.

From Your President

The Day Under the Oaks exhibit went well. I know we recruited some new beekeepers and eased a lot of minds about the disappearing bees stories. Our thanks go to our newest member Emery Dann who not only worked extra shifts but also brought a poster he made with lots of good bee information. Emery keeps bees on his roof a few blocks from the Santa Rosa Junior College. Thanks also go to Janet Leisen, Michael Johnson, Diana Reis, Bill McClusky and Kathy Kellison who also brought cute bee pencils to give to children.

Our last meeting was a prime example of how members are pitching in to make the meetings better than ever. Marilyn Fujiyoshi shared her extensive knowledge of bee plants and was assisted by April Lance. Both these ladies are master gardeners and we are extremely grateful for their willingness to share their plants and wisdom. Thank you, both. April also came up with honey to demonstrate extraction techniques. Sean Straw demonstrated how to put together frames efficiently and I showed how to wire and embed wires into wax foundation. Sean purchased examples of the three most commonly used foundations to show the advantages and disadvantages of each.

I hope you are all getting lots of honey now that the nectar flow is at its peak! This is the time of the year the bees give us our reward for being good keepers.

Ettamarie Peterson

May 14 Meeting Notes

Nice to see such a well attended meeting with over 75 members present. Meeting opened with announcement regarding availability of swarms to good homes. Everyone is beginning to max out his or her apiaries by now. Might be great if someone could put their good ideas out there about we could better organize and respond to swarm season. There are a lot of issues. But best for bees if we can be better prepared. perhaps leave literature summarizing bee biology and role of SCBA in our county with folks reporting swarm calls.

Our master beekeeper and President, Ettamarie, explained how a solution of 1 cup mint tea with dissolved sugar sprayed on bees can help with new queen acceptance by an otherwise queenless hive.

The question of water came up and proximity to bees. Important is that whatever is identified as the location for water availability not ever run out. also current research shows bees prefer misted water, FYI.

Before we know it, yellow jackets will be about testing our hives. Entrance reducing helps bees minimize the territory they need to defend and protect colony. Your secretary offers this suggestion regarding hot weather and yellow jacket control.

Instead of solid wood or other material to reduce the entrance, screen can be folded in half and slid between bottom board and hive body. thereby reducing the entrance but still allowing for max air flow. Further, humbly, I offer that if you are seeing a lot of yellow jackets challenging or hovering there may be some things to consider re: your colony. One is that the colony is weak as bees die and have to be removed if too many bees are dying too quickly bees just end up right outside the hive entrance on the ground. My observations have been that the bees will fly remains a sufficient distance away to lessen the attraction to the hive. On the flip side of this, the colony may have too high a population and bees are dying at a rate greater than can be properly maintained. Certainly having multiple hives close together increases the attraction by yellow jackets. A healthy hive should be able to counteract however.

Fred also encourages us to think about summer and honey production. Hives that are not expending energy in cooling can produce more fielders and energy for honey production. Consider shading your hives in summer. There many ways to accomplish this and your bees with thank you in honey!

Seems the word is still not out there re: foul brood and proper disposal. Please talk, talk, talk. to fellow beekeepers about the dangers of not properly disposing of contaminated equipment by burning or radiation. Do not just throw in trash!

We had quite an introduction to Bee plants by Marilyn Fujiyoshi and April Lance both master gardeners in Sonoma County. Thank you! Also highlighted was the soldier beetle as a beneficiary for aphids.. You can access more information about bee friendly plants from California Native Plant Society's web site. After their talk our plant sale went rapidly bringing in \$34!

Our hard working, Vice President, Sean led a well prepared and thorough frame building demonstration station. Looks like many members enjoyed learning how fun and rewarding it can be to build your own frames. Fred Nelson demonstrated honey extraction and his antique extractor. April Lance brought honey and her own extractor to help our demonstration night.

Mark the next meeting on your calendars mead making.. yeah, baby!

Kathy Kellison

May 21st Board Meeting Minutes

This month's board meeting was hosted at the home of Ettamarie Peterson. Attended by Pres. Ettamarie Peterson, Treas. Donna Nelson, 1 V.P. Sean Straw and for a short while Sec. Kathy Kellison who had to dash off to save her school from a swarm of bees.

Discussion held about having a budget committee. It was decided to ask Frank Bardella if he would like to be on this committee.

April Lance has volunteered to run the raffle if we ever do one again but the board decided the plant sales were doing well to supplement our income for now. People like the door prizes. It was decided to give a never used by bees brood box at the June meeting.

Richard Wallenstein has offered the use of his beautiful apiary for an apiary meeting sometime this summer. Sean Straw will contact him to make plans and set a date. The board decided a nice pot luck picnic would be fun at this meeting.

Sean Straw reported that he is still working on updating address information for the officers to use to mail newsletters.

Kathy Kellison is working with an organization that is working on legislation to protect pollinating insects. She will write an article about this for the June newsletter.

Treasurer report submitted by Donna and accepted.

Opening balance	\$4040.91
Total Income	\$ 274.00
(\$34 of that was plants)	
Total Expenses	(\$130.94)
(Newsletter publishing & mailing)	
Net Income	\$ 143.06
<u>Current Balance</u>	<u>\$4,183.97</u>
<u>SCBA Savings</u>	<u>\$3,058.85</u>

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Minutes prepared by Ettamarie Peterson

My June Beekeeping To-Do List

By Serge Labesque

To date, there is no real consensus among scientists and beekeepers about what is causing Colony Collapse Disorder. All sorts of individuals have entertained us with a variety of theories, but as yet, none of these is prevailing. Personally, I see CCD as but one more sign that we humans have gone too far in abusing the resources of this planet in general, and honey bees in particular. "We" meaning all of us, beekeepers and non-beekeepers alike.

This said, our hives remain at risk, and we do not know what to do to protect our bees. You may think that if we knew what causes CCD, we might be able to protect our hives from the "Disorder". But we do not know, and THIS IS GOOD! Yes, this is good, because as long as what causes CCD remains a mystery, the spotlight will be on the problems of honey bees. This forces everybody to be exposed to the fundamental reasons for all the problems pollinators are facing: the massive movement of hives, the importation of foreign bees, the introduction of pathogens, the

loss of genetic diversity, the inordinate use of antibiotics and harmful chemical compounds, the disastrous agricultural practices of today... The list is long. If we knew what is causing CCD, many would soon be selling their cures, and more junk would be shoved into beehives. Everybody would then relax, reassured that CCD is under control, and the problems of honey bees would be set aside, forgotten... until the next crisis.

For this reason, I actually see this obviously dangerous situation as a great opportunity that we *must* grab in order to change for the better the ways we deal with Nature.

Focusing on beekeeping: Having bees is not like having a lone goldfish in a bowl, or some cattle inside fenced pastures. This is because bees of different colonies that may be separated by miles can and do interact, influencing each other, and ultimately their entire species. They exchange genes and can share pathogens. If we make the decision to have bees, it is *imperative* that we manage them responsibly.

Now is the time to understand how we have hurt pollinators of all sorts, and to make the necessary corrections. For beekeepers, this means stopping the massive movements of bees, queens, colonies, ending the use of antibiotics and other chemical treatments, as these interfere with the process of natural selection. For all, this means becoming aware of the importance of pollinators, and providing a safe place for them in our environment.

In the apiaries:

Hives that are in the non-irrigated hills of the interior of the county saw the end of the honeyflow around May 1st. This was to be expected after the dry beginning of the season. Yet, it was rather brutal and happened at the time when the hive populations were reaching their peak. Elsewhere, blackberries and other plants are producing generously, and it is a different story. Yet, this summer is bound to be a long and stressful season for the bees. Beekeepers beware!

With this in mind, the spring harvest will be kept at a minimum in order to leave a safe amount of stores in the hives, and sources of water need to be maintained around the apiaries.

- Harvest spring honey, with moderation.
- Be aware of situations and manipulations that can trigger robbing.
- Return extracted supers to the bees for cleaning or refilling.
- Begin preparations of hives for summer.
- Ensure that hives are adequately ventilated.
- Provide the bees with steady sources of water.
- Trap varroa mites with drone combs.
- Develop young colonies for next season.

- Requeen hives that are not performing satisfactorily, and those that have aging queens.
- Observe young queens and their offspring. Take notes for later selection, combination or replacement.

At home:

- Extract and bottle spring honey.
- Keep swarm-catching equipment ready.
- Routinely clean and scorch tools and equipment.
- Discard old and misshapen frames (solar wax melters work well at this season).
- Render capping wax.

Serge Labesque © 2007



Dear Beeks,

We need volunteers for the Gravenstein Apple Fair scheduled for 8/11 & 8/12. Please contact me by email isellhoney@gmail.com or sign up at the bee club meeting on 6/11. I will give a short rundown of the Fair and opportunities to sell your honey at the June meeting. This is a fun way to educate people about honeybees and a chance to sell some of your honey.

Thanks!

Michael A. Johnson, 2nd V.P.

707-789-0900 (office phone so best to e-mail)

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.

Wine Country Honey has an extractor members can use for \$5 a day with this money going to our association. The two association extractors are housed at Spring Maxfield's home and Ettamarie Peterson's home. They also rent for \$5 a day.

Member Ad Space

(Free ad space to all dues payers)

Kathy Cox BLOOMFIELD BEES HONEY

QUEEN BEES FOR SALE. \$20.00 marked. Call and order a queen and we'll have her marked and ready within 24 hours during the week! Nucs for sale: \$125, includes 2-hour class.

707-823-2804

1295 Bloomfield RD

Sebastopol, CA 95472-5506

<http://www.bloomfieldbeeshoney.com>

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. 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. Deposit of \$125 is required.

Apprenticeship Opportunity. Call to spend a day or a week apprenticing with Wine Country Honey beekeepers.

Wine Country Honey, 2971 Guerneville RD, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. 707-578-0797.

www.winecountryhoney.com

Linda Clary and April Lance

FOR SALE

5 only - Nucs with their own queen, own brood, own pollen and nectar \$150.

5 only - Full Hives, with bees, own brood, own pollen, own nectar, cover, inner cover, screened bottom board and hive body (medium or 9") up and running \$295 All hand raised, no chemicals ever used, followed S. Labesque teaching method, powdered sugar method. These are the nucs we proudly raised this year.

1656 West Dry Creek Road

Healdsburg, California 95448

707-478-1008 cell

707-431-1569 phone

Special Class at Beekind Store

June 16, 2007

10am - 1pm

Michael Thiele is offering a wonderful class at beekind on Saturday, June 16 from 10 am to 1pm:

If you made it to the Bee Symposium in March, he was our charming master of ceremonies. Michael's approach is unique in his very thoughtful approach to bee tending.

Bio: Michael Thiele was born in Germany and lives with his wife and two children in Sebastopol. He served as the main beekeeper at Green Gulch Farm Zen Center in Marin County and emphasizes a non-invasive, natural approach to bees and beekeeping. "The mammal with a thousand bodies" - a biodynamic approach to bee keeping.

In this time of global ecological challenges the honeybee and other pollinators are in a deep crisis. We must modify our beekeeping practices in order to both serve the bees and the environment and insure their survival. The topics of this class will include natural wax comb creation, hive management according to their instinctual life forces, forms, substances and materials for hives. There will also be a short DVD on traditional skep beekeeping. Beginners are welcome. (Note: The class is not advocating skep beekeeping, as it is not legal in the USA)

Space is limited so sign up soon at beekind: 707- 824-2905

\$35.00

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!

If you register by mid-June, you will save some money.

I Learned About Beekeeping From This

By Ettamarie Peterson (with permission from Serge)

We all know Serge Labesque is an outstanding beekeeper. Some might not know how he learned about moving his hives to new locations around the county. The lesson was a painful one, he will tell you.

Serge's first hive was a derelict one a near-by neighbor turned over to him. It was totally falling apart so he transferred the entire colony into a brand-new one. He told me that his plan was to then move the improved hive over to his home. I advised him to bring it over to my place for a little while so the bees would re-orient themselves. I explained the 3 feet or 3 mile rule to him. Well, Serge carefully netted the hive and put it into his little truck and brought it over. As soon as he set it down in my yard, he took off the netting. The bees chased us away from the hive and poor Serge took some stings on his unprotected head! Now he knows to let the bees settled down for a while before turning them loose!

If you want to be part of a national study of the new Colony Collapse Disorder, fill out the questionnaire at <<http://beealert.blackfoot.net/~beealert/surveys/BeeLossSurvey.pdf>>



Bee Trivia

Nurse bees surround the newly hatched larva with a sort of milk secreted from their head glands. This protein-, fat-, and sugar-rich food supplies nutrients to the offspring during their first three days. After that they receive a coarser mixture of honey and pollen.

What's In Bloom

Rosemary, lavender, roses (bees like the old fashion ones), catalpa trees, wild mustard, vetch, California poppies, wild radish, clover, dandelions, borage, love-in-a mist and blackberries. This is the peak month for nectar flow!

Removing the Sting From Beekeeping

From RFID JOURNAL:

RFID helps put an end to beehive thievery.

By Mary Catherine O'Connor

Last spring, a beekeeper in northern California had 160 hives stolen from an almond tree farm one night-and the hives he replaced them with stolen the next. Almond growers need bees to pollinate almond flowers, but the decline of domesticated bee populations in the United States has created a shortage of hives. It now costs \$150 to \$200 to rent a hive, making them a sweet target for unscrupulous beekeepers.

A company called Bee Alert, which has worked with the U.S. Army to train bees for military applications, such as the detection of toxic chemicals, teamed with systems integration firm Integral RFID to develop Hive Sentry, an RFID antitheft system that alerts owners when hives in the field are being moved.

A 303-MHz active tag from RF Code is buried inside each hive. It beacons its unique ID every 12 seconds when the tag is stationary and every two seconds when it's in motion. An RF Code interrogator connected to an RS232 Bluetooth adapter communicates with a PDA cell phone wirelessly; both are stored in a weatherproof box, powered by a car battery. When the interrogator detects a moving tag, it sends a text message to the owner's cell phone. Hive Sentry, which will be available in the fall, promises to put an end to bee-napping.

Protecting All Pollinators

By Kathy Kellison

In late May the Pollinator Conservation Act of 2007 was introduced into the Senate authored by Senators Baucus and Chambliss. Partners for Sustainable Pollination was proud to be among the co-sponsors.

If you have not heard of PFSP, that is because it is a newly chartered non-profit organization with the mission of pursuing partner-based, collaborative approach founded on sound science, working with willing farmers, beekeepers, scientists to develop, demonstrate and validate ways to improve EHB health and incorporate more native pollinators, managed and unmanaged into meeting field crop pollination needs in the U.S.

With over 95% of honeybees in the U.S. consolidated into migratory practice and the associated stresses with the intensive management required, PFSP advocates for the needs of bees, and beekeepers to improve the conditions and serve everyone's best interest.

The bill that was introduced into the Senate is a great first step towards creating legislation that will allow for demonstration projects on agricultural lands with willing farmers/growers and cooperating large scale beekeepers to create conditions that will allow for some hives to remain year round facilitating habit restoration to promote increased flora which can subsequently

result increase forage on ag. lands building on the ability for more hives to become established. Since the conditions for native bees are compatible with the needs for established bees there is potential for all pollinators to benefit.

Currently, PFSP is working to push forward the benefits of screen bottoms to increase the health of hives and dialing back from harsh chemicals used in pest management. As well, is advocating for investigating the issue of packaged bees, imported from Australia, and their negative impact on the overall beekeeping industry because of their lack of mite tolerance. See current article in May, [Bee Culture](#), for more justification on that issue. The members also want to see a channel developed for beekeepers in the industry to have more say in the science that is conducted by USFA regarding EHB's.

Anyone concerned about pollinators and honeybee health can join PFSP. You do not need to be a beekeeper to join. Gardeners, maintaining gardens with practices safe for bees and related pollinators are a huge part of maintaining healthy ecosystems. Hobbyists can contribute to helping protect EHB species vitality by maintaining apiaries locally providing honeybees with the ability to become strong through adaptation to local microclimates and open mating. Large scale beekeepers willing to volunteer to participate in governmentally funded incentives programs along with willing growers are key in demonstrating the viability of restoring habitat where feasible on agricultural lands and reducing some portion of hives imported to service the bloom. Experts in the field of bee biology and their home universities willing to accept grant monies to conduct field study and data collection to validate the success of such demonstration projects will be essential to moving in a sustainable method of pollination for future generations.

There is no charge for joining PFSP. It is in the process of filing for non-profit status. For more information, please contact Kathy Kellison k.kellison@earthlink.net

The Lake Isle of Innisfree

- William Butler Yeats

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there,
for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

Thanks to Barbara Schlumberger for posting this on our Yahoo List.

June Recipes

Honey Almond Grilling Glaze

3 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1/2-cup (1 stick) butter
1 cup slivered almonds
2 tablespoons Cajun-style seasoning mixture
1 cup chopped celery
1-cup clover or other mild honey
1 teaspoon freshly grated lemon zest
1-cup chicken broth
1/8 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg

In a small saucepan over medium heat, melt unsalted butter. Whisk in the flour until smooth and cook for 1 to 2 minutes, or until the mixture smells slightly nutty; set aside. In 10-inch skillet over medium-high heat, melt the remaining stick of butter. When the butter begins to sizzle, add the almonds, Cajun seasoning and celery. Cook, stirring frequently until the almonds are browned. Stir in the honey, lemon zest, broth and nutmeg. Cook, stirring occasionally, to let the flavors blend, about 3 minutes. Whisk in the reserved butter mixture until the sauce has slightly thickened, 30 to 60 seconds. Remove from the heat.

Brush the glaze on the top surface of the grilled food about 1 minute before it's done. Don't glaze the other side; just let the heat of the grill set the glaze on top. This is also yummy as a finishing sauce.

Makes 8 servings (2 1/2 cups of sauce for 2 pounds of sausage). Sausage not included in nutritional values.

Approximate values per serving: 396 calories, 26 g fat, 11 g saturated fat, 43 mg cholesterol, 42 g carbohydrates, 5 g protein, 391 mg sodium, 2 g fiber, 59 percent calories from fat.

source: AZ Central newspaper, Wednesday, May 23, 2007 (Via Daphne Luke – Thanks, Daphne)

Carrot Pie

3/4 C. sugar	1/2 tsp. nutmeg
2 Tbsp. honey	2 eggs, lightly beaten
1/2 tsp. salt	2 C. cooked, sieved carrots
1 tsp. cinnamon	1 C. evaporated milk
1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice	1 unbaked 9 inch pie shell

Combine sugar, salt, spices; add remaining ingredients, mixing well. Pour into pastry-lined pie plate. Bake in preheated oven at 400° F. for 45 minutes or until filling is firm. Yield: 6 servings.

From Joe Carcione's [the greengrocer cookbook 1975](#)

SCBA Executive Board 2007

Pres. Ettamarie Peterson
president@sonomabees.org 707-765-4582
Past Pres. Kathy Cox
pastpresident@sonomabees.org 707-823-2804
Vice Pres. - Sean Straw
vicepresident@sonomabees.org
1-415-342-2833
2nd Vice President – Michael Johnson 707-789—0900
vp2@sonomabees.org
Secretary –Kathy Kellison -
secretary@sonomabees.org 707-526-0705
Treasurer Donna Nelson
treasurer@sonomabees.org 707- 575-9761
Librarian – Michael Johnson
librarian@sonomabees.org 707-789-0900
Reps. at Large Hector Alvarez 707- 579-9416
Serge Labesque nonprofit@sonomabees.org 707-996-3149
Historian –Jackie Whitford 707-526-1029
geofwhitford@yahoo.com
Editor Ettamarie Peterson –
editor@sonomabees.org 765-4582
Swarm Chairperson- Sean Straw
swarms@sonomabees.org
Extractor Tech- Call Ettamarie 765-4582 or Spring
Maxfield 527-5913

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.

21 West 7th St. Santa Rosa
707-545-0721

Western Farm Supply

Now are taking orders for packaged bees.
Larry and Lou Bertolini, Owners and Sponsors of our Day Under the Oaks Display.



ALLEGRA
PRINT & IMAGING

For all your printing needs:

Specializing in:

Business Cards

Labels

& Stationery

Call 707 575-9334

E-mail allegrasr@aol.com

BARDELLA & ASSOCIATES

Taxes – Consulting – Financial Reporting

By Appointment
707-829-4800
800-758-0599
FAX 707-823-2865
702 Litchfield Ave.
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Frank Bardella, EA and Barbara Bardella, EA

Enrolled to practice before the Internal Revenue Service

e-mail: bardella@bardella.com

<http://www.bardella.com>

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

POST MASTER: RETURN SERVICE
 REQUESTED

Table of Contents

1	Calendar President's Letter April Meeting Minutes
2	April Meeting Minutes continued April Board Minutes May Beekeeping To-Do List -S. Labesque
3	To-Do list continued Member Ad Space Apimondia
4	Kathy Cox Retires from Wine Country Honey I Learned About Beekeeping from This –Janet Leisen Bee Trivia May Recipes A Honey Bee Research Foundation Project
5	What's in Bloom Book Review From Sacramento Beekeeper Honey Bee Genome Sequenced
6	Ask Your Questions on Our Friendly List May Meeting Information
7	SCBA Executive Board Ads

Meetings are normally held 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Wine Country Honey 2971 Guerneville Rd in Santa Rosa, CA.

Please bring light honey to contribute to the mead maker. Let Sean Straw know if you can do that.

Call Mike Johnson if you want to volunteer for Gravenstein Apple Fair Aug.11 and/or 12.