

# 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 Sept. 10th 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.**

**Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>- Last day to enter your honey and other things in the Harvest Fair!**

**Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>- First day of Serge's Introduction to Beekeeping class.**

### **From Your President**

Michael Johnson did an awesome job organizing and getting volunteers to set up, sell, and tell the public about bees. The sellers were Hector Alvarez, Fred and Donna Nelson, Doug Vincent, Glenn Murphy and Kathy Cox. The volunteers were Richard Crosby, Brittney Yolo, Janet Leisen, Don and Mickey Marshall, Frank Bardella, Barbara Jo Alois, Joe Martinez, Ettamarie Peterson, Daphne Luke, Serge Labesque and Michael Johnson. One of Hector's friend stayed by the observation hive to talk about bees. Kathy Kellison was kind enough to bring two big water containers for hand washing. We thank all of these people for making it another great educational display.

Speaking of Hector, he came over a week later to help me rebuild my observation hive using a frame of brood from one hive and a frame of honey and pollen from another. It was really kind of him to take time out of his busy schedule to do that. He also made me feel good when he evaluated the hives we looked through to "borrow" those frames from. He told me they were good strong hives. There is nothing more enjoyable than watching Hector work with bees. He truly cares about each little bee and handles every one with respect. Thanks, Hector!

Serge took a lot of photos that he gave to me on a disk. I took some as well. If I ever get any time, I would like to make a collage of these great photos.

We passed out some copies of the August and May newsletters to interested people and encouraged them to join us.

Our new tent needs a little work to make it more bee proof but all those bees buzzing around the honey samples were not escapees. There are beehives near the park and a feral hive in one of the old oak trees. They just couldn't resist all those free samples! It was interesting to see how calm the public stayed in spite of all the bees landing in everyone's honey samples! All the sellers were doing a good job educating the public about remaining calm.

Another big thank you goes to Marilyn Fujiyoshi who is sharing her enthusiasm for plants so much that we made at least \$50 in sales at our August meeting! Don't forget to make cuttings or divides of anything you can contribute. Neither Marilyn nor I will be at the meeting in September but I hope some people bring and sell plants while we are gone.

While you are reading this I will be off on my trip to New Zealand and Australia. In Australia I will take a tour of Tasmania and then attend Apimondia in Melbourne. I hope to learn a lot and be able to share the knowledge with you. I shall return September 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Ettamarie Peterson*

### **To Move or Not to Move**

Some members of the Association have been advocating that the monthly meetings be held in another location. After long discussion at the officers' board meeting, it was decided that this is a matter that the membership must decide. At the September meeting anyone that wants to may formally make a motion that the Association move to a new location. This motion would have to have a second and then after a discussion, it would be voted upon. This is the democratic way to resolve this matter.

Please be a good and respectful member throughout this process. We do not want this issue to cause the Association to loose sight of its main purpose that is to learn and teach others about the best ways to help honey bees. (See goal in banner.)

Ettamarie Peterson, President

### **Aug. 13, 2007 General Meeting**

Meeting called to order by our energetic president with approximately 45 members in attendance, including 5 new members, Welcome!

Announcements included a class at Beekind offered September 2nd with Serge Labesque as the instructor and also Serge will be teaching his annual fall classes on beginning and intermediate beekeeping at the Santa Rosa J.C. starting on September 10th. The Solar Living Center in Hopland is also offering a beekeeping class on September 15th featuring Serge as the instructor.

Depending on the geography of the location of your hives they may need close monitoring to insure there are adequate stores not only of honey but more importantly pollen to raise bees that will ultimately need to carry the colony through winter. It is imperative that these bees be well fed! Remember that September can often bring the hottest temperatures of the season, and reducing your hives exposure to extreme heat can be accomplished in many ways including follower boards to buffer and help ventilate the hive.

Thanks to Sean, one of two of our club's hard working vice presidents, we had another quality presentation. This month Dr. Kenneth Kurtz, who specializes in treating allergies for Kaiser Permanente, brought us the latest information regarding

**understanding reactions to honey bee stings.**

There are two levels of reactions that being stung may produce. A reaction that is restricted to the area or contiguous with the sting site is usually not considered life threatening but may still require medical attention. The general agreement is that after 4 hours of being stung, one can be reasonably assured that they will not suffer a life threatening reaction, but this is not absolute!

The second level of reaction is characterized by a response in the body that is 'systematic' and disconnected from the actual site of the sting itself. This level of reaction can produce life-threatening symptoms. Examples of 'systematic' responses include but are not limited to: an 'impending premonition of doom', skin flushing, bumpy rash, swelling hives, swelling of the wind pipe (difficulty breathing), gastric or even menstrual like discomfort, asthma/hayfever like symptoms, racing heart, lost of blood pressure and or consciousness. Dr. Kurtz is adamant that if you or someone you know experiences these 'systematic' or generalized reactions that are disconnected from the sting site itself, medical attention is needed, and depending on the severity, in an extreme time sensitive manner, i.e., call 911!

Regarding beekeepers or anyone for that matter, who keep an 'Epi Pen", handy to treat extreme reactions termed anaphylaxis, swelling of the wind pipe, it is well to know that there can be life threatening reactions to the 'Epi Pen'. The consensus was that in such an emergency call 911 and advise them you have an 'Epi Pen'. Dr. Kurtz stated that there are about 40 deaths a year attributed to honey bee stings though the actual amount he believes is higher.

One can be tested to see if they are allergic to honey bee venom and be treated to minimize or even eliminate their reaction. Depending on the individual, allergy to honey bee venom can be reduced significantly in a few weeks or months and if protocols are continued ranging from 3 to 5 years, the treatment is permanent.

Congratulations to our association for another fine exhibit at the annual Gravenstien Apple Fair. A huge thank you to our V.P. Michael who organized our club's area and set - up! Thank you to all of our members who contributed time in setting up and breaking down and volunteering to answer questions during the two days!  
Kathy Kellison, Secretary

**Aug. 20th, 2007 Board Meeting**

This month's board meeting was held at the home of our club's president, Ettamarie. Present were Ettamarie, 1 VP Sean Straw, Sec. Kathy Kellison, and Treas. Donna Nelson.

It was necessary to examine our club's 2006 Federal Tax return for modifications needed.

The treasurer made out and will mail a donation to the Laidlaw Bee Lab for the amount of \$250 as voted on at the last board meeting.

We will be again organizing a Silent Auction for the November meeting. Believe or not it is already time to consider nominations for next year's club officers. We would like to encourage any one interested to step forward!

Discussion was held regarding changing the location of our monthly general membership meeting due to some requests made to various officers. There will be a vote taken at our next meeting if a member wants to make a motion and if it is seconded.

Treasurer's report was submitted and approved.

Opening Balance \$4,271.88

**Income**

Membership \$ 65.00  
Plant sales \$ 65.00  
Extractor rental \$ 5.00  
Grav. Apple Fair Sales \$ 343.95  
Total Income \$ 478.95

**Expenses**

Grav. Apple Fair Vendor Fee \$ 34.00  
Books \$ 30.00  
Printing \$ 124.83  
Postage \$ 41.00  
Honey Sticks \$ 351.75  
Harvest Fair Application \$ 200.00  
New Bee Tent \$ 112.05  
Total Expenses \$ 893.63

Net income (\$414.68)

Current balance \$3857.20

Savings account balance \$3062.70

Kathy Kellison, Secretary

**Call for volunteers and honey sellers**

The Harvest Fair at the Sonoma County Fair Grounds will be held in October on the 5th, 6th and 7th. The SCBA has a booth to promote honeybees to the general public and to allow its members the opportunity to sell their honey and hive products. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer to help educate people about bees or plan on selling your wares at the fair. Any amount of time volunteered will be greatly appreciated. Even if you are new to beekeeping you are welcome to help support the club by volunteering for this great event. We will have hive components, pictures, an observation hive and the always-popular bee tent at our booth. Please don't be shy and contact me. This is another great opportunity to help educate the public about bees and to hang out with other club members who are selling their wares.

Michael Johnson, 2VP 707-789-0900 (office number)

**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>

#### **Linda Clary and April Lance**

##### **FOR SALE**

Beehives for sale. Nuc's \$150. Whole hives as large or small as you like - to beginning beekeepers only. \$30.00 per frame of bees, plus a complimentary queen.

1656 West Dry Creek Road  
Healdsburg, California 95448  
707-478-1008 cell  
707-431-1569 phone

#### **Bee Trivia**

Alexander the Great died thousands of miles from home. His men carried his preserved body home for burial in a golden coffin filled with honey. (I bet it was really, really heavy!)

#### **What's In Bloom**

Yarrow, sunflowers, roses (bees like the old fashion ones), wild mustard, mint, wild radish, marigolds, agastache, borage, plantain, sedum, pennyroyal, asters, cosmos, thyme and peppers.

***Please bring plants and/or cuttings to donate to our plant sale table! Thanks***

#### **Introduction to Beekeeping Class at SRJC**

Serge Labesque will be teaching a four-week course on beginning beekeeping. The class will be starting Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> and meet each Monday evening at 6:30 until Oct. 1. Class location is room 9069 Emeritus Hall, Santa Rosa Campus. Fee is \$67, which includes \$5 for materials. The emphasis in the class is on beehive management techniques as practiced in Sonoma County using neither antibiotics nor artificial pesticides.

The follow-up course for intermediate beekeeping will be held on Monday, Oct 15<sup>th</sup> and 22 at 6:30 in room 9066 Emeritus Hall.

These are not for credit courses.

See details at [www.santarosa.edu/community](http://www.santarosa.edu/community) or call 707-527-4372 for the catalog.

#### **SCBA's Purpose**

Opinion by Donna Nelson

What is the purpose of The Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association? Our association mission statement is, "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."

We are suppose to be here as a Bee Association to help the new and seasoned beekeepers learn how to keep and enjoy beekeeping. Beekeeping, today, is a very enjoyable hobby. Beekeeping is not as easy now because of the mites, diseases and other environmental influences a hive may be subjected. Years ago when my father-in-law started beekeeping in (1948), he could start a hive and the hive was fine until it was time to take the honey off the hive. We have a few older beekeepers in the organization that can help nature the new beekeeper and can pass on their knowledge. It has been said that if you have one hundred beekeepers in a room that you will have one hundred different ways of doing beekeeping. That doesn't means that some are wrong, it just means they have a different way to do beekeeping.

We as a Bee Association are here to promote beekeeping. We are not here to promote any commercial beekeeping business. We are fortunate to have more than one business to provide the supplies locally for the beekeepers but as a Bee Association we need not support any individual business.

The reasons we started meeting at our present location was:

1. The Beekeepers' Association is not paying to meet at the present location.
2. We as a Beekeepers' Association have a place to work in a beehive to show beekeepers what they want to learn.
3. Parking was available.
4. Our library (books and videos) is easily accessible.
5. The location is central to most attendees.

The Sonoma County Beekeeper's Association is an excellent Beekeepers' Organization. Thanks to all who work hard to make it a great Beekeepers' Association. We have many excellent beekeepers with different ways of keeping bees. Fred and I have talked to many beekeepers in other areas and they have told us that they wish there was a Beekeepers' Association in their area like ours. Let's all pull together and get back to our stated goals.

# My September Beekeeping To-Do List

By Serge Labesque

## Ann's Hive

Anybody who knew them could tell that Ann and Andrew deeply loved each other. Andrew was always full of energy and cheerful. He possessed a keen sense of good humor and a remarkable intelligence. Andrew loved life. Not too surprising in view of the long list of various interests he pursued, he had wanted to have bees for a long time.

So, a few winters ago, Ann bought a hive for Andrew, who enjoyed them immensely. The bees helped him through a long and difficult illness. Sadly, Andrew passed away a couple of years later.

Now, twice a year, Ann calls me to come and take care of her hive. Actually, I should say "Andrew's bees", as Ann puts it.

My visits to Ann's hive are usually fairly simple. This is definitely not what I would call hive management, as my interventions are limited to two yearly checkups and minimal manipulations that correspond to the most important times in the beekeeping year: early spring, and fall. Most often, the bees seem to be healthy and doing an excellent job on their own. Prying the hive components apart is a big part of the work because of the heavy propolis build-up. More than with any other hives, this one makes me feel that I am violating its space. But once this has been done, the bees are extremely docile, and there is always something to do to re-assure me that I can contribute to the well being of the colony.

My first visit of the year takes place in the early part of the spring. The brood chamber is checked for strength, development and signs of disease. The brood nest is placed on the hive bottom to give it room to expand upwards, and the honey supers that have been stored during the winter above the hive top feeder are placed directly above the brood chamber. No queen excluder is used. Some years, there is even a little surplus honey to harvest, even though it may be early in the season.

The next time I see the hive is at the end of the summer, or in the early fall. Honey is harvested, and the brood chamber is prepared for winter. This preparation for winter amounts to ensuring that the hive is healthy, that the brood nest is nicely centered on the bottom board, and that adequate amounts of stores will be accessible to the colony during the following months. Most years, the bees do a beautiful job of preparing themselves, and my intervention is limited to verifying that there is no abnormal or unhealthy condition. After Ann has scraped the honey from the harvested frames, these are returned to the bees for cleaning, by setting them above the hive top feeder, where they stay until the following spring.

One way or another, through swarming or supersedure, the hive appears to requeen itself. It also maintains an admirable vitality and regularly provides Ann with a generous supply of fragrant and beautiful golden honey.

Andrew, may your bees multiply and swarm forever.

## In the apiaries:

Come September, we are arriving at that pivotal point in time in the beekeeping season: the preparations of hives for winter. The colonies have to be evaluated, and sometimes, tough decisions must be made: Which hives will be kept going into winter?

- Harvest surplus summer honey.
- Inspect and, if necessary, re-organize the brood nests: Reverse the brood chambers when the bees have vacated the lower part of the brood chambers.
- Reduce hive volume (introduce follower boards as necessary).
- Facilitate the consolidation of stores around the brood nests, while preventing honeybound conditions, as we need nurse bees to rear the winter bees in the fall.
- Manage frames in preparation for fall culling of the old and misshapen ones.
- Consolidate honey in honey supers (move unsealed partial frames above hive top feeder or inner cover, and reduce honey super volume with follower boards).
- In a similar manner, give extracted supers and cappings to the bees to be cleaned.
- Observe the development of young colonies and the performance of young queens.
- Combine hives.
- Ensure that bees have access to water at all times.
- Watch for yellow jackets and any instance of robbing. If necessary, reduce entrances of developing colonies and those under attack.
- Maintain adequate and safe ventilation in hives.

## At home:

- Extract, ripen, bottle, and enjoy harvested honey.
- Render capping wax. This wax may be saved to make foundation, starter strips, and queen cups.
- Routinely clean and scorch tools and equipment.
- Cull old and misshapen combs.

Serge Labesque © 2007

## **BIODYNAMIC BEEKEEPING**

### **"THE MAMMAL WITH A THOUSAND BODIES"**

September 23rd, 2007

10am - 1pm

The response to this class was so wonderful we are going to do it again.

Taught by Michael Theile

Michael Thiele was born in Germany and served as the main beekeeper at Green Gulch Farm Zen Center in Marin County. He now lives in Sebastopol with his wife and children.

Topics of this class will include natural wax comb creation and hive management (according to the bees

own instinctual life forces, forms, substances and materials).  
 Beginners are welcome. \$35.00  
 Space is limited so sign up soon at beekind:  
 707- 824-2905 Katia Vincent  
 beekindbees@aol.com  
 beekind Honey Shop and Beekeeping Supplies  
 921 Gravenstein Hwy. South  
 Sebastopol, CA 95472  
 (707) 824-2905

### **Collapsed Hive = Honey not Contaminated**

Editor's note: I meant to run this in last month's newsletter. Leonard was kind enough to share these thoughts with us. It will be interesting to see how they do come winter.

I had four colonies at one location, each separated from the next by about eighteen inches. One of the center hives died – no bees were present dead or alive and no robbers. This abandoned colony had 1 full size and one ¾ brooder box. Both had a lot of mostly capped honey. As I recall, I discovered this in March 2007. I stored the supers with honey inside until I had collected two swarms. I then started each swarm with a box of this honey. I placed each of the new swarms at two new (and different) locations. Both swarms grew and prospered. They are doing fine and filling a honey super each.

So, I am of the opinion that whatever caused the hive to collapse did not contaminate the honey. I plan to use the honey collected in the honey supers. This experiment makes me feel the honey is safe to use after the bees left it. I still wonder why other bees didn't rob it.

Another point of interest I can't explain. I have three colonies at one location. Hive one has a good population and no honey in its honey super. Hive two produced 42 lbs of honey so far. Hive three produced 90 lbs of honey and is the only colony that doesn't have a screen bottom board. I robbed these colonies the first week of July. No chemicals were used on these hives, only powdered sugar and grease patties.

Is genetics the reason?

Leonard Riepenhoff

### **Ran out of gas....**

A man was driving down the road and ran out of gas. Just at that moment, a bee flew in his window. The bee said, "What seems to be the problem"?

"I'm out of gas."

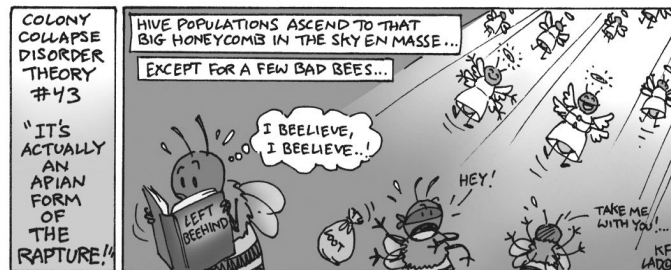
The bee told the man to wait right there and flew away. Minutes later, the man watched as an entire swarm of bees flew to his car and into his gas tank. After a few minutes, the bees flew out.

"Try it now," said one bee.

The man turned the ignition key and the car started right up.

"Wow!" the man exclaimed. "What did you put in my gas tank"?

The bee answered, "BP."



### **California State Beekeepers Association Conference to be Held Nov. 13-15**

The annual convention of CSBA will be held on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> to Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> in Harrah's Lake Tahoe. Speakers will be there from all over the country.

For more information and a convention packet, contact Patricia Johnson at [castatebeekeepers@hotmail.com](mailto:castatebeekeepers@hotmail.com) or call (209) 667-4590.

### **Showing an Extracting Frame?**

If you put Scotch tape on the exposed surfaces of the woodwork it should be easy to peel off after filling by the bees to leave a pristine surface for showing or marketing.

Chris Slade (on Irish List)

### **Bamboo fencing hive shades**

By Alice and Dennis Ford-Sala

At the last bee meeting, there was a question about providing shade for hives that isn't too expensive. We only have two hives, but this worked well for us, and could be used in larger apiaries: Buy inexpensive bamboo fencing, cut it to fit what your needs are, anchor it on the top with rocks or bricks. It's easy to work with; you can replace it as needed. We have it sticking out two feet past the top of the hives, then drape it down on the west side to provide some extra afternoon shade. As our hives are next to each other, we drape the whole thing across both. It really decreased the fanning activity in the afternoons, as did removing the monitor boards as Ettamarie suggested. Hope that helps!

Posted on our very own sonomabees list-

To visit your group on the web, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sonomabees/>

### **Silent Auction and Gourmet Dinner Night**

In November we have had a tradition of having a potluck dinner where the members not only bring their favorite dishes but they have a chance to win a prize for them. The awards go to the best salad, the best main dish, the best dessert and the best dish made with honey. Last year we decide to also have a silent auction on the same evening. We plan to do this again this year.

To make this auction a success we need members to bring items they want to donate. It is nice if they are bee related items but it is not necessary. If you know a merchant that might want to donate something, please tell the merchant we will be happy to send him a donation receipt as we are a 501 c 3 organization and that makes it tax deductible. Please call or e-mail the 1<sup>st</sup> VP Sean Straw if you plan to bring a donation to this auction.

The potluck dinner is an evening for the entire family. Let your children and spouses know they are welcome. It is a fun evening where we really have a chance to get to know each other better.

## Recipes for September

### Double Lavender Honey Ice Cream

By Stephanie Rosenbaum

Lavender is an easy herb to grow, but you can also find edible lavender flowers sold at online spice shops like Penzeys. This makes a lovely warm-weather dessert with sliced fresh strawberries and shortbread cookies.

Time/Servings: Total Time: 6 hrs. Active Time: 30 mins  
Makes: 1 1/2 pints

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1/2 cup lavender honey
- 1 tablespoon dried lavender flowers
- Pinch of sea salt

#### Instructions

In a heavy pan over moderate heat, warm the cream, milk, honey, lavender, and salt until tiny bubbles are just beginning to form around the edges. Remove from heat, cover, and let steep for 30 minutes.

Strain cream mixture through a sieve, discarding lavender.

Cover custard with plastic wrap and refrigerate until chilled, at least 4 hours.

Freeze custard in an ice cream maker, following the manufacturer's directions. Pack into a container, cover tightly, and freeze until firm.

Source: [www.chow.com/recipes](http://www.chow.com/recipes)

#### Simple Sue Bee Tomato Salad

(Of course we would use our own local honey)

- ¼ Cup Honey
- ½ Cup red wine vinaigrette salad dressing
- 2 large tomatoes cut into bite-sized chunks
- ½ Cup sliced sweet onion

Mix honey and vinaigrette and toss with tomatoes and onion.

Serves 4

(Editor's note: If you have some spare zucchini you want to use up, chop it up raw and add to this salad.)

## Linden Trees

Linden trees make excellent honey. The Europeans call them Lime Trees but they are not a citrus tree at all. Mickey Marshall posted on our yahoo list, "I got my trees at Harmony Farm Supply here in Graton. The older of the two (10 years) is about 30 feet tall and magnificent. It thrives here and is a bee magnet in June and July. I loved it so much I got another one which is about 12 feet tall now and coming along. Also, there is a linden at the Korbel gardens that they say the original owner brought from middle Europe when they moved here in the 1800s.

My lindens are turning now and have bright golden leaves. They really are great trees."



SCBA Executive Board 2007

Pres. Ettamarie Peterson  
[president@sonomabees.org](mailto:president@sonomabees.org) 707-765-4582  
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[treasurer@sonomabees.org](mailto:treasurer@sonomabees.org) 707- 575-9761  
Librarian – Michael Johnson  
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Reps. at Large Hector Alvarez 707- 579-9416  
Serge Labesque [nonprofit@sonomabees.org](mailto:nonprofit@sonomabees.org) 707-996-3149  
Historian –Jackie Whitford 707-526-1029  
[geofwhitford@yahoo.com](mailto:geofwhitford@yahoo.com)  
Editor Ettamarie Peterson –  
[editor@sonomabees.org](mailto:editor@sonomabees.org) 765-4582  
Swarm Chairperson- Sean Straw  
[swarms@sonomabees.org](mailto:swarms@sonomabees.org)  
Extractor Tech- Call Ettamarie 765-4582 or Spring  
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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.*

21 West 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



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 Sonoma County Beekeepers' Assoc.  
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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 call or e-mail Mike Johnson to volunteer for the Harvest Fair held Oct. 5, 6 and 7, 2007!*

*Be(e)ing Exhibition at Sonoma Co. Museum opens Sept. 22*