

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 –Nov. 8- Dr. Eric Mussen from U.C. Davis here to speak to us on latest information about CCD and other questions we might have. Also nominations of 2011 Board members, please volunteer or nominate someone who will accept!

From the President "ACCOMPLISH MORE...BY DOING LESS?"

How can anyone accomplish more by doing less? Here is a quote you may have seen:
"The hurrier I go, the behinder I get!"

How often have I tried to go faster, do more by rushing to or through my hives only to have the job take twice as long because I have forgotten to bring what I need to use with me?

"I can't find my hive tool (I have 5 hive tools somewhere!)...I forgot to bring the lighter for my smoker...where is my _____?...etc., ad nauseum! This does not apply to every beekeeper, but it can be a problem, even if it happens sometimes.

There is a time to go fast...there are emergencies. But if I am under too much stress and every phone call or job becomes an emergency because of poor planning on my part, I will not be very effective. Doing more, faster and faster may actually result in lost time, lifting too much weight, mistakes, accidents, or forgetting to keep frames tightly together for the proper "bee space". Yes, there is much to think about and it is easy to forget all kinds of things.

As Bob reminded us at our October meeting, it is valuable to take good simple notes so we can remember what we have done and what each hive may need; "working smarter, not harder!" Hector gave us details on how to avoid raising wax moths on comb we remove from our hives. Doug from Beekind discussed feeding bees to help hives survive the winter.

A cognitive neuroscientist at Northwestern University, Mark Jung-Beeman (interesting name!), has discovered that when we are beset by too many distractions, whether sensory or internal, we need to quiet the distractions, "noise" and busyness in our brains, and physically relax. This will increase our focus and effectiveness. We can increase our ability to innovate or solve particularly difficult problems when we are the least busy!

If our minds and bodies are tense, we need to pause and relax. Taking breaks increases our creativity and ability to accomplish more. It is remarkably beneficial!

Here is a quotation from Yogi Berra, New York Yankees Hall of Fame baseball player, "If I had known I was going to live this long (as a beekeeper--my addition), I would have taken better care of myself!" Keep in mind

there are times when we need to do more to accomplish more. We need balance in doing enough but not stressing out, either. It is called "pacing" which includes time for clean up and putting away what we have used.

Beekeeping has intense stretches of time. Timing is critical to do what is best for our bees at the right time! We need vision, planning and to be rested enough to improve our effectiveness. As Will said at our October meeting, "Now and this winter is a good time to prepare for next year, getting our equipment and supplies ready for Spring...." Plan now to avoid the rush we know is coming! Prioritize what has to be done and say "NO" to what is not a priority or interferes with what we must accomplish. We can improve our effectiveness for 2011 and take better care of ourselves and our honey bees.

This THANKSGIVING SEASON is a good time to be thankful for our personal relationships and evaluate our effectiveness (strengths and weaknesses) so we can "ACCOMPLISH MORE... BY DOING MORE OR LESS!" It's your choice!

From the President, *Emery Dann*

BOARD MINUTES 10/11/10

All present were Emery Dann, Randy Sue Collins, Sierra Castillo, Ettamarie Peterson and Darlene Taylor. Meeting came to order at 5:40pm. We had a review of the Harvest Faire and SCBA made approximately \$700.

No treasurer's report due to Thea Verling our treasurer being absent.

Topics discussed were: The Seed Bank event coming up on Oct. 28 in which the movie "Vanishing of the Bees" will play; the Insecta-Palooza event Oct. 30th at SSU; new officers positions/training/nominations and the possibility of combining 1st & 2nd vice presidents' current position to create a vice president position that encompasses membership tasks; Eric Mussen confirmation for the November general meeting; our new web site needs and possibilities. Randy Sue talked with a CPA to discuss tax filing and we filed a 990-N in order to keep our tax exempt status.

Randy Sue motioned that we pay up to \$200 for tax consultation. Motion was seconded by Sierra. Motion was voted on and passed.

Randy Sue will update and simplify our current membership application and keep the swarm list as a separate application.

Submitted by Darlene Taylor, Secretary

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 10/11/10

Meeting commenced at 7:07 pm with 50 people present.

As folks arrived Lyn Briner had set up two microscopes with samples of bees with pollen sacks, bees without pollen sacks and drones to look at and say oo and ah over! You could even see the little hairs that cover the compact lens eyes. How fascinating! Thank you Lyn for sharing the scientific side of bees with the group!

Emery announced that we would be accepting nominations in November for 2011 new board member positions. Anyone interested in becoming a board member, please come forward and let us know. Officer job descriptions will be written in the November Extractor. There are no term limits but we do ask that you commit to at least one year. In December we will have our annual potluck meeting when the new officers will be voted on. The best dishes will also have a vote with prizes for the lucky winners!

Christine brought in pink poppy and borage seeds to give away for a small donation to SCBA. Thank you Christine! Leonard and Jane who keep bees in Petaluma won first place at the Harvest Faire for the best tasting honey in the amateur category as well as "Best of Show" and "Best of Section". They graced us with a taste of this trophy winning honey, as well as a half pound jar for sale for only \$100! (Kidding of course). The honey was harvested from a swarm they had rescued in the spring, which had landed on a neighbor's car. Their beautiful trophy and ribbons were on display and they themselves were beaming. Congratulations Leonard and Jane! Newcomers to the meeting were Ken and Jill from unincorporated Santa Rosa who are 8-9 year old beekeepers that came for info/help regarding neighbors complaining that their bees are trespassing in their yard! - A lively discussion ensued with many good suggestions including having the Ag commissioner come and do a presentation at one of our meetings; Clay Cook does not have bees yet and wants to start in the spring; Charles Little with Lola, his 6 year old helper - they started bees this year.

Gadget Night Presentation began with Kathy Kellison from Partners for Sustainable Pollination with a gadget inspired by Serge Labesque's gadget last year, which was very small and hidden in his pocket. It ended up being bee space, which is 3/8ths of an inch and as Kathy dug into her little pouch she brought out another very tiny gadget representing bee space in the form of bee food - a borage seed! In appreciation of SCBA's support of PFSP, Kathy gave out gadget bags to everyone, which included a packet of seeds, a decorated bee pencil for taking notes, and a bookmark with a list of things you can do in your garden to help bees. Thank you Kathy for your generosity and all your hard work! Emery brought in an array of gadgets such as an old foot stool with the top missing that he found at the thrift store for a dollar which he uses to set supers down on while

doing a hive inspection, a heat sensor used for locating a hive inside a wall, (custom made by Michael Fisher) leg stands to set the hive on while the legs rest in cans of water or oil and they are used as an ant barrier (Emery said that he's lost more hives to ants than anything else), a bee vacuum which he uses during extractions as a last resort only, frames with nails on the side bars to help stabilize the foundation, and last but not least a cardboard nuc box revision that has wooden reinforcements at either end in order to keep the frames from collapsing.

Ettamarie added another suggestion for the nuc box hole cups, which can be easy to lose. She uses a coffee can lid with a pie shape cut out, attaches it over the hole in the box with a nail or screw and as you turn the dial it can be open or closed.

Sean's idea was to poke a hole in the centre of the hole cup, thread a string through, tie a knot, poke a hole in the nuc box and knot the string on the other side which keeps the hole cup with the box at all times.

Another member advised getting all hive equipment ready in the winter so that you're ready to go in the spring. Also, when building frames it's a good idea to have a nail gun. Ettamarie said it's a good idea to save the old comb from any of your hives that die out through the winter because they can be used in attracting swarms. She calls it "the old comb trick".

Q: How do you store drawn comb in the winter?

A: Make sure the frames have air blowing through them and they are exposed to light. You can keep them in a super but remove a couple of frames. Wax moths do not like light. Otherwise you could store them in the freezer.

Q: Once you have a big wax moth problem, what do you do?

A: Clean the frames up as much as you can and then put them in the freezer overnight. This will kill any wax moths and eggs.

Q: Is it ok if the frames have mold on them?

A: It's ok if the comb is still in good shape. If it's not too dark the bees will clean it up.

Q: Is there anyone that has had experience with plastic supers?

A: I heard they do well in Nebraska because they insulate well. (Doug) I have 20 mating nucs in plastic, 1/2 inch thick with ventilation on the sides and bottoms which I will over winter and see what happens.

Q: I have hives sitting on pallets with no screened or solid bottoms and I'm not having any robbing problems with these hives and I am with others. Any comments?

A: Mice could be a problem. Also drafts. You could add a screen on the bottom.

Q: I've had trouble with robbing. What can I do and how can I prevent it?

A: If you see a lot of crumbling wax it's a sign of robbing. The best time to do an inspection is at the end of the day. You can put a damp towel over the supers that you take off. If robbing ensues, close up the hive and do it another time. Reduce the entrance.

Q: Is it too early to ready the hives for winter?

A: No, the bees are already doing this. Don't move the brood around. If you see empty frames you can reduce them according to what the bees need but leave them if they have pollen in them.

Submitted by Darlene Taylor, Secretary

My November Beekeeping To-Do List

By Serge Labesque

During the past several months, the honey bees have been actively preparing for winter. Now they have entered a period of relative rest that is critical to their health and even to their very survival until spring and beyond.

With the exception of a brief increase in the production of brood at the end of summer, the brood nests have been steadily shrinking since the end of spring. Right now, the brood they contain is mostly sealed. It will produce the last of the winter bees raised during this season. Only minimal care by the hive bees is necessary during the final stages of development of these vitally important bees. Indeed, the heat that is required for adequate incubation of these young is easily produced and maintained by the still relatively large population of the hives because the stores are right next to these dwindling but very compact nests. When all the brood has finally emerged, there won't be any waste of stores and energy to maintain an elevated temperature. Then, the clusters will produce just enough warmth to keep the bees alive and to prevent their queens from being chilled. Store consumption will be very low.

Soon after most queens have stopped laying eggs, with no brood present in the hives, the bees will have a rare opportunity to eliminate parasites such as varroa mites. Since there won't be any brood cells in which to hide for reproduction, these pests will all be holding onto the adult bees, subjected to their grooming. You'll see these parasites on the monitoring trays, removed from the hives by the bees' mandible bites or strokes of their legs.

As the last of the summer bees die off, the hive populations will rapidly decrease this month. The clusters will get smaller, tighter. The flight paths will become noticeably less busy. At such times, the soft hum produced by the clusters will be quite comforting to their keepers. Thanks to this period of reduced activity, the winter bees will be in good condition to take care of the burgeoning brood nests a few weeks later, after the winter solstice. How simple, logical and effective the bees' ways are! Certainly, they do not need much help from us. To give them the best chance to make it until spring, we simply need to provide them with good nests and to leave them undisturbed.

Unfortunately, some humans have plans for *their* bees: The insects have to make money for them. With

almond pollination only three months away, hives get trucked from all over the country and flown from abroad into California. Hives get medicated and force fed to develop unnaturally large nests and bee populations by early February. All told, two-thirds of the entire bee population of the U.S. is trucked and forklifted this way into the almond orchards of this state. Pathogens and bee strains of all sorts are included and they mingle in the huge bee "melting pot" of the California Central Valley. In March or April, the tally of this winter's colony losses will follow. Quite likely, hundreds of thousands of hives will have been lost, thirty-some percent of the country's bee colonies, maybe more. Some beekeepers will be crying over their losses, others will be attempting to collect their pollination fees. A few will be lucky and will already be making plans to do this again next year. The "successes" of the latter will lure others to come and try their fortunes next season... all of this at the expense of the bees.

We need to loosen up our over manipulative and controlling grip on the bees. Right now, in the fall and during the next few months, is when this is of particular importance to them.

Let's love our bees and let's allow them to have the winter rest they deserve and need.

November in the apiaries:

As I compared the observations that I made last fall to what I see in the hives this year, I found some interesting similarities. To me, the most striking oddity that is common to these two successive fall seasons is the relatively early winding down of brood rearing. This year, since the end of the summer until now, the bees have been ahead of their normal routine by almost an entire month. I would be hard pressed to come up with an explanation for this phenomenon, and more so to draw conclusions about what it means. Possibly, this year's summer and fall honey flows are some of the causes. They were atypical and followed the stressful spring weather that our bees experienced. But the bees may also be reacting to some other environmental factors that we are unable to detect.

Regardless, the days are now becoming shorter and cooler, and the colonies have gone into their "overwintering mode". The tight compact brood nests are shrinking rapidly, as winter bees emerge and queens suspend egg laying. Bees spend many more hours inside the hives than foraging, and the clusters begin their gradual upward move into the stores they have accumulated above their nests.

The preparations of our hives for winter need to be completed by the early part of this month. This does not amount to much work, as most of it was done in previous weeks or months, but it is important to the wellbeing of our bees: hives are to be raised off the ground, and adequately ventilated. They need to be secured, with entrance reducers and mouse guards installed, and their telescoping tops firmly held in place. Once these details are taken care of, we should satisfy ourselves with exterior hive inspections and observing the flight paths and monitoring trays.

The equipment that was removed from the hives during the fall has to be cleaned and stored to prevent wax moth and mouse damage. Old and misshapen combs should be eliminated now in order to avoid the temptation to re-use them in the spring.

This month:

- The preparations of the colonies for winter are to be completed by the end of the first week of the month (see the October To-Do List for more details).
- Raise the hives off the ground, if they are not already on stands.
- Install entrance reducers and mouse guards.
- Verify that hive tops are properly set and secured.
- Verify that the upper ventilation slots are open.
- Install clean monitoring trays under the screen of the hive bottoms. They will provide important information about what is happening inside the hives during the next few months.
- Regularly inspect the exterior condition of the hives.
- Observe monitoring trays.
- On nice days, observe the flight path and bees at the entrances.
- Remove old and misshapen combs from hives.

At home:

- Clean and scorch tools and equipment.
- Cull old and misshapen combs.
- Start building frames and other pieces of equipment for the next season.
- Review notes from the year.
- Look forward to next season.
- Safely store unused equipment.
- Enjoy some honey.

Serge Labesque © 2010

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.

The three association extractors are housed at Ken Schlosser's home, (707) 829-5360 cell481-2880; Janet Leisen's home 707- 528-2085 and Ettamarie Peterson's home 707-765-4582. The rent is \$5 a day but free the first day.

Member Ad Space

Reserve your 2011 nucs

Local Honeybees for Sale -

Lovingly raised, healthy local bees. Reserve now for Spring 2011 (usually ready to go to your home in early May) I rarely dust with powdered sugar and feed sugar water when I feel it is needed.

No deposit required, \$150, please RSVP by emailing

ApriLLance@aol.com or call 707-431-1569 & leave message. Thank You! April Lance

Think About Running for Our Board

Some people may not know exactly what is expected of the various board members so here is the exact wording according to our By-Laws. We are looking for some new people to run for office so please read these descriptions and step forward at our November meeting when we have nominations. Just tell someone you are willing to be on the board.

WHY WE SELL HONEY STICKS!

By Emery Dann, President

Some may question why we sell honey sticks at the Apple Fair and the Harvest Fairs.

First, they are very popular. The public knows we have them and they want to buy them. In fact, it is not just for kids! Adults also enjoy our honey sticks!

At the Apple Fair, we sold \$450.75 worth of honey sticks and at the Harvest Fair we sold \$380.15. The total for these two events is \$830.90. The honey sticks cost us almost \$300 including postage to buy from Glory Bee. We sell them for 4 for a dollar or 30 cents each.

What do we do with any left over? They do crystallize in the straws after a while. Before they do, Ettamarie buys them for her productive educational farm at our cost. This is a big WIN/WIN for the Sonoma County Beekeepers Association. We have even had a few individuals for whom this is the first time they have ever tasted honey--IMAGINE THAT!!!

What's In Bloom

Asters, Michaelmas daisies (a tall aster), borage, coyote brush, goldenrod, hoary California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum canum*), horse mint (*Agastache urticifolia*), loquat, mints, spider flower (*Cleome hasslerana*) and Toyon. Plant bulbs now to have them bloom in spring.

Tornado Strikes Bee Equipment Facility at the Ohio State University

September 16, 2010, a tornado struck the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC), which is the agricultural research campus of the Ohio State University. The damage to the Center was extensive and the loss of facilities, equipment, and research projects was significant. The storm directly struck the OSU honey bee equipment storage and maintenance facility. The pictures in November's *American Bee Journal* are amazing. The building looks like a giant stomped on it!

Dr. James Tew posted an update on the University's website <http://tinyurl.com/28bgr9l>. Briefly, it's this: OARDC got tornadoed, the Bee Lab lost a lot of stuff (probably about \$250k), they're waiting to see what they can dig out of the rubble, and you can donate below. Again, thanks to everyone who has offered to help. They really do need it.
https://www.giveto.osu.edu/igive/onlinegiving/search_results.aspx?fundnum=309515

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November Recipes

Curry Pumpkin and Apple Soup

From The Press Democrat, Oct.27, 2010

Makes 6 to 10 servings.

- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 2 apples, peeled and chopped
- 1 carrot, peeled and chopped
- 1 rib celery, chopped
- 1 small, fresh pumpkin, roasted, with skin and seeds removed
- 1 Tbsp. curry powder
- ½ tsp. nutmeg
- ¼ C. honey
- 4 C. chicken stock
- 1 can coconut milk
- 1 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- Salt and white pepper to taste
- Toasted almonds, for garnish

Sauté apples, onions, carrots and celery in olive oil, then add roasted pumpkin, curry, nutmeg and honey. Add stock and simmer for 45 minutes on low.

Puree the mixture and add the coconut milk. Season with salt and white pepper and finish with the apple cider vinegar. Garnish with toasted almonds and serve warm.

Pumpkin Soup with Honey and Cloves

Sent to us by member Krista Mills via

sonomabees@yahoogroups.com

Swirl a little cream decoratively into each bowl of soup for an elegant presentation. Use Potimarron squash, Cinderella pumpkins or Pie pumpkins.

3 Tbsp. butter

3 large carrots, chopped

2 celery stalks, chopped

2 medium onions, chopped

1 2 ½ or 3 pound pumpkin peeled, seeded, chopped (about 8 cups)

6 C. (or more) chicken stock or canned low-salt broth

6 whole cloves

2 Tbsp. honey

Dashes of Chinese 5-spice, white pepper and salt

Preparation:

Melt butter in Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add carrots, celery and onion; sauté until tender, about 8 minutes. Add pumpkin, 6 C. stock and cloves. Cover and simmer until pumpkin is very tender, about 25 minutes.

Trivia

Honey has been used for many things throughout history, including sidelighting as a preservative. The corpse of Alexander the Great was transported home in a honey-filled sarcophagus for burial. In Egypt honey helped embalm the wealthy.

Membership Renewal

The Board has worked together to re-do our membership application. The dues will remain the same as before. Remember you must pay your 2011 dues to be on the swarm list. The dues are for the calendar year 2011. Other advantages to being a dues paying member are you are allowed to vote (and be on the board), you can borrow the honey extractor with the hot knife and strainer, you can check out library materials and will be able to come to any classes the Association sponsors without paying a fee.

The new membership application is included in this newsletter so you can pay sometime before the first of 2011.


SCBA Executive Board 2010
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 Ken Schlosser 707-829-5360 or cell 481-2880
 or Janet Leisen 707- 528-2085

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 honeybees 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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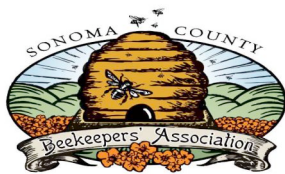
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SCBA Membership Application

Membership fee is \$25.00 for the calendar year (Jan-Dec)

Type: (circle one) Renewal New Member

Name: _____ Date: _____

Business Name (if beekeeping related): _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone numbers: home _____ cell _____

Email: _____

Beekeeping Website (if any): _____

Please circle appropriate response for the following questions. Your feedback is important! Use the back of this sheet if necessary.

- 1) I am a new beekeeper (yes) (no) or thinking about becoming a beekeeper (yes) (no)
- 2) I would like to receive my newsletter: (check one) via email _____ or snail mail _____
- 3) I would like to contribute material for the newsletter: (please circle): share knowledge of plants, bees, cooking with honey, book reviews, take photos, other _____
- 4) I would like to volunteer at events: (circle all events of interest):
Apple Fair -Sebastopol (August) – Harvest Fair –Santa Rosa (October) – Misc. events (TBA)
- 5) I would like to sell my honey and/or bee products at our events. (Yes) (No)
- 6) I have been keeping bees since _____ I currently have _____ colonies
- 7) I'd like to mentor new beekeepers in (towns of preference) _____
- 8) I'd like to do a presentation on a beekeeping topic at a meeting (please identify topic and what month you are available) _____
- 9) I'd like to see these topics presented at the meetings: _____
- 10) I have professional services I'm willing to contribute to the association: such as: accountant, lawyer, graphic arts, photography, video production, etc. _____
- 11) I would be willing to be a Board Member if nominated (please circle):
President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership
- 12) I would like to volunteer as: Librarian, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, other _____
- 13) I would like a beekeeping mentor (yes) (no) my hives are located in (town) _____
- 14) I would be interested in taking a beekeeping class. (Yes) (No)

For office use only:

Date received _____ Date entered in computer/website _____ Amount received _____
Check number or cash _____ Officer's name _____ Membership card given _____

**The Monthly Extractor
 Sonoma County Beekeepers' Assoc.
 P.O. Box 98
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November Meeting- Dr. Eric Mussen will be here from U.C. Davis. 4-H Foundation Center in Rohnert Park