

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—Dec. 13- 6 p.m. Gourmet Potluck, election night & guest speaker Dr. Norman Gary.
Bring your favorite dish to share, your own table service, your family and your ballot. The Association will supply drinks. NOTE EARLIER TIME THAN USUAL!

From the President "HOME SWEET HOME!"

When I became a member of the Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association, I was impressed by you members giving of your initiative, creativity, example, teamwork, and cooperation. I knew I had found a "NEW HOME". I love your hearts and passion for honey bees! I could more than fill this newsletter with your names and examples—from volunteering at our events, interacting with the public, catching swarms, extracting bees, to patiently answering questions—talking with school children and adults, helping new beekeepers, giving of your time and resources, or serving on our Board. Our current Board of Randy Sue Collins, Sierra Gitano, Darlene Taylor, Thea Vierling, along with Editor, Ettamarie Peterson and Webmaster, Sean Straw have all made enormous contributions to our Association—those joining us recently on the Board and some with us for many years. I appreciate all your efforts and loyalty to the Association. Honey bees are examples to us as they serve their hives and each other. So many of you are "servant leaders" like the honey bees we assist!

Our Mission is not about any one person or the President. This is not about me, my agenda (no matter what it may be) or anyone else. This is why we have a Board and voting members of the Board. There is safety in a balance of opinions while we work together. It is about our Mission, together with the talents, abilities, teamwork with cooperation of our officers and members to help with important decisions that affect us all. I know many of you and I am proud of your service and sacrifice. We are the "BEE TEAM!"

"Change happens!" Whether we like it or not or whether we are ready for it or not! The changes may be slow or fast, but change is relentless. Change can be a confusing time in our lives. With any change there is loss of something we have to let go of because things are different—a grieving process occurs. It takes time to process the change. We are all different in how, when or if we are able to accept changes, but good things happen when our attitude supports our community effort. Beekeeping is not easy for many of us. There are losses and setbacks. We need to learn from each other and give support to each other.

This is my last, "From the President letter" to you because I will not be President next year. Our Association is strong. We have dedicated leaders in many areas. We will have new opportunities next year.

The Bee Event in Sonoma was the highlight of this year! When we have UNITY, cooperation and teamwork, the results are spectacular! I am for you. I appreciate each of you. I believe in our future with new leadership opportunities. Good relationships are what make life worth living!!! Remember, when bees are isolated or separated from the hive, they die! Stay with the "hive"—by continuing your membership in our Association! We all benefit that way! Not only do we provide "homes" for honey bees, we also create a "HOME" in the Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association for each other. You are valuable and an important part of our organization! We need you. Keep up the good bee work! I am thankful for your making the Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association our "HOME SWEET HOME" by becoming a new member or renewing your continuing membership for 2011!

With warm affection from your retiring President

Emery Dann

BOARD MINUTES

BOARD MEETING MINUTES 11/4/10

All present at the meeting were Emery Dann, Randy Sue Collins, Ettamarie Peterson, Thea Verling, Sierra Castillo and Cheryl Veretto (our new web master) and Darlene Taylor. Meeting came to order at 6:33 pm. We had a great discussion of our new website with Cheryl. Thea motioned to pay Cheryl \$1300 which includes what we owe her for getting the website up and running, plus we agree to Cheryl donating 1/2 hour per month of web time and to pay her \$65 per hour for necessary input etc. Sierra seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed. A soft launch of the website was scheduled for November 19 to a select group to check the website to see if it's working properly and understandable. A hard launch is scheduled for December 1st.

Board nomination procedures were discussed as well as possible nominations for new officers. Other topics discussed were: our meeting with Eric Mussen before the next general meeting; invitation to Angelo and SCBA hiring him to bring his delicious food to our potluck in December; gift certificates for the winners at the potluck; awards to be given out in December. Randy Sue motioned for SCBA to pay for the award to be presented

at the December potluck. Thea seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed. It was decided that we would not renew our membership with the California State Beekeepers Association. Submitted by Darlene Taylor, Secretary

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 11/9/10

Our general meeting began at 7:03 with approximately 70 folks present. One newcomer from Kenwood came to the meeting and stood up to introduce himself. He took a class and came to learn more. Pat Gentry offered up some free campaign signs that she collected that could be used as hive covers. Timor and Lawrence from the San Francisco Beekeepers Association had a suggestion for what could be used as a yellow jacket trap. An empty plastic water bottle with holes cut in the top of it and inside you put a little apple juice. When the yellow jackets fly into the bottle they are attracted to the juice and end up drowning. Be careful when emptying the bottle because there could be one that looks dead but isn't so get ready with a large rock or something to squish the pile and make yellow jacket guacamole!

Nominations for our new board members were announced. Thea Verling nominated Randy Sue Collins for President. Randy Sue nominated Cheryl Veretto for 1st vice president. Thea nominated Kathleen Murphy for 2nd vice president. Ettamarie Peterson nominated Mike Kelly for Secretary and Thea Verling for Treasurer. All nominations were seconded.

Our Presentation for the evening was a talk with Eric Mussen who is an Extension Apiculturist of the UC Davis Department of Entomology and a walking honeybee encyclopedia. Eric talked about some frames that were brought in that looked like they had signs of AFB (American Foul brood) but they didn't smell like it or have ropey brood. Turns out they were not infected with AFB but Eric pointed out that there is a small percentage of AFB that exists and it is not smelly nor is it ropey and it is resistant to Terramycin. Some of the bees on these frames died with their tongues sticking out, probably waiting to receive some food and there was also brood of various ages that just did not make it. When Eric was asked what he thought was the problem, he said it looked like CCD. And what is CCD? There is still no definitive answer in regards to what is causing CCD but one thing that is known is that it is not new to bees in the U.S. What is new is how long it has lasted. Even as far back as the 1800's there were records found in the old bee journals of huge losses of honey bees. The description is like CCD and it has happened time and time again. The only instance of it having lasted more than a year was in '63, '64 and '65 when it was a 3-year problem. We are now approaching the 6th year mark and are definitely ready for it to stop! So far this year most of the beekeepers in this country are saying that they are having the best bees they've had in a long time. They are also keeping their fingers crossed that we are approaching the end of the CCD epidemic. So why is it that it has extended so much further this time? What's possible is that it's because we've learned a lot about our bees since the 1960's and we may be able now to nurse sick colonies through. Eric believes that the "disorder" is microbial. When some of the commercial beekeepers told researchers that when they put new bees into old CCD equipment that was still "wet" the bees died but if they let the equipment dry out the bees were ok. Through swabbing and testing and looking closely to see what they could find that could be causing CCD, there was no bacteria found that was

abnormal to beehives. Also when the "wet" equipment was run through an irradiation chamber or fumigated with glacial acetic acid, even though it was still wet you could put the bees back on the equipment and the bees did fine. So if it can be knocked out that easily, the indication is that it is caused by a microbe.

A man named Jeffrey LaFore has created grease patties with 9 essential oils in them and when given to the bees they end up with significantly reduced viral loads.

Q: Is Europe still having CCD because I know they have outlawed neonicotinoids, is that right?

A: Some of the countries in Europe have prohibited the use of certain neonicotinoids. The French stopped using them on their sunflowers. They are having better success than before but are nowhere near back to normal. We in the U.S. are having better success as well and did not ban any neonicotinoids so it's hard to say what the cause and effect are.

Q: How do essential oil patties work?

A: I don't really know. They suppress viruses, which really does help. Thymol is not terribly polluting but it's not good to use when the bees are producing honey because the honey will end up not tasting very good. It does help suppress mites.

Q: If we have frames similar to the ones that you showed us, are you suggesting that could reuse them if we go through a whole disinfecting process?

A: If they are bone dry, then yes.

Q: Are there bees being imported from New Zealand as well as Australia?

A: Yes, there are. They are supposed to be shutting down importation of honeybees from Australia but that hasn't happened yet.

Q: What is the update on mite away quick strips?

A: Formic acid strips for varroa are supposed to be strong at first and last long enough for the vapor to go through the cappings and get into where the mites are working on the pupae and then kill the males. The formula is being used in Hawaii where they are having huge problems with varroa.

Q: Do you think organizations like ours should get together and try to stop some of the importations?

A: There are two sides to imports. When honeybees first came to this country they arrived from Europe on the east coast in around 1622 and they came in small samples. Eventually the population shot through the country and we continued to import bees from other countries. There are some folks that believe we can bring in some more genetic material to help bolster the bees' ability to handle things. The other view is that honey bees have the most recombinations going on in their genes from generation to generation than any known animal, so we should run better selection programs rather than bring in other bees.

Q: Are there any bees out there that don't have any viruses?

A: Probably not. There is a commercial beekeeper in Washington State that does not go to the almonds. He uses essential oils and in the spring there are no

detectable viruses in his colonies. At the end of summer going into fall they have some but not much.

Q: What is the effect of using small cell foundation for varroa control?

A: If you check out bees from Europe they are puny. Since the 1600s when bees first arrived here there has been a process of selection and it's probably safe to say that what they thought was that a bigger queen means a better queen. As a result our bees are bigger. The history of Dadant foundations is that cell size used to be smaller but gradually they got bigger to fit our bees. When bees are left to their own devices and build their own comb it is found that as the brood nest expands they build larger cells and they are the biggest around May/June. In the winter they build smaller cells. So far I have only seen experiments where nothing happens to the varroa when you change the size of the cell.

Q: What makes Russian bees resistant to varroa?

A: They groom each other and there is a prolonged period of time when there is no brood in the colony.

Q: Are there Russian bees in United States?

A: Yes. They are cold weather adapted so they will shut down at the end of the summer, form a tiny cluster and will not get going again until they're really sure that it's spring. For this reason they do not work with the almonds. Nobody knows why but Russian bees have to have queen cells all the time and they don't swarm.

Q: If you have a hive that is booming and then the bees all die, is there any way to tell that this will happen?

A: There is no way to tell. The supposition is that when bees die either of disease or old age, they fly away to do it. The way we explain why so many bees leave at once or in a short period of time is that when they are sick they fly away and take their sickness with them. Unfortunately everybody's getting sick! That is what we think is happening.

Q: Explain Parasitic Mite Syndrome.

A: When varroa first arrived in the U.S. it took 5 years to spread all over the country. What we noticed even before we saw very many deformed wings is that the brood was getting very sick with things that we still can't explain. There's nothing smelly or ropery and when the bees die they are found on the bottom board or on the ground in front of the hive as opposed to disappearing, and that is what we call Parasitic Mite Syndrome.

Q: Is it bad to leave too much honey on a hive over the winter?

A: In the winter the bees cluster down below so it really doesn't matter what's up above. It won't hurt the bees but it's likely that it's going to granulate and then the bees will not be able to utilize it. The bees do not reuse crystallized honey and what they will do is they will shovel the granules outside. The result is basically that it is a waste of a honey crop.

Q: What is going on with the Africanized bees in the U.S.?

A: They have just been noticed in Georgia and have been in Florida for some time now. They are slowly spreading out around the southeastern U.S. When they first arrive anywhere they are quite feisty because there's been no process of selection but eventually they tend to calm down some. They have been found in San Bernardino and San Diego counties and if you go collecting swarms there in the spring, 80%- 90% will be Africanized. They are not causing the problems that they used to in regards to attacking and stinging people. In southern California it used to be that beekeepers could wear just shorts, a tee shirt

and a veil to work the bees. Now they have to pay their workers a lot more money because they HAVE to wear bee suits and completely cover up because when they open a hive they don't know if it will be a colony with Africanized bees or not.

Q: Is there a way to I.D. the bees to see if they're Africanized or not?

A: The diagnostics that is being used by the state of California is mitochondrial DNA, which is passed from mom to mom to mom etc. So if you find "sub-Saharan" DNA in a worker bee, that means the mom had it, whose mom had it which would eventually take you all the way back to Africa and Africanized bees, but this does not say anything about it's behavior. If you have a European queen that mates with all Africanized drones, you will get clobbered by the colony but the queen will test European. You cannot tell Africanized honeybees and European honeybees apart with the naked eye.

Q: Is there a benefit to rotating combs and replacing old with new?

A: In Germany they cull their combs after no more that 3 years. Commercial beekeepers in the U.S. have combs in their boxes that look terrible and they shouldn't be anywhere near the bees! Yes you should exchange old for new when the combs get too dark and black.

Q: Is honey that is put into brood combs still good?

A: There was an experiment where honey was extracted from brood comb as well as fresh white honeycomb, from the same honey super, and there was no difference in color. I'm not sure about the odor or the taste.

Q: Does AFB enjoy the old comb type environment?

A: Either comb can harbor the spores. One thing about the old comb is that the bees can hide the spores there by packing stuff one on top of the other. If foulbrood is a problem in a hive, it really doesn't matter what color the comb is.

Q: Is it harder on bees to be in damp areas?

A: Yes, chalkbrood can be a problem.

Q: What is good to plant for bees in winter?

A: Manzanita, Shepherd's purse, Crocus, Red Maids.

Q: What would you tell new beekeepers in order for them to keep the healthiest hives possible?

A: I would hope that if a person wants to start keeping bees that they've got some kind of inkling of what it is they are about to face, and that they've taken a course or done a lot of reading. Also I would recommend picking up a mentor in the area that knows what's going on. Then just put the bees out there, let them go, don't use any chemicals and see what happens.

Q: Do you have a preference of how to start a colony, meaning what kind of bees? (nuc, swarm, package)

A: If I were starting I would not spend the money to purchase a nuc because it's too expensive and you will only be 2 weeks (max) ahead of a package. I would purchase a package if they were available to me. Catching a swarm would be ok too although swarms tend to not be as big as a package and they may be a little slower to get going.

Q: Some people think that if they have a swarm that it will produce swarmy bees. Is there any logic to that?

A: I have no idea but the offspring of a colony is only 50% the mom's problem so if the queen mates with a bunch of swarmy drones you may end up with a swarmy hive!

Q: Comment on inner city bees versus country bees?

A: Depending on the competition and how many floral sources there are around, urban colonies can do very well. There are places in New York City where the average beekeepers that have hives here and there will get at least 100 lbs. of honey. It's a lot less predictable in regards to what the honey will taste like.

Q: Do you think the bees will work it out before we find out what's going on?

A: I believe that since the bees have made it so far which is about 40 million years, I think they will keep going.

Submitted by Darlene Taylor,
Secretary

My December Beekeeping To-Do List

By Serge Labesque

Undoubtedly, you remember Jean-Paul Picco, who spoke at our March SCBA meeting. Well, Jean-Paul wrote an account of his visit in *L'Abeille de France* (*), and that led to an invitation extended to me to make a presentation at this year's Congrès National de l'Apiculture Française (French Beekeeping Convention). I guess it sometimes helps to know how to speak French! So, at the end of October, exactly when our hives were facing the first storms of the season, I was heading for the airport. This opportunity turned out to be an exhilarating experience.

As it happened, Bernadette Nouel was also going to the same event. Jean-Paul and his wife Marie-Hélène provided us with flawless logistical support. They guided us through the strike-handicapped rail system, retrieved us at the Poitiers train station, and facilitated all aspects of our stay with their friendly and generous hospitality.

The venue was the Palais des Congrès of the Futuroscope, a vast complex and renowned entertainment park. The event was well attended by beekeepers from all over the country and even from beyond Europe. It demonstrated the organizational skills of the staff and the effectiveness of the numerous volunteers. The presentations and exhibits were diverse and remarkable in their quality and content, and the food was so superbly delicious that I cannot avoid mentioning it.

My one-and-a-half-hour long talk was presented from the stage of a one-thousand-seat state-of-the-art amphitheater. I shared some of my observations of bee colonies, both wild and managed, and how they have influenced the design of the hives that I use and the way I manage my colonies. The feedback and the interest from the attendees were such that arrangements for an extended follow-up question-and-answer session were immediately made, not to mention the chain of impromptu group discussions that went on in the hallways, in the front lobby and of course over the wonderful food that was offered. Many beekeepers

enthusiastically passed on their own experiences in hive management methods that avoid treatments for pests and diseases, and that rely on strains of local bees. In fact, these lively exchanges with beekeepers of all veins did not stop until the convention ended.

The French beekeepers face many of the same problems and concerns that we have. Their hunger for alternatives to conventional beekeeping and agricultural practices was obvious in Poitiers. In fact, many are attempting to help re-create habitat for pollinators, to fight the onslaught of pesticides and genetically engineered plants, and to protect local strains of bees from the genetic pollution that results from the importation of foreign strains. Although the customary beekeeping ways are strongly implanted in the apiaries and the equipment that is often in use may hamper some technical improvements, the frame of mind of most of the beekeepers I met certainly is a progressive one that seeks to support the bees. Beekeeping is changing! May this lead to a sound, durable and healthy future for the bees as well as for their keepers.

The three days that I spent in Poitiers amounted to a memorable experience filled with uplifting debates. Many heartfelt thanks to Jean-Paul and Marie-Hélène Picco for their relentless, always joyful and enthusiastic help.

(*) *L'Abeille de France*: Monthly magazine published by the French beekeeping organization Syndicat National d'Apiculture.

December in the apiaries:

During this season, we need to spend some time reflecting on what has happened in our apiaries over the past several months. Our notes are of great value in this process, as they increase our level of objectivity.

However, events of this past summer and fall came "fast and furious" for me, and they conspired to prevent me from giving my hives the attention that I would have liked to. Although this was intensely frustrating at times, it may in fact turn out to be a good thing for the bees. Now, it's up to me to make the best out of this situation. And indeed I am poised to learn many valuable lessons from this unplanned experiment in semi-neglect beekeeping. Hopefully, I will see some indications of how much my normal routine for the preparation of the hives for winter matters, and how robust these bees really are. Verdict to be given in March (or before!)

Because of the unfavorable weather we experienced during the spring, the early bloom was entirely missed by my colonies. By the end

of May, they had scant stores but their populations were nevertheless quite large. This allowed them to take advantage of a sudden improvement in the weather, in early June. They exploited very well a late spring flow that was probably due to the residual ground moisture. However, this was not to last very long, as the summer dearth quickly settled in. A very conservative harvest allowed the colonies to make it into fall with adequate reserves of honey and pollen.

For the same weather-dominated reasons, queen rearing early in the spring was a mixture of hits and misses until June and early July. Also, and in spite of starting the season with two-year old queens in fifty percent of my colonies, there was almost no swarming, as congestion of the brood nests was not an issue.

If I could change one thing in the way I ran my apiaries this year, it would be to have been more flexible than I was in the timing of my queen-rearing batches. By comparison, my hive divisions were performed on cues provided by the colonies and they turned out great. The lesson is clear: Bees can forecast the weather better than I can!

Now, it is time to turn our attention to the next season. This begins by taking care of our equipment and by preparing more of it, as may be necessary. Cleaning, scorching, planning and building are in line.

As far as taking care of the colonies during this month, it is best to leave them undisturbed. We should occasionally walk by them though, if only to look at their exterior condition, and to inspect the monitoring trays, but not to open them, no matter how tempted we may be on an occasional sunny day. The exception would be a hive that is obviously dead; in which case, we need to ensure that a contagious disease such as American foulbrood is not the cause of the loss. These situations need to be dealt with immediately.

Right now, our colonies are going through a period of relative rest, which must be respected. This period of reduced brood rearing or, better, of broodlessness benefits the colonies. Through good grooming behavior, the bees can eliminate most of the varroa mites from the hives, and prepare the nests for the next generation. Also, when there is no brood rearing, the consumption of stores is kept at a minimum and the winter bees do not wear themselves out prematurely. Let's spare them, as they will be needed during the next couple of months, when the queens resume laying eggs and the brood nests develop.

This month:

- Walk to the hives and ...
- inspect the exterior condition of the hives,
- verify that hive tops are still properly set and secured,
- observe the landing boards and the ground in front of the hives, and...
- verify that the hive entrances remain unobstructed.
- Maintain adequate and safe ventilation through the hives.

- Observe monitoring trays. The clusters should remain centered in order to maintain access to their stores.
- Verify that mice have not entered hives (telltale clues of their presence are also visible on the monitoring trays, as coarse pieces of comb, mouse feces, etc.).
- Keep an eye on the colonies that still carry large broodnests (lots of finely chewed up pieces of brood cappings are visible on the trays), and make a note of this. The risk for these colonies is that they may run short of stores at the end of winter or in early spring, because they need to maintain an elevated temperature to incubate the brood. Hence, they consume stores at a greater rate than would be normal.
- On nice days, observe the flight paths and the bee activity at the entrances.

At home:

- Clean and scorch tools and equipment.
- Cull old and misshapen combs.
- Scrub your smoker.
- Build and repair beekeeping equipment for the next season.
- Review notes from the year.
- Read and learn more about bees and beekeeping.
- Plan next season (evaluate the need for equipment and bees).
- Enjoy some honey.

Happy Holidays to all of you from the Labesques!

Serge Labesque © 2010

“ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING!”

By Emery Dann

In today's economy, companies realize that technical skill and experience is NOT a predictor of a good hire. Businesses can provide both through training on the job. Of course, someone must be able to do the job. However, the one thing they realize they cannot provide is the RIGHT employee ATTITUDE! Our attitude is critical in relating with each other and succeeding in life.

As your President for the past 2 years, too much of my time has been spent on interpersonal conflicts and relational breakdowns between members. Bee stings are not limited to honey bees—beekeepers can “sting” each other in different ways.

Here is what I am learning from being your President. I struggle when relational pain touches my wounds from the past, but I need to see the big picture:

1. I do not have to be offended by the opinions, comments or anger of others. I can

choose to NOT take it personally. We are all different. If two of us agreed on everything, one of us would be unnecessary!

2. I will NOT be bitter. Bitterness is like wax moth larvae in the comb. It ruins everything! Bitterness is a choice. If someone chooses to be bitter, I will accept that I cannot change his or her attitude.

3. My attitude does not depend on what others do. My attitude is my choice in any given situation. I can guard my attitude with gratitude; being thankful instead of thinking that life is "unfair". Who said life was "fair"? One thing for sure, it is better than the alternative (which will happen to us all)!

4. I ask myself, "How much will this really matter in 50 years?" Then I do not have to "sweat the small stuff"! I have found that most of what bugs us about each other is misunderstandings, differences and irritations. A good sense of humor--even laughing at myself--can reduce my tension! Even though I am your "retiring President", I will be an active member and may do some writing for our newsletter, as space and editing allows. I am for each of you and I want to grow with you to be the best WE can BEE!!!

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

Spring 2011 Nucs

Bloomfield Bees has Nucs for \$160, classes free with purchase...\$75 deposit, Deeps = 5 frames
Mediums = 8 frames with frame exchange of course. Our 707-836-7278 (H) Jackie & Geoff Whitford
707-490-5001(cell) Geoff Whitford

If weather cooperates, these will be ready as early as April. If anyone wants to work bees with us, give us a call. www.bloomfieldbeeshoney.com

Reserve your 2011 nucs

Local honeybees, lovingly raised FOR SALE in Late April or Early May, 2011. No chemicals ever used! In my opinion bees available in our area before that date may not have a well-bred queen. Bees are set up and in their own medium or deep box with 10 frames, your choice). \$150 for bees- plus box and any other equipment you wish. Email to reserve now, No deposit necessary. Individuals who purchase bees from me are invited to come and work my bees with me to gain experience, confidence and see many stages of the hives development.

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What's In Bloom

Bottlebrush, yellow mustard and some of the earliest eucalyptus trees bloom in December. Lavatera maritime, commonly called tree mallow is blooming now and the bees love it! Order spring seeds now!

December Recipes

Peppermint Lip Gloss

General directions: Melt the base ingredients in the microwave or in a double boiler. Do not overheat! Watch carefully, use small increments of microwave time and heat only until melted! Use good clean wax and oils.

Peppermint Lip Gloss

Heat two teaspoons of beeswax and seven teaspoons of Sweet Almond Oil until beeswax is just melted. Remove from heat; add five or six drops of peppermint essential oil or wintergreen essential oil. Pour into lip-gloss containers. This ratio of 2 to 7 gives a nice smooth gloss. The 4-H children were quite pleased with the results when we made the lip-gloss in November.

Hot Fruit Punch

From A Honey Cookbook, by A.I. Root Co.
2 C. each apple cider and cranberry juice
1/4 C. honey, 4 whole cloves, 4 slices lemon
1 Cinnamon stick (optional)

Combine all ingredients in saucepan and heat until mixture just boils. Pour into glasses or mugs.

Trivia

Every 10 hours the queen makes contact with 35% of the house workers.

Swarm List Application

If you have renewed your membership and want to be on the 2011 swarm list, please fill out the enclosed application and turn it in by the end of January. If you need the membership form go to www.sonomabees.org web site and send it in with the \$25 dues.

Quote from Marla Spivak

"Despite our tendency to try to control nature, it is not healthy for the bees to be fully domesticated, for them to be totally reliant on us. Since the introduction of Varroa mites, we have made our European-derived bees chemically dependent on our medications for their survival, and this is not a wise strategy. Bees really need to develop their own defenses against diseases and parasites."

Our December Speaker, Dr. Norman E. Gary

Many of you may have seen a photograph of a man covered with bees while playing a clarinet. Well, you will get to meet the guy in person at our December meeting! He is Dr. Norman Gary, a famous entomologist and clarinet player as well!

Dr. Gary started hobby beekeeping at the age of 15 in Florida. At age 26, he earned a PhD in Apiculture at Cornell University. His knowledge is based upon diverse beekeeping experiences during a 60 year career. He wore many hats: hobby beekeeper, commercial beekeeper, deputy apiary inspector in New York, honey bee research scientist and entomology professor teaching beekeeping at the University of California, Davis (32 years), adult beekeeping education teacher, professional entertainer (bees and music), and professional bee wrangler for Hollywood movies (18), TV productions (70+), and commercials (6). He is the author of more than 100 publications, including scientific papers, book chapters, and popular articles in beekeeping trade journals.

Dr. Gary's new book for hobby beekeepers entitled "HONEY BEE HOBBYIST, The Care & Keeping of Bees" has just been published. He will be bringing copies to our December dinner meeting so they can be purchased (\$15) and autographed (Makes a great Christmas present!). In this book he shares his extensive beekeeping knowledge in this entertaining, authoritative, easy-to-understand, practical guide for hobby beekeeping. He dispels many beekeeping myths and provides new insights based more on science rather than tradition. He has made beekeeping a lifelong adventure!

Thanks From Your Editor

I want to say thank you to all of you who have helped me put out the newsletter year after year. I couldn't have done it without all the help from the presidents, secretaries, treasurers, vice presidents and members who contributed articles and information. What would this newsletter be without Serge Labesque's educational monthly columns!

These last two years our President Emery Dann has written some truly inspirational and thought provoking letters. His words are always encouraging all of us to work together for the good of the whole, just as the bees in our hives do! I appreciate Darlene's minutes because she documented what our speakers taught us.

I owe special thanks to Geoff and Jackie Whitford who give their time every month to putting on the address labels and stamps before taking the newsletter

to the post office. They also distribute extra copies to locations so new beekeepers can learn about us.

It was a good year and I do look forward to continuing my editorship as long as the association wants me. It is a fun job made easier by all the volunteers. I am sure our new officers will be easy to work with.

Gourmet Pot Luck Dinner

Once a year we invite our members to bring their families to our dinner. Now I have never known any of the guests to be disappointed at the fare. We call it a "Gourmet Pot Luck" because we give prizes to the best best salad maker, the best main dish maker, the best side dish maker, best dessert maker and the maker of the best dish made with honey. The prizes are gift certificates to either beekind or Western Farm Supply Store. This encourages the best cooks to share wonderful food.

Please remember that we don't want to add to the landfill so we encourage all the guests to bring their own dishes and eating utensils. We will be supplying the beverages so bring cups and glasses. Make a name tag for your dish so we know what category it goes in. If it is a dish made with honey, it goes into two categories actually.

We will have the dinner start at 6 p.m. so come an hour earlier than usual. The officers will be setting up the room at 5:30 so if you want to help them, come then.

Make yourself a list of things to bring: your dishes, tableware, swarm application and ballot.

What to do With the Foundationless Comb

By Chris Slade, U.K. Beekeeper
Here's a recipe that I invented and am pleased with: take some wild/ foundationless comb; after cutting out the prettier bits for sale as cut comb, bash, mash, squeeze and drain the rest to recover as much honey as sensibly you can. You are left with 'food grade' wax with a little but not much honey. Put it in a bowl and then in the microwave for maybe 30 seconds. Add about twice as much porridge oats plus some cake-fruit, sunflower, pumpkin, sesame and linseeds. Also maybe some chopped up crystallised ginger. Stir it up. Microwave again and stir again until it more or less sticks together. Spread it in a baking tray about 3/4 of an inch deep. Put in a hot oven for about 1/4 of an hour, more or less depending on what your nose and eyes tell you. Take it out when it has turned mid-dark brown. It will still be soft. Score it with a knife or pizza wheel. Leave to cool and harden. Break into biscuits (cookies). The results are scrummy, sustaining and not too fattening as most recipes for flapjack include copious quantities of fat and sugar.

SCBA Executive Board 2010

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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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Swarm Participation Application

Participation on the swarm list is open only to SCBA members who have paid their dues for the year of list publication. When on a swarm call I understand that I will not portray myself as a representative of SCBA although I will conduct myself in the most professional manner. I will be removed from the swarm list if SCBA receives credible reports of questionable behavior on my part.

How I want my contact information published on the website:

Name _____

Phone Number(s) with area codes _____

Other _____

I wish to participate in the following zones (check all that apply)

- Zone 1 – Rohnert Park, Cotati, Petaluma, Bodega Bay
- Zone 2 – Sonoma and Sonoma Valley
- Zone 3 – Santa Rosa and Sebastopol
- Zone 4 – Healdsburg, Cloverdale and North of Santa Rosa
- Zone 5 – Marin County
- Zone 6 – Mendocino and Lake Counties
- Zone 7 – Napa County

Please check the following comments that apply to your listing:

Check **one**: no fee \$_____ fee fee dependant on distance

Check **one**: No structural extractions Structural extractions

Check appropriate: Works with contractor Homeowner responsible for repairs

Check appropriate: Available any time Specific days/times available _____

Pest Removal: Yellow jackets Wasps Hornets (Note: if you use insecticides you must be suitable licensed)

I will respond to swarm calls in a timely manner. If I cannot handle a specific call, I will refer the caller to the swarm list or to another beekeeper on the list.

I will always treat the bees in a humane fashion. Swarm retrieval is about saving the bees. I will NOT spray them with insecticides.

I will make every reasonable effort to retrieve the entire colony. I understand this means leaving the swarm box until sundown and returning to collect it once the foragers and scouts have had an opportunity to return to their colony.

Signature – (swarm participation form is not valid without it)

Date _____

**The Monthly Extractor
 Sonoma County Beekeepers' Assoc.
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**December is gourmet potluck
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 will provide beverages. Come
 early!
 6 p.m.**

