

The Monthly Extractor

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

Monthly Meeting—June 13th- Kathy Kellison, Beekeeper and Executive Director of Partners for Sustainable Pollination—Learn more about Bee Friendly Farming.

From the President

June is busting out all over! April AND May showers are bringing June flowers. Good news for the bees. It's still swarm season which brings me to this month's topic: returning swarm calls.

Please remember that when you receive a swarm call, it's often from a person who is upset and scared about the bees that have landed in their area. They are obviously not beekeepers and are seeking help - NOW - from those they view as professionals, which are all of us on the swarm list.

As a member of SCBA and advertising yourself on the swarm list, it's very important to not only acknowledge the call, but to follow up on the outcome of that call.

If you receive a bee-related call and can't take it, please make sure you either explain to the client about our web-based swarm list so they can call someone else, or personally pass the call on to another beekeeper yourself.

We are constantly working to educate the public about saving the honeybees and expand the knowledge and respect of Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association. We can't leave the client hanging with bees that have "invaded" their yard. If they don't get a response from us, they WILL call a pest control company.

By being on the swarm list you not only represent the integrity of SCBA but you have also agreed to take care of the honeybees. Together, we can achieve the success we desire: Honeybee health and well-being.

Randy Sue, President

Minutes of May 9, 2011 Board Meeting

Meeting Called to order:

Location: 4H Building, Rohnert Park, CA

Those in Attendance: Randy Sue Collins, Thea Vierling, Cheryl Veretto, Ettamarie Peterson, and Emery Dann

Reports:

I. Consent Calendar—See below—approved as presented.

II. President's Report

Discuss new member packet for next year. Do we need to put this agenda in the newsletter at all - just the treasurer's report?

III. Treasurer's Report – Thea

Book budget, Charging for ads in newsletter (Western Farm). We now have a credit card. We have purchased Projector. Facility Issue—Please do not move dividers in

building. Leave as found. Exchange bank to donate basket as a prize for the bumper sticker contest

\$222.00 for books. Sherri Lyn librarian—trying to purge books. Some outdated, geographically wrong. Thea moved to spend no more than \$250.00 per annum on library books, Ettamarie 2nd, motioned passed.

Advertising space-Determining proper amount for those wishing to advertise in our Newsletter.

Some are NOT paying while others are.

Our savings account = \$8973

Checking Account = \$1089

Our Total cash balance is: \$10,062

IV. **Membership Report – Cheryl—201 Members, 2079 Colonies. New member 51 for 2011. Still working on membership application.**

V. **Events and Speakers Report—We have a new Speaker/Events person taking Kathleen's position. To be announced next month.**

Next month speaker – Kathy Kellison—Partners for Sustainable Pollination.

Gravenstein Apple Fair – Aug 13 & 14—sign ups for volunteers

Sonoma/Marin Fair –We will not participate.

National Heirloom Exposition---Sonoma County Fairground 13,14,15 Sept. Motion--\$100.00 booth space—Cheryl, Thea second, motion carried Harvest Faire, Sept. 30-Oct 2nd. Booth.

VI. **Committee Report – Ettamarie—no report**

VII. **New Business—Bylaws back pages, signed by board, Set-up Committee, Need hands-on workshops. Decided to do two Bee Classes on May 21.**

VIII. Old Business

What is expected of anyone representing SCBA "in the field?"

IX. Consent Calendar

~Approval of Minutes from April board meeting

~Set spending limit before needing approval from board members at \$50

~Buy beekeeper key chains for volunteers when they come back into stock at Dadant

~Spotlight Business: June/ Michele Steinert – Michele's Apothecary, July? - August? -

September/ Oldies and Goodies – Organic plant starts
Lena Hahn-Schuman - October?
~June goodies/ Ettamarie? July / Emery? August/ Randy,
Sept/ Thea, Oct/ Cheryl
~\$35 sponsorship for the plaque for the Junior
Apiary/Honey category—Sonoma Marin Fair.
Adjourn: 6:50pm

SCBA May 9th Meeting

Spotlight Business of the month- Sarah from Green String Farm- Natural Process Agriculture—Sell to Chez Panisse—healthier plantings—50/50 plantings for nature and planting to products sold to the consumer. Everyone is allowed access. They have bees on the property and an internship program. Interns stay on the property for 3 months. See greenstringfarm.com or greenstringinstitute.com

Membership report—200+ members for the first time! Check out www.sonomabees.org. Newest thing on the web site if our mentor map with 35 members mentoring. Find a bee mentor in YOUR area using our map.

Bumper sticker [contest—sonomabeelady@hotmail.com](mailto:sonomabeelady@hotmail.com)
Prize-Sonoma Theme basket from Exchange Bank, awarded in June, deadline May 25th.

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming fairs and expos.

Swarm Calls—It is suggested we all have printed copy – make a small wallet sized swarm list.

Removing swarms from homes—check swarm list-May incur cost to remove bees from structure. Education of the homeowner is key.

Workshops—2 bee keeping classes to be given Saturday May 21st. Noon to 2:00pm Free to members. Thea's home in Kenwood 483-0426 first 15 people. Ettamarie's home is in Petaluma. 765-4582. 15-20 folks.

Speaker of the evening: Kate Frey Freygardens.com

What's a pollinator garden?

What we plant in our gardens, homes-- matters. Native and Honeybees Bees like certain pollinator gardens. Example-Melissa Garden—CCD is driving home the importance of pollinators in public as well as farming communities.

35% of our crops require pollination, 85% of food have ingredients that are pollinated, 75% of plants require insect pollination, prey on pest insects or are food sources for birds other insects. Pollinated Crop values almost \$19 billion Dollars.

Those trees needing Pollination-Fruits: pears, apples cherries almonds, peaches nectarines.

Berries: strawberries blackberries,

Habitat loss and fragmentation-- lack of pollen and nectar resources. Lack of genetic diversity causes habitat fragmentation, Pesticide use in urban areas and agriculture, introducing pest and diseases.

What's a pollinator garden? Season long plants of plants with floral resources. 12 month long resource for your bees. Shrubs on windward side, bare soil and mulch, healthy soil for healthy plans, locally adapted plants,

don't be too neat! Create microclimates, provide water, No pesticides. Enjoy observing.

Who are the pollinators—Bees, beetles, wasps, butterflies, flies,

California Buckwheat—great floral displays. Plants that are beneficial to caterpillars and butterflies. Milkweed and pipevine,

Native Bees: Hymenoptera—

World wide 20K species of bees, 4000 in U.S. many are solitary, no hives.

www.nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens/
Bringing back the Natives Garden Tour May 1st, SF Bay area. None of the landscaping varieties used in cities draw little in the way of pollen or nectar and hence draw very little pollinator activity

Bringing Nature Home, Sam Earnshaw's—book Why its important to plant NATIVE species.

The Xerces Society <http://www.xerces.org>

Attracting Native Pollinators.

<http://www.greatsunflower.org> 2008 project started to observe honey bees when they visit the sunflowers.

Farm borders plantings now for pollinators PLUS beneficial insects for crops.

Garden Allies: www.pacifichorticulture.com 12 months of year sustainable Ag information.

Phacelia tanacetifolia. Planting habitat gardens. Great Dixter is famous habitat garden near London, UK.

Lotusland habitat garden—Montecito, Calif.

Hoplads garden plantlist. California Flora nursery—rosemary, sage, culinary sage, thyme, oregano, repeat it over and over. Lavenders.

Bumper Sticker Contest

The finalists for the bumper sticker contest are:

Healthy Bee equals Healthy Me

Bee. A good neighbor.

Plant Flowers. Just Bee Cause

We Care for Bees

Save the Planet. Keep Bees

The winner will be voted on at our June 13th meeting. Exchange Bank is donating a basket of goodies for the prize.

Found

A member accidentally picked up a black jacket covered with embroidered flowers at the last meeting, has anyone heard from someone losing it? Please contact Cheryl Veretto at the meeting or email 1stVP@sonomabees.org or by phone 707-827-3774

A sweatshirt was left behind at the Peterson's barn after the workshop. If it is yours, call Ettamarie at 707-765-4582.

My June Beekeeping To-Do List

By Serge Labesque © 2011

Conventional and commercial beekeeping practices overpoweringly permeate the ways we are taught and in turn teach how to keep bees. But this domination does not mean that these practices are the right ways to keep bees. At least, not for every situation. In fact, because the vast majority of beekeepers are not keeping bees to meet business goals, there are good reasons to challenge the validity of these methods outside commercial operations. Consequently, beekeeping mentors and educators need to offer alternative practices that suit the non-professional beekeeper and most importantly that benefit the bees. This became blaringly evident to me while I was presenting a couple of queen-rearing classes in Sacramento, in April and May.

After an overview of various colony-propagation and queen-rearing techniques, a large part of the first of these classes was intended to be a hands-on workshop based on the Doolittle method. This method, which relies on the transfer of young larvae into cell cups, or “grafting” as this procedure is called, is the standard in commercial queen-rearing operations. Not surprisingly, it is also the method that is most frequently mentioned and promoted in beekeeping literature. What a big mistake it was to emphasize this technique! Indeed, the difficulties experienced by the class participants in removing very young larvae from their cells to place them into cell cups quickly made it obvious that this method is not appropriate for small-scale beekeepers. Even though most of the attendees were interested in learning how to graft, they were not prepared to invest what it takes to acquire the skills and the specialized tools and equipment that are necessary to produce queens according to such methods. And this is understandable. How many of us need LOTS of queens anyway?

And yet, being able to produce a few queens from our local bee population, from our best hives, is a very valuable piece of beekeeping know-how. It is arguably the best way to simultaneously improve our apiaries and contribute to the preservation of the genetic diversity of the honey bee. But amateur beekeepers don't have to use the same methods that are practiced by large-scale queen producers who crank out queens by the thousands. There are better ways for them!

This is where teaching techniques that meet most beekeepers' modest needs instead of cumbersome methods that are intended for mass production can make a huge difference. Instead of these complex procedures, we should offer simple, practical ones that every beekeeper can use in his or her apiaries. Helping new beekeepers become self-sufficient is a goal that is too often neglected.

Yes, grafting larvae can be fun once you've mastered it, but it is not a skill that is required to obtain queens. There are numerous other methods that are effective, very easy to use and that *do not cost anything*, be it time or money. Over the years, I've tried many of these with various degrees of success. For me, one of them stands out for numerous reasons. It is the Hopkins

method of queen rearing (*). I gave it more prominence during the second queen-rearing class. The interest of the participants in this sort of approach to queen rearing was remarkable. And justifiably so, because here was a method that they all immediately felt comfortable with. They could take it home and try it right away, without special tools or equipment. For sure, the next time I present a queen-rearing class, it will be the Hopkins and similar methods of producing queens that will be in the spotlight.

(*) The Hopkins method is extremely simple and does not require any special skill. It may be implemented in the apiary on the spur of the moment, and does not cost a dime in tools or unusual equipment. With this method, all beekeepers can produce queens from locally available stock. Basically, the procedure amounts to placing some comb with eggs or young larvae flat on the top bars of a queenless colony. The drawbacks? Maybe it is a little less predictable than methods that rely on grafting, but not by much. And of course, when we use it, we cannot brag about our grafting skills. But so what? It does produce queens.

June in the apiaries:

In spite of its cold and rainy beginning, this is a wonderful spring for our bees, isn't it? After last year, we certainly can appreciate it. This month, the apiaries are in their full glory. They easily more than doubled in size over the past two months, and the colonies have reached remarkable strength. All our equipment is being put to good use, packed with bees. Cases of spring diseases seem to be infrequent this year, swarming almost nil, and the honey supers are getting heavy. At the end of the winter, the bees indicated that the reproductive season would come late this year. They certainly got it right: Whereas the early queens and divides are not worth much, those produced afterwards seem to be terrific. As always, it is rewarding to be patient and heed the bees.

With the arrival of June, the brood nests of mature colonies have reached their maximum size. The colonies are still gaining strength though, thanks to the good nutrition they receive and to their still growing bee populations. The growth of bee colonies during the spring, from the small winter clusters to the large size they can achieve never ceases to amaze me. Definitely, one of the main keys to successful spring hive management is to anticipate and permit this huge and rapid development, to stay ahead of it.

The foragers are working on a protracted spring honey flow that is sustained by this year's unusually high ground moisture. However, we know that this won't last long in the interior hills of the county. Possibly, this extended spring flow will obviate the dangers of poisoning presented

by the California buckeye pollen, which is toxic to honey bees.

This spring's honey is rather light. Therefore, it will have the favor of many. But, as always, let's be careful to leave enough for the bees when harvesting it, because the nectar dearth is not far away in many places.

We need to keep an eye on our developing colonies, be they splits, nucs, or captured swarms, and on the performance of our queens. Some may have to be strengthened, combined with other colonies or requeened. There is still time to produce queens and to divide a few colonies, although it is better to avoid doing this at this time of year in areas where California buckeye trees abound.

As the spring honey flow tapers off, comb building slows down. Most of the frames with beeswax foundation that the bees have not touched should be removed from the hive before the dearth settles in, or the bees will destroy them during the summer. Unlike what is typically practiced earlier in the spring, supering needs to be done only when the previous supers are nearly full. Better yet, if you harvest ripe surplus honey, you can return the wet frames to the bees.

This month:

- As always, keep an eye on the health of the colonies.
- Observe the condition of the equipment and address problems, as necessary.
- Ensure adequate air circulation through the hives.
- Manage the honey supers (begin to under super, as the nectar flow decreases. That is, provide nectar storage space with no excess).
- Except for those of the developing colonies and divides, the hive entrances should be wide open.
- Follow-up on the development of young colonies and queens. Make notes for possible subsequent selection, propagation, combination or replacement.
- Strengthen weak colonies (by combination, forager equalization, requeening, etc.)
- Combine inherently weak colonies or those that are not developing properly.
- Requeen hives with poorly performing queens.
- Perform hive divisions.
- Develop young colonies for next season.
- Raise queens.
- Monitor swarm traps.
- Still keep an eye open for passing swarms.
- Harvest surplus spring honey.
- Return extracted supers to the bees for cleaning or refilling.
- Ensure that steady sources of water are available to the bees.
- Provide filtered afternoon shade, if at all possible.
- Discard old and misshapen combs.

At home:

- Have your swarm catching gear ready.
- Extract and bottle spring honey.
- Render wax from discarded frames and from cappings (separately).
- Routinely clean and scorch tools and equipment.

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BEE WISE: EFFECTIVE BEE-TEAM WORK...

By Emery Dann

I want to welcome all our new beekeepers with hives of their own this year! You are an important part of—The Sonoma County Beekeepers Association! “Lone Ranger Beekeepers” miss out on our exciting journey together. This does not mean we all keep bees in exactly the same way. It does mean our attitude of supporting each other and our mission is paramount! Sometimes we must be “guard bees” to protect our organization from inside personal agendas or outside public agendas that would consume more resources than we have available. Honey bees face this all the time—when to re-queen, when to swarm, and how large they can grow within the space they have available. A Dutch proverb states, “Many hands make light work”. The bees know this secret! They want to bee and work together which makes every bee's contribution important. There is strength in numbers with unity. Honey bees are examples to us of how human life can work better with cooperation, resource conservation and keeping life simple (including bio-degradable recycling of everything they make).

There was a day we all share in common...that day was when each of us said, “I can keep bees!” It is this can do attitude that overcomes the challenges we face in beekeeping that keeps us going and connected with one another. We may go from counting every sting to “why bother”? As Forrest Gump said, “Stings happen!” (Or something close to that?). While beekeeping is not for everyone, it is a privilege for me to know so many of you and your heart for honey bees that is so encouraging to me. We are making a difference, together!

Learning with you about the mysteries of honey bee life continues to enrich my life. We have this privilege every time we open a hive to learn from one of the most industrious, amazing and resourceful insects on earth.

Beekeeping is not about our keeping bees in “isolation”. While we do need to work

alone at times, reach out—get to know and help other beekeepers. Don't hesitate to ask questions! I am proud that half of the members of the Sonoma County Beekeepers Association are women! I have learned so much from women beekeepers in our "hive" Association! Throughout history women have courageously kept bees as many of you are doing!

I mentioned that being a "Lone Ranger Beekeeper" does not give the benefits we receive from bee-team work together. Perhaps we need a new paradigm, because even the "Lone Ranger" was smart enough not to go it all alone...remember, he had his friend "Tonto" to help him!

Bee Plants of the Month

By Alice Ford-Sala

Herb of the Month:

Sage (*Salvia officinalis*) Family Lamiaceae (Labiatae)

If you want to grow a plant to please a nice variety of pollinators, plant Sage! This is the largest genus in the mint (Lamiaceae) family. *Sunset Western Garden Book* says there are 900 species worldwide. Honey bees, bumble bees, hummingbirds and carpenter bees visit mine.

Culinary sage – *Salvia officinalis* – is native to the Mediterranean, like so many of our bee friendly edible herbs. So of course they like similar conditions—, loose, well-drained soil, sun and moderate water. They usually grow 1-3 feet tall and wide. When pruning, wait until later in spring when the new growth begins and cut just above the new leaves. This will help keep them from getting too woody. I find I need to replace mine every 3-5 years. Mine died out this last winter—too soggy, I guess.

Flowers are most commonly spikes of blue, but there are other colors such as white, pink, violet and red. Bees and hummingbirds adore them! There's also variation in leaf colors, with gray-green being the most common, but 'Purpurascens' showing red-violet leaves when new, 'Tricolor' has a cream border, gray-green leaves, new growth is purple-pink.

There are several to choose from, 'Berggarten' 'Compacta', 'Nana' are smaller versions, 'Holt's Mammoth' has large – up to 5 inch long -leaves that dry well for use in cooking. Clary Sage (*salvia sclarca*) is also edible, said to have a "balsam-like scent".

Culinary sage is wonderful in stuffing's, omelets, soups and stews. It is traditionally used for upset stomachs, sore throat and as a gargle. It is said to have anti-bacterial properties and in Germany it is approved to treat excessive sweating—such as night sweats.

Note: Sage has an essential oil- thujone-, which can be toxic if taken in large doses. Pregnant and nursing women should not take it internally (eating sage is ok, just don't take large doses such as in tinctures, check with your health professional)

Native Plant of the Month:

Sage *Salvia* Family Lamiaceae (Labiatae)

California sages need what so many natives need—well-drained soil, (poor soil is better than too rich, the plants will grow too fast and split in rich soil, and develop root rot), sun to light shade and, once established, **no summer water**. If they are treated with benign neglect, they will live for many years.

Native Californian sages include our own Sonoma Sage (*Salvia sonomensis*), which is a low-growing very aromatic creeping ground cover. 'Bee's Bliss' is a native hybrid that lives up to its name. Mine started flowering with pretty whorls of blue purple in April and bees are on it as long as it's warm outside. It has taken over a large garden bed, but is easy to cut back when it's finished blooming.

Salvia Apiana or White Sage is an easy to grow bee-pleaser. The white-green foliage is attractive year-round, and the huge (up to six feet tall) flower spikes have some magic pull to them, bees will visit as long as there's one flower left on the stem. It is used by Native Californians in purification ceremonies, as well as some New Age practitioners. Care must be used when burning it, especially around pregnant women.

It is an important nectar source in areas where it grows abundantly, it is said to make a light, mild, delicious honey. In some areas, whole hillsides and cliffs are covered with sages.

Other good bee salvias include *Salvia mellifera* - Black sage, and *Salvia leucophylla* - Purple Sage.

Purple sage is easy to grow in the garden. It grows 4 to 7 feet tall and at least that wide. It will sometimes root where the branches touch the ground. There are lower growing types- 'Point Sal Spreader', is low and wide, 'Amethyst Bluff' is 3-5 feet tall and up to 10 feet wide. Your local native plant nursery will have a large selection of salvias as well as advice on how to care for them.

There are also beautiful varieties from other areas of the world that do well in our California gardens.

If you have a bee question or problem that you want opinions about, post it on our yahoo beelist You might even get more from other beekeepers.

sonomabees@yahoogroups.com is the address for this list. We are a friendly, helpful bunch. One person who sometimes answers questions is a British beekeeper over the big pond!

Tour: Bees, Bees, Bees Galore!

Sunday, June 5th, 10am-3pm, \$35

Please register at www.dailyacts.org or call 707.789.9664

The Melissa Garden is a honeybee sanctuary founded in 2007 to create a center for holistic beekeeping and honeybee-centric educational and cultural activities. Designed by award-winning landscaper Kate Frey, two acres of this 40-acre ranch are planted explicitly for the honeybees, with botanicals that offer year-round nectar and pollen sources.

They'll share a potluck lunch and hear distinct perspectives from three local beekeepers: April Lance, who lovingly raises and sells local, gentle honeybees from her honeybee headquarters in Healdsburg; Adam Kinsey, a Petaluma beekeeper and member of Daily Acts' Homegrown Guild; and Michael Thiele, caretaker of the bees at the Melissa Gardens, who will share his holistic beekeeping approach. There, where honeybees are offered a sanctuary and insulated from external stressors, we'll undoubtedly end the day feeling equally serene and nourished.

The First Annual "Sonoma Summer Bee Count"

Counting Bees! Sounds More Difficult Than Herding Cats, Doesn't It?

The first annual "Sonoma Summer Bee Count" will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12, 2011. The public is invited to participate. The bee count is the latest endeavor of Cittaslow Pollinator Stewards Collaborative, known as "Pollinator Pals," to educate the public about the demise of pollinators and their critical importance to local food production.

Pollinator Pals is a partnership project of Cittaslow Sonoma Valley and Sonoma Ecology Center, along with a broad array of community service organizations, businesses and education. In the past, Pollinator Pals has focused on the well-studied honeybee, with this latest endeavor; the collaborative is shifting focus to the less well known, but equally important, native bee.

The Bee Count will be guided by the west coast's most respected native bee experts, Professor Gordon Frankie and Research Assistant Marissa Ponder from the Urban Bee Lab at U.C. Berkeley. Professor Frankie is a research entomologist in the Division of Insect Biology, College of Natural Resources. His specialty is behavioral ecology of solitary bees in wildland and urban environments of California and Costa Rica. He also teaches conservation and environmental problem solving. Marissa graduated with a B.S. in Conservation and Resource Studies from U.C. Berkeley and has been a member of the Urban Bee Lab since 2007.

This bee count is a carefully orchestrated "citizen-science" event requiring training on Saturday from 10:00 to 4:00. This is your opportunity to learn to recognize types of bees, different bee behavior, via slides, lectures and hands-on experience. Covered topics include: conservation of bees and other insects that visit flowers, why bees are important, statewide findings on the bee/flower relationship, and more. Participants will also use microscopes or hand lenses to get up close and

personal and will learn the procedures for counting bees in the field.

On Sunday, June 12, from 10:30 to 3:30 trained field teams will put their new knowledge to work at one of three locations in Sonoma. Researchers from the Urban Bee Lab will work with each team to provide on-site assistance and identification. Since many native bees look similar, samples obtained from the count will be sent to U.C. Davis for accurate identification. Participants will also prepare bee study boxes with sample bees to illustrate the findings of the day and use in future classroom projects. Following the count participants will reconvene to turn in their data and celebrate their accomplishments with an appreciation party until 5:00. The information collected will form the baseline against which the Cittaslow Pollinator Pals Collaborative, Sonoma Ecology Center, and the Urban Bee Lab at U.C. Berkeley will begin to look at long-term patterns – are native bee populations gaining, losing or staying about the same in Sonoma Valley? Survey results will be posted on the Sonoma Ecology Center's website.

A nominal fee of \$30 will be charged, which includes lunch on Saturday, refreshments on Sunday, and all resource material. On Saturday, please bring paper and pen for note taking, and on Sunday a refillable water bottle, and sack lunch. Thank you to Whole Foods Sonoma for donating Saturday's lunch and Sunday refreshments. A limited number of participants can be accommodated. Age limited to 16 and over. Saturday training is mandatory for Sunday's participation in the bee count. Proceeds benefit continued citizen education projects sponsored by Cittaslow Pollinator Pals Collaborative.

Contact Shelley Arrowsmith, Co-chair of Cittaslow Pollinator Pals, at 707-935-3420, or email arrowfarms@vom.com if you are interested in becoming part of this first ever event.

Honey Bee Trivia

Did you ever wonder how pollen is collected? Well through skillful cleaning of all its legs the bee gathers pollen it has accumulated from landing in a flower onto the brushes of its tarsi. While it is fling, the comb of one leg comes out the pollen from the brush of the other leg and vice versa. (And I can't even walk and chew gum at the same time!) When the tarsus and tibia rub against each other, the pollen pushes against the upper edge of the tarsus, which moves the pollen out of the comb up onto the outside of the tibia. Here, long, arched bristles create a sort of basket, which collects the pollen.

The book I got this from, [The Little Book of Bees](#), by Karl Weiss, says this happens so fast that nothing can be seen with the naked eye except for the hind legs rubbing together! Don't ask how the author

knows all this because he doesn't explain. Maybe they used videos and slowed them down.

Law Offices of
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SCBA thanks Donald Black for the pro-bono advice he has given our association.

All business card size ads for each month are \$5, the ¼ page ad is \$10, and the ½ page ad is \$20. The ad will not be run until the treasurer tells the editor it is paid for!

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.

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Member Ad Space

*Note: These ads are **bee related** and are published as a free service to members only. Please send your ad to the editor and try to keep them short!*

Spring 2011 Nucs
Bloomfield Bees has Nucs for \$160, classes free with purchase...\$75 deposit. 707-836-7278 (H) Jackie & Geoff Whitford 707-490-5001(cell) Geoff Whitford

Honeybees for Sale- Available now! Up and running medium boxes of local (Italian type) for sale. Pick up in Healdsburg.
Contact AprilLance@aol.com

Hands On Workshops
By Thea Vierling and Ettamarie Peterson

One of the perks of being a SCBA member is participation in Hands on workshops at various locations around the County. These workshops provide members with an opportunity in a small group setting to: evaluate the set up of a beehive, watch other beekeepers work a hive, and, most important, an opportunity to go into a hive with people to help you. We learn a lot from each other!

Here are some comments from one of the last workshops:
"I learned how to use the hive tool"
"A small group is a perfect number- large enough to share ideas but small enough so everyone could participate."
"I gained more confidence for working in my own hives."
"Classroom learning is important but learning hands on is the other very important and needed aspect. We need more of these on various topics."



Seven other beekeepers came over to the Peterson's Farm on the same day to learn about hive inspection techniques. They were given three sample hive inspection sheets to see the various points beekeepers feel are important to look for. The emphasis was made that all beekeepers do not agree on methods and each should choose what feels best.

Several hives were opened to show a variety of colonies. The first one appeared to have a newly opened queen cell as Ettamarie was in the process of requeening this colony. Another one had a bee hatching out of her cell much to the delight of the group!

Comments made by this group was that it was good to actually get a chance to handle the hive tool and frames, they learned to see the difference in the drone comb versus the worker comb and honey cappings versus brood cappings, they wanted to come back later in the summer for another lesson, and they all thought it was a great experience!

Thanks

Thanks go to Kristine Siebert who kindly donated a book called *The Honey Trail* by Grace Pundyk to our SCBA library. Check it out if you are interested in how honey is harvested, marketed, sold and regulated around the world. It is an interesting look at the honey world starting in Yemen (before the latest civil unrest) and ending in China.

Western Farm Supply

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June Recipes

Ice Cream With Honey-Poached Apricots

From www.realsimple.com

Grab some of the fresh apricots available this month for this recipe that feeds 4 people.

Ingredients: 1 Cup water, ½ C. Honey, 2 strips lemon zest and 4 apricots plus 1 pint vanilla ice cream and ¼ C. toasted coconut.

In a small saucepan, bring 1 C. water, ½ C. honey, and 2 strips lemon zest to a boil. Add 4 apricots (pitted & quartered) and transfer to medium bowl. Refrigerate until cool.

Divide 1 pint vanilla ice cream, the apricots, the syrup (discard the zest), and ¼ C. toasted coconut among 4 bowls.

Granola Bars Using Honey Cappings

Chris Slade, a beekeeper and writer over in England invented this recipe originally and posted it on the Irish List. He called it "Honeycomb Flapjacks". The Brits do not call pancakes "Flapjacks" so don't think this is like a pancake.

Here's his version with my comments:

Fill a baking tray (I used a cookie pan that had an edge) with porridge oats (oatmeal) to the thickness you would like the slab to be. Transfer the oats to a plastic bowl. Add drained cappings, pressed comb (with or without cocoons!) (none for me!), seeds of sesame, plumpkin, lin, snuffler and chopped up crystallised ginger and anything else that takes your fancy (I used a trail mix with dried fruit and added more sunflower seeds and peanuts and added a bit more honey, too.). Place the bowl in the microwave and heat for maybe a minute. Inspect and stir. Repeat as often as necessary until you have a fairly uniform sticky mess.

Transfer the contents of the bowl to the baking tray, pat down and put into a hot oven until your eyes and nose tell you it's cooked. (Mine took 30 minutes at 350°F) Cut with a pizza wheel or knife while it's still soft. The parts that crumbled I ate like trail mix.

Note: This is a good recipe for the beginning beekeeper who has just enough cappings for this and not enough to make any candles this year! Enjoy!

Kathy Kellison, Our June Speaker

Kathy Kellison is an amazing lady. When she isn't out advocating for our honeybees and other vital pollinators, she actually finds time to teach forth grade and keeps some beehives of her own!

She was the secretary of SCBA a few years ago and then began her quest to save pollinators. This work has taken her to Washington D.C. and Sacramento to speak to politicians. Kim Flottum, editor of *Bee Culture* magazine has written about her bee friendly farming program that is part of Partners for Sustainable Pollination. Her efforts have born fruit. She will tell us how much and what more is needed.

To learn more about PFSP look at www.pfspbees.org.

Humor From The Eke

By Stuart Ching, Nottinghamshire, UK

What do the letter A and flowers have in common?

Bees come after both of them!



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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 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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