

The Monthly Extractor



A newsletter that reflects the various techniques, theories and art of sustainable beekeeping.

Volume 33, Issue 12

December 2011

Monthly Meeting: Dec. 12- Starts at 6 p.m.! Election of new officers, silent auction and Gourmet Pot Luck Dinner: Bring a dish to share & serving utensils and your own place setting: glass, silverware, plate, cup. **We have no insurance coverage for Alcoholic beverages-Please DONOT bring them!

From the President

This is the final newsletter of 2011 and my last President's message! Every month it seems I've commented on how fast time has flown and this month is no exception!

I have fully enjoyed my year as President and wish to thank the entire board and membership for their support, enthusiasm and colorful conversations! Together we've accomplished quite a lot this year and moved SCBA a little bit further into the public eye promoting our friend, the honeybee.

The amount of people we shared honeybee education with this year is astounding. I had a lot of fun and loved spending time at the events with other members talking about bees and getting to know one another a little bit better. It's a great way to build community.

Already the holiday potluck is right around the corner and I trust you are all preparing your signature dishes to share with the rest of us. There are great prizes for the tastiest foods! Invite your friends and family too. Everyone is welcome! And remember to bring your checkbooks for the silent auction prizes!

Beekeepers are definitely a different breed, unlike anything I've ever experienced and I am proud to be a part of this unusual community. We gather from all walks of life with one great thing in common - love of honeybees. Through this love I see us creating a healthier world for the bees and in turn for others and ourselves.

From my heart, I wish all of you the merriest of holiday seasons along with great health, wealth and prosperity for the coming years.

Merry Christmas!
Randy

Randy Sue Collins, President

SCBA Board Meeting Minutes

Dec. 14, 2011

Meeting Called to order:

Location: 4H Building, Rohnert Park, CA

I. Consent Calendar

~ Minutes Approved from Oct board meeting—
Ettamarie moved, Thea second-minutes approved.

~ Treasurer's report

1. Informal audit completed; they will make a separate report at the end of the meeting;
2. PayPal Account is ready to go for membership 2012
3. Exchange Bank will start charging for checking accounts unless we keep \$1,000 in the account, which we will do.
4. Balances in checking: \$1650 in Savings: \$5475 for a Total of \$7125
5. Total Income to date: \$10,256; Total expenditures \$11,461

6. New colored T-shirts and tote bags make great presents for the holidays

~ Purchase Coleman tent

II. President's Report

~ Insecta-palooza report—Randy Sue attended and thought it could be presented better. Local students and not too many outside visitors. Reconsider for next year.

Also attended the WAS Board of Directors. Interesting to see how big HONEY/MONEY thinks of bee keeping, honey production and the business of bees.

III. Treasurer's Report – Thea –see above under Consent Calendar.

IV. Membership Report – Cheryl

~ Google docs presentation –247 final membership for the 2011, 22 mentors, 73 seeking a mentor. Membership page is online—all lists will be accessible as will the Swarm List which changes.

~ maintaining the website or starting a new one
V. Events and Speakers Report - Neal
~ Neal will be staying on the committee as a member. Need to develop a consistent theme for our public exhibits.
~ Kathy Emery report

VI. Advisory Committees
Strategic planning –
Financial – Thea—**Audit Committee of Bill and Kathy—performed audit every 6 months and found all checks and deposits correct. Ended at a \$5.00 shortage. Recommendations: Purchase on-line Quickbooks as this has “back-up” off-site on their server or the “Cloud”. Cost for this is \$220.00. Can assign other users and passwords. Audit every six months recommended. Next audit will be end of January of 2012.**

General Meeting notes:

Sponsor: Share Exchange—“Where everything is made in Sonoma County” Shareexchange.coop Cost to be involved in the Share Exchange is \$15.00 set up fee. Consignment, join for day, month or year. 531 5th street, Santa Rosa, CA

President Randy Sue demonstrated our New Tee shirts—colorful--\$20.00 each
Tote Bag: \$20.00 goes to help the organization. We also have DVD’s vanishing of the bees: \$20.00 We also have Custom Swarm tape—25’ lengths for \$5.00

Audit Committee: Gave their report Bill and Kathy—every six months the committee will audit the treasurer’s work. Everything looks fine. QuickBooks is used for our accounting needs.

Randy Sue attended WAS Board of Director's meeting. State Convention has “Small Scale” beekeeper classes Tuesday schedule: 1:00pm to 5:00pm small bee classes.
Wed morning—8:00 to Noon. “Small Scale” beekeepers vs. “Hobbyists”.

New beekeepers: Kathleen, San Anselmo, had 2 hives, lost one. First year beekeeper—small swarm.

Meeting subjects: Discussion on Foulbrood & Alternative Hives and Gadgets—

Foulbrood—Can you bring contaminated hive to a burn area? A bee member stated if you contact Serge he could direct you to someone who will allow you to burn your contaminated “foulbrood” (FB) hive. If you do it yourself burn in the evening when bees are not flying, in the evening, dig a pit, burn in there and then cover.
Evidence of FB Check brood chamber look for cappings which are dark, sunken, If you suspect foulbrood don’t leave the hive behind. Make sure you’re not going to spread it around. If it is spring, summer, you might be able to save by shaking the

Events/ Speakers -
Membership/Benefits -
Record Keeping -
VII. New Business
~ Ettamarie – limiting free ads in newsletter
~ Honey snack contest for CSBA convention
~ Potluck and silent auction – set up • silent auction items Meeting starts at 6:00pm and Board should be here at 5:00pm to set up and get silent auction items ready.
~ Board Retreat need for and date.
~ The informal audit committee wants to share some thoughts.
Adjourn: 6:50pm

bees from the contaminated hive into a cardboard box, place some sticks on bottom, place feeder on top. Put hole in box to let them come and go but feed them sugar water to purge them. Wait one week, put into clean equipment. If at the end of the season/summer, they are doomed. Robbing bees will spread it. Put contaminated equipment into garbage bags. Highly contagious.

Hives--
Wicker basket hive—Randy Sue’s experiment—hailing from Uganda. Found readily available wicker hamper and gathered cow dung; mixed with mud and pored over and covered the hive, which was covered in wood mesh. It worked but the Hive is illegal here in the U.S., as you need to be able to inspect the combs. Only moveable frame hives are legal in the U.S.A.

Hex Hive: each super has entrance. Peaked roof with 3 vent screens in top. Bottom super NO frames. Super above frames have NO bottom board on frames so they make comb to bottom super.

Top Bar Hives—going back to the Egyptians—long bar hives. Neal Rodgers--Bee Steward—provides safe place for the bees. Long hives, which use “bars “instead of” frame. They create their own foundation and attach to the bars. It has 21 bars and follower boards. Follower board will restrict hive flow of bee and comb building. Natural tendency is to build in the front for brood and honey in the back. Bees will attach to walls Honeycomb for added stability. Bottom is fully screened. Neal sells these and they are a work of art. Cost: \$425.00 FOR TOP BAR.

Resources: Phil Chandler www.Biobees.com
Book: “Barefoot beekeeper”---bee guardianship “The Bee-friendly Beekeeper”—David Heaf

Warre hive: 8 bars per super, each super like its own separate hive. 5 boxes high. Made of cypress.

Gadgets:
Emery Dann: Torch—get the one-handed “Benzomatic” at Friedman’s. Doesn’t require two hands to adjust fuel/flame mixture. You need to keep your hands free!

To cover hive when it rains he uses a 10’ polycarbonate sheet which he cuts to fit each hive. .

Places on top of hives to keep rain off. Places on equally on hive to cover.

“Tanglefoot”—keeps ants off of your hives for 2 months at a time. Uses old cat food cans, nails to bottom of solid board, paints cans with “Tanglefoot” and keeps aunts out of your colonies. Warning—Tanglefoot also will grab an occasional bee.

Stethoscope—for finding out what’s going on in your hive during the winter.

Good quality painters tape: Use if you inspect when temperature is NOT the warmest or best and the seal can’t reseal due to the cold weather and the propolis is hardened. Use tape to “re-seal” at the seams of supers. Painters’ tape can be easily removed. Don’t use duct tape as it is too tough and is very hard to remove.

Cheap way to secure your hives before the big winter winds: Knots to secure hives for the winter. Richard Crosby excellent KNOT tier!

Nominations for 2012 Officers/elections:

Len Carl. Sec.—Ettamarie nominated and Cheryl 2nd

Kathy Emery as 2nd VP

Betty Andrews as 1st VP

Mike Kelly—as President--Randy Sue nominated, Ettamarie 2nd.

Thea Vierling as Treasurer

Annual Holiday Potluck next month in December.

Silent auction Items. 35 Items. Dec 12th. Is the big day!! Meeting begins at 6:00pm!

Meeting over at: 8:50pm

My December Beekeeping To-Do List

By Serge Labesque ©

[This month, instead of continuing with the second part of the story of my first bees, I decided at the last minute to write about a noteworthy facet of the 2011 Annual CSBA Convention that was held in Rohnert Park in mid-November.]

Most beekeepers and scientists say that many factors play a role in the plight of honey bees: the widespread use of numerous pesticides; loss of habitat; stressful hive management practices; malnutrition; new and not-so-new pests and diseases; the list goes on. I agree with this view. But, based on what I witnessed at the Convention, I postulate that one of the main causes of the demise of the bees that is never mentioned may simply be fear! Beekeepers are afraid of losing their colonies. Symptoms of this fear were evident in most of the presentations I attended, most of the exhibits I saw, and in many of the discussions I heard.

Fear is the worst of the diseases, and the fear of losses, which is more contagious than AFB, is endemic among beekeepers! Here is how it works: When beekeepers succumb to this affliction, they grab anything out of the arsenal of available treatments that they think might protect their bees. They shove these products along with “super queens” down into their hives, and they douse and feed their bees with unbelievable substances. This blatant interference with the process of natural selection weakens the bees by temporarily keeping

alive unfit colonies, thus allowing them to spread their inept genes.

Compounding the problem, the fear of colony losses is spread between beekeepers. This is especially striking with new beekeepers, as they heed the recommendations of their mentors. They treat their hives, whether the bees are sick or not. I have been there. I treated my colonies when I started keeping bees, only because I was told to, only because the same advice-threat was printed in all the books that I read, and because they instilled in me the fear of losing my bees, and no other alternative was offered. This was particularly stupid on my part, because my first bees were strong, healthy, and had been on their own, totally unmanaged, for well over ten years. Those bees were screaming at me that they were fine, that it was not necessary to place awful chemicals in their brood nests. And yet I did it, only because I did not yet have the guts or the savvy to challenge the dubious knowledge of “experienced” beekeepers.

I have fully recovered from this phobia. The bees that are in my hives are going about their bee business without any fear-inspired help from me. They depend on their own defense mechanisms to stay healthy, and I trust them to know better than I do how to fight off any of their health problems. I plainly enjoy them and their untainted honey. Don’t get me wrong: I lose some colonies once in a while. But instead of being afraid of these losses, I look at them as beneficial events, as a way the species and nature have of eliminating unfit elements. I do not object.

The Convention was a barrage of presentations permeated with advice and ads for this or that treatment. Commercial beekeepers made up the vast majority of the attendees. Since their livelihood depends on bees, they are chronically afraid of losing too many of their colonies. They firmly believe that treating hives is an absolute necessity. So, they came to the Convention to hear what the latest treatment available is. For sure, they were copiously served! On their minds were truckloads of bees, tanker-truck loads of syrup, pollination contracts and honey crops. For most, that’s too much stuff to allow them to also ponder the heavy blows their practices inflict on the honey bee species. Their only interest is to keep their operations going at any cost.

There were also some small-scale beekeepers present. That’s what the CSBA calls those of us who do not make a living off their bees. Many were new or aspiring beekeepers. In the Q&A sessions, they frequently asked: “So, what should I treat my bees with? How should I apply this? How often?” I did not hear a single “Do I really need to treat my bees?” I can’t blame them, because I’ve been there and done that.

But what about the speakers? Microphone in hand, they are supposed to be “the authority”. Of course they have to have answers. So, they launch into long speeches that list all the treatment options they know of... and they omit the most important one: To not treat bees for pests or diseases at all. Possibly, they are the main vectors of this fear disease.

BRAINWASHED! Beekeepers are brainwashed from the very beginning. From the moment we think about

having bees, we are taught to fear colony losses and to treat our hives in order to avoid these losses. It's not surprising that treatments for pests and diseases have become an integral part of having bees!

Well, not quite, not everywhere! This is no longer happening in my apiaries or in the apiaries of many others who place their trust in the bees' innate strength and who value the proven power of natural selection more than short-sighted human technologies. Better yet: There are now some beekeepers that are questioning the validity of the methods used in conventional apiculture. Beekeeping is changing, and this is great!

As beekeepers, we owe it to the people interested in keeping bees to abandon the scare tactics and to at least offer them the option of not interfering with the process of natural selection when managing hives. For me, it is not even an option. As I see it, using no treatment whatsoever for pests or diseases is the only way to keep the bees strong and healthy, to preserve their free, self-sufficient and non-domesticated nature. This, we owe to the species.

December in the apiaries:

With the disappearance of the summer bees, the populations of our hives have rapidly dropped. Even though some bees fly and may forage for a few hours on sunny days, most of their time is spent in clusters. With little or no brood to rear, this is a period of rest for the colonies. When this is the case, our bees do not have to produce much heat and, consequently, their honey consumption is minimal. This period of broodlessness is one of the few times in the year when varroa mites have no place to hide and reproduce. It is a great opportunity for the bees that possess good grooming behavior to eliminate these parasites, or at least to reduce their population. Brood rearing will resume soon after the winter solstice.

At this time of year in the apiary, it is better to keep our curiosity in check and our interaction with our bees to the minimum necessary: an occasional inspection of the exterior condition of the hives; keeping an eye on the monitoring trays; placing an ear against the side of the hives when there is no visible activity; observing the flight paths and entrances on warm sunny days. Any disturbance or jostling of the resting hives should be avoided. Only in rare instances of emergency should we open a hive. There is in fact very little that we can do with our bees now, but we must shut down or remove any failed hives without delay so that they do not present a risk of contamination for other colonies. Yes, robbing can happen at any time of the year.

Reflecting on the past season keeps us thinking about our bees. For this purpose, our notes are invaluable sources of information. This year again, the cool and wet spring almost entirely eliminated the spring honey flow. It was followed by a rather cold summer that brought only dearth for hives that depend on natural nectar flows. If measured in terms of honey production, this year was probably the worst I've seen since I started keeping bees.

However, on the bright side, there were few cases of disease. The mite populations remained low and the hives went into winter with adequate stores. It was interesting to note that most hives shut down brood rearing early in the fall.

One of the lessons that I am drawing from this past season was administered by the unexpected November 1st strong winds. They did some spectacular damage in my main apiary. Next year, I will definitely have my hives secured for winter before the end of October.

Now is the time to clean, assemble and prepare frames and equipment for next season.

This month:

- Inspect the exterior condition of the hives:
 - Hive tops should be properly set and secured.
 - Observe the landing boards and the ground in front of the hives.
 - Verify that the hive entrances remain unobstructed.
 - On nice days, observe the flight paths and the bee activity at the entrances.
- Observe monitoring trays. The clusters should remain centered in order to maintain access to their stores.
- Ensure that hives are adequately ventilated.
- Verify that mice have not entered hives (telltale clues of their presence are visible on the monitoring trays, as coarse pieces of comb, mouse feces, etc.).
- Keep an eye on the colonies that still carry large brood nests (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.

At home:

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

Happy Holidays to all of you from the Labesques!

BEE WISE by Emery Dann

“Famous Last Words to a Beekeeper!”

A tough gang member weighing 275 pounds was watching from across the street where Frank Van Kirk, Len Carl and I were extracting bees from a building. He came over and said, “Where’s the honey?” I said, “You are welcome to come inside and see where the honey is, but there are lots of bees!” He said, “NOT ME, @%^#& NO, NOT ME” as he quickly left the area!

A swarm at the Santa Rosa Junior College was near the sidewalk on Elliott Street. A student walking far out in traffic to avoid being near the swarm yelled to me, “I ain’t never seen so many bees. I’ll do ANYTHIN’, but I ain’t NEVER doin’ NO @%^#& BEES!” Hope he found his English class!

Homeowner, “YOU MUST COME IMMEDIATELY, RIGHT NOW and remove these honey bees that are inside the wall of my home! You can do it for free, of course, because we’re giving you ALL the bees!”

Call from a renter, “I have honey bees stinging me when I walk in the yard near a hole in the ground where they live!” Another call, “The tree has a honey bee hive inside—we have to remove the bees so we can cut the tree down.” I checked the “honey bees” which were yellow jacket wasps!

I spent hours removing a large honey bee colony from a deck wall in Oakmont. Before I took all the bees away, I told them over and over to bee proof the deck area, or else.... Two years later at the 2011 Harvest Fair the owner told Doug Vincent, “The honey bees that Emery removed are back in the deck, but we’re going to leave them there!”

The Sonoma County Fairgrounds had a hive in a tree about 7 feet above the ground near the food concessions. “The bees were inside the tree...then they left—no more bees for 6 months. We thought they were gone!” I asked, “Did you close the opening?” “No, but why have the bees have returned?”

“Yes, there is easy access to remove the honey bee colony at our home. Bees are coming out of a tiny hole 2 ½ stories high under our roof overhang. All you need is a ladder to get to them!”

I was told, “The swarm knew you were coming, so they all left.”

I had a swarm call: “You don’t need a ladder to reach the swarm; it’s only 5 feet high in a tree.” Now I take a ladder or a long pole with a bucket or swimming pool net on an extension pole! Somehow 5 feet off the ground turns into 15 feet. I call this “Swarm Height Hysteria”!

“Can you vacuum out the bees that are inside my tree?” My answer is, “No.”

“We thought the bees would happily go away when we cut the tree down. Now the bees are stinging us, and won’t let us get near the fallen tree to cut up the wood...can you HELP?”

Then there are one or two people who will pay anything to remove honey bees...until the bees are gone. Then why write a check? “We just gave you the bees—can we have all the honey?” “No, the bees need the honey to survive! Imagine taking a wrecking ball to your home and then taking all your food away, too!” Human nature under “bee stress” can get weird! I am sure many of you have heard “famous last words to (you) a beekeeper!”

I have had the privilege of meeting hundreds of concerned people and children who want to do the right thing at the right time for helping honey bees. All they need is some “bee education”! Then they know how to help honey bees. Most people DO appreciate and respect (from a distance) our bee rescues! A few even want to help us in a veil with gloves.

I am so THANKFUL meeting and BEEING with so many thoughtful neighbors and local residents. It is also a blessing and privilege for me to be with you amazing “beekeeping brothers and sisters”, as we share in our bee experiences together. After all, WE BEE FAMILY, since we’re all in the same human “hive”

Bee Plants of the Month

By Alice Ford-Sala

Herb of the Month:

Cone Flower Echinacea

Family Asteraceae

Here we have one of the most famous medicinal herbs. It is native to

North America and beloved by bees. Honey bees and native bees will circle the opening florets in the center of the flower head, collecting pollen as they complete their rounds. The flowers are stunningly beautiful.

E. purpurea is purple-pink with drooping petals on the outside of the cone that forms as the spine-like florets open and mature. It grows to about 4 feet tall. *E.*

pallida is a paler purple or whitish and *E. angustifolia* is smaller, 6-20 inches high. If you leave the attractive cones on the plants, birds will come and eat the seeds, a welcome sight in the late Fall. There are many hybrids, some are fragrant; they range in color from white to orange, pink and purple. They all appreciate full sun and regular water.

You can plant the seeds in a well-prepared bed now, as they need some time of cold stratification to germinate nicely. That can be accomplished by wetting a paper towel, laying the seeds on the paper towel, placing them in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for a couple of months, or by planting them in that nice cool garden bed where they will cold-stratify with the cold wet weather.

Echinacea is commonly used for colds and flu, and some people believe it strengthens the immune system. Usually the root is used in teas or extracts. The leaves can also be used in tea. American Indians have a history of chewing the root for tooth pain, making a tea or poultice for treating wounds, as well as using to treat cold symptoms.

Native Plant of the Month:

Wild Rose

Rosa Californica

Family Rosaceae

I have found in my garden that roses are true favorites of bees, contrary to some popular belief. The important feature to look for in roses is to choose a variety that

is single flowered, so the bees can get in and access the pollen. I have observed honey bees rolling in the pollen, looking quite ecstatic (if bees experience ecstasy.) More likely she was just trying to get pollen on all of her hairs?

California has several native roses. They usually bloom for a short time in the spring to early summer. Some species have very spiny stems, so you would want to plant them where people won't be brushing up against them. They can also form dense thickets that increase in square footage every year, so give them room to ramble or bury a bamboo root guard on the edge of the bed or hedge. California wild rose has pretty pale pink flowers and can grow in sun or partial shade. Wood Rose – *R. gymnocarpa* – can grow in shade and under trees. Nook Rose- *R. nuing* has

darker pink flowers that are said to be quite fragrant on warm days.

All will develop rose hips that you can leave for the birds or make rose hip jam or tea from.

Our native roses aren't as picky about water and fertilizer as modern roses. They will get the same rose diseases such as black spot and rust. They are quite hardy though and will outgrow them when drier weather returns.

You can cut them to the ground in the fall or winter—no fancy pruning required; just wear your heavy-duty gloves.

May you and your loved ones have a warm and sweet Holiday Season! Make some nice herb tea with a spoonful of honey!

Election Night With the Pot Luck Dinner

Members who get their newsletter by snail mail will get a ballot with their newsletter. They can mail the ballot back in but votes must be received by December 9th. Other members will receive an e-mail ballot. All members can bring their marked ballot to the meeting to be counted. ****We have no insurance coverage for**

Alcoholic beverages - Please DO NOT bring them!

Honey Bee Trivia

It has been estimated that bees must fly 150,000 miles to produce one pound of wax. Bees must eat about seven pounds of honey to secrete a pound of wax. For every 100 pounds of honey a beekeeper harvests, only one to two pounds of beeswax are produced.

Law Offices of

Donald J. Black

2213 Mendocino Ave.

Santa Rosa, California 95403

(707) 576-7850 FAX (707) 525-9641

SCBA thanks Donald Black for the pro-bono advice he has given our association!

December Recipes

Pumpkin Bread With Honey

Adapted from Pumpkin Lovers Cookbook

This recipe makes 5 small loaves, which you can give to friends as homemade gifts!

2 Cups honey

1 Cup oil

4 eggs, beaten

2 Cups pumpkin

3 ½ Cups sifted flour

1 tsp. baking powder

2 tsp. baking soda

½ tsp. salt

1 ½ tsp pumpkin pie spice or 1 tsp. each cinnamon, nutmeg and allspice

½ tsp. ground cloves, optional

1 tsp. cinnamon

2/3 Cup water

1 Cup pecans, optional

Combine sugar and oil; add beaten eggs, then add pumpkin. Add sifted dry ingredients and water. Mix; stir in nuts and pour into greased loaf pans or 1 pound coffee cans. Fill about ½ full. Bake at 350° F for 55 minutes to 1 hour. Test center with knife or toothpick.

Pomegranate Glazed Carrots

From Raley's Something Extra Magazine

This is a nice vegetable dish to serve at the Holiday Dinner. Serves 6

1 C. POM Wonderful Pomegranate Cranberry Juice

2 Tbsp. honey

1 lb. carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch diagonal slices

1 Tbsp. olive oil

¼ tsp. each: sea salt and freshly ground pepper

½ C. chopped walnuts

¼ C. dried cranberries

1 Tbsp. chopped fresh thyme

Place juice in a small saucepan over medium-high heat. Cook for 15 minutes or until reduced to ¼ C; stir in honey. (May be prepared several days ahead and stored tightly covered in refrigerator.)

Preheat oven to 400°F. Stir together carrots, oil, salt and pepper on a small baking sheet; cook for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir glaze into carrots and cook for 10 minutes more or until carrots are nicely glazed.

Sprinkle with thyme.

Hot Honey Eggnog

By Pat Katz THE AMERICAN COUNTRY COOK Beat one egg and one teaspoon honey together till light. Heat about a cup of milk till almost boiling, and pour into egg mixture. Stir and pour in a mug. Sprinkle with nutmeg, if desired. This is more nutritious because the egg has been cooked by the hot milk." Sent in by Richard Crosby—Thanks, Richard!

Potluck and Silent Auction

We have some very exciting Silent Auction items for the December 12th silent Auction. Many wonderful things and services have been donated.

Remember there will also be prizes for the best honey dish, best main dish, best salad, best side dish and best dessert!!!!

We do need volunteers for the potluck to help run the silent auction, set up tables for the event, someone to sell 2012 memberships and the t-shirts and tote bags and last but not least we need a clean up committee, too. Please contact

2nd Vice President – Neal Rogers – 707-473-0574
2ndVP@sonomabees.org to let him know what you want to do to make this the greatest potluck/silent auction night ever!

Don't forget your family is welcome! We ask everyone to bring his/her own place setting and serving utensils for the dish he/she brings. The Association will provide beverages.

Two association extractors are housed at Janet Leisen's home 707- 528-2085, Ettamarie Peterson's home 707-765-4582 and Patrick Laherty's 879-9208. The rent is \$5 a day.

Reserve local, honeybees for spring, 2012 now!

No deposit required. Pick up in Healdsburg. No chemicals ever used, lovingly raised, calm and easy to handle Italian-type LOCAL bees.

Available in packages or up and running hives on two separate Saturday and Sundays, only during late March and April.



ApriLLance@aol.com

*Note: The following 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!*

Organic Beekeeping 101 classes

Date: Saturday Dec 10th

Location: Sonoma

Time: 10am until 4pm with a lunch break.

Find all the details at <http://organicbeekeeping101.blogspot.com/2011/01/organic-beekeeping-101-class-for-bee.html> or call (707) 365-4330

Randy Sue Collins

For Sale: Deep hive boxes, from Dadant, brand new, unassembled, without frames, \$20. Three available. Will assemble and paint for additional fee. Janet Leisen 707-217-9156 or leisen.janet@gmail.com

For Sale-6 surplus supers, some wax foundation, some super frames, some spacers for supers and some extra bee equipment. All this for \$40. Call Carlos Bottini at 707-539-0124

Western Farm Supply

21 West 7th St., Santa Rosa
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Check out our apiary department!

We carry everything you and the bees need including books, tools, woodenware, wax foundation and suits! You can even order bees!



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Webmaster@sonomabees.org
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.

SCBA Executive Board 2011

Pres. Randy Sue Collins- 707/833-5232

President@sonomabees.org

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1st Vice Pres. – Cheryl Veretto-707-827-3774

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Table of Contents

1. From the President, Board Meeting Minutes
2. General Meeting Notes
3. My December Beekeeping To-Do List by Serge Labesque
4. To-Do List Cont.
5. Serge continued
6. Bee Wise by Emery Dann, Bee Plants of the Month by Alice Ford-Sala
7. Native Plants by Alice Ford-Sala
Election Night With Pot Luck Dinner
Honey Bee Trivia
8. December Recipes
Potluck and Silent Auction
9. Ads and Extractor information
10. SCBA Executive Board information

**Dec. 12- 6 p.m. -Gourmet Pot Luck
Dinner, Silent Auction and Election.
Bring your own place setting and
serving utensils for your potluck dish.
Families welcomed! 4-H Foundation
Building Rohnert Park
**We have no insurance
coverage for Alcoholic beverages
-Please DO NOT bring them!**