

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 –Feb. 14th 7 p.m.-Maya Abood from Pesticide Watch

From the President

Over the years beekeeping has changed from a part time activity into a lifestyle for me. What started out as a fascinating hobby quickly turned into a love affair. How appropriate that our next meeting should fall on Valentine's Day!

There's not a day that goes by where I am not either talking about honeybees, working with honeybees, writing about honeybees, or simply thinking about them. Honeybees, and all things related, have become the passionate driving force in my life and I love it!

Being a beekeeper has opened up a whole new world for me. I have met beekeepers from all over the globe, taught beekeeping classes, lectured about bees, filmed a beekeeping dvd, wrote bee articles, started bee blogs, created bee websites and pollinator gardens, made beeswax candles, soaps and skincare products with beeswax and propolis and the list continues to grow.

Beekeeping is a never-ending journey that I am pleased and grateful to be on each and every day. I imagine a lot of you feel the same way.

As a special treat on Valentine's Day we are going to be giving away a lovely door prize. A box of customized chocolate, honey truffles (Thea and Connie so graciously donated some of their Kenwood honey) along with 2 tickets and tour guide brochures to the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers (again thank you to Thea!) where, until March 13, 2011, the Conservatory is featuring the all new Garden Railway display, a magical, miniature tour of San Francisco's famed Golden Gate Park in celebration of the Park's 140th Anniversary. A must-see excursion!

Everyone attending the meeting will receive one free raffle ticket at the door for a chance to win. Additional tickets will be available for \$1 each and we will all be able to sample the delicious truffles too!

I look forward to seeing all of your bee-utiful smiling faces on Valentine's Day and Happy Beekeeping!

Your President,

Randy Sue Collins

January Board Meeting

Meeting Called to order: 6:10PM, Jan. 10th
Location: 4H Building, Rohnert Park, CA

Those in Attendance:

Randy Sue Collins, President; Sharilyn Bunce, Librarian;
Cheryl Veretto 1st VP, Membership; Ettamarie Peterson—
Newsletter Editor; Thea Vierling, Treasurer;

Kathleen Murphy, 2nd VP, Events and speaker/volunteers; Mike Kelly, Secretary (token Drone!) and Past President Emery Dann

Approval of Minutes from December combined board meeting Dec 20, 2010 Thea moved, Cheryl second--approved

Reports:

I. Treasurer's Report – Thea

Is in the process of completing the nonprofit status, the S1-100form, the Directors and Officers insurance, and the new and improved filing system! Ettamarie brought old documents and new files have all updated information. Items discussed:

*Hard Assets—how to check in and check out and determine shape when returned. How do we keep track, what if someone breaks something—recourse?

*Library Books/discs, Extractors—assets, one at Ettamarie's, Ken Schloser, Janet Leisen's. Each extractor has hot knife and strainer.

*We have Toshiba computer/printer (laptop go with treasurer.

*2 banners, treasurer has these.

*Ettamarie has a tent/screen for bee demonstrations.

*White board and karaoke machine at Randy Sue's

*Need this information for non-profit status. Appointment is at end of month with CPA, S1-100 form; notify state of change of officers. All of these documents are IN THE BOX.

II. Membership Report – Cheryl Veretto

*Swarm list distribution - accuracy of list, postcard design/content, date to deliver -check off who wants to be on the swarm list, get membership apps onto one set.

*Three different applications for membership floating around. New application is on line and printed out. We want to use our information and compile it correctly. Volunteers are always a question.

*Queen rearing, plantings, have plant experts who wish to talk. May speaker is famous flower specialist. Has done habitat gardens in Fetzer other locales.
 *Mentors: those that need, applications have the mentor on them. For the new beekeeper. Should be an individual contract with the mentor/mentee. Ettamarie will write article about mentoring new beekeepers. Etiquette. Google maps of the mentors, on the web site with name/number. Let them do the work. Expand this on the membership application. Becky Christensen has map of mentors with map of county.

*Website calendar content - set meeting dates (Feb conflict w/Valentines day) and other significant SCBA dates

*How we are handling the Mentor requests/connections?

*Ettamarie - Thea and I talked about logistics of correcting bounced e-mails and snail mails.

*Cheryl will announce membership—Membership cards. Use for line officers. Great for volunteers. We all have membership numbers.

*Beginning of meeting Randy Sue, President, will announce officers, officers to answer questions. Librarian should talk about returning books, etc.

- 3) ~ Purchase projector and screen—Randy Sue, Motion to approve and buy projector and screen: \$575.00 Cheryl- Second. Motion carried.
- 4) ~ Goals for the year—Bee day at a school. Kenwood schools. Recommend a list of those who should be coming to our meetings. Newsletter sign up for guests. E-mail. Get influential bee folks. Invite them.
- 5) Bee day at schools

Old Business- none
 Adjourn: 6:55pm.
 Mike Kelly, Sec.

Sonoma County Bee Association January meeting

Notes and observations: January 10, 2011
 Mike Kelly, Sec.

2011 President Randy Sue Collins called the meeting to order. Stated her mission and that of our newly installed board of directors will be to increase our influence in the “Bee” community by increasing membership and through public outreach. She introduced the board of directors one by one and each stated their positions’ responsibilities.

Treasurer Thea Vierling was up first and went over our status as a “non-profit” organization—not there yet! But that’s changing quickly! Went over briefly her responsibilities and how she will keep track of our expenses and income/donations. She will use “Quick Books” to this end, which will allow her to give more concise reporting of our Associations finances. Cheryl Veretto—Membership-very ambitious plans for a “Mentor Map” for new members, increasing new members (membership 184 in 2010—with 14 new members. She is the new swarm chairperson. Reminded everyone you must be a “paid” member to be ON the swarm list. We will reach out to government agencies, businesses to make sure they call US when a swarm arrives! This will be supplemented with postcards providing link to our web site and swarm list. The “list” will be reshuffled on the web site each time an assignment is given. March 1st is cut off to be on the list to be on the printed list that is mailed out! Others will be only on the web site.

Events—Kathleen Murphy—Asked the group if anyone knows of events, which we could appear to please let her know. We have fairs and festivals on the calendar for this year and need help volunteering. The shifts will generally be 3 hours; lots of fun, answer questions make new friends! Need speakers for the year’s meetings. Newsletter—Ettamarie Peterson—E-mail version is the best—way cheaper! It would be great if we ALL could decide to get our newsletter via email.

III. Events and Speakers Report – Kathleen Murphy

1. Upcoming events, planning and prioritizing. Compiling list of events we wish to be involved with. Citrus Fair-Cloverdale—too big of a stretch for the club. So it is removed.
2. Apple Blossom Fair, Insectpaloosa, Harvest Fair (Sonoma Cty.), Frederica from Sonoma State Univ. has great school program-have her come to one of our meetings, 513 members (past and present) in our database, sending emails (300 on list) by membership. Apple Fair, March Bee Symposium, Cal State Beekeepers Assoc. in Nov. in Rohnert Park, National Heirloom Seed Expo (Sept. 13-16), Looking for volunteers to man and set up booths. Speakers through June. July-Oct speakers needed. Janet Leisen—cooking demonstration? Mention: see me at speaking at meeting or ideas for speakers. June speaker Dan Azimuth.

IV. New Business

- 1) ~ Budget: per Diem. Pay mileage 32 cents for Randy Sue to attend State Beekeepers meeting in Sacramento. Randy Sue and Thea to come up with budget before next meeting. Will discuss at new meeting.
- 2) ~ Vote on board meeting place - 4H building—Thea an hour before meeting every month. Have a goody to bring to the board meeting.

She is also selling ad space, business card size, for sale of equipment or Bee related items. Also, if you find an interesting bee article forward to her with attribution of article and if you have permission to reprint.

General Meeting: 5 new attendees! Yeah! Discussion—Boy Scouts of America have a new “merit” badge with a beekeeping component. Person who brought this up stated the Boy Scouts locally are awaiting a Bee Assoc. to step forward and assist. Pres. Randy Sue stated we could take this up at next month’s board meeting but can’t see any trouble support this.

General Questions from attendees on Beekeeping-Centered around “moldy” frames. Most said to scrape it off or not to worry as the bees will remove it. Others stated if it’s very old, “dark” comb—best to discard and get fresh. Another couple stated some of their hives fell over during a storm and they had questions on how to restructure. Many stated just replace and watch, monitor.

Get mentor—we have in the works a fantastic map for those wishing a mentor in a certain geographic area. Our new membership chair, Cheryl, is whipping up some great web site pages for us!!

Monthly Meeting Topic: Swarms!!

Panelists: Emery Dann, Serge Labesque, Randy Sue Collins and Ettamarie Peterson

No 2 swarms are alike!! Our panelists ALL agreed on this. The taking or capturing of the swarms, how they accomplish this, did not vary generally from member to member.

Be prepared—the “Boy Scout Motto” but one all of our panelists agreed was essential. Don’t take the word of the person calling you with the swarm as to size, how long they’ve been there or IF they are actually honey bees!

Materials: Swarm Box—either cardboard or wood—some had customized boxes, trick tools, regardless, be prepared. Not knowing the size means bringing TWO boxes. Other accessories—DUCT tape! Hazard tape for placing around the swarm box after you’ve collected and while you await the rest of the hive to enter your box, protective gear (though Serge doesn’t use any!)

Bring, if you can, 2 bee suits—one for you and the other for a helper or the homeowner who called you about the swarm. Emery takes older comb and mounts on pole and inserts into the swarm. He then pulls the bees down and brushes them into the swarm box or just puts the frame in and takes another and repeats the process. He brings a 5-gallon bucket and brushes bees into that and then into box. His custom box has a strap for throwing over your shoulder as you climb. Has a vent, bottom has legs to keep off wet grass, 8x11 sheet with WARNING about bees he puts on box.

Collecting the swarm—GET THE QUEEN!! But it also depends WHERE they are. Don’t risk life and limb retrieving a swarm. Sometimes they just have to fend for themselves! If on a branch you can cut the branch with permission from property owner and just drop it in your box. Cover box and leave hole opening open so the bees will follow the queen into the hive. Come back in the evening when they are all home, plug the hole, secure

with tape or bungee cords and then transport to their new home.

To attract you can use “drawn” comb or comb which has had honey extracted to lure them into the hive. If it’s too hot place box in shaded area or have material to cover. Your swarm could be a “dry” swarm meaning they have used their food stores and are very hungry. Drawn comb should assist you in getting these into the swarm box. These “dry” swarms can also be very defensive. Ask the person calling, “How long has the swarm been there?” Dress accordingly! Often the person just noticed the swarm but in reality it could have been there for days. A clue is how much wax is deposited and/or the swarm’s behavior.

You can place a swarm box on a ladder when bees are in a tree and capture the queen and leave the box near the swarm and they will come in. Tie the swarm box to the tree if you can also.

Serge does NOT mix his newly acquired swarms with existing hive bees. Leave them alone once they’ve been placed into a new hive. Let them build comb, observe. If caught in June/July may not develop good comb. Monitor this.

You can also Google—“Hiving a Swarm” for more tricks and tips. Good luck! And remember, you must be a member by March 1st to get on the Swarm List put out by the Association!

The Annual Report for the year 2010

Our board keeps the goals of the Association in mind with all of our decisions. We are committed to your education about the Honeybees and also the general public.

The Association ended the year with a healthy balance of \$9220.36. Our income was \$15,208 and our expenditures totaled \$12,948. Our expenditures included: rent, newsletter (both printing and mailing, insurance, speakers, awards, website development and web site hosting, and permits for various fairs. The special events that we have sponsored were both very successful and brought in a total of \$5413. We sold a lot of t-shirts and honey-sticks, which brought in a total of \$3084.

The total number of members for the year 2010 was:

2010 Members = 184

2010 Swarm List = 106

2010 #Colonies = 1,486

Our assets and their location include:

1. White writing Board with eraser.... at Randy

- Sue's house
2. Karaoke machine..... at Randy Sue's house
 3. Computer and printer at Thea's house
 4. Software Quick Books Premier edition for Non profit at Thea's house
 5. 2 banners ...at Thea's house
 6. Extractor #1 with hot knife and strainer.... Janet Leisen
 7. Extractor #2 with hot knife and strainer at Ettamarie's house
 8. Extractor #3..with hot knife and strainer at Ken Schlosser's house
 9. Tent for exhibiting live hive... at Ettamarie's house
 10. Coffee pot at Ettamarie's house
 11. Honey candies.....Thea's house
 12. Honey sticks at Thea's house
 13. T-shirts at Thea's house
 - 14 hive equipment: 2 deeps, 1 med, queen excluder, top, and bottom, at Ettamarie's
 15. Library books, DVDs, and tapes at Sherilyn's house

Some of the other items we are working on include the proper forms for both State and Federal organizations. There have been many changes in the tax laws, including that the State now requires us to complete an annual tax form.

My February Beekeeping To-Do List

By Serge Labesque

What a beautiful day! ♪
 ♪ Spring is pushing winter away.
 Let's go see the bees! ♪

In the apiary, the hives stand out in front of the fresh greenery. ♪ Right and left, bees are flying purposefully. ♪ What a joy!

But in spite of the inviting sun and mild temperature, there is not a single bee coming in or out of this hive. Anxiously placing an ear against the wood, the beekeeper cannot detect the faintest hum. Even a tap of the hand on the wood fails to awaken the bees. The hive remains silent. Without caution, the top is promptly lifted. There are no bees on or between the exposed top bars. Now, the hive tool is driven between two supers. They separate noisily with a sharp crack. The propolis is cold and hard. Somehow, there is still some hope of finding a small cluster of live bees inside the lower box. To no avail. The colony is lost.

For a moment, the beekeeper's heart sinks.

Arms hanging limp and right hand barely able to hold the hive tool, the beekeeper is immersed in an odd mixture of disbelief, protest and discouragement.

"What happened? And why? This was a very active colony in the fall!"

The saddened beekeeper has work to do: trying to figure out what caused this loss; loading and taking care of the equipment... For sure it's a grim and tedious chore! But after a while, once the repulsive combs have been discarded and the rest of the hive has been scorched, the beekeeper senses the feeling of regaining some control over the situation. And yet, there is still the

heartbreaking void created by the dead bees. It's difficult to forget. It's difficult to accept.

And here I am, clamoring that the bees are the best expression of life that I know! They do bring life around them, don't they? Is this being sarcastic? No, not at all. Let's widen our perspective. Let's notice the other hives in the apiary, or in the area. Yes, maybe some hives are lost, but there are still bees flying and foraging! And spring is coming! There will be more bees, and swarms, and young queens!

Having experienced such losses, one can appreciate by contrast how beautiful life is, and how gorgeous the colorful pollen pellets on the hind legs of forager bees are. Now, it dawns on the beekeeper that losing this colony may in fact be a very good thing for the surviving bees. The lost colony just was not cut out to make it. Without it, only the colonies that will successfully reach spring will pass on their tough genes. Look again at the colonies that made it in your area. These are the kind of bees that you want in your apiaries. They are jewels! Propagate them in the spring! Do not regret those that nature eliminated. This loss is in fact a *good* thing! Now, if only no beekeeper would bring other ill-adapted bees into this area...

Too often, we need to come close to terrible events, or even near death to realize how beautiful life is. Death is an inherent and a necessary part of life. When bees get sick in a hive, they sacrifice themselves by flying or crawling away in order to protect their colony. Similarly, the death of inept colonies is a good thing for the species. We must accept this natural elimination of the unfit, as it helps strengthen the survivors! And let's leave foreign bees where they are! That way, there will be healthier and stronger colonies after these winter losses.

February in the apiaries:

This month of January was unusually warm and dry. Spring weather before springtime. Is this an anomaly that the bees were sensing, last summer and fall, when all the colonies were one month ahead of their normal routine in preparing for winter? I do not know. But it will be interesting to see how our colonies develop during the coming weeks, and we should particularly watch their stores, because of these abnormal conditions.

After dropping to their minimum of the year, the populations of our colonies are beginning to rebound. The demands of the growing brood nests are stretching the capability of the relatively few nurse bees. These are the winter bees that were groomed in the fall. They are now dedicating the last days or weeks of their lives to their new sisters, to giving a future to their colonies. In order to keep their young

warm, the bees are consuming their stores at a rapidly accelerating rate now. On a nice sunny day, each of the hives may collect several pounds of nectar and fresh pollen. But, if a few days of cold or foul weather follow, this loot will all be consumed and the bees will need to tap even deeper into their stores.

Our number one goal at this time of year is to ensure the unimpeded development of our colonies. The typically unstable weather of the season can challenge the best beekeepers, but for the bees, it is a question of life or death. So, we need to be sensitive to the effect of the elements on the bees.

Strolls through the apiaries on sunny days are very useful at this season. It is easy to quickly spot the active colonies, and to find those that need attention or that may have died.

If we prepared the hives properly in the fall, concerns about hives starving should be minimal. If in doubt, the rear of the hives can be hefted to feel whether they are light or heavy. If they feel heavy, it is a good sign, but it does not mean that the bees have access to the stores. If they feel light, for sure the bees are running low on stores. In such a case, some emergency feeding is in line, and heavy syrup should be provided. Next year, let's make sure that this does not happen again!

Some hives, in locations where an early nectar flow is possible, may need to be supered. This is preferably done by providing empty drawn combs at this time of year. By providing nectar storage space and sometimes room for expansion of the brood nests, supering helps the colonies gain more strength.

Regardless, we need to refrain from opening the hives, and from exposing their brood nests. Doing so would set the colonies back, and, in some cases, irremediably. Right now, the colonies are very fragile and sensitive to disturbances of the brood nests.

Hives that are found dead should be taken care of immediately. If this is not possible, they should be closed to preclude access by bees from other hives.

At home, we need to focus on readying the equipment that we will need during the season that is starting.

This month:

- 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.
- Verify that the hive entrances remain unobstructed.
- Maintain adequate and safe ventilation through the hives.
- Observe monitoring trays.
- On nice days, observe the flight paths and the bee activity at the entrances.
- Lift the back of the hives to feel if they may be at risk of running out of stores.
- Take care of or dispose of the equipment that held colonies that failed, as appropriate.

- Place supers where and when warranted.
- Prepare hives that have been selected for multiple divisions or for queen rearing.
- Plant some bee forage!

At home:

- Build and repair beekeeping equipment.
- Plant more bee forage.

Serge Labesque © 2011

Serge's Next Beekeeping Classes at SRJC Introduction to Beekeeping

Sect: 9122

Wed. February 2-23, 6:30 PM-9:00 PM

1999 Bech Hall, Santa Rosa Campus

Fee: \$83.00 (includes \$6.00 of materials)

4-session class.

Intermediate Beekeeping for Spring and Summer

Sect: 9121

Wed. March 9-16, 6:30 PM-9:00 PM

1999 Bech Hall, Santa Rosa Campus

Fee: \$51.00

2-session class.

<http://busapp02.santarosa.edu/communityeducation>

What's In Bloom-

Wild mustard, rosemary, borage, eucalyptus, cotoneaster, some ornamental fruit trees and manzanita are the main sources of food this month.

Bee Friendly Plants

By Alice Ford-Sala

Herb of the Month:

Calendula (Calendula officinalis)

Family Asteraceae

Calendula is an easy plant to grow in Sonoma County. Here, it blooms from summer through winter. It looks like a bright daisy, and the sticky leaves have a mild sweet scent. The little "wild" calendula grows by the side of the roads and in vineyards and open fields in the winter. It is not a native flower, but does provide some nice bright orange pollen right now.

It is easy to cultivate in the garden, too. It can be started from seed directly in the garden or sprouted in pots or flats for later planting. The yellow or orange shades perk up a winter garden. Whether you sow seeds or buy plants from the nursery, remember that bees and other nectar loving pollinators prefer single flowered varieties. That is, there are one or two rows of petals surrounding the center. They can't access pollen

and nectar from the “pompom” or double-flowered types. She likes well-drained, average soil with sun or light shade.

Calendula flower petals are used to treat skin ailments and is used in many creams and ointments for chapped skin, eczema, insect bites etc. A tea made from the petals is supposed to be good for sore throat.

Native Plant of the Month:

Currant (Ribes)

Family Gooseberry (Grossulariaceae)

The California currants are beautiful and welcome fall through winter blooming natives that grow easily in most gardens. They have very fragrant and resinous leaves that release a pleasant woody scent when you brush up against them or rub their leaves. The yellow, pink, white or rosy red flowers are delicate tassels visited by honeybees, hummingbirds and native bees throughout the cold months when little else is blooming. Many fruit-eating birds enjoy the berries that set later in the season.

Currants do well in filtered or partial shade. They make a nice woodland garden planting under the shade of trees. They can take full sun if it's not too intense. They can also take some summer water, and actually will do quite nicely with moderate watering. They need decent drainage but are not as picky as manzanitas or ceanothus about wet roots in the summer.

One of my favorites is *Ribes malvaceum*, Chaparral Currant, which grows alongside my driveway and receives once a week watering, and filtered sun from a crab apple tree. It started blooming in November and continues through at least the end of February. It has long pink flowers that the bees and hummingbirds love.

Another easy growing variety is *Ribes sanguinenum* var. *glutinosum*, Pink-Flowering Currant, “Claremont” cultivar. With pale pink blossoms she blooms in late winter through spring and is greeted hungrily by the birds and bees also!

WHY As Well As WHAT People Feed Their Bees

By MaryEllen Kirkpatrick, posted on our sonomabees@yahoo.com discussion group

Pardon me in advance for the long answer; I want to provide a thorough response of WHY as well as WHAT people feed their bees- not that I am trying to influence you either way.

Table sugar (sucrose) is made up two components, glucose and fructose. Nectar is sucrose and water with traces of minerals and volatile aromas etc. that come uniquely from the parent plant. When the bees collect nectar, it is mixed with an enzyme in their honey stomach that begins the process of inverting the sucrose, or splitting it into its component sugars- the beginning of the active phase in the production of honey. It is possible that in feeding invert sugar syrup to their bees, people might be thinking they are saving the bees some work. Invert sugar syrup will also crystallize more slowly than a syrup made from table sugar, so they might be thinking that it will keep longer in a feeder. I don't know of

anyone personally who feeds invert sugar syrup, so I cannot be sure.

Cheers, MaryEllen

Editor's note: I thought this was a very timely subject as we had an almost spring-like January with many hours of flying for our bees. I don't know what we will have in February! By the way MaryEllen is from San Francisco and we thank her for sharing this knowledge with all of us!

Mentor Program

By Ettamarie Peterson

Beginning beekeepers can get lots of information coming to meetings, going to Serge's classes (or others), searching the internet, and reading books but all seem to agree having a mentor help with hands on hive manipulation is a huge help. The mentor's tasks are to help the beekeeper evaluate the hives, show the beekeeper some techniques such as smoker lighting and gently opening the hives, finding the queen or at least evidence of her existence and answer questions when the new beekeeper is puzzled.

How much time the mentor spends with the new beekeeper varies in all situations. The two should let each other know what the expectations are. Some need more than others. Some mentors have more time than others. The new beekeeper should try not to wear out the mentor. Some of us mentor more than one beekeeper a year.

It is possible at times to invite the newbees over to peek into the mentor's hives or help with a honey extraction. I remember when I first had honey to take. I could not find any information on how to separate the bees from their honey. Luckily I had a wonderful mentor I could ask. My life as a beekeeper would have been a “learn by disasters” life if I had not met a guy at the meetings who was willing to adopt me as a student. He and I are still friends fifteen years later.

If you have been keeping bees for at least two or more years, consider taking on the mentor role. You will have fun and make friends.

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

Bees for sale, nice healthy, local honeybees. In a nuc box or in a full hive, about May (when the queens are well bred - not before). No chemicals ever used. Lovingly raised. AprilLance@aol.com

Organic Beekeeping 101 Class

Feb 19 & 26 (class is both days)

10am-noon

\$45 adult 16 and over \$20 kids 8-15 (with paying adult)

Sonoma Grange Hall - 18627 Sonoma Hwy., Sonoma

Pay through paypal or check:

<http://organicbeekeeping101.blogspot.com/>

Randy Sue Collins

POB 523, Kenwood, CA 95452

Honey Bee Trivia

Honey bees must consume about 17-20 pounds of honey to be able to biochemically produce each pound of beeswax. The wax is produced from eight paired glands on the underside of the abdomen.

February Recipe

Honey and Lime Shrimp Tacos

From *Something Extra* Serves 4

8 corn tortillas

1 Tbsp. oil

1 pound shrimp, peeled & deveined and tails off

2 Tbsp. fresh lime juice

1 Tbsp honey

1 ½ Morton & Bassett Mexican seasoning

Shredded Romaine or cabbage

Shredded Jack cheese

Avocado slices

Fresh pico de gallo

Warm tortillas in microwave for 1 to 2 minutes or lightly fry in a small amount of oil until crisp; fold in half.

Heat oil in a medium skillet. Add shrimp and cook over medium-high heat for a minute or two on each side or until mostly pink. Stir in lime juice, honey and Mexican seasoning; cook for about 2 minutes more until mixture is thick and glazes shrimp.

Spoon into warmed tortillas and top with lettuce, cheese, avocado and pico de gallo.

February Talk From Pesticide Watch

When bureaucracies are slow to respond and chemical manufacturers and agribusiness block progress,

Pesticide Watch steps in to help. They are there to help you protect your community and family, and find solutions to pesticide problems.

Since 1991, Pesticide Watch and Pesticide Watch Education Fund ("Pesticide Watch") have helped citizen groups across California develop sustainable solutions for dealing with pests, instead of using toxic pesticides. Their mission is to work side-by-side with Californians to prevent pesticide exposure, promote local farming, and build healthier communities.

2011 BEE SYMPOSIUM BENEFIT Saturday, March 19th -9 AM to 5 PM Sebastopol Veteran's Building - 282 S. High St., Sebastopol

Proceeds go to programs that helps the bees: The Society of Invertebrate Conservation, The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees and Partners For Sustainable Pollination (PFSPbees.org) Tickets are 30.00 in advance at beekind or 35.00 at the door. Go to www.beekind.com to purchase tickets now.

This year's theme is "**MEDICINE FROM THE HIVE**". The talks will include "Bee Venom Therapy, Historical Perspective into Modern Applications" and "Medicinal Use of Raw Honey, Pollen, Propolis, Royal Jelly, Bee Bread & Beeswax" by Dr. Frederique Keller, "The Revolutionary Effects of Honey on Human Metabolism" and "How to Sleep Your Way to Better Health with Honey" by Dr. Ron Fessenden, "Socialized Medicine in Honey Bee Colonies" and "Bee Health and Breeding" by Dr. Marla Spivak.



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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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