

The Monthly Extractor



Volume 47, Issue 2

February 2022

This is our newsletter that reflects the various techniques, theories, and art of sustainable beekeeping.

SCBA General Meeting

Date: February 14th, 2022, 6:00 – 8:30 pst

We are excited to welcome a guest speaker, Dr. Eliud Muli. Dr Muli comes to us from Kenya, has a PhD in Entomology, has more than 15 years' experience working with African bees. He manages community beekeeping projects for conservation in East Africa. He will be giving us a presentation on "Indigenous Beekeeping Knowledge among the Pokot Tribe of Northern Kenya."

Join Zoom meeting

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86514254718?pwd=cHZqcERVdG5HZIR1eXF5MDNaQkRGUT09>

ID: 865 1425 4718

Password: 768368

This Zoom link is a recurring link and will be used for ALL general meetings for 2022.

Message from the Board

As this is our first message for 2022, we would like to thank all of our amazing volunteers from 2021 who helped out in so many ways and say a big thank you to our previous president Kelli Cox and (her end-of-year replacement) Carol Ellis.

The 2022 board and staff are excited for 2022 and for the chance to make the SCBA even better. January has already gotten off to a busy start for our bees as well as the board. Many members have reported their bees are active, performing cleansing flights or bringing in pollen. Your SCBA board has been working on:

Volunteer positions – We are in a strong position for 2022 with only a few unfilled roles. We have contacted all the write-in candidates for president, though unfortunately without securing a firm commitment so far. In the meantime, Mohammed Ibrahim has stepped up

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Upcoming SCBA Member Events

February 12 -- SCBA Gardening for Bees – Garden Dig, hosted by Ellen Sherron. Space is limited, so sign up here: <https://www.sonomabees.org/event-4652196>

February 13 -- West Cluster Workshop

February 14 -- General Meeting

February 19 -- All Cluster Zoom Cafe: Coming out of Winter

February 21 -- Beginner Beekeepers' Forum

February 28 -- Seasoned Beekeepers' Forum

March 12- North Bay Science Discovery Day--This event has been postponed to May15th.

March 14 – General Meeting

April 9 – Spring Fling!

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as acting president to ensure there is no interruption to SCBA or any of our programs.

Also, this year we are refocusing our VP positions to reflect the importance of both bees (1st VP) and gardening (2nd VP) to the SCBA and its mission. Our two new incoming board members have hit the ground running and are already getting immersed in their programs. See more details about them both later in this month's issue.

Mohammed Ibrahim (1st VP - VP of Bees) will be working closely with the coordinators of each of our various bee programs - Clusters, Bee Share, Swarm Service, etc. -- to offer support wherever it is needed. As we mentioned before, Mohammed will be "Acting President," with the full support of the board, until the position can be filled.

Ann Gallagher-White (2nd VP - VP of Gardening) will be working closely with our Gardening for Bees (G4Bs) program and working with the G4Bs coordinator on plant sales, propagation workshops, and other G4Bs activities.

Bylaw review – Drafted in 2014 the current bylaws are now starting to look a little dated. We are working on an updated draft (many thanks to John Shribbs and Reg Rodriguez for their help with this last year) and will share more details when it is ready for review.

Survey – The annual survey is being finalized and will be sent to you soon. Look for it in your inboxes in the first half of February. This is a critical tool for us to collect essential feedback from our members; please take the time to complete it. This is your association, and we need to hear from you!

Our Program Director, Shannon, is supporting all of our programs and working hard to lighten the load for our volunteers and program leaders. See her update for more details.

2022 is starting off very similar to how 2021 ended in terms of Covid. It has been, and will continue to be, a challenge for us to navigate in terms of in-person meetings, hive dives and events. For the foreseeable future we will continue with Zoom meetings and some safe/distanced in-person events where possible.

Finally, we have a couple of requests. If you have not renewed your membership, now is the time. The process is quick and easy, just click on the link on

the SCBA website's home page. Also, please think about volunteering if you can. All the programs that benefit all of us happen because of the stellar work of our volunteers. Contact Shannon or any of the board members if you are able to help.

Stay safe, sincerely, 2022 SCBA Board

Message from the 1st VP Mohammed Ibrahim

No words are adequate to describe how excited I am to work with all of you to continue our organization's mission and nourish SCBA's organizational values. Our first general meeting for 2022 was a great success and a great way to kick off the new year.

My name is Mohammed Ibrahim. I am a second-generation beekeeper and have been an active member since May 2021. I have been a big fan of the SCBA community since 2016. I have been leading the Seasoned Beekeepers' Forums since June 2021. I was elected to the board of directors as 1st VP (VP of Bees) in December 2021. In the absence of a President, I perform both the President and 1st VP duties. Our board of directors is doing its best to review, discuss, and contact the write-in candidates from the election to fill the vacant President role. We hope to have this resolved soon.



My vision is to maintain beekeeping education for our members, and especially new beekeepers, by working closely with Cluster Coordinators and leaders to provide sufficient resources based on scientific research. I am also working with the Swarm/ BeeShare committees to get our volunteer swarm catchers ready for the new season. The team has been making incredible progress updating the program for the new year.

SCBA has fantastic, hardworking members who volunteer their time, energy, and resources. Whether overseeing the association on the board of directors, helping educate beekeepers on best practices, edu-

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cating the community on the value of bees and pollinators, or propagating valuable forage for the bees, our members are the heart of the association, keeping SCBA productive and meaningful.

Spring is around the corner. Right now, you should be planning your 2022 beekeeping season, getting your apiary and equipment ready, ordering bees if necessary, working on your swarm traps, and planting forage. We had very little rain last winter, but I am very optimistic about our county's upcoming beekeeping season.

I hope to see beekeepers serving other beekeepers and showing everlasting support to our local Sonoma County businesses. Most importantly, stay safe and healthy and care for your loved ones, bees, and gardens.

Thank you for all your support.

Message from the 2nd VP Ann Gallagher-White

My plan in 2022 is primarily to enjoy gardening bliss with others who find the garden is their happy place and as the new Second VP of SCBA in charge of



gardening, look to the interests of volunteers to guide our programs in the coming year. As Gardening for Bees (G4B) is holding our first Zoom meeting after this issue of The Extractor was due, it is early to say what the group will decide to do in 2022. SCBA has been fortunate to have a team of committed volunteers in the G4B group and my position

supports the G4B volunteers on the SCBA board. We are grateful to our G4B Gardening Coordinator Angelo Sacerdote, an experienced G4B member, who stepped up to lead. I will work closely with Angelo and will keep our board informed. I anticipate that G4B group will continue its amazing programs, but as we are all volunteers, our commitment is interest-dependent.

G4B programs continuing from 2021 include:

Community gardens: G4B partners with organizations in taking on community projects to create pollinator gardens. Check out the Sebastopol Grange hedgerow pollinator garden, designed and planted by G4B volunteers in 2021. If you are aware of a need for a community pollinator garden, please contact us. We would like to continue our education program in the schools going forward as the pandemic has negatively impacted our school pollinator garden program. If you are interested in helping, please reach out.

Home Nurseries and Fundraising: G4B held "pop up" plant sales with plants raised in G4B volunteers' home "nurseries." Look for information on plant sales in upcoming emails. If you want to join us and grow plants at your home "nursery," please reach out.

Workshops: Several well-attended G4B lavender propagation events were held in 2021. In 2022 G4B may decide to hold more workshops on plant propagation, seed saving, composting, pruning, plant selection, drip irrigation, gardening in drought, and/or tips for keeping or planting a pollinator friendly garden.

Garden Digs: G4B team member Ellen Sherron held garden digs, offering amazing plants to members to dig up and share for free in 2021 and early 2022. Members bring potluck and Ellen shares her garden's wonderful pollinator plants. If you wish to ask Ellen about how to hold a garden dig, her email is ellen-sherron@comcast.net. Check out the calendar on the SCBA website for the next event. We are excited and grateful to Elizabeth Holdmann for starting a seed saving program (more on page 6).

For 2022, we are excited for garden tours where our members choose a garden location and set up field trips for gardening inspiration. This can occur at either the cluster level or through G4B. I would like to see more bloom tracking, an SCBA program to assist members' tracking forage in gardens and neighborhoods in each season. SCBA's website's Gardening Section and Garden Dig tab in the Members Only section have a form to use for this purpose.

Last but not least, I'm interested in addressing pesticides' impact on pollinators and discussing what is happening, what we can do, and how we can know if our plants and bees are safe. Our community of voices as beekeepers is successfully challenging the EPA when harmful pesticides have been permitted without

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the support of sufficient science. You can find more information on a recent case here: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/23/politics/beekeepers-pesticide-epa/index.html>

If you are interested in volunteering, or want more information, please reach out: My email: 2ndVP@sonomabees.org, Gardening Coordinator Angelo Sacerdote's email: Gardening@Sonomabees.org and Shannon Carr, our Program Director, can be reached at ProgramDirector@sonomabees.org

February 12th SCBA Gardening for Bees Garden Digs

Just as Hive Dives give beekeepers an opportunity to explore the inner workings of a hive and learn more about bee behavior in a group setting, Garden Digs give our members opportunities to learn more about creating a habitat full of nutritious forage for the bees and other pollinators. The more we learn about beekeeping, the more we learn that it's not just about providing a hive and maintaining that hive, but it is also about ensuring the bees have a sustainable environment with plenty of nutrients through proper forage.

Thank you, Ellen Sherron, for hosting two fantastic Garden Digs in January. Ellen opened her beautiful pollinator garden, taught us about caring for bees through forage, and pointed out the plants that the bees love. Many of these plants had spread, reseeding, and creating new plants that could be rehomed. She invited members to dig up "volunteer" plants and



Gardener and beekeeper Ellen Sherron (second from left) explains how plants have spread in her garden and invites SCBA gardeners to dig up volunteers and transplant them in their own gardens.

split root balls so we could replant them in our own yards and create, or add to, our own pollinator habitats and gardens. Creating a healthy habitat for the bees is an essential part of beekeeping.

Ellen will host one more [Garden Dig](#) on February 12. Space is limited, so sign up to reserve your spot and get a chance to take home some amazing plants for your garden.

From the Desk of the Program Director

2022 is off to a great start! We have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure 2022 is a great year. Our 1st and 2nd VPs are off and running, helping their respective teams in the Bees and Gardening communities. Our Swarm and Beeshare committees are meeting and the coordinators are making plans to ensure our public swarm service is up and running and that beekeepers are ready for when a swarm or split needs a new home. Our Cluster Coordinators are putting together cafés and workshops. Our Gardening for Bees (G4Bs) Program is coming together and making plans on how to get more pollinator plants and forage for our bees into our community through propagation workshops, garden digs, and plant sales.

As a member-run association we are always in need of help from our members as they are the driving force behind all our programs. We are still looking for members to volunteer and help with numerous programs.

East Cluster – The East Cluster Coordinator helps coordinate cluster education opportunities – Cluster Cafés, Workshops, Hive Dives and Garden Digs. They also help connect members in the cluster, encouraging mentoring opportunities and connecting New Beeks with Seasoned Beeks.

Education – Education is an important part of this association and the core of our mission. This includes:

- Educating our membership on sustainable beekeeping practices
- Educating our membership and our community on how to improve pollinator habitat
- Educating our community on the importance of pollinators

As we actively rebuild our Education Program we are

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looking for members who can help with education through online presentations and in-person, limited-attendance workshops within our clusters. If you are interested, please reach out to me or your Cluster Coordinator.

Host a Hive Dive or Garden Dig – As the weather gets warmer, there will be lots of opportunities to host small groups and provide educational opportunities to fellow members. Hive Dives are a great way for seasoned beekeepers to share with new beekeepers the inner working of a hive, and Garden Digs are a great way to share plants pollinators love, and educate on pollinator-friendly habitats. Contact your Cluster Coordinator if you can host one of these events.

Spring Fling – We are looking for event planners, organizers, and workshop educators. Our Spring Fling is going to be an outdoor event at Bees 'N Blooms on April 9. We need help soliciting and organizing donations for the silent auction and raffle. We are also planning on having multiple workshops for members to attend and learn more about the different sides of beekeeping. If you have hosted a workshop in the past, or have a specialty you would like to share, let me know. Workshops possibilities could be: building a hive, products of the hive, bee biology, habitat maintenance. There are myriad possible subjects as we are trying to plan multiple workshops throughout the middle of the day for members to attend.

There are lots of ways our members can volunteer in SCBA. We are building a new page on our website that will list volunteer and leadership opportunities, so keep an eye out for that. In the meantime, if you are interested in volunteering in any way, email me at programdirector@sonomabees.org

Lastly, keep an eye out for the annual Member Survey. This survey is important as it helps give us insight into our membership, as well as guide and direct our programs. You will be receiving the link in the next week or two.

Bee Plant of the Month: Rosemary

By Elizabeth Newton

In wintery days of scant forage, one sure source of nectar for bees and other pollinators is rosemary (*salvia rosmarinus* or *rosmarinus officinalis*). This handsome yet tough shrub is native to the Mediterranean and is a perfect choice for our climate, needing little care or water throughout the year. Its small blue flowers are borne on spires in the manner of other salvias, and these attract hummingbirds as well as bees. Rosemary has a long, steady blooming period, providing an extensive and reliable source of nectar throughout the winter and early spring.

There are dozens of common cultivars of rosemary suitable for horticultural use and all can be used for culinary purposes, though many cooks favor Tuscan Blue. When choosing, take shape into consideration.



Some rosemary grows upright in a compact shrub and some types have a creeping habit. The creeping types look wonderful spilling out of a rock garden or large containers. Both will take almost any shape you want to give them, and can even be used for topiary.

The best time to propagate rosemary is after a period of rain, when runners are sending out new roots. Once established, a rosemary is nearly bombproof. Rough treatment such as vigorous canine ball searches and wheelbarrow mishaps do not ruffle her considerable composure. Rosemary shrugs her glossy green shoulders and continues on.

Meet SCBA Cluster Coordinators for 2022

Sonoma County Beekeepers Association is divided into five clusters – Central, East, North, South, and West. This helps our association target education to the specific needs of each region, as each region has very different conditions. For example, the weather in East is hotter and drier than West, which has cooler, wetter conditions resulting from coastal fog. These conditions affect the bees and their habitat differently, therefore techniques in each region can vary. Cluster also help our members network and find bee buddies that are closer to home making it easier to meet up and learn from one another.

Each cluster has coordinators who lead their cluster through a series of cafes and workshops throughout the year. They are there to help with questions and making connections. We are extremely appreciative to our cluster coordinators who play a crucial role in SCBA's education and support system.

Central Cluster is being led by Steve Heglin and Sacha Lepley. Steve joined SCBA in 2017 when he first became a beekeeper. He loves the support system members get from SCBA, educational opportunities through speakers, the SCBA Library, and learning what plants are best for bees and all pollinators through SCBA's Gardening for Bees program. Steve knows that "as a community will be stronger together."

Sacha Lepley joined SCBA in 2018 when she became a beekeeper. She enjoys the social events, meeting fellow beekeepers, and getting information on bees from a variety of sources. Outside of SCBA she and her husband participate in a grazing cooperative and enjoy exploring permaculture principles. She is looking forward to supporting central cluster through education and social opportunities, while being respectful of Covid restriction.

In **North Cluster** we have a fabulous team with Bernie Leda, Bill Bridges, and Mike Shook. These guys are all woodworkers, have built a lot of their own equipment and hives, practice natural beekeeping, have caught swarms, and love to meet up at Russian River Brewery.

Bernie Leda first started beekeeping to help pollinate his garden and orchard. He enjoys raising free range chickens who get along fine with the bees in his garden. He loves being a part of SCBA because of the passion all members have for the bees they tend and

in helping Mother Earth.

Bill Bridges joined SCBA a year ago when he became a beekeeper. He enjoys the connections he has made within SCBA and seeing members sharing their knowledge and experiences, especially with new beekeepers. He has his fingers crossed that we will be able to have in-person meetings and workshops this year, though in-person meetings will all be small in keeping with Covid protocols. Last year he built a Layens swarm trap, caught two swarms and built two, eighteen-frame, Layens horizontal hives.

Mike Shook also joined SCBA a year ago when he became a beekeeper. He enjoys meeting fellow members of North Cluster and SCBA and appreciates always being able to find an experienced and helpful beekeeper to answer questions and offer advice. One of his favorite things from last year was the many hive dives arranged by last year's Cluster Coordinators and getting the opportunity to visit and learn from the other beekeepers in North Cluster. Last year Mike built a Layens swarm trap and two Layens horizontal hives. He caught three swarms last year and so converted one of the hives into a duplex, which now holds two colonies. All three colonies and queens have thrived through the winter and he is looking forward to catching another swarm or two this spring.

West Cluster is being led by Leslie Perlman and assisted by Elizabeth Newton and Tong Lai (TL) Ginn. Leslie Perlman is beginning her third year as a West Cluster coordinator and her second year as an At-Large member of SCBA's Board of Directors. She lives in Sebastopol and has been keeping bees since 2017. Leslie enjoys the excitement and teamwork of catching swarms. For her, the best part of being an SCBA member is the opportunity to support bees and meeting wonderful, caring people. She is looking forward to working with garden buddies to create her pollinator garden this year.

Tong Lai Ginn and Elizabeth Newton are new West Cluster coordinators and will be assisting Leslie. They have been keeping bees for more than ten years and live on a one-acre hobby farm in Sebastopol. On the farm they not only have bees, but also grow fruit trees, vegetables, native plants and dozens of pollinator friendly plants. They also have a very spoiled flock of free range hens.

South Cluster is being led by Elizabeth Holdmann. This is her third year beekeeping in Petaluma. She began her beekeeping journey during the first pan-

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demic shutdown in 2020 when she was given the opportunity to have a newly caught swarm. Knowing beekeeping is very location-dependent, she joined SCBA to learn more about beekeeping in our region, and last year she completed the Assistant Apprentice level beekeeping program offered through UC Davis CAMBP (California Master Beekeeping Program). Inspired to get more involved in SCBA, meet fellow members, and give back to the association she assisted the South Cluster Coordinator in 2021, got involved with G4Bs, started the SCBA Seed Library as a way to help make growing forage for bees more accessible, and currently is an At-Large member of SCBA Board of Directors. She is looking forward to continuing to learn more about beekeeping and forage for the bees, and other pollinators, and helping the association by continuing to serve our members and our community.

East Cluster is still looking for a cluster coordinator, or two, to join our team of cluster coordinators. If you are interested in helping to coordinate cluster cafes and workshops for East Cluster please email our Program Director, Shannon Carr, at programdirector@sonomabees.org

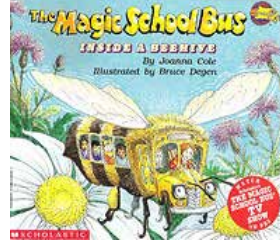
Book Nook

Magic School Bus: Inside a Beehive

By Johanna Cole



SCBA Library has a variety of children's books available. In *Magic School Bus: Inside a Beehive*, Ms. Frizzle turns her class into bees and takes them on a fieldtrip to explore the inside of a beehive via her magic school bus, so they can see how the hive is constructed and how bees live.



We have more than 250 books and DVDs in the SCBA Library. *Magic School Bus: Inside a Beehive*, is just one of many books in our collection. You can view all our books available to you at <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/SCBA-Library>.

If you are interested in checking out a book, email our librarian at Librarian@sonomabees.org or our Program Director at programdirector@sonomabees.org, to make arrangements to pick up one or two of the books or DVDs available to SCBA members.

Seed Library- Seeds for Bees by South Cluster Coordinator & At Large #2 Board Member Elizabeth Holdmann

As beekeepers, we know that part of good practice is providing as much forage as we can for our bees, and the more variety the better. The Gardening for Bees group has done wonderful work with plant propagation to help our members. But there is a limit, set mainly by available garden space, to what we can provide each year. To help increase the impact we can have, the Seed Library has been created. Most forage plants can be directly seeded or broadcast into prepped garden areas in the fall or spring. This makes it fairly quick and easy to add a lot of nutritional value for your bees very rapidly.

We've been able to start up the seed library thanks to member donations and donations from the following contributors:

- Petaluma Seed Bank - <https://www.rareseeds.com/petaluma-seed-bank>
- Renee's Garden Seeds - <https://www.renees-garden.com/>

- Harmony Farm Supply - <https://www.harmony-farm.com/>
- Prairie Moon Nursery - <https://www.prairiemoon.com/>
- Sow True Seeds - <https://sowtrueseed.com/>

These generous donations have greatly helped jumpstart the seed library and many seeds have already been distributed among our members.

You can contribute saved seeds from your own garden; we have seed packet labels to print and pack your seeds. It is also acceptable to provide them in a Ziploc bag, mason jar, or a similar container if you have a lot of seeds or are unable to pack them yourself.

See the current inventory under the new "Garden Dig" section of the members-only menu on the website.

To request or donate seeds, email Elizabeth Holdmann at southcluster@sonomabees.org or Shannon Carr at programdirector@sonomabees.org.

Film Review

My Garden of a Thousand Bees PBS's *Nature*, Season 40, Episode 1 - *Wildness in the Garden*

By Ann Gallagher-White

This backyard documentary was filmed by wildlife cameraman Martin Dohrn during the pandemic lockdown. *My Garden of a Thousand Bees* takes place in a long, narrow, urban garden in Bristol, England, as Dohrn refocuses his energy on capturing native bees in the spring. Varieties of wild bees (Dohrn has counted 60 species) shown closeup captivate as we watch them regularly travel certain areas of the garden, using it like a “scented highway.” The wild bees living in the garden in individual “homes” (holes in wood, dirt, or seashells) are differentiated from domesticated honeybees. Wild bees’ solitary living arrangements provide plenty of bee drama (including mating rituals, cross-species egg cannibalism, and males fighting over, what else, a female). As the film progresses, one bee becomes so familiar to Dohrn that he names

her (Nicki). As Nicki prepares for the next generation, Dohrn observes her and comes to recognize her on sight. This all takes place in Dohrn’s garden where, as he says, they let the wildness back in. The low-key garden is enchanting and inspirational. Supporting pollinators can be a justification to let nature take its course, and to leave the garden to its own devices; i.e., let the leaves rot, the weeds grow, and the veggies bolt. After watching the film, I went on a bulb binge, planting flowers (crocus, grape hyacinth, star-flower and kitchen sink varieties of daffodils) to return again and again, with no effort on my part, seeing wisdom in a garden’s unfussiness. For those who like to geek-out watching nature and bees, this 53-minute film provides a rationale to let our gardens go wild.

The Cheryl Veretto CAMBP Scholarship

We are honored to announce the establishment of the Cheryl Veretto CAMBP Scholarship, in memory of our past president, a master gardener and avid beekeeper, who died in 2021.

This scholarship is for SCBA members who wish to pursue an Apprentice or Journey Level Certification with the California Master Beekeeper Program. Applications for the scholarship open November 30 and close February 28 of each year. Applicants must meet the Apprentice or Journey Level requirements. For the prerequisites of those levels, see <https://cambp.ucdavis.edu/why-certify>. Scholarship applicants are asked to please submit a 500–750-word essay on why honeybees and science-based beekeeping are important to them, to camasterbee@gmail.com.



SCBA Name Badge

Need an SCBA name badge? Name badges are \$8 for a pin backing, \$10 for magnetic backing, and \$2.50 for each, optional, hanger panel you choose. Many members add their cluster name and volunteer position as hanger panels attached to their name badge.

Click here for the order form <https://www.sonoma-bees.org/resources/Documents/SCBNameBadgeOrderForm.pdf>.

Make checks payable to “Sonoma County Beekeepers Association,” write “Name Badge Order” in the memo field.

Mail check and form to

PO Box 7015
Cotati, Ca, 94931.

If you want to be thorough, you can scan a copy of the form to badges@sonomabees.org and let Angy know form and check are on the way. Your order will not be placed until your form and check has been received. Orders are placed on the 3rd Monday of each month.

Notes from the Ag Department

Apiculture IS Agriculture

Greetings, Beeks!

I recently had a very enlightening conversation with a vineyard operator who was attempting to contact beekeepers in his area about a pesticide he must use to control vine mealybug. Once established, this pest is extremely difficult and expensive to mitigate.

When the vineyard operator ran the BeeCheck, he only found one registered beekeeper within a mile of the application area. He knows there are others and asked me if I knew how to reach the un-registered beekeepers so that he could let them know about the product, method, and expected time of pesticide application.

This applicator described his concern for pollinator protection and conveyed to me that his description of how the product is used, and the additional consideration for bee safety, are commonplace among the growers in the county. Here's a summary of what he said:

He will only apply at night. He knows the bees aren't coming to the grapes for pollen, but they may come around looking for water. He doesn't want them getting contaminated water, so he will wait at least four days before he irrigates to try and protect the bees.

North Bay Science Discovery Day Postponed By Ettamarie Peterson

Unfortunately, because of Covid restrictions, the North Bay Science Discovery Day was postponed to May 15th. I have informed the organizers and my 4-H Beekeepers that I will not be available due to a planned vacation to Italy. I have sent the information on to the 4-H beekeeping project in the north part of the County to see if they want to take this endeavor on. I have offered to let them use my observation hive and other things we would have used. If they take on this and need help, I will announce it in a later issue of *The Monthly Extractor*.

Thanks in advance to any of you who are able to offer help to the 4-H.

Hive registration allows growers to communicate with beekeepers about necessary commodity management practices. In Sonoma County, if you have home hives, we encourage you to register. If your hives are kept on someone else's property, or if you sell honey, comb, or other bee products, then you are required to register your hives. Registration can be completed on the BeeWhere website: beewherecalifornia.com

If Sonoma County is your "home county," then your \$10 annual registration fee (regardless of number of hives) and registration number can be phoned in at our main office: (707) 565-2371 or mailed to:

Sonoma County Department of Agriculture
133 Aviation Blvd, Suite 110
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Feel free to contact me with any questions:
Beverly Hammond
Beverly.hammond@sonoma-county.org
Sonoma County Senior Agricultural Inspector

THIS JUST IN: California Department of Agriculture officials will begin assessing civil penalties this year for violations of laws in effect since 2019 to protect bees. Under the law, beekeepers must: Register annually with the County Agriculture Commissioner (see article above). Clearly mark hives with name, address and phone number.

For more information, you can watch a video tutorial on using BeeWhere to comply with California laws: californiastatebeekeepers.com/beewhere/

The Monthly Extractor Gallery

Mohammad Ibrahim proposed an original idea to the Board: To have a page where members submit photos from their apiary or garden, with captions. Please note, because *The Monthly Extractor* is publicly published, if members send photos featuring human individuals (whether adults, children, or teens) in those photos, we need to have their consent. Email written consent should do the job.

The newsletter staff agrees that this will bring energy, warmth, and often humor to *The Monthly Extractor*. We encourage people to open their bee-yards to the SCBA community by sharing part of their gardening and bee-keeping journey.



Some people think Oxalis is a weed but our bees know better! Photo by Ettamarie Peterson



If you look closely between this bee's two compound eyes, you can see the 3 little extra eyes she uses to sense light and dark. Photo by Ettamarie Peterson



Another yellow flowering plant is the succulent called the Jade Plant. If you want to come over and snap off some to stick in your garden, let me know! I love to share this drought-tolerant plant. ettamarie@petersonsfarm.com

SCBA Business Members, Donors, and Sponsors

SCBA Business Members

Anderson Ranch Honey
Darius Anderson
info@andersonranch.com

Baker Lane Vineyards
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bakerlanevineyards.com

Bee Conscious Removal
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www.beeconsciousremovals.com

Bee Focused
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joy@bee-focused.com
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Bees N Blooms
Susan Kegley
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www.BeesNBlooms.com

Buzz Off Honey
John & Darlene McGinnis
goahwayranch@gmail.com
www.goahwayranch.com

K2 Ranch and Vineyards
Ken & Kat Savano
ksavano@me.com
www.K2ranch.com

Kate Gomes Real Estate, Inc.
Kate Gomes
kgrealestate2016@gmail.com
Kategomes.com

Marin Coastal Bee Co.
Michael Louis Turner
info@marincoastalbee.com
marincoastalbee.com

Habitat Sponsors

Pollinator Garden – \$500

Pollinator gardens are designed and created with specific nectar and pollen producing plants to attract pollinators – honey bees, native bees, and other diverse pollinators. Our Pollinator Garden community partners help create the nutrients for the garden that is SCBA

* Samtec Inc.
www.Samtec.com

Hedgerow – \$1,000

Hedgerows are vital nectar and pollen sources amidst barren landscapes such as vineyards and other monocrops, and our Hedgerow Level Community Partners embodies this support.

Meadow - \$2,500

Meadows are beautiful sights for us and oceans of forage for honey bees and pollinators. Help us transform Sonoma County into one sweet bee-garden with our Meadow Level Community Partnership.

Canopy – \$5,000

Above the meadows and hedgerows is the canopy. These mighty trees sink carbon and water, provide home for wild bees and countless pollinators, shade the ground during our hot, dry summers, and often bloom as well. Our Canopy Level Community Partnership shows the deepest commitment to our work and ongoing mission.

2022 Board Members

and Other Helpful People

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