

The Monthly Extractor

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June 2017



President's Message

Wow, June!

In your beekeeping life, and in your normal life, here are some questions for you: What are you learning? What type of learner are you? Do you enjoy the learning process, or is it stressful or overwhelming?

One of the first books I bought as a newbie beekeeper was "Beekeeping for Dummies," and a quote on the front cover states, "The information a beginner needs to keep bees with confidence." Well, I'm discovering that I learn by doing/practicing (and asking questions), and practicing more...not necessarily by merely reading. Beekeeping is complex! It's always changing! Every hive is different!

We aren't "Dummies" for not knowing. In fact, not knowing seems to be part of the learning process.

Not particularly fond of the term, some years ago, I put blue tape over the words 'for Dummies,' so my book became more appropriately titled, "Beekeeping."

Beekeeping, as a practice, reminds us that there seem to be endless opportunities for learning - we keep discovering situations in the hives that make us go, "Huh?!"

How do you learn? Do you learn from books, videos, classes, workshops, hands-on experiential learning, talking to others, working with others, being involved with focus groups, etc.? I invite you to discover the way(s) you learn, so you can be a more effective beekeeper, and teacher/student/ambassador... and the plants and the pollinators and the habitat and such will probably benefit as well.

The SCBA has a literal library, and it IS a library for your diverse learning preferences and pathways!

Meanwhile, each hive is unique...

Sincerely,

Jason Berkman
President



This Month's Calendar

Monthly Meeting: Monday, June 12

- 6 pm – Check out books and videos from our library, buy plants at our fabulous plant table, buy raffle tickets, talk to expert beekeepers willing to share their knowledge with you and help with any problems, socialize with refreshments and meet your cluster leaders. Bring your own cup, please. If you like to bake we also would appreciate donations of your cooking skills!
- 7 pm – Panel discussion on topics on which reasonable beekeepers can disagree.

Upcoming Meetings

- July, no meeting
- August 13, Kelton Temby with Keltronics, to talk about EyesOnHives, video technology for monitoring your hives to assess patterns of activity.

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Santa Rosa Jr. College Summer Schedule

The JC will be adding Serge Labesque's popular introductory course to beekeeping for the summer. Not to be missed if you want to be a beekeeper!

Class Name: **Introduction to Beekeeping**
Instructor: **Serge Labesque**

Class Date(s): 06/21/2017 to 07/12/2017
Weekly - Wed 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM; 4 sessions starting 6/21/2017, ending 7/12/2017
Shuhaw Hall, 1764
Number of Sessions: 4
Number of Weeks: 4

Class Web Description: This short course will introduce students to beekeeping with a strong emphasis on beehive management techniques as practiced in Sonoma County without reliance on any treatment whatsoever for pests or diseases. Topics include: overview of the honey bee colony; beekeeping tools and equipment; how to start with honey bees; swarming; honey flow and harvesting of hive products; diseases, pests and enemies; hive and queen management; and beekeeping throughout the year.

Max Class Size: 57
Class Fee: \$78.00
Materials Fee: \$16.00
Registration Fee: \$2.00

To register go to: https://srjce.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassInfo.ClassInformation&int_class_id=6778&int_category_id=1&int_sub_category_id=3&int_catalog_id=0

Swarms

By Ettamarie Peterson

Mid-May kept me busy with swarm calls. The last one I was called to was right by a sidewalk and close to a bus stop in front of a school and a motorcycle shop. I was very glad that in my swarm catching kit I had my caution tape, my signs saying do not touch the ladder and my name and phone number on my swarm box. We should all be doing this while catching swarms in public places. You should wait until sundown to take the swarm away and none of you probably have the time to stand around doing guard duty! Caution tape can be bought in large rolls and small rolls at hardware stores such as Friedman's. The sign I made with the computer and a wide red marking pen, laminated, punched holes in and put rings in the holes to hang them on the tape.

Remember to let John McGinnis know when you no longer want to be on the swarm list for any reason!
swarm@sonomabees.org



Photo by Ettamarie Peterson

My June

Beekeeping To-Do List by Serge Labesque

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Not-by-the-book honey super management

Come mid-spring, colony propagation and queen rearing are pretty much under control. Our attention drifts away from the brood chambers to the honey supers as, given favorable conditions, strong colonies produce honey in excess of their needs. There are many ways to first of all help them along and, a few weeks later, to harvest and process this surplus honey.

For years my understanding in regard to the honey crop was that beekeepers were to remove entire supers or as many frames of ripe honey as possible from the hives on two or three distinct occasions during the year, usually at the end of spring and summer and sometimes around mid-fall. In order to achieve this, I occasionally had to swap the centermost frames of the supers for the lateral ones during brief manipulations. Doing this opens space in the centers of the supers, which the bees tend to fill first and more solidly than the side frames. In effect, this also stimulates nectar collection. The frames were also carefully spaced apart from each other to facilitate their uncapping. When the honey flows allowed it, the supers finally became evenly filled with ripe honey. This was nice, but there was a catch: Full honey supers are heavy, and there still was a lot more work left to do before all that honey was in jars. Even though I found it exhilarating for a while to load my pick-up truck with honey supers, the “joy” wore off rapidly, as this led to long exhausting nights of uncapping and extracting honey and to days and weeks of back pain. Another drawback was that the bees certainly did not like to be chased off the product of their work! I abandoned this conventional method several years ago.

Now, instead of performing large harvests, I gather honey frames more frequently and in loads that I can handle easily. And instead of using an extractor I simply crush the combs. The management of my honey supers has also become much simpler. In fact, it's an entire system that has come together, making beekeeping more pleasurable where it used to be grueling work. Better yet, the bees do not seem to object to the imperceptible or minimally disruptive subtraction of a few frames at a time.

There is no longer any need to swap frames and to make sure that their combs are shaped correctly. The centermost frames are selectively harvested when they are filled with capped honey, and the other frames are brought closer together to fill the space that is left open. This is a simple way to prevent the hives from becoming excessively tall. Thick, misshaped combs are not a problem, because they will be crushed. Actually, I purposely insert empty frames between combs that hold uncapped honey or nectar to encourage and accommodate their swelling. Along with these empty frames, which act as spacers, follower boards, which are always present in my hives, facilitate the removal of the thick honeycombs. There is also no need to install foundation or wire in the honey super frames, something

I stopped doing more than ten years ago. Evidently, washing and rewashing the extractor, that expensive piece of machinery I regret buying, is a task of the past, because a potato masher and a tub are all the tools that are really necessary. However, I'll confess that I built a “honeycomb mill” that further expedites the processing of the honeycombs (Maybe this will be the topic of a future article.) After crushing, the frames can be returned to the hives they came from for a refill, without having gone through the extractor, which may very well be an effective pathogen exchanger, since it processes frames from all the hives.

Admittedly, this is not the way we are told to operate in order to produce honey, but it works well for me, and I'll leave the extractor under its dust cover until I manage to finally get rid of it. Among the benefits of harvesting honey more frequently are that we can enjoy its changing tastes and colors throughout the year and, best of all, our bees are gentler and possibly healthier for it.

June in the apiaries

The wet and cold weather we've experienced this spring has delayed and stretched by several weeks the swarm season, which is the best time of year for colony multiplication and queen rearing. Overall, nectar has been coming in slowly. This, combined with a heightened rate of store consumption caused by the inclement weather and by the large populations, has kept most hives rather light until mid-May. Wax production and comb building were also abnormally minimal until then. Possibly for this reason, and because the low nighttime temperatures forced the bees to form tight clusters, stores were frequently accumulated in the brood chambers, but not to the point of creating honey-bound conditions. Only the stronger colonies managed to significantly expand their activity into the supers.

Due to these unusual weather conditions the results of the first hive divisions of the year were not very good. A high rate of queen failures was recorded for those early splits. This underscores the importance of the measures that help avoid early swarm preparations and that permit the development of the colonies well into the spring. Fortunately, the divides that were produced in late April and in May are much more promising.

With the exception of a few isolated cases of European foulbrood (EFB), colony health is good. The period of broodlessness that will be created in the May divides will be crucial in controlling the build-up of the mite populations this year, as the in-hive conditions have promoted the propagation of this pest during the early spring.

As the hills are turning blond, we can nonetheless hope for a good early summer honey flow, thanks to the favorable ground moisture. Many spring plants are blooming late this year, including the purple vetch. But the

California buckeye trees, which can be a threat where no alternative source of pollen is available to the foragers is blooming at its regular time.

The management of the young colonies we have started and the observation of the performance of the queens that were produced are quite pleasurable and important tasks for the future of our apiaries. These may be necessary to expand our apiaries or to replace hives that are not flourishing or that have aging or failing queens. We provide them with the space, frames, bars and supers they need to develop fully and to gain strength in preparation for next winter. A few hive combinations and some requeening may indeed already be warranted procedures to maintain the health and vigor of our apiaries.

The honey supers deserve more attention now as the early-summer flow arrives. Some of the spring honey may be harvested as it becomes fully capped, and space can be made for the early-summer honey. Yet, as always when removing honey from the hives, we must be sure to leave enough for the bees. A good rule of thumb at this time of year is to leave at least twenty pounds of honey in each mature hive. In places where summer dearth is harsh, leaving more honey is a wise precaution. If the bees don't need it, we will harvest it later, when it's safe to do so. Wet, harvested frames will be returned to the hives in the evening, when the foragers are returning, to avoid creating robbing situations.

As the forager activity evolves with the season, we do well to adjust the size of the hive entrances to facilitate their traffic. This should be done without opening them to the point of placing the hives at risk of being robbed, a risk that frequently increases during the typical lull in the honey flow, at the end of spring.

Summer and the longest days of the year are upon us. They bring special conditions we want to be prepared for. Let's be careful with our smokers, as there is a lot of grass this year, and this vegetation can be easily set on fire. Sources of water need to be kept provisioned without interruption for our bees. Protecting the hives from direct sun in the afternoon reduces their need for water. Also, orienting the entrances slightly more to the east so that they receive the early morning sun helps the bees come out early and collect nectar before it is desiccated by the dry breeze. Maybe these are details. But together they can make a significant difference.

In summary, this month:

- Inspect hives when the foragers are out in large numbers.
- Keep an eye on the health of the colonies.
- Provide adequate air circulation through the hives.
- Be aware of situations and manipulations that can trigger robbing.
- Make sure the components of the hives fit tightly to prevent secondary entrances that might allow robber bees to enter.
- Ensure that sources of water are continuously available to the bees.
- Provide filtered afternoon shade, if at all possible.
- Adjust the size of the hive entrances to match the forager activity and reduce the risk of robbing.
- Follow-up on the development of young colonies.
- Evaluate the quality of young queens. Replace failing or undesirable queens.
- Combine or requeen inherently weak colonies or those that are not developing properly.
- Perform hive divisions and raise queens, where and when conditions are favorable.
- Monitor swarm traps.
- Keep some equipment at the ready to catch the occasional swarm.
- Manage honey supers (add space before it's needed; empty frames facilitate air circulation through the hive).
- Harvest surplus spring honey, making sure to leave enough honey in the hives.
- Discard old and misshapen combs.
- Render wax from discarded frames and from cappings (separately).
- Routinely clean and scorch tools and equipment.

Serge Labesque
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BEE WISE: “WHAT’S THE HURRY?” by Emery Dann

Any of you watching the movie “Sully”, about the pilot landing his plane in the Hudson River saving all 155 lives on board, may remember him quoted as saying: “It is all about timing...you can accomplish anything if you’re never in a hurry!” How many times have I been in a hurry? Then usually it has not been a pretty picture!

Honey bees have a steady pace for their lives and work. They do one thing at a time! Bees take enough time to do first things first. Even with a brain the size of a sesame seed, their vast numbers and cooperation with diligent effort, they accomplish amazing feats of endurance! Bees collect more than they need to survive with their impeccable navigation ability always returning to their hive at different times of the day! One flower at a time or one bee swarm at a time! It is all about timing! Can we learn to live healthy lives by following the example of our honey bees?

With the exceptions of “robber bees” and defending their hive, honey bees never seem to be in a hurry or too busy! I know when I have unrealistic expectations of myself, thinking I must do more by go faster to “get it done, NOW” often leaves me vulnerable to failures, mistakes, assumptions or melt downs! I know from many painful experiences in my life that hurry does not work out for my good! How many big or little mistakes have I made when my timing is off or when I am in too much of a hurry? I know I have written about this subject before. But I need to be selective with my time and effort or I will wind up giving and receiving the proverbial “short end of the stick”. One of the biggest struggles I have is that I like too much variety. My interests are often too diverse and scattered which dilutes my strength and efforts. Then hurrying causes diminishing returns and everyone I serve gets less than they deserve! This can also apply to too many swarms or beehives where we are not able to keep up with what our bees need from us. There are limits for me to be effective for the time and equipment I am able to provide, make or obtain.

I went a few times to a business meeting where you network with other business owners to gain more prospective customers by sharing referrals. I tried to sign up to join the group, but they would not accept my application. I was disqualified and I did not understand why they would not accept me. The reason was the business organization’s requirement was to only accept members with a single business. From their experience they knew the best businesses, giving the best value for their services, have a single focus, not split into several unrelated business ventures. Did I like their rule?—No! But I was not being single-minded and focused on a single business. Like our bees, it works best for me to do the one thing at a time that I love the most! Peace of mind instead of my “mind in pieces!” Then I don’t have to ask myself, “What’s the Hurry, Emery?”



SCBA General Meeting

May 8, 2017

Held at the RP 4H Center, about 180 people present.
President Jason Berkman brings the meeting to order at 6:59pm.

Announcements:

- Thea put on another fun and educational puppet show at the beginning of tonight's meeting. She explains how to identify a drone cell (the capping is bigger because drones are bigger than workers). Varroa mites in the hive are female and looking for a place to lay their eggs. They prefer to lay in the big drone cells. The queen has total control over the drone to worker ratio. The workers cannot mate, so they cannot lay worker bee eggs. Since drones are haploid (contain only one copy of each chromosome), the workers can only lay drones. Queens do all the mating, so they have eggs and sperm. When a queen lays a worker, her egg and sperm, which both contain one copy of each chromosome, combine to form a fertilized egg containing 2 copies of each chromosome (diploid). If there are a lot of drone cells, but no worker cells, you have a laying worker and no laying queen.
- Regional Coordinator Kelli announces the new game Stump the Clusters! Starting next month, bring your beekeeping questions to the meetings and prepare to stump your cluster coordinators. The cluster coordinators will compete to answer 10 of your toughest, silliest, and best questions each meeting.
- The 50/50 Raffle netted \$163 to one lucky winner and the association. Other raffle winners took home tote bags from Bee Kind, a Honey Crafting book from Bee Kind, follower boards from John, a 5 frame wooden nuke box, and honey jars from Thea.
- President Jason gives a warm welcome to all the new members in attendance. One of these new members won the nuke box!
- Christine Kurtz of the Bee Sharing Program informs everyone that the City of Petaluma is spraying pesticides to kill weeds. She encourages members to put up a no spraying sign in your yard like the ones we are selling at the meetings for \$15. Christine is also giving away free reading glasses to help members look for eggs in their hives.
- There will be a California State Beekeepers' Association Meeting in November to discuss how to organize and find volunteers, presenters, and seasoned beekeepers to participate in a more cohesive effort to provide quality education to their fellow beekeepers and the public.
- Christine discusses the importance of requeening defensive hives. If you have a defensive hive, it will not affect only you and your hive. Drones from your defensive hive will mate with queens of neighboring hives. Those hives will become more defensive and it only takes 5% off the hive population exhibiting defensive behavior to make the hive feel hot.
- John the Swarm guy announces 99 captured swarms have been reported to him at Swarm@sonomabees.org! If you are a SCBA member and you capture a swarm (even if you are not on the swarm list, you just capture a swarm from your neighbor's yard) report that you have captured the swarm to John by emailing Swarm@sonomabees.org. Swarms have a better chance of surviving in an SCBA member's hive than they do living in the wild here, so every swarm you capture is a colony saved. John recently gifted a swarm to Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue.
- The Volunteer Group announces upcoming volunteer opportunities at events. The Gravenstein Apple Fair, Sonoma County Fair, and National Heirloom Festival all need volunteers. As a volunteer, you get free entrance into the fairs and the opportunity to learn by teaching and listening to your fellow volunteers teach the public. You can sign up for 2-3 hour shifts and don't worry; you'll be at the booth in groups, not alone! The theme for the Gravenstein Apple Fair is "In Praise of Pollinators", so we will have a larger booth this year and therefore need more volunteers. The Volunteer Group likes wearing their SCBA t-shirts to events. If you would like an SCBA t-shirt, or other items with our logo, visit Cafepress. http://www.cafepress.com/mf/81366583/sonoma-county-beekeepers-association_long-sleeve-tshirt?desired_product_type=2

2nd VP Susan introduces tonight's speaker: Rich Morris, founder and CEO of BroodMinder. <https://broodminder.com/>
Rich Morris is passionate about beekeeping citizen science projects.

He lists some projects you can be a part of:

- Bee Counted: <http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/about/>
- The Great Sunflower Project: <https://www.greatsunflower.org/>
- Bee Informed Project: <https://beeinformed.org/>
- Bumble Bee Watch: <https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/>
- Open Source Beehives: <https://opensourcebeehives.com/>
- Citizen Science Beekeeping: <http://citizensciencebeekeeping.com/wp/about/>
- Eyes on Hives: <http://www.keltronixinc.com/>
- HiveTracks: <https://hivetracks.com/>
- Brood Minder: <https://broodminder.com/>

There is a Perdue Ankle Biter project. There are bees called ankle biters because they chew off the legs of varroa mites.

The goal of the BroodMinder citizen science project is to establish a statistical “Normal”, or average, data set for beehives. This Normal will be established by measuring:

- Temperature inside the hive
- Humidity inside the hive
- Weight of the hive

It is important to look at this data alongside environmental factors such as seasonal changes, geographical factors, and hive management.

From there you can ask: what is going on in the hive? When does brood rearing start and end? When is the honey flow?

Observable Processes

- Brood rearing
- Feeding behavior
- Brood growth
- Nectar flow
- Swarms
- Robbing
- Honey consumption

What is in it for you when you contribute to a citizen science project?

You get to learn about your bees. What is going on inside your hive when you're not looking can be such a mystery! Knowing the temperature, humidity, and weight of your hive can tell you so much about what's really going on in there.

What is in it for us, collectively?

We can contribute to:

- A better understanding of honeybees
 - o The impacts of foraging
- A better understanding of the effect of climate on honeybees
 - o Brood growth
 - o Food availability
- The development of better hive management practices
 - o Using the weight, temperature, and humidity data you can track how your hives are doing without disturbing them as often. This is important in winter, for example, when you don't want to disturb the hive. If your BroodMinder devices show you have a high temperature, you know they are alive in there.

BroodMinder Devices

- The Temperature and Humidity devices lay on top of brood frames. It is best to place them in the center of the box in and on top of the brood nest for the most accurate temperature results.
- The Scale is placed under the front of the hive with auxiliary support on the back. This will give you approximately half the weight of the hive. It is not a perfect measurement, but the weight number itself isn't as important as the fluctuation in weight because the data you collect over time will show the pattern of change. These devices send the data to the “BroodMinder” app, which can be downloaded for free on any apple or android device. You can send that data to the cloud as public domain.

About 3,500 of these devices have shipped and 1,700 have registered to share their data. About 1.1 million data points have been collected so far.

The Citizen Science Kit contains 2 temperature and humidity devices and 1 scale. It can be purchased for \$269 on the BroodMinder website: <https://broodminder.com/products/broodminder-citizen-science-kit>

To start the citizen science project, a test apiary was created. Theo put together 6 active hives and one “control hive” filled with water. All the hives in the apiary were treated the same.

Data Analysis

- After the data was collected, they created a weight graph to show the change in weight per day. The weight was taken every day at midnight for consistency. The weight grew significantly in June during the honey flow, and then coasted through the rest of the year. They saw what happens when your hive robs another hive. The weight increases dramatically literally overnight. This might warn you to watch out for any diseases the bees may have picked up from the weak hive the robbed.
- All of the hives were fed the same amount, but they reacted differently to being fed. One colony ate the whole container of sugar water, while another stored so much of it that the queen didn't have room to lay. The rest of the colonies stored some and ate the rest to supplement their foraging, but this experiment showed that not all colonies will be as responsible with their sugar water.
- A steady temperature of 96 degrees Fahrenheit means the queen is laying, so there is brood. If you do not see this temperature regulation over time, you might look in the hive to find all capped brood and realize you have no queen, but a laying worker like Thea demonstrated earlier.

Rich explains that all of this is one big experiment and no one knows what will be found from all the data, but Rich hopes it is something actionable. Once he started measuring the data, it raised even more questions, but there is definitely a lot to learn from the data, too.

Questions from the Audience:

Q: What was in the control hive?

A: It is just 2 deep boxes filled with bags of water to simulate the thermal load of the honeybees. This doubled as a control hive and a way to see how the temperature outside impacts the temperature inside the hive.

Q: Does this help with swarm detection?

A: Rich hopes that in the data, they will find something that will help predict when hives are preparing to swarm. Rich has not been able to analyze the data for swarm detection yet, but has noticed some funny weight changes before swarming and is hoping the data will help him find good indicators.

Q: Do the devices only work for hives in 2 deep boxes?

A: No, the devices will work in mediums and the number of boxes will just affect which box you want the temperature and humidity device on top of (so it is placed right on top of the brood nest). It does not work as well for top-bar hives because they are solid, so the heat doesn't get through to the temperature and humidity device and the hives are hard to weight.

Q: How close do you have to be to get the hive data on your phone?

A: It works with Bluetooth, so you have to be within about 15 feet. However, you can buy a device on the website that will allow you to get live data 24/7.



Melissa Hanson
Secretary

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Bee Plants of the Month

By Alice Ford-Sala

Continuing with this gorgeous and under-utilized pollinator friendly native plant. Ribes, or the Currant and Gooseberry family. A diverse and incredibly beautiful family, they benefit pollinators and native birds and mammals in a variety of settings.

Wild Currants Ribes species Grossulariaceae family

Note: I sang the glories of my Ribes malvaceum, or Chaparral Currant in April. Then it started to drop leaves and look horrible. I called California Flora Nursery and asked what happened, I thought taking cuttings in the cold winter had damaged it. The nursery manager said that all the extra water we got this year has taken a toll on Ribes, and they also lost a couple of them. Having twice our normal rainfall after four years of drought has been hard on many natives. He also said that a 10-year-old plant was pretty old for Ribes. Further research advised to prune in the summer when the weather is dry. I'll have to wait and see if it pulls through, or re-plant in the fall.

Ribes viburnifolium Catalina Perfume

This is a very useful and pleasing evergreen small shrub or groundcover. She can grow up to 3 feet tall, but then generally bends her long branches to the ground. As you may imagine, the leaves are fragrant, especially when wet or brushed up against. I read that it "smells like a fine wine" or has "a citrus-scented sap".

An added bonus is that R. viburnifolium can be planted under oaks or other trees, and deer generally leave it alone. The small, shiny leaves show off the small clusters of dark red or pink flowers. It sparsely sets red or yellowish flowers that birds enjoy.

You can plant it as a groundcover, spilling down a hillside or cascading over a retaining wall. Adaptable to many soil types, Catalina perfume needs partial sun to shade, burning in full sun. She can take moderate water, though is drought tolerant once established.

Ribes aureum v. gracillimum Golden Currant

Here's a hardy and easy to grow plant. The tiny yellow star shaped flowers are attractive, blooming in partial shade. I have noticed more bumblebees than honeybees on the blossoms. Yellow or black berries are attractive to birds.

Deciduous, Golden Currant leafs out in early February, and blooms in late March and April in Sonoma County. Being in the Ribes family, the leaves are also fragrant, a nice woody scent. I have one that has sent out suckers to partially fill a bed under my large maple tree, and I just noticed seedlings growing in between some flagstones. You can control the thicket if you wish by pruning in late spring or summer.

The more sun, the more flowers, but Golden Currant is very adaptable, just not liking intense full sun. Can take moderate water but also drought tolerant. Grows up 3 to 8 feet tall.



Golden Currant

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Moving Bees?

By Ettamarie Peterson

From time to time we find we have to move an entire colony of bees to another apiary. I have been using a special designed bottom board for this task. Last week I had a colony ready to send home with one of the 4-H beekeepers. My assistant Marcus Sugihara who has about 20 more years of beekeeping experience than I taught us a simple method he uses.

Marcus takes a piece of screen about 3 inches wide and the length of the entrance, folds it in half, wedges the folded edge into the entrance and the jams a couple of pieces of folded up newspaper into the opening to secure the wedged-in screen. He uses his hive tool for this step. The last step is a great improvement to the folded screen technique many of you probably already know. After we did this at sundown, we strapped the hive securely and put it in the back of the boy's father's car. It got to its new home and was placed on the waiting hive stand with no problems. We cautioned him to wait until morning to open the entrance to let the bees settle down.



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Education Committee Volunteers Ag Day Event at Cloverdale Fair

By Ettamarie Peterson

In May SCBA was asked to have an exhibit at the Ag Day Event at Cloverdale Fair. We had three members there for the four-hour event. One of the volunteers was a new beekeeper and told us how much she learned from us two old-timers. The children were able to look at the observation hive and make rubbing of foundation and stamp bees on their rubbings. We also had one of our great educational banners and a set of the California Academy of Science bee photos there.

Photos by Ettamarie Peterson



Children doing the rubbing and stamping



Maggie and Sydney volunteering at Cloverdale Ag Day



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honey bees with little
children!*

Bee Conscious Removal



---LIVE BEE REMOVAL---

We specialize in removing bees alive from
Walls, barns, sheds, and trees.

“Difficult” extractions are our specialty.

Beekeeping lessons offered at reasonable prices.

Wild bee colonies for sale.

We have been doing wall extractions for 10 years and have done over 450 to date.

Call Chris Conrad at 415-350-5700

Santa Rosa

Free Bee Colony for successful referral.

North Cluster News

Wax Workshop

By Candice Koseba

On a Mother's Day gathering the north cluster held a wonderful Wax Workshop where we learned the ins-and-outs of all things wax. We learned the benefits of wax, both our health and our hives. Jonah Aline Daniel a Clinical Energetic Herbalist and owner of Narrow Bridge Candles held the workshop at her home studio and educated us on wax processing. There was wax melting, candle making, eating and learning. A great way to spend Mother's Day and we all walked away with candles.



Contact Information

Regular monthly meetings of the Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association are held on the second Monday of each month, at 7 pm at the Rohnert Park 4-H Building. 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. Dues can be paid online at our website sonomabees.org, at our monthly meetings or by mail. Please see our Website for the application and various kinds of memberships available.

Our mailing address is:
Sonoma County Beekeepers' Assoc.
P.O. Box 98
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0098

Extractor Techs- Call Ettamarie 707-479-1613 or Janet Leisen 707-528-2085 or Cheryl Veretto e-mail cheryl@cbfreelance.com to rent the electric extractor for \$5 a day. Rental fee is \$5 per day. Cheryl is located in Sebastopol. Janet is North of Santa Rosa. Ettamarie is in Petaluma. There is a hand extractor at Deborah Rogers' home and her e-mail is deborah@olivequeen.net She lives in Glen Ellen.

[Links to Association Reports:](#)

2017 Board Members and Other Helpful People

President - Jason Berkman president@sonomabees.org
1st Vice President - Ann Jereb 1stVP@sonomabees.org
2nd Vice President - Susan Kegley 2ndVP@sonomabees.org
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Volunteer Coordinator - Open volunteer@sonomabees.org
Representatives at Large
Ettamarie Peterson atLarge1@sonomabees.org
Open atLarge2@sonomabees.org

Assistant - Linda Burns assistant@sonomabees.org
Auction - Darlene McGinnis auction@sonomabees.org
Bee Sharing - Christine Kurtz beesharing@sonomabees.org
Education Coordinator - Maggie Weaver, Thea Vierling, Jen Espinosa, Patsy Young education@sonomabees.org
Extractor Editor - Ettamarie Peterson editor@sonomabees.org
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Historian - Kirstie Stramler historian@sonomabees.org
Librarian - Nadya Clark librarian@sonomabees.org
Regional Coordinator - Kelly Cox – regionalcoordinator@sonomabees.org
Regional Coordinator 2 - Sally McGough – regionalcoordinator2@sonomabees.org

Cluster Leaders:

Central - Molly Kuhl, Joy Wesley, Ann Jereb centralcluster@sonomabees.org
East - Lauri Dorman, Lizanne Pastore eastcluster@sonomabees.org
North - Cheryl Caletti, Laurie Smith, Candice Koseba northcluster@sonomabees.org
South - Nikki Campbell, Cynthia Rathkey, Brian Martinelli southcluster@sonomabees.org
Topbar - Jim Spencer topbarcluster@sonomabees.org
West - Chris Dicker, Bruce Harris westcluster@sonomabees.org

Swarm - John McGinnis swarm@sonomabees.org
Webmaster - Bill MacElroy webmaster@sonomabees.org