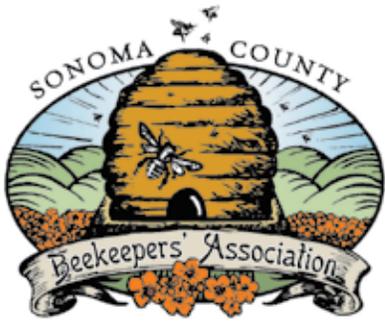


The Monthly Extractor



Volume 43, Issue 6

June 2018

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

President's Message

Fellow Beeks,

June already!? Hold the train, this year is going too fast! Weren't we just talking about gearing up for spring? And speaking of spring I think what a long strange spring it's been! What is going on with this weather? As I write this the forecast is calling for possible rain and thunder on Thursday/Friday? And our bees? What of them? Huge, bigger than ever swarms and then lots of secondary and third swarms. All I know for sure is the bees know what they're doing and we have to keep learning from them.

We have had over 200 swarm reports from Cluster folk and I'm sure many more that haven't yet been reported. Most Clusters have fulfilled their needs bees list requests and from what I hear the Bee Cafes and hive dives are going strong.

A big thank you to Paul Quistgard, our "Badge Guy", who had a wonderful idea of getting "Proper" name badges for our SCBA members. I'm not sure how many of you have purchased them but I know the numbers are growing. They are beautiful and it is so nice not to panic when you can't remember someone's name.

The Annual SCBA picnic that will be on July 21st at Bees n Blooms in Santa Rosa. This is going to be a really wonderful event. We are going to have live music from none other than "Burnside", our very own Jason Berkman's (2017 President) 4-piece band; Food, a scavenger hunt and games and, if you haven't yet been to Bees n Blooms you are in for a treat. It is a farm with a spectacular garden filled with flowers, a lavender labyrinth, (more native bees than you can count), birds, ducks, a pool!!!!!!

We will be sending out a formal invitation with more details in a couple of weeks so look for it.

NOW, I have to let you all know about the most wonderful experience Chris and I had last weekend. We were invited by 2 of our SCBA members to join them and 3 other couples for a Sunday luncheon that they purchased together (I hear urged on by one husband, thank you John!) at the Holiday Auction. It was a full luncheon for 12 people hosted, prepared and served by members of the SCBA Gardening Group. And what an experience!

We met at Gina Hitchcock and Eric's beautiful home in Sebastopol and were greeted with champagne and a delightful array of yummy appetizers, all homemade with fresh ingredients. Meanwhile, Kelly Corbett, Rita Maloney, Tamara Brown and Peg Fitzgerald (all Garden group members) were busy in

Cont'd on Next Page

This Month's Calendar

Monthly Meeting: Monday, JUNE 11

6PM Check out books and videos from our library, buy plants at our fabulous plant table, 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!

7PM Solomon Parker will be speaking about treatment-free beekeeping.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- July 21 No regular meeting. Annual Picnic at Bees and Blooms farm on Petaluma Hill Road. More details later.

Contents

President's Message	1
This Month's Calendar.....	1
Beek(s) Of The Month	2
More About the June Meeting	3
Swarm Catching	3
Beekeeping To-Do List by Serge Labesque	4
Beginning Bee Course.....	5
Central Cluster	6
Bee Plants of the Month	7
Bee Diseases	8
The Education Group	9
Hive Dive	10
2018 Board Members	12
Honey Extractor Rental	12
Monthly Meeting	13
Contact Information	13

the kitchen. Once we had our fill of appetizers (consciously making an effort to leave room for lunch) we were escorted to the dinner table overlooking the pool, beautifully set with flowers and of course bee soaps (made by Tamara), seeds (for takeaways) where we were served wine (donated from auction donations). The lunch that followed was divine. Fresh greens with a wonderful soft vinaigrette and crusty seeded bread (made by Gina) with homemade orange, pesto and cream butter(s). Then the main... Delicious Grilled lamb (donated by Eileen Pharo), roasted beets and chard and baby potatoes, all cooked to perfection. More wine, more bread (and butter). But the best part was sitting and chatting and laughing with friends that we don't get a chance to see very often! Then, the grand finale; Individual plates of Pot du crème with strawberries, persimmon cake with the most amazing hard sauce ever, petit cupcakes and, of course, don't forget the homemade limoncello, coffee and earl grey tea! I don't do it justice. Gina Hitchcock and her talented team outdid themselves. We all left way too full and very happy and most definitely looking forward to doing it again next year. Sadly, Gina and Eric are moving so I am ever hopeful that the Gardening Group will be able to find something similar for this year's auction!

The bidding has already started!



Photo of Gardening Team who prepared luncheon



Kelli Cox
President

Beek(s) Of The Month

This month is shared by **Paul Quistgard** and **Susan Simmons**.

Some know Paul from our Central Cluster. Paul came to me in February with the idea of having nametags made for all members. After some discussion he offered to take on the task of "making it happen" from designing the badges to creating the order forms to handing out the finished product. This is something we have wanted for a long time but no one had come forward to take on the task. One of the reasons I believe we are such a strong successful organization is due to members like Paul; who see something that could improve "US" and then take it on. Thank you, Paul, for making our organization better, and helping me to remember our members names!

Susan is one of our East Cluster Coordinators; she is what I like to call a quiet giant. Someone who is quiet until you get her talking about bees! She is also a swarm catcher extraordinaire, it has been said that she is intuitive, caring, gentle and in tune with what the bees need and want. When she catches a swarm she makes sure the entire swarm remains together. There is no bee left behind as she has a queen catcher in her pocket for that last forager that she will catch and then bring to join the others. Additionally, as a Cluster leader she does everything she can to help new beekeepers feel comfortable and takes the time needed to explain best beekeeping practices. Thank you, Susan, for taking care of our members and the bees.

More About the June Meeting

By Susan Kegley

How to Start Beekeeping Treatment-Free

There have been so many people attempt to start beekeeping without the proper knowledge or the benefit of mentor experience, and this is even more important in treatment-free beekeeping. Learn what to do and what not to do in your first and second years of beekeeping.

Solomon Parker is committed to educating new beekeepers that choose the treatment-free path. He is the creator of the Treatment-Free Beekeeping Podcast and the founder of the Treatment-Free Beekeepers' Facebook group, which now has over 27,000 members. He has been keeping bees treatment-free since he started in 2003 and he lives in Medford, Oregon where he was born and raised, with his wife and children and bees.



Swarm Catching Water Jug on a Pole

By Ettamarie Peterson

If you have been to any meetings lately, you will have seen Christine Kurtz selling the water jugs another member converted to fit onto a pole and donated to sell to members. I have one and in May I was asked to get a swarm just out of reach of a tall ladder. I put a coco liner that was designed for a hanging plant in the bottom of the jug, added a hunk of old comb by warming it a bit and a few drops of lemongrass oil. I put a floor mop handle on it with duct tape instead of the long pole so it was lighter and easier to hold up under the swarm. I lured many bees into this contraption and dumped them into my swarm box. The coco liner slipped out onto the frames, which was actually helpful. I did this twice getting a fair amount of bees out of the tree rather gently. Then my brain went to work on solving the problem I often have of how to get the last bees off the branch. I used my handy roll of duct tape (should be renamed "Beekeeper's Friend" and taped my bee brush to the edge. Then I brushed the bees off. Many went into the jug and some flew around and then went into the jug. I did my best imitation of the Statue of Liberty holding the jug up to attract the swarm into it. After doing this twice I had all the bees happily in the box.

The homeowner was so fascinated by all my efforts that he took pictures and sent them to me.



Photo by Hamish Hafter homeowner. Note bee brush taped to the edge. Coco liner is on the bottom of the jug.

My June

Beekeeping To-Do List by Serge Labesque

© 2018

About mothers and bees!

My mother grew up on a small farm in the southwest of France; more precisely, in the heart of Gascony and just walking distance in those days from the place where d'Artagnan, one of the famous Three Musketeers, was born. When "l'Autan", a dry wind from the east, warms that area of gentle rolling hills, the southern horizon is lined by a majestic blue-and-white lacework. It's the Pyrenees, a chain of mountains shared by Spain and France.

The farm was located near a hilltop, facing south toward the Pyrenees. The courtyard was protected from the weather that came from the Atlantic Ocean by the barn. The vegetable garden was nestled between the house, a pond, the vineyard of Malaga and Jurançon grapevines, and the Tenarèze, a white-gravel hillcrest road the Romans had created nearly two thousand years earlier.

Right there, between the vineyard and the garden, were two wooden boxes and their throngs of black bees. Everybody had learned not to disturb them, and so they went about their busy life year-round and from year to year. Once a year, a neighbor who knew how to handle them came to harvest some of the honey. A few days later, he returned bringing one or two of those large glazed terra cotta jars that were used to hold various foods, such as goose or duck confit. But his were full of honey. The jars were kept in the kitchen, not far from the walk-in fireplace that drew people together in the evenings. Inevitably, they were an open invitation to young fingers.

Between the World Wars, Gascony was a land of very modest, yet largely self-sufficient farms. Most of what was needed, grains, fruit, vegetables, meat, wine, dairy products, was grown or produced at home. Only an occasional calf or some poultry was taken to the nearby town, where it was sold in order to generate money that paid for a few additional goods or services. The farmers practiced "polyculture" in a biologically diverse environment long before the term was coined. They did not know about "organic" or "biodynamic" farming. The productivity of their fields was low, but, when it came to quality, their products could possibly surpass any of the modern farming standards.

As in many other places, things have changed in Gascony. Farming, beekeeping, people's and animals' lives are different from what they were in those bygone days. Most visibly, many of the hedges and wooded areas have been cleared to make room for large monocrops.

My mother did not say much about bees until I started keeping bees. But then her fond honey-sweetened childhood memories welled up. In recent years, she also saved every bee-related newspaper article she'd come across so that I could read them. Together, they've amounted to a saddening litany of colony losses, distraught

beekeepers, killer pesticides, parasitic mites, Asian hornet invasions, and the destruction of bee habitat. For sure, they render a picture of the condition of the bees that is quite different from what my mother's childhood bees had encountered! She also spent some of her time scattering seeds of bee plants around her home and taking care of her flowers. Time after time watching them in front of her home, she walked back to the house, concerned, and said "On ne voit plus d'abeilles." (There are no more bees to be seen.)

This shift happened in much less than a lifetime. It's part of an evolution driven by humans at a reckless pace in spite of all the alarms that are sounding around us. Through their ailments, the bees, too, are signaling that our environment requires consideration and our immediate converting to better practices. Although there is no turning back to the past, we must learn from it and act judiciously and very quickly! Hopefully, this April's complete ban of three major neonicotinoid pesticides by the EU is only the first of many more environmentally sound measures that will bring pollinators back to the flowers.

Mothers and bees are life givers. They deserve our attention and best loving care. Mother Earth is no exception.



A December sunrise over part of Gascony, France. From the Basque Country to the Roussillon, the 250-mile-long Pyrenees adorns the southern horizon. Changes in farming practices are transforming this landscape and profoundly affecting this environment. The local bee is the black bee, *Apis mellifera mellifera*. SL © 2018

June in the apiaries

This spring has brought a patchwork of mixed news from the apiaries. The good news is that this year's spring honey flow was generous in many places, and the harvest of spring honey was one of the best we have seen in years. There are, unfortunately, causes for concern in regard to colony health. The brood nests in some apiaries seemed to

have been afflicted in March and early April by something that somewhat resembled EFB or end-of-summer Parasitic Mite Syndrome (PMS). In other apiaries these signs of ill health were absent or not noticeable. The affected colonies were substantially weakened for a while before bouncing back in May. Are we facing a new pathogen, a new virus or a new level of increased virulence of varroa mites? Although EFB would seem a logical cause at this time of year, the distribution of the affected colonies seemed odd. Could it be that a pesticide was misused by some farmers or gardeners in early spring, and the nutrition of the brood contaminated by a toxic product? I do not have an answer, but this is something to keep in mind for next spring.

At this point in time, the brood nests have reached or are approaching their maximum sizes for the year. Except for the young colonies that still need to build up, the hives have also achieved their maximum volume, the honey supers being in place.

If we've missed noticing the decrease in nectar and pollen availability that heralds the end of the spring flow, the sudden changes in the behavior of the bees signals it unambiguously. Indeed, over a short period of time in the weeks that precede the summer solstice, the masses of foragers can be left unable to find much to collect until the scarce and stingy warm season sources of nectar and pollen begin to produce. For a while, many foragers turn to robbing to fill their honey crops. They threaten young or weak colonies especially in locations where hive density is relatively high. The reactions of the bees to this sudden dearth are a wave of drone culling and an immediate increase in their defensiveness. With less nectar available to the hive bees, comb construction slows down markedly. Idled bees perform the puzzling and still unexplained "washboard behavior" on the front of the hives. Isn't that the bees' way of twiddling their thumbs? In some locales, the foragers may be driven to the toxic blossoms of California buckeye trees unless blackberries or other plants offer alternatives.

As these conditions also mark the end of the season of colony reproduction, swarming becomes less frequent. The end of the spring honey flow ushers in the next big phase in the life of the colonies: gaining strength and preparing for winter. Beekeepers also shift their attention to different tasks. With summer upon us, open-hive inspections are performed less frequently than during the spring. Their timing must be chosen to avoid the heat of the day, because this helps to reduce the risks of triggering robbing or facing disgruntled foragers. The brood chambers are not accessed unnecessarily once we enter summer. But signs of colony health or queen issues are good reasons to promptly inspect the brood nests. These clues may be seen in front of the hives, at the entrances or on the monitoring trays. So, the honey supers become the focus of our hive manipulations. The young colonies and those with young queens, however, deserve a little more scrutiny, as we need to find out how they are performing. It does not take long to see how the honey supers are filling up. This is good, because the honeycombs should not be left exposed very long, as robber bees will find them. Harvesting only a few frames of ripe and nicely

capped honey from a hive is a quick procedure that does not disturb the colonies or place them at risk. Because the summer flow is usually meager in my apiaries, I leave ample amounts of honey in my hives for the bees at the end of the spring harvest.

Unlike in early spring, when ample nectar storage space needs to be provided to the colonies, only a few open frames may be sufficient during the summer. Yet, this can be highly variable with the location of the hives, and beekeepers do well being generous, at least for a while, until the bees will have to move stores in the brood chambers. But we are not there yet. So, open frames can be safely inserted in the supers. If the bees do not use them, they are not at risk of being damaged like beeswax foundation might be in times of nectar dearth, and they facilitate air circulation through the hives. When wet frames are returned to the hives, it is better to do this in the evening, again to reduce the risk of robbing.

With the early summer flow on, mild weather and an ample supply of nurse bees and mature drones, the weeks around the summer solstice provide a last chance to raise a few queens from the very best of our hives under favorable conditions. These young queens will be kept at the ready to requeen colonies that do not perform or control mite population satisfactorily before the fall.

The grass has dried around the hives. So, let's be particularly careful with our smokers. If practical, providing some shade to the hives during the afternoon can reduce their need for water. Regardless, sources of water must be kept available to the bees without any interruption.

Do not miss going to the apiaries in the warm evenings. Enjoy the sweet fragrance that emanates from the softly humming hives.

Cont'd on Next Page

Beginning Bee Course

Class Name: Introduction to Beekeeping

Class Date(s): 6/21/2018 to 7/12/2018

Weekly - Thursday 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

4 sessions starting 6/21/2018, ending 7/12/2018

Bech Hall, 1999

Number of Sessions: 4

Number of Weeks: 4

Class Web Description: This short course will introduce students to beekeeping with a strong emphasis on bee-hive 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

In summary, this month:

- Inspect hives when the foragers are out in large numbers, avoiding the heat of the day.
- Follow-up on the development of young colonies.
- Evaluate the quality of young queens. Replace failing or undesirable queens.
- Keep an eye on the health of the colonies.
- 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.
- Maintain 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 to reduce the risk of robbing.
- Monitor swarm traps.
- Keep some equipment at the ready to catch the occasional swarm.
- Manage honey supers (add space before it's needed; open 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.
- Routinely clean and scorch tools and equipment.

Serge Labesque
© 2018

Central Cluster

Bee Share Progress Update!

By Joy Wesley Central Cluster Bee Share

The Cluster Coordinators in Central Cluster have been busy this swarm season matching up swarms and splits to the 40 folks on our needs bees list, and they have been successful in placing bees with 36 of the 40 folks so far and there are still splits and swarms happening! We are all hoping to have all 40 beekeepers matched with either swarms or splits before too much longer!

The Central Cluster Coordinators, as well as, Bee Buddies are working side-by-side and hive-by-hive learning and teaching each other through each hive inspection. Is that the queen? Oh no I think I saw a mite! Oh my! There are so many bees! I think I just squished one! Rorie, Ann, and Maggie have been making themselves available to newbees, experienced beeks, and myself, (bee share gal for central cluster) as a resource for hive management! They have managed regular follow up correspondence and attended hive inspections with over 25 bee share recipients. In the last couple of months they have also answered numerous e-mails, phone calls, and Facebook requests for guidance. It is a pleasure and an honor to work with these dedicated beekeepers.

If you haven't already thanked your cluster coordinator recently why not send them a simple note via e-mail or Facebook, or better yet let them know the next time you see them either at your apiary or the next bee café! We have a wonderful group of enthusiastic new and experienced beekeepers in Central Cluster and we are looking forward to a productive and successful year of beekeeping, friendship making, and educating each other. Just maybe, if we are really lucky, getting our bees to do as we hope they will do, and that is to thrive!



Bee Plants of the Month

By Alice Ford-Sala

Mullein Verbascum

Family Scrophulariaceae (Figwort)

You have likely seen this common plant in woodlands, roadside ditches or along hiking paths. She likes to wander, setting seeds liberally along the way. Give her nice rich soil and plenty of water, and you will have a striking back of the border glamour queen. But she will thrive in drier and leaner soil, and is considered a drought-tolerant plant.

The soft grey-green leaves form a charming rosette in early spring. Then they grow longer and taller until a fuzzy stalk rises from the center of the plant. The flower stalks often rise up to 5 feet tall, or even taller! The leaves often spread up to 3 or 4 feet wide.

Depending on the variety, the flowers can be yellow (most common), white, pink or even purple. The flowers open from the bottom of the stalk to the top, attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Leave the seeds on for birds to munch on, or cut the spent stalks for re-bloom. Native bees might use the dried stalks for nesting, so leave the last ones of the season on for the winter.

Mullein is said to be deer-resistant, also.

Some particularly attractive varieties are:

- *V. bombyciferum* 'Arctic Summer' has very fuzzy white down on the flower spike, which contrasts nicely with the yellow flowers as they emerge.
- *V. chaixii* 'Wedding Candles' sends up several spires of white flowers with purple stamens and orange anthers.
- *V. nigrum* 'Dark Mullein' is also super attractive, with yellow flowers contrasting with purple stamens.

Medicinally, Mullein has been used for centuries to treat a variety of conditions. Leaves are used for glandular health, lymphatic cleansing, sore throats and coughs, urinary tract issues. Flowers are harvested and used for earache, and pain relief. The leaves or flowers can be made into tinctures, teas, oils (the common way to treat ear aches) or salves. Leaves are made into a poultice to treat bruising and swelling of sprains or even mastitis.

Again, these medicinal uses are for information only, not recommendations.

Alice Ford-Sala



Mullein Verbascum



Christine Kurtz Teaches South Cluster About Bee Diseases

By Ettamarie Peterson

On Saturday May 19th South Cluster met in Ettamarie Peterson's barn to learn more about bee diseases. Christine Kurtz was the presenter. She has worked for hours assembling photos and scientific information about American Foul Brood, European Foul Brood, Chalk Brood, Nosema and other diseases that harm our bees. She included the various pros and cons of the treatments and what equipment needs to be destroyed. She explained all of her own techniques for avoiding cross contamination of colonies. One thing that did come out is the difficulties of getting permits to burn and what are the alternatives.

The presentation was much appreciated by the many members that attended. At the end she asked them for feedback as she is going to give this presentation to all five clusters in Sonoma County. No one could find anything to change. All agreed on how complete and detailed it was.



Photos By Peter Wiley



The Education Group Moves Forward

By Thea Vierling and Mari Barrell

We are so excited about our education group. Amazing things happen in the classroom or in the school garden even if you just talk about your love for the bees and how important they are for our gardens... well, you can also add that most people get stung by yellow Jackets and that toothpaste works wonders on bee stings! Here are a few pictures to get you interested in helping us spread the word. We need more volunteers to go out to classrooms and to school gardens. Do you all know how many schools in Sonoma County have school gardens? It really amazed us when we realized how many there are. What a natural combination: school gardens and SCBA!!! The Sonoma County School Garden network is doing so much for planting but what is missing is the participation of beekeepers in the role of plants in the garden.

As Educators we are calling out to the plant group. We need your help. Are any of you Master Gardeners? If you are part of the Master Gardener group you usually have to make so many presentations a year. Please consider making them with school garden programs and talk about pollination and bees. This could help you and will definitely help SCBA's education goal.

We will be having a meeting at Penngrove Elementary School from 5:30 to 7:30 PM on June 13th to look into education supplies and also talk about how to make an EASY presentation. We will meet in the school garden. It will surprise you when you see what Mari Barrell has done with the garden, truly astonishing!!! A presentation does not need to be complicated just fun for the students. If you want to attend, you can e-mail Mari Barrell at mbarrell@comcast.net or call Thea Vierling at: 707-483-0426.



The Benefits of Having a Hive Dive with Non Beekeepers

By Thea Vierling

A couple of weeks ago we had out of town guests, city folks, staying with us and were asking us why on earth we would keep bees. They admitted they were afraid of bees and one even said he once had an “allergic” reaction (probably a yellow jacket) and now carries an epi pen. At that same time another friend of mine, my Kenwood bee buddy, Rob Byers, said he really wanted to “pay it forward” and have a few folks over to his house for a hive dive. Generally we have hive dives for our bee buddies and members of our cluster but there was no time to get something like this organized so we just decided to have some fun and invite whoever we wanted hoping to get a handful of folks. We did not care if they were beekeepers nor did they have to be members of our association. Just “Country Fun” with City Slickers who are really interested but have not had the opportunity to go into a real hive! Well it was a great success.

We started out with some great posters of the bees, a little wine and cheese, a discussion about the bees and ended with talking about our fears and hesitations. Most knew very little and were so intrigued: “Really, the queen mates with that many drones?” We started by getting all suited up and helping with the zippers and the gloves. It was a lot of fun! We finally went into two of Rob’s hive staying only a very short time in each hive; Like Serge says, “Only 10 minutes a hive!” Everyone was mesmerized. The discussion beforehand had piqued their interest.

At the end we all agreed that even though they may not become beekeepers, it was a country experience not many city dwellers have. They were very thankful for the experience and concluded it would make them more aware of bees and how they can help.

Here are a few pictures of the novices getting suited up and going into the hive!





Providing Quality Hives and Components at an Affordable Price

- ~ Complete Hives ~ Screened Bottom Boards ~
- ~ Supers with Frames and Follower Boards ~
- ~ Top Feeders ~ Vented Top Covers ~
- ~ Wired Frames ~ Follower Boards ~
- ~ Telescoping Top Covers ~ Hive Stands ~
- ~ Wooden Swarm Traps ~ Solar Wax Melters ~

*Designed and endorsed by Serge Labesque
Recommended by Christine Kurtz*

John McGinnis

(707) 478-9787

803 Lynch Rd, Petaluma, CA 94954

By appointment only

goahwayranch@gmail.com

Bee Conscious Removal

www.Beeconsciousremoval.com



---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.

Honey Extractor Rental

Members have use of the association's honey extracting equipment, as available. Rental fee is \$5 per day. Extractors must be returned clean.

Email or call to reserve:

South

Ettamarie Peterson
707-479-1613

editor@petersonsfarm.com

Central

Paul Quistgard

PaulQuistgard@aol.com

West

Cheryl Veretto

707-827-3774 (preferred)

cheryl@cbfreelance.com

East

Susan Simmons

925-408-4529

Susanjsimmons@gmail.com

The Top Bar Hive group has a fruit press available for use in honeycomb crushing. Contact Jim Spencer at topbargroup@sonomabees.org



Bee Hive Management & Local Honey Sales

Michael Turner
Owner/Beekeeper
415/871-4662

info@marincoastalbee.com

R Honey Pots
Pottery, Beekeeping & Metalwork

Liz Russell & Joey Romo R
Forestville, Ca

www.RHoneyPots.com
@RHoneyPots
email: RHoneyPots@gmail.com
cell: (707) 696-0861/540-2551

Swarms & Live Honey Bee Extraction
Dishwasher, Microwave & Oven Safe Functional Original Artwork

2018 Board Members and Other Helpful People

Click Here
for the Up-to-Date
Roster of SCBA Resources

Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association

Monthly Meeting

May 14, 2018

Location - 4H Building , Rohnert Park
Start approximately 7:02
In Attendance approximately 107

Items covered

- Approximately 15 new members attending
 - Bees of the month - George Hermann
 - Special thanks to the Volunteer of Events Members!!
- Education Team talked bee facts and teaching techniques
- Queen Math reviewed (gestation periods)
 - Queen = 16 days
 - Worker = 21 days
 - Drones = 24 days
- Water Jug Swarm Traps still available for purchase!

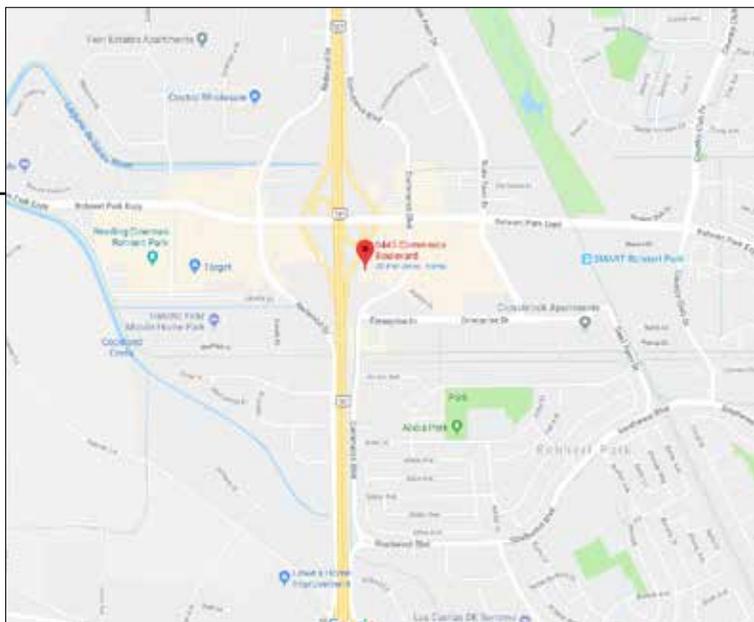
- Speaker Topic - CA Master Beekeeper Program and Varroa Mite Control By Bernardo Niño, Head of Research and Development UBEE
- Educational advisor to CA Master Beekeeper Program
- Manages approximately 350 colonies for research
 - Varroa is the number one pest to honeybees in the West
 - Varroa transmits pathogens and surpasses immune system of infected bees
 - Prefer drone larva due to longer gestation
 - Integrated Pest Management Approach - decision making process based on thresholds of monitoring data from a hive
 - Honeybee Health Toolkit, free resource
 - Mite estimation techniques covered
 - Mite treatment techniques covered

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Jones
Secretary

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

Click Google Map for Driving
Directions