President's Message

Greetings Fellow Beeks,

I can hardly believe it, but our summer is almost gone, what happened?
As our bees are preparing for winter, the board has been getting ready for 2020 with some exciting new changes.
I am pleased to announce that we have hired Miles Sarvis-Wilburn as our new SCBA Program Director. He begins on September 1st and will be focused on meeting and working with our Program Leaders in Gardening, Clusters, Education and Events.

I am also excited to announce the following nominations for next year’s board positions:
Ann Jereb is up for re-election as 1st VP, Carol Ellis is running for 2nd VP, Susan Kegley is running for Secretary and George Hermann is running for Treasurer. The remaining board position to be filled is President, and we are actively seeking nominations.

Both Katia Vincent and Angelo Sacerdote are remaining At Large and Candice Koseba and Peter Jones are joining as third and fourth at large. We are committed to keeping a strong board and maintaining the continuity of the work we’ve achieved these last years to support the new board members coming in.

Having said that, we are also seeking the following coordinator positions for next year.
- General Meetings Coordinator- helps with all things involved with the monthly general meetings
- Regional Cluster Coordinator- helps with cluster coordinators

I will have copies of the job descriptions for these positions at the general meeting on Monday September 9th. These are wonderful positions for anyone interested in supporting our association. They will all have a lot of support so no one will be navigating alone.

If you are interested in a board or coordinator position, please contact me. I am always available to chat about these positions or any other way(s) you can help. It really takes a village and our SCBA community is fast becoming a leading Beekeeping Association.

As some of you may know, a group of SCBA members (including myself) traveled to Gormanston, Ireland to attend a bee school sponsored by the Federation of Irish Beekeepers Associations. It was a wonderful trip and we will have a presentation all about it at our October meeting to show you pictures and talk more in depth about the Irish way of beekeeping.

Lastly, Our September General Meeting is changing times. We are excited to have Serge Labesque present "Preparing for Winter". Please read Susan Kegley’s description under this month’s presenter, pg 4. The General meeting will start promptly at 6:00PM to allow for Serge to begin his presentation at 6:30. Please arrive a little before 6 to get your seat. Until then, Bee well,

Kelli Cox
2019 President

This Month’s Calendar

Monthly Meeting: Monday, September 9th

NOTE: CHANGE IN TIMES!

5:30 pm Doors will open for all that need to come in early for set-up.

6:00 pm General Meeting begins!

6:30 pm Our own Serge Labesque will be giving a two-hour presentation so come earlier than usual!

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Another Successful Apple Fair!

Hey all,

Big shout out to all the people who volunteered at this year’s Gravenstein Apple Fair. Over 30 club members volunteered and a few more just showed up to help out. FANTASTIC! We could not have participated at this event with out you!

Attendance at the fair was really good, judging by the traffic at our booth.

Thanks again,

Marcus
The crutches they use to keep their bees alive allow genet- fail; as their dismal colony losses show year after year, but treatments and feedings. The fact is that not only do they replace weak or failing hives. Conventional beekeepers, on the contrary, indiscriminately pamper all their colonies with feedings or treatments for pests or diseases. The reason is simple: I do not use these methods with bees. Although I used to do these things many years ago when I started in beekeeping, I now consider that they are ill-advised ways of keeping bees. Conventional beekeeping, which includes the use of treatments, feedings and all sorts of gimmicks to control the life of bees, is widely promoted by most of the practitioners and even by many scientists. So much so that new beekeepers cannot challenge and shake off the flawed rationale of their instructors. It’s difficult to think differently, isn’t it? They are even led to believe that beekeepers who follow alternative methods are the culprits that cause colony losses.

However, it can be powerfully argued that it is the conventional beekeeping mentality and procedures that are perpetuating and even aggravating the dire condition of the bees. How so? Simply because conventional practices interfere with the process of natural selection. Since the bees are not domesticated animals, their lives should be governed by nature, not by the whims of humans who often have shortsighted, greed-driven objectives. Natural selection ensures that inherently strong elements of the species replace weak or failing hives. Conventional beekeepers, on the contrary, indiscriminately pamper all their colonies with treatments and feedings. The fact is that not only do they fail; as their dismal colony losses show year after year, but the crutches they use to keep their bees alive allow genetically inept colonies to disseminate their deficient genes throughout the surrounding populations. And because this is done by the vast majority of beekeepers, the strength of nearly the entire bee species is being eroded.

Things may be changing though. But, is the evolution of the mindset happening fast enough to save the bees? I doubt it. Several beekeeping magazines land in my mailbox every month. I scan them to stay abreast of what is going on in the bee world. With rare exceptions, the articles are depressing reads, boring repetitions of the thoughtless conventional ways. Page after page, they glorify the exploitation of honey bees and they teach how to more effectively draw products, services or revenue from the hives. They appeal to those who love this exploitive form of beekeeping and evidently confuse it with loving the bees. Inevitably, the articles publicize treatments of one sort or another and strongly recommend feeding the colonies. Alternate ways of taking care of colonies and of the species are extremely rare, if not painfully absent from these publications.

And let’s not delude ourselves: When it comes to bee stewardship, organic and biodynamic ways of beekeeping are based on the same conventional honey-hunter mentality. Their defining sets of rules may impose a few constraints for the beekeepers in order to obtain a label, but they produce only superficial differences between these systems. After all, the goals of the biodynamic and organic beekeepers are to acquire good conscience, to appeal to their more demanding customer bases, and to fetch higher prices for the products of their hives. Unfortunately for the bees, these methods still interfere with the process of natural selection and do very little to alleviate their present condition.

Bees that live in trees do not have beekeepers to support them. They must have in themselves what they need to survive. Either they thrive, or else their nests become available to stronger colonies. That is the way bees live in my apiaries. I do not neglect my hives though. But I consider that treatments and feedings are not acceptable ways and means of taking care of them.

September in the apiaries

Much of the colonies’ success in reaching next spring will depend on tasks executed by the bees around the fall equinox. After a brief increase in brood production at the end of summer, the queens will reduce their egg production while hive bees rearrange their stores. Finally, the long-lasting winter bees will be raised inside brood chambers that will have been substantially, yet methodically reconfigured. The survival of the winter clusters and the future development of the colonies in mid-winter depend on this shuffling work.

During this vitally important process, the bees fill the upper part of the brood chambers with nectar and uncapped honey they relocate from distant combs. As this happens, the brood nests are driven downward on the combs, into parts of the hives where stores have been deposited during the past weeks. The contents of the brood nests, brood and stores, are mixed and become more and more compact. The honey-bound conditions that result are desirable, because they lead the queens to reduce their egg-laying. Altogether, this gradual closure of the brood nests will save the winter bees from having to perform brood-rearing duties too early in their lives, and it can end with a beneficial period of broodlessness in late fall.

With the exception of the queens, the early-fall adult bees will not be part of the winter cluster. Their short and intensely busy lives are committed to helping their colonies by preparing their nests and by nurturing the winter bees.

Although the beekeeper may be tempted to alleviate the congestion of the brood nests, doing so in the fall could hurt the bees by causing an increase in brood production at a time when the opposite would be normal. It is good to keep in mind that hive space management at this time of year is very different from what is usually done earlier: Instead of augmenting the volume of the hives, we need to reduce it. Every opportunity we have to remove unused combs, frames or supers is taken. This can be accomplished by harvesting a little surplus honey, or by eliminating old and misshapen combs, for example. The
balance of the surplus honey will be removed in mid-fall, when the needs of the individual colonies can be accurately assessed. The capping of small patches of honey that the bees have left untouched in the supers may be scratched or depressed slightly. The bees will then relocate this exposed honey and the emptied combs will be removed a few days later.

Around Labor Day, the hives are inspected to assess the condition of the colonies. The quantity and organization of their stores, their health and their queens are key factors. Should it be necessary to requeen or combine hives that visibly cannot make it through the winter, this has to be executed without delay, as the window of time to implement this sort of decision is closing rapidly. However, these measures are exceptional. I prefer giving bees a chance instead of “taking the winter losses in the fall”, as is often recommended. To do this, I adjust the volume of the hives to match the strength of the colonies they hold, keeping their contents snug and well proportioned. Small fall colonies are therefore overwintered like nucs. The double-deep brood chamber configuration seems to be doing wonders in this approach, and the colonies bounce back out of winter remarkably well.

Harvesting some honey is a good way to help balance the contents of excessively stocked hives. Still, it is safer not to withdraw too much, too early. It will be easier to evaluate what is really surplus honey in mid-fall, when the hives are being buttoned up for winter. The key indicator will be the size of the brood nests.

As the varroa mite populations reach their maximum for the year, the signs of infestation may become more evident now than they were earlier in the summer. These observations are added to the results of the tests that were performed during the summer to assess the resistance of the colonies to the pest. Unfortunately, other health problems may occasionally occur. Removing all the contaminated combs while shrinking the volume of the affected hives should not be delayed at all.

The hive entrances are kept just large enough not to hinder the work of the foragers while remaining defensible against robber bees and yellow jackets, which can present a real danger in the fall.

The colonies have maintained rather large drone populations late into the summer this year. Certainly, they will be eliminated in early fall.

Late-season swarms are frequently absconding swarms that flee untenable or unhealthy hive conditions. They may carry pests and pathogens. When they come my way, I give them a nest and wish them well, but I do not combine them with other colonies. If they had moved into a tree hollow, they would also have had to fend for themselves.

Bees that are well adapted to their local conditions respond to the clues of the season and spontaneously prepare their nests for winter. Although the preparation of the hives for winter is a task that is primarily done by the bees, the beekeeper, too, can have a determining influence on the outcome by managing the volume of the hives. Good results come from respecting the work of the bees.

In summary, this month:

- Assess the colonies, their health, queens, brood nests and stores.
- Monitor the progress of the colonies in their preparations for fall and winter.
- Requeen or combine hives that are not performing satisfactorily and those that have failed or failing queens. Only healthy hives should be combined.
- Reduce the unused volume of the hives (Follower boards greatly facilitate this.)
- Manage frames in preparation for fall culling of the old and misshapen ones.
- Beware of yellowjackets and of the risks of robbing. If necessary, reduce the entrances of developing colonies and of those that are under attack. Make sure the hives have no secondary entrances.
- Avoid hive manipulations that can trigger robbing.
- Keep sources of water provisioned.
- Provide some afternoon shade, if possible.
- Ensure that hives are adequately and safely ventilated.
- Harvest, extract and bottle surplus honey, if there is any, and in moderation.
- Return wet frames and wax to the bees for cleaning by placing them inside hive top feeders or above inner covers. This is more safely done during the evening.
- Render wax.
- Beware of the fire danger when using the smoker in dry grass areas.
- Routinely clean and scorch tools and equipment.

Serge Labesque
© 2019

This Month’s Meeting Topic
Getting Your Bees Ready for Winter
Serge Labesque

NOTE: Presentation will start early, at 6:30PM, so be there in time to catch it! Doors will open at 5:30PM with the General Meeting starting at right at 6:00PM.

Join us at the next general meeting on September 9 for a special presentation with Serge Labesque. The bees are already thinking about winter, putting their honey and pollen stores away, slowing down on brood rearing, and getting ready to raise the next generation of winter bees that will keep the colony going over the winter. Come and learn what the bees are doing at this time of year to prepare and what you should be doing to maximize your bees’ chances of success this winter. This is a 2-hour presentation, with time for questions, from 6:30-8:30.
Serge’s Fall Course Schedule
Santa Rosa Jr. College

Class Name: **Introduction to Beekeeping Class**
Date(s): 10/02/2019 to 10/23/2019
Weekly - Wed 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM;
4 sessions starting 10/2/2019, ending 10/23/2019
Call Building, PC 697
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: 52
Class Fee: $78.00
Materials Fee: $16.00
Registration Fee: $2.00

**FREE 5-Gallon and 4-Gallon Buckets**
At the next General Meeting of the SCBA Lisa Clay-Jack will have stacks of 5-gallon and 4-gallon food grade buckets (with lids) out in the lobby of the Center. Take as many as you feel you need. They are FREE. These buckets are part of Oliver’s Markets’ recycling program and they are thrilled to share them with us. She hopes to have a supply of them at each monthly meeting.

If you have a picture of one or more of the buckets being used in some fashion for your beekeeping hobby, please send Lisa Jack an email at sonoma-goat@comcast.net. Oliver’s would love to have some pictures of these buckets in their new lives, perhaps to use in their marketing efforts.

**Discovery Days**
October 26th

Next month the North Bay Science Discovery Days will have an event at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. This is an outstanding event that covers every aspect of science one can imagine. It is entirely free including parking so hundreds of families come. SCBA has helped educate the public at it along with the Liberty 4-H beekeepers project for several years. It will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on October 26th.

If you would like to volunteer at this wonderful event, please let Ettamarie know. Contact her at editor@sonomabees.org or 707-479-1613 after September 14th.
Bee Plants of the Month
By Alice Ford-Sala

Hedgerow Bee Plant Coyote Brush
Baccharis pilularis
Family: Asteraceae

Spectacular attention-seeker? No. Hardworking backbone of the beneficial native plant community? Yes! Coyote Brush is an easy to grow, resilient plant that shelters and feeds numerous insects, birds and mammals.

In a hedgerow, you could just plant the Coyote Brush and have an evergreen, 3 to 6 foot tall by 3 to 4 foot wide row of attractive plants. It is a dioecious plant, meaning there are male and female plants. The male plants have nectar and pollen producing flowers that are small and button-like. The female plants have fluffy flowers that will set seeds if a male plant is nearby. The seeds then blow around like milkweed or dandelion seeds. Males are more often planted in home gardens, as they are less messy. Many birds enjoy the seeds, though! Besides honeybees, native bees, predatory wasps, butterflies and flower flies sip nectar and collect pollen from the tiny flowers. Quail, small mammals (and coyotes?) take shelter in the densely leaved branches. The resinous leaves are thick and green serrated ovals.

You can plant Coyote Brush just about anywhere. It tolerates clay soil, alkaline or sandy conditions. It can grow by the sea or in hot inland hills or valleys. While it can survive on rainwater alone after it is established, it can also tolerate some summer water. This also helps keep it more fire-resistant. You can also prune it to shape. When I was a child in the East Bay hills, we had a small hedgerow of coyote brush on some wild land next to the fence. We could crawl underneath one plant in particular for a fragrant secret hideaway.

Deer generally leave it alone, and though it is not fire resistant, it quickly re-sprouts after a fire, or even after excavation.

To make a more visually attractive and year-around forage hedgerow, you could easily mix Coyote Brush with Ceanothus, Toyon, Coffeeberry, and Manzanita.

Some commonly available cultivars are ‘Twin Peaks’, an upright 3 feet tall to 8 feet wide bush, and ‘Pigeon Point’ that is low growing, 2 feet tall and up to 8 feet wide.

Alice Ford-Sala
2019 Fundraising Raffle

This year we will be holding a fundraising raffle in place of the silent auction at our Annual Holiday Party on December 9, 2019. Please help SCBA continue our mission to have a thriving and sustainable bee population in Sonoma County by participating in this event.

What are we fundraising for?

SCBA is so much more than a general meeting each month. In addition to cluster activities across the county, we also engage in community outreach and education, public swarm services, and a robust gardening program to provide pollinator habitat and forage. As you know, this requires a sustained effort that cannot always be filled by volunteers alone. Funds raised by this raffle supplements membership dues to help pay for administrative services that support our association, you, and your bees!

How does it work?

There are ten (10) tickets in the envelope, and each cost $5. We ask that you sell these tickets and return the filled-out ticket stubs and checks made payable to SCBA by December 1st to Darlene McGinnis at the monthly meeting or by mail in the enclosed envelope. If you do not purchase or sell all of the tickets, they still need to be returned to be accounted for by December 1st. If you need more tickets, contact Darlene at 707-529-8053.

Raffle ticket purchases are considered donations and are tax-deductible! We are a 501(c)(3) id# 68-0193352.

Prizes? Prizes! There are three cash prizes: 1st prize of $1,000, 2nd prize of $750, and 3rd prize of $500!

But wait, there’s more! Return your stubs and checks by December 1st and you will be entered into a separate drawing for a complete hive setup donated by Buzz Off Honey, along with a gift basket of gear donated by Beekind!

But wait, there’s even more! In addition, the first two hundred people who return their sold ticket stubs will receive a honey bee lapel pin!

Thank you in advance for your help and support,

Darlene McGinnis
2019 Chairperson
Lovewhatyoudo1960@gmail.com

Heirloom Exposition

The 9th Annual National Heirloom Exposition will be the center of attention in Santa Rosa, California, on September 10, 11, & 12, 2019!

SCBA will have a booth there to educate the visitors about the value of the honey bees.

This is an impressive event that annually draws upwards of 20,000 participants. It has the largest display of heritage produce. The Expo now focuses on the preservation of heirloom foods without genetic modification. Many individual and commercial growers supply an abundance of fruits and vegetables for exhibiting and tasting. Located at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa on September 10, 11 & 12, gates open at 9 am. The event has become known as the “World’s Fair of Pure Food” so honey fits right in!
Yellow Jacket Trapping
by Ettamarie Peterson

Over the years I have been experimenting to find the best way to trap yellow jackets. This year I have found those plastic disposable bag ones seem to attract them better than the tubes. Don’t dispose of them after they are full because you can re-use the top entrance trap again. Cut away the plastic bag part and fasten the yellow plastic entrance to the top of a quart jar with duct tape or the screw part of those two-part jar lids. Before putting the trap entrance on the jar put a small hunk of hamburger in the jar for bait. This new trap works as quickly as the bag one. I have also repurposed those big domed drink cups from drive-ins to hold the yellow plastic trap tops. All you need to do is cut a circle in the top of the dome to put the trap in. Give it a try! Those yellow jackets love raw ground beef.
GARDENING FOR BEES GROUP
A RESOURCE FOR BOOSTING BEE FORAGE

By Kitty Baker

G4B Leadership Transition Plan

Gardening for Bees Group has blossomed into a very productive resource to support the forage needs of honeybees and other pollinators. The new nurseries group was just created to better distribute the workload that has been done by the Plant Materials and Home Nurseries groups. The goal of this new group is to encourage G4B members to grow bee-forage plants at home and to organize periodic workshops to propagate plants. These plants are sold at SCBA meetings and donated to the School Pollinator Garden and Starter Pack projects.

The following volunteers have agreed to handle the many tasks of propagating plants, selling plants and educating a community of forage gardeners:

• Ellen Sherron will continue to organize periodic propagation workshops and care for the plants we propagate in her backyard nursery.
• Angelo Sacerdote will manage a Google Sheets spreadsheet that will streamline coordination of group tasks. Three cheers for Angelo!
• Laura Baker and Sibyl Bugarin will coordinate with home growers, using the new Google spreadsheet to communicate and control plant inventories and related tasks.
• Maggie Weaver and Mari Barrell will coordinate with Sonoma County schools to provide plants for school pollinator gardens this fall. They hope to nurture future gardeners in six Sonoma schools.
• Maryle Brauer will be in charge of testing out a new addition to monthly general meetings – short presentations by SCBA members to share skills and information related to bee-friendly gardening. (More on this below.) Note that the photo slideshow of plants in bloom for the current month will continue to be shown during the social hour of each general meeting.
• Kim Bergstrom and Angy Nowicki will continue to coordinate development of Starter Packs, which will be available during spring planting season.
• Connie Alexich will lead the Label making group, printing labels directly from the new Google spreadsheet.
• Stevie Lazo will continue to research and make the Plant ID Tags you see at our sale table – featuring a photo of the plant, along with information on growing habit; water, sun, and soil requirements; nectar or pollen source, and bloom season. The group is researching how we might add this information to our website.

Plants will continue to be available for sale to members during general SCBA meetings for spring and fall planting months. Watch your cluster’s Facebook page for listings of available plants prior to monthly meetings. Prices for 4” potted plants will increase slightly to $3 each, or 2 for $5. Gallon plants will now be $5.

Call for Bee-Friendly Gardening Presenters

Last month Ellen Sherron gave a wonderful presentation on preparing a weedy field in fall to maximize its success as a forage garden in the spring. SCBA plans to add short talks like Ellen’s as an opening feature at general meetings. Since forage is key to beekeeping success, an information-packed 5- to 10-minute talk can serve as a valuable exchange for the SCBA group.

Maryle Brauer will be organizing these talks, with the goal of finding one speaker with special expertise on a forage-related topic to kick off each meeting. If you are a Master Gardener or have extensive gardening experience and would be willing to share your knowledge and practices at a meeting later this fall or in the spring, please contact Maryle Brauer to express interest: mm.brauer@gmail.com

Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2019

Location: 4-H Building, Rohnert Park
Meeting Started: 7:03 Approximate attendance: 90

Items covered:
• Ann Jereb running meeting covering for Kelli Cox
• Gravenstein Apple Fair this weekend in Ragel Ranch Park, Sebastopol. Marcus Sugihara is organizing.
• Anyone wishing to get SCBA name tags-they are available thru Angie N. Email president@sonomabees.org if you have questions. Badges are $5.00.
• SCBA Board and Volunteer positions needed for 2020. See the September Extractor and All member meeting for ways you can get involved
• Maggie Weaver talked about education and way to get involved. See September Extractor.
• Gardening Committee (Ellen Sherron) showed great slideshow for how to convert an undeveloped area into a vibrant pollinator friendly planted area.

Speaker information: Maryann Frazier, “What can we learn from Kenyan Bee Havers?” Find out more about Maryann in this 2018 Bee Culture article https://www.beeculture.com/meetmaryann-and-jim-frazier/

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Sample
Membership
MORE Photos from July Picnic at Bees n Blooms
Carmen Blanco
Fun Time in Ireland
Learning About Honeybees
By Ettamarie Peterson

Seven members of SCBA signed up to go to the Federation of Irish Beekeepers Association’s annual summer beekeeping course in Gormanston College just north of Dublin, Ireland. They were joined by Ray Peterson who insisted he is not and does not want to be a beekeeper but went to many classes. The classes were a mixture of lectures at different levels and hands on beehive activities. This school is designed to appeal to all levels of skills and no one is kept from taking any level of class or workshop. Each morning decisions were made as to how to spend the day. All of the SCBA members brought their bee suits along and actually got to work with the bees that were brought in for the week. They learned a lot about queen rearing and how to use apideas, aka mini-mating nucs, to rear and test young queens. John McGinnis bought one and won one that he gave to Nick Freeman. John and Darlene McGinnis and Christos Pantazes were brave enough to take the basic test at the end of the week and were awarded certificates. Ettamarie had earned hers four years ago so now SCBA has four certified basic beekeepers. Jackie Pantazes and Kelli Cox learned so much about the techniques of encaustic painting that they may even organize a class for the South Cluster after doing a bit more on their own. David Tarpy was the special speaker during the week. He was also interesting to talk to between classes and in the pub a few nights. Our members found him extremely easy going and Kelli Cox convinced him he must put a talk to SCBA on his calendar. It will be two years from now before he comes as he books way in advance.

After the course at Gormanston, Jackie and Christos, Ray and Ettamarie, and John and Darlene went off together to see the West and South of Ireland and visited three different apiaries. The first apiary was run by the Tri-County Beekeepers near Limerick. Pauline Walsh is managing it and invited Ettamarie to bring the others for a visit. That was very interesting to see how an association can get grants and put together a working apiary with cooperation by their members. The next one was unplanned, as no one in the group knew there was a demonstration apiary at Blarney Castle until they got there and saw the sign. It just so happened they had met one of the beekeepers working there at Gormanston. Both of these apiaries were running a monitored hive along with the other hives. The last apiary was The Galtee Honey Farm where the Native Irish Black Bee queens are being raised to keep this genetic strain alive. The Mac Giolla Coda family runs this apiary and teaches many beekeepers from around the world and in Ireland. Pauline Walsh and the Blarney Castle beekeeper were both there that day helping and learning.

You will learn more about this adventure at the October meeting.
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
Maryle Brauer
707-934-7392
southcluster@sonomabees.org

Central
Brian Gully
707-391-4727
svo.must@hotmail.com

West
Gina Brown
415-828-8459
Boragelane@comcast.net

East
Claudine Latchaw
(707) 971-9708
claudinelatchaw@gmail.com

The Alternative Hives (formerly Top Bar Hive) group has a fruit press available for use in honeycomb crushing. Contact Jim Spencer at:
alternativehives@sonomabees.org
Contact Information

Regular monthly meetings of the Sonoma County Beekeepers’ Association are held on the second Monday of each month 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.

6 pm – Meet your cluster members; ask questions; bring your own cup and fill it with tea or coffee and have some goodies.

7 pm – General meeting starts. (See page 1 of this newsletter for speaker details.)

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