

The Monthly Extractor



Volume 47, Issue 1

January 2022

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

SCBA General Meeting

Date: January 10, 2022, 6:00 – 8:30 (pst)

We are excited to see all our members as we re-group after the holidays, and we will be introducing our 2022 Board of Directors. Our guest speaker comes from UC Davis's E.L. Niño Laboratory, Department of Entomology and Nematology. Dr. Elina Niño is the Program Director for Davis's California Master Beekeeper Program and the Director for Häagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven Garden. She will be talking to us about honey bee nutrition and will give us a short overview of UC Davis's California Master Beekeeping Program (CAMBP). To learn more about Dr. Niño you can go to <https://cambp.ucdavis.edu/people/elina-nino>

Join Zoom meeting

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86514254718?pwd=cHZqcERVdG5HZIR1eXFsMDNaQkRGUT09>
ID: 865 1425 4718
Password: 768368

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

President's Message

There is no president as of late December.

Message from the Board of Directors

During the December Board Meeting, the board discussed the duties of our current Volunteer Coordinator, Shannon Carr.

Her job stretches far beyond simply coordinating volunteers. Among other tasks, she has created and runs both the Beginning and the Seasoned Beekeeper's Forums, as well as the New Member Socials. She assists the board, especially the president, with organizing meetings, responding to emails, returning phone calls, and creating presentations. She also coordinates our events and general meetings. In 2022 she will also be the liaison for all the General Meeting guest speakers and will direct our fundraising efforts. Her job duties far exceed the title of Volunteer Coordinator. Therefore, the board had a discussion and voted to rename her position. Her title is now Program Director. Shannon's considerable efforts are helping run our growing organization now and going forward.

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SCBA Member Events January

- Jan. 10 – General Meeting
- Jan. 15 – South Cluster Cafe
- Jan. 17 – Beginner Beekeeping Forum
- Jan. 24 – Seasoned Beekeeping Forum
- Jan. 29 – New Member Social
- Jan. TBD – G4Bs Garden Digs (weather dependent)

Save the Date:

- March 12- North Bay Science Discovery Day (See article, page 7)
- March 14 – In Person General Meeting
- April 9 – Spring Fling!

From the Desk of the Program Director

2022 is here! Wow! It never ceases to amaze me how time flies. The last couple years have been challenging as our entire community has struggled with how to deal with the pandemic, and 2021 brought some big changes to SCBA as we have grown a lot these last couple years. Now 2022 is here, there will continue to be some challenges as we rebuild the programs hurt by Covid but and I am excited for all the possibilities ahead of us. Our community is opening again, outreach opportunities are coming up, and the social opportunities will return. 2022 is going to be a great year for SCBA!

As you noticed, my title has changed. As I have gotten more involved with the association my responsibilities have grown and evolved as well. My role is to not just support the administrative needs of the association and coordinate volunteers, but to support the needs of the board, programs, clusters, and members. I love working with everyone in this great association and I am looking forward to an exciting 2022 as we continue to rebuild and grow.

That said, we are still looking for some key volunteers. **East Cluster needs a Cluster Coordinator (or two) and a Beeshare Coordinator.** Both roles are essential to the cluster. The Cluster Coordinator helps to coordinate educational opportunities – Cluster Cafes, Hive Dives, and Workshops for the members of that cluster and maintains communication within the cluster. The Beeshare Coordinator is the communication link between the swarm catchers and beekeepers, helping to coordinate the distribution of donated bees from swarms and hive splits to those on the “Needs Bees List.”

Garden Coordinator – This role is for someone who loves creating an environment for pollinators. The role consists of communication and working with a team, a core group of Gardening for Bees (G4Bs) members, coordinating educational opportunities for our members, propagation workshops, and plant sales

Regional Cluster Coordinator – This person maintains communication with the coordinators of our five clusters and assists them in coordinating Cafes, Workshops, and Hive Dives.

Education Program – This is not just one person. We are looking for many people to be a part of this team.

This team will help rebuild the Education Program, which was hurt by the pandemic. Team members help coordinate outreach events and educational opportunities within SCBA as well as outside of SCBA, such as making presentations to schools and other groups.

President - Last, but definitely not least, we are still looking for a President to lead SCBA through 2022. This person works closely with the SCBA Board members and our Program Director on the needs of the association. This role is essential in maintaining our 501c3 status.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these positions, email me at Programdirector@sonomabees.org

Save the Date! “Spring Fling”

Saturday, April 9 we will have our first Spring Fling at Bees N Blooms. There will be a silent auction, raffle, fun and games, and maybe a workshop or two.

Would you like to help me coordinate this event? I am looking for people to join our team and help coordinate the different activities that will be going on. Email me at Programdirector@sonomabees.org to sign up.

Honey Extractor Rental

One of the benefits of SCBA membership is access to our honey extractors. We currently have a honey extractor for each cluster as well as one fruit press shared across all regions. Members can find the terms of this rental, as well as the necessary contact information, in the "SCBA Members-Only Info" section of the website. To see this section you will need to be logged in. Happy spinning and crushing!

Meet SCBA's 2022 Board of Directors

1st VP, VP of Bees – Mohammed Ibrahim



Mohammed is a second-generation beekeeper. He grew up in Iraq watching and helping his dad manage *Apis mellifera anatoliaca* (Anatolian Honey Bee). He attended his first SCBA General Meeting in 2016 as a guest and felt the positive energy of the SCBA community. He joined SCBA in May of 2021 after catching his first swarm on Mother's Day. "It was the birth for both of us, new colony and a new beekeeper, on a new beekeeping journey in California." He is a Leadership Core team member for Keysight NextGen Network in Santa Rosa, currently serves on the board for Santa Rosa Young Professionals Network (YPN) and represented the American Red Cross as an Ambassador in 2017.

Moving into 2022, Mohammed would like to see beekeepers serving other beekeepers, maintaining beekeeping education, and see more support to our local Sonoma County businesses.

2nd VP, VP of Gardening – Ann Gallagher-White



Ann joined SCBA two years ago when she decided to keep bees and knew that she would benefit from the support system and resources SCBA has to offer. This is her first time serving in a leadership role with SCBA. She comes to SCBA with a lot of experience behind her. She was a leader in environmental enforcement over the last ten years of her career as a prosecutor doing environmental and worker safety investigations. In a volunteer role, she began a garden project at Sierra Youth Center for at-risk girls in the juvenile justice department here in Sonoma County.

What Ann loves most about SCBA is learning about how to help the environment and pollinators and hoping her beekeeping skills continue to improve. Her goal, as 2nd VP is to continue to grow with SCBA. "Over the past year, my gardening focus has become clear: gardening for pollinators. I have met amazing people and want to continue to do so. I hope to assist the board in my role as second vice president as the organization continues to grow, be in tune with our gardening volunteers, and to benefit from the years of experience we have in the organization and from new members' energy as well."

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Meet the Board, continued.

Secretary – Andy Baxter

Andy is originally from the United Kingdom and moved to the US for work in 2005. He lived in Berkeley for 10 years before moving to Windsor in 2016 and joined SCBA at the end of 2018. He joined SCBA's Board of Directors in 2020 and will be starting his third term as SCBA's Secretary.

Andy loves the sense of community within SCBA and the philosophy of helping others. He is hopeful that 2022 will bring some relief from Covid and he is "excited to be part of SCBA's continued development and growth."

Treasurer – George Herrmann

George joined SBCA nine years ago after he and his wife, Maggie, moved to Sonoma County and she expressed a lifelong desire to have beehives. "She is the beekeeper. I am her assistant," he says. Going into 2022, this will be George's third year serving as SCBA's Treasurer.

What George loves most about SCBA, and misses the most, is the social aspect that SCBA offers, meeting in groups and talking about our bees and our hives. He hopes, as things open up again in 2022, we will be able to revitalize our Education Program and get back into our community and educate our community members on the importance of pollinators.

President – No one has been elected yet.

SCBA is still looking for a president to lead the Board of Directors and SCBA through 2022. The President works closely with the Board of Directors and Program Director to ensure the association continues to grow and meets the needs of our members and our community.

If you are interested in stepping into this role, please email Shannon, our Program Director, at programdirector@sonomabees.org.

Gardening for Bees Growing Forage to Feed the Bees & So Much More!

2021 has been a productive year for SCBA's Gardening for Bees (G4Bs). The main mission (and passion) of this gardening team is to propagate and provide forage plants that pollinators love. Plants are selected for their value in meeting the nutritional needs of local honey bees, native bees, and other pollinators.

We focused on plants that are:

- Pesticide Free!
- Prolific nectar and/or pollen producers
- Suitable to local micro-climates and ecosystems
- Drought-tolerant and deer-resistant
- Easy and economical to plant and maintain
- Annuals and perennials, vines and shrubs, and even some trees

The G4Bs core working group welcomes all SCBA members. It is a wonderful way to make a difference while making friends and deepening your gardening expertise. Anyone interested in joining this group and getting more involved can contact Shannon, our Program Director, at programdirector@sonomabees.org or gardening@sonomabees.org.

Even with limitations resulting from the pandemic, G4Bs accomplished many milestones over this past year. Maryle Brauer, our G4Bs coordinator for the last two years, would like to thank every member and volunteer for their contributions to these accomplishments. We could not have done it without your impressive dedication and collaborative spirit!

Most visible of these were the summer and fall plant sales. These sales involved collecting pesticide-free plants -- propagated in G4Bs home nurseries -- and distributing them to SCBA members in safe contact-free ways.

In June, 2021, our online plant sale invited SCBA members to choose plants from our inventory list and pick up their pre-packaged orders at designated times. Available plants quickly sold out as the orders far exceeded the supply. We then had a pop-up plant sale in late September when more plants in our home nurseries matured to a point that they could be planted. The remaining plants were donated to members at the in-person General Meeting in October, Cluster

Growing Forage and more, continued

events, and a community garden project at the Sebastopol Grange.

Members with home nurseries donated their time, energy, space, water, and plant resources to generously grow more than 500 pollinator plants to share across Sonoma County. Special thanks to all who nurtured and donated these pollinator plants!

Plant sales were not possible without a support team that hosted and managed plant inventory, created plant labeling and information signs, handled the money and budget, assisted “customers,” communicated online, and provided technical help. Key to all of these tasks was Bruce Harris, SCBA's IT Support. Thank you to Bruce and all the members who volunteered and fulfilled these tasks behind the scenes!

In November we were invited back to the Sebastopol Grange and participated in a Community Garden workday project

cleaning up, weeding, and refreshing the Hedgerow we planned and planted with Grange members in 2020. This was a wonderful opportunity for G4B members to re-visit the hedgerow reinforce a partnership between the two groups.



Aster novae-angliae 'Harrington's Pink,' pink New England aster

Propagation workshops started in the summer of 2021. These workshops attracted new SCBA members interested in gardening and got them involved with G4Bs. Attendees at three lavender propagation workshops enjoyed the friendly G4B learning community and took home many plant-starts. In addition, they received a written guide on how to care for their cuttings and how to apply the plant propagation techniques to many other bee forage plants. We also held informal propagation gatherings and a plant exchange. These events help connect new and seasoned gardeners, taught new skills, and enabled us to share plants to benefit pollinators.

A series of planning sessions were hosted by the SCBA Board to map out the future role of G4Bs. The Association adopted a dual emphasis on *beekeeping*

and *bee forage*, acknowledging the importance of providing forage for the nutritional needs of bees. A single colony of bees requires an acre of plant blooms close to home through all four seasons.

Improving group communication using the SCBA Google platform was a priority this last year. This included implementing a new system of tracking plants in G4Bs home nurseries to keep accurate count of all plant varieties grown from seed, cuttings, or division as they became mature plants to distribute to our members through plant sales. Thank you again to Bruce for helping with the IT side of this project.

We worked on enhancing G4B's focus on seeds by seeking seed donations and advocating for saving and growing plants from seeds. Members can now often find free seed packets at member events through SCBA's new Seed Bank.

We continue to strive to provide education on a variety of subjects related to gardening and pollinator needs to SCBA members via email, social media announcements, articles in the *Extractor*, and presentations at general and cluster meetings. For example, the Gray Water System article published in the *Extractor* explained how to recycle household water for the benefit of all; regular *Extractor* articles on “Bee Plants;” and the Zoom presentation at the August General Meeting showed our members how to create a pollinator garden and stressed the importance of beekeepers providing forage for their bees.

G4Bs also has a private Facebook group for SCBA members to share articles of interest regarding forage and pollinator gardens, information on G4Bs activities, and inspiring photos of good bee forage for Sonoma gardeners. If you are on Facebook, you can find this page at “Gardening for Bees – Sonoma County Beekeepers Association.”

A big thank you to Alice Ford-Sala for contributing the “Bee Plants of the Month” article published in the *Extractor* for many years, teaching us more about bee forage. Alice has moved out of the Bay Area and is retiring -- thank you for your research and dedication, Alice! We wish you the best on this next chapter and your new adventures.

Call for G4Bs Volunteers

We have a core group of G4Bs volunteers who are dedicated to fulfilling the needs and workflow of G4Bs. Volunteer opportunities include helping with home

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nurseries, propagation workshops, plant sales, and so much more. All SCBA members are warmly welcomed to become a part of our core group, attend the monthly planning meetings, and find an appealing volunteer niche to assist in our projects and programs. Please email gardening@sonomabees.org to be notified of upcoming meetings and for more information.

Call for G4B Group's Next Leader -- Put a New Spin on the Job!

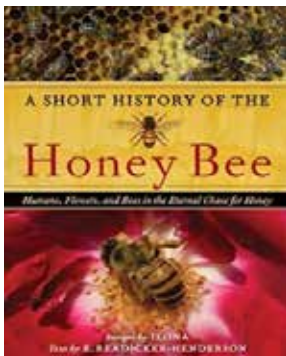
G4Bs is recruiting a new Coordinator for 2022 to work together with the incoming 2nd VP of Gardening. This gardening leader will host virtual meetings via Zoom to collaborate with G4Bs' working participants to organize the year's calendar, projects and priorities. These projects might include plant sales, propagation workshops, cluster garden tours, educational presentations, community garden projects, fieldtrips. If gardening is a passion and you would enjoy leading a dedicated team of lovely gardeners, please contact the SCBA program director to learn more about this timely leadership opportunity.

Book Nook

*A Short History of the Honey Bee:
Humans, Flowers, and Bees in the
Eternal Chase for Honey*

By: E. Readicker-Henderson

There are around 16,000 species of bee. Only seven of these are responsible for creating the world's sweetest treat -- honey. *A Short History of the Honey Bee* starts with the story of the honey bee, how it has evolved from a solitary creature to one that travels in groups, why it stings, and how pollination really works. Readicker-Henderson discusses the everyday importance of the bee and how forty percent of the world's food supply is dependent on pollination by honey bees. Colony collapse, when the worker bees suddenly disappear and leave behind the queen and the hive, is an ecological and agricultural crisis. For this reason alone we need to be aware of the significance of bees.



A Short History of the Hon-



ey Bee is just one of the more than 250 books and DVDs in the SCBA Library. You can view all our books available to our members at SCBA-Library. If you are interested in checking out a book, email our librarian at Librarian@sonomabees.org or our Program Director at programdirector@sonomabees.org, to make arrangements to pick up one or two of the books or DVDs available to SCBA members.

Help at the North Bay Science Discovery Day March 12, 2022

By Ettamarie Peterson

For many years the Liberty 4-H beekeepers have participated in the North Bay Science Discovery Day with help from the Sonoma County Beekeepers Association. Participating in this event gives you an opportunity to spend some time with enthusiastic young beekeepers and talk to thousands (really) children and parents. We will have my observation beehive there, along with one of SCBA's pop-up banners and an assortment of photos and bee equipment. We will need volunteers for one- to two-hour shifts between 10 am and 4 pm. Please contact me at ettamarie@petersonsfarm.com if you want to participate with my 4-H beekeepers.

Exhibitors are people who are enthusiastic about education and want to present engaging science, technology, engineering and mathematics activities to young students. Individuals and teams come from large corporations, environmental nonprofits, government agencies, small businesses, schools, clubs, research institutions, and other groups involved with STEM concepts. The goal is to inspire students and their families to engage with STEM education and possible careers. With more than 100 hands-on activities and interactive demonstrations, there is something for everyone. Activities are oriented toward students in 4th through 8th grades, and their families, but attendees from K to grad all have a good time.

It is a free event with free parking. When you are not on duty, you will enjoy walking around learning all about an amazing amount of information about the earth, your body, plant life and all sorts of other things.

Notes from the Ag Department Apiculture IS Agriculture

Happy New Year!

I want to remind everyone to please renew your hive registrations for the 2022 calendar year. Hive registration should be completed every January. Check the September [Extractor](#) for specific regulation verbiage.

The Sonoma County Ag office encourages registration of all apiaries, as each registration assists our ability to demonstrate the importance of “BeeChecks” when we are conducting outreach to growers and pesticide applicators. Although state regulations require all hives to be registered, our office recognizes that our county’s primary beekeeper population is not commercial, and only requires registration of any hives that serve a commercial purpose, such as selling honey at Farmers’ Markets, pollination services, or other activities that move hives or hive products from the beekeeper’s home. Hives that are kept on property that is not the beekeeper’s residence must be registered.

Keep in mind, when registered, the specific location of the hives is kept confidential. Growers and pesticide applicators are required to run a “BeeCheck” to determine if registered hives are within a mile of an impending application that may harm bees. The

grower is only given the contact information for the beekeepers. Registration enables the communication between growers and beekeepers.

As an added bonus, our Ag Department is now participating in the state BeeSafe program. We are conducting pest inspections of apiaries that come into the Sonoma County from other counties and states. And, we will be scheduling hive inspections with registered beekeepers during the Spring and Summer of 2022 to gather data pertaining to the overall health of Sonoma County’s bee populations. Please contact me if you would like more information or to be included in this exciting project.

Hive registration can be completed on the BeeWhere website: beewherecalifornia.com. If Sonoma County is your “home county”, then your \$10 registration fee (regardless of number of hives) and registration number can be phoned in at our main office: (707) 565-2371 or mailed to:

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

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

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2022 Board Members

and Other Helpful People

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Roster of SCBA Resources



Helianthus annuus 'Valentine' sunflower



Epilobium canum 'Catalina,' California fuchsia