

The Monthly Extractor



Volume 47, Issue 7

July 2022

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

SCBA General Meeting

There is no SCBA General Meeting in July. July is dedicated to Cluster Meetings and Picnics. Look for information from your Cluster Coordinators. SCBA's next General Meeting will be Monday August 8, and we plan for it to be a hybrid -- in-person/Zoom meeting.

President's Message

Hello Pollinator Advocates,



SCBA honored the pollinators this year by celebrating Pollinator Week (June 20-26) and dedicating Beginners and Seasoned Beekeepers Forums to discussions about pollinators – learning about them and how we do a better job of protecting them. We also raised awareness about pollinators on social media and through our communication channels.

If you have not yet gotten your Pollinator Advocates T-Shirt for this year, then you should (see info on page 4).

In addition to my role as 1st VP, in January this year, I stepped up as acting president to ensure no interruption to SCBA or any of our programs after the former president resigned in November 2021. It was quite challenging to balance the two leadership roles in one of the largest beekeeping organizations in the country while being a full-time engineer and having a personal life. I had great support from the Board of Directors and staff, which got me up to speed within a couple of months. This organization's operation is no different from a bee colony, and I am fortunate to be part of it.

Effective July 2022, Carol Ellis will be taking on the role of President. Carol was on the 2021 Board of Directors as 1st VP and assumed the role of President when Kelli Cox resigned. She was nominated by the membership for President in 2022 – through write in votes – but she had previous commitments that prevented her from fulfilling that role immediately.

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SCBA MEMBER CALENDAR

July 10 – Community Outreach: Petaluma Art and Garden Festival

July 14 – [Education Committee Meeting](#)

July 18 – [Beginner Beekeepers Forum](#)

July 19 – [Fundraising Committee Meeting](#)

July 27 – [Seasoned Beekeepers Forum](#)

JULY CLUSTER GATHERINGS

July 9 – [North Cluster Picnic](#)

July 16 – [West Cluster Picnic](#)

TBD – Central, East, South Cluster Picnic

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She took an at-large position on the board until she had the time needed to be able to commit to the role of President. On June 20, 2022 the Board appointed Carol as President of SCBA Board of Directors. I will support Carol until the end of 2022 to ensure a smooth transition, then, I will shift gears to dedicate my time as 1st VP. Carol has all the elements to be a successful president of SCBA with the full support of the Board and membership.

As we head into the new fiscal year that starts July 2022, The Board of Directors met twice in June to lay out the plan for the upcoming fiscal year in terms of budgeting, events planning, committee planning, volunteering positions, staffing, bylaws, and more. Let me pause here and say "THANK YOU" to those folks for dedicating more than 10 hours of their time this month to ensure the 2022-2023 fiscal year is another milestone for SCBA and its members. The Board approved the budget for the next fiscal year and started preparing a new roster for the next calendar year, which begins in January 2023.

The Board also agreed to extend the program director contract for another six months, starting July 2022. The Program Director job, (held by Shannon Carr) stretches far beyond simply coordinating volunteers. Among other tasks, she created the New Member Social and she runs the Beginning and the Seasoned Beekeeper's Forums, created in response to the pandemic as a way to get together, ask questions and network on Zoom. 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. The program director also is the liaison for all the General Meeting guest speakers and will direct our fundraising efforts and manage the social media platforms.

One of our missions is to reach out to the community and educate our neighbors on the importance of pollinators – especially honeybees – their habitat and the joy of beekeeping. So, SCBA is participating in most of the county's time-honored and cherished traditions this year - Sonoma County Fair and Sebastopol Gravenstein Apple Fair. We definitely need volunteers for the success of each of these events, so please sign up; we need YOUR help.

There is no general meeting in July as each cluster typically hosts a cluster picnic; more details to come from the cluster leaders soon. I encourage you to

attend July Seasoned Beekeeper's forum (July 27) when we host Beverly Hammond, Senior Agricultural Inspector for Sonoma County, from the Sonoma County Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures to discuss California Bee law and pesticide control. Bring your questions and concerns to that meeting.

Swarm season is slowing, but keep an eye out for those late-season swarms that need extra care and management as we are heading to the end of the season soon. Some robbing activities have been reported, so make sure to reduce the entrance for weak colonies, avoid entrance feeding, and colony inspections when those activities appear in your apiary. The county is also going through a heat wave; make sure to provide shade and water to your bees as they struggle to cool down the nest to the optimum temperature. Also, provide an extra space (under-super) to avoid bee bearding at the hive's entrance during those warm days. This phenomenon is natural to the bees but it disturbs their operation and makes them vulnerable to yellow-jacket attack (by the way, get those yellow-jacket traps out if you have not done already).

As we head to wildfire season, please do not underestimate the risk of beekeeping smokers. The use of the beekeeping smoker involves an open flame that ignites a small amount of material inside the smoker, allowing it to smolder and therefore create smoke, which is puffed out an opening at the top of the smoker. This is a clear fire hazard. Avoid using smokers or doing inspections during hot, dry, or windy periods. Avoid using smokers during any "Red Flag Warning" periods. Make sure to follow all the safety precautions before you do any inspection.

Feel free to reach out to the Board or me if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback.
Stay safe, cool, and hydrated

Mohammed Ibrahim
1st Vice President/Acting president

From the Desk of the Program Director

By Shannon Carr

2022 has been an exciting year as we have been able to gather once again and start rebuilding what we lost when our community shut down. Now that we are halfway through the year, it is a great time to reflect on 2022 and look forward to 2023.

As our community continues to open up after Covid, more and more opportunities have been presented to us. We have slowly started having in-person activities again and everyone has enjoyed these gatherings, seeing old friends, and making new ones.

Our Bee Programs within our clusters have been hosting cafes, in-person and on Zoom, and bringing members together for hives dives and workshops. Our Gardening for Bees program has been busy growing plants for plant sales, hosting garden digs and organizing its first garden tour in the West Cluster.

SCBA got together for our first in-person general meeting in April and in May we gathered for our first Spring Fling, which included lunch, raffle, and lots of fun educational opportunities for our members to enjoy and learn from, from workshops to hive dives to garden tours.

Our Education Committee has been working hard to rebuild the programs that Covid stopped. We have reconnected with Sonoma County Children's Museum and will resume monthly educational programs at the Museum every third Friday of the month, introducing the children who visit the museum to honeybees and other pollinators in their gardens. We are also reconnecting with Sonoma County schools and making educational plans for the 2022/2023 school year.

Reaching out into our community is just as important as educating our members, and our Community Outreach Programs are starting to grow. We will be running educational booths at Petaluma Art and Garden Festival on July 10; Sonoma County Fair from August 4 to 14; and Sebastopol's Gravenstein Apple Fair August 13 to 14. If you would like to sign up to volunteer for one of these events please [click here](#) to fill out this form.

As our community continues to open up, these opportunities will also grow and expand. All of these educational opportunities are only possible, and successful, with the continued support of our members. When SCBA members volunteer their time, they provide educational opportunities to other members through

cluster activities like hive dives and garden digs and to our community through our education and community outreach programs.

If you would like to help, reach out to your Cluster Coordinator or me at programdirector@sonomabees.org

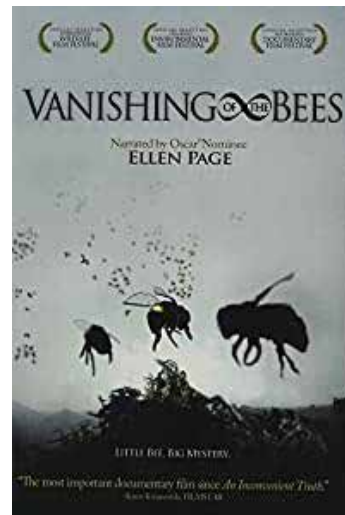
SCBA Book Nook



[Vanishing of the Bees](#) [\(DVD\)](#)

Narrated by Ellen Page

SCBA Library contains dozens of DVDs for our members to enjoy. *Vanishing of the Bees* is one of them and examines the alarming disappearance of honeybees and the greater meaning it holds about the relationship between mankind and Mother Earth. The filmmakers puzzle with scientists over the cause while organic beekeepers explore alternative reasons for why honeybees are mysteriously disappearing across the planet.



We have more than 250 books and DVDs in the SCBA Library. *Vanishing of the Bees*, is just one of many DVDs and books about bees, gardening for bees, and products from in the hive in our collection. You can view all our books available to you at [SCBA-Library](#). If you are interested in checking out a book, email our librarian at Librarian@sonomabees.org, to make arrangements to pick up one or two of the books or DVDs available to SCBA members.

Volunteering with SCBA

By Shannon Carr

The vast variety of SCBA's programs -- both within the association and beyond, into our community -- are only possible through the efforts of our members as volunteers. As we enter the second half of 2022 and start preparing for 2023, our members' support through volunteering is vital. These are just some of the volunteer opportunities available now and coming up in 2023. Except where noted, please reach out to our [Program Director](#) to learn more and sign up.

Education: Schools and Community Outreach – Interested in helping further education with kids and our community? Join others working in local schools, the Children's Museum, or sign up for outreach events.

Education: Cluster Activities – You can provide educational opportunities to your fellow cluster members by hosting hive dives, workshops, and garden digs. Contact: Your Cluster Coordinator

Education: Forums – Our Beginner and Seasoned Beekeeping Forums need members who can work with our program director and help lead and guide conversations within the forums.

Fundraising – Funds are essential in keeping all our programs moving forward. Do you have ideas to share on fundraising and want to help implement them?

Gardening Program: Gardening Coordinator – G4Bs is actively looking for a new Gardening Coordinator who can help coordinate meetings for the G4Bs team, plant sales, and gardening educational opportunities.

Gardening Program – If you are interested in propagating plants for plants sales, fundraising through plant sales, or hosting educational opportunities through garden digs, workshops, and tours, contact [Gardening Coordinator](#) or Program Director.

Cluster Coordinator – 2023 may provide some new cluster coordinator, or assistant cluster coordinator positions. Reach out if you are interested in helping provide your cluster with educational and networking opportunities. Contact: Your Cluster Coordinator

Regional Cluster Coordinator – This person helps provide support and guidance for the cluster coordinators and works with the Program Director to coordinate a couple of all cluster educational opportunities.

Board: Treasurer – Are you fiscally responsible and interested in a larger role in SCBA? The SCBA Treasurer manages the flow of finances coming and going from the association and is one of the five votes on the SCBA Board of Directors. Contact: [President](#) or Program Director

Board: President – The President works with the Board, Program Director, and membership in keeping our association moving forward. Contact: President or Program Director

Board: At Large – At Large Members of the Board do not vote but do have a say and provide the BOD with input and guidance. Contact: President or Program Director

There are lots of ways to volunteers, not just what is listed here. If you are interested in volunteering and stepping up for one of these roles, or have an idea you would like to share, contact our Program Director at programdirector@sonomabees.org.

SCBA Pollinator Advocate T-Shirts

We are offering a new Sonoma County Beekeepers Association T-shirt! We are taking orders for now. Shirts are \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members

To place an order, email Shannon at Programdirector@sonomabees.org



BEE PLANT OF THE MONTH

July: Buddleia

By Elizabeth Newton

When I was a child in the 1960s, butterflies were a common sight in our neighborhood. Then, one by one, every vacant lot was developed and many common insects disappeared from the area. Had we known then what we know now, a good remedy for this habitat loss would have been to plant the well-named butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*). Butterfly bush is also beloved to our friend the honeybee, so the benefits of planting this wonderful flowering shrub are manifold. Its cone-shaped, clustered blooms smell of honey. The most common colors range from deep purple to light violet, but there are some cultivars available that have golden or white blooms. When the blooms fade, the seeds are enjoyed by a variety of bird species, particularly goldfinches.

Comprised of more than 140 species, buddleia is endemic to Asia, Africa, and the Americas. It is very easy to grow and needs little summer water. The bush grows rapidly during spring and summer months and goes dormant in winter. It is considered invasive in some places, though this does not appear to be a concern in our area. Buddleia can live for up to 30 years with little care, but over time, the canes become

thick and woody and less productive. To prevent this, cut the canes all the way to the ground in January or February, so that the new shoots can refresh themselves each year.

I love this plant for its beauty and because it provides so much food for so many species. I have found buddleia volunteers in my garden and successfully transplanted them with very little effort. And here's another bonus: gophers leave them alone!



Honeybees enjoy Shannon Carr's lamb's ear bush and sunflower.

Adaptive Garden Happenings

By Ann Gallagher White, 2nd VP

As I write this on the summer solstice, we are facing some extreme heat, and spring gave us a few runs of extreme weather as well. That cooler season has buzzed past, along with memories of showers and gentle weather. The drought makes gardeners wonder: how we can conserve water. As a beekeeper, I worry about the heat in the hives and impacts of higher temperatures and less water.

I have found a respite in the garden, which has flourished, providing habitat for insects and animals with pesticide-free forage. During the past year, I planted a pollinator garden in an area that used to be half of our lawn with native and drought-tolerant plants. I can't believe how much it has grown in a single year, and neither can the bumblebees, honeybees and butterflies that feast heavily on a lavender hedge, the blue nepeta, the pink guara, and purple verbena. The colors and textures of the plants are extraordinary.

To create this garden during drought, I gave a great deal of thought to water and how to use it sparingly to help the plants get established. I planted many last spring, grew some in the fall from seed, and researched water before I planted. Then I mulched and applied compost and hoped that extreme heat would stay away until the plants were soundly rooted.



Before the garden: thirsty lawn making way for drought-tolerant plantings.



After: Lovely pollinator garden, giving respite to a variety of residents.

Volunteer plants – California and Oriental poppies, nepeta, mullein and amaranth (the latter is a garden mistake I made that keeps on giving) – have rounded out the garden with less water and no work other than the weeding. Despite being invasive, the birds and the deer love the amaranth.

Many pollinator plants that overwintered are now flourishing (such as two ninebark shrubs) as is my large hive of honeybees (a split with a prolific queen from Anne Jereb) that is five boxes high. My second hive, a new swarm I got from Roger this spring, is struggling, as are some of my recently planted, heat-shocked pollinator plants. I asked for advice, wondering if I could save the swarm hive as they have been without eggs and larvae for a while. Rorie Sweeney suggested I put eggs and larvae from my established hive into the swarm hive. Hopefully, they'll make a queen and keep on growing. Today before it gets too hot, I'll go into the hive to see what happens next. Time and the bees will tell me what to do (with help from other beekeepers).

Despite the anxiety the extreme weather has brought, daily acts of faith in creating a garden affirm our ability to manage and to survive climate change. I continue to feel grateful to the community of SCBA and proud of the garden we collectively make as we head into summer. Thank you for being a community of volunteer gardeners and beekeepers, and for using gardens to support struggling pollinators and each other.

Do you have a pollinator garden? Share your images and inspiration. We have a few more photos on the following page.

Member Spaces for Bees



This doe and her fawn are frequent visitors. Unfortunately, the fawn will sample everything.

Rachel & Tim Parker started this garden project with a swingset last year and have been adding drought- and deer-tolerant plants: Salvias, lavender, butterfly bush, and flax. They were inspired by Elizabeth Holdmann to repurpose a neighbor's abandoned supers as planter boxes.



Shannon Carr's privet hedge gives bees lots of forage without taking lots of ground space.

Cooking with Honey

Showcasing local flavors – and honey, of course

By Rachel Parker

To me, the best part of summer is the abundance of stone fruits: Juicy peaches, plums, pluots, and apricots are on our table frequently through the summer. This recipe uses both honey and stone fruit. The scone is a lightly sweetened cornmeal biscuit, but it is topped with a spoonful of fruit compote (think Thumbprint cookies, but bigger and softer). The original recipe calls for plums, but I've enjoyed it with pluots, peaches, and apricots as well. For those of us with bay trees at hand, this fruit compote showcases another local product, as the compote is lightly scented with bay. I always have extra compote and have enjoyed dolloping it on top of Greek yogurt. In fact, when I have an abundance of stone fruit, I often double or triple the compote to have it around weeks after my tree has dropped its fruit.

Cornmeal Plum Scones

by Melissa Clark, *The New York Times*

Stone fruit compote

3 tablespoons/45 milliliters honey
1 bay leaf
¾ pound plums/1/3 kilogram, (or other stone fruit)
halved, pitted and then cut into 1-inch cubes

Scones

¾ cup/175 milliliters heavy cream, more as needed
1 large egg, at room temperature
1 ⅔ cups/275 grams all-purpose flour
⅓ cup/60 grams fine cornmeal
3 tablespoons/35 grams sugar
2 teaspoons/7 grams baking powder
½ teaspoon/2 grams kosher salt
6 tablespoons/85 grams unsalted butter at room temperature, cubed, plus more for serving if you like

PREPARATION

1. Put honey and bay leaf in a medium skillet over medium heat. Simmer until honey is bubbling and turns a shade darker, about 2 minutes.
2. Place plums in honey. Cook, without moving, until undersides are golden brown, about 5 minutes. Stir plums and cook 1 to 2 minutes longer, until tender but

not falling completely apart. If the caramel starts to get too brown, stir in a teaspoon or two of water and lower the heat. Scrape plums and syrup into a bowl and chill for at least 1 hour. (Plum compote can be made up to a week ahead.)

3. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment.
4. In a small bowl or measuring cup, mix together the cream and egg.
5. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder and salt (or you can do this in a food processor). Using a fork, pastry cutter or your fingertips, cut butter into flour until the mixture forms coarse crumbs (or pulse in a food processor). Drizzle in as much of the cream mixture as you need to make a smooth, moist but not wet dough. Save remaining cream-egg mixture for brushing.
6. Turn dough out onto prepared baking sheet. Pat into a 1 ¼-inch thick round. Using a paring knife, cut 8 wedge-shaped scones (as though you were cutting slices of pie) and push them apart on the baking sheet to separate them ½ inch apart. Brush dough with remaining cream-egg mixture, or use more cream if you've run out of the mixture.
7. Using your fingertips, make a deep indentation about 1 inch in diameter in the center of each scone. Tuck some plum into the hole. Transfer pan to oven and bake until uniformly golden brown, 15 to 17 minutes. Cool 5 minutes on the pan, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Serve scones with extra plum compote and butter on the side if you like.



Cornmeal scones with apricot compote filling.

SCBA PHOTO GALLERY

The Monthly Extractor is dedicating space to members' photos from their apiary or garden, with captions. Please note, because *The Monthly Extractor* is publicly published, if you send photos featuring people (whether adults, children, or teens), we need to have their consent. Email written consent should do the job. Send photos to editor@sonomabees.org



Do not ignore your swarm traps; otherwise, results! – Photo by Mohammed Ibrahim



Spot the queen (easy!) – Photo by Mohammed Ibrahim

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Habitat Sponsors

Bees find forage in all kinds of environments -- from pollinator gardens to hedgerows of blooming plants, to meadows of wildflowers, to tree canopies. Your organization can be part of the effort to support the bees. To become a habitat sponsor, click here www.sonomabees.org/donate

Pollinator Garden – \$500



Meadow - \$2,500



Canopy – \$5,000

Hedgerow -- \$1000

2022 Board Members

and Other Helpful People

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



Helianthus annuus 'Valentine' sunflower



Epilobium canum 'Catalina,' California fuchsia



Support SCBA by signing up for [eScrip](#) and [Amazon Smile](#). A small percentage of each sale will be donated back to SCBA, at no extra cost to the customer.