

The Monthly Extractor



Volume 47, Issue 9

September 2022

This is our newsletter that reflects the various techniques, theories and art of sustainable beekeeping. Articles are contributed by SCBA members.

SCBA September General Meeting

President's Message

What a fantastic month of events the SCBA attended in August! It feels like things are getting back to normal a little more every day! Here's a special shout out to Shannon Carr, our Program Director, and her team of volunteers, for representing SCBA at the Apple Fair, the Sonoma County Fair, the Children's Museum, and the Santa Rosa Wednesday Night Market, spreading the word about how to help the pollinators!



The SCBA is here to support anyone who is or wants to be a beekeeper, as well as to promote pollinator stewardship.

Our goals are twofold, for our members and for the general public.

We strive to provide as much information and as many hands-on experiences as possible to all of our members. The structure of our beekeeping education, *Continued next page*

SCBA Member Events September

[SCBA Calendar](#)

- Sept 3 – [East Cluster Bee Café](#)
- Sept 10 – [North Cluster Hive Dive and Potluck](#)
- Sept 12 – [SCBA General Meeting](#)
- Sept 19 – [Beginner Beekeepers Forum](#)
- Sept 22 – [Gardening for Bees Meeting](#)
- Sept 26 – [Seasoned Beekeepers Forum](#)

Date: September 12, 2022, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

We are excited to be hosting an in-person meeting on September 12 at the Druids Hall in Santa Rosa. We will have an opportunity to catch up and talk about the bees in our apiaries. Our President, 1st and 2nd VPs will talk about our accomplishments this year, what has been going on “behind the scenes” and future goals. Our Program Director will talk about our Education Programs and Community Outreach. Most importantly, we will be able to see everyone in person!

Location:
Druids Hall
1011 College Ave
Santa Rosa

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86514254718?pwd=cHZqcERVdG5HZIR1eXF5MDNaQkRGUT09>
ID: 865 1425 4718
Password: 768368

Contents

President's Message	1
From the Program Director	2
Cluster News: East	4
Meet Megan Kaun	5
Neonic Legislation Update.....	6
SCBA Book Nook	6
Bee Plant of the Month: Asters	7
Rohnert Park Bee Ordinance	7
Member Profile: Lee Riepenhoff.....	8
Cooking with Honey.....	9
Photo Gallery.....	10
Business Members, Donors & Sponsors.....	11
Contact Information	12

President's Message continued

from monthly speakers, mentors, and a free library of books and videos, to our area clusters, cluster leaders, bee buddies, and business members is unsurpassed in helping beekeepers thrive.

We also know that caring for the bees and native pollinators is paramount to the success of every beekeeper and their hives, as well as the support of the Sonoma County pollinator ecosystem. This is because without enough food, our honeybees and other pollinators will not thrive.

At all the events we attended this past month, we discovered that the people of Sonoma County are hungry for information about how to help the bees. So, we will continue to educate the public that the best way to help the native pollinators and our honeybees is to plant pesticide-free flowers. Together we can overcome the devastating aftermath of multiple years of fires and drought. The bees don't want to have to drink sugar water if they don't have to, they prefer pure, organic nectar. Let's do this for them!

Make sure you join us for the September General Meeting. You can be there in person or watch on Zoom. Mohammed Ibrahim, our 1st VP; Ann Gallagher White, our 2nd VP; Shannon Carr, our Program Director and I will be on a panel to share what's happening with the organization, make announcements, and answer any of your questions.

If you would like to submit a question in advance, please write to me at president@sonomabees.org. The panel will address all questions at the meeting.

And don't forget to share your pictures and stories. This is your association, and we would love to hear your stories and post your photos of your gardens, flowers, hives, bees, hive dives, cafes, events, or any pics with your bee buddies in the newsletter. Please send us your pictures so we can fill our gallery each month. Send your stories and photos to editor@sonomabees.org.

Finally, as September rolls in, it's time to prepare your hives for the winter season. Don't forget to check out the educational resources in the members section of our website.

Have a good September. Stay safe and Bee Well!

Carol Ellis, President
president@sonomabees.org

From the Desk of the Program Director

August was an incredible month for Sonoma County Beekeepers Association!

We started off the month at the Sonoma County Fair with a beautiful exhibit outside the Hall of Flowers.

We had an education booth flanked on one side by a display illustrating the dangers of pesticides – with a sterile garden that was pretty on the outside and dead on the inside – and on the other side a beautiful pollinator habitat.

The pollinator garden had many pollinator-friendly plants in bloom (thank you Gülten Eicher), which were visited daily by bees, a Langstroth Beehive, and a half barrel showcasing the beautiful architectural design of honeycomb that bees will create when in the wild. More than 50 members volunteered during the 10 days of the county fair, talking with the public about their experiences and joys of beekeeping, the importance of forage and planting for bees, and how we can protect and help the pollinators in Sonoma County.



We then set up a booth at the Gravenstein Apple Fair. Ettamarie Peterson and Andrew Benson brought their observation hives to share with the public. We had a photo booth, a coloring and activity station, and Liz Holdmann and Gardening for Bees hosted a station for making seed bombs and seed packets. Again, we had more than 20 members volunteering their time, talking to everyone who stopped by about bees, beekeeping, pollinators, and the importance of forage.

We followed up the fairs with a morning at the Children's Museum. Seven members joined in leading the kids in educational activities centered around pollinators and Ettamarie once again brought her observation hive to share with the children and their families. We will continue working with children at the Children's Museum on the third Friday of every month, talking about bees and forage and leading tours around their pollinator habitats.

We finished off the month at Santa Rosa's Wednesday Night Market talking about the educational programs offered by SCBA and how members of our community can help honeybees and pollinators by

Continued on next page

Program Director, continued

planting forage that blooms at different times of the year and not using pesticides.

Education is so important to SCBA and our community. It is at the heart of our association. SCBA provides a variety of educational opportunities for our members that focus on sustainable beekeeping; we reach out to the community to teach about the importance of pollinators to our ecosystem and how to help pollinators thrive through planting forage and creating sustainable habitats.

If you are interested in learning more about our education programs and how you can help, reach out to me at programdirector@sonomabees.org.

Shannon Carr
Program Director



SCBA Volunteers shared bee knowledge and tips for installing pollinator-friendly (and pesticide-free) gardens at the Gravenstein Festival, Sonoma County Fair, and the Children's Museum last month. EttaMarie Peterson's observation hive traveled across the county (top right), while a compare and contrast garden display at the Sonoma County Fair highlighted the benefits of pesticide-free gardening (bottom right). More photos of SCBA members volunteering on page 11.

“Pollinator Posse” Protects Bees Through Gardens

Tora Rocha of the Pollinator Posse <https://pollinator-posse.org> joined our August General Meeting as our guest speaker. Tora is an expert in landscape design and gardening for pollinators. She is dedicated to education and outreach about the importance of bees and how to garden in ways to protect them.

She gave an amazing presentation on the work they are doing to protect pollinators and how to create and preserve pollinator habitats.

The Pollinator Posse’s [website](#) hosts a lot of valuable information including this pollinator plant list. SCBA members can watch her presentation in our members-only section of the [SCBA Website](#); look for the August 8 meeting.

Shannon Carr
Program Director



Program Director Shannon Carr at Santa Rosa's Wednesday Night Market.

CLUSTER REPORT

East Cluster Bee Café

About 20 people gathered at Flatbed Farms on August 6, for a workshop titled “A Roadmap into Winter” hosted by Sydnie Kohara and Susan Simmons. Together, Susan and Sydnie guided us through the steps and evaluations that we should be doing now in our hives to prepare for winter. This included:

What should we remove from the hive?
What do we leave in the hive?
What do we move/reconfigure?

Susan and Sydnie focused on Lang hives with some discussion of double deeps in a wonderful format that had everyone engaged and learning. Thank you, Susan and Sydnie for a great meeting and thank you to Thea Vierling for the Raffle!

Our next café will be hosted by LizAnne Pastore at Flat Bed Farm at 11:00 September 3rd to discuss going into winter from a different perspective and focusing on Double Deep hives.

Mara Lee, our Swarm Coordinator reports seven swarms and three splits for July.

Cheers, Bonney Philbin



Conversation with Megan Kaun, Director and co-founder of SASS (Sono- ma Safe Agriculture Safe Schools)

By Ann Gallagher White, 2nd VP

WELCOME MEGAN: Megan Kaun is a new member to SCBA this year, introduced by Kelli Cox (SCBA member and past president) who worked with Megan on a pilot project for sustainable fire safety, using goats to effectively manage rural land. Megan reached out to the SCBA board last month to introduce herself as Director and co-founder of Sonoma Safe Agriculture Safe Schools (SASS). On Tuesday the 16th, I called Megan to talk to her about SASS and this article introduces her and her organization as an advocate for pesticide safety to SCBA.

BEEKEEPING JOURNEY: Megan's beekeeping journey began when she noticed a wild hive outside of Sebastopol where she now lives. She worried about them – would they be sprayed with pesticides? Then a storm brought the hive tree down and Megan formed a team to relocate the hive. Megan has a daughter hive from that hive, having three hives at her Sebastopol (West Cluster) home. Megan has experienced nine swarms this past year! One at her daughter's school, and some from her own hives. Megan helped catch the swarms and gave them all safe homes. Her bees have brought neighbors together as three (80ish) men who live nearby have expressed joy upon seeing bees. One gentleman came from Italy, one came from Mexico, and one is a local Sebastopolian – all three come from families of beekeepers, each regaling Megan with different stories (how their fathers handled bees with bare hands and how they used the practice of ringing metal (tanging) to call the bees. (Megan tried it to wrangle a swarm by tanging - it worked.)

PESTICIDE ADVOCACY: Raised in Sonoma County, Megan moved to Chicago where she studied environmental engineering and hydrology, then returned to California to raise her family, initially living in Santa Rosa. Megan's children (now 10 and 14) used to play at Hidden Valley Park, a neighborhood park in Santa Rosa, when she noticed Roundup being sprayed

where children played. Megan advocated for her children and for the environment with the City of Santa Rosa and was able to get the city to stop this harmful practice. This disturbing series of events (in 2015) sparked Megan's concern for ongoing pesticide use on public lands. Megan's passion evolved as she became Director and Co-founder of Sonoma Safe Ag Safe Schools with support from Sonoma County Conservation Action. SASS is taking on the issue of pesticide use on public lands in a larger forum. SASS is questioning how the California Department of Transportation manages our highways and other public lands, asking the agency to implement pollinator-friendly practices and holding a public forum at the Sebastopol Grange on August 23rd. SASS partners with other organizations including Preserve Rural Sonoma County (PRS); Daily Acts; Sonoma County Conservation Action; Wine, and Water Watch; and Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxic Safety (FACTS).

SASS's clear focus is pesticide advocacy, but it also educates local land managers and public landowners about safer (optimally non-toxic) pesticide practices. SASS acts as a watchdog. Concerned citizens contact SASS when they suspect unsafe use of pesticides. The third tier of SASS is citizen science, monitoring the air, water and soil in home gardens and in agricultural areas so we can better support pollinators and other wildlife. You can also find Megan attending public meetings to help advocate for better protection of lands. For example, our Sonoma County Coastal Plan is being updated and SASS is advocating for language to protect these sensitive places (from pesticides). For more on this and the plan revisions: <https://permitsono-ma.org/longrangeplans/proposedlong-rangeplans/proposedlocalcoastalplanupdate>

SASS works with state and national initiatives through the Pesticide Action Network. Megan can be reached at megan.kaun@gmail.com or at www.SonomaSASS.org

THANK YOU, MEGAN, for reaching out to the SCBA board! If you or anyone you know is interested in sharing your story and/or partnering with SCBA to protect our environment/pollinators, please reach out to electedboard@sonomabees.org

Neonics: Update on AB2146

By Ann Gallagher White, 2nd VP SCBA

Update on California's pending legislation (Bauer-Kahan) currently in the Senate to curb the use of a class of harmful pesticides (known as neonicotinoids or neonics) that are devastating to pollinators and other wildlife. The bill (AB 2146) bans neonics in gardens, golf-courses, and other non-agricultural uses and passed the House and is going to the Senate. SCBA urges you to take action and reach out to your state senator if you have not done so already – you can find your senator in this article: <https://www.cnps.org/conservation/protect-pollinators> where you can also read about the overwhelming evidence of harm to our environment caused by these pesticides.

California has not been on the forefront of this battle until now. Maine, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Connecticut, and the European Union have already taken steps to ban the use or application of neonics. By passing this bill, the U.S.'s largest economy will make an impact to benefit farmers, pollinators, wildlife, and people, starting in 2024, by prohibiting sale and use of neonics in non-agricultural applications. The Natural Resources Defense Council has co-sponsored this bill and is supporting the legislation. For more on buying and growing pesticide-safe plants and how to know if you are using unsafe products, see <https://www.xerces.org/pesticides>

SCBA BOOK NOOK

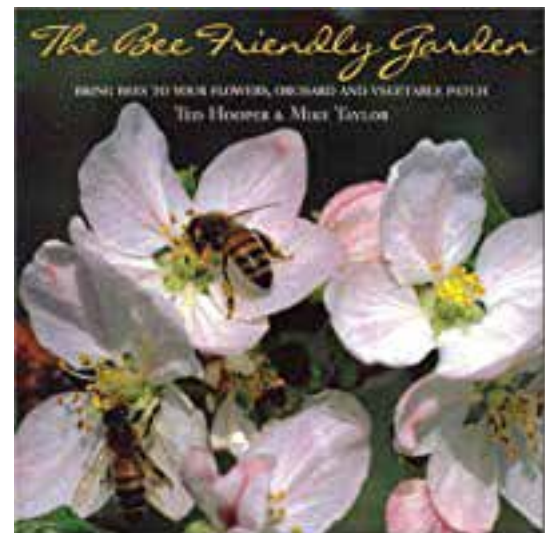


[The Bee Friendly Garden](#)

By: Mike Taylor

The Bee Friendly Garden features full-color photography alongside practical and informative hints and tips for beekeeping and gardening. This wonderful book helps to show gardeners how to provide a continuous source of pollen and nectar for the bees and how to maintain a perfect ecological balance in your garden without using harmful products. It also provides practical knowledge on where to find and keep bees and where to place hives in large and small gardens.

We have more than 250 books and DVDs in the SCBA Library. *The Bee Friendly Garden* is just one of many books about bees, gardening for bees, and products from the hive in our collection. You can view all of our books and DVDs 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.



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.

September Bee Plant of the Month: Aster

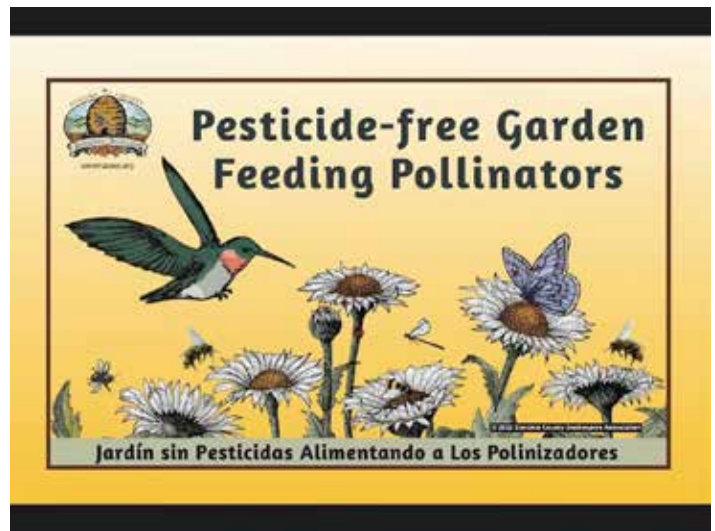
By Elizabeth Newton

The name “aster” comes from the ancient Greek word for star, which refers to the beautiful star-like shape of the aster’s flower head. This unfussy perennial blooms in in late summer and its seasonality has lent it two colloquial names: Michaelmas daisy and Rosh Hashana flower.

There are around 170 species of aster, most which originated in Eurasia. Prior to a reorganization of the genera during the 1990s, aster also included hundreds of species native to North America which are now classified as Asteraceae.

Aster is a very easy flower to grow and thrives in both full sun and part shade. It provides late season nectar for honeybees, native bees, and butterflies and, once the blooming cycle is over, birds enjoy its seeds. It naturalizes easily, so the spent stems can be strewn in other parts of your garden. These will happily germinate in the following year, although because they don’t come true to seed, you may get surprising colors.

Asters should be divided every few years to maintain plant health. Their light color and airy clouds of blooms makes them a harmonious choice to blend with several other bedding plants. As a cut flower, asters stay fresh in vases for five to ten days.



SCBA's/G4B's new yard sign. Created by Chris Dicker. They will be available for \$15 to the public and \$12 to members. To get yours, email Shannon Carr at programdirector@sonomabees.org

Rohnert Park City Bee Ordinances to be Revised by Ettamarie Peterson

Tamara Lipori, a new beekeeper, member of SCBA, and homeowner in Rohnert Park learned that the beekeeping regulations in the City of Rohnert Park needed to be revised after a neighbor complained about her new beehive. This beehive is in a sheltered area in her back garden and is not a nuisance to anyone. Tamara went to City Hall and advocated for her bees. She also spoke up at a City Council meeting. A representative of the city visited her home and agreed that it was a well-placed hive and should remain there. The lady was very friendly and was happy to be around Tamara’s hive. She even had Tamara’s son take her photo by the hive. Now Tamara is working with the city to re-write the ordinance. She is to be commended for advocating not only for her bees but all the other managed hives in the city limits.

We need more beekeepers like Tamara. She has been studying other ordinances and working with the correct people, not just yelling at the City Council. It takes teamwork to make changes. If you find yourself in a similar situation, take a lesson from Tamara Lipori.

MEMBER PROFILE

Leonard Riepenhoff: COUNTY FAIR BEST OF SHOW WINNER

This year, August 2022, the Sonoma County Fair winner for Best of Show in the apiary division was Leonard Riepenhoff for his honey entry. He entered three different honeys and some wax. All four won first place, blue ribbons. The Best of Show ribbon is a large yellow and white rosette, and included a \$50 prize. This is the first time in ten years Leonard has entered anything in the apiary division.

He has been using his self-made Solar Ovens to extract honey and wax for many years. He demonstrated his Full Frame Solar Oven and Inner Cover at the 2022 SCBA Spring Fling. Three people who saw the demonstration asked him to build the equipment for them too (see craigslist for pictures and information). Also, you can read Leonard's article, entitled "Poor Man's Honey Extractor" in the September issue of *Bee Culture* magazine. The article describes his Full Frame Solar Oven Honey Extractor and discusses other helpful ideas for hobby beekeepers.

Leonard came to Santa Rosa in 1972 and has kept bees ever since. He is 89 years old and has been a member of this organization since 1973, at which time it was called the Sebastopol Bee Club.

Leonard's honey previously won Best of Show three years in a row (2011, 2012 and 2013) at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair and received trophies that were donated by the Sonoma County Bee Association. He has won many ribbons at the local fair for his honey and wax entries.

Congratulations Leonard!



Leonard Riepenhoff showing off his Best of Show ribbon and award-winning entries.

Cooking with Honey

Almonds, Polenta and Honey: Oh My!

By Rachel Parker

This month, I turned to a cake recipe that many of you may have on your shelves already: Honey Polenta Cake from *The Beekeeper's Bible*. Why include it here when this book is practically required reading for beekeepers? Because my son-in-law gave me a set of honey-comb silicone baking pans that gives this cake a visual charm. Plus, it works.

This recipe includes no wheat flour. Just polenta and ground almonds. Bob's Red Mill says that polenta is an excellent grain for gluten-free diets. Enjoy with some fresh or preserved fruit over the top. The authors of the book say the cake lasts when wrapped tightly for several days. Not in my house: We eat it in just a couple of nights.

Honey Polenta Cake

From *The Beekeeper's Bible*

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened (plus extra for greasing the pan)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar
- 3 tbsp herb honey, such as thyme
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups fine polenta
- 2 cups ground almonds
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 3 large eggs, beaten
- 3 tbsp flower honey
- 1 sprig fresh rosemary

FOR SERVING

- Fresh rosemary sprigs
- Crème fraiche (or mascarpone)

STEPS

- 1 Preheat the oven to 350 degrees
- 2 Use 1 teaspoon butter to grease an 8-inch round springform cake pan and line the bottom with parchment paper. (I spray my silicon baking pan, just to make sure that the cake turns out nicely.)
- 3 In a large bowl, beat the butter with the sugar until light and fluffy. Add the herb honey and beat again



until pale.

- 4 Mix the polenta with the ground almonds and baking powder, then add a tablespoon of this mixture to the butter and sugar mixture and beat well.
- 5 Add one-third of the beaten eggs and beat in. Repeat, adding polenta mixture and eggs alternately until you have a thick batter. Spoon this into the prepared pan and smooth the top.
- 6 Bake for 30 minutes, then reduce the temperature to 325 degrees and bake for 20 minutes longer, or until the cake is golden and risen, and a metal skewer inserted in the center comes out clean. (My silicon pan is more like 9 inches. I check the cake at about 15 minutes.) Cover the cake with parchment paper toward the end of baking if it is browning too much. Remove the cake from the oven and set it on a rack to cool.
- 7 Heat the flower honey with the rosemary sprig in a small saucepan over low heat until the honey begins to thin. Use a thin metal skewer to make holes in the top of the cake, then spoon the warm honey over the cake so that it soaks in. Remove the cake from the pan to let cool to room temperature. Garnish with fresh rosemary and crème fraiche or mascarpone.

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



Bees can use water plants to get water in this hot weather. Photos by Shannon Carr



Bees especially enjoy the herbs that go to flower. This is oregano. Photo by Ettamarie Peterson.



Bee covered with pollen. Photo by Ettamarie Peterson.

SCBA MEMBERS SHARE BEE WISDOM AROUND THE COUNTY PHOTO GALLERY



Volunteers at the Gravenstein Apple Festival in Sebastopol brought seed bomb and packet supplies (left) and Benson brought his demonstration hive (above). -- Photos by Shannon Carr



Children and grown-ups alike learned about bees and beekeeping at the Children's Museum. You can volunteer too: the third Friday of each month. It takes just two hours of your time!

SCBA Business Members, Donors, and Sponsors

SCBA Business Members

Anderson Ranch Honey
Darius Anderson
info@andersonranch.com

Baker Lane Vineyards
Michel Boynton
info@bakerlane.wine
bakerlanevineyards.com

Bee Conscious Removal
Chris Conrad
chrisbconrad@comcast.net
www.beeconsciousremovals.com

Bee Focused
Joy Wesley
joy@bee-focused.com
<https://bee-focused.com/>

Beekind Honey and
Beekeeping Supply
Doug & Katia Vincent
beekind@beekind.com
www.beekind.com

Bees N Blooms
Susan Kegley
Info@beesnblooms.com
www.BeesNBlooms.com

Buzz Off Honey
John & Darlene McGinnis
goahwayranch@gmail.com
www.goahwayranch.com

K2 Ranch and Vineyards
Ken & Kat Savano
ksavano@me.com
www.K2ranch.com

Kate Gomes Real Estate, Inc.
Kate Gomes
kgrealestate2016@gmail.com
Kategomes.com

Marin Coastal Bee Co.
Michael Louis Turner
info@marincoastalbee.com
marincoastalbee.com

Tauzer Family & Apiaries
Sola Bee Farms / Honey Bee
Genetics
Www.solabeefarms.com
info@solabeefarms.com

Ryan Teurfs Designs
Ryan Teurfs, Andrew Benson, and
Justin Zimmerman
ryanteurfsdesigns@gmail.com
www.ryanteurfs.com

Wild Wills Honey
Will Ackley
willackley@gmail.com

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

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.

