

# The Nevada County Beekeepers Association

# Local Buzz



June 2011

## President's Message

Hi everyone; welcome to blackberry honey flow! I'm at 1500' elevation and it has just started, with very few blossoms and lots of buds. I hope everyone has their bees ready to super up. Been lots of hard work so far but looking at record honey year for myself if all goes well. Hope it's looking as good for all of you as well, good luck. Remember this is the peak of the bee year for us!

Your President, Rob Slay

## June 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Our Monday, June 6, 2011 program will be by Randy Oliver, author, commercial beekeeper and beekeeping instructor, who will be talking about 'Pests & Diseases in the Hive. Any questions about bees? Wondering about pollination and how it can help your garden and orchard? Always wanted to get bees? What about the state of the hive? We have answers! Q and A starts at 7 pm with a brief meeting, refreshments and a great program.

## Bee Bits

By Randy Oliver

This year reminds us of how totally bees are at the mercy of the weather! Ten days ago, I could shake fresh nectar from the combs, and thought that the flow had finally restarted. Then we got about five days of cool, wet weather during which the bees could not forage. Many colonies that were short on stores simply starved! We only lost a couple, but were out madly feeding syrup in the rain. We actually pulled off supers of foundation that we had put on in expectation of a crop, in order to get the feed to the hungry clusters!

We should be over the hump soon—the black locust is in bloom, and blackberry is already flowering at the 2000 ft level. If we get good flight weather, we stand the chance of getting a good honey crop this season. With the high moisture level in the soil, you may need to super up ahead, in order to give the bees room to process thin nectar!



## What are the Odds?

Three couples from the NCBA were coincidentally in Cabo San Lucas Mexico on vacation at the same time! Pictured above from the left are Lynn Slay, Rob Slay (president), Deborah Morawski and Lynn Williams (swarm hotline), Leslie Gault (editor) and Jimmy Green having dinner together to celebrate the happy quirk at the 'Crazy Lobster' on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Returning to unusual weather, remember our warm January? Well, that early brood rearing is now leading to higher varroa levels than normal. Be sure to keep an eye on the mite, as you may need to treat early. It's not too late for drone trapping. I wouldn't count on sugar dusting unless your mite levels are fairly low to start with. Apiguard thymol gel would be my choice, or perhaps a single Miteaway Quick Strip (half dose).

Randy

[ScientificBeekeeping.com](http://ScientificBeekeeping.com)

## ***From the Librarian...***

By Tynowyn Slattery

*Three items...*

...We now have copies of the Apiary Registration Forms in the library so you don't have to make a special trip to the Vet's building to get one. I have to admit that I have been reluctant to register my hives, being the Queen of my 4 acres, and as independent as any of the lot of my fellow beekeepers, besides which, not knowing from one year to the next whether I'll have seven hives or zero hives hasn't made it that compelling...but on thinking about a past member who had to get rid of her bees because someone moved in next door, built a swimming pool and we know the rest of the story...perhaps there could have been some more equitable recourse for her if we beekeepers had had more of a "presence" with "the powers that be". Anyway, I'm going to give it a try. Bye the bye...if you have ever tried to fill in the form and gotten as far as the "required section, township and range" boxes and given up, I am told that you need only supply the cross streets.

...The library will have the DVD, "Queen of the Sun" which was wildly popular at the last Wild and Scenic Film Festival. The release for shipping date is May 31st so, unfortunately, it won't be available till July meeting.

...*Close but no cigar award...*it doesn't work to return Bee Association library books to the Agricultural office upstairs in the Vet's building; but, if it looks like you won't be coming to the

meetings for a while, you can always drop them in the mail:

Tynowyn,  
20493 Rome Road  
Nevada City, CA 95959.

The effort to have them available for the rest of the association is much appreciated.

## **For Sale: Country Rubes Combo Screened Bottom Boards**

Special NCBA Club Price! Call Janet for details. 530-913-2724 or email at [rubes@countryrubes.com](mailto:rubes@countryrubes.com)

## **For Sale: 6 medium supers + frames**

Used, about 5 yrs old. Bees died out, mites were cause according to Randy. Some foundation, some drawn comb. \$40 OBO. Brion 470-8691

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## Need a Mentor?

If you're an NCBA member and are looking for a mentor, please call the person closest to you to arrange a meeting:

- Stephanie Hughes  
Grass Valley  
(530) 320-5297
- Karla Hanson  
Nevada City  
(530) 265-3756
- Leslie Gault  
Chicago Park  
(530) 346-7092
- Hugh Cavallaro  
Rattlesnake Rd.  
(530) 272-7550
- Jeremiah Farrell  
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## May 2<sup>nd</sup> Minutes

President Rob Slay opened with Q&A Swarms are earlier and larger, this year. Randy Oliver's website is [www.scientificbeekeeping.com](http://www.scientificbeekeeping.com) for the latest developments. Latest edition of Western

Apical Soc. news gives <http://miteaway.com> formic acid Varroa mite hive fumigant, now approved in CA, not yet carried by retailers. PROGRAM John Miller, Newcastle commercial beekeeper, told about storing beehives dormant in Montana over winter in caves, keeping the temperature exactly 40F and complete darkness. Next spring they're ready for pollination. As far as help goes, 1000 hives per employee. Noting that endurance athletes like marathoners often run out of glycogen late in the race, and liquids may not be available, he developed over eight years an energy booster with honey 'B-Stinger' which didn't catch on until he arranged with Lance Armstrong to front the product. Marketing 101.  
Jack Meeks, sec

## Citrus Salad with Avocado

(From the National Honey Board website)



Makes 6 servings

- 3 (6 inch) tortillas
- 4 oranges
- 4 grapefruits
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/4 cup raspberry vinegar
- 2 Tablespoons oil
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 avocado, sliced

Preheat oven to 255°F. Slice corn tortillas into very thin strips. Dry the strips by placing on a cookie sheet and baking for approximately 15 minutes. Set aside. Peel oranges and grapefruits, then section, seed, and place in large bowl; set aside. In a small bowl, whisk together honey, raspberry vinegar, oil, and salt. Pour over citrus sections and toss gently. Top with avocado slices and tortilla strips.

The Nevada County Beekeepers Association is dedicated to apiculture education and promotion of the art and science of beekeeping among beekeepers, agriculturists, and the general public. This is a "not for profit" organization. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7 PM at the Grass Valley Veteran's Memorial Building at 255 South Auburn Street in Grass Valley. All visitors are welcome. The newsletter is published monthly as a service to the membership. Articles, recipes, commentary, and news items are welcomed and encouraged. Submission by email is encouraged. Please submit to Leslie Gault at [lesliegault@yahoo.com](mailto:lesliegault@yahoo.com). The deadline for the July 2011 edition is June 22<sup>nd</sup>. A limited amount of advertising space (business card size 3" by 2") is accepted and need not be bee-related. Rates are \$1 per issue or \$7 per year for NCBA members and \$16 per year for non-members. All revenue from advertising goes to the Association treasury and helps offset the cost of producing and distributing this newsletter. To receive the *Local Buzz* via email: please email your request to [lesliegault@yahoo.com](mailto:lesliegault@yahoo.com)

**Nevada County Beekeepers Association**      2011 Officers  
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**Vice President:**      Jeremiah Farrell..... 743-2842  
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Randy Oliver..... 277-4450  
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or 755-0468  
Deborah Morawski...675-2924  
Karla Hanson..... 265-3756

**Committee Chairs**  
**Swarm Hotline:**      Karla Hanson..... 265-3756  
Lynn Williams ..... 675-2924  
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**Honey Extractor:**      Karla Hanson..... 265-3756

**Nevada County Beekeepers Association**



c/o Steve Reynolds  
PO Box 548  
Chicago Park, CA 95712  
First Class Mail  
June 2011

**June 6<sup>th</sup> program**  
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