

# The Nevada County Beekeepers Association



December 2005

## President's Message

In case you haven't noticed it is autumn and Pacific Standard Time (PST).

We in California, in Western Nevada County, are on Pacific Standard Time (PST) and will remain so into spring, Sunday, April 1, the beginning of PDT (Pacific Daylight Time) for 2006.

This is also autumn, which will remain until winter, which starts with the Winter Solstice on December 21. The interesting thing is that the Queen stops laying in November and doesn't start again until the Winter Solstice, which marks the first day of three months of winter. The SUN has gone as far south as it can and will start back north again. Nights are longest, about 14 hours, and will begin to shorten. Days are shortest, about 10 hours, and will start to lengthen. They still add together to 24 hours.

## What should I do for my bees during December 2005?

- 1- Decide now if you want to take hives to Almonds, come to the meeting and talk to Randy.
- 2- There may be some flower bloom available: per Randy's calendar they include: ALDER, and ORNAMENTALS. In Alta Sierra we still have some
1. Yellow Star THISTLE flowers that are within range of the Bees.
- 3- Don't Disturb the Bees
- 4- Except for the 12/5/2005 Pot Luck party and gift exchange, your job is done for 2005.

Yours in beekeeping,  
-Gary Wood, President

## December Program

We will be having our annual potluck Christmas party and pirate gift exchange. Please bring your own place settings. A-M bring main dishes, N-Z brings side dishes, salads or deserts. Ham and turkey will be provided, apple cider and coffee will be available, bring your own favorite beverage if you

desire. The contact person is Debbie Cavallaro, phone # 272-7550.

Everyone who wants to participate in the pirate gift exchange must bring a gift in the \$ 10.00 range. Bring something you would be pleased to get yourself. Party starts at 6.30.

## Announcement

APIMONDIA 2007, worldwide beekeeping conference is scheduled for 9 - 14 September 2007 in Melbourne, Australia. Preliminary information is available on the website: [www.apimondia2007.com](http://www.apimondia2007.com).

Contact: Trevor Weatherhead (Organizing Committee) at [queenbee@gil.com.au](mailto:queenbee@gil.com.au).

## National Honey Report for October 2005 Available Online

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service has issued its October National Honey Market Report.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/mnncs/honey.pdf>

## November Minutes

Gary Wood opened the meeting welcoming newcomers. John Wallace came from Sacramento. He is owed a bottle of honey. Members were requested to bring a supply of bottled honey for just such an occasion. Shane Mathias was nominated for next year's president. Detlef Osburg was nominated for vice president. Janet Brisson will continue to be treasurer. Jack Meeks will continue to be secretary. Tynowyn Slattery will continue to be librarian. Charles Whittlesey volunteered to be on next year's board.

Motion by Carl to buy a video on instrumental insemination for \$40.00. Passed

Carla Hansen will bring the ham for the Christmas party. Debbie Cavallaro will bring the turkey. Debbie Cavallaro volunteered to be the contact person for the Christmas Party her phone number is 272-7550. Deborah Morawski volunteered to emcee the pirate gift exchange again this year.

Tom Staser mentioned the motorcycle toy run he has organized, planned for Saturday, Dec 10th. He implored people to stay off the roads due to the sheer volume of bikes that will be participating in that event.

~Debbie Cavallaro, substitute Secretary

## **Bee Bits**

By Randy Oliver

Congratulations and thank you to our new and returning officers! I want to extend my sincere thanks to those who put in the time to keep this organization going.

I don't often get lucky in beekeeping, in fact the last time was, uh...I can't remember. But this fall's been great. We had about 150 relatively weak colonies due to late starts, poor honey flows, mite damage, and/or pesticide spraying. We normally would combine these colonies in the fall (after first checking to make sure there was no AFB). But our unseasonably warm weather following some rain, initiated some flowers to bloom, and gave us great bee foraging weather. As a result, we've been seeing bees bringing in lots of orange and yellow pollen, and not shutting down brood rearing. So we left the weaker colonies intact, and have been feeding sugar syrup and pollen supplement to encourage them to rear enough brood to increase the cluster size for winter. So far, it appears to be working wonderfully! Inspection of the brood nests of many colonies reveals spring-like appearance-lots of brood of all ages, fresh eggs, and a fat ring of colorful pollen around the brood. Several colonies are even rearing drones!

I recently solved a mystery that's been puzzling me. All this season, and especially this spring, I've been observing a small percentage of the sealed brood having their cappings chewed off at the white-eyed pupa stage, and the pupae then chewed out and discarded. I've never observed this phenomenon before. I placed calls to Eric Mussen and others, but was unable to receive an explanation, other than that it might have been poison pollen, pesticides, or a pupal virus. None of these hypotheses fit well, since the opened brood appeared healthy. Finally, I put two and two together, and realized that I was observing the SMR (suppression of mite reproduction) gene in action. Bees with this genetic trait are "super hygienic," and will remove a pupa if a female mite starts to reproduce in the cell. I'd been seeing this process in action! Upon closer inspection, every

one of the exposed pupae had fresh guanine deposits from a mite on the cell roof. The end result is to see relatively spotty brood, especially in colonies requeened with mite-resistant queens. As the season progressed, and those colonies got their mite levels down, I see less and less of this happening. This is really exciting to me, since it's a very tangible sign of Varroa resistance occurring.

The clearest example of this is in my prize breeder queen, purchased from Glenn Apiaries. She is a Minnesota Hygienic queen inseminated with SMR sperm. This combination gives her colony the best of both-a healthy bee that produces honey, and also minimizes Varroa mite reproduction. I can observe the uncapping process taking place in this colony, although now at a very low level. This colony has not been treated for Varroa in any way all season, yet is healthy and strong, with very few mites (even though colonies in the same yard succumbed to the mite). Granted, this is an instrumentally-inseminated breeder, but I should be able to produce similar production queens next year by flooding the mating yards with SMR drones.

This breeder is a stand out, but I'm also seeing good Varroa resistance in a number of other colonies bred from selected breeders. There are so many variables involved that it's often difficult to determine why some colonies (or whole bee yards) die from Varroa, and others thrive. But by doing the hard work of finding the exceptional colonies to breed from year after year, I think we're making progress. Dare I suggest that we're starting to turn the corner on Varroa resistance by selective breeding? Only time will tell, but it sure makes me excited about producing next year's round of new queens!

## **National Honey Board Issues Request for Production Research Proposals Studying Bee Colony Health**

NHB is requesting research proposals regarding honeybee colony production. The goal of this research area is to help honey producers maintain colony health, while preserving honey quality. The primary objective is to control such pests as the Varroa destructor, *Acarapis woodi* and the small hive beetle. In 2004, NHB began exploring research opportunities to help beekeepers maintain colony health, without adversely affecting the production of quality honey. During the past few years, NHB has funded seven

such projects. Research proposals should be sent to NHB on or before Dec. 31, 2005.

<http://www.nhb.org/buzz/release102805-ResearchRFP.html>

## Recipes

### *Honey Baked Beans*

- *Makes 4 to 6 servings* -

- 4 slices bacon, diced
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 4-1/2 cups cooked navy beans\*
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1 Tablespoon prepared mustard
- 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

#### Directions

Sauté bacon and onion until onion is tender; combine with remaining ingredients in shallow 2-quart oven-safe baking dish. Cover with lid or aluminum foil and bake at 350°F 30 minutes. Uncover and bake 45 minutes longer.

\*Three 15 oz. cans cooked navy beans can be substituted.

### *Honey Pumpkin Pie*

- 1 can (16 oz.) solid-pack pumpkin
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 3/4 cup honey
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 2 Tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon rum extract
- 1 pastry for single 9-inch pie crust

Combine all ingredients except pastry in large bowl; beat until well blended. Pour into pastry-lined 9-inch pie plate. Bake at 400°F for 45 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Serve with Honey Whipped Cream, if desired.

#### Nutritional Information Per Serving

Calories: 284 Calories from Fat: 27%  
Carbohydrates: 46 g Cholesterol: 82 mg Dietary Fiber: 2 g Fat Total: 9 g Protein: 7 g Sodium: 209 mg

### *Honey Whipped Cream*

- *Makes 2 cups* -

- 1 cup whipping cream
- 3 Tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

#### Directions

Beat whipping cream until mixture thickens; gradually add honey and beat until soft peaks form. Fold in vanilla.

#### Nutritional Information Per Serving (per Tablespoon)

Calories: 34 Calories from Fat: 74%  
Carbohydrates: 1/8 g Cholesterol: 10 mg Dietary Fiber: 0 g Fat Total: 2.8 g Protein: 0.2 g Sodium: 3 mg

## Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies

- Complete line of all beekeeping supplies
- Candle making supplies (molds, wicks, dyes, scents)
- Glycerine soap making supplies (soap base, molds, scents, and dyes)
- Honeycomb sheets for rolling candles (50 colors and in smooth)
- Beeswax and paraffin, special container candle wax
- Gifts, books, ready made candles

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(916) 451 – 2337 fax (916) 451 – 7008  
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Open Tuesday through Saturday 9:30 – 5:30  
Mail orders receive quick service.



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 Bonnie Bagwell at [arwg@infostations.com](mailto:arwg@infostations.com). The deadline for the January 2006 edition is December 15<sup>th</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 [arwg@infostations.com](mailto:arwg@infostations.com).

Nevada County Beekeepers Association



C/o Gary Wood  
10396 Mountain Lion Lane  
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First Class Mail

December 2005

**December 5 pot luck & gift exchange, be there by 6:30 PM. Debbie Cavalero will host our last meeting of 2005. See inside for further information.**

Nevada County Beekeepers Association

2006 Officers

President: Shane Mathias.....308-1376  
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Committee Chairs

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Newsletter: Bonnie Bagwell.....878-3622

Honey Extractor: Karla Hanson