

The Nevada County Beekeepers Association

Local Buzz



March 2010

President's Message

Hi everyone—spring is just around the corner. Time to check your bees and see how they are doing. Mine are just waking up. I think they are still a little cold! I am!!

There was an article in the Union on Wed, Feb 10 2010 about "Allergies, nosebleeds and honey, by Dr. Peter Gott. I hope many of you read this article. It stated that there is no, to the best of his knowledge, scientific evidence either confirming or denying that local honey will do any good. If you have any books or other references with evidence that honey will do you good please send him a note. I will bring the article to our next meeting.

Hope to see all of you at the next meeting and don't forget the no host dinner at 5:30 PM at Lin Q Buffet, next to Raleys in Grass Valley.

Your President, Larry Meritt

March 1st Meeting

Randy Oliver will be our guest speaker for March, organizing and presenting the first lecture of the beginning beekeeping class. We will be taking him out to dinner at Lin-Q on March 1st before the class. As always, all are invited for the no host buffet, come join us at 5:30 PM.

Why Did I Get This Newsletter??

If you are not already a member of the Nevada County Beekeepers Association, you must have visited our

Beekeeping Booth at the Nevada County Fair last August 2009 and signed up for information on the upcoming beekeeping classes. Or you contacted us about upcoming beekeeping classes. Not only do we have exciting programs, we have the information needed to help you and your family to easily and safely become beekeepers. This is the meeting to sign for Randy Oliver's 6 week course in Beginning Beekeepers (\$40.00 entire families and \$25 returnees), including field classes and working in a bee yard. All materials and bee gear provided. Contact Randy with questions about classes at randy@randyoliver.com or 530-277-4450

Time to Pay Your 2010 Dues! Are You Online?

Help us reduce paper and mailing costs, get your newsletter electronically and we will reduce your family membership fees to from \$20.00 to \$15.00. I will be collecting dues for the year 2010 at March's meeting. If you are paying in cash, please try to bring the exact change. If you would like to pay your dues through the mail, please send your check made out to NCBA or Nevada County Beekeepers Association, for either \$20.00 (to receive newsletter through mail) or \$15 for NET OFFER to me at:

NCBA
C/o Janet Brisson
20693 Dog Bar Road
Grass Valley, CA 95949
Any questions, please feel free to call me at 530-913-2724 or email me at rubes@countryrubes.com

Thanks, Janet, Treasurer

Bee Bits

By Randy Oliver

It's great that we are having a wet spring—we sure need the water!

However, be aware that weeklong stretches of rainy weather can be very stressful to the bees. A strong colony in late February or March can starve out during a few days of rain. Be sure to check and make sure that there are frames of honey at the tops of your hives, in contact with the clusters.

It looks like CCD has returned to some bee operations. Tens of thousands of colonies have collapsed in California on their way to almond pollination. There is currently a shortage as the almond orchards come into bloom, with desperate growers offering unheard of prices just to get any bees into the groves. The problem at this time seems to be more with out of state bees, but that assessment could change.

Locally, a Grass Valley beekeeper brought me a sample of bees from a colony that died with plenty of dead bees inside. They were loaded with *Nosema ceranae*. This is the first time that I had seen levels that high, and the first time that I'd seen it high in a deadout.

In my own operation, the bees are healthier than they've been the past two years (knock on wood). I'll really see how they are doing when we nuc them up once they are released from almonds.

As far as the beginners class, I am currently working on finding a place to hold it, since the Imaginarium is shut down. If you have any ideas for a meeting room that is available, please let me know (Madelline Helling room is out).

Randy Oliver

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.

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Open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 – 5:30

MAIL ORDERS RECEIVE QUICK SERVICE

February Minutes

President Larry Merritt opened with Q&A. Deformed wing virus was no problem before Varroa, now several strains are infective, independent of Varroa, as bee killer. Ameba, from *Apis cerana* in India, now reside in bee intestines. Pheromone from bee pupa triggers Varroa mite to lay egg. Formerly only drone pupae had the pheromone so female worker cells did not. Local bees are now handling Varroa better, problem seems to be decreasing.

FINANCE: Janet Brisson: Dec End \$2581.10; Inc \$30; Exp \$304.21; Jan Balance \$3203.89. Member dues collecting this meeting and next.

PROGRAM: Robin Martin and Arlo Acton of O La La Farms talked about their farm, experiences with beekeeping, alternative fruit tree management, and bee plants. John Miller donated "Bees" by Rudolph Steiner to our library. Pollination colonies short 20-30% , poor outlook in CA. Increasing price of sugar, which is

better than corn syrup for feeding. Imports of bees, larvae, semen from Europe restricted, while no restriction on Australian bees, some of which carry hive beetles as well as Varroa.

Jack Meeks, sec

Sacto Beekeepers Classes

The Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association (SABA) is sponsoring a series of classes this season:

Class Open - Beginning Natural (no chemical) Beekeeping Sunday March 14, 2010 Serge Labesque

Class Open - Beginning Natural (no chemical) Beekeeping Saturday April 24, 2010 Serge Labesque

Class Open - Beginning Traditional Beekeeping Saturday May 22, 2010 Randy Oliver

Class Open - Intermediate Beekeeping Saturday June 19, 2010 Dr. Eric Mussen

Class Open - Intermediate Natural Beekeeping Saturday July 17, 2010 Serge Labesque

Sign up early! Seating is limited!

All of the classes will be presented at the Sacramento County Department of Agriculture building at 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento, CA. The course hours are 8:30 am to approximately 4:30 pm. The instruction will start at 8:30; registration starts at 7:30 am.

Each course fee is \$35.00 (\$30.00 for SABA members). Registration is required by the Monday before the course date. Late registration will require specific approval of a course coordinator.

These courses are an incredible value, the instructors are top notch.

More information is contained on individual course flyers and available on the SABA website, www.sacbeekeepers.org or by contacting one of the course coordinators: Ernie Buda at 2211budae@att.net 916-761-3802 or Bruce Waln at bruce.i.waln@gmail.com.

Honey Mustard BBQ Sauce

- 6 tablespoons of butter
- 2 cloves of garlic, chopped
- 1 jar of brown mustard
- half a cup or so of apple cider vinegar
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/2 tablespoon hot sauce

Saute the garlic and butter in a pan, stirring constantly over low heat. Add honey, vinegar, mustard and hot sauce, and continue cooking over low heat for approximately 10 to 15 minutes. Makes enough for about 2-3 pounds of meat.

- Honey can enhance browning and crisping of your dishes, which makes it a great choice as a glazing for roasted and baked foods.
- Honey can prolong the shelf life of foods.
- Keep in mind that you should use less honey as compared to sugar since honey is almost twice as sweet. Honey also tends to attract water, so you should reduce the amount of liquid that you use in honey recipes as well.
- Honey also adds more viscosity to foods, so you should allow more time for beating with honey recipes than with foods that use sugar instead. You will probably also have to set your beater or blender to a higher setting when working with honey recipes.
- You may add up to 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda to every cup of honey that you use to help balance some of the natural acidity of honey and make the food rise.
- Honey recipes call for lower temperatures, since it will crisp and brown food much faster than sugar.

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. The deadline for the April 2010 edition is March 24th. 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

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Nevada County Beekeepers Association



c/o Steve Reynolds
PO Box 548
Chicago Park, CA 95712
First Class Mail
March 2010

March 1st Meeting

The March 1st program will be the first lecture and organization meeting for the spring Beginning Beekeeping class, presented by Randy Oliver, 7 PM at the Grass Valley Veteran's Hall. No-host dinner at 5:30 PM at Lin-Q buffet in Grass Valley.