

The Nevada County Beekeepers Association

Local Buzz



September 2011

President's Message

September already, wow thanks to all who actually worked the shifts they signed up for at the bee booth. The fair always sparks new interest in beekeeping.

Well the star thistle is almost done at 1500' and soon we will be extracting. Hope everyone has treated for mites and is getting ready to put your bees to bed for winter.

Your President, Rob Slay

September 5th Meeting

(yes, we will be meeting on Labor Day) The September program will be on Fall Hive Management, presented by Randy Oliver. 7 PM at the Grass Valley Veteran's Hall.

Bee Bits

If this is your first year of beekeeping in Nevada County, don't make the mistake of thinking that this is the way it will be next year! We are experiencing a very unusual season. Nearly everything bloomed (or is blooming) late; ditto with fruiting (we're just finally getting ripe tomatoes).

Most surprising are the continuing heavy pollen flows, largely of yellow star thistle, which is enjoying a banner year. "Normally" our hives are hungry for pollen by this time of summer, but in most of my yards, hives have full combs of pollen packed in! This will make for much stronger and healthier colonies going into winter.

Not only that, but in a number of my yards, I can still shake fresh nectar from the combs! This is unheard of at the end of August. However, as usual, in most yards

this late honey is dark and strongly flavored, as compared to the lighter honey produced earlier. If you have combs of light, tasty honey that you wish to have extracted on shares, let me know (30 comb minimum).

I've been testing the new Hopguard strips and Miteaway Quick Strips—both are completely organic mite treatments. Both show promise as tools that can be used should varroa levels get too high in your hives.

Speaking of organic treatments, I've just started a large controlled trial of two commercial essential oil formulations—LeFore Essential Oil Patties, and Pro Health (similar to Honey B Healthy). We will be measuring any effects upon colony population growth, weight gain, wintering, varroa levels, nosema levels, and the titers of the viruses! Surprisingly, neither of these very popular treatments has been formally tested for efficacy! If you wish to join on about the 25th of each month when we grade and take samples from the 48 hives, let me know.

The Fair was a great success once again—thanks to all who contributed time or help!

Advice to beginners—now's the time to make sure that your hives have put on enough weight to go into winter. I like to winter them heavy—a two-finger heft of the front handgrip (about 65 lbs if you have a hooked luggage scale). If they are not putting on enough weight, you can help them along with sugar syrup.

I wish everyone a successful season at beekeeping!

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 2011 or emailed our club about beekeeping information and signed up for information on the upcoming beekeeping classes.

Beekeeping classes start next spring, but we thought you might be interested in our September program on 'Fall Management', given by Randy Oliver. It's free, refreshments are provided and it will give you an idea of what's involved in beekeeping. Your next free newsletter will be next spring. But if you decide to join our club, the dues are prorated to the end of the year and are only \$8.00 to receive our newsletter, 'The Local Buzz' through the mail, or \$6.00 if you take your newsletter by email. This insures you a monthly newsletter informing you of all beekeeping information and when the next meetings are and what the programs are until next year when dues are due again. No matter what, you will get that spring newsletter alerting you to the beekeeping classes.

If interested in joining, please see me at the September meeting.

Hope to see you there,

Janet Brisson, Treasurer

Fair Booth Photos

Submitted by Diane Benton



Pretend you're a bee!



A taste of honey being served by Jerry Van Heeringen. The girl's are comparing Randy's and Jeremiah's honey.

Raffle HELP!!!

We always need more contributions to the raffle! We beekeepers are a creative bunch, and appreciate a wide variety of things; plants are always a great item to bring. Almost everyone loves having more plants. Do remember, for every item you bring, you will get a free ticket for the raffle. So look around the house and see what you can find for the next raffle.

Thanks, Karla



Earl gives some girls a lesson

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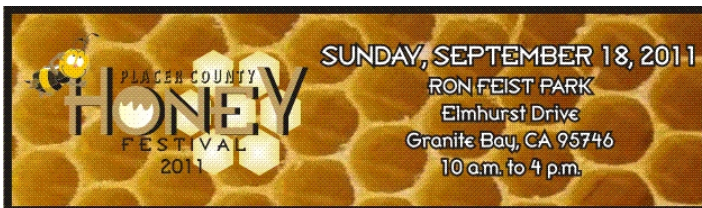
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Honey Festival

The second annual Placer County Honey Festival will be held September 18th in Granite Bay - Dan and Pam Hart will have a booth representing NCBA - and welcome volunteers to help, contact them at pamula1@hotmail.com



Honey Pancake Breakfast, Honey Bee 3K/5K Fun Run/Walk, Cornbread Baking Contest, the ever-popular Honeybear Races (You build your car from our kit), a BRAND NEW Iron Chef Honey Barbecue Cookoff, lots and lots of great vendors and demos, live music by Ant Bee and much, much more.

More information can also be found by calling Jim Crosthwaite at 916-768-9781 or email at: jjm_crosthwaite@yahoo.com.

Check out the website at <http://www.pchoneyfestival.com>

Jim Croswaite is a professional event organizer who put the event together. Pam and Dan went last year and were the only ones really focused on bees and honey production - all the other booths had to have some sort of honey relation, i.e. food with honey in it, etc. We feel it is important to participate as a non-profit to keep the 'bees' in the picture. Placer Nature Center also participates (we maintain an observation hive there also). Proceeds from the event do go to Placer Grown, a local organic food movement/farmers market.

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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Small Cell Hive

The below is from Dee Lusby, creator of Organicbeekeepers@yahoogroups.com about Max and Fannie Hamby's plastic frames known as HSC (Honey Super Cell). HSC is used to regress your

bees to a smaller size by using a smaller cell. The uses believe that the small cells help with varroa control by making the bees hatch earlier so that the varroa are not able to reproduce as well.

The picture below shows 4.7 mm cells. You count 10 cells along a metric ruler and measure at that point according to Michael Bush's website.

<http://www.bushfarms.com/beesnaturalcell.htm>

And, Michael just came out with a book <http://www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm> that has all of his articles that he has posted on his website. The book is \$49.00 and I ordered it for the club. The website is free and loaded with information about small and natural cell beekeeping.

This year, 5 out of 6 hives have hardly any varroa. The 6th, was really infested mid July. We dusted them with powdered sugar every 3 to 5 days for 3 weeks. The last dusting saw mites, but a very low load.

HSC fully drawn out plastic combs in deep frames is now finally made in the USA with NO connections left to China. Distribution is by:

Simpson Bee Supply
15642 Tiger Valley Road
Danville, OH 43014
Ph: 740-599-7914

Website is: www.honeysupercell.com

Cost is \$120 per box of 20 deep frames.



August Minutes

Our August meeting was a fair booth clean up and potluck. No minutes were taken.

Two Hives For Sale

Kim Cote has two hives for sale in Chicago Park, please contact her directly at 530.346.6177 or 530.346.6799

She reports that each hive is 2 deeps with one honey box on top (three levels). One of the deep boxes in the lighter hive was homemade and needs to be replaced. The hives were split this year and both queens are laying. The hives have been fed sugar water but have not yet been treated for mites. Also available are misc beekeeping tools and a large men's suit with zippered veil/hat.

Honey Cream Cheese Icing

Did you know you can make a very rich and delicious dessert icing with honey? Have all ingredients at room temperature:

1 stick butter

1 package cream cheese

¼ cup honey

Stir all ingredients together very well and use on muffins, cakes, cookies, etc. Use a tad more or less honey to achieve the consistency desired. Store extra in refrigerator.

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 September 2011 edition is September 23rd. 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
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First Class Mail
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