



# The Bee Line

2007—Issue 1

January 2007

## 2007 Club Officers

President: Bob Rollins

(916) 965-3875

Vice President: David Ogden

(916) 687-6977

Secretary: Ron Melliush

(916) 743-2703

Treasurer: Richard Cuny

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## Tips for the Month

As February nears, get out to check your bees the first day the weather is good (dry, warmer). Take a look at the brood pattern and quantity, and check the queen. Check for adequate honey and pollen stored around the brood, and, if needed, feed your bees.

## Upcoming Events

**Tues., Jan. 16—6:30 p.m.** (*note earlier start time*) **SABA dinner and installation of new officers., at Garcia's Mexican Restaurant**, 6049 Madison Avenue, Carmichael. The cost per individual is just \$13, which includes your choice of entrée (from a menu of six selections—*see page 3*); a non-alcoholic beverage, complementary chips and salsa/bean dips; tax, and gratuity. In addition, a variety of appetizers will be furnished complements of SABA. So, please mark you calendar for this special annual event and invite your fellow beekeeping friends to join us for a relaxed evening with good food and good company!

**RSVP by noon Monday, Jan. 15**, with your menu choice to Bob or Joann Rollins at (916) 965-3875. (This is to give the restaurant our estimated head count and menu selections but if you don't know if you can make it until the last minute, or are running late, you can still join us and order there.) Note: There will be **no** "white elephant" gift exchange for this January dinner (and maybe for several future dinners, as well!).

**Location:** *Garcia's* is located near the northeast corner of Madison and Manzanita Avenues, Carmichael.

**Directions:** From the south areas: take highway 99/Business 80/I-80 to Madison Avenue, exit east and then move into the left lane when safe. About 60 feet east of Manzanita move into the left turn lane to make the turn into the parking lot at Garcia's. From the north areas: In addition to the above, take I-80 or an intersecting trunk lines (e.g., Auburn Blvd, Sunrise Blvd).

**Feb. 20 - 7:30 p.m.** Regular SABA Meeting—Topic TBD. Ideas? Please call Bob Rollins or David Ogden.

SABA's **regular meetings** are held the third Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 p.m. at the Belle Cooledge Community Center, 5699 South Land Park Drive (on the southeast corner of Fruitridge Road and South Land Park) in Sacramento. All are welcome!

## Spring Beekeeping Classes

**Beginning Beekeeping**, will be taught by long-time commercial beekeeper and queen rearer, Randy Oliver, Saturdays **March 24 and 31** (two classes).

**Intermediate Beekeeping** will be taught by Eric Mussen, UCD's Coop Extension Apiculturist, Saturday **April 14**.

All three one-day classes will be held in the Sacramento County Coop Ag Extension auditorium, 4145 Branch Center Road (1 block west of Bradshaw Road at Keifer Blvd.), from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a break for lunch.

The **cost** per class is \$35 per adult or \$60 per couple, and \$15 per child under 18 accompanied by a paying parent or legal guardian.

**To register** or for more info, call Sacramento Beekeeping Supply at (916) 451-2337 (Tues—Sat 9:30—5:15) or email [sacbeek@csnet.com](mailto:sacbeek@csnet.com) If you have a beekeeping hat and veil, please bring them to class.

**To volunteer** to help set up, take down, or "gopher" during the class, please call Nancy Stewart at (916) 451-2337.

## December Minutes and Program Notes



The meeting of the Sacramento Area Beekeepers' Association was called to order by Vice President Robert Rollins at 6:55 p.m. on December 19, 2006 at the Belle Cooledge Community Center. (President Howard Mann was ill.) We began with the holiday pot luck dinner.

The **business meeting** began at 7:37 p.m. under VP Robert Rollins. The minutes for November were approved. (Moved Dennis Larson, 2d George Bleekman.) Treasurer's Report by Treasurer Richard Cuny stated a current balance of \$4,683.07 after next deposit. He would love to have more dues to deposit (a gentle reminder that the annual dues of \$15 for 2007 are due).

**Old Business. Election of Officers.** There were no nominations from the floor. George Bleekman moved and Fred Stewart seconded a successful motion to approve the slate of officers as presented by Nominating Committee Chair Nancy Stewart, namely: President, Robert Rollins; Vice President, David Ogden; Secretary, Ron Melliush; Treasurer, Richard Cuny.

**Meeting Refreshment Services:** Nancy Stewart noted that Ron Parsons had been carting coffee/chocolate/tea service stuff to meetings forever. (Thank you, Ron!) Would someone else be able to do it for awhile? Do we even need it? The sense of the group was to keep doing it for awhile, then reevaluate. Your undersigned secretary volunteered to handle this task for awhile because 1) he has enjoyed some hot chocolate once or twice, and 2) he has to be on time to the meeting anyway to take minutes! The issue will be revisited in a few months. We clearly need the hot water service at the bee classes but please make your thoughts known as to whether we should continue with it at the SABA meetings. A similar discussion was had concerning continuing the practice of the raffle winner bringing a treat for the following meeting. The sense of the membership was they would like to try having the club provide the treat for the meeting, so that "winning" the raffle will not be connected with the treat obligation. Also, we've not been having the raffle regularly of late, so the whole raffle/treat connection has somewhat unraveled.

**January installation dinner.** VP Bob Rollins noted that the dinner will be held on January 16 (the regular SABA meeting date). Watch the newsletter for place and details. Garcia's Mexican Restaurant on Madison and Luau Gardens buffet (old name) on Sunrise were discussed. Motion carried to authorize Rollins to spend up to \$80 for appetizers (if appropriate, meaning if not a buffet restaurant). (Moved Ron Melliush, 2d Fred Stewart). **Re: Status of the Web Page:** VP Rollins will move heaven and earth to get a status report for the next meeting. **Spring Beekeeping Classes:** Bob Sugar noted an overstatement in the recent newsletter that he was "coordinating" the classes. He has gotten the ball rolling but cannot do the coordinating this year. Thanks very much, Bob, for all the work you've done on the classes year after year!

**New Business: Dues.** A motion was made to lower annual dues back to \$10. A lot of discussion followed and the motion was tabled for now. The new executive committee is requested to prepare and propose a budget for 2007, and as part of that process to consider the amount of the annual dues. Items brought out for discussion included: 1) Giving SABA members a reduced price on the bee classes. (That might encourage more new beekeepers to join, too.); 2) Provide new (and old!) members a copy of the SABA By-laws; 3) Continue with good educational programs at monthly SABA meetings, with some suggestions for future programs (e.g., uses for wax including candles, soaps and salves; comb honey production; production of whipped or creamed honey; varieties of frames and foundations; and building up hives); 4) Use SABA nametags again, as in the recent past (for wearing at meetings, shows, fairs, etc.); 5) Emphasize that visitors are welcome at SABA meetings (continue to advertise in the Sacramento Bee Home & Garden section and wherever else possible). **Honorarium for Outgoing Presidents.** George Bleekman suggested that now that SABA is in decent financial shape, perhaps we could present a thank you gift to the outgoing club President. After discussion, it was narrowed down to a quality plaque or a gift certificate to a nice restaurant, with a proposal that the outgoing President be asked what he or she might prefer since some people (e.g., working in an office) might like a plaque to display, while others (like George who says he has too much stuff already!) would rather be thanked with a great dinner.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m. There was no raffle.

Respectfully submitted, *Ron Melliush*, Secretary

## Bee Trivia

*Answer to last month's question:* The European honey bee was first introduced to what is now the continental U.S. in about 1638 (in New England).



## Bees in the News

Excerpts from article “Flying Fertilizer: It’s the Bees Knees” by Anne Martin Rolke, *Edible Sacramento*, Summer 2006, pp. 35-36.

“The USDA estimates that honeybees are responsible for pollinating close to one-third of the plants in the human diet. Dr. Eric Mussen, Extension Apiculturist at UC Davis, states, ‘Over fifty crops in California, many of them seed crops, need honey bees around to pollinate them during that short period of time that they’re in bloom.’ However, the past few years have been tough on honeybees, with extremely rainy weather, untimely hailstorms, and a pesticide-resistant mite that has decimated the bee population. ...

“Bees often produce more honey than they need for survival though, and the excess can be harvested for human consumption. ... Humans have used almost all of the by-products of beehives over the years. Royal jelly, made by bees specifically to feed a larva so that it becomes a fertile queen, is high in amino acids and B vitamins and can be eaten for energy or used as a balm for psoriasis and eczema. Beeswax, which makes up the honeycombed cells in which the larvae are raised, is commonly used in candles and lip balm. Bee propolis, a sticky substance from tree sap that bees use as a natural antibiotic and as a polish for the individual larval cells, has proven to be useful for itch relief. Hives are incredibly sterile environments, and honey itself is both antibacterial and antifungal. ...

“Perhaps the most important function of bees for our society and nature in general, though, is that they pollinate plants that cannot become fertilized on their own. California raises about 85% of the world’s supply of almonds, ... and honeybees pollinate the trees almost exclusively. ...

“The importance of honeybees to our agricultural economy can hardly be overstated. [Nancy] Stewart has noticed increased interest in hobby beekeeping, as people realize how vital and interesting beekeeping can be. While bees will fly to whichever plant is most lucrative as a source of nectar for them, they do limit their distance from their hives. ‘If urban beekeeping were outlawed, there wouldn’t be any backyard gardens,’ she says.

“While that may sound drastic, imagine the Central Valley without the almond and tree fruit crops that sustain our economy. Moreover, who would really want to live without another slice of baklava or a cup of honey-sweetened tea?”

## Menu for Jan. Dinner



**GARCIA'S**  
6049 Madison Ave

**BANQUET DINNER MENU**  
\$13 PER PERSON  
INCLUDES TAX, GRATUITY AND NON-ALCOHOL BEVERAGE (COFFEE, TEA, MILK, OR SOFT DRINK)

**DINNER COMBO #1**  
Beef Burrito, Cheese Enchilada, Served with Spanish rice and refried beans.

**DINNER COMBO #2**  
Cheese Enchilada, Beef Chimichanga Served with Spanish rice and beans

**DINNER COMBO #3**  
Three enchiladas, cheese, beef and chicken, Served with Spanish rice and Refried Beans

**TACO SALAD**  
Fresh salad greens served with our southwestern dressing in a crisp flour tortilla bowl, topped with our ground beef, charro beans, sebitas, cheese, tomatoes, black olives and sour cream

**POLLO FUNDIDO**  
A crispy flour tortilla filled with seasoned chicken, covered with jalapeno-cream cheese and melted cheddar cheese. Served with Spanish rice and refried Beans.

**FLAUTA PLATTER**  
Three beef or chicken flautas topped with sour cream, guacamole and cheese, served with Spanish rice and Refried beans.

## Wild Bee Research

“Up to a third of our food supply depends on pollination by domesticated honeybees, but the insects are up to five times more effective when wild bees buzz the same fields, researchers have found. ‘As honeybees become more scarce, it becomes more important to have better pollinators,’ said Sarah Greenleaf, a postdoctoral researcher and first author of the study. Compared to honeybees, wild bees directly contribute little to crop pollination, but they contribute indirectly in two ways. Male wild bees, probably looking for mates, will latch onto worker honeybees, which are sterile females, causing them to move from one flower to another. Secondly, female wild bees appear to ‘dive bomb’ honeybees, forcing them to move. Frequent movement between flowers spreads pollen around more effectively. Greenleaf and her co-author Claire Kremen, now a professor at UC Berkeley, calculated that wild bees contributed about \$10 million of value to the \$26-million sunflower industry alone.”



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# Honey Recipe of the Month



## Honey Chocolate Chip Cookies

1/2 c. butter or margarine (or bit less)	1-1/8 c. sifted flour
1/3 c. brown sugar	1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/3 c. honey	1/2 tsp. salt
1 egg	1 c. semisweet chocolate chips
1/2 tsp. vanilla	1/2 c. chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 375°F. Cream butter, sugar and honey. Add egg and vanilla and beat well. Sift together flour, soda and salt, and mix them into the creamed mixture. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375° for 10—12 minutes. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

*I recently found this in a 1950's or early '60s "Better Homes and Gardens Cookies and Candies" cookbook, and they're quite tasty!*  
- Georgianna Pfof

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## Bee Classifieds & Club Reminders

**WANTED:** Your dues for 2007. Please send your check (made out to SABA) for \$15 to SABA c/o 2110 X Street, Sacramento, CA 95818, Attn: Treasurer. Or bring your check to the next club meeting. Thanks!

**WANTED:** Volunteers to help with various club activities this year—e.g., work in a fair booth to educate the public about bees, publicize club activities, help set up for meetings, maintain the club library, help build and maintain our new club website, mentor new beekeepers, speak in school classrooms, or contribute items to our newsletter. Please call Nancy Stewart at (916) 451-2337 or our President or Vice President (numbers on page 1) to sign up!

**TREELESS NEWS:** If you would like to save trees and postage and printing costs, you can receive the newsletter text via email. Just email the editor, subject Treeless SABA News, at [dugongs@msn.com](mailto:dugongs@msn.com) Thanks!

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## SACRAMENTO AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies  
2110 X Street

E-mail (newsletter editor): [dugongs@msn.com](mailto:dugongs@msn.com)

Address Correction Requested

—The Bee Line—  
January 2007



Installation Dinner

Tues. Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m.