



The Bee Line

2009—Issue 01

January 2009

2009 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ernie Buda
 Vice President: David Ogden
 Secretary: Ron Melliush
 Treasurer: Dennis Larson
www.sacbeekeepers.org

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Donations: Nancy Stewart
 Hospitality: Mil Sutter
 Library: Kathy Mallory
 Mentors: George Bleekman
 Newsletter: Brenda Terry –
btbuzz@gmail.com
 Inventory: Joseph Watkins
 Web-Master: Ken Lee

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Mission Statement:

To promote interest in, and awareness of, the vital importance of the honeybee and beekeeping to agriculture, commerce, and the public at large.



Mentors' 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.

- Bob Sugar

BUZZ IN ELK GROVE- CITY ACTION AGAINST BEES

The City of Elk Grove, which currently has no beekeeping ordinance, is in the process of drafting one. The timing of this process is a direct result of a neighborhood complaint where one neighbor alleges that another neighbor had 500 bee boxes that resulted in numerous neighbors unable to use their yards because of the many thousands of bees flying about. The area in question is rural with properties of 2 to 40 acres; the 500 boxes being kept on 5 acres. At the hearing both "sides" of the issue were adamant and it was obvious that bad feelings abounded. However there was no bee bashing. Even the complaining neighbors had no problem with any one keeping bees, indeed, another neighbor keeps 20 or so boxes and there is no problem.

The City officials present acknowledged early in the proceedings that they knew NOTHING about bees. Many in the audience were beekeepers; others were concerned about "right to farm" issues and the main-

tenance of a rural life style. The overall tone of the meeting was PRO BEE, a good sign.

The meeting resulted in the selection, by the City Attorney who will be the lead person in drafting an ordinance, of a committee of "experts" (her term not mine) to provide input during the process. The committee is to consist of; a gentleman named Olmstead - a hobby beekeeper of 18 months, Ron Melliush, and Ernie Buda. We have no idea about how this committee will be used by city officials. There is currently no scheduled committee or public meetings regarding the process. Hopefully earlier and wider notification will be made about future meetings. We will use The Beeline, and as appropriate, our email list to keep you advised.



2009 Volunteer Opportunities

If you would still like to support our club's mission (or achieving the specific goals for 2009—see President's Corner on page 3), please consider serving on one or more committees (e.g., publicity, library, class planning, hospitality, school outreach, etc.) in 2009. For more info contact the current chair or one of the officers.

Calling all MAD SCIENTISTS—

Are you a mad scientist, inventor or just a tinkerer? What ever you have created to make beekeeping easier, cheaper or more fun, bring it to the January meeting. Share it with the rest of the club. Maybe pick up something new to use in your bee yard .

-David Ogden

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

SABA has had a very good year, membership at the end of the year was 123 and meeting attendance has been between 40 and 50 each month. We presented six, filled to capacity, training classes and a well attended open house.

The 2009 training program is set, with a very ambitious schedule starting in February. We are so fortunate to have available such capable and recognized presenters, Serge Labesque, Randy Oliver and Dr. Eric Mussen. We are holding the line on the course fees; they are the same as the past two years even while the presentation costs have gone up. Help fill these classes by participating and passing the information along to others.

The continuing challenge for SABA is to support your beekeeping efforts in such a manner as to earn your continued membership, participation and contributions. We hope to do this by providing programs and training that meet your needs. However, to do this we need your help - YOU must give feed back and provide us with suggestions on what you would like presented.

Before closing I would be remiss if I did not recognize and profoundly thank Georgianna Pfof who has so ably served as the Beeline editor for five years and has been so helpful in passing information along to our new editor Brenda Terry. Thanks to both of you, Georgianna for past performance and Brenda for her willingness to take on this critical task.

-Ernie

DECEMBER MINUTES AND PROGRAM NOTES

The last Meeting for 2008 of the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association was called to order by President Ernie Buda at 7:40 p.m. on December 16, 2008, at the Belle Cooledge Community Center.

This was our Christmas Pot Luck Dinner and honey sampling. There were 49 SABA members and friends attending.

Raffle prizes were kindly donated by Mann Lake, Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies ("the Bee Store" owned by members the Stewarts,) and members Diane Ogden and Anita Winn. Thanks to all of them. The raffle was great fun.

And huge thanks and kudos also to Brenda Terry and Anita Winn for organizing and putting on the dinner. The event was first class and very festive with Christmas decor and good company, good food, and a creative raffle. VP Dave Ogden organized a honey sampling with 15 different varieties/locales of honey to try.

President Buda announced that SABA ended the year with 120 paid members. He also thanked Georgiana Pfof again for her years of dedication in editing the SABA Newsletter, and noted that Brenda Terry will start the duty with January's Beeline.

With anticipation for greater bee happenings in the next year, I remain,

Respectfully, Ron Melliush, Secretary

DID YOU KNOW?

Bees seldom forage when the temperature is below 46 degrees. They travel an average of 15 mph on the return trip but venture out a more variable speed of 6 to 18 mph. (American Honey Plants/Frank C Pellett)

Bees maintain the temperature in the brood area between 92 and 95 degrees. They form a cluster when the temperature is about 57 degrees. The tightness of the cluster regulates the temperature with the bees acting as insulators and heat generators. (Bees, beekeeping honey and pollination /Walter L Gojmerac)

Submitted by Ernie Budda

Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association

Beginning Beekeeping Classes

Saturday Feb. 7, 2009	Beginning Natural Beekeeping	Serge Labesque
Saturday March 7, 2009	Beginning Beekeeping	Randy Oliver
Saturday April 11, 2009	Beginning Natural Beekeeping	Serge Labesque
Saturday May 23, 2009	Beginning Beekeeping	Randy Oliver

Who should take these classes: The course content is designed for those wanting to explore beekeeping; it does not require any experience. Attending will be very worthwhile, even if you have taken other classes or have had bees for some time. Beekeeping is changing due both to the threats to bees and to new research, so there is much new information. Serge and Randy are both very experienced beekeepers and excellent instructors. Randy is a commercial beekeeper, author and researcher - he uses conventional methods, using some chemicals, along with other methods to manage his hives. Serge teaches beekeeping at Sonoma Community College. He has authored many published articles and uses innovative methods to manage his hives. He uses NO CHEMICALS.

We strongly recommend that you take one class from each instructor. While there will be some redundancy, you will be exposed to a range of methods - you can then choose how you desire to manage your bees. We also recommend that you take one of the classes before you get bees and a "repeat" class after you get bees. The presentation will have new meaning for you and you will find you have new questions to ask!

COURSE INFORMATION AND FEE: The course fee is \$35.00, SABA member fee \$30.00. Classes will begin at 8:30 am and end at approximately 4:30 pm. Classes will start on time so registration begins at 7:30 am. Classes are held at the Sacramento County Dept. of Agricultural building, 4137 Branch Center Road, Sacramento, CA.

COURSE COORINATORS: Ernie Buda, email 2211budae@att.net 916-761-3802 or
Bruce Waln, email bruce_waln@sbcglobal.net

TO REGISTER FOR THE CLASS: Complete the registration form below and mail with payment to SABA at 7051 Bisbee Drive, Sloughhouse, CA 95683 no later than the Monday before the class. (Or you may sign up at Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies, 2110 X Street, Sacramento, CA.) You will receive a confirmation by email or telephone. Late registration will require approval of one of the course coordinators.

Registration for Beginning Beekeeping class(es)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____ EMAIL _____

Class session(s) you wish to register for _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

SACRAMENTO AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

2009 Training Schedule

Beginning Natural Beekeeping	Saturday Feb. 7, 2009	Serge Labesque
Beginning Beekeeping	Saturday March 7, 2009	Randy Oliver
Beginning Natural Beekeeping	Saturday April 11, 2009	Serge Labesque
Beginning Beekeeping	Saturday May 23, 2009	Randy Oliver
Intermediate Beekeeping	Saturday June 20, 2009	Dr. Eric Mussen
Intermediate Natural Beekeeping	Saturday July 18, 2009	Serge Labesque

All of the classes will be presented at the Sacramento County Department of Agriculture building at 4137 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). To provide lead time to prepare handouts and other necessary arrangements, 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.

Serge Labesque has been keeping bees for nearly 15 years. He teaches beekeeping at Sonoma Community College and is a published author of numerous articles on beekeeping. Serge is an innovator and follows natural beekeeping practices using NO chemicals in his colonies.

Randy Oliver started beekeeping in his teens, he commercially works approximately 500 colonies leasing his bees for pollination and also selling packaged honey wholesale. He is a researcher and much published author in prestigious bee journals, and a keen observer of honey bee behavior.

Dr. Eric Mussen is a nationally and internationally recognized expert on honey bees. He is on staff at the University of California, Davis. He is a highly sought after speaker and has published numerous articles about various aspects of apiary science.

Because of differences in Serge's and Randy's style and process we strongly recommend that you take both of their beginning classes. While there will be some redundancy, you will be presented a wide range of "how to's" based on the styles of these experienced beekeepers.

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_waln@sbcglobal.net.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SABA's regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of *each* month 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 Dr) in Sacramento. All are welcome!

Tues., Jan. 6—Sat., Jan. 10—American Honey Producers Convention, Radisson Conference Center in Fresno. For more info go to www.americanhoneyproducers.org

Tues., Jan. 13—Sat. Jan. 17—North American Beekeeping & American Beekeeping Federation Conference at Nugget Casino Resort in Reno. Program includes a "Serious Sideliner Symposium" all Friday and Saturday afternoon. For info. go to www.abfnet.org or call (912) 427-4233.

Tues., Jan. 20-SABA Meeting & Gadget Night— 7:30 p.m. Bring an item that you've made, or a manufactured item you've improved, or a prototype that meets a special need in your beekeeping activities, or a novelty beekeeping item you have. (If item is too big, bring pictures!) Come share, show and tell what helps you get the job done.

2009 Dues Reminder—SABA dues for calendar year 2009 remain at \$15. Please use the form below to submit them via mail or at an upcoming meeting.

Friday, January 23, 8:30 am to noon—The Buzz in Butte County: workshop, "European Honey Bees and our Native Pollinators"—Speakers: Dr. Eric Mussen, Mace Vaughan, Sara Goldman Smith, Fred Stolp, for more information contact the Butte County RCD at (510) 530-0112 x116, Workshop located at: CSU Chico University Farm Pavillion . Learn the latest research on European Honey Bees.

Saturday, February 7, 2009-SABA Training Class—Sacramento County Department of Agriculture-41'37 Branch Center Road, Sacramento.

Saturday, March 7, 2009—SABA Beginning Beekeeping Class—Come learn with Randy Oliver information on page 3-4.

Interesting Reads:

The Monthly Extractor—The Sonoma county Beekeepers' Associations newsletter. Contact Ettamarie Peterson at email: Peterson@svn.net

Honey Adulteration Increases:

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/394053_honey30.asp

SABA 2009 Membership Coupon

Name(s)*: _____

Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State Zip:* _____

E-mail Address*: _____ Phone #*: () _____

New _____ or Renewing _____ Want to receive newsletter by: Email _____ or Postal _____ (check one)

Current level of beekeeping activity: _____

Privacy Notice: To facilitate sharing of information and carpooling, SABA publishes a member "phone list" each spring, including member names, cities or zips of residence (*not* street addresses), email addresses, and phone numbers. This summary list is *only* disseminated to current SABA members (never to other persons or organizations) and is *not* posted on the website Your information (noted by * above) will be included unless you check (following line(s)) that you do not want your _____ email address and/or _____ phone number listed. (Note that the complete membership list is made accessible to SABA officers and committees as necessary for them to do their tasks.)

Complete this, clip it out, and mail it with your \$15 check (made out to SABA), to

SABA c/o Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies, 2110 X Street, Sacramento, CA 95818, Attn: SABA Treasurer.

Honey Recipe of the Month

Whole Wheat and Honey Pizza Dough

1 (.25oz.) pkg. active dry yeast
1 cup warm water
2 cups whole wheat flour
1/4 cup wheat germ

1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon honey
1/4 cup wheat germ



Preheat oven to 350 F. In a small bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Let stand until creamy, about 10 minutes. In a large bowl combine flour, wheat germ and salt. Make a well in the middle and add honey and yeast mixture. Stir well to combine. Cover and set in a warm place to rise for a few minutes. Roll dough on a floured piazza and poke a few holes in it with a fork. Bake in preheated oven for 5 to 10 minutes, or until desired crispiness is achieved.

Homemade Hive Beetle Trap

I found a website with photos showing how to make a bottom board trap for small hive beetles. See <http://web.aanet.com.au/~Bees/beetletrap.html> and also <http://www.beesource.com/forums/showthread.php?t=223273>
- Ray Marler

Bee Classifieds

FOR SALE: Large honey holding tank; plastic with a heating belt and metal (perfection) honey gate. \$200 or best offer. Call Fred at (916) 451-2337.

ALWAYS WANTED: Your contributions of articles, websites, recipes, tips, questions, book reviews, ads and other bee-related items for future newsletters. Email them to the NEW EDITOR by the 25th of the month at btbuzz@gmail.com or mail to B. Terry, 8424 Arcaro Court, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. Please keep sharing your stories. It's *your* local bee newsletter! (And thanks to all who've been sharing these past years!)

GO TREELESS: Sign up for the emailed (pdf) newsletter. Just email the new editor, subject-line "Treeless."

SACRAMENTO AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies
2110 X Street, Sacramento, CA 95818
Sacramento, CA 95818

Website: www.sacbeekeepers.org
E-mail: info@sacbeekeepers.org

Address Correction Requested

—The Bee Line—
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