



# The Bee Line

2007—Issue 3

March 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

(916) 971-1752

Newsltr Editor: Georgianna Pfost

(916) 457-3113 or

dugongs@sbcglobal.net

## Inside this issue:

February Minutes	2
Revised Draft Mission	2
Bee News	3
Ads	4
Honey Recipe	4

## Tips for the Month

Take your hive apart and check the brood egg pattern, and honey and pollen stores. Clean the bottom board of junk from cappings and bee rot to deter wax moths (which love to eat this stuff).



## Meetings & More

### SABA Meetings

**Tues., March 20**—7:30 p.m.— Come see the rest of the honeycomb video and help refine our mission and goals statement.

**Tues., April 17**—7:30 p.m.— Program and meeting. Program ideas? Please call VP David Ogden at (916) 687-6977

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!

### SABA Beekeeping Classes

**Sat., March 24**— Beginning Beekeeping class taught by commercial beekeeper and queen rearer Randy Oliver of Nevada County. 8—5 with a lunch break at the Sacramento County Coop Ag Extension auditorium, 4145 Branch Center Road (1 block west of Bradshaw Road at Keifer Blvd.)

**Sat., March 31**— Beginning Beekeeping class by Randy Oliver, 8—5 at same location as above.

**Sat., April 14**—Intermediate Beekeeping class taught by Dr. Eric Mussen, UCD's Coop Extension Apiculturist, 8—5, same location as above classes.

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. There's still space! So...

**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 If you have a beekeeping hat and veil, please bring them to class.

### Volunteers Needed!

**Bee Classes**—We are in **urgent need** of a SABA member to coordinate the three beekeeping classes for March 24, 31 and April 14 (all on Saturdays 7—5). It is a fairly simple task involving coordination with speakers, printing of materials, setup and takedown, providing refreshments, etc. We also need **other volunteers** to assist on those dates with set up and/or clean up. If you come help, you get to hear the class, too! Call Bob Rollins at (916) 965-3875 to sign up.

The **Sacramento Zoo** has special First Saturday days in the spring, starting with the April 7<sup>th</sup> "Earth Fest" and May 5<sup>th</sup> "Wings of Spring" where we could have a table on bees and beekeeping. If you would like to help organize this or staff a table or prepare an observation hive to bring, or maybe even sell something small please call Nancy Stewart at (916) 451-2337.

### \$\$ SABA Dues Reminder \$\$

2007 calendar year dues for SABA are now past due. Please send your check for \$15 (made out to SABA) to SABA, c/o 2110 X Street, Sacramento, CA 95818, Attn: Treasurer. If your label is highlighted, we had *not* received your dues as of March 3rd.

### More Other Area Bee Clubs

**Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association** meets at 7:30 pm in the Camellia Room of Heather Farm Garden Center, 1540 Marchbanks, Walnut Creek, on the second Thursday of each month, except November and December.

## February Meeting Minutes & Program Notes



The SABA President, Robert Rollins, called the **business meeting** to order on February 20, 2007 at 7:30PM. Secretary Ron Melluish was not able to attend, so member Mary Scomona took minutes.

Several new and prospective **members** were in attendance including Mike & Theresa McCormick, Clifton Richardson and Jeff Doyle. For the information of those assembled, it was stated that there are no association **meetings** in January, July and August. ... Robert Rollins asked if there were any concerns with the **January minutes** as published in the February newsletter. None were voiced. Ron Parsons motioned that the minutes be accepted as published. Cathy Schantz seconded the motion and all approved. ... Richard Cuny provided the **Treasurers Report** including a breakdown of recent income and expenses. The balance in our fund is currently \$4,576.44.

**Old Business.** Robert Rollins read the draft **SABA** mission statement and called for comments. Richard Cuny suggested that items 4 through 7 be re-worded as a list of activities that SABA provides. Ernie Buda suggested that the mission statement went into too much depth and should be truncated to the first sentence and item 1. He also suggested that the mission statement should consist of language that would be applicable for now and the future. It was suggested that items 2-7 were club goals & objectives and that the mission statement should state what the purpose of the association was, in a broad sense, such as to promote beekeeping, educate the public and promote understanding of keeping honeybees for agriculture. Joseph Watkins and Ernie Buda were nominated to send in mission statement suggestions before the next meeting. ... The SABA **website** is in progress. William Merrill is designing the web site. Address is [thebeeline.org](http://thebeeline.org). There was a call for comments. Comments can be sent to [barney\\_merrill@hotmail.com](mailto:barney_merrill@hotmail.com). After the Program he loaded a demo of the website and provided instruction on its use for those who were interested. ... A volunteer was requested to take charge of **refreshment coordination**. Transport of the coffee maker back and forth from Belle Cooledge Community Center has become difficult. Robert Rollins called the Center to find out if the coffee maker could be stored somewhere, but no one had called back. The refreshment discussion led to further discussion regarding the meeting agenda line up. It was suggested that club funds be used for refreshments and that the refreshment time be retained due to the opportunity for information exchange about bees. However, several people mentioned that they would prefer to have the Program first, then refreshments, then the business meeting. Mike McCormick made a motion to **change the agenda line up** and it was seconded and passed. It was noted that if there is a guest speaker, the program is typically conducted first anyway.

**New Business.** Ron Parsons was going to follow-up with Mr. & Mrs. Ortiz to see if they still have **nametags**. ... Ron Parsons mentioned that the **American Bee Federation & American Honey Convention** would be held next January at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento. The CA State Beekeepers Association requested that SABA help fund a honey display. Ron Parsons provided an example picture from Texas and will provide an estimate. Nancy Stewart got a request from the American Bee Federation for a local bee-keeping group to put together packets. The ABF pays for the work. It was mentioned that you don't have to be a member of ABF to attend the convention, just pay the convention cost. ... The **Beekeeping classes** need a coordinator. The course dates, times, instructors and costs were reiterated. It was noted that the courses were not yet listed in the bee journals (the February issue). Fred Stewart sent a reminder email. ... The group was reminded that Russell Dalske maintains the SABA **library**, which has over 40 books and some videos for borrowing. ... A lowering of **dues** from \$15 to \$10 was suggested for January 2008. After much discussion about benefits and the cost of living, a motion was made to reduce the annual fee, the motion was seconded, but the group defeated the proposal. The annual dues will remain \$15. ... The business meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The Program immediately followed.

**Program Notes.** The evening's program was a video presented by Bob Sugar. The video was a companion to the Killian book, "Honey & the Comb," and the first half was shown.

Respectfully submitted, *Mary Scomona*, member and acting secretary

## Revised Draft of SABA Mission Statement

**Members:** Please bring any additional input to the March 20, 2007, meeting, (or if you won't be able to attend, please email or call with your ideas). Thank you! *R.L. Rollins*, President.

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

The Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association (SABA), organized in 1973, is a nonprofit service and social organization. Its current goals and objectives are to: [see bottom of page 3 —>

## Bees in the News

Thanks for several members who forwarded along recent bee/beekeeping-related articles from the Sacramento Bee, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and various science and nature journals and websites. In case you missed any or all of them or didn't hear them on the radio, too, here's a quick recap!

- A 100-million year-old **bee fossil** (the oldest ever discovered) was found preserved in amber in a mine in Myanmar (Burma). The interesting thing to scientists is that it showed clear wasp-like traits (such as narrow hind legs) but also bee-like traits (such as branched leg hairs allowing for pollen collection). So it apparently gives a good idea of when these related insects began to diverge on their evolutionary paths, and also shows that the bee as pollinator developed right along with the flowering plants that were also spreading at that time (and required other means of pollinating than the wind). (from *Bee Fossil Creates New Buzz*, by Sara Goudarzi, [LiveScience](http://www.livescience.com/10/26/06), 10/26/06 )
- On February 12, the [Sacramento Bee](http://www.sacramento-bee.com) reported that some ten billion bees (or about 3/4 of the U.S. commercial bee population) would be in California for the annual **almond pollination** season. That equated to 2,200 tractor trailers loads of bees moving in to provide the typical two to three hives per acre desired by the almond growers. The article described that with the ever-rising bee-rental prices (due to dwindling numbers of bees with the mite problems and now the “colony collapse disorder”) pollination accounts for some 20 percent of their operating costs.
- Much more on the “**colony collapse**” **mystery** was reported in the [New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com) and many other newspapers in February as beekeepers and scientists tried to determine why beekeepers in at least two dozen states were suddenly finding their hives empty—as if the bees flew off and never returned. At that time losses were estimated at 30 to 60 percent on the west coast and more than 70 percent in Texas and on the east coast of the U.S. Possible reasons identified for the sudden losses include: pesticide poisoning (affecting bees ability to navigate back to their hives), mites weakening hives, miticides shortening the life-span of queen bees, bee breeding to shorten their “off-season” (which may contribute to weakening their immune systems), and the general stress caused by sudden cold snaps and being transported frequently. Many people are concerned because bees pollinate about every third bite of food we eat, and the number of hives in the U.S. (USDA estimates about 2.4 million) has already dropped by 25 percent, and the number of beekeepers by 50 percent over the past 20 years.
- And an article at [Earthfiles.com](http://www.earthfiles.com) provided more information on what may now be the worst U.S. disappearance and die-off of honeybees since they were introduced to this country in 1620. And large disappearances have also been occurring in Spain (which has a large commercial beekeeping industry) and Poland (which has less concentrated beekeeping). This article describes how the bees simply vanish (no bodies found) and how some beekeepers and researchers suspect it may be due to **systemic pesticides**. Evidence that seems to support this theory is that the emptied hives are not promptly taken over by wax moths or beetles or other bugs that would normally come in to eat the honey or wax; nothing enters them until the hives are aired out. So there appears to be some toxin in there, probably carried in or on the pollen. And scientists note that honeybees are an indicator species of environmental health so we need to be concerned. Albert Einstein once stated, the article (and some news broadcasts) noted, that if honeybees disappeared from the earth, within four years all life would be gone. (For more see <http://www.earthfiles.com/news/news.cfm?ID=1214&category=Environment>)

### SABA Goals—continued from page 2:



1. Provide opportunities for interested beekeepers and the public to periodically meet, socialize, and exchange useful information relating to honeybees, beekeeping, and related topics;
2. Educate the public on the nature and importance of honeybees, notably the *apis mellifera* variety, by making presentations at schools, county and regional fairs, and other public venues;
3. Provide a volunteer cadre of experienced member beekeepers to serve as mentors and instructors for less experienced beekeepers;
4. Assist as an auxiliary arm of the California Beekeepers Association in organizing and staffing a beekeeping booth and display at the annual California State Fair;
5. Organize and offer yearly formal instructional classes for beginning and/or intermediate beekeepers taught by highly experienced or professional beekeepers;
6. Maintain a regularly published newsletter and/or web site devoted to beekeeping and SABA affairs in the greater Sacramento area;
7. Raise sufficient funds through dues, instructional class fees, and other appropriate means that is in keeping with our nonprofit status to provide and promote the aforementioned mission, goals, and objectives.

---

# Honey Recipe of the Month



## Bee Sweet Banana Bread

1/2 c. honey	1/2 c. quick-cooking oats
1/3 c. butter /margarine	1 tsp ground nutmeg
1 tsp vanilla	1 c. mashed ripe banana
2 eggs	1/2 c. chopped walnuts
1/2 c. all-purpose flour	1 tsp. baking powder
3/4 c. whole wheat flour	1/2 tsp salt

Preheat oven to 325 °F. Cream honey and butter in large bowl with electric mixer until fluffy. Beat in vanilla. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine dry ingredients in small bowl; add to honey mixture alternately with bananas, blending well. Stir in walnuts.. Spoon batter into a greased and floured 9x5x3-inch loaf pan. Bake for 50 to 55 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Cool in pan on a wire rack 15 minutes. Remove from pan; cool completely on a wire rack.

*Reprinted from The Diablo Bee, Feb. 2007, newsletter of the Mount Diablo Beekeepers' Association.*

---

## Bee Classifieds & Club Reminders

**FOR SALE:** Used **smoker, bee suits**, bee brush, gloves, some frames (also some new with foundation), and a large commercial radial **extractor**. Call to make an offer/discuss prices. (916) 390-3530 or [spareme@surewest.net](mailto:spareme@surewest.net)

**WANTED:** **Your contributions** of bee-related articles, ideas, equipment/gadgets, questions, recipes, bee book and web reviews, etc. for our newsletter. Please email them to the editor or mail to 3517 57th St., Sacramento, 95820.

**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@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dugongs@sbcglobal.net) Thanks!

---

### SACRAMENTO AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies  
2110 X Street

E-mail (newsletter editor): [dugongs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dugongs@sbcglobal.net)

Address Correction Requested

—The Bee Line—  
March 2007



Next Meeting

Tues. Mar. 20, 7:30 p.m.