



# The Bee Line

2008—Issue 3

March 2008

## 2008 Club Officers

- President: Ernie Buda  
(916) 354-9801
- Vice President: David Ogden  
(916) 687-6977
- Secretary: Ron Melliush  
(916) 743-2703
- Treasurer: Dennis Larson  
(916) 481-4011
- Other Committee Contacts:
- Hospitality: Mil Sutter
- Mentors: George Bleekman
- Newsletter & Library:  
Georgianna Pfost
- Donations: Nancy Stewart

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**Mission:** *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

If you use powdered sugar as a way of varroa mite control, be sure to do it each week as you finish going through your hive. Also, March is the beginning of swarming season, so keep watch for any possible queen cells on the frames. If any are found, destroy, or cut carefully cut out of the frame and insert into a queenless nuc for raising another queen.

- Ron Parsons

## Spring Bee-events

**Tues., Mar. 18 - SABA Meeting.** Program at 7:30 will headline Dr. Norman Gary presenting his experiences as a "Bee Wrangler" for the entertainment industry. Dr. Gary has 50 years of diverse experience with honey bees including hobby and commercial beekeeping, research, teaching, and consulting. He obtained his Ph.D. in entomology at Cornell, and then worked at U.C. Davis as a research entomologist for 32 years, during which he also taught various apiculture and entomology classes and conducted research on beekeeping behavior. Since that time, Dr. Gary has been doing consulting work for the television and film industry on bee related projects.

**Sat. Mar. 22- Beginning Beekeeping Class,** hosted by SABA and taught by long-time commercial beekeeper and queen rearer, Randy Oliver of Grass Valley. (See 5/3 below for details.)

**Sat. Mar. 22—Breakfast with the Bunny** in Elk Grove—**Volunteers needed** to talk with kids & parents about bees. Call Ron Melliush (916) 743-2703 for details.

**Apr 4—8- American Apitherapy Course & Conference,** Seattle. For schedule & registration info see [www.apitherapy.org](http://www.apitherapy.org)

**Sat., April 12- SABA Natural Beekeeping class,** from 8—5 with instructor Serge Labesque, a beekeeper in Sonoma County and frequent bee course instructor there. Cost \$35 (\$30 SABA members); location TBD. To register, contact Ernie Buda at (916) 354-9801.

**Tues. April 15- SABA Meeting.** Program speaker will be Etta Marie Peterson, a farmer & beekeeper in Sonoma County.

**Sat. May 3- Intermediate Beekeeping Class,** hosted by SABA and taught by Dr. Eric Mussen, UCD's Co-op Extension Apiculturist. SABA's Beg. & Int. classes (see 3/22 above) will be held at the Sac. County Co-op Ag Extension auditorium, 4145 Branch Center Road (1 block west of Bradshaw at Keifer Blvd.) from 8 to 5 with a break for lunch.

The **cost** per class is \$35 per person (\$30 for SABA members). **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 bee hat and veil, please bring them to class.

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

**Wed. June 18 or 25, July 9 or 16 or 23—**McClatchy Library, on 22<sup>nd</sup> St., is **looking for a beekeeper** to present a 45-minute program for school age children as part of their summer "Catch the Reading Bug" program. It would be one of these Wed evenings (or in August) at 6:30. They usually have about 20 children and several parents. Can you help? Call Nancy Stewart at (916) 451-2337 or Katey Sarrade (librarian) at 277-2177, -2178 or [ksarrade@saclibrary.org](mailto:ksarrade@saclibrary.org).

## \* 2008 Dues Reminder! \*

If you haven't paid your dues, please do so today (form on pg 3). If your label is highlighted, we hadn't received your dues by 3/2.

## President's Corner

Well, we got through the first meeting. The pace was a bit hectic but this month will be a more normal. The meeting will start at 7:30 with very brief introductions followed by the program for the evening. After the break we will have an open question and answer period followed by the business meeting.

The web-site is about ready to go on line at [www.sacbeekeepers.org](http://www.sacbeekeepers.org). Check it out! There is still work to be done but many, many thanks to Ken Lee for all the work and intellect you have devoted to this project already.

The first session of the Beginners Beekeeping class went well. We had 39 attendees and gained 4 or 5 new members. Welcome aboard! Thank you to Bob Sugar for coordinating the classes, and thanks also to David Ogden, Bob Rollins and my neighbor (soon to be a member) Richard Williams and grandson Brandon for help with set-up and clean-up. This is the fourth SABA- sponsored class I have attended, and I assure you they are a real bargain and the instruction is unbeatable. I encourage you to take advantage of the upcoming classes. As Randy Oliver pointed out during the first class, that the days of "BEE-HAVING" are gone; we must now accept the challenge before us and learn to be "BEE-KEEPERS".

See you at the meeting!

- Ernie Buda, President

## February Minutes and Program Notes



**The Meeting** of the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association was called to order by President Ernie Buda at 7:30 p.m. on February 19, 2008, at the Belle Cooleidge Community Center. He welcomed new faces: Cindy Lloyd, a beginning beekeeper from Rocklin; Richard Martin, a friend of Mil Sutter's who is just starting to learn about bees; Randall Page and his son Jacob, who currently have one hive; Steve Rogers of Folsom who keeps 2 hives; Jean Ainsworth who took the beginner's class last year, new member John Foster (2nd meeting) and his friends Matt Tucker and Brian Darling who have started with one hive; Mike Miller who is just getting started and will get his first bees this Spring; Lawrence Porter who started with a swarm in Shafter last spring and wants to do more; and Chris Nielsen who works at Capital Nursery, where he met our own Russell Dalske and his mom Cathy Schantz.

A motion was made by Mil Sutter that the **club meet monthly**; motion carried. Ernie introduced our web designer, Ken Lee, who presented the draft or prototype of the **SABA website**. It looked great. After discussion, by acclamation it was decided the name for the site will be [SacBeekeepers.org](http://www.SacBeekeepers.org). In the meantime, please review the in-progress site at <http://www.geocities.com/wildcklee/SABA>. Bob Sugar suggested having links to the UCD bee lab site, other bee clubs, and the ability to blog. Please forward any other ideas for the website to Ernie. Members who do not have **SABA name tags**, please see VP Dave Ogden!

Dave introduced the **program** for the evening--a panel of some of the members who attended the National Beekeeping Conference held here in Sacramento in January: Bob Sugar, Georgianna Pfost, and Ron Parsons. They shared some of information of general interest to the industry and hobbyists.

After a break, the **business meeting** continued at 8:58 p.m. Ernie went over the schedule of beekeeping **classes** for this spring, including the new Natural Beekeeping Class. The February Beginning class is full, all others still have some slots. We had a discussion about various aspects of the State Beekeepers booth that SABA runs at the **State Fair**--particularly about the noise and distraction prevalent in the food pavilion where we've been recently. Although many would prefer to be back in the Counties' pavilion, there we had to provide our own booth. In the food pavilion the Fair builds the booth for us. All things considered, the consensus was to stay put. The Elk Grove Community Services District realizes the educational and entertainment value of the SABA booth at their Harvest Festival, and has asked us to participate in their **Breakfast With The Bunny activity on March 22nd**, the Saturday morning before Easter. Anyone who would like to help, and talk with Elk grove kids and their parents about bees please **call Ron Melluish** at (916) 743-2703. [The date given at the meeting was incorrect; the event is on March 22nd.]

VP David Ogden noted that our **speaker** for March will be Dr. Norman Gary of UC Davis, and Etta Marie Petersen (a Sonoma farmer and beekeeper) in April. If you have any program ideas, please let Dave know! Treasurer Dennis reminded all that **donations** (books to the SABA library, etc.,) and dues are tax deductible as we are a charitable organization. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. on the motion of Bob Sugar.

Respectfully submitted, *Ron Melluish*, Secretary

## Bee Plants



Mentor Bob Sugar shared some additional information on the plants he brought to the February meeting – both of which provide nectar and pollen to bees during the fall to early winter. The “strawberry tree” (*arbutus unedo*) is a native of Europe that does well in this area. Several varieties are available including smaller ones such as Compacta which grows to about 10 feet, and Octoberfest which grows to 6 or 8 feet, or the standard size varieties that can grow to 30 feet. This tree blooms from mid-fall to early winter and produces lots of nectar so is a good, late-season source of food for bees.

“Coyote bush” (*baccharis pilularis*)—the other plant Bob brought— is a California native which also blooms from fall to early winter. It’s a lesser but still useful source of pollen and nectar for bees during these months. At the March meeting, Bob will bring a list of area nurseries which sell native plants so anyone interested can look for ones nearby.

[Editor’s note: What plants have you found that provide a good source of feed for your bees—especially in otherwise “dearth” periods such as mid-summer, fall, winter? Please send along your findings for future newsletters!]

## Bee Conference

Some members who attended the recent National Beekeeping Conference reported a bit on the first session (on CCD) at the last meeting but didn’t have time to discuss the many other sessions they attended. Here are a few more bits of info, and where to find more information on the topic if you’re interested.

**Colony Collapse Disorder**—various research is being performed at such universities as Penn State, Arizona (Tucson), Montana, and Minnesota, as well as U.C. Davis and the USDA Bee Labs. You can check their websites for more info.

**Bee-related Legislation**—Representatives from the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF), American Honey Producers Association, and California State Beekeepers (CSBA) spoke about the pending national farm bills (and potential bee research funding included), and also the recent “right to farm” issues regarding bees and mandarin oranges in California. Beekeepers are encouraged to stay aware of legislation that may affect them—from the local to the national level—and share their ideas and opinions with the appropriate lawmakers. You can find information on legislative activities at ABF’s website <http://www.abfnet.org/> or the CSBA site at <http://www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/>

**Small-scale (and backyard) queen breeding**—and how to select for the traits you want (e.g., hygienic, gentleness, cold-hardiness) was discussed in multiple sessions, including one by Gary Reuter of the University of Minnesota’s bee lab, and another by hobbyist Bob Burns of Kansas City, and made it sound quite possible to do for us small-timers. For a chart of how to “test” for hygienic behavior (i.e., how well the bees keep their hive clean of wastes and diseased organisms) see the “free-bees” section at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/honeybees/components/publiccourses.htm>

**Bee nutrition**—was covered in various forums on research and applications. Information on “bee plants” is often available through cooperative extension publications such as one done in Alabama (at [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu)).

**Other pollinators**—such as bumblebees were discussed in a session by Dewey Caron of the University of Delaware. He noted there are over 4,000 species of native bees in North America and over 100 known crops benefit from their pollination. Information on efforts to protect native pollinators is available at <http://www.nappc.org/> [More in future newsletters]



## SABA 2008 Membership Coupon



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ or Renewing \_\_\_\_\_ Want to receive newsletter by: Email \_\_\_\_\_ or Mail \_\_\_\_\_ (check one)



Complete this, clip it out, and mail it TODAY with your \$15 check (made out to SABA), to SABA c/o Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies, 2110 X Street, Sacramento, CA 95818, Attn: SABA Treasurer.



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# Honey Recipe of the Month

## Hot 'n Sweet Broccoli and Asparagus

1/4 c. honey  
2 T soy sauce  
1 tsp ground ginger  
1/2—1 tsp. crushed red pepper  
1 lb. broccoli, trimmed  
1/2 lb. asparagus, trimmed  
2 T olive or vegetable oil  
1/2 c. water



Combine honey, soy sauce, ginger and red pepper. Cut up broccoli and slice stem. Diagonally slice asparagus. Heat oil in large skillet; add broccoli and asparagus and stir-fry over medium-high heat for 3 minutes. Add 1/2 c. water to pan; cover and steam vegetables for 2 minutes or until tender-crisp. Add honey mixture and cook uncovered until glaze is slightly thickened, about 2 minutes. Makes 4 servings.

*Reprinted from the National Honey Board's "Honey Sweet & Simple Recipes" pamphlet.*

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## Bee Classifieds

**FOR SALE:** 2 pipe stands (1 for one hive, 1 for two hives), tables for extractor and uncapping tank, 4 lbs foundation wax for small supers; 10 new frames for large super; 3 bee escape boards; 2 wire embedders; 2 new hive tools; 2 small supers; and 1 new and 1 used smoker. Call Oakley Gack for more info and prices at (916) 489-0340.

**FOR SALE:** New high quality Carl Fritz 12-20 radial **extractor**. Holds 15 medium frames radially or 3 deep tangentially. Powerful manual freewheeling drive. Stainless steel body and easy-to-remove basket. \$800. Call Laura at (530) 666-0713 or email Shlien@msn.com for more info.

**ALWAYS WANTED:** Your contributions of bee-related news articles, experiences, travel, questions, trivia, recipes, book reviews and favorite websites for future newsletters. Email them to the editor at dugongs@sbcglobal.net or mail to 3517 57th St., Sacramento, 95820. Thanks!

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## SACRAMENTO AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies  
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E-mail (newsletter editor): dugongs@sbcglobal.net

Address Correction Requested

—The Bee Line—  
March 2008



Next Meeting

Tues., Mar. 18 @ 7:30