

# The Bee Line

2009—Issue 04

April 2009

## 2009 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ernie Buda  
 Vice President: David Ogden  
 Secretary: Ron Melliush  
 Treasurer: Dennis Larson  
[www.sacbeekeepers.org](http://www.sacbeekeepers.org)

## COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Corner	2
Elk Gove Update	2
February Minutes	3
Volunteers Needed	3
Sacramento Cty Fair	4
New Members	4
Dues Structure	4
Honey Recipe	5
Classified	5
Membership Coupon	5
Calendar of Events	6

### 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 March

April: Queens are now available so you may want to replace your queen if she's not laying good brood. If your queen is laying, then wait until May. As the honey flow starts, add supers to provide adequate space and prevent swarming.

As Submitted by Ron Parsons

Please note that last months mentors tip was not submitted by Bob Sugar, but was submitted by Ron Parsons

## HARRY H. LAIDLAW BEE RESEARCH FUND

California beekeepers have led the country for decades in providing funds for scientific research into problems facing the beekeeping industry.

In the past funding for research had been generated through state-mandated assessments on beekeepers and contributions.

The H.H. Laidlaw Honey Bee Research Endowed Fund was established with a \$330,000.00 donation from Harry and Ruth. The fund is administered by the UC-Davis Depart. Of Entomology and the proceeds are limited for use supporting students in honey bee related studies or other honey bee related research. Each year UC Davis makes available to the Entomology Dept an amount that equals 4.5% of the principal in the fund.

If the Bee Research Fund contained \$1 million, then each year \$45,000 would be available for bee research. It is not expected that beekeepers will contribute the funds to

grow the principal to \$1 million immediately. However, at the Sept. 15, 2006 CSBA Board of Directors' meeting, the board members made individual pledges that averaged about \$1.00 per colony. That would generate \$500,000 if every California beekeeper contributed, increasing the principal to \$830,000.

Anyone desiring to contribute to this fund may do so at anytime. All contributions to the fund are fully tax deductible.

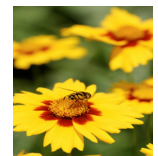
To contribute to the fund make your check payable to U.C. Davis Foundation, write the name of the endowment fund, be sure to include your business or home address to receive a receipt, and mail to:

Dr. Walter Leal, Chair, University of California, Davis, One Shields Ave, Davis, CA 95616.

For more info contact: [csbawife@msn.com](mailto:csbawife@msn.com)

## DID YOU KNOW?

One mg equals 1/10000 of a gram; there are 28 grams in an ounce and 8 ounces in a cup.



A worker bees weighs about 80 mg, she can carry nearly ninety percent of her weight in nectar. However it is more normal for her to return to the colony with about 40mg. To give some perspective, that would equal about seven grains of sugar. If her nectar source was 40% sugar she would have to bring in two cups of nectar to make one cup of honey. If the nectar source was only 20% sugar she would need four cups of nectar to make one cup of honey! You do the math, but no matter how you figure it the only logical conclusion is; aren't honey bees AMAZING

Submitted by Ernie Buda

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**MEMBERSHIP DUES:** In working with membership renewals for 2009 it became apparent that there is confusion regarding what annual membership means. The membership is based on a calendar year, January thru December. Some of our written material was not concise regarding that issue. Our apologies for that. We will change the written material to eliminate the question in the future. At the March meeting the Executive Board set specific policy in this area. Membership is 12 months, January thru December, the annual dues are still fifteen dollars. Dues for those joining January thru August will be fifteen dollars; those joining during the last four months of the year will pay twenty dollars, five dollars for the remainder of the current year and fifteen dollars for the following year. Dues payment will be required by March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

If you joined SABA in the last four months of 2008 and paid fifteen dollars we will honor the new policy retroactively – in that case your 2009 dues will be five dollars, other wise they are fifteen dollars.

We have expanded the library, the mentors have given more of their time, the training offered has been expanded, meetings have consistently better programs, the Beeline contains even more material of interest, a web site has been added and yet dues have remained at fifteen dollars. I feel members are receiving a great value for their dollar. I hope you do also.

**MENTOR PROGRAM** We want to expand the mentor program but can only do so with your assistance. Our goal is to provide all new members with a list of the existing mentors and an additional list of members who, while having much less experience are willing to allow others observe and share the experience of work-

ing with bees. The Bee Partner list will have a brief bio, explaining the level of experience and beekeeping circumstances of the host beekeeper. This bio will give the guest beekeeper awareness of expectations and to select some one close to them with similar circumstances.

The coordinator of the Mentor program will oversee, but not overly screen, addition to the list. The primary intent of this dual tier mentor process is to provide opportunity for those just beginning: to be around bees close up, to experience the feeling of having bees bumping your veil, to kneel at the hive entrance and see pollen packs on returning bees, to hear the difference in the buzz when the girls become agitated, to see open and sealed brood. These experiences just can not be made real taking a class or reading a book. As you can see these hosts do not need extensive background or knowledge, just a willingness to share. The help we need is members to step forward and share their experience. If you are willing to do so please contact me or Mentor coordinator George Bleekman.

**Executive Board Opening.** By policy an immediate past president serves on the Executive Board for just one year. Since I am a two year President that leaves the Immediate Past President position open. I have not rushed to appoint someone to the position. This position provides an ideal opportunity for a future SABA leader to become familiar with the process and needs of the Association. It is an ideal transition into placing your name on the ballot for 2010 elected positions. I will not run for a third year as President and it is good for the organization to have contested elections. Contact me about being considered for appointment to this learning position.

## The Elk Grove Buzz

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 could not use their yards because of 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 is obvious that bad feelings abound. 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 proceeding that they knew NOTHING about bees. Many in the audience were beekeepers; others were concerned about "right to farm" issues and the maintenance 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 Melluish, 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 meeting. We will use The Beeline and as appropriate our email list to keep you advised.

Submitted by Ernie Buda

## FEBRUARY MINUTES AND PROGRAM NOTES

**The March Meeting** of the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association was called to order by President Ernie Buda at 7:30 p.m. on March 17, 2009, at the Belle Coledge Community Center.

He welcomed newcomers and visitors.

V.P. Dave Ogden introduced our **Program**—a fascinating presentation by Dave and Ernie all about capturing and hiving swarms. If you missed this one and have any interest in swarms, be sure and get the handout at the next meeting.

After a break, the **Business Meeting** began at 8:55 p.m.

SABA is looking for those who do not think they are qualified to be official mentor in the mentor program, but who nonetheless are willing to use their experience to help new keepers. If you can help, please give us short bio to make available to those looking for help. We currently have 7 mentors, and 130+ members, so a second tier of “bee buddies” would be useful.

Hold the date: The SABA picnic is projected for July 25<sup>th</sup> at the UC Davis bee lab.

Howard Mann is coordinating our presence at the Sacramento County Fair again this year. Set up is May 20<sup>th</sup>, with fair date the 21<sup>st</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>. Please let Howard know if you can help! You may sell your honey products at this event.

This year we will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> SABA Open House in September following the State Fair and Auburn Gold Country Fair. It was very well received last year; it is an opportunity for potential beekeepers, who whetted their appetite at a booth, to have some serious face time with a beekeeper and evaluate whether they want to start keeping bees.

Ray Marler announced several new books for the SABA library, including the very popular Beekeeping for Dummies, Beekeeper's Handbook, Biology of the Honeybee, The Buzz About Bees, and 3 CD's with a number of books on them! See them all and check something out at the next meeting.

Treasure Dennis Larson gave the **Treasurer's Report**, noting a 3/9 balance of \$8,429.40, with a number of still outstanding items. Dennis characterized the balance as “a good strong number.” He noted that we have made donations in years past to apiary programs doing research that benefit the science. A motion carried to donate \$1,000 to UC Davis' Harry Laidlaw Foundation. Moved: Ray Marler.

Ernie will talk more about the Sacramento Farm Bureau, and why or if SABA should join. Russel Dalske and Ray Marler did a presentation at a Natomas school last week, and the district has asked SABA to do the same at six more schools and expose one class a time so as to expose every student to the bees. Ray and Russel are doing events at Fairytale Town and the Zoo. Contact them please if you'd like to help.

The minutes for February were approved. Moved Russel Dalske, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ray Marler.

There were 56 members and friends in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Melliush, Secretary

## Volunteer Opportunities: Helping hands needed!

This is the season to put pen to paper and sign up for the many activities that are happening in your association. Right now the association is looking for a coordinator for the May 2nd “Soil Born Farms open house; volunteers are needed at the County Fair Booth, sign up will be starting for the booth at State Fair. Also in September a coordinator is needed for the SABA open house.

This is a great opportunity to either serve on a committee or become a Coordinator for the association. Please consider supporting our club's mission.



## More Great Reads

Betty Lee reports that she recently heard an interesting radio program on health where a couple of scientists talked about a new book (coming out soon) called “The Honey Revolution.” The book discusses how honey can be safely eaten by diabetics and even be helpful to them. The program also mentioned another book on using honey in the diet called “The Hibernation Diet” [which some of you may have seen at last year's national bee conference]. Here are links to a couple of web articles providing more information.

[Http://www.dutchmansgold.com/HoneyforDiabetesYesArticle.htm](http://www.dutchmansgold.com/HoneyforDiabetesYesArticle.htm)

[Http://www.youtube.watch?v=3c1bfhPLem](http://www.youtube.watch?v=3c1bfhPLem)

As submitted by Georgianna Pfost



## Kick Start Your Summer

**Cal Expo, Sacramento May 21 - Memorial Day, 2009**

“Kick Start Your Summer” at the 2009 Sacramento County Fair, May 21–25 at Cal Expo! Summer in Sacramento is awesome and this year’s Country Fair will celebrate the season with Rock–N–Roll, recreation and rides!

This is a great time for your family and community. Whether you’re a first year beekeeper or have years under your belt schedule some time to work at the bee booth. This is an opportunity to educate the public about the honey bee.

If you haven’t already signed up for at least one shift, please call Howard Mann at (916) 812–9855 or email him at [hlmann@pacbell.net](mailto:hlmann@pacbell.net). It is always a great time in the booth, sharing our fascinating hobby with the general public. Also remember to talk to Howard about selling honey.

### **UC Davis Honey Bee Exhibit at Dixon May Fair May 7th-10th, 2009**

Just another opportunity to view fellow apiculturists at work. Dr. Eric Mussen a Cooperative Extension apiculturist and member of the UC Davis Department of Entomology facility for the past 32 years, will be fielding questions from fairgoers. He will also provide educational displays of bees and beekeepers. Take the family and enjoy an evening out.

#### **Welcome New Members**

Catina M. Bueno  
 Charles Byrum  
 Tom Cannon  
 Patty Kelly  
 Dave & Shawna Marshall/Ellsw  
 Rich & Robin Harrison  
 Jerry Horvath  
 Tom Porter  
 David Pope  
 Anna Porter  
 Carolyn Rech  
 Karl Reinking  
 Carol Rubin  
 Coleen Welch

#### **Membership Due Structure:**

SABA membership is 12 months

January-December

- The annual dues are \$15.00 per person
- Dues being paid from January-August will be the current \$15.00.
- Those joining during the last four months of the year will pay \$20.00. Five dollars for the remainder of the current year and \$15.00 for the following year.
- Dues payment will be required by March 1st of each year
- Dues that have not been paid by March 1 of each year will be placed on a non-active list.

Membership includes: discounted rate for educational classes, copy of the monthly newsletter “Bee Line”, access to the SABA Mentor List, extensive library use, and unlimited friendships.



# Garden Stir-Fry

1-tablespoon vegetable oil  
 1 clove garlic, minced  
 1 small onion, vertically sliced  
 3-medium zucchini, julienned  
 1-medium yellow squash, julienned

1-large carrot, julienned  
 1/4-cup honey  
 2-tablespoons lemon juice  
 1-teaspoon salt  
 1-teaspoon pepper

**Directions:**

Heat oil in heavy skillet or stir-fry pan over high heat. Add garlic and onion and cook until fragrant, 1-2 minutes. Add zucchini, yellow squash, and carrot and stir-fry until vegetables are crisp-tender. Stir in remaining ingredients and cook for one (1) minute longer. Serve immediately.

ENJOY!!!



**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 Brenda Terry by the 30th of the month at [btbuzz@gmail.com](mailto:btbuzz@gmail.com) or mail to SABA, 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 [btbuzz@gmail.com](mailto:btbuzz@gmail.com), subject-line "Treeless."

**April's Meeting Topic:**

**Guest Speaker:**

**Eric Mussen**

**"Swarm Prevention  
In the Apiary"**

**Don't miss this meeting!!!**

## Anything for Sale? Any announcements?

### 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.) Dues Structure:

*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.*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

---

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

**Saturday, April 11, 2009—SABA Natural Beekeeping Class—Class Full**

**May 2nd Open House “Soil Born Farms”**

- Great opportunity to coordinate with one of our own locale Organic Farms located in Rancho Cordova
- Interested in coordinating contact Ernie Buda

**May 7-10: Dixon May Fair**  
Dr. Eric Mussen display

**May 21st thru 25th Sacramento County Fair**

- Enhance the minds of the young and old-by sharing your passion the *honey bee*. Volunteer with fellow beekeepers. Great fun for the whole family.
- Contact: Howard Mann-email:-hlmann@pacbell.net

**Saturday, May 23, 2009—SABA Beginning Beekeeping Class—Class Full**

**July 25th SABA Annual UC Davis Tour & BBQ**

- Mark your calendar for a day full of learning, tours, fun, good food and great friends. Further details to follow.
- Contact: David Ogden-email-david.diann@frontiernet.net

**Aug. 21 thru Sept 7 California State Fair**

Contact: Pam Hill-Sacramento Beekeeping Supply

**Sept 10 thru 13 - Gold Country Fair in Auburn**

Looking for Volunteers

Contact : George Bleekman

**Sept 19 or 20—tba—SABA Open House**

Interested in coordinating contact Ernie Buda

On-line Publications:

Organic Gardening—[www.organicgardening.com](http://www.organicgardening.com)

Garden Guides—[www.gardenguides.com](http://www.gardenguides.com)

Bee Culture—[www.beeeculture.com](http://www.beeeculture.com)

**National Honey Board** continues providing “Freebie” and other materials to the Beekeeping Industry: [www.honey.com](http://www.honey.com)

---

## SACRAMENTO AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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



Website: [www.sacbeekeepers.org](http://www.sacbeekeepers.org)

E-mail: [info@sacbeekeepers.org](mailto:info@sacbeekeepers.org)

Address Correction Requested

—The Bee Line—  
April 2009



Happy Easter !