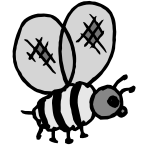


The Bee Line



www.sacbeekeepers.org

2010—Issue 04

April 2010

2010 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Brian Fishback
bfishback@frontiernet.net

Vice President: Anita Winn-
saba2010vp@gmail.com

Secretary: Joseph Watkins

Treasurer: Mil Sutter

info@sacbeekeepers.org

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Donations: Nancy Stewart

Hospitality: Mil Sutter

Library: Kathy Mallory

Mentors: George Bleekman

Newsletter: Kathy Waldorf—
sacbeeline@comcast.net

Inventory: Joseph Watkins

WebMaster: Martha Maldonado

Membership Chair—Mil Sutter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Corner	1
Did You Know?	2
February Minutes	3-4
Honey Recipe	5
Membership Coupon	5
Classified	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 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.

Submitted by Ron Parsons



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

On your marks, get ready, and buzz, buzz, buzz.

Well if you're not already watching your bees flying then you should be getting ready.

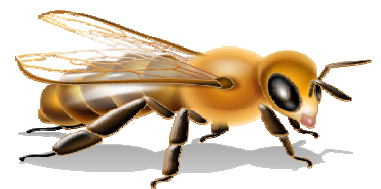
Do you have all the starter material, plenty food for the bees, location, water supply? Have you contacted your bee buddy or another member to see what suggestions they might have or need? Remember, the association has vast recourses of experienced beekeepers that want to help see you and your bees have a great experience.

Understanding the bees we are receiving this time of year is very important. There are established colonies, partially established colonies and non-established colonies. Established colonies, we're proud to say, made it thru the winter and are off and working already. Partial colonies are nucs we purchase and they have a bit of a jump start and finally, non-established colonies are the packaged bees or swarms we receive. Regardless, keep in mind the bees all want to work at becoming established. That is their goal. So as the bee steward, I need to be asking myself, "Am I adequately providing them with what they are going to need". This might lead me to knowing what the bees needs are as the season moves on. That is a huge area of what your inspections will be consisting of. What do the bees need? What do they have? And what can I assist them with? We are all familiar knowing the challenges that the bee face, how can I help? In some ways I wish it was so easy, but then having to face the challenges along with my bees is what I feel is the second greatest sweetest reward.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Brian Fishback

SABA President



Did You Know?

As you work your hives you encounter “PROPOLIS”. Your first encounter is just trying to get the top or inner cover off. The hive tool becomes nothing more than a pry tool. The frames are stuck to the box so that they can not just be moved to the side to take a quick look. You left just a bit of space between a couple of frames and they are now firmly welded together by propolis! While our first thought may be to label this sticky gooey stuff as junk – that could not be farther from fact. Propolis is essential to the well-being of the colony.

Propolis is a resinous substance which is gathered by honeybees from tree bark and leaves. The bees use it to seal hive holes or cracks, they make the nest water resistant, control ventilation (as evidenced by their totally closing vent holes I carefully drilled in the inner cover because I thought I knew best), render harmless foreign materials (dead mice have been found totally encapsulated in propolis in the hive), they place it at the hive entrance so that returning bees must pass through a propolis “zone” as part of the colonies sanitation process, the inside of the boxes are coated with a thin layer of this “sticky gooey” stuff, the list could go on but you get the point.

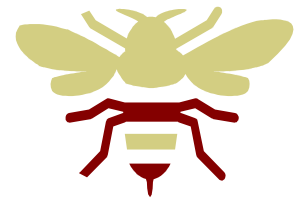
So is this propolis simply tree resins the bees have carried back? Not a chance! As with all things honeybees are involved with, propolis is so much more and not duplicable in the science lab. It is a combination of nectar, bee secretions and the result is a mixture consisting of wax, pollen and bee bread. It is comprised of 50 to 70 percent resins and balsams, 30 to 50 percent wax, 5 to 10 percent bee pollen and 10 percent essential oils. This is amazing stuff; except for vitamin K, propolis contains all the known vitamins. Of the fourteen minerals required by the human body propolis contains all of them except sulfur. Propolis also contains compounds yet to be identified. Another great mystery of the bee hive.

Propolis has been around as long as there have been honey bees, a number of millions of years. It was commonly used in ancient times in medical practice of the day. Hippocrates prescribed propolis to promote healing of sores and ulcers, internal and external. In A.D. 23-79, Pliny a Roman scholar noted that physicians used propolis as a medicine because “it extracts stings and all substances embedded in the flesh, reduced swelling, softens indurations, soothes pains of the sinews, and heals sores when it appears hopeless for them to mend.” As a more recent reference, propolis was used in World War II by the Soviet Union to fight infection and was referred to as “Russian Penicillin”.

So think not ill thoughts of this wonderful substance for it is an essential part of a healthy honeybee colony as well as a source of benefit for us.

Source: Bee pollen Royal Jelly Propolis and Honey by Rita Elkins M.H. Woodland Publishing, 1996 .

Submitted by Ernie Buda



Web site of the month:

<http://www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm>

At a glance - This site has a wealth of natural beekeeping information. Some of it is likely controversial; but then for anyone who's attended a SABA meeting, we know that if you were to ask three highly experienced beekeepers a question, you would get at least *four* answers! I like this site because there is so much information, pictures and “how-to's” presented in an easy to read fashion. Check it out and see what you think!!

The editor

Welcome New Members

Alan Taylor, Folsom
 Riad, Raymond & Eunice Bahhur Constantino,
 Sacramento
 Sara Rounds, Sacramento
 Dale & Anna Fritz, Fresno
 Michelle Gross, San Francisco
 Mark & Susan Stenberg, Sacramento
 Elodie Perroud, Davis
 Tom & Linda Teal, Vacaville
 Valerie & Jeremiah Farrell, Marysville
 Joe Pejouhesh, Granite Bay

Who's that with the Governor?? → Check out the photo link below the article to find out!

Ag day at the Capitol 2010 with the California State Beekeepers Association, and Haagen-Dazs support made for a great day for answering questions from legislators and special guests regarding CCD. CSBA President Roger Everett along with Carlen Jupe, Jackie Parks-Burris, and Mike Tolmachoff shared with guest's commercial beekeeping and the challenges it faces today. From UC Davis Dr. Eric Mussen and Kathy Garvey were on hand assisting with fielding questions and photographing the event. I had the opportunity to speak with Gov. Schwarzenegger and Secretary of Agriculture A. G. Kawamura for a brief moment in regards to the importance of honeybees and how they affect California's food supply. Representing "Haagen-Dazs's Loves Honeybees" outreach program director (Crystal) supplied ice cream and bee friendly flower packets to hundred of people. Sacramento Beekeepers Supply Store delivered an observation hive for the guest to enjoy and view honeybees at their finest. With support like this it was great day for the honeybee.

Photo captions available at this link: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/pho-tog/sets/72157623599270571/show/with/4472022398/>





Haagen-Dazs's Loves Honeybees <http://www.haagen-dazs.com/>









Submitted by Brian Fishback

MARCH MINUTES AND PROGRAM NOTES

The Meeting of the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association was called to order by President Brain Fishback at 7:32 p.m. on March 16, 2010, at the Belle Coolege Community Center. Brian welcomed new members and visitors, and thanked Ernie Buda and Bruce Waln for their work with the beekeeping classes. Ernie said that all 7 beginner classes are filled, but there is still room in intermediate classes. George Bleekman addressed the mentor program: we have now have 8 mentors and the website is updated. George is a for profit beekeeper. He recommends that you track your mileage and all expenses "so your taxes work out." Howard Mann said that he has learned a great deal being a mentor and encourages others to sign up to mentor as well. Ernie reminded us of the 2nd tier of Partners who can help someone with even less experience, even if you don't feel experienced enough to be a mentor.

The Program Many present were getting box bees this year; and not everyone was sure how to hive them. This is tonight's topic presented by Fred Stewart and George Bleekman—how to hive your box bees.

-  Fred began and noted that many folks are intimidated by the buzzing and general intensity of 3 pounds of bees in a small box! The bees just want to get busy and start a new home. He reviewed the different styles of queen cages. The queen is a stranger to the bees in the box. The beekeeper collects the bees, then adds a newly mated queen in a queen cage.
-  Fred started by describing the conventional method. Take a few frames from the middle of your super. Shake the bees down in their box once and remove the syrup can and the queen cage; set the box aside and put piece of wood or cardboard over the opening in the box.
-  *Probably* the queen and bees have been together in the box long enough already that the queen could be released directly into the super with the bees, but Fred "doesn't trust it." He takes the cork out of one end of the queen cage and replaces it with marshmallow and hang the queen between two frames; the bees will release her in a day or two. Shake the bees into the super, replace the frames and put on the cover and top, set the box with residual bees still clinging to it near the hive, "and go have a beer." The remaining bees will find their way to the queen in the hive. Many advise hiving later the evening and spraying the box bees with sugar syrup first. Fred thinks both unnecessary. He just sprays the bees with water to discourage flying.
-  Fred then described his "easier way:" similar to the above, but instead of shaking the bees into the super, just set the whole box of bees in the super, hang your queen cage, close the hive "and then go have that beer." In a day, all the bees will be out of the box!

-  Q&A: Fred likes to feed new colony with a feeder jar on top of the frames in an empty top super, or using a top feeder. He doesn't like entrance feeders because they're ant attractants and the change in temperature causes them to leak. On top, even if they leak, the bees get the syrup before the ants.
-  George then shared his hiving practices. If this is your first colony, try not to be awe struck, "though you will be." You're most worried about losing the queen. Last year, he says he was "too cocky" and decided to just open two queen cages and let them enter the super, but both queen flew away on him. Forty dollar lesson learned.
- George's checklist:
- temperature above 50 degrees
 - calm day. Don't worry, the bees can be in their wood box a few days while you wait to hive them.
 - prefers late afternoon
 - remove a frame or two from the super
 - may need a hive tool to pry loose the syrup can. Wear your veil and protective gear. Bees are the most non-aggressive at this time, but wear a veil at a minimum.
-  You can spay the bees with water or syrup if desired. The theory is that eating the syrup makes them calmer. George spreads syrup on the screen of the box with a bee brush. George also does not like entrance feeders and uses a quart jar with a feeder lid, stuck in a hole in the hive top. Remember the bees are drawing wax out and they need a lot of syrup at that stage to build the comb. If you live in an area with a great nectar flow at that time, the bees will use less syrup. Just make it available. He likes to use a 2 to 1 (sugar to water) syrup on build up. Some use 1 to 1.
-  So, back to hiving: brush on your syrup, remove the can, then gently drop the box from 3 inches or so to get the bees on the bottom. Remove the queen cage. If there is already candy blocking one end of the cage, run a nail through it (be careful of the bees) as this hole allows more rapid release of the queen by eating through the candy. Of course, do NOT remove the cork at the other end of the cage. Remove a few frames from the super and put the queen in the center. Be sure the screen of the queen cage is facing open bee space so she can be reached and attended to.
-  George puts his queen cage in horizontally with the screen facing downward. With the queen in place, shake the box of bees "violently" into the super. They'll fall and fly mostly into the super. Leave the box on its side near the hive; the bees will seek out the queen. If you use an inner cover--and George does not, but he would if he were in Michigan or New York!--put it on carefully. If you have other hives nearby, restrict the entrance to this new hive.
- Then leave them alone for 4 or 5 days. Resist the temptation to open the hive. At this time if the queen is not out of her cage, you can remove the cork and let her loose in the hive. This is the honeymoon period wherein they will build and thrive.
-  Brian notes that you think about water sources *before* installation. They will not imprint on a new source once they chosen their water source. He uses an entrance feeder filled with water. They'll choose the sources they want, not necessarily the closest or the source that YOU want! Fred reminds to work out a water system where they can keep their feet dry why getting their water.
- Brian keeps his frame tight to maintain that bee space so they don't build out the brood frames. Resist the temptation to open the hive too often. It's fun and interesting just to watch them come and go.
-  Howard noted the Sacramento County Fair coming up Memorial Day Weekend. He will be seeking volunteers to help run the SABA booth.
-  After a break the **Business Meeting** was held.. Mil Sutter gave the Treasurer's Report: about \$5,500 in check and \$5,000 in a CD. All accounts are now at Schools Financial Credit Union. Reminder to pay your dues!. Brain asks that we please inform SABA about beekeeping events and presentations so that club can help, track and promote these activities. "Not trying to take your event away.". The Library and Newsletter are both going well. Kathy Waldorf is making sure that the distribution list is up to date. **Howard noted the Sacramento County Fair coming up Memorial Day Weekend. He will be seeking volunteers to help run the SABA booth.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.. Sixty nine people attended this meeting.

Submitted by Ron Melliush, Acting Secretary

Honey Granola

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

- 5 c. rolled oats (regular, not quick or thick)
- 3 c. nuts and seeds (I use 1 c. unshelled unsalted sunflower seed, 1 c. chopped walnuts and 1 c. chopped raw almonds)
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon and a dash of nutmeg
- 1/2 c. shredded unsweetened coconut (optional)
- 1/2 c. honey

Preheat oven to 350' F. In a large bowl, stir together the oats, nuts, seeds, cinnamon and coconut. Spread mixture evenly in a 10" x 15" jelly roll type pan. Evenly drizzle the honey over the mixture. Place pan in oven to bake. At least every 7 minutes open oven and gently turn the mixture with a spatula so it will brown evenly and honey mixes in. Remove from oven after 30 minutes total baking time and set aside to cool. When cool, scoop into a canister or jars and store in refrigerator. (If desired, you can also mix some dried fruit into the granola before storing it.)

This is my adaptation of the recipe in "Food Matters" by Mark Bittman.

Submitted by Georgianna Pfof



Your contributions of articles, websites, recipes, tips, questions, book reviews, ads and other bee-related items for future newsletters. Email them to Kathy Waldorf by the **25th of the month** at sacbeeline@comcast.net. Please keep sharing your stories.



- If you have old beekeeping equipment you would like to donate or sell please call 916-709-0686
- I have 300 boxes for sale all kinds \$5.00. Contact Barry Olmstead at riverscityspas@sbcglobal.net

SABA 2010 Membership Coupon

Name(s)*: _____

Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State Zip:* _____

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

New _____ or Renewing _____

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.

Please take a moment and write down your interests and needs on the reverse side, this will help the association mold our meetings.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SABA's regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of *each* month at 7:30 p.m., at the Belle Coolidge 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 17, 9am to 4pm, Olivarez Honey Bees 2nd Annual Hobbyist Day at their warehouse in Orland, CA (6320 County Lane, Road 20) . Events include: Speakers Sue Cobey, UC Davis and Randy Oliver, Bee researcher and writer, package bee installation demo and free BBQ Lunch
Event is free, reservations are appreciated. For more info contact Olivarez Honey Bees, 877-865-0298

Tues April 20, SABA Meeting, 7:30 pm Meeting Topic - Mentor Panel and Q&A for the Spring

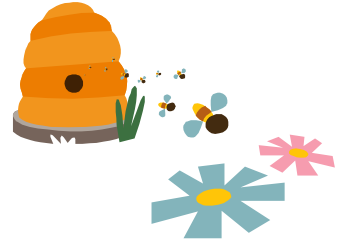
May 13-16th, Orangevale Pow-Wow Days Tex Winn worked this event last year. He will be asking for volunteers to work/assist this year. Please see Tex at the SABA April 20th meeting.

May 23rd, Sunday, Soil Born Farms - Day on the Farm (May 23rd) Need someone to chair. This individual will be in charge of recruiting help and co-ordinating set-up, etc. Please see Anita at the SABA April 20th meeting for more information.

May 27-31 Sacramento County Fair Howard Mann has been the chair for this event in the past. Please contact him for more information and/or to volunteer to work at the event.

Got Bees?

From Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies: Sacramento Beekeeping still has Mason Bees that will hatch out soon when you put them out. They are active until late June. We also have a type that hatches in June and is active until late August.



SACRAMENTO AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

2110 X STREET,
SACRAMENTO, CA 95818



Website: www.sacbeekeepers.org
E-mail: info@sacbeekeepers.org
916-222-7807

Address Correction Requested

—The Bee Line—
April 2010

