

The Bee Line

2009—Issue 05

May 2009

2009 CLUB OFFICERS

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

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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 May

Swarm season continues with the warmer weather, so check that your bees have adequate space and also check for queen cells. Swarming can cause you to lose 60 to 90 percent of your bees. Also check that your queen is laying eggs, and re-queen if necessary.

As Submitted by Howard Mann

ELK GROVE ORDINANCES

The Elk Grove Beekeeping Ordinance: There is hopefully only one step left in the saga of the City of Elk Grove's adoption of a beekeeping ordinance. There was a public meeting dedicated to the issue on Wednesday evening April 29. Attendance was low, which in my mind indicated that there was substantial agreement with the draft ordinance that had been sent to everyone who had been at an earlier public meeting.

In summary, as I understand it, the City of Elk Grove currently has zoning restrictions dealing with the keeping of animals. Restrictions of some nature are appropriate; one should not consider it ok, for an extreme example, to keep a horse or cow in an apartment. The ordinances dealing with such

things will not be changed. Those "restrictive" ordinances are currently coupled with right to farm considerations. However the keeping of bees is not included in the zoning restrictive ordinances.

Elk Grove has recognized the unique nature of honey bees and drafted an ordinance that while allowing for the keeping of bees with out regard to zoning, parcel size etc. places on the beekeeper the responsibility to assure that their beekeeping process does not constitute a hazard or nuisance for others

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DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know: CORRECTION: Last month the weight value of mg was misstated as 10,000 in a gram. The correct value is that there is 1000 mg in a gram.

DID YOU KNOW: "Honey can replace all the sugar in most recipes, using about 20% more honey than the amount of sugar called for to account for the moisture in honey. Start by substituting honey for half the sugar called for in a recipe. When replacing sugar with honey in recipes, also;

- Reduce the liquid (water, juice or milk) in the recipe by one tablespoon for each 4 tablespoons (1/4 cup) of honey used.
- Increase the amount of baking soda required by 1/2 teaspoon for each cup of honey used.
- Reduce oven temperature by 25 degrees F to prevent over browning."

Submitted by Ernie Buda

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well much is going on. Three of the six scheduled training classes have been presented all have been filled. We must be doing a good job; people are attending from Reno, Sparks, Los Angeles, Malibu, the Central Valley and the Bay Area. The intermediate classes in June and July are nearing a maximum enrollment. Meeting attendance has been over fifty the last two months. Paid membership is in the area of 160.

Russel Dalsky and Ray Marler have made presentation to many classrooms of school children and I receive regular requests for their return because they did such a great job last year. SABA members have had access to swarm calls because people are finding us on the web site and contacting SABA directly for assistance.

The "second tier" mentoring program is well on its way to becoming formally operational with ten members signing up to date. (George Bleekman is still out of town so upon his return things will get put into place.) But in spite of not being formally in place members are helping members, sharing what they have learned.

Mil Sutter advises that he has emailed and or sent by U S Postal the membership and mentor list with contact infor-

mation to everyone who was a paid in March. (Let us know if you experienced any problem.)

The monthly programs continue to be great. (Thanks David.) Speaking of which, the program this month will address the insecurities of all you new beekeepers. You just got your nuc's and packages and are not sure if you "did it right", what should you see next, what should you do, or not do. We will invite you to share what worked for you and probably even more importantly what did not work for you. (One new beekeeper neglected to push a couple of the frames together – the bees quickly taught him that they do not like empty space and filled it with comb.) It is important that the more experienced beekeepers come to this meeting; you will be the ones helping answer the questions.

Remember to consider helping at the various Fairs. I will request the coordinators have a sign up sheet available at the meeting. We are still invited to have a space at the El Dorado County Fair June 18th thru June 21st, but to do so we will need a coordinator. A great opportunity to share your beekeeping experience.

See you at the meeting, remember, it's always the third Tuesday of the month.

Respectfully submitted by Ernie Buda

Elk Grove Ordinance continued:

They have done this by developing a process that requires follow up to complaints about beekeeping (and to other allowed ag. endeavors) by "Subject Matter Experts". The losing party has the right to appeal to a hearing officer. The final ruling is binding and if not adhered to would result in the city applying their authority using the existing nuisance ordinance.

So there are no artificial requirements that a beehive be a certain number of feet from a fence or that only a given number of hives are allowed, etc. Such requirements are common in other jurisdictions, if not an outright ban on beekeeping. (West Sacramento bans the keeping of bees in the city limits for example.)

This ordinance is common sense application of the right of a city to enact rules of conduct. **It places on individuals a responsibility equal to their right.** Your right to keep bees goes only as far as where your right has intruded on the rights of others. The determiner of that "fact" is not a multi page book of rules but rather a person or persons who have knowledge of bees and beekeeping. So beekeepers will ultimately regulate beekeepers. For this to work over time the SME, the finders of fact will have to be very objective in their findings. You, as a beekeeper could be required to make changes, not because you have done something wrong but just because your bees have been determined to be causing a nuisance.

The final passage of this ordinance is not a foregone conclusion. There is opposition by folks who believe / fear that beekeepers who follow up on complaints will always side with the beekeeper. That horse people will always support the side of the issue with the horse(s). You can easily see the potential conflict. There is opposition by people who believe that honeybees are dangerous and simply should not be allowed!

The ordinance is scheduled to be presented to the City Council on May 27th, 2009. You are encouraged to attend and support the City staff that invited us to participate, listened to input and are presenting a unique proposal to their bosses, the elected officials of the City of Elk Grove.

Respectfully submitted by Ernie Buda



Remember to sign up for State Fair

Pencil in July 25th, for the
SABA BBQ and UC Davis Tour



APRIL MINUTES AND PROGRAM NOTES

The Meeting of the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association was held on 21, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. on April 21 2008, at the Belle Cooledge Community Center. New Attendees included Gary Foster, who's had hives for five years, some swarms; Jim Lee with 5 hives in Auburn; Tim Wong of Roseville who just bought bees; new member Dave Polk of Lincoln who just picked up bees on and got a swarm in Lincoln; Kathleen Snow has been a beekeeper for three days with 1 hive; Carl from Davis will get his box bees soon; Elwood Sachs has no hive yet; Suzanne Crusher of Sutter Creek got her first hive last week; and Leslie Bybee of Placerville is visiting with Kathy Maloney. Welcome all.

Howard Mann discussed the Sacramento County Fair Booth at Cal Expo May 20th to 25th. Thursday and Friday are school days with thousands of kids. Opportunity to sell honey. Clipboard passed around. Needs observation Hive.

Guest presenter introduced by VP David Ogden. Kim Fondrk 16 years working at the UC Davis Bee Lab. Swarm Prevention in the Apiary is the topic. Lot of swarms out there; you have to be observant every single year. When your hive swarms, you worry, but any hive will swarm, with or without intervention!

Why Bees Swarm: All organisms reproduce. Colony reproduces by swarming. The old queen and about half of bees leave to find a new home. The daughter queen takes over the remaining half of the old colony.

Conditions that induce swarming: Experts disagree on many of the causes. Hive congestion seems to be important. Dissemination of queen substance becomes limited. Too many young & nurse bees; colony population reaches a size or density threshold. Colonies swarm when characteristics indicate a high likelihood of reaching the evolutionary objective of successful reproduction.

Colony Preparations for Swarming: Brood nest becomes full of sealed brood, pollen and nectar, so the queen can't find empty cells so she lays eggs in the queen cell cups.

Queen is fed less food; her abdomen shrinks to permit flying. Foragers reduce amount of foraging for pollen, but larvae create demand for pollen. Foragers reduce amount of foraging for water and nectar, overall, there is significant reduction in flight activity. Certain very young larvae selected to be reared into new queens—they should be better queens than emergency queens; maybe better than supersedure queens. Often six or many more queen cells, normally found along bottom bars or end bars; can be found in any box, from the bottom board up. Not reared from face of comb like supersedure cells; not reared from face of comb like emergency cells.

Everything slows down, waiting for daughter cells to be capped. When cells are capped, the swarm will leave very soon as a replacement queen is assured. Bees usually wait for a still, sunny day, It's really likely to happen following confinement by cool, cloudy days or by rain.

Swarming behavior: A few bees become excited and start to shake other bees. Lots of bees get excited and some start to leave. Scouts already have been looking for a new place to live.

Swarming Location: The cluster forms on an object like a tree branch. Many people call this a swarm, but the swarm is the bunch of bees when swarming.

Beekeeper Intervention to Prevent Swarming: Avoid congestion by maintaining adequate space for the brood nest. Place an empty medium depth super of drawn comb UNDER the brood nest. Foragers will cluster there at night and stay out of the brood nest area. Add another super of frames above the full brood nest. Reverse the boxes to get the empty, or emptying frames, above the egg laying area. Search for and remove queen cells—they can be used to start a nuc, but the bees may be so ready to swarm that the swarm issues, anyway, if cells are nearly finished. Must be removed or squashed in place. Do not cut the cell off and let it fall to the bottom board—it will be tended and the queen will emerge (after the bees have swarmed). You must look every ten days, or less, during swarming season.

Other options: Divide hives into nucs or other 10-frame boxes, remove divides to a second location, add queen cells or allow to rear own cells. Divide hives up and down by inserting a divider board. Add combs to half with queen. Add cell to queenless half or allow to rear own. Recombine once new queen is mated and add honey supers. (Two queen system) Remove or cut drone combs to reduce impulse.

Kim then talked about what to do if you suspect the colony has swarmed, how to hive a swarm, and answered questions on how to divide colonies

The **Business Meeting** began at 9:00 pm. Thanks to new member Leslie who brought cookies. Circulated Chris' pictures of the best looking bee boxes in the world.

Want to expand the mentor program to a two-tier system including a second tier of "Junior Mentors" or "Beekeeper Partners" to stretch the access to association mentors.

Motion to approve last meeting's minutes was made by Ernie Buda and seconded by Ernie Fishbank.

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Treasurer Dennis Larson reported \$9,588.49 in the treasury at present.

Russell reported five presentations in the last month and a half, including several elementary schools and the Sacramento City Zoo. Russell and Ray have a demo at an elementary school tomorrow and another this week in Folsom.

Soil Bourn event coming up. May 9, Fairy Tale Town Russell and Ray. Reviewed Howard's request for the help with the Sacramento County Fair. El Dorado County Fair June 18th through 21st in Placerville. 150th Anniversary of the fair.

Swarm collections so far are around 20 this year as far as we know.

California State fair is August 21st through Labor Day. Nancy Stewart at Sacramento Beekeeping Store will be setting up the shifts.

Sunday, September 20, 10:00 – 3:00 Second Annual SABA Open House at the County Extension Building.

Elk Grove Ordinance Public Hearing is April 29, 6:00 8:00 pm at the City Chambers. Elk Grove's position has moved from distrust, to an open-minded posture of treating bee agriculture as any other livestock problem, on a case-by-case review basis.

Beginning classes are full and there is a long waiting list, SABA is exploring possibility of another Serge class.

Intermediate classes are filling fast. Difference in classes is less remedial review of the basics. June 20. Sign up via email to Ernie.

Discussion of what to do about dues: How long should we carry people? Executive board suggests we should give some slack, but consensus was that by March, we should discontinue membership privileges and distribution list. First nine months, membership is \$15. Last three months of the year, Dues is \$20, for 15 months. Dues are due January.

David Ogden: Club has two social events during the year, the Christmas Dinner and the Field Trip/Picnic. Saturday, July 25th is this year's field trip, west of the campus at U.C. Davis by the airport. Tour lab facilities at around 10, and around noon is lunch.

Kathy Malory: Have we decided on a logo yet? Ernie: We have about 8 cutesy logo submissions so far, still working on it. Still there, hasn't gone away yet.

Various handouts available about local flora, as well as some deep frames to give away.

There were 51 in attendance, including a babe in arms. Adjourned 9:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted; Joseph Watkins, Acting Secretary

Thank you, Joseph! Edited by Ron Melliush, Secretary



The Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association

OPEN HOUSE - HONEY TASTING - HONEY SALE

Sunday, September 20, 2009 10:00am to 3:00pm

4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento

(Bradshaw Road exit south off I-50 to Keifer Blvd. right on Keifer one block.)



Have you ever wondered what is involved in being a beekeeper; considered how wonderful it would be to have your very own FRESH honey; wondered if using local honey really does help control seasonal allergies; wanted better pollination for you garden or just thought beekeeping would be cool?

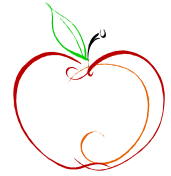
The Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association will try and answer those questions at our

OPEN HOUSE, HONEY TASTING and HONEY SALE. Beekeeping equipment will also be on display. Some of our experienced beekeepers (mostly backyard hobbyists) will be available to share their experiences and discuss with you what is involved in you also becoming a beekeeper.

Applesauce Honey Bread

2-1/2 c. Bisquick
 1 c Quick cooking oats
 2 tsp. baking powder
 1 egg, beaten

1 c. Honey
 1 c. applesauce
 1 c. golden raisins
 1 c. walnuts, chopped



Instructions:

Combine first 4 ingredients; make a well in center of mixture. Combine egg, honey, and applesauce; add to dry ingredients, stirring just until moistened. Stir in raisins and walnuts. Spoon batter into two greased and floured 7-1/2 x 3-1/2 x 2-1/4 " loaf pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes, remove from pans and cool completely on wire racks.



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 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!)

fFOR SALE -(1) 4"X 9" smoker, bee suit w/ expandable zipper veil, (size 52 regular (very nice condition), a box of mixed stuff: (bee hat veils and leather gloves), (1) standard flat hive tool, (1) standard hive tool with "hook" end, (1) spur embedder, (2) hive boxes, deeps, (1) hive with bottom board and one super All for \$75.00. Contact: 916-989-3743. Zittels (Gourd) Farm, 6781 Oak Ave, Folsom

For Sale: 2 frame, hand crank extractor \$50.00. Call Annette at 530-306-6141

GO TREELESS: Sign up for the emailed (pdf) newsletter. Just email btbuzz@gmail.com, subject-line "Treeless."

May's Meeting Topic:

So now you have bees.

Where are you now and where should you be in the near future."

This will be the topic for the May meeting

Don't miss this meeting!!!



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.*

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

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

Saturday June 20, 2009—SABA Intermediate Beekeeping—Dr. Eric Mussen 4137 Branch Center Road, Sacramento, CA 8:30 to 4:40

July 25th SABA Annual UC Davis Tour & BBQ

- Mark your calendar for a day full of learning, tours, fun, good food and great friends. Tour lab facilities at around 10-12 with BBQ to follow. 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

Sunday, Sept 20—SABA Second Annual Open House

Sacramento County Extension Building

10-3pm Interested in coordinating contact Ernie Buda

Interesting bee article

www.organicconsumers.org

National Honey Board continues providing "Freebie" and other materials to the Beekeeping Industry: www.honey.com

Welcome New Members

**Gary Foster, Leslie Guidera, Rick Le Roy,
Elwood Sacks, Kathleen Snow, Steve Spath
Ed Strisar; David Northington and
Ann Wilson**

**SACRAMENTO AREA BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION**

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



Website: www.sacbeekeepers.org

E-mail: info@sacbeekeepers.org

Address Correction Requested

—The Bee Line—
May 2009



Happy Mothers Day