



The Bee Line

2008—Issue 6

June 2008

2008 Club Officers

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

Inside this issue:*

May minutes	2
President's Corner	3
Mentoring	3
Bees in the news	3
Recipe & Ads	4
Hive beetle bulletin	Insert
Bee plant list	insert

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

www.sacbeekeepers.org

Mentors' Tips for the Month

Check to be sure you have honey coming in and that the bees are drawing out comb. As a super fills, move it up and put an empty one beneath it to encourage the bees to keep putting up honey while the nectar's flowing. Don't medicate during the honey flow.



Summer Bee-Events

Tues., Jun. 17- SABA Meeting. Program will be a continuation of May's lively q&a session with mentors on "what to do with your bees at this time of year". Please join us! Program starts at 7:30. (Executive meeting—to which all are welcome—starts at 6:30.)

Sat., Jun. 21—"Natural Beekeeping: Honey, Wax, Summer Issues" class from 9—5 at Steiner College, Fair Oaks. \$95. Call (916) 961-8727 for more info or to register.

Jun. 22-28—National Pollinator Week. Celebrate your bees! Check out <http://www.honeybeepreservation.org/> resources for more websites devoted to bees and beekeeping.

Sat., July 12—time TBD. Tour of UCD Bee Lab and SABA bbq & potluck picnic following. SABA will provide burgers, buns, condiments, dessert, sodas, paper goods & utensils. Watch for more info!

Tues., July 15-SABA Meeting. Ideas for programs? Contact David Ogden.

Aug. 17—21- Western Apicultural Society Annual Conference- Victoria, B.C. For more details: <http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/> or scullion@shaw.ca

Tues., Aug. 19—SABA Meeting.

Aug. 15- Sep 1—State Fair—Watch for details on how to volunteer for the state beekeepers booth. You'll get free admission and parking on the day(s) served.

Fri., Sep. 5—"Honey Harvesting & Beehive Mgmt" class from 9-5 at the

Solar Living Institute, Hopland. \$95. See <http://www.solarliving.org/workshops/> for more info and to register.

Nov. 11-13- California State Beekeepers Conference, Lake Tahoe. Watch <http://www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/> for more details.

Jan. 6-10, 2009—American Honey Producers Conference, Fresno.

SABA's **regular meetings** are held the third Tuesday of each month 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 Dr) in Sacramento. All are welcome!

Phone List Updates

Members: Please add the following new members to your April 2008 phone list:

- Don Erwin—Dixon—707-678-9104
- Dar Geramian- Citrus Hts-916-224-8872 bravoloans@comcast.net
- Steve & Ceci Giacomina- Isleton—925-776-4888 giacomina@mac.com
- Dennis Price- Davis-530-792-0779 dennisp777@aol.com
- Tom & Kathy Randall- Fiddletown-530-620-2216 tomandkathy@wildblue.net
- Colleen Whalen- Sacramento-916-448-741__ cmwhalen2001@yahoo.com
- Anita & Aubrey (Tex) Winn-Citrus Hts-916-725-7050 awinn214@aol.com
- Fred & Nancy Stewart's correct email is info@sacramentobeekeeping.com

If you have updates to addresses, phone numbers or emails please send them to the editor at dugongs@sbcglobal.net to keep the list current. Thanks!



May 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 May 20, 2008, at the Belle Coolidge Community Center. Ernie introduced SABA Officers present, and then welcomed visitors and new members: Don Erwin of Dixon (started in 1938 [yes!], had up to 400 colonies by '87 when he was transferred to Susanville and had to stop, now he's back;); Kim Felix is interested in beekeeping, prompted by having a friend's hive in her yard; Lindsay Weaver is a "wanna-bee"; Rudy kept bees 45 years ago with his grandfather in Michigan and is looking for a beeswax source for his work as a blacksmith at Sutter's Mill; Beth and a friend want to start next spring in Carmichael; past treasurer Richard Cuny's brought his nephew and niece, Duncan & Cecily; Kathy & Tom Randall attended the March class and Joseph Watkins has some hives at her place, they want to learn more. Plus they have a wild hive on the property and would like to get it hived; Larry Porter stated with one hive a year ago and split this spring, he's been making lots of wooden ware; Tex Winn & Anita have had 13 hives on and off again for 20 years; Dar Geramian has 2 hives and wants to learn more; and Rex Parsons started 2 hives a month ago. Kathy Mallory is the new SABA Librarian, assisted by Ray Marler. Thanks, you two!

The Program VP Dave Ogden introduced the program of a mentors' panel of George Bleekman, Ron Parsons, Howard Mann, Bob Sugar, and Randy Kehoe. Some highlights of the questions and answers: No one has had much success with entrance feeders--they leak, promote robbing because they're right at the entrance, and it's a cold place in winter. If you must use one, try putting it in an empty super on top of the hive. To discourage raccoons & skunks keep your hive at least 16" high, put chicken wire or a dusting of lye on the ground in front of the hive. Don't work your bees at night! Mentors wear a variety of protective clothing-- some more, some less. All wear at least a veil! No one has had good luck with all plastic frames. (NOT the wood frames with wax covered plastic foundation, but all plastic.) Bees tend to make burr comb between frames. But they are cheap and extract well as they don't blow out in the extractor. There was lots of discussion of handling varroa and various strains of nosema. Bob recommended the Tulip Poplar, an eastern US Native, as a good source for nectar, pollen & propolis.

Following the program and break, the **Business Meeting** began at 8:55 p.m. The draft SABA informational **pamphlet** is looking good. Thanks to Brenda Terry who did most of the work on it. There are some slots left in the second natural beekeeping **class** on June 14. Motion carried to fund the July SABA picnic in a reasonable amount. Moved Bob Sugar; 2nd George Bleekman. George Bleekman addressed the need to maintain the **signage** that we have, and to purchase at least two more SABA banners and perhaps other posters as well. All with the goal of maintaining one set in Citrus Heights (with Howard Mann,) one in Granite Bay (with George Bleekman) and one in Elk Grove (with the under-signed). George argued that we are doing more shows and presentations than ever, and with gas prices going nowhere but up, it would be prudent to have sets of our signs, prints and banners located where members don't have to drive so far to get them. Motion carried to fund such an effort up to \$650. Moved Ron Melliush, 2nd Howard Mann. Speaking of presentations, Ernie mentioned that we can use more people on the speakers list who are available for schools, 4H, and the like. Please e mail SABA if you can do so; remember you are not committing to any particular number, so please sign up even if you can only do one a year.

SABA is combining our first, initial **website** with the new one. Beeline.org is no more. Barney Miller continues as "content master" to help develop content, check links, and so forth; Ken Lee acts as "webmaster" on the technical side. Martha Maldonado volunteered to help Barney with content, and Bob Rollins is the Executive Board member contact person for all things re the SABA website. Ernie pointed out that it is time to get our **classes** lined up for next spring. Committees please get your ideas and schedules together. Treasurer Dennis Larson is not able to be here tonight. The Club is financially healthy and we look forward to his report next month. Many members signed up with Howard Mann to help run the SABA booth at the **Sacramento County Fair** May 22-26. There were 45 members and guests present. Yes, you read that correctly: 45!

Respectfully submitted, *Ron Melliush*, Secretary

What's in Bloom?

Not much in the foothills per some members there who have had to feed their bees sugar between blooms during this year's drier spring. But in the urban areas of Sacramento, blackberries and lavender are still flowering, as are jasmine, some roses and other ornamentals. What are bees foraging on in your area? What 's coming into bloom?

Please send along your input to the editor for future newsletters. And for more ideas on plants for native bees, see Ettamarie Peterson's listing (enclosed, printed on back of beetle bulletin) "The most important plants for native bees that visit crops in the Central Valley of California."

President's Corner

Wow – the May meeting had another great turnout. The mentor panel did a great job and a lot of timely questions were addressed. (Thank, mentors!!) The June meeting program will be a continuation of the mentor panel, and the primary subject for the business meeting will be the format of the fall classes and the structure of the spring 2009 classes. It is time to put the fall content and dates on the web site, and none too soon to be getting commitments from instructors and finding and reserving the rooms. (And FYI, the June 14th Natural Beekeeping class is full.)

KUDOS KORNER: I received the following email from Cheryl McBride, a first grade teacher, following a class presentation given by SABA member Russel Dalske: "Wow, we all thought that he [Russel] was just fantastic. Very prepared, professional and most of all enthusiastic about his subject of expertise! Can we request him for next year? The children are all abuzz!" Thanks Russell—you make us all look good!

I volunteered for the final shift at the **Sacramento County Fair**. Thanks, Howard Mann, for the coordination and planning. The booth looked great. I would venture to say no other presentation at the Fair generated the interest and traffic as did the SABA booth. Thanks to all who assisted: Martha Maldonado, George Bleekman, Bruce Waln, Tex and Anita Winn, Georgianna Pfost, John Foster, Kathy Mallory, Bob Rollins, Rex Parson, Ray Marler, Arauco Yoder, Ron Melliush and Brenda Terry, (and any others I may have missed—thanks!).

The SABA **library** has a new team in charge. Kathy Mallory and Ray Marler have agreed to work at keeping the content updated and to see to it that it is available at all SABA meetings. Kathy will be the organizer and Ray will keep his eye out for new items that will benefit the members. Ray has reviewed all the books, and even though some have been around for a while he believes that the content is still relevant. Those that did not meet his discerning review have been purged. [Updated inventory will be on the website soon.] Thanks to the membership approval of a \$250.00 starting budget, six additional books have been added: "The Hive and the Honeybee," "Natural Beekeeping," "The Book of Honey; Beeswax –Production-Harvesting-Processing and Products," "Comb Honey Production" and "The Backyard Beekeeper." Thank you, Kathy and Ray! ... See you at the June meeting! -Ernie Buda, President

Mentoring in the Field

Recently I had the opportunity to mentor one of our newest members whose name is Rex. I had ordered twenty packages of bees for the season. Rex wanted to meet with me to see how to install them. I'm not sure he knew what he was getting into. We not only had to install them, but I also needed to go through twelve other hives as well. Needless to say it was an all day event that started in Vacaville and ended in Lincoln/Auburn. And this is a picture of Rex after the bees were installed.

- Randy Kehoe, SABA mentor



Bees in the News

Bees continue to make the news on a regular basis. Some recent examples include:

"What's all the buzz about?" by Randi Lynn Mrvos, *The Christian Science Monitor*, May 6, 2008, p. 19.

In this full page article for kids, the author shared answers to common questions about bees such as why they collect nectar and pollen, how they locate flowers, and how they pollinate plants. She also shared several tips on creating a bee-friendly garden, such as planting clumps of flowers attractive to bees, choosing diverse flowers (to provide forage through the year), and not using pesticides. And she listed plants attractive to bees (e.g., aster, lavender, anemone).

"Beekeeping in Our Own Backyards—Area beekeeper shows how" by Georgianna Pfost, *Because People Matter*, May/June 2008, p. 13.

The article tells the story of how Grass Valley beekeeper Janet Brisson inadvertently became a beekeeper (out of the need for pollinators in her organic garden) and now, just some ten years later, is busy mentoring other beekeepers on how to keep bees without pesticides and sharing what she's learned through her own backyard research about controlling *varroa* mites with screened bottom boards, powdered sugar, and drone combs.



Honey Recipe of the Month

Summer Fruit Cake



1-1/4 c. sifted flour	1 egg
2 tsp. baking powder	1/2 c. milk
1/4 tsp. salt	1-1/4 c. fresh berries or pitted & halved cherries
1/4 c. butter or shortening	1 tsp. vanilla
3/4 c. honey	4 tsp. flour

Sift dry ingredients together into one bowl. In separate bowl, cream butter and honey, and blend in egg and vanilla. Stir dry ingredients into butter mixture, alternating with the milk, until well blended. Coat fruit with last bit of flour and then fold it into the batter. Bake cake in greased and floured 8" x 8" pan for about 50 minutes at 350' F. Very good! Adapted from a recipe in *The Good Housekeeping Cookbook*, 1943. - *Georgianna Pfost*

Bee Classifieds

FOR SALE: Two new Dadant bee suits—one size XL and one XXL. Make an offer! (530) 677-2185.

FOR SALE: Four standard size hive bodies, clean, painted, good condition. \$15 each or 2 for \$25. (916) 266-1802.

FOR SALK: New Carl Fritz radial extractor, \$550. (530) 666-0713 or email shlien@msn.com

FREE: Frames with plastic foundation sheets, good condition, just some cleaning needed. (916) 791-0448.

ALWAYS NEEDED: Your contributions of bee-related news articles, experiences, questions, trivia, ads, recipes, book reviews and favorite bee websites for future newsletters. Email them to the editor by the *25th* of the month at dugongs@sbcglobal.net or mail to 3517 57th St., Sacramento, 95820. Thanks!

GO TREELESS: Help SABA save paper and postage by subscribing to the e-mailed newsletter. Just contact the editor via email, subject line "Treeless").

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Address Correction Requested

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Next Meeting

Tues., June 17 @ 7:30