



The Bee Line

2006—Issue 7

July/August 2006

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Tips for the Month

Keep an eye on the honey flow, and as a super fills, move it up and put an empty one beneath it to encourage the bees to keep putting up honey while there's nectar available. Harvest the honey in August before you treat for varroa mites (usually early September).

Summer Events!

Please join us for upcoming activities-

Sat., July 15– 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Annual Picnic/Barbeque at East Portal Park, 1120 Rodeo Way (between Rodeo and 51st Street), Sacramento. (From Hwy 5, or from westbound Business 80, take J Street exit and head east on J to 51st, then turn south. From Hwy 50, take 59th or 65th St. exit, head north to Folsom Blvd, then west on Folsom to 51st and turn north.) If you have not yet signed up, please **RSVP** to Bob or Joeann Rollins at (916) 965-3875 with the number of people attending and what you can bring to share (e.g., salad or dessert). Bring your own meat to grill. Barbeque, plates, utensils, condiments and drinks will be provided. Hope to see you there!

July 24—27– Western Apiculture Society (WAS) conference in Buellton (near Santa Barbara). For info on how to register check the latest WAS newsletter or website (http://beekeeper.dbs.umt.edu/was/annual_conference.shtml) This is a great educational and networking opportunity for hobby beekeepers, and it's nearby this year!

Sat., August 5—Mini-Classes: by SABA beekeepers—1) *Winterizing Your Bees*—9—11 a.m.; 2) *Effective Extracting Methods*—1—2 p.m.; 3) *So You Want to be a Beekeeper?*— 2—3:30 p.m. Classes cost \$10 each or all three for \$25 (per person) and will be held at 5146 Arnold Ave, Room 218—the ARC Regional Safety Training Center at McClellan Park (entrance at the Peacekeeper Gate off Watt Ave). To register, send your check with your name and the session(s) you want to attend to SABA, c/o 2110 X Street, Sacramento, 95818 by July 31.

Questions? Call Dennis Larson at (916) 481-4011 or email dlars@sbcglobal.net

August 11—Sep. 4—California State Fair Beekeepers' Booth—Many volunteers are needed to staff the booth and share info on bees and honey with visitors. Can you help? It's fun and you'll get free admission and parking for the day(s) you serve! Please call the bee store at (916) 451-2337 to sign up for one or more shifts.

Sep. 19th— Next regular SABA meeting w/ talk by A.J. Metcalfe—beekeeper on two continents and currently from Galt. He will share some of his personal background, perspectives, challenges, and seasonal management of honeybees. (tentatively rescheduled from June).

SABA's **regular meetings** are held the third Tuesday of each month (except July and August) **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) in Sacramento. All are welcome!

2007 Classes have been scheduled! Watch for details on how to register in future *Bee Lines*. *Beginning Beekeeping*, will be taught by Randy Oliver, Saturdays March 24 and March 31. *Intermediate Beekeeping* will be taught by Eric Mussen Saturday April 14. Tell your friends!

Bee Trivia

Answer to last month's question: The first known laws related to beekeeping were in the archives of the Hittite kings, from about 1300 BC. They specified fines for thefts of bees and beehives.

New question: What female name relates to bees?

June Minutes



The Business Meeting of the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association was called to order by President Howard Mann at 7:33 p.m. on June 20, 2006, at the Belle Coolege Community Center. Vice President Robert L. Rollins announced that the scheduled program speaker was unable to speak to us at the last minute, and has been re-scheduled for September.

The Minutes for 5/16/06 were approved. (Moved George Bleekman, 2d Dennis Larsen)

Treasurer's Report by Treasurer Richard Cuny stated a current balance of \$4,594.55. Richard went over recent expenses and income, including the \$1,350 paid to the State Fair that will be reimbursed by the State Beekeepers' Association.

Old Business. *Beekeeping Classes* - report by Dennis Larson. August class is set for 8/5/06. Group discussed potential topics, such as winterizing bees and introduction to beekeeping. Potential instructors include Howard Mann, Ron Parsons and George Bleekman. Names for a triad of subjects are thrown around: for example, "So You Want To Be A Beekeeper?" "The Sticky on Extracting", and "Winterizing Your Bees". Georgiana Pfof and any other who have names of persons who have expressed interest in classes will forward the names to Howard Mann so that he can mail flyers. Flyers will also be posted at the Bee Store and other locations.

SABA Picnic: VP Bob Rollins reports that the picnic is set for 7/15/06 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at East Portal Park, Sacramento. Bob passed around a sign up sheet for people to bring food items and to help with the cooking. Please contact Bob Rollins if you were not able to sign up at the meeting. *State Fair:* Howard Mann reports that he and Ruth Anne Rose have met with State Fair officials. The booth this year will be similar to last year's, but the counter will be moveable and there will be other improvements based on experience. *Sacramento County Fair:* President Mann said that the SABA's Fair participation "went well and a good time" was had by all.

New Business. *Repeal of the 10% Honey Sale Fee.* It was as if George Bleekman dressed as a colonist and threw honey overboard into the American River. He presented—orally with a compelling broadside, and with a written indictment against "the tax"—the case for repeal of the club's 10% fee assessment on honey sales at SABA booths (such as at the Sacramento County Fair,) that was passed on November 17, 2004. The motion for Repeal was passed unanimously. (Moved Derrold Lee, 2d George Bleekman; Derrold was pleased to note that he had also been the moving member back in '04!) It was further moved and passed to make the repeal retroactive to 11/17/04 (so as to make a refund to those members who have paid the fee.) (Moved Ernie Buda, 2nd Ron Parsons). *SABA Website:* Webmaster Barney Merrill reported on progress. It was moved and passed to fund the site fees up to \$120 per year. (Moved Ernie Buda, 2nd Russel Dalske.)

Guests and New Members: Member Doug Van Vleck was able to attend for the first time.

The meeting was adjourned by fiat at 8:31 p.m, followed by refreshments.

Respectfully submitted, *Ron Melliush*, Secretary

The raffle was of fresh eggs from Laura Shlien. Thanks again to Laura! The winners (who therefore bring refreshments to the *September* meeting) were George Bleekman, Nancy Stewart, Lydia Sheridan, Richard Cuny, Howard Mann, Dennis Larson and Ron Melliush.

Bees and the Law—continued from page 3

"There are certainly two very strong opinions on this (in the cases of Souza v. Lauppe and Rancho Viejo LLC v. Tres Amigos LLC). In the Souza case, they tried to say the statute is not applicable because it is agriculture vs. agriculture," Lopardo said. "The court opinion said, 'no, no, no their argument won't fly' because the Souza court said, 'the purpose of the statute is to protect grandfathered agriculture even to the extent other agricultural enterprises--in this case that would be citrus--are complaining about the situation.'"

And in the other opinion, the court relied on the Right to Farm Law in rejecting trespass and nuisance claims that an avocado grower's irrigation runoff had damaged a developer's adjacent parcel. The court there held that although the Right to Farm Law mentions only nuisances, the Legislature had also intended the statute to bar corollary trespass claims based on the same facts. Lopardo represented the avocado grower in that case.

Posell said Paramount Citrus believes an arrangement can be reached with landowners and beekeepers that maintain hives on neighboring properties.

"We believe there is room for everybody, including the bees. It is just a question of being respectful of what we're asking and seeing if we can reach some arrangement. We are optimistic that this is going to work itself out," Posell said.

- article contributed by Bob Sugar

Bees and the Law—“Right-to-farm issues causes buzz in SJV”

Excerpts reprinted from the California Farm Bureau's *Ag Alert* of May 10, 2006; article by Christine Souza.

“Concern by Paramount Citrus about damage to its mandarin crop caused by bees pollinating neighboring crops in Tulare, Kern, Fresno and Madera counties has prompted the company to demand that nearby landowners keep beehives at least 2 miles away from its groves. In response, some beekeepers assert that state law protects their right to continue their long-standing agricultural activity. ...

At issue is Paramount Citrus' discovery that its seedless mandarin varieties growing within the Central Valley's citrus belt are suffering damage due to cross-pollination by bees placed near its groves. The distribution by bees of pollen in these mandarin citrus groves results in a high number of seeds in the fruit. In a letter to a few property owners, Andrew Ashe, Paramount Citrus associate counsel, explained the situation faced by the company.

"The close proximity of these bees to the property threatens to devastate Paramount's Clementine mandarin crop and cause substantial monetary damage," Ashe stated in the letter. "Clementine mandarins produce a large amount of seeds when bees are present and, in today's market, seedy Clementine mandarins yield only a small fraction of the price of seedless Clementine mandarins. Even a small number of seedy fruit can cause tremendous damage by not only damaging the affected fruit, but also making the remaining fruit suspect since it is impossible to tell which fruit have seeds and which do not." ...

"A low seed number has been a high priority around the world. Consumers tend to prefer seedless or low seeded fruit," O'Connell said. "Certainly this wasn't a topic of general discussion because we had grown the Satsuma mandarin for years and years and it just so happens that Satsuma is seedless. There just wasn't a focus on the potential of some of these different types of mandarins to produce seed."

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's California Agricultural Statistics Service, this year there are an estimated 12,000 bearing acres of tangerines and mandarins in California. The production value for tangerines and mandarins totaled \$55.8 million in 2004-2005, the latest year figures were available.

Tulare County beekeeper Paul Godlin, a member of the California Farm Bureau Federation bee advisory committee, has stored his beehives at a citrus belt property for more than 25 years. He was asked to find another place for his bees. "A landlord asked me to leave and when I didn't get them out that night, Paramount called me the next day to say, if you don't get these out, you'll be hearing from our legal department," Godlin said. "Paramount is encouraging growers to be good neighbors and not allow their beekeeper that they've dealt with for many years to put bees in the area. To the best of my knowledge, they have no legal right to do that. A lot of wringing of hands is going on right now." The few landowners who refused to comply with Paramount's request to remove bees received the letter by Paramount Citrus attorney Ashe, who stated the company's request that they move the hives or face legal action.

"Paramount hereby demands that you immediately move your bee hives a minimum of two miles away from Paramount's property. If you fail to do so...we will have no choice but to immediately take legal action against you, including filing suit against you for negligence, trespass, nuisance and other claims," Ashe stated. "Should such action become necessary, please be advised that Paramount will seek injunctive relief, compensation for any and all damages caused to its crops as well as punitive damages."

Godlin has relocated his bees, an estimated 1,000 hives in eight locations in Tulare County. "The landowner is a good friend and asked me to leave. I didn't want to put him in any kind of jeopardy. I've lost some locations this year where we've been putting bees for 28 years," Godlin said. "They have gone about this with a total disregard for the bee industry and it is so ironic since Paramount Farms needs 50,000 beehives for pollination of its almonds. They get a lot of them from local beekeepers. We actually put in 7,500 hives there last year."

The production of orange blossom honey contributes to the state's \$25.2 million honey crop, according to the latest report for honey production by USDA. The agency reported that last year nearly 400,000 colonies in California produced 30 million pounds of honey (although California beekeepers say the number of colonies is more in the 500,000 range). UC Davis Extension apiculturist Eric Mussen said of the several hundred honey varieties, citrus is one of the premium honeys. ... "With citrus you can generally get a premium price because it is lighter in color and because the flavor is so good." Mussen also said, due to the wet spring, bees are behind in their natural feed which means beekeepers must feed them a sugar solution. ...

Beekeepers believe that Paramount Citrus does not have the legal right to tell landowners who contract with beekeepers to move bees from these properties asserting they are protected under California's Right to Farm Law, Civil Code Section 3482.5. Simply stated, that law shields from nuisance claims customary commercial agricultural activities and operations that have been in business for more than three years.

Stephen Lopardo, of Sachse, James and Lopardo in Fallbrook, an attorney who has written on California's Right to Farm Law after successfully defending a grower under it, said he believes the statute is applicable in this case. ...



continued at bottom of page 2

Honey Recipe of the Month

Debbie's Honey Granola



4 c. old fashioned rolled oats 1 c. raisins or other dried fruit (e.g., cherries, cranberries)
1 c. nuts, coarsely chopped or sliced (e.g., almonds, walnuts, pecans) *(If pre-chopped, use ¾ cup)*
½ c. diced dried apples *(optional)* ½ c. shredded coconut *(optional)*
1¼ c. honey ½ c. pure maple syrup *(or ½ c. more honey)*
½ c. butter (not margarine) 3 tsp ground cinnamon (or to taste)
½ tsp ground allspice ¼ tsp ground nutmeg
dash of salt 1 tsp *real* vanilla extract

Combine oats, nuts and fruit in a large bowl and mix well. In a saucepan mix all the other ingredients except the vanilla and boil for 2 minutes; add vanilla once boiling has stopped. Pour honey mixture over the oat mixture and toss until well-blended. Spread on a greased or Pam-sprayed cookie sheet, and bake at 350°F for 30 minutes or until lightly browned, stirring every 5 minutes. Place pan on a cookie rack to cool, then store cooled granola in an airtight container at room temperature. *[This Granola is to store-bought what a store-bought tomato (cardboard) is to a homegrown tomato. The product improves another order of magnitude when you use "homemade" raw honey. Caution: the Proprietors assume no responsibility for any weight gain after users experience an inability to stop eating this Granola!]*
- Contributed by Ron Melliush

Bee Classifieds

FOR SALE: Large stainless steel holding/filtering tank (32" h x 24" diameter) with plastic honey gate. \$125. Stand for tank: \$25. Call Oakley Gack at (916) 489-0340.

FOR SALE: Misc hives, frames, clothing and other equipment Bargain prices before move. Call Charlene Goff at (916) 992-9914.

WANTED: Your contributions of bee-related articles, tips, questions, trivia, recipes and book or website reviews for future newsletters. Email them to the editor at dugongs@msn.com or mail to 3517 57th St, Sacramento, 95820.

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Address Correction Requested

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