

The Bee Line

2008—Issue 7

July 2008

2008 Club Officers

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 Hospitality: Mil Sutter
 Library:
 Kathy Mallory & Ray Marler
 Mentors: George Bleekman
 Newsletter: Georgianna Pfof

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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

Watch 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 Bee Events

Sat., July 12—10 –11:30 a.m. Tour of UCD Bee Lab. For the 35 who signed up, please meet at the lab at 10:00 (see directions and map on page 3) and the one-hour tour will start by 10:30. (If you didn't sign up for the tour, you can still attend the picnic. Due to the high level of interest, we will try to schedule another tour on a future date.)

Sat., July 12—Noon to 2'ish SABA Picnic at UCD Bee Lab (see map inside). If you haven't yet signed up, call or email David Ogden (916-687-6977 or david.diann@frontiernet.net) by Mon., July 7 with the number in your party and what you plan to bring (e.g., salad, side dish). SABA's providing burgers, buns, condiments, dessert, sodas, paper goods & utensils. Bring your own chair or blanket to sit on.

Tues., July 15-SABA Meeting. Program at 7:30 is a presentation on honey extraction—What to look for? Capped frames? What if there's brood in the frames? Is uncapped nectar a problem? What equipment is needed? How to filter, bottle and store honey? Come hear the answers to these questions and more!

Thurs., July 17- Honey Night at the Stockton Ports game. For more info and link to ticket info see <http://www.honey.com/milb/index.asp>

Sat., Aug. 2- Beginning Natural Beekeeping class taught by Serge Labesque, a Sonoma County beekeeper.

Sat., Aug. 16-Advanced Natural Beekeeping class by Serge Labesque (for those already keeping bees and/or who've taken a beginning class). Class will ex-

pand on Serge's bee management methods including how to propagate colonies and discourage swarming.

Both of SABA's natural beekeeping classes will be held at the Sacramento County Coop Ag Extension auditorium, 4145 Branch Center Road (1 block west of Bradshaw at Keifer Blvd.), from 8 to 5 with a break for lunch.

The cost per class is \$35 per person (\$30 for SABA members). **To register** or for more info, call or email Ernie Buda (916-354-9801 or 2211budae@peoplepc.com). Space is limited to 25 per class. And if you have a bee hat and veil, please bring them to class.

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

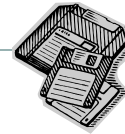
Tues., Aug. 19—SABA Meeting. Program TBA. Ideas? Contact David Ogden

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.

Sat., Sep. 13—SABA Open House 10-2 at County Ag Building for anyone who may want to be a beekeeper. (See Pres. Corner on page 3 for more info.)

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!

Welcome new members: Bill Priddin, Lydia Sheridan, Lindsey Weaver, and Richard Williams.



June 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 June 17, 2008, at the Belle Cooledge Community Center. After introducing the SABA Officers, Ernie welcomed first-time **visitors** and members: Darrel Hedge of Land Park found SABA online and wants to learn more about beekeeping; Steve Christensen of Loomis took Randy Oliver's beekeeping class; Ceci Giacomina of Sherman Island is a new beekeeper, as is Glen Adams of Glen Cover; and Shauna Ellsworth lives in rural Cottonwood but works in Sacramento and wants to keep bees at her home. The 2nd natural beekeeping **class** was well received--25 students plus a wait list. Ernie asked how many present would be interested in taking the class if offered again, and how many would go if Serge did an intermediate natural class? Enough hands went up to constitute a class in both cases. The question was asked "can you take a class twice?" Sure! Ernie will coordinate with Serge.

The Program VP Dave Ogden introduced tonight's program --a mentors' panel of Dennis Larson, Bob Sugar, and Ray Marler to answer our questions. Here are two excerpts from the mentors' comments: Glenn Apiaries' website had good information on water gardens for bees. To water the bees, Ray has used a sponge under a dripping faucet, held in place by a holder he made from a clothes hanger. After the program, Richard Cuny stated that he brought some used frames for anyone who wanted any; and Ernie Buda that we had a number of 1/8 inch hardware cloth (some in wooden frames) that the County Ag Commissioner no longer needed and so made available to SABA. Dave Ogden spoke about the July 12th SABA **picnic** and UC Davis **bee lab tour**, taking sign-ups for various picnic items.

Following a break, the **Business Meeting** began at 8:45 p.m. The **minutes** for April and May were approved. Moved Bruce Wahn; 2nd Martha Maldonado. **Treasurer** Dennis Larson reported SABA's balance at \$7,386.94. We have just over \$500 left in the BofA account that will be closed when all the checks clear; then our sole account will be with Merchants Bank. Ernie reports that the SABA **library** has 5 new acquisitions. Three are from the personal library of Dr. Gary (the "bee wrangler"). He is retiring and wanted to sell his books; Ray Marler went through them and selected ones to buy. Check out the **website**, Ernie says, for new content, new links to queen suppliers, and more. About 9 people indicated an interest in holding a **woodworking day** at Ernie's shop (to make follower and screened bottom boards to start with; you could also glue and nail frame kits.) Please let Ernie know by email if you're interested and how many of each you'd contemplate making. (Making a top feeder box is a bigger project and would require its own day; please email Ernie if you have an interest in this.) Ray Marler says he "had big plans one day" and now has lots of **equipment for sale!** Call him if interested in 8 and 10 frame supers, frames, etc. Ernie noted **public education presentations** done last month: Ray Marler and Russel Dalske contended with multiple classes of 3rd graders, and Ron and Debbie Melliush ran a SABA booth at the Foulks Ranch Elementary school carnival in Laguna. The question was asked "**how do we do a presentation or fair booth?**" SABA has an inventory of signs, including a great set of "study prints", as well as the SABA banner, and observation hive turntables. Add an observation hive and some SABA cards (and our new pamphlet coming out soon), bring your beekeeping suit, a smoker and some other equipment, maybe an empty super and some honey to sample, and you've got a booth. Last month we approved significant money for George Bleekman to maintain and expand our supply of signage so we can keep a set at each of 3 locations to make it easier for members to pick up if they are doing a presentation or booth. Please let an officer know if you would like to be on the list of SABA members available to do these **public outreach** presentations. Later in the meeting Richard Cuny asked if expenses for such work is reimbursable. Yes, and the board will work on setting up further guidelines now that the club has grown so, and we are doing so much more of this. For **Fall Education** we're going to try a free open house on 9/13 at the County Ag building with sessions of the ever-popular "So You Think You Want to Bee a Beekeeper?" We'll have information on it to hand out at the State Fair and the Gold Country Fair. We've previously offered paid classes on winterizing and extracting, and those will be presented as regular SABA meeting programs in the fall. (Wow! Talk about your added value for SABA membership!) Please contact a member of the board if you are interested in helping with education by serving on the **Education Committee**. The Committee needs to soon evaluate training content, instructors, and schedule for 2009! Ernie reports that our working relationship with the **County Agricultural Commission** is good and getting better. The State is soliciting applicants for the **Apiary Board**. Lisa McCann called and found that they are just starting up the Board now; information about how to apply for a seat is on SABA's website. It'd be great to have some SABA representation, and to have a hobbyist on the board in addition to the anticipated commercial beekeepers. Bob Sugar noted that Ron Parsons is the SABA rep with the California State Beekeepers Association, and that the current "Mandarin wars" of the Central Valley will probably increase the importance of this new Apiary Board. Brenda Terry asked how we are involved in the **State Fair?** The booth is sponsored by the California State Beekeepers Association. Dennis points out that we actually pay the booth fee, then they reimburse us. We run the booth for the state association (because we are local and can do so.) For years Nancy Stewart's daughter Pam Hill at the bee store has done a great job running the roster of workers. (Thanks, Pam!) Interestingly, many people who are not SABA members sign up to work year after year. Sign up! It is a great experience and lots of fun, and you can *really* get to know your fellow beekeepers staffing the booth (plus free parking and you can go to the Fair for the rest of the day!) Ernie is meeting with State Fair officials this week to further coordinate this year's bee booth. SABA **membership** stands at almost 100.

- continued at bottom of page 3

President's Corner

Wow – the May meeting had another great turnout. The mentor panel did a great job with a lot of timely questions. **GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS**—The good (and bad!) news is that we have had overwhelming interest in the UC Davis bee lab tour! Unfortunately the lab tour can accommodate only a limited number of people and that quota was filled at the June meeting. (Good reason to make extra effort to attend the meetings!) So some are unfortunately going to be disappointed about missing this lab tour. However, that is not an excuse to skip the picnic, eat good old fashioned BBQ, have an opportunity to socialize with other beekeepers, get your beekeeping questions addressed, and just have a great time. How can you go wrong with good company and free food? By the way this IS a bring-your-family event. Be sure to RSVP so David can be prepared with enough food and drink (see calendar for details).

MORE CLASSES. We have scheduled two more natural beekeeping classes to be taught by Serge Labesque in August—one beginning and one “advanced.” Please see the calendar for dates and details.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A BEEKEEPER? A new approach is being taken to address this question which is the topic of MANY discussions at the State fair, community presentations and many people you encounter when they find out you're a beekeeper. So on Sat., September 13, SABA will have an "open house" session from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30p.m. at the County Ag Building with short presentations given at 10:00 and 1:00 explaining in general terms what is involved in being a hobbyist beekeeper. We'll also have beekeeping equipment on display so SABA beekeepers can, on a one-to-one basis, converse with and demonstrate to interested people how a hive works. Of course we will encourage interested folks to become involved in the fascinating process of "keeping" (who keeps who?) bees and to of course join and become involved in SABA. There will be no fee for this "open house" as it's part of SABA's education mission. Note: the subjects of honey extraction and winterizing your bee colonies that have previously been fall mini-classes will become membership meeting program sessions. Watch our internet and future *Bee Lines* for details.

WORKING GROUP FOR 2009 TRAINING. At the June meeting I advised that we would like to have a SABA team to work on the training course schedule, content and instructors for 2009. You do not have to be a long-time SABA member to participate since a beginning beekeeper may have a better idea of what is needed. Interested? Please give me a call or email. Thanks-

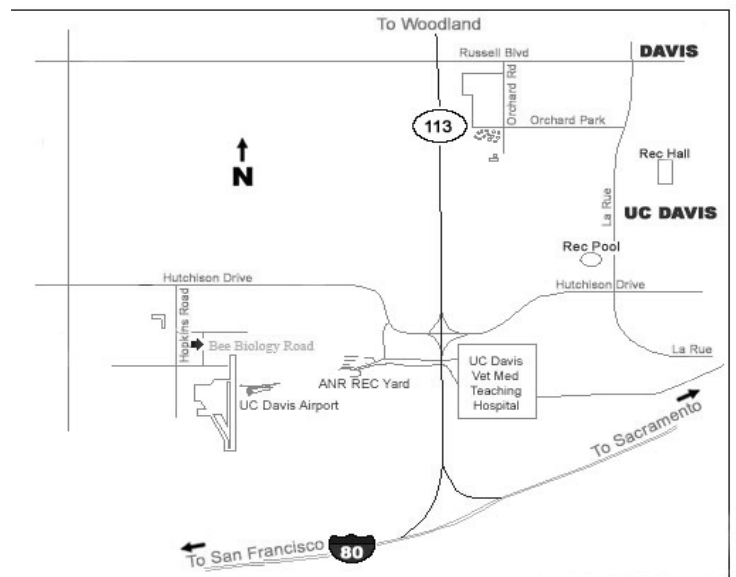
WORKING DAY. Also at the June meeting I asked how many people would be interested in having a working day (a Saturday, possibly 10 to 2) at my woodworking shop to construct some equipment we use (e.g., items like "follower boards," robber screens, screened bottom boards, etc.) Many people raised their hands but I have only heard from one member about what items he would like to make. If you are interested, call or email me with the list of items you would like to see constructed and how many you would want. Without this information I cannot proceed with the planning and scheduling. Thanks! See you at the picnic!
-Ernie Buda, President

Directions to UCD Bee Lab Tour and SABA Picnic

From the Sacramento Area: Take Interstate 80 west-bound OR

from the San Francisco Bay Area: Take Interstate 80 eastbound.

Then, at the eastern edge of Davis, take State Route 113 north (toward Woodland); exit at Hutchison Drive. Turn left to go west (away from the main UC Davis campus) toward the campus airport; turn left onto Hopkins Road and then left on Bee Biology Road.



Minutes—continued from page 2

Gretchen Erwin tells us that information about the importation of bees from Mexico will be posted to the website. Inform yourself about issues of disease and Africanized bees. Webmaster Ken Lee will work on getting a **blog/chat/message** board area set up on our website. One we tried did not work out. Dennis Larson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. There were 50 members and visitors present. (!) Respectfully submitted, *Ron Melluish*, Secretary

Honey Recipe of the Month

Sparkling Honey Fruit Spritzer

1/3 c. honey
1 lime, thinly sliced
3 c. orange juice
Ice cubes

1 c. frozen berries (e.g., strawberries, raspberries)
1 orange, halved and thinly sliced
3 c. sparkling water, seltzer water or club soda



Combine honey, berries, citrus slices and juice in pitcher. Using a wooden spoon, press down on the fruit to “juice” it and mix it up with the honey. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours. Just before serving, add the sparkling water and ice, and stir. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Reprinted from *Honey: Sweet and Simple Recipes* pamphlet by the National Honey Board, approx. 2007.

Bee Classifieds

FOUND: Sleeveless Champion fleece vest at our Sac County Fair booth. If it's yours, call (916) 791-0448.

FOR SALE: New Dadant bee suit—size XXL. Make an offer! (530) 677-2185.

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

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. Remember it's your newsletter. Share ideas!

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

—The Bee Line—
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Tour & Picnic—July 12

Meeting—July 15