



The Bee Line

2007—Issue 9

October 2007

2007 Club Officers

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Vice President: David Ogden

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Secretary: Ron Melliush

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Other Committee Contacts:

Finance: Dennis Larson

Hospitality: Mil Sutter

Mentors: George Bleekman

Newsletter & Library:

Georgianna Pfof

State Fair: Ernie Buda

Donations: Nancy Stewart

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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.



Tips for the Month

Continue to periodically check your bees this month to be sure they have adequate brood, and honey and pollen stored for the winter. If food appears inadequate you can supplement with sugar syrup (at a ratio of 2 parts sugar to 1 part water), and provide pollen substitutes (for brood).

Coming Events

Sat. Oct. 6— Sun. Oct. 7—Elk Grove Harvest Festival. SABA will host an information and educational booth from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. each day, and members can also sell their honey at the Festival. *If you can you help staff the booth Sat. or Sun. call Ron Melliush at (916) 743-2703*

Tues., Oct. 16- SABA Meeting.— Program TBA (call VP David Ogden closer to the 16th for an update!).

Tues., Nov. 13—Thurs., Nov. 15—118th Annual California State Beekeeping Conference, at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. For info, contact Patricia Johnson at castatebeekkeepers@hotmail.com or (209) 667-4590.

Tues., Nov. 20— SABA Meeting. Dr. Sue Cobey, the new director of UCD's research lab will be the program speaker.

Tues., Dec. 18 - SABA Meeting and Holiday Potluck and Gadget Night. Watch for more details!

Jan. 8—12, 2008 - National Beekeeping Conference—at Doubletree Hotel here in Sacramento. For schedule and registration info. go to www.abfnet.org or www.americanhoneyproducers.org or call (912)427-4233.

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!

Phone List Updates

New members to add to your phone list:

- Jeanlaurie Ainsworth—Sacramento—(916) 451-8892
- Vicki Tully— Orangevale
- Mark Woznicki-Elk Grove-(916) 686-0558

State Fair Report

Well, the State Fair has come and gone this year and I just wanted to give recognition to those who made our bee booth a great success again this year. I think the most important of our volunteers are the very few people who fill, transport, search for, and sometimes mark the queens for the observation hives that are supplied consistently (*changed every 3 days*) throughout the 16 days of the State Fair. So **THANKS** to Bob Sugar, Ron Parsons, Howard Mann and Fred Stewart. I'd also like to thank the people who volunteered to work a shift (or more): Jerry Kimbro, Howard Mann, Richard Cuny, Tom Ingles, Ron Parsons, Caron Treon, Maria Rudolph, Steve & Julie Johnson, Bob & Joeann Rollins, Mil Sutter, Tom Lewis, Bob Sugar, Carol Smith, Doug & Gail Houck, Frank Lienert, Randal Paige, Dennis Larson, Larry Bylard, Alicia Reenan, Patrick Cassidy, Stella Carlson & Frannie, Joseph & Susan Watkins, John & Maggie Harris, Yoder Arauco, Ron & Debbie Melliush, Phil Hofland & family, Cliff Williams, Eric Smoot, David Chase & wife, Bill Sheldon, Connie Rose, Dexter, David & Diann Ogden, Paul Baumeister & son, Ernie Buda, Ray Marler, Barry Olmstead, Golling family, George Bleekman, Claudia Greco, Annette Werblow, Donna Stewart and last but not least Courtney & Brooklynne Hill, Shelby & Parker Stewart. 55 total volunteers (24 members of SABA & 31 non-members!) ...continued on next page

September Minutes & Program Notes



The Meeting of the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association was called to order by President Robert L. Rollins at 7:30 p.m. on September 18, 2007, at the Belle Cooledge Community Center. We then enjoyed a very interesting and entertaining **program** presentation by Norm Gary, PhD, of the UC Davis faculty. He spoke about different management techniques appropriate for our temperate climate area. Asked about the status of colony collapse disorder, he responded that it was a "serious problem" and there is "no answer yet." He reviewed some of the current theories, including a view (not shared by him) that a virus traveling from Israel to Australia to the US may contribute to CCD.

The **Business Meeting** began at 9:10 p.m. The minutes for June were approved. Treasurer's Report by Treasurer Richard Cuny stated a current balance of approximately \$5,100. Treasurer Cuny reviewed recent expenses and income. The American Beekeeping Federation is seeking support; the request will be given to Nancy Stewart for evaluation.

Other Reports or Business: Dennis Larson reported on the Fall Beekeeping Classes. Nine persons attended. John Harris taught extracting and Howard Mann winterizing. Dennis said there was good mentoring and sharing. Thanks you Dennis for organizing the fall classes! Motion carried to send written thank you letters to the instructors. We have lost some key members in some important areas of club activity, whether through death or inability to carry on with a certain responsibility. Some discussion followed about how to organize some tasks and committees (such as beekeeping classes), and who would help. President Rollins opined that all classes should be coordinated by the Education Committee. Bob Sugar volunteered to chair, and Fred Stewart and Mil Sutter volunteered to help with publicity. The 2007 State Fair was discussed. The sense of the membership is still that we'd like to be back in the Counties Pavilion because the volume of the cooking demonstrations in our current locale is headache-inducing when listened to for hours. A motion carried to write the California State Beekeepers' to report on the Fair and thank them for their sponsorship of the Fair booth. The booth is paid for by the state organization; we staff the booth because we are local and able to do so. We want to let the state organization know that the activity merits continued funding because it is a very successful public relations event.

George Bleekman reported on the Gold Country Fair, September 6-9. George and another volunteer (not a SABA member) ran the booth. It went great. George says honey sales were way down this year, perhaps because of the economy. We discussed the issue of the increasing fees and (sometimes nonsensical) bureaucratic requirements being imposed by many of the venues where we normally run community education exhibits--all the way from the State Fair to the smaller affairs like the Gold Country Fair and Elk Grove Harvest Festival. Many members felt that we should take an early and stronger negotiating stance with some of the venue management to try and reduce or eliminate fees. Your undersigned secretary reported on the planning for the Elk Grove Harvest Festival Oct. 6-7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year the fees have jumped 500% (yes, five hundred percent,) from \$5 to \$25. The amount is not alarming, but the trend is. Also, new personnel at the Community Services District have imposed other new requirements and procedures "in an effort to better serve the public." Frankly, as with some of the other cases discussed above, it would almost seem that management wants to discourage public education and service organizations from participating. Enough editorializing. Several members have signed up to staff the booth. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Ron Melliush*, Secretary

State Fair Report... continued from first page

And thanks to other volunteers & donations including: Frank Lienert – honey samples (majority); Dennis Larson – honey for cooking demonstrations; Georgianna Pfof – honey samples; Dexter – refilling tasters & straightening up daily; Ernie Buda – for the wonderfully perfect & excellent craftsmanship of the observation hive turntable; Pam Hill – for all the administration, coordinating, setting up, displaying & cleaning up; and Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies (Fred, Nancy, Donna & Pam) – for all the calling & signing up of volunteers, tickets & passes distribution, and handling any emergency situations that occurred; and of course, the 2007 State Fair Committee: Pam Hill, Nancy Stewart, Ernie Buda and George Bleekman. **Thanks to you all!**

- Pam Hill and Nancy Stewart

Ed. Note: Haven't worked in a fair booth yet? Watch the next newsletter for a special report on "a day in the life at the State Fair booth" from one of the volunteers and get ready for next year!

Bees in the News—CCD Clue?

Excerpts from Middle East Virus Likely Cause of Honeybee Collapse by John Nielsen, from NPR's *All Things Considered* program, September 6, 2007 ·



“For more than a year now, a mysterious plague has been ravaging honeybee populations all over the United States. Beekeepers who have lost hives by the thousands call it "Colony Collapse Disorder." Now a group of scientists say they may have figured out what's causing it. ...

“The first cases of Colony Collapse Disorder turned up in southern California in 2004. When tests for well-known bee diseases came up negative, Pettis and his colleagues asked experts on infectious diseases in humans for help. One of these experts, Ian Lipkin from Columbia University, began by collecting bees from diseased and non-diseased hives, grinding them up and collecting their DNA. "And this gives us not only bee material, but also everything that might be associated with bees, such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites of different types," Lipkin says. Lipkin set aside the bits and pieces of DNA from the bees and started sorting through what was left, searching for material found only in beehives infected by CCD. What they found, eventually, was a bee-killing virus first identified in Israel. These findings have now been published online by the journal *Science*.

“But both Pettis and Lipkin are quick to note that they have yet to prove conclusively that the Middle Eastern virus they found is the sole cause of CCD. "Right now, we are claiming it is a marker in Colony Collapse Disorder," Pettis explains. "We have shown that it is present when colonies are collapsing, but we haven't shown cause and effect."

“One unanswered question is why this virus is having such dramatic effects here and not elsewhere. Pettis has a hunch that bees in this country are already dealing with a host of other problems, ranging from killer fungi to parasitic mites. He thinks beekeepers should take special care to make sure their hives are free of those old problems. Beekeepers can also eradicate infected hives, since that kills the virus. ...”

Thanks to Laura Shlien for forwarding this news item

Beekeeping Laws

As some of you know, there's been an issue pitting “seedless” mandarin growers against beekeepers in the Central Valley. The growers (who've been expanding their acreage to meet consumer demand for “seedless” mandarins) want to keep bees out of their orchards to prevent pollination (and thus seeds). **Assembly Bill 771** was recently passed and enrolled. The bill's digest states:

“Existing law requires the Department of Food and Agriculture, headed by the Secretary of Food and Agriculture, to promote and protect the agricultural industry of the state.

This bill would authorize the secretary, when conflicts arise between sectors of agriculture, to designate agricultural working groups to work toward conflict resolution. Members of the working groups would be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the secretary, in accordance with specified procedures.

Existing law generally regulates beekeepers, honey producers, and citrus growers.

This bill would make findings and declarations about the threat to the seedless mandarin industry caused by other agricultural products. The bill would enact the **Seedless Mandarin and Honeybee Coexistence Working Group Act**, which would require the secretary, no more than 15 days after enactment of this bill, to designate a Seedless Mandarin and Honeybee Coexistence Working Group to meet regularly to develop best management practices that address the coexistence issues related to production of seedless mandarin varieties in specified counties while providing reasonable access to citrus to the bee industry. The bill would give the Seedless Mandarin and Honeybee Coexistence Working Group reasonable time to develop best management practices and also would grant the secretary the authority to adopt regulations, as deemed necessary, if the working group fails to reach consensus prior to June 1, 2008. However, the bill would require the secretary to adopt regulations no later than February 1, 2009, if the working group fails to reach consensus by June 1, 2008.“

For the text of this new statute, look up AB 771 at [http:// www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov)

Bee Humor

You know you're a beekeeper when...

- You pick up matches at restaurants, even though you don't smoke.
- You don't mow the lawn because the bees are working the weeds.
- You've gone through the supermarket checkout line buying nothing but a big load of sugar and maybe some Crisco.



from the website <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Beekeeping/> Watch for more in future newsletters!

Honey Recipe of the Month

Honey Caramels

1/4 c. cream	1/2 c. honey
1 tsp. flour	1/2 tsp. vanilla
1/4 tsp. salt	1/2 c. chopped nuts
2 T. butter	



Mix cream, flour and salt in a small heavy saucepan. Add in butter and honey. Heat, stirring constantly, until mixture reaches 258° (or until syrup dropped in cold water forms a firm ball) - about 15 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla and nuts. Pour into a buttered dish (about 5 x 7'). Let cool about 20 minutes and cut into squares. Wrap each square in waxed paper and store in a closed container. [You could probably also make without the nuts, and/or cook only to point where syrup strings in cold water and then use to dip apples!]

This was simple to make, and the candies have a nice mild honey-caramel flavor. —Georgianna Pfof

Recipe from Cooking with Honey by Hazel Berto, 1972.

Bee Classifieds

NEEDED FOR CLUB PROGRAMS: *Two* of our future speakers have requested **power point projectors** for their presentations (one in Nov. and one in March), and another speaker needs to be able to project pictures from a DVD. If anyone in the club has access to such equipment or know where we could borrow it, please call David Ogden at 916-687-6977 ASAP.

WANTED: Your contributions of bee-related articles, tips, questions, personal experiences, trivia, recipes, and book or website reviews for future newsletters. Email them to the editor at dugongs@sbcglobal.net or mail to 3517 57th St., Sacramento, 95820. Please share your bee experiences!

SACRAMENTO AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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Address Correction Requested

—The Bee Line—
October 2007



Next Meeting:

Tues. Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m.