



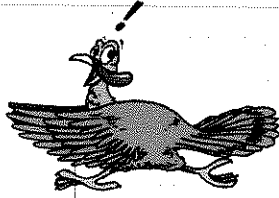
The Bee Line

2008—Issue 11

November 2008

2008 Club Officers

- President: Ernie Buda
- Vice President: David Ogden
- Secretary: Ron Melluish
- Treasurer: Dennis Larson



Mentors' Tips for the Month

Check your bees for honey and pollen stores to ensure they have enough for the winter months. If food appears inadequate, you can supplement with sugar syrup (at a ratio of 2 parts sugar to 1 part water).

Other Committee Contacts:

- Donations: Nancy Stewart
- Hospitality: Mil Sutter
- Library: Kathy Mallory
- Mentors: George Bleekman
- Newsletter: Georgianna Pfost
- Inventory: Joseph Watkins
- Nominating: Rex Parsons

Winter Bee Activities

Sat's & Sun's Oct. 25—Jan. 4—Folsom History Museum (823 Sutter Street, Folsom) is having a "Garden to Jar" exhibit on beekeeping (and 4H, Master Gardeners and Master Canners). Area beekeepers are needed to help out as docents (talking to visitors about bees and what a beekeeper does) serving approx. 2-hour morning or afternoon shifts any of those Saturdays and Sundays (or some weekdays for school groups). For more info or to sign up please call George at (916) 791-0448.

per couple) or \$75 per day. Program includes a "Serious Sideliner Symposium" all day Friday and Saturday afternoon. For more info. go to www.abfnet.org or call (912) 427-4233. [Note the Sideliner Symposiums are a great educational forum for new and backyard beekeepers.]

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

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* **Sat. Nov. 8**—Deadline for 2009 Officer nominations (see details on page 2).

Tues. Nov 11—Thurs. Nov. 13—Calif. State Beekeepers' Assn. Conference, at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. For more info see www.californiastatebeekeepers.com or call (209) 667-4590.

Tues., Nov. 18—SABA Meeting & Election, 7:30 p.m. Program topic TBA via email (or call David closer to date).

Tues., Dec. 16—SABA Meeting and Holiday Potluck. Watch for more info.

Tues., Jan. 6—Sat., Jan. 10—American Honey Producers Convention, Radisson Conference Center in Fresno. For more info go to www.americanhoneyproducers.org

Tues., Jan. 13—Sat. Jan. 17—North American Beekeeping & American Beekeeping Federation Conference at Nugget Casino Resort in Reno. Advance reg. fee is \$175 per person (\$200

And for your 2009 planning, here are the SABA meeting dates (all third Tuesdays):

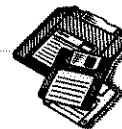
Jan. 20	Jul. 21
Feb. 17	Aug. 18
Mar. 17	Sep. 15
Apr. 21	Oct. 20
May 18	Nov. 17
Jun. 16	Dec. 15

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Welcome new members—Brian Fishback of Wilton, Doug and Gail Houck of Davis, Roberta Jan-Johnson of Sacramento, and Joyce and Steven Kelly-Reif of Carmichael.
* * * * *

2009 Committees: If you're not interested in running for a SABA office but would still like to support our club, please consider helping on one or more committees (e.g., publicity, library, class planning, hospitality, etc.) in 2009. For more info contact the current chair or one of the current officers.

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



October 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 October 21, 2008, at the Belle Cooledge Community Center in Sacramento. Ernie welcomed longtime members, visitors, and new members.

Program: Vice President David Ogden announced the program by introducing long-time Granite Bay beekeeper, George Bleekman. George then began a presentation on the process of honey extraction, bottling, and marketing, especially comb honey. George explained his philosophy as a beekeeper who keeps bees for profit—selling his specialty of comb honey. He first distributed a printed handout to guide those present as he explained the step-by-step process that he uses in extracting honey. This included the criteria and process used for determining the readiness of the hive and each frame of honey for extraction. The distance of the holding container from the hives for all frames removed is important. Suggestions were made about different ways for removing bees from capped honey frames, including shaking, use of a heavy wet cloth, etc. Utilization and advantages of his honey house were also discussed, including the need for clean, non-sticky floors. Uncapping the honey from frames and the equipment used in the extraction process were displayed and discussed. Turning a frame of honey upside down enhances its flow. Crystallized honey and the simple process of reconstituting it to regular honey was also explained. Necessary precautions in using an extractor and the steps used in removing honey from the frames to a bucket were discussed. Finally, George talked about the bottling or containerizing of honey and labeling of the end product. There are different types of containers and labels, including primary and secondary labels. These were explained, illustrated, and the selling techniques used in various venues were also mentioned. Other procedures and preparation techniques were mentioned for both dry and wet honeycomb such as using cookie cutters for comb honey and the solar melting and selling of wax. It was a very interesting and informative program. [For this part of the SABA meeting there were 52 members and guests.]

Following the program and break the **Business Meeting** began at 9:14 P.M. [There were 26 present.]

OLD BUSINESS: The **minutes** as found in the September 2008 *BeeLine* were approved. A treasury report shows a total of \$6,368.33 in the account which does not reflect the few outstanding bills or deposits.

NEW BUSINESS and informational items: We will be moving our **State Fair** booth site next year to another location. A good report was given on the supplying of bees for the observation hive at the State Fair. Standing rules for selection and election of officers was read and **voting** will be at the November meeting by secret ballot. It was moved and seconded by those present that the following nominees be on the ballot: Ernie Buda for President, David Ogden for Vice President, Ron Melliush for Secretary, and Dennis Larson for Treasurer. [**Nominations** can still be made up to Nov. 8; see info below.] The transition of newsletter responsibilities from Georgianna Pfof to the new editor (Brenda Terry) is in progress and should be finalized for the new year. **Group tickets** for King's games were announced. New member packets and **mentor lists** for members and visitors were mentioned. George Bleekman noted that the Folsom History Center is in need of adults who may wish to serve for a few hours as **docents** for the "From Garden to Jar" display for group discussions with school children [see calendar for more info]. The **potluck** dinner is in December. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Robert L. Rollins, Acting Secretary.

2009 SABA Election Process

The election for SABA 2009 officers will be held by secret ballot at the **November meeting**. Ballots will be given only to those members in good standing who are present at the meeting (so please try to attend). Nominations were accepted at the October meeting (see Minutes above) and will also be accepted through **Sat., Nov. 8** by personally contacting Rex Parsons, the Chairman of the nominating committee, by phone at (916) 993-4245 (w) or 359-3309 (h - before 9 p.m.) or email at planetparsons@yahoo.com.

If you are interested in serving, you may place your own name into nomination for one office, and/or you may place the name of another member into nomination for any or all of the four offices. Persons placed in nomination by another will be contacted and have the opportunity to accept or decline the nomination, and should a member be nominated for more than one office they will be required to remove their name from all but one.

Please consider serving in one of these roles this year and helping support our growing organization!

You know you're a beekeeper when...

- You welcome a rainy weekend if it will stimulate nectar production.
- You are keenly aware of the first and last freezes of each winter.



President's Corner

At the October meeting nominations were opened for the 2009 elected officers. Based on nomination from the floor the incumbents were nominated but you have until November 8th to contact Rex Parsons and place your or any other member's name into nomination. [See details at bottom of page 2.] I would encourage you to do so. Organizations need a continuing infusion of new energy and ideas.

This month's message will be short. In the December *Bee Line*, should I be reelected as President, I will outline my goals for 2009 in more specific terms. However, I will make the observation that our membership has grown considerable this year and the administrative process has not kept pace with the that growth. Goals for next year will be to identify areas of need and create and document appropriate processes. ... See you at the meeting! - Ernie

Bees in the News

Bees are still buzzing all over the press and in the movie theatres, too.



"New bees: Urban beekeepers bring the buzz to town" by Kimberly Brown, *Sacramento News & Review*, 10/16/08, shared the experience of SABA members and new beekeepers John Foster and Matt Tucker and their highly successful first year honey crop from their Land Park area bees. The article highlights how backyard beekeepers may be key to sustaining bee populations.

"Bee Loss Stings Local Farmers, Stirs Action" by Christina Souza, *The Sacramento Union*, 10/17/08, offered a front-page update on CCD and how some Yolo County farmers have been working to develop and protect habitat of native pollinators (e.g., bumble bees) to help meet pollination needs in the wake of vanishing honeybees. Specifically, farmers plant hedgerows with a variety of "shrubs and perennials that provide an extensive bloom period" and pond areas with "a mix of grasses and forbs for plenty of bumblebee nesting sites." And researchers have found there are about 300 native bee species in the county.

Various papers have run reviews of **"The Secret Life of Bees"** movie based on the novel by Sue Monk Kidd (great story I thought —and of added interest if you keep bees!) but check out the October issue of the *American Bee Journal* for the fascinating behind-the-scenes look at how beekeepers in North Carolina (where the movie is set) helped develop the bee scenes and train the actors to handle the bees.

And a National Public Radio program in early October interviewed the Cornell scientist studying swarm behavior and an on-line excerpt from *ScienceDaily* (Oct. 3, 2008) explained more about the research, as follows. "...how a swarm locates a new nest site when less than 5% of the community know the way remains a mystery. Curious to find out how swarms cooperate and are guided to their new homes, Tom Seeley, a neurobiologist from Cornell University, and engineers Kevin Schultz and Kevin Passino from The Ohio State University teamed up to find out how swarms are guided to their new home. ... According to Schultz there are two theories on how swarms find the way. In the 'subtle guide' theory, a small number of scout bees, which had been involved in selecting the new nest site, guide the swarm by flying unobtrusively in its midst; near neighbours adjust their flight path to avoid colliding with the guides while more distant insects align themselves to the guides' general direction. In the 'streaker bee' hypothesis, bees follow a few conspicuous guides that fly through the top half of the swarm at high speed. ...

After "analysing over 3500 frames from [filming] a swarm fly-by to build up a picture of the insects' flight directions and vertical position... Schultz was able to find patterns in the insects' progress. For example, bees in the top of the swarm tended to fly faster and generally aimed towards the nest, with bees concentrated in the middle third of the top layer showing the strongest preference to head towards the nest. ... the bees that were flying towards the new nest generally flew faster than bees that were heading in other directions; they appeared to latch onto the high-speed streakers. All of which suggests that the swarm was following high-speed streaker bees to their new location."

Gardening for Bees

In surfing bee web sites recently, I came across an interesting one out of the Bay Area about planting urban gardens for bees. The site has photos and descriptions of many plants that do well in that area (and likely would here, too) and that provide pollen and nectar year-round for native bees. Given that it's a good time to start planning your next garden (and also planting trees and shrubs), here's the link: <http://nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens/>

- Georgianna Pfof

Honey Recipe of the Month

Chocolate Chip Honey Cookies



1-1/4 c. all purpose flour	1/2 c. honey
1/2 tsp. baking soda	1 egg
1/2 tsp salt	1 generous c. pecans or walnuts in medium sized pieces
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract	1 c. semisweet chocolate chips
1/4 lb (1/2 c.) sweet butter	

Preheat oven to 375'. Sift together the flour, soda and salt and set aside. In large bowl cream the butter, and add the vanilla and honey and beat to mix. Beat in the egg (mixture will look curdled and that's ok). Then mix in the dry ingredients just until incorporated. Stir in the chocolate and nuts. Scoop dough by rounded teaspoonfuls onto a cookie sheet, placing them about 2 inches apart. Bake at 375' for 13 to 15 minutes until cookies are evenly browned and spring back firmly when lightly pressed with fingertip. Transfer cookies to cooling rack and then (when cooled) store in an airtight container. Makes 32—36 cookies.

I found this recipe on-line and thought others might enjoy it, too. - Pam Hill

Bee Classifieds

FREE: Used honey barrels at Sac Beekeeping Supply. Call (916) 451-2337 to arrange to pick up one or more.

FOR SALE: Excellent condition (just some propolis stains) medium size Dadant bee suit (poly-cotton, zipper legs, Velcro ankles, zipper full hood veil) \$25 (plus approx \$10 for mailing or maybe can pick up). Note: Legs are hemmed up about 5" to fit 5'3" woman but can be seam-ripped back to regular size. (530) 666-0713

ALWAYS NEEDED: Your contributions of articles, websites, recipes, tips, questions, book reviews, and other bee-related stories 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. Please share. It's *your* newsletter!

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

SACRAMENTO AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies
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E-mail: info@sacbeekeepers.org

Address Correction Requested

—The Bee Line—
November 2008



Election meeting

Tues. Nov. 18 7:30 p.m.