

# The Bee Line

2008—Issue 12

December 2008

## 2008 Club Officers

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

Other Committee Contacts:  
Donations: Nancy Stewart  
Hospitality: Mil Sutter  
Library: Kathy Mallory  
Mentors: George Bleekman  
Newsletter: Georgianna Pfof  
Inventory: Joseph Watkins

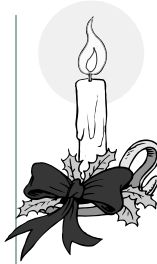
## Inside this issue:

November minutes	2
What's blooming	2
President's Corner	3
Membership form	3
Recipe & Ads	4

**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](http://www.sacbeekeepers.org)

## Mentors' Tips for the Month



Things to check this time of year: Observe bees to determine if foragers are returning with nectar and pollen. Check hives for ants and skunk pests and take appropriate action to counter them. Place entrance reducers on hives to reduce the chance of mice over wintering there. (If mice are present, remove them and replace damaged combs.) If you haven't already done so, prop up the rear of the hive with spacer shims or thin boards so that the hive tilts forward slightly and allows any wind-driven rain to drain out the entrance. Lift the hive (gently) from the rear to gauge if sufficient honey stores are present (should be about 50 pounds). If not, give sugar syrup and pollen patties. And weigh the lid down with a brick or heavy stone so that strong winds won't lift it off.  
- Bob Sugar

## Winter Bee Events

**Sat's & Sun's now thru 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.

**Tues., Dec. 16—SABA Honey Tasting & Holiday Potluck -7:30 p.m.** with raffle prizes, honey sampling, and good food with good friends;! SABA will provide ham, drinks, plates and plastic ware. Please bring a dish to share at the potluck and also some of your own honey for the sampling. If you plan to attend, **RSVP no later than Dec. 6** with the number in your party (family and friends are welcome!) to Anita at (916) 722-7959 or Brenda at (916) 729-6051 so we can get a head count for the seating and supplies. See you there!

**Wed. Dec. 17—Deadline** for submitting receipts for **reimbursement** of club expenditures to treasurer so he can finish paying the 2008 bills.. Please mail your documentation to Dennis Larson, 1508 Joby Lane, Sacramento, CA 95864. Thanks!

**Tues., Jan. 6—Sat., Jan. 10—American Honey Producers Convention**, Radisson Conference Center in Fresno. For more info go to [www.americanhoneyproducers.org](http://www.americanhoneyproducers.org)

**Tues., Jan. 13—Sat. Jan. 17— North American Beekeeping & American Beekeeping Federation Conference** at Nugget Casino Resort in Reno. Program includes a "Serious Sideliner Symposium" all Friday and Saturday afternoon. For info. go to [www.abfnet.org](http://www.abfnet.org) or call (912) 427-4233.

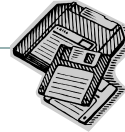
**Tues., Jan. 20-SABA Meeting & Gadget Night— 7:30 p.m.** Bring an item that you've made, or a manufactured item you've improved, or a prototype that meets a special need in your beekeeping activities, or a novelty beekeeping item you have. (If item is too big, bring pictures!) Come share, show and tell what helps you get the job done.

SABA's **regular meetings** are held the third Tuesday of *each* month at 7:30 p.m., at the Belle Cooleage 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 newest member**—James Airoso of Wilton.

**2009 Dues Reminder**—SABA dues for calendar year 2009 remain at \$15. Please use the form on page 3 to submit them via mail or at an upcoming meeting.



## November Minutes and Program Notes

The **Program** consisted of sharing of information from members who attended the recent California State Beekeepers Conference.

Then following a break, the **Business Meeting** began at 8:45 p.m. Tex Winn moved to approve the **minutes** for October; approved. The annual **election** of SABA officers took place on an uncontested ballot: Ernie Buda for President, David Ogden for Vice President, Ron Melluish for Secretary and Dennis Larson for Treasurer. [Ed. Note: additional members had been nominated during the earlier mail-in nomination process but chose not to run.] SABA Election Committee Chairman Rex Parsons moved to elect the slate, Russel Dalske 2d, and the election was unanimous.

Ernie reminded us that December's meeting will be our Christmas **Potluck Dinner and Honey Tasting**. Please bring some of your honey for everyone to taste and enjoy.

Ernie said that it looks like SABA will be back in the County Exhibits hall at the **State Fair**, after a long absence. Brenda Terry will begin duties as **editor** of the *Bee Line* in January. Many heartfelt thanks to editor Georgianna Pfof for doing such a great job for so many years! The first beekeeping **classes** begin on February 7; more details will be available soon on the website and in the *Bee Line*. Speaking of the **website**, we'd love to feature more locally produced or organized content. Please make yourself known if you have skills and desires in that area!

There were 49 members and guests present. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Ron Melluish*, Secretary

## 2009 Volunteer Opportunities

If you would still like to support our club's mission (or achieving the specific goals for 2009—see President's Corner on page 3), please consider serving on one or more committees (e.g., publicity, library, class planning, hospitality, school outreach, etc.) in 2009. For more info contact the current chair or one of the officers.

## Homemade Hive Beetle Trap

I found a website with photos showing how to make a bottom board trap for small hive beetles. See <http://web.aanet.com.au/~Bees/beetletrap.html> and also <http://www.beesource.com/forums/showthread.php?t=223273>

- Ray Marler

## What's in Bloom?



At this time, there are several winter-blooming eucalyptus, including Red Ironbark and several varieties with cream to yellow-white blooms. Blue Gum eucalyptus will bloom during the winter and is especially reliable in coastal areas and a bit less so in inland valleys such as the Sacramento and San Joaquin.

Coyote Bush also starts to bloom at this time and continues through late January, and it is a minor source of both pollen and nectar for bees. Alder, found in riparian areas, begins blooming in mid-December and produces minor pollen and nectar to early February. Rosemary is yet another winter bloomer attractive to honeybees. And Strawberry Tree is beginning to bloom (since early November) and continues through January with heavy nectar flows.

- Bob Sugar, mentor

## More Recipes—Morselletti Senesi – Sienese Nut Cookies

1-1/4 c. sugar	1/4 c. honey
2 c. water	1-1/2 c. flour
2 tsp. baking powder	1/4 c. each of chopped: walnuts, toasted almonds, hazelnuts and candied orange peel.

Put the sugar, honey and water in a saucepan and simmer until it becomes a thickened syrup. Remove from heat and cool. In a large bowl, mix the flour and baking powder together. Pour in the syrup and mix vigorously with a wooden spoon. Add the chopped nuts and orange peel and mix. Set aside dough for one hour. Flour a flat work surface; with your hands, break the dough into small pieces and form rounds about 2" wide by 1/2" thick. Flatten them slightly and place them on a baking sheet lined with oven paper (e.g., parchment). Bake in a pre-heated 375°F oven for 20 minutes. Cool completely before serving.

Recipe from *Tuscan Desserts* by Elisabetta Piazzesi and reprinted from the September 2008 edition of the Sonoma County Beekeepers Association's *Monthly Extractor*. *This looks like another good one for honeyed holiday baking!*

## President's Corner

First, **THANK YOU** for your affirmation of my efforts of the past year by allowing me to continue to be a part of the SABA leadership team! SABA has been successful in this and prior years because of the efforts of many and I will not attempt to name them all (as we'll run out of space here!) but I would like to especially recognize several people who I feel have been the backbone of the organization in recent years: George Bleekman and the mentor team, Bob Sugar for coordinating the training classes, David Ogden for planning meeting programs, Pam Hill and Howard Mann for coordinating presentations at the State and County fairs, and Georgianna Pfost for editing our newsletter. I see these functions as core to achieving our educational mission and attracting and retaining members. ... And speaking of *The Bee Line* editorship, this will be Georgianna's final edition after five years of service. I do not know the full history of the newsletter, but I do know that Georgianna has done an outstanding job of providing content which is relevant and informative and getting it all published in a timely manner. The new editor will be Brenda Terry, and we thank you, Brenda, for picking up this important function. I'm confident you're up to the job!

**GOALS**--SABA has obviously functioned and grown using very informal processes but I believe we are at the point (with now well over one hundred members and in the range of fifty attending meetings!) to move forward and to be prepared for additional growth. It is critical that members let us know what they want in the way of training and programs as we do not want to find out we have missed the mark by seeing membership and meeting attendance slip away. And to help us become and stay organized my main goal for 2009 is to bring our administrative processes up to date, including:

- *Update the SABA standing rules.* They have been in existence for many years without change and have served well, but in my opinion need to be updated. Changes to this document will require a membership vote of approval.
- *Document the duties of various functions* (e.g., officers, committees) so new volunteers have a brief summary or outline of what the job entails. For example, we should finish making notes of how we: plan programs, set up classes, maintain the library, maintain the membership and mailing lists, update the website, edit the newsletter, make school and other public presentations, coordinate booths at fairs, organize mentors, represent SABA at the State Beekeepers Association, and provide refreshments at meetings.
- *Complete the inventory of SABA assets* and their locations. Joseph Watkins has started this.
- *Compile a record of SABA policies.* Secretary Ron Mellowish has started this, putting them in an indexed book so as issues arise we do not need to make the same decision over and over. This will also provide greater continuity from leadership team to leadership team.
- *Increase the number of people responsible for "membership services"*—that is a job of assuring that every visitor receives a packet of information on SABA, and then when they join receive a membership packet (i.e., a membership list, mentor contact list, library list, training schedule, etc.)

As you have ideas, please let me know. And thanks again to all for the wonderful accomplishments of the past year. Hope to see you and your families at the holiday potluck! [See calendar for details.] - Ernie



### SABA 2009 Membership Coupon

Name(s)\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip:\* \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #\*: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ or Renewing \_\_\_\_\_ Want to receive newsletter by: Email \_\_\_\_\_ or Postal \_\_\_\_\_ (check one)

Current level of beekeeping activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Privacy Notice: To facilitate sharing of information and carpooling, SABA publishes a member "phone list" each spring, including member names, cities or zips of residence (*not* street addresses), email addresses, and phone numbers. This summary list is *only* disseminated to current SABA members (never to other persons or organizations) and is *not* posted on the website. Your information (noted by \* above) will be included unless you check (following line(s)) that you do not want your \_\_\_\_\_ email address and/or \_\_\_\_\_ phone number listed. (Note that the complete membership list is made accessible to SABA officers and committees as necessary for them to do their tasks.)

Complete this, clip it out, and mail it with your \$15 check (made out to SABA), to SABA c/o Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies, 2110 X Street, Sacramento, CA 95818, Attn: SABA Treasurer.



---

# Honey Recipe of the Month

## Snowball Cookies



6 T. butter, softened  
6 T. cream cheese  
1/4 c. honey  
2 c. all purpose flour

1 c. finely chopped pecans or walnuts  
1/4 c. sugar  
2 tsp. vanilla extract  
Powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 325'. Blend the butter, cream cheese and honey until smooth. Add the remaining ingredients except the powdered sugar. Beat a low speed, scraping the bowl often, until well mixed (about 3 minutes). Place about 1/2 cup of powdered sugar in a small bowl. Roll cookie dough into 1" balls and place 1 inch apart on a lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake 15—18 minutes or until very lightly browned. Let cool for a minute or so, and while cookies are still warm, roll them in the powdered sugar to completely coat. Replenish the bowl of powdered sugar and when cookies are completely cool, roll them once again to coat. Store in tightly covered container. *I found this honey version of a traditional holiday cookie recipe on-line. Enjoy! - Pam Hill*

---

## Bee Classifieds

**FOR SALE:** Large honey holding tank; plastic with a heating belt and metal (perfection) honey gate. \$200 or best offer. Call Fred at (916) 451-2337.

**ALWAYS WANTED:** Your contributions of articles, websites, recipes, tips, questions, book reviews, ads and other bee-related items for future newsletters. Email them to the NEW EDITOR by the 25th of the month at [beterry2@surewest.net](mailto:beterry2@surewest.net) or mail to B. Terry, 8424 Arcaro Court, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. Please keep sharing your stories. It's *your* local bee newsletter! (And thanks to all who've been sharing these past years!)

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

---

## SACRAMENTO AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies  
2110 X Street, Sacramento, CA 95818

Website: [www.sacbeekeepers.org](http://www.sacbeekeepers.org)  
E-mail: [info@sacbeekeepers.org](mailto:info@sacbeekeepers.org)

Address Correction Requested

—The Bee Line—  
December 2008



Potluck & Honey Tasting

Tues. Dec. 16 7:30 p.m.

RSVP by 12/6