

# The Bee Line

2009—Issue 12

December 2009

## 2009 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ernie Buda

Vice President: David Ogden

Secretary: Ron Melliush

Treasurer: Dennis Larson

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

## COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Donations: Nancy Stewart

Hospitality: Mil Sutter

Library: Kathy Mallory

Mentors: George Bleekman

Newsletter: Brenda Terry –  
[btbuzz@gmail.com](mailto:btbuzz@gmail.com)

Inventory: Joseph Watkins

Web-Master: Ken Lee

Membership Chair—Mil Sutter

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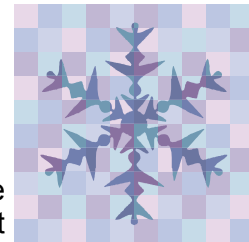
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### Mission Statement:

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

## Mentors' Tips for December

Check your hives to be sure hive tops are secure and that the hive entrances are unobstructed: clean and repair equipment and tools, and plant bulbs and seed for early spring blooms and nectar.



Submitted by Bob Sugar

## DID YOU KNOW?!

**DID YOU KNOW:** When we over eat the excess calories are stored in our body as fat! (Unfortunately many of us are all too aware of that fact.) While our over eating produces fat, the honey bee instead produces “bees wax” a complex substance that consists of over 300 chemical compounds, many of which are fatty acids and esters. When honey bees instinctively sense the need to build the nest (wax comb) they engorge them selves on nectar or honey. Then they will rest quietly for up to 24 hours as the excess sugars metabolize into wax. As the lethargy of her eating binge is wearing off, the fatted construction bee moves into position, making her way to the comb being built. She feels around, finds a spot in need of work and waits for her material (wax flakes) to be delivered. The wax emerges, warm and liquid, from eight tiny slits between the overlapping armorial bands on her abdomen. As the eight tiny droplets of wax spurt to the surface of her body they cool into almost weightless irregular shaped oval flakes. They are left on the abdomen until she is ready to use them. She finds a place in need of wax, reaches for a flake of wax with her hind leg and transfers it to her mouth, she chews it making it soft and malleable then places it on a cell, like a bit of mortar, as she shapes, smoothes and compacts it into polished comb.

This process is being accomplished by thousands of bees at the same time; each instinctively knowing what is needed as they move from spot to spot. The bees perform this function primarily between the ages of 12 to 18 days old.

Ten thousand bees can produce one pound of wax in three days. This wax production comes as the cost of eight pounds of nectar. However, the one pound of wax can be sculpted into 35,000 cells. (Seven deep frames of full of comb.)

All of this is accomplished IN THE DARKENSS OF THE HIVE. Honey bees are amazing little creatures.

Robbing the Bees, Holly Bishop Published by FREE PRESS, 2005

Submitted by Ernie Buda

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Up date on our meeting place. We are pleased that our discussions with the City of Sacramento Parks Dept have been fruitful. They have offered to modify the fee for room use from \$50 per hour to \$25! This reassessment came following our opening the door by providing information regarding the process of taking advantage of the "swarm list" maintained by Sacramento Beekeepers Supply, providing direct access to SABA leadership for assistance and or guidance when they have concerns about feral bee colonies or swarms and offering to provide basic informational training to their staff.

As all negotiation should be, the outcome here is a win win situation. Special thanks go to Monica Blanco our contact person with the Parks and Recreation Dept.

**TRAINING:** Else where in this issue is complete information on the training schedule for the coming beekeeping season. Basically we have five beginning classes, three by Serge Labesque and two by Randy Oliver. One of the classes by Serge is on a Sunday to open the opportunity for those who are not available on Saturday. Three are before the normal arrival of bees and two following. The first class that took place on December 5<sup>th</sup> was filled several weeks in advance. So if you plan on taking advantage of learning from either or both of there top rate instructors do not delay. These classes have historically filled early.

The dates are not yet finalized but there will be two Intermediate classes in the summer, one with Serge and the other with Dr. Eric Mussen. They are anticipated to be in June and July. Watch for these learning opportunities.

WOW, where has is gone, this is the last of my President's Corner ramblings. The two years of my opportunity to serve has gone by in a blink of an eye. There are things that I am gratified to have been party to accomplishing and there are those things where I have fallen short of my expectations and hopes.

For the growth of SABA in membership numbers, in monthly participation and member to members support, there are many to thank. Folks did not join SABA because I was "President", they joined to have access to an amazing Mentor program, to access our doubled in size library, to learn from the monthly meeting presentations, to receive the monthly newsletter, but mostly they come to exchange information beekeeper to beekeeper.

Vice President David Ogden has done a stellar job of having interesting and informative speakers at the meetings, also in coordinating and overseeing our social events; the picnic in July and the Christmas meeting Pot luck.

Dennis Larson has taken control of the finances bring us

into compliance with some IRS processes where we would have been out of compliance. (Our growth changed the rules in some areas.) He also insisted on change in money handling process which initially did not seem necessary. However accounting for 40 or so members is a different story that keeping track of 208 members; accepting fees for 2 classes is different than from 7 classes. Thank you Dennis for professionalizing our cash receipt process.

Ron Melliush, as you can tell by reading the minutes in the newsletter has a gift for capturing what is taking place in general terms and also attending to the details of accurately having names recorded. He also added a cool perspective and analytical perspective to our policy discussions.

George Bleekman in addition to making several meeting educational presentations oversees the Mentor and SABA Partners programs which are a mainstay in our recruitment of new members. This is to say noting of the hours George spends individually mentoring fellow beekeepers.

Mil Sutter, while not in an elected position has provided refreshments at each meeting. I don't just mean transporting the coffee pot etc. but purchases the cookies - I have told him to turn in his receipts for reimbursement but I don't think he ever has. Also he provides mentor lists, membership lists etc. to members.

Kathy Mallory with the assistance of Ray Marler (Ray screens books for adding to the library) has been diligently working on getting it in ship shape order. This, in spite of her busy personal schedule. She has occasion to travel a lot but a member commented that she took advantage of some free time while in London to call them and remind that a book was due back. The Library is about double in content and well used by our members.

Brenda Terry has made the newsletter even bigger and better each month. A very important part of the service we provide to our members many of whom are not able to attend meetings on a regular basis.

Anita Winn and Brenda have twice taken on the responsibility and work that goes with it to put on the December meeting pot luck. This is written before the 2009 event but based on what was done last year, in a first time effort, we can anticipate a wonderful evening.

Brian Fishback, well I am not sure what to call Brian - I guess it is an understatement to label Brian the "Go To Guy" when we have received calls for assistance form the general public experiencing bee problems. Brian only needs the contact information and he is off and running. No follow up is needed when Brian is on the job you know it will be done and done correctly.

Continued on page #3

## NOVEMBER 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 November 17, 2009, at the Belle Coolegge Community Center.

After welcoming new members and visitors, Ernie noted that Rex Parson would hand out ballots at the break for one contested position on the Board.

VP Dave Ogden introduced **The Program**--Alex Sichuk from Mann Lake Ltd. in Woodland. Alex is from the Ukraine and has been beekeeping since he was a little boy helping his grandfather.

He shared many insights into bee nutrition including various pollen patty compositions. Interestingly, he observed that Ukrainian folk medicine holds that the most healthful honey is the strainings from the cappings, because of its enzyme content.

Everyone at the meeting received a large pollen patty. Thanks, Mann Lake!

There was voting during the break, the **Business Meeting** began at 9:05 p.m. The Minutes for October were approved on motion of Dennis Larson. Treasurer Dennis Larson gave the **Treasurer's Report**. SABA has five thousand dollars in a CD, and a checking balance of \$2,0124.19.

The results of the election for Vice President were announced: Anita Winn. Thus your 2010 SABA officers are:

President--Brian Fishback

Vice President--Anita Winn

Secretary--Joseph Watkins

Treasurer--Mil Sutter

Ernie updated the club on efforts to find a new meeting place. We stay here at the Belle Coolegge Community Center for the short term while we continue the search or negotiations.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the SABA Christmas Pot Luck dinner on December 15th. Thanks to Anita Winn and Brenda Terry for heading up the effort again this year!

The meeting adjourned AT 9:18 p.m. Sixty five folks attended this meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Melliush, Secretary

## Presidents Corner, continued

Pam Hill, George Bleekman, Howard Mann have respectively coordinated our efforts at the State Fair, Sacramento County Fair and the Gold Country Fairs. These are great events and bring a lot of attention to honey bees in general and to SABA as an organization.

Space and my faulty memory, precludes me from mentioning by name all the folks who have served SABA in some way during my two years as President; having bees for public events, staffing SABA informational tables at various community functions, assisting at training sessions and the list goes on and on.

A special thanks is owed to our good friends the Stewart's at the "bee store". (Sacramento Beekeepers Supply) They allow us to use their address so we have a consistent contact point. They hand out membership flyers and class registration information to their customers; also they accept membership applications and class registrations at the store. As an additional service to SABA, members have the opportunity to drop off library materials for return to the library.

As for me, thank you for the opportunity to serve; it has been a great experience for me. I have learned much about honey bees but mostly I believe that I have learned that beekeepers are among the most sharing and caring group of people I have ever had the opportunity to share my time with.

I believe what may best summarize my tenure as President is: "Hark, there they go. I must hasten after them for I am there leader."

Ernie Buda, soon to be Immediate Past President

## Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association

### Beginning Beekeeping Classes

Saturday February 20, 2010	Traditional Beekeeping	Randy Oliver
<u>Sunday</u> March 14, 2010	“Natural” (no chemical) Beekeeping	Serge Labesque
Saturday April 24, 2010	“Natural” (no chemical) Beekeeping	Serge Labesque
Saturday May 22, 2010	Traditional Beekeeping	Randy Oliver

(These classes historically have filled early so don't delay your registration)

**Who should take these classes:** The course content is designed for those wanting to explore beekeeping; it does not require any experience; or for the experienced beekeepers wanting the latest information or a refresher course. So, even if you have years of beekeeping experience or taken the class before you should consider taking it again!

**Instructors:** Serge and Randy are both very experienced beekeepers and excellent instructors. Randy is a commercial beekeeper, author and researcher - he uses conventional methods, using some chemicals, along with other methods to manage his hives. Serge teaches beekeeping at Sonoma Community College. He has authored many published articles and uses innovative methods to manage his hives. He uses **NO CHEMICALS**.

**We strongly recommend that you take one class from each instructor.** While there will be some redundancy, you will be exposed to a range of methods - you can then choose how you desire to manage your bees. For new beekeepers we recommend that you take one of the classes before you get bees and a second class after you get bees. The presentation will have new meaning for you and you will find you have many new questions!

**COURSE INFORMATION AND FEE:** The course fee is \$35.00, for SABA members \$30.00. Classes will begin at 8:30 am and end at approximately 4:30 pm. Classes will start on time so registration begins at 7:30 am. Classes are held at the Sacramento County Dept. of Agricultural building, 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento, CA.

**COURSE COORINATORS:** Ernie Buda, email [2211budae@att.net](mailto:2211budae@att.net) 916-761-3802 or  
Bruce Waln, email [bruce\\_waln@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bruce_waln@sbcglobal.net)

**TO REGISTER FOR THE CLASS:** Complete the registration form below and mail with payment to SABA at 7051 Bisbee Drive, Sloughouse, CA 95683 no later than the Monday before the class. (Or you may sign up at Sacramento Beekeeping Supplies, 2110 X Street, Sacramento, CA.) You will receive a confirmation by email or telephone. Late registration will require approval of one of the course coordinators.

SABA: web site, [sacbeekeepers.org](http://sacbeekeepers.org) email, [info@sacbeekeepers.org](mailto:info@sacbeekeepers.org)

#### Registration for Beginning Beekeeping class(es)

NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Class session(s) you wish to register for \_\_\_\_\_

Payment amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Current beekeeping experience \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLE HONEY CRISP

2 lbs apples quartered and sliced (1-1/2 quarts)  
 1/2 cup plus 1/4 cup honey (separated)  
 1 teaspoon cinnamon  
 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

1 cup flour  
 1/4 cup butter softened  
 Warm Nutmeg Cream  
 (recipe follows) or ice cream

Toss apples with 1/2 cup honey, cinnamon and nutmeg in bowl. Turn into 2-quart baking dish. For topping, beat flour with butter and 1/4 cup honey until crumbly; sprinkle over apples. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes or until apples are tender and topping is golden. Serve with Warm Nutmeg Cream or ice cream. Makes 6 servings.

Warm Nutmeg Cream: combine 1/2 cup whipping cream, 2 tablespoons honey, 2 tablespoons butter and 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg in saucepan and bring to boil. Simmer, stirring often, for 5 minutes or until mixture thickens slightly. Makes 1/2 cup.

Reprint from The National Honey Board



**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 Brenda Terry by the 30th of the month at [btbuzz@gmail.com](mailto:btbuzz@gmail.com) or mail to SABA, 8424 Arcaro Court, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. Please keep sharing your stories.

### GO TREELESS:

Sign up for the emailed (pdf) newsletter. Just email [btbuzz@gmail.com](mailto:btbuzz@gmail.com), subject-line "Treeless."

## SABA 2010 Membership Coupon

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

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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!

Tues., Dec 15th SABA Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Annual Pot Luck

**American Honey Producers Association**

The 2010 AHPA Convention will be in Sacramento, California. Convention dates are January 5-9, 2010. Further information at:

<http://www.americanhoneyproducers.org>

**Welcome New Members**

Mojgan Fisher, Gold River  
Bill Hall, Citrus Heights  
Frank Johnson, Placerville  
Arradiy Luchy, Sacramento  
Kirk Rimmer, Sacramento  
Aleksander Silchuk, Antelope

**Here are some Internet links to some very good**

**Internet sites for beekeeping.**

<http://www.beemaster.com/>

<http://www.beesource.com/point-of-view/>

<http://beenatural.wordpress.com/>

<Http://www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm>

<http://www.scientificbeekeeping.com/>

<http://www.anarchyapiaries.org/>

<http://www.biobees.com/>

<http://entomology.ucdavis.edu/faculty/facpage.cfm?id=mussen>

<http://www.mancina.vispa.com/cleveland/robandrews.html>

[http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/bkCD/HBBiology/breeding\\_genetics.htm](http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/bkCD/HBBiology/breeding_genetics.htm)

<http://www.glenn-apiaries.com/genetics.htm>

[http://books.google.com/books?q=beekeeping&as\\_brr=4](http://books.google.com/books?q=beekeeping&as_brr=4)

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—  
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Merry Christmas!