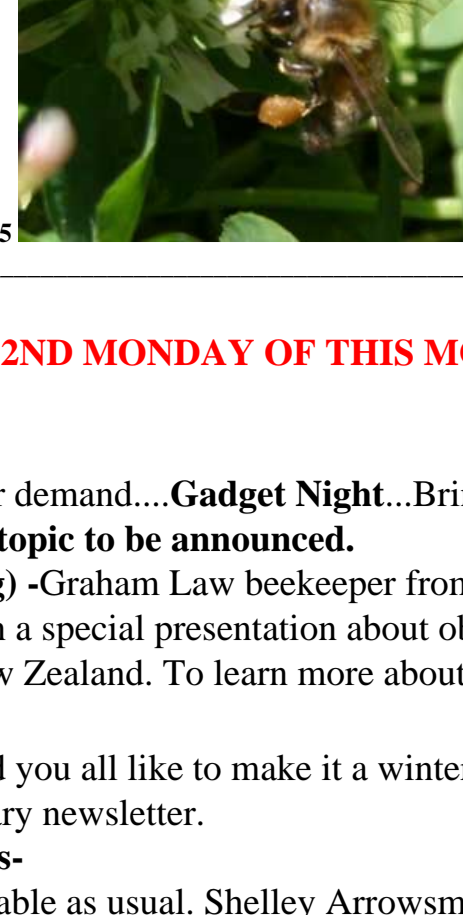


The Monthly Extractor Newsletter of the Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association

To increase interest in and knowledge of bees and beekeeping for the hobby and commercial beekeeper, and to educate the general public in the value of bees.



Volume 27, Issue 12 December 2005

This newsletter is temporarily part of the Peterson's Web Site Until the SCBA gets its own site.

WE WILL MEET ON 2ND MONDAY OF THIS MONTH--MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Dec 12th-

Calendar
Dec. 12th-Back by popular demand...Gadget Night...Bring your favorite beekeeping gadget to share.
Jan. 9- Monthly meeting topic to be announced.
Jan. 20th (Friday evening)-Graham Law beekeeper from the Midlands in England will be at Ettamarie Peterson's home...

Board Meeting minutes
November 22, 2005-Katia Vincent, Secretary
The club board members discussed becoming a real non-profit organization. Serge Labesque has offered to perform all the paperwork surrounding this move.

Monthly Maintenance
Check your hives for food supplies. Also be sure they are water tight, tops and boxes all very straight.
Trivia for the Month
The modern German word for beekeeper is "Imker". In medieval times he was known as a "Zeidler" and carried a special axe distinguished by its upward-pointing blade tip.

I Learned About Bee Keeping From This
At the Liberty 4-H Beekeepers' meeting in November one young boy discovered that a dead honey bee can still sting. He picked up the dead bee putting his thumb on its rear end.

What's in Bloom
The Eucalyptus are actually beginning to bloom in some areas. Plant wildflowers and sweet peas now for early spring blooms.

Beekeeping Community Project by Mollyanne Meyn
The Sonoma Garden Park is starting a beekeeping project in the spring of 2006. We are looking for new beekeepers that are interested in learning through participation, as well as experienced beekeepers that would enjoy teaching various aspects of beekeeping...

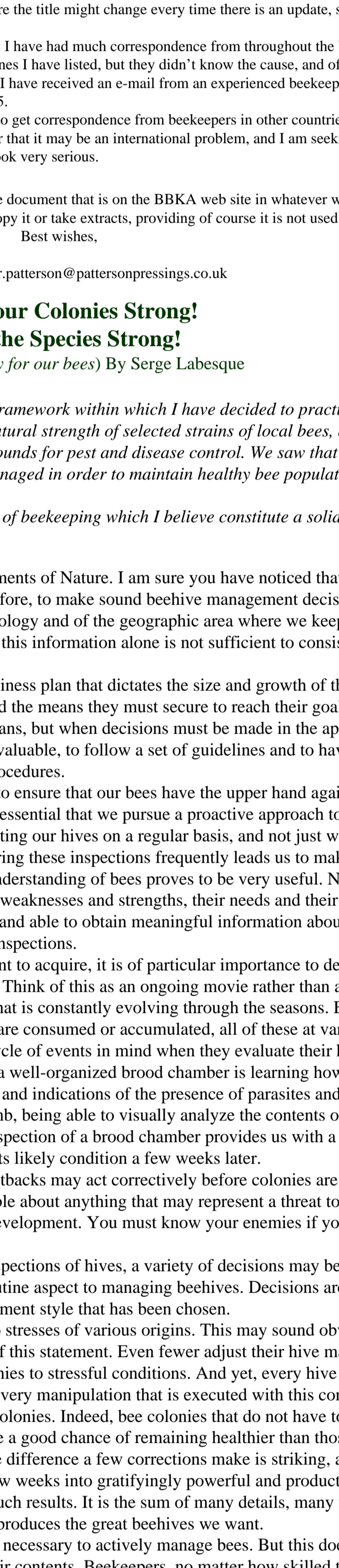
For sale
This area is available at no cost for any member to advertise any bee related item to sell, buy, trade or donate.

For sale by Kathy Cox:
2006-5 frame Nucs for sale, price to be announced in January. Deposit required and waiting list sign up is recommended.

Time to order queens and bees. We are taking orders now! Katia Vincent, beekind store
921 Gravenstein Hwy., South Sebastopol, CA 95472
707-824-2905

Small Hive Beetle Damages Caged Queen
By Ettamarie Peterson
The October issue of Bee Culture magazine had interesting information about the small hive beetle in the "Did You Know" column.

December Recipes
Citrus Almond Cake
Honey Granola Crisps
By Shelley Arrowsmith for the Gourmet Pot Luck (1st prize - appetizer)



Melissopolynology
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.
Melissopolynology is the study of honey and any pollen contained therein. By extension, it also includes the study of the pollen source.

Letter From a Concerned Beekeeper in England Asking for Data From Us
Dear U.K.,
In the U.K. I have recently been highlighting a problem I have had in getting queen bees mated and laying properly.

Keep our Species Strong!
Keep the Species Strong!
(Part III: Empathy for our bees) By Serge Labesque

The previous article in this series defined the framework within which I have decided to practice beekeeping. This, in a nutshell, amounts to relying on the natural strength of selected strains of local bees, and entirely eliminating the use of synthetic chemical compounds for pest and disease control.

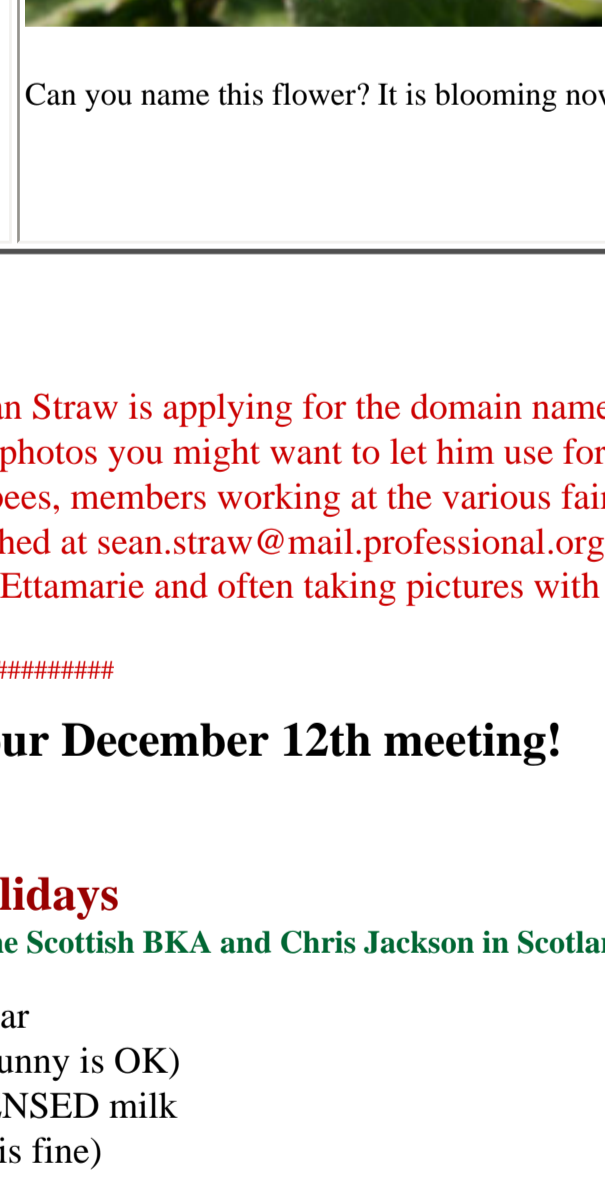
As beekeepers, we are interacting with live elements of nature. I am sure you have noticed that bees have very special ways of reminding us of this! Therefore, to make sound beehive management decisions, we must possess a reasonably good knowledge of bee biology and of the geographic area where we keep our hives.

Commercial beekeepers need some form of business plan that dictates the size and growth of their operations, the products and services they want to offer, and the means they must secure to reach their goals.

Depending on what is discovered during the routine inspections of hives, a variety of decisions may be made to help the colonies. At this point there is an almost infinite aspect to managing beehives.

Bees in America. How the Honey Bee Shaped a Nation by Tammy Horn, published by The University Press of Kentucky 2005, is a comprehensive study of the role bees have played in our country ever since the pilgrims brought the German Black Bee over in 1621.

Attention All SCBA members!
It is time to renew your membership. What will happen if you don't? Well, you won't be getting this wonderful newsletter; you won't be able to borrow any of our books or materials such as the honey extractor; you won't be on the swarm list and you won't be able to sell honey at any of the events such as the Apple Fair.



Can you name this flower? It is blooming now.

Don't forget to bring a gadget to show off at our December 12th meeting!
Extra Recipe for the Holidays
KATY'S HONEY TABLET (AKA Fudge) with due acknowledgment to the Holidays BKA and Chris Jackson in Scotland

2 lbs. granulated white sugar
1/2 lb honey (granulated is best but runny is OK)
1 400g tin Nestle/Carnation CONDENSED Milk
7 fluid oz milk (semi-skimmed is fine)
1/4 lb unsalted butter (or margarine)

Put all ingredients into a 10 inch saucepan and bring to the boil on a moderate heat stirring all the while. Adjust heat to give a steady bubbling boil and cook for 25 minutes exactly stirring all the while. If you used runny honey you may see dark brown streaks appearing which look alarming. Keep stirring vigorously and they will eventually disappear. This doesn't appear to happen with granulated honey.



Hector Alvarez Speaking to the Association

It was suggested that we have a new article in the newsletter featuring one of our beekeepers each month. I am starting with Hector Alvarez, a long time member of the SCBA. Hector has been around bees all of his life. He learned his first beekeeping lessons from his father while he was still in Mexico, his birth place.

Now Hector, his lovely wife, Sandra and his darling daughters, Sandy and Cynthia are involved in the business which they have named Hector's Honey. They all sell honey, wax candles, and pollen at the various Farmers' Markets. At this time of the year, Hector is making sure his hundreds of hives are ready for the almonds.

The Monthly Extractor
Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association
P.O. Box 98
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0098

Next Meeting is Dec. 12th! Bring a gadget to share!

SCBA Executive Board 2005
Pres: Spring Maxfield
Vice Pres: Ettamarie Peterson
Secy Pres: Katia Cox
Treasurer Donna Nelson

Western Farm Center
Visit them to find lots of bee supplies locally.
21 W. 7th Street (off Wilson St.)
Santa Rosa, CA
(707) 545-0721

Regular monthly meetings of the Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association are held on the second Monday of each month, at 7 pm, in the Farm Bureau building at 970 Piner Road, Santa Rosa. The meetings cover a wide range of topics of interest to beekeepers.

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