

The Monthly Extractor

Our goal is 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.

Monthly Meeting - Jan. 10- Panel discussion on swarm control. Emery Dann, Randy Sue Collins and Ettamarie Peterson give their opinions and advice.

From the President

I am really excited about the upcoming year and working with this amazing, new, dynamic administration of ours!

I am also looking forward to the changes that will be made to move our association to a new level. I know together we can put SCBA on the map through education and awareness and have fun while doing it!

I wish to you all a very happy new year filled with health, wealth and prospering colonies!

Your President,

Randy Sue Collins

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 12/13/10

This year we had our potluck dinner in December instead of the usual November Thanksgiving potluck. The room was filled with approximately 80 folks bringing good food, warmth and a spirit of celebration. Although Tommy Smothers had planned to come but unfortunately was unable to make it due to health reasons, several bottles of his very fine wine did come in his place, along with his generous beekeeping sidekicks pouring glass after glass. Thank you Tommy, and to your health! On behalf of SCBA awards were given this evening to many of our hardworking, dedicated and generous volunteers that make SCBA one of the most friendly, supportive and interesting beekeepers associations to be a part of. The first award went out to our president of two years running, Emery Dann. Ettamarie Peterson had the honor of presenting Emery with a gift certificate to his favorite Taco Shop and a special engraved mantel clock thanking him for being the glue that has kept us together, and for all of his time, energy, thoughtfulness and encouragement that he has given to our group.

Presented to Sean Straw (who was not able to be present) was a gift certificate to his favorite restaurant and an award to honor him for all the hours of hard work that he gave so generously to SCBA by setting up and maintaining our web site for these past several years. A special award was given to Marilyn and the late Tom Fujiyoshi for giving of their time, energy and know-how to our group over the years with Marilyn's plant sales and Tom's wonderful, ingenuitive Warre Hive presentation, to name only a couple. With much gratitude and heartfelt appreciation, Emery Dann presented an award to Doug and Katia Vincent, owners of Beekind in Sebastopol and honeybee ambassadors extraordinaire for their passionate hearts for honeybees, for helping the public and beekeepers with education, support, vision and for

their personal example! Also awarded were: Sharilyn Bunce for talented librarian, Darlene Taylor for Secretary, Thea Verling for Treasurer, Sierra Castillo for 2nd Vice President, Randy Sue Collins for 1st Vice President, Ettamarie Peterson for Newsletter Editor and Cheryl Veretto for Web Master. First comers to our meeting were: Sedrick who is a 3rd generation beekeeper from Humboldt County; Paul Martin from Sonoma who is a novice film director and he helped make the film "Organic Beekeeping 101" with Randy Sue Collins - he now has 2 hives; Karen from Cotati was in the club 5-6 years ago and is now returning to join the group.

Elections for new officers announced were as follows: Randy Sue Collins for President, Cheryl Veretto for 1st Vice President, Kathleen Murphy for 2nd Vice President, Mike Kelly for Secretary and Thea Verling for Treasurer.

Winners for the food categories were: Main Dish: Connie Tiegel for her Coleslaw with Shrimp, Side Dish: Darlene Taylor for her Hollow Honey Beehive Bread, Salad: Lyn Briner for her Carrot Slaw, Dessert: Connie Newhouser for her Beehive Cake, and Best Dish Made with Honey: Jim Heinbach for his Sticky Honey Buns!

A real (but dead) hive beetle was passed around for all to get a good look at what one really looks like. Their larvae look a lot like wax moth larvae. A hive beetle has only 3 legs.

With us for the evening and doing a special presentation was 'Bee Wrangler' and author of a new book entitled "Honeybee Hobbyist", Norman Gary, PhD. Norm is a self taught beekeeper of 63 years. He began as a hobbyist, moved on to commercial, worked as a beekeeping inspector in both New York and Wisconsin, then on to UC Davis where he became a honeybee research scientist and professor of entomology. We were quite entertained with clips of his various television interviews and movies in which Norm wrangled the bees for Hollywood. In 1991 he was interviewed on the Johnny Carson show and inside a Plexiglas cubicle he created a "cluster scene" where he covered himself in bees by spreading queen pheromone all over his head and shoulders and then when he was sufficiently covered he grabbed his clarinet and began to play! Norm holds 2 Guinness World Records. One is for holding 109 bees in his mouth and holding closed for 10 seconds! Norm's new book filled with beautiful illustrations and valuable beginner

to intermediate level information was available for sale and signing by Norm. He said that he has learned so much working with bees in movies and he didn't want to die without sharing all that he learned over the years and through his experiences. Thank you Norm!
Submitted by Darlene Taylor, Secretary

BOARD MEETING MINUTES 12/20/10

Our meeting came to order at 7:20pm after a lively potluck gathering with our hostess for the mostest, Ettamarie Peterson. All folks present were Emery Dann, Randy Sue Collins, Sierra Castillo, Thea Verling, Sharilyn Bunce, Darlene Taylor, Mike Kelly, Cheryl Veretto and Kathleen Murphy. There were outgoing and incoming as well as continuing officers and our most valued newsletter editor and advisor, Ettamarie. We had a profit and loss report from the treasurer, Thea Verling. Our current total funds were \$9,217.10 in both savings and checking accounts. Our earnings for the year exceeded our spending and the total profit was \$2,260.40. We discussed using some of this money to hire out of town speakers to come to our meetings and possibly coordinating with Marin/San Francisco Beekeepers Associations speakers in order to make it more affordable for all of us. A correction to a report earlier this year is that our 501(c)(3) nonprofit status is still not quite official. We are in the process and it should be complete by the end of this year. We discussed the possibility of membership sign ups being done over the internet through paypal as well as the logistical aspects of the membership officer's role, getting checks signed, membership grace period ending March 1st, etc. It was suggested that we start saving on printing costs by referring our printed swarm list recipients to the web site and sending them a post card as a reminder. Logistics of banking signatures and necessary paperwork to fill out to transfer new signers Randy Sue Collins and Kathleen Murphy on to the SCBA bank account and removing Emery Dann and Sierra Castillo were discussed, as well as getting new keys for the post office box. Other discussions that ensued were: SCBA owning a simple observation hive to bring to our events, SCBA buying a projector and screen for presentations, using mail chimp for membership email, back end of web site possibilities and possible speakers for the year. Information between old and new officers was exchanged.
Submitted by Darlene Taylor, Secretary

My January Beekeeping To-Do List By Serge Labesque

Is there any better time to make good beekeeping resolutions than now, at the onset of the new season? By "good beekeeping resolutions" I do not mean petty wishes such as "I will harvest a lot of honey this year", or "I will double my number of hives". No, what I mean is resolutions that truly transform us into good stewards of the bee, who really care for the species.

Let's see what this might entail.

To become a good keeper of the species, I think one needs to first recognize that honey bees are not domesticated animals. Knowing this, we must accept that, in order to keep the bees strong and healthy, we must respect their wild nature and we should not seek to make them dependent on us. Indeed, domestication has always resulted in the weakening of the tamed species.

The key to durable success in beekeeping follows this initial realization and it resides in this simple guideline: Let's not interfere with the process of natural selection.

The application of this fundamental principle boils down to two very practical and most consequential rules in our interaction with bees:

1. Let's not treat hives in any way against pests or diseases.
2. Let's keep in our hives bees from our local bee population only.

Once we begin to keep bees from this perspective and by following these simple rules, we quickly recognize that some colonies are not fit to survive on their own. At least, not in the conditions that surround our apiaries. These colonies should be allowed to disappear, because protecting ill-adapted weak hives from whatever is affecting them is interference in the process of natural selection. Any treatments for pests or diseases artificially keep alive colonies that nature would discard and replace by fitter ones. They allow these unfit colonies to disseminate their deficient genes, which weakens the local bee populations and ultimately the species. I am convinced that the sad state of affairs bees are in now is due in large part to too much intervention on the part of beekeepers.

This does not mean that we should neglect the bees of weak colonies and let them go to waste. Indeed, we can exchange the genetic make-up of these colonies for that of stronger and better adapted stock that we can frequently find within or around our own apiaries (by requeening the ailing colony, for example). Doing so is beekeeping at its best. This good apiary management brings positive results that can rapidly show up in our hives. Best of all, at no point can this hurt the species. On the contrary!

To carry on with this approach to beekeeping, it is really helpful not to focus our attention on the hives that we lose, except to the extent of learning as much as we can from their demise. Instead, we need to look at the surviving ones. These are the jewels that we want to propagate. They were challenged and they made it. These bees carry the genes that are right for our apiaries! No need to look further for good bees.

The beauty of this way of keeping bees is that it rewards us with some of the most generous honey crops and with numerous new and excellent colonies without our even asking for these benefits. But best of all, we become good stewards of the bees. We become self-sufficient beekeepers and we practice our craft in a manner that assures a durable future for the honey bee.

So, let's re-read the sentences that are underlined. They should be our New Year's beekeeping resolutions. Practicing beekeeping according to these resolutions is easy. In fact, it is so simple and so rewarding that, once you do it, you'll wonder why you didn't keep bees this way before. These resolutions will be the ones you keep... and that keep bees foraging for a long time!

January in the apiaries:

Cold and stormy weather can keep our bees inside the hives, sometimes for several days in a row in January. During these periods of wintry weather, the hives may seem inactive. And yet, nothing could be farther from the truth. Inside the hives, the queens have begun to lay eggs, if they ever stopped, and the reduced populations of worker bees are hard at work around the young. To keep the still tiny but developing brood nests sufficiently warm, the bees stay bunched up into tight clusters that cover the small masses of hungry brood. If there is not enough food right next to the brood, colonies may starve, as the bees will not leave the clusters when it is so cold. This is when adequate preparation of the hives in the fall begins to pay back.

In spite and because of the weather, we need to keep an eye on our hives: Did the wind lift the tops? How about taking a look at the monitoring trays? Amidst the debris that is accumulated on them, we can see the telltale clues of the development of the brood nests. We can determine their size and location, and visualize the emergence of young bees. And then there is the birth of the first of the drones! The density of dome-shaped cappings of this male brood on the monitoring trays can warn us of an early spring, of the beginning of the season of colony reproduction five or six weeks later. Also seen on the trays, the fallen mites can show the result of good grooming behavior by the bees.

So, even if we do not see the bees directly, we still can stay connected to them. You want a little more? Just place your ear on the side of the hive, and listen for that very soft and oh so comforting hum.

In our area, we may also have some gorgeous bright and sunny days in January. Bees may fly then, when the air warms up sufficiently. Then, we can see cleansing flights (You may not want to stand in the flight paths!), but also countless foraging flights. Sometimes the activity is unbelievably intense. On these occasions, foragers give us quite a show with their colorful loads of pollen. It is all for the young! This is a sign that the colonies are already growing in preparation for the spring that is hopefully not too far away. At this time of year, some of the vegetation is already in bloom in our area. Eucalyptus trees, bays, mustard, manzanitas, even some live oaks among many other plants are already

producing pollen and nectar. The bees do not miss an opportunity to collect from them.

On one of these nice days, towards the end of the month, I lift the hive tops and lids to expose the hive top feeders of my hives. I peek through their center slots. If a cluster has reached the top of the hive, I swiftly place a super that I brought along. It contains a few frames of empty drawn comb and a couple of follower boards. Just as quickly and without going any deeper into the hive, I replace the hive top feeder and lid and I secure the hive top. This additional comb provides the bees with nectar storage space above the brood nest. That way, the development of the colony will proceed unconstrained. From this point on and through the spring, unimpeded colony growth is to be our main goal.

This month:

- Inspect the exterior condition of the hives.
- Verify that hive tops are still properly set and secured.
- Observe the landing boards and the ground in front of the hives.
- Verify that the hive entrances remain unobstructed.
- Maintain adequate and safe ventilation through the hives.
- Observe monitoring trays. The clusters should remain reasonably well centered in order to maintain access to their stores.
- On nice days, observe the flight paths and the bee activity at the entrances.
- Lift the back of the hives to feel if they may be at risk of running out of stores.
- In the latter part of the month, on a nice day, quickly peek into the top of the hives to assess the location of the clusters.
- Place supers where and when warranted.
- Watch for the appearance of drone brood cappings.
- Plant some bee forage!

At home:

- Clean and scorch tools and equipment.
- Cull old and misshapen combs.
- Scrub your smoker.
- Build and repair beekeeping equipment for the next season.
- Read and learn more about bees and beekeeping.
- Plan next season.
- Plant more bee forage.
- Don't forget your beekeeping New Year's resolutions and...
- Enjoy some honey.

May your bee colonies bring you good health and intense joy in 2011... and beyond!

Serge Labesque © 2010

Serge's Next Beekeeping Classes at SRJC Introduction to Beekeeping

Sect: 9122

Wed. February 2-23, 6:30 PM-9:00 PM
1999 Bech Hall, Santa Rosa Campus
Fee: \$83.00 (includes \$6.00 of materials)
4-session class.

Intermediate Beekeeping for Spring and Summer

Sect: 9121

Wed. March 9-16, 6:30 PM-9:00 PM
1999 Bech Hall, Santa Rosa Campus
Fee: \$51.00
2-session class.

<http://busapp02.santarosa.edu/communityeducation>

Thank You Letter

Katia and I were totally surprised with the plaque and acknowledgement from the group. If I had known about it, I would have worn my good sweatshirt! We couldn't have done this without you all and our fabulous team of worker bees at the store. Thank you again.

Beekind has taught us a few valuable lessons. If you want to make money, don't get into bees. If you want to work hard and feel good about what you are doing for our planet, there is nothing better than bees. They get our hearts, bodies, and minds closer to the real world we all live in. At this point, we can't imagine NOT having bees. It just feels so right and we want to share that feeling.

Hope you all have a pleasant holiday season!
Doug and Katia Vincent and the Beekind crew

The Future of Beekeeping and the Boy Scouts of America

The national office of the Boy Scouts of America has recently received a number of requests proposing reinstatement of the Beekeeping merit badge, in part because America's bee populations are declining. After receiving input from youth members and review by merit badge volunteers and professionals, the BSA has formulated a way to bring greater exposure of beekeeping to youth.

The plan includes the following:

- Emphasis of the importance of bees and their symbiotic relationship with humankind will be added to or enhanced in eight existing merit badge pamphlets: *Bird Study*, *Forestry*, *Gardening*, *Nature*, *Plant Science*, *Pulp and Paper*, *Environmental Science*, and *Insect Study*. This will be accomplished by the end of 2015.
- The first merit badge to receive the addition will be Environmental Science, which is required for

all Scouts earning the Eagle rank.

Annually, 73,000 youth earn this merit badge.

- When fully integrated into the targeted merit badge pamphlets, more than 100,000 Scouts each year will discover the importance of bees and beekeeping as part of a larger environmental picture. The Beekeeping merit badge was first offered in 1915, and from 1980 to 1994, the number of youth earning it ranged from 700 to 1,000 per year.
- Beekeeping projects, such as working with a colony or harvesting honey, will be considered for addition to one or more existing merit badges so that highly motivated youth members can earn advancement recognition for their beekeeping activities.

The BSA believes this will increase the awareness of honeybees and their critical impact on our environment, and training America's young people about caring for this important natural resource.

The Boy Scouts of America invites those associations and experts in the beekeeping community who are interested in helping with this project to e-mail us at merit.badge@scouting.org. Please put "bees" in the subject line. The success of the merit badge program is enhanced by qualified merit badge counselors. If you are interested in serving as a merit badge counselor, contact your BSA local council to initiate the process.

Reminder to those who want to purchase ad space that the business card size ad is \$5, the 1/4 ad is \$10, and the 1/2 page ad is \$20. Classified ads are free to members.

The three association extractors are housed at Ken Schlosser's home, (707) 829-5360 cell481-2880; Janet Leisen's home 707- 528-2085 and Ettamarie Peterson's home 707-765-4582. The rent is \$5 a day but free the first day.

Member Ad Space

Spring 2011 Nucs

Bloomfield Bees has Nucs for \$160, classes free with purchase...\$75 deposit, Deeps = 5 frames Mediums = 8 frames with frame exchange of course. Our 707-836-7278 (H) Jackie & Geoff Whitford

707-490-5001(cell) Geoff Whitford

If weather cooperates, these will be ready as early as April. If anyone wants to work bees with us, give us a call. www.bloomfieldbeeshoney.com

Reserve your 2011 nucs

Local honeybees, lovingly raised FOR SALE in Late April or Early May, 2011. No chemicals ever used! In my opinion bees available in our area before that date may not have a well-bred queen. Bees are set up and in their own medium or deep box with 10 frames, your choice). \$150 for bees- plus box and any other equipment you wish. Email to reserve now, No deposit necessary. Individuals who purchase bees from me are invited to come and work my bees with me to gain experience, confidence and see many stages of the hives development.

AprilLance@aol.com 707-431-1569

What's In Bloom-

Wild mustard, rosemary, borage, eucalyptus and manzanita are the main sources of food this month.

Herb of the month:

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)

Family Lamiaceae (mint)

This wonderful herb begins blooming in November here in Sonoma County and continues through the winter. It provides some nice forage for the bees when there isn't much else blooming. Because it is so widely used as a landscape plant in many suburban areas, there can be enough nectar to really help your bees. I think the pollen is a light white color that I see coming in right now.

Rosemary is native to the Mediterranean and is an important source of nectar in some areas. Its botanical name means "dew of the sea" and grows on cliffs near the ocean. This gives a clue about Rosemary's cultural needs—good drainage, sun, but not scorching temperatures.

It is very hardy in Sonoma County, as it is drought resistant and doesn't freeze until temperatures get down to below 20 degrees F. It needs minimal summer water once it is established. It tolerates pruning as needed, lighter more frequent pruning being more beneficial than heavy cutting. Never cut into bare wood-leave some leafy growth or it won't regrow.

There are many varieties of Rosemary, some are prostrate and look lovely spilling down a cliff or over the sides of a container or retaining wall. The taller varieties make a nice hedge or border. I prune my upright "Tuscan Blue" and dry the stems for use in my hive-top feeder. The bees can climb over the branches to access the sugar water without drowning.

All varieties of Rosemary are useful in cooking; some are more piney or mild than others. She is also used medicinally in soaps, cosmetics, and traditionally for skin problems, anxiety and headaches. Rosemary was often included in bridal bouquets as well as funeral processions. The clean scent makes a fragrant green in floral arrangements. Why not make a nice winter arrangement now?

Native Plant of the Month:

Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*)

Family Ericaceae (Heath)

Manzanitas are a defining California native. The charming winter blossoms look like little fairy lanterns.

The evergreen leaves shine in a winter landscape and the berries (little apples, or "manzanitas" in Spanish) are quite showy. The red bark can be smooth and lustrous or on some varieties is shaggy and peeling.

The flowers are an important source of nectar for native and honey bees as well as resident and migrating hummingbirds at a time of year when there is not much nectar available. The berries are an important food source for many mammals and birds.

Manzanitas need well-drained soil, sun to part shade, depending on the variety, and minimal to no summer water. Most need acid to neutral soils. They cannot tolerate "wet feet", especially in the summer.

There are manzanitas to fit every landscaping need. Some are groundcovers only a few inches tall, and others are towering beauties that can reach up to 10 feet tall. I have two low growing varieties in the parking strip by the curb—"Rincon Ridge", which only gets about two feet tall, and "Sunset" which can get to be about four feet tall. Other popular varieties are "Howard McMinn", as it tolerates a wide range of garden situations, and "Louis Edmunds", also easy to grow.

It is fun to go out hiking and see how many varieties you can see, and observe quietly the bees, birds and other animals that rely on this native treasure. Then visit a native plant nursery to see what variety will fit in with your needs.

By Alice Ford-Sala, Vice President Partners for Sustainable Pollination & SCBA member

. BEE WISE, by Emery Dann "SMALL HONEY BEE STEPS..."

Honey bees work together at a steady pace doing small step-by-step quality work. They learn from each other and pay attention to details. Over time they create an amazing inside storage system. Honey bees prepare ahead of time for their future needs. This is "honey bee wisdom." Honey bees can teach us how to accomplish our goals by their example and work habits.

Often we desire big or fast results; a giant step instead of the necessary small action steps we need to take. Our impatience can work against us. We can get stuck: "Between the great things we cannot do and the small things we will not do, therein lies the danger that we will do nothing." (Adolph Moned 1802-1856.) We need to take the next small step to keep moving forward. But our impatience, frustration or fear that we do not know what to do can prevent us from making progress! Anyone can "burnout"—doing too much for too long, then "running on fumes" and finally "running out of gas".

The opposite is also true—if we seek support and have encouragement from others, along with a positive attitude (even in difficult times), we can turn our world “right side up”! People in extreme poverty, facing a health crisis, recovering from an accident or involved in financial setbacks can have incredible resilient attitudes of strength in these situations, regardless of the losses they have experienced.

Our minds have unlimited desires, while our bodies have physical limitations. Honey bees pace themselves and work hard by constantly supporting each other and guarding their energy reserves. Because of their ability to work together and pace themselves, they can perform their wax building, foraging or honey storage very quickly, if needed. This is because each bee is focused on doing the next small step—contributing their skills and supporting each other.

Imagine a honey bee saying, “I only contribute one twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in my lifetime and then I die!” “I am not important!” “I don’t matter.” “I quit!” Instead of this, using a human analogy, honey bees put their “whole heart” into what they do. They are powerful examples to us even on their small scale.

Although individually each bee’s contribution is small, together they contribute to the welfare of the entire colony. By working together bees also create incredible benefits for plants, other insects, animals, humans and the environment surrounding us. So when we “think like a bee,” think of the importance of taking “quality small-action steps” toward your goal! ! !

Helen Keller said, “I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they are great and noble.” This is WHY honey bees are successful! All we have to do is to take the next small step to the best of our ability!

CHANGING OF THE GUARD BEES...

By Emery Dann
President, Randy Sue, and our new Board will take us to new “bee heights” this New Year! I want to thank the Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association for the beautiful engraved clock and gift certificate. I have enjoyed and will continue to enjoy beeing with you! Together we are making a difference for honey bees in Sonoma County and beyond with our passionate labor and honey bee outreach through all our combined efforts and public contact. Emery.

AWARD WINNING RECIPE FOR HOLLOW HONEY

BEEHIVE BREAD by Darlene Taylor

6 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
2 envelopes quick-rising yeast
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1 1/4 cups water
1/2-cup honey
1/2 cup butter
2 large eggs
Egg glaze (recipe below)
Honey butter (recipe below)

In a large bowl, combine 2 cups flour, undissolved yeast and salt. Heat water, honey and butter until very warm (120 - 130 F). Gradually add to dry ingredients. Beat 2 minutes at medium speed of electric mixer, scraping bowl occasionally. Add eggs and 1 cup flour; beat 2 minutes at high speed. Stir in enough remaining flour to make a soft dough. Knead on lightly floured surface until smooth and elastic, about 8 to 10 minutes. Cover, let rest 10 minutes. Divide dough into 20 equal pieces; roll each piece to 20-inch ropes. Twist 2 ropes together, pinch ends to seal. Repeat with remaining ropes. Invert a 2 1/2 quart ovenproof mixing bowl onto a greased baking sheet. Heavily grease the outside of bowl. Starting at rim of bowl, wrap twists around bowl, pinching ends to join each new twist. Continue wrapping twists until entire bowl is covered. Cover, let rise in warm, draft-free place until puffy, about 30 minutes. Brush dough with egg glaze. Bake at 375 F for 25 to 30 minutes or until done. Shield with foil if necessary to prevent excessive browning. Remove from oven, let cool on bowl for 15 minutes. Crumple large piece of foil, about 2-3 feet into a loose ball with the same diameter and depth of bowl. Place ball on wire rack. Carefully remove hive from bowl, place over ball to complete cooling. Serve with honey butter.

Egg Glaze - In a small bowl, combine 1 large egg and 1 tablespoon water. Stir until well blended. **Honey Butter** - **Combine** and blend with an electric mixer until fluffy, 1 stick unsalted butter, softened and 2 tablespoons of honey.

Beekeeper’s Humor from The Eke, Notts BKA Newsletter

At the beekeeping equipment shop (not beekind) the manager overheard one of his salesmen talking to a customer. “No, sir” said the salesman, “We haven’t had any for a while and it doesn’t look like we’ll be getting any soon.”

The manager was horrified and yelled after the departing customer, “Come back next week. We’re sure to have whatever you need!” Irate he turned to his salesman, “Never tell a customer we’re out of anything. Now, what did he want?”

“Rain,” answered the salesman.

Editor’s Note: We know this wasn’t here because we certainly are not lacking rain this year! Thanks to Stuart Ching, Eke Editor for sending this.

Trivia-Bee Tips

From Dr. Norm Gary’s book Honey Bee Hobbyist Resist the temptation to examine a colony during the queen’s first critical month. She needs “private time” to mature, mate and start laying eggs. Frequent or excessive disturbances can cause the other bees to kill her for some unknown reason. Give her about four weeks.

SCBA Executive Board 2011

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or Janet Leisen 707- 528-2085

Regular monthly meetings of the Sonoma County Beekeepers' Association are held on the second Monday of each month, at 7 pm. The meetings cover a wide range of topics of interest to beekeepers. Everyone wanting to learn about honeybees is cordially invited to attend. You do not need to be a member nor a beekeeper to attend these meetings. Please contact the treasurer to pay dues.



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Jan. 10th-Panel discussion on swarm catching techniques
4-H Foundation Center in Rohnert Park

<p><u>Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues & Fill out Swarm Application!</u></p>
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