

The Buzzzzz



The Monthly Newsletter of the Gilroy Beekeepers Association

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Dave Stocks, Editor

dave.stocks@yahoo.com

Volume XXXII

August 2015

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Bees foraging on Coyote Mint (*Monardella villosa*)

"Getting to Know Each Other"

by Vicki Basham

This month, we're getting to know Mike and Robin Cox, proud keepers of two new colonies. Mike and Robin live on almost three acres in the foothills on the west side of Morgan Hill. The property has an abundance of bee-friendly plants, including eucalyptus, crepe myrtle, and several fruit trees.



Mike and Robin Cox with their two new colonies

Mike and Robin became interested in bees when Robin's sister's neighbor talked about the bees he kept. It just so happens that the neighbor is Dave Frazer, a fellow Gilroy Beekeepers Association member. He had all kinds of interesting stories to tell - so many that Mike and Robin decided to try beekeeping themselves. "We thought it sounded really interesting," they said. "We were a little apprehensive and thought it might be too time consuming, but we decided to go for it!"

The Coxes bought two packages this past spring. "One's just a little less active than the other, but both seem to be doing really well," Robin says. "They were different from the time we got them as packages," says Mike. "One buzzed a lot louder than the other, all the way home!"

Eventually, Mike would like to have around ten colonies. He's already building two top bar hives, complete with observation windows. He used the plans from Les Crowder's book, "Top-Bar Beekeeping."

They've enjoyed learning from other books as well. Among their favorites are Kim Flottum's "The Backyard Beekeeper," Jeremy Rose's "Beekeeping in Coastal California" and the book they received at a recent Gilroy Beekeepers Association beginners class, "First Lessons in Beekeeping" by Keith Delaplane. They also feel that hands-on experience and observation are invaluable. Mike has learned that if Robin seems to have disappeared, he knows he can find her outside, sitting and observing the bees coming

and going from the hive. And at one point, the two of them even used a GoPro video camera to record the flight patterns of their bees.

But their favorite way to learn is by talking to others. "We love hearing all the different opinions of different beekeepers," they said. "The meetings have been invaluable to us."

The Coxes already have a few memorable moments in their short time of beekeeping. Robin told of the time when they installed the packages. It was time for them to release the queen. She carefully removed the queen cage from the frame where it was attached but then accidentally dropped the cage, with the queen still inside, and it fell to the bottom of the brood box. She knew then that she would have to fish for the cage, with thousands of bees flying all about. Luckily, the queen was safely released.

Mike's most memorable moment was when he and Robin decided to give apitherapy a try. Robin has had chronic problems with a bit of arthritis in her hand. They had read that some folks have used bee venom to relieve arthritis symptoms, so Mike took a bee and let it sting Robin's hand. But rather than relieve her of pain, it caused a lot of pain and swelling. "My hand looked like a rubber glove balloon!" she said.

The Coxes have advice for anyone thinking about beekeeping: "If you think you want to do it, don't be afraid. Just do it!" they say. "We've loved just about everything to do with beekeeping, every bit of it!"

News from the Bee World

The following items come from Fran Bach's "Items of Interest to Beekeepers."

The following is from an excellent newsletter of which beekeepers should be aware (if you aren't already) - Phil Craft's "PhilCraftHiveCraft.com". Having just received his most recent offering, I want to pass on this item about use of oxalic acid for mite control. He also makes important points about off-label (read "illegal") home brews. Here's the bit on OA. Look for follow-up on his website in the next few days.

USING OXALIC ACID

Posted to PhilCraftHiveCraft on June 26, 2015

This is a question, along with my reply, that I received as a result of my June 20th post regarding the registration of oxalic acid as a varroa mite control product. I appreciate the question, as I have been hearing a great amount of discussion among beekeepers on how to avoid purchasing a labeled product by mixing up the chemical themselves. A beekeeper in Kentucky writes,

Phil,

Myself and others have been referred to Amazon.com to purchase oxalic acid, since the bee supply companies can't sell it in most states yet. The problem is, CAS# 144-62-7, or Oxalic acid dihydrate (the crystalline form), not wood bleach, is marketed online as being 99% pure. So I was very surprised to read from you that the approved solution for bees is 3%. I don't think very many people are aware of that. Any suggestions?

Phil's reply

I am sure that a number of U.S. beekeepers have been using oxalic acid for years, just as many have been using (and I'm certain some still do) homemade formulations of formic acid. Though purchasing and using non-labeled forms of either chemical for varroa mite control is illegal, the employees of state pesticide departments are very busy monitoring the application of legal pesticides, and it is rare for a beekeeper, especially a small scale beekeeper, to be cited for what we call off-label pesticide use. However, the odds of getting caught are not the only consideration.

The issue you inquire about, of getting chemicals in a proper, safe, and effective concentration, is one of the major reasons for pesticide labeling regulation. Before a product can be registered, a great deal of research goes into determining the optimum concentration and method of application for both safety and effectiveness. I have heard horror stories of beekeepers burning off the tips of their fingers or damaging their lungs while handling full strength formic acid. Continue reading on PhilCraftHiveCraft.com →

These useful items come from the Alameda County (California) Beekeepers newsletter under the section "Beekeeper's Corner". This particular area is a collaboration between newsletter editor Laurel Przybylski and Jerry Przybylski (sorry guys, I have NO idea how to pronounce that!)

ANTS

We care about ants because we care about our bees.

Our biggest problem is probably those Argentine ants, *Linepithema humile* (formerly *Iridomyrmex humilis*), that emigrated from Argentina to port cities on most of the continents and ocean islands. They hitched a ride on cargo. Once established in California, they expanded their range from San Diego north. In fact, they're a single mega-colony of genetic sisters that cooperate and drift from nest to nest.

These ants are about 3mm long by 1mm wide, so can infiltrate bee hives through gaps between boxes, top vents, and screen bottom boards. They're after both the protein and the honey in the hive. They'll also go for the sugar in your feeder, and protein supplements. We don't want those ants driving the bees away from the food we took so much trouble to prepare.

Ant colonies grow in spring and summer, and decline in fall and winter. In the city the abundant garbage resource (refuse bins/cans, and litter discarded into the streets) fuel strong colonies. The books tell us that strong honeybee colonies can cope with ant invasions. Severe ant invasions can weaken colonies, and cause them to abscond. The energy the bees expend defending against ants could have been spent raising brood or putting up honey.

Ants eat Varroa mites! They'll eat the mites that fall through your screen bottom boards onto counting boards. So, when ants are present, Varroa infestation levels inferred from monitor-board counts will be inaccurate.

Non-interventionist purist beekeepers let the ants and bees work it out. Their goal is obtaining the strongest possible bee genetics through natural selection. After all, bees in bee trees have been coping with the local ant populations for generations.

Pro-treatment beekeepers may treat with petrochemical insecticides like fipronil, hydramethylnon sulfuramid, or even "Chinese Chalk" (pesticides deltamethrin and cypermethrin in Chinese chalk are illegal in California). Products can be found in the hardware store, or Home-Depot... Some "listed" pesticides require a pest control permit. Review the product documentation and MSDS (Materials Safety Data Sheet) if you plan to use them. Be aware of their effects on children or pets. Be aware also that they may kill beneficial insects too.

Pro-organic beekeepers (for lack of a better name) usually fall somewhere in between. The non-petrochemical ant poisons and ant repellants include:

Repellants

- Cinnamon spread around hive-stand legs: Reports of effectiveness vary
- Wood ashes from your fireplace or stove: Very high pH causes burns: reports of effectiveness vary; less effective when wet
- (Food grade) Diatomaceous Earth: grinds up leg joints: effective as a powder but less effective if it gets wet

Poisons

- 0.5 to 2% Boric Acid ant bait in 1:1 sugar syrup: Poisons brood in the nest: Can take weeks to cause colony to collapse ; risk to pets, snails, etc. Boric acid is less toxic than aspirin (compare the LD-50 dose), but should be used with caution. The Internet has recipes for Borax ant baits too. Boric acid may be purchased in pound quantities in the garden department of stores near bug and weed killer products.
- .5 to 2% Boric Acid in peanut butter or grape jelly: see above.
- Active Dry Yeast sprinkled on ant colonies: Disrupts the ant's digestive tract in pupa causing death: Effectiveness unknown since this one is new to me.
- Cream-Of-Wheat powder sprinkled on ant colonies: Expands with water in ant's digestive tract causing death: Effectiveness unknown since this one is also new to me.

Barriers

- Water or oil filled moats around hive-stand legs: must be inspected and renewed often. "Bridges" are often a problem when leaves, weeds, sticks or lawnmower clippings accumulate in the container. Cans develop leaks. Wood legs can rot out in water. Motor oil in soil is a contamination problem. Metal hive-stand legs work better. Automotive grease on hive-stand legs: Must be inspected and renewed from time-to-time. Windblown material can stick to the grease. Cobwebs, grass, weeds, and lawnmower clippings can bridge barriers, so be alert to these problems. An inverted cup coated inside with grease at the top of a grease-covered leg is more reliable than grease covered leg alone. (Make sure the ants can't infiltrate via the center of the hollow leg.)

This scratches the surface of the topic.

The following was received from GBA member Joe Searle. Thanks Joe!

I was talking to Vicki about some interesting web sites that I've come across. She suggested that I pass them on to our news letter. Check them out and pass them on if you find them to be useful.
Thanks, Joe Searle

University of Florida Honey Bee Lab Videos:
(Produced about October 2008)

Episode 1: Tracheal Mites: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wy2PG_MB4Y

Episode 2: Nosema Disease: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMDN7r1SfbY>

Episode 3: Small Hive Beetle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tydo9rABsK4>

The nematodes mentioned in Episode 3 are: *Heterorhabditis indica* and *Steinernema riobrave*

Episode 4: Varroa Mites: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5vVrAy6CEU>

Episode 5: Foulbrood: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s74WIPpGRHs>

The IPM White Board: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmDBYzJ5xjU>

A young Keith Delaplane:

A year in the life of an apiary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjrdwXXEtLo&list=PLIRSFVPLB2hICc-Hg1O-RtY5SMzpJiKcV>

An older Keith Delaplane: Evolutionary Drivers Toward Colonial Life:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRE9pWfnpMM>

Polyandry as an Aid to Colony Strength

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShwD0AvAFIk>

Bee Informed: <http://beeinformed.org/>

They've rolled out a remote
hive monitoring program

Niagara Beeway: <http://www.niagarabeeway.com/>

Click on the "VARROA MITE" menu bar item to see a report on how they are using
Stratiolaelaps scimitus as a biological control for varroa mites.

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

We have an exciting meeting planned for August. Ben Sallmann from Bee Informed Partnership will be our speaker. You may check out his blog at: <http://beeinformed.org/author/bensallmann/> You Tube videos at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gj5jbuW9Wa8>. Please take a look at these before the meeting so you can come and ask him questions. Speakers like to be asked questions; it makes them think the effort to show up was worth it.

And,

A local beekeeper has retired and donated his equipment to us. Most of it is new or only been used a year or so. We would like to sell it to raise money to fund bee research that affects us. We haven't yet decided which project to take on; this is an October meeting subject.

Items for sale are three Mann Lake Garden Hives. Each hive includes:

- 1) Garden Hivory Cover w/ inner cover
- 1) 9 5/8" (24.45 cm) assembled 10 frame hive body
- 10) 9 1/8" assembled frames w/ Waxed Rite-Cell® foundation
- 1) assembled 10 frame bottom board

Mann Lake's price is \$157.95 each. The price for members will be \$65. The price for non-members is \$70.

Not to be outdone by that member's generosity, I too have scaled back tremendously and have excess stuff to donate. We will have a raffle of these items which will also raise money for research. Raffle tickets will be \$1 each or six for \$5
Be sure not to miss the August meeting .

Wayne

August in the Beeyard My August Beekeeping To-Do List By Serge Labesque

Toward a better beehive

Just like many beekeepers, I frequently tinker with my beekeeping equipment and hive management practices. Starting from the commonly available Langstroth hive many years ago, I have gradually arrived at a hive configuration that works rather well in my apiaries. Along the way, numerous ideas were tried and modifications were made to the basic hive design. A lot were more or less quickly

abandoned, while others were adopted as they proved to be beneficial. All these experiments were instructive in one way or another.

For many years, I focused on making my hives more bee-friendly. Then I began to try to make my equipment easier to work with without sacrificing the features that were favorable to the colonies. A first step in that direction was the decision to manage some of my hives solely with medium supers and frames. Although this very simple decision helped, there was still too much heavy lifting for my injured back. So, I fabricated several vertical hives that permitted accessing the bees and their comb by opening side wall panels. Inspecting these beehives does not require lifting anything heavier than individual frames. And talk about working comfortably: These hives can be inspected while sitting down! Unfortunately, they are somewhat complex and expensive contraptions to build.

In recent years, two distinct ideas were combined into a system that facilitates my work in the apiaries in addition to being good for the bees. These consist of using extra-large frames and specially-designed inspection shelves. The frames, which are used as the core of the brood chambers, are as large as two deep or three medium Langstroth frames stacked vertically. Frame extension boards allow the use of regular frames and follower boards of any size alongside the double-deep frames when this is necessary or convenient. All the supers can still be standard pieces of equipment, be they mediums or deeps. During a hive inspection, the shelves lock onto the handles of the uppermost super that holds the double-deep frames, and they receive the tilted up supers that are above the brood chamber. With this set-up, it is possible to access the very bottoms of fairly tall hives without lifting any supers. Adding micro-harvesting and appropriate brood chamber management to the use of these simple devices allows the beekeeper to manage and manipulate strong colonies without breaking his back or the bank.



With the upper supers tilted on their ends and supported by inspection shelves, the double deep frames can be inspected easily. This set-up provides access to the entire hive, down to the bottom of the brood chamber without lifting anything. The bees benefit from the freedom to use their comb as they see fit.

The colonies benefit from the large height of the frames because there are no bottom or top bars to interrupt the combs of the brood chambers. The bees arrange their brood and food supplies as they see fit, exactly as they do in the best tree hollows. This is particularly important in winter, when bee clusters may die of starvation if they become separated from their stores by the discontinuity created in the

combs by top and bottom bars. I have seen enough of these hive-induced colony losses to appreciate the value of the large vertical dimensions of these new frames.

I could go on listing the benefits I see in this system, but I'll only highlight one at this point: My lower back does not ache as it used to after my trips to the apiaries.

August in the apiaries

The bees are actively preparing for fall and winter. At least, they should be, and we want to find out which of our colonies are responding adequately to the seasonal cues, and which ones are not.

It's actually quite interesting to observe how the bees proceed through this vitally important task. To begin with, we know that the colonies need to accumulate as much stores as they can. But, at this time of year and particularly in regions that offer scant resources, gathering nectar may prove quite challenging. In the absence of nectar, honeydew may be collected, for example from oak trees. Unfortunately, honeydew is a dangerous source of winter stores for the bees, because they cannot digest honey derived from it. Winter cases of dysentery in the hives are often due to its consumption.

During summer dearth and meager flows, the brood nests shrink and inch their way up into the hives. At times, the lower supers become empty. It would be a mistake to remove these mostly empty supers from the hives, because that is where some of the pollen foragers will soon unload their pollen pellets, between the brood nests and the hive entrances. This strategic placement of pollen will ensure good nutrition of the fall brood, the future winter bees. Indeed, when the bees consolidate their honey and nectar stores during the early fall, the brood nests will be driven downward into these lower combs. As the brood nests move closer to the hive entrances, the bees will frequently leave unconsumed bee bread behind. Before the end of fall, this source of protein will be covered with a glaze of honey. It will be consumed later in the winter at a time when fresh pollen may not be available, and when the brood nests rebound. So, the successful overwintering of our colonies depends at least to some extent on our respecting the organization of the summer brood chambers.

In view of the scarcity of available nectar, which is typical of this time of year, we need to make sure that the stores are not spent needlessly. This would be the case, for example, when the bees have to collect large quantities of water to cool hives that become excessively hot. So, providing shade and water is an effective means of achieving substantial conservation of nectar and honey. Ensuring that the colonies benefit from adequate air circulation through their hives is also helpful. Yet, we need to be careful here, as it is easy to overdo this by removing the monitoring trays from beneath the hive bottom screens, for example, or by leaving the entrances wide open. The dangers presented by excesses in these details are the dehydration of the brood and attacks by robber bees and yellow jackets.

Summer open-hive inspections are usually infrequent and kept brief enough to avoid triggering robbing. Our visits to the apiaries are most often limited to the examination of the exterior of the hives and monitoring trays, to the observation of the flight paths, entrances and fronts of the hives, and to cursory inspections of the honey supers. But toward the end of the month, we will perform a round of more detailed inspections that will focus our attention on the condition of the colonies and on their progress in the preparations for the fall and winter. Their health status, the quality of the brood and queens, as well as the amount of stores they contain will be noted. As we do this, we need to be careful with our smoker near dry vegetation, because the danger of fire is high. Should we be so lucky as to find surplus summer honey in our hives, we could harvest it, preferably by taking honeydew honey out of the hives first, leaving lighter honey for the bees.

The populations of varroa mites are growing rapidly at this time of year. The typical signs of varroa mite infestation, which are collectively known as "parasitic mite syndrome" or P.M.S., become evident in the hives that do not possess adequate resistance to the pest.

Through the observation of the preparation of our colonies for winter and of their fight against the ubiquitous varroa mites, we can see which colonies perform best in our apiaries. Thanks to our notes, we will be in a better position to propagate our best bees next spring.

There is still time to re-queen colonies that are failing or that have become queenless. Again, this is best done from our best stocks. Combining declining colonies is also a better option than letting them slowly and irremediably fail, as long as none of the colonies involved are diseased.

We have entered the time of year when hive management is the opposite of what is done in the spring: Instead of adding space and growing the colonies, we let them become more compact and we begin to remove unnecessary combs, especially the old ones.

In summary, this month:

- Beware of yellow jackets and of the risk of robbing. Reduce the entrances of the hives that are threatened.
- Avoid hive manipulations that can trigger robbing.
- Ensure that the bees have access to water at all times.
- Ensure that the hives are adequately ventilated. Providing afternoon shade is helpful.
- Observe the performance of the queens and colonies. Take notes for later selection, combination or replacement.
- Re-queen or combine hives that are not performing satisfactorily, and those that have failing queens.
- Begin to reduce the unused volume of hives.
- Harvest surplus summer honey.
- Give extracted supers and cappings back to the bees for cleaning. To avoid triggering robbing, this should be done in the evening, when foragers are returning to their hives.
- Beware of the fire danger when using the smoker in areas of dry vegetation.
- As always, keep an eye on the health of the colonies.
- Cull old and misshapen combs.
- Render wax from discarded frames and from cappings. The solar wax melter boxes work very well at this time of year.
- Routinely clean and scorch tools and equipment.

Serge Labesque © 2015

Drippings from the Extractor

by Dave Stocks

The Santa Clara County Vector Control District has recently begun night fogging for control of the mosquito responsible for the spread of the West Nile Virus. As we know, West Nile is a very serious mosquito-borne disease which affects the central nervous system. So far in 2015, there have been no reported cases of human infection in Santa Clara County. However, 45 bird deaths have been attributed to West Nile. In 2014, there were ten human cases reported and 925 bird deaths. One infected mosquito has been found in the Santa Clara - Sunnyvale area this summer. (For more information on the West Nile Virus, go to <http://www.westnile.ca.gov>).

The discovery of the infected mosquito has prompted the Vector Control District to take action. Using a pesticide with the trade name Zenivex[®], they have begun general fogging in the infected area. General fogging refers to treatment of an entire area, not spot treatment of infected sources. As a result, any insect that comes in contact, including bees, is vulnerable. The active ingredient in Zenivex[®] is etofenprox, a chemical closely related to the pyrethrums. It affects the insect's central nervous

system when contacted. Fortunately, it seems that etofenprox has a relatively short half-life. Basically, a half-life is the amount of time a chemical remains toxic to its intended target. For this reason, fogging is begun late at night when most beneficial insects are inactive.

While I don't question for an instant the importance of controlling a potentially deadly virus, I do have concerns about the possible ill effects on bees, both immediate and long term. Etofenprox, per the label, is extremely toxic to bees. The Vector Control District has attempted to mitigate this by night time foggings at very low rates. Their assumption, supported by label, is that honey bees, being inactive at night, will not be exposed. My concern is with the time fogging ends and the amount of material residue left on plants. I have often found my bees active at first light. If they forage on a treated plant, covered with dew, is there the potential for toxic contact? And even if the adult bee survives, is there the possibility of contaminated pollen being taken back to the hive where it may accumulate to levels sufficient to harm brood? Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find answers to these questions. I do have opinions on steps we can take to at least mitigate the potential for exposure.

First, we can do our part to prevent the problem in the first place. Standing, stagnant water is a welcome beacon to mosquitoes. Empty all water sources at least on a weekly basis.



Mosquito larvae in stagnant water

Second, we need to reduce the possible exposure to contamination. Years ago, I worked for a commercial seed company. We used lots of bees for pollination, especially in hybrid crops. Inevitably we would have a pest problem that required spraying. When we had bees in the field, it was my job to cover the bees the night before spraying. We used large pieces of canvas that would cover multiple hives. The crop was sprayed at first light. The canvas was left in place until the chemical had completely dried, sometimes as late as noon. We can do the same with our hives on nights we expect spraying. Use a sheet or blanket to confine the bees to their hive. Do not use plastic as this may create an undesirable hot, environment. While this doesn't necessarily address the contaminated pollen possibility, it will definitely help the early flyers. Also, immediately replace the water in all sources the bees might visit.

It is inevitable that we will encounter similar situations in the future. Let's be proactive and handle them!

With bees, and their favorite nectar and pollen sources, you should always expect the unexpected. In the summer of 2014, Laura and I visited the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. I was amazed by the

number of bees, both honey bees and native bees, working the Saint Catherine's Lace (*Eriogonum giganteum*), a native buckwheat. Last week we were lucky enough to visit again! I hurried to the area of a large concentration only to find not a single bee. Talk about disappointed! As I sulked through the rest of the garden, I came across a small area dominated by coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*). There were the bees! So what was up? Why at a similar time of the year would one plant be more favorable than another in a given year? Not being a botanist, I can only come up with one observation. The day in 2014 was warm and sunny, last week was cool and overcast. Is it possible that the color of the flower, under different weather conditions, influences the bees decision to visit it? I don't know the answer. If anyone does, please let me know.

Speaking of the unexpected, a couple of weeks ago I was going through my hives. One in particular interested me because it had been up and down. It had survived the winter, but only recently was beginning to thrive. Early on, I noticed the queen, complete with red dot. The red dot indicates that she is a queen from 2013. I didn't buy any queens in 2013! My only explanation is that the original colony died, and a new swarm, with their now almost three year old queen, moved in. What's great about this is that I now have a queen with some longevity genes.

The following was sent by GBA secretary and Master Gardener Randy Fox. As you know, Randy often contributes a "Plant of the Month" article. As an introduction, Randy wrote, "I made this chart from info in Jeremy Rose's book. It outlines plants blooming in August and their importance for pollen and nectar. I added links to Wikipedia pages discussing each of the plants.

Important Plant Sources Used by Bees in August		
Common Name	Latin Name	Importance and Food Source
Blackberry	<i>Rubus spp</i>	Major (Pollen/Nectar)
Blue Curls	<i>Trichostema spp</i>	Major (Nectar)
Brazilian Pepper Tree	<i>Schinus terebinthefolius</i>	Major (Nectar)
Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum spp</i>	Major (Nectar)
Bull Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Moderate (Pollen/Nectar)
California Pepper Tree	<i>Schinus molle</i>	Major (Nectar)
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum molle</i>	Major (Pollen)
Ligustrum	<i>Ligustrum spp.</i>	Moderate (Pollen/Nectar)
Raspberry	<i>Rubus spp.</i>	Moderate (Pollen/Nectar)
River Red Gum	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Major (Nectar/Pollen)
Sawtooth Goldenbush	<i>Hazardia squarrosa</i>	Moderate (Pollen)
Strawberry	<i>Fragaria spp.</i>	Moderate (Pollen/Nectar)
Telegraph Weed	<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>	Major (Pollen)
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Major (Nectar/Pollen)
Yellow Star Thistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Moderate (Nectar)
Yerba Santa	<i>Eriodictyon spp.</i>	Moderate (Nectar)

Finally, at the July meeting I announced what I hoped would be a new feature of *The Buzz*. I wanted to do a monthly survey of members on various topics with the results being published in the newsletter. After much discussion it was decided to table this idea until some guidelines could be developed to make sure the topics were relevant and the results valid.

Calendar of Events

Meetings

August 1, 2015

Monterey Bay Beekeepers

8:00 am

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

August 3 , 2015

Santa Clara Valley Beekeepers Guild

6:15 pm

<http://beeguild.org/>

August 4, 2015

Gilroy Beekeepers Association

7:00 pm

Old City Hall

7400 Monterey Rd.

Gilroy, CA

<http://www.uvasgold.com/gba/>

Speaker:

Bill Sallmann - Bee Informed Partnership

August 5, 2015

Santa Cruz Beekeepers Guild

6:30 pm

El Rio Mobile Home Park

2120 N. Pacific Ave.

Santa Cruz, CA

<http://santacruzbees.com>

August 6, 2015

Beekeepers Guild of San Mateo

7:00 pm

1106 Alameda de Pulgas

Belmont, CA

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

Topic:

Good Bee Stewardship & Equipment w/ Serge LaBesque

Conferences

October 1-3, 2015

Western Apicultural Society
Boulder, Ca

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

November 17-19, 2015

California State Beekeepers Assoc.
Sacramento, Ca

<http://www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/events.html>