

# THE MARIN BEEK NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 8

September 2010

## What You Missed

For our August meeting we gathered at Draper Farms for the Marin Beekeeper annual potluck. Over 50 Beeks, families and friends, enjoyed a wonderful evening strolling among the rows of vegetables, sharing great food and drink and talking about bees and a myriad of other things. The weather couldn't have been better.

A big thank you to Jerry and Mea for opening their farm to us for this wonderful event.

## What's the Buzz

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 2, 2010 at the American Legion Log Cabin, 20 Veterans Place, San Anselmo, CA, starting at 7:30pm.

### Guest Speaker:

Melanie Kirby of Zia Queenbee Company

Melanie Kirby established Zia Queenbee Company to provide quality queenbees and natural honeybee products. Melanie has been a professional beekeeper for 13 years and has specialized in queenbee-rearing for the past 11 years. She began her career as a Beekeeping Extension Volunteer with the United States Peace Corps. After serving her country abroad as a technical and cultural ambassador, she continued to learn and grow as a beekeeper. While working for two companies on the Big Island of Hawaii, she learned more skills in queen grafting and rearing. In Florida, she learned about nucleus and package bee production. Following these experiences, she committed her energies and skills towards beginning Zia Queenbee Company, a beekeeping enterprise that is progressive, innovative and ethical. In partnership with Mark Spitzig, Zia Queenbee Company and its sister enterprise Superior Honey Farms span from border to border.

### Upcoming Meetings:

#### October 7, 2010

Dr. Diana Sammataro, co-author of the *Beekeeper's Handbook*.

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The title of Diana's talk will be: "A Molecular Biology Approach to Honey Bee Pathogen & Colony Collapse Disorder Research".

Diana plans to tell us about her research focused on pathogen detection in honey bee samples and her work investigating the honey bee antiviral immune system.

**November 4, 2010**

Rose –Lynn Fisher author of the book *Bee*

Rose-Lynn will be talking about her book, which contains electron microscope photos of bee parts and explanation of their function.

**December 2, 2010**

Kathy Zicardi, Master Gardener

Kathy will be discussing "Gardening for Honey and Native Bees".

## Dues are Due

A reminder that annual dues for 2011 are now due. Dues are still just \$20 per year. You can pay in person to David Peterson at the monthly meeting or mail you check made payable to Marin Beekeepers to:

Marin Beekeepers  
c/o Mary Nordquist  
2072 Hatch Road  
Novato, CA 94947

New members and members with new contact info please make sure to include your address, phone number and e-mail.

Membership includes free admission to all meetings, access to the Club's honey extracting equipment, and subscription to the Club's "MarinBuzz" listserv, which serves as an online discussion forum and a way to notify Club members of local bee swarm information.

## Fair Results



Here are the results from the 2010 Marin County Fair:

### Honey

#### Class 2 - Floral

1st Peter Bauer, San Rafael  
2nd Neil Nordquist, Novato

#### Class 3 - Wild Flower

1st Helen E Douglas, San Rafael  
2nd Marina M Wright, Sausalito  
3rd Jeff A Kent, San Rafael  
4th Daniel Stralka, Mill Valley  
5th Bill Papendick, San Rafael  
6th Jef & Lora Templeton, Novato  
7th Gary/Bonnie Bollengier, San Rafael  
8th Rob Tysinger, Novato

#### Class 4 - Crystallized

1st Bill Papendick, San Rafael  
2nd Jeff A Kent, San Rafael  
3rd Gary/Bonnie Bollengier, San Rafael  
4th Jef & Lora Templeton, Novato  
5th Daniel Stralka, Mill Valley  
6th Peter Bauer, San Rafael  
7th Helen E Douglas, San Rafael

#### Class 5 - Chunk

1st Daniel Stralka, Mill Valley  
2nd Bill Papendick, San Rafael

#### Class 6 - Comb

1st Marina M Wright, Sausalito  
2nd Daniel Stralka, Mill Valley  
3rd Bill Papendick, San Rafael

see Fair Results on page 3

## Workshops

Melanie Kirby of Zia Queenbee Company will present two workshops on the weekend following our monthly meeting.

Saturday, September 4, 2010; 10am to 4pm at Draper Farms; "The Basics of Beekeeping"

One day Beginning/Intermediate Beekeeping Workshop with Melanie Kirby for Marin Beekeeper members

Cost is \$50 per person; attendance limited; SORRY, This workshop is SOLD OUT! Go to the Marin Beekeepers website events page and click on INQUIRY to sign up on the waiting list.

An all day workshop with both lecture and hands on work at the apiary at Draper Farms oriented towards first time beekeepers. Melanie has prepared a program to include all aspects of getting started as a small scale beekeeper. Topics include:

- Lifecycle of the honey bee
- Seasonal cycle overview: what needs to be done throughout the year
- Kinds of honey bees
- Pests/Diseases of honey bees
- Apiary set-up
- Hive styles
- Equipment and gear
- Approach to beekeeping
- Hive Revisions- Hands on in the apiary

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Sunday September 5, 2010; 10am to 4pm at Draper Farms;

One day workshop: "From Keeping Bees to "Growing" Bees: Survivor Queen Rearing overview" with Melanie Kirby for Marin Beekeeper members

## Hive Products

Class 7 - Natural Beeswax  
 1st Gary/Bonnie Bollengier, San Rafael  
 2nd Daniel Stralka, Mill Valley  
 3rd Bill Papendick, San Rafael  
 4th Mary Nordquist, Novato

Class 8 - Molded Beeswax  
 1st Mary Nordquist, Novato  
 2nd Daniel Stralka, Mill Valley  
 3rd Bill Papendick, San Rafael  
 4th Jef & Lora Templeton, Novato

Class 9 - Hand Dipped Beeswax Candles  
 1st Daniel Stralka, Mill Valley  
 2nd Marina M Wright, Sausalito  
 3rd Jerome Draper, IV, San Anselmo

Class 10 - Full Frame  
 1st Rob Tysinger, Novato  
 2nd Daniel Stralka, Mill Valley



Thanks to everyone who entered the competition and a special thanks to all the Beeks that manned the booth.

Cost is \$50 per person; attendance limited; purchase workshop tickets at <http://www.mayach.com/beecele.html>

All day workshop with both lecture and hands on work at the apiary at Draper Farms oriented towards intermediate/advanced beekeepers interested in taking the next step in beekeeping. Melanie has prepared a program to include all aspects of learning how to build your apiary with your own local survivor stock honey bees. Topics include:

- Establishing a genetic pool
- Selecting breeders
- Cell-building styles
- The art of grafting
- Establishing mating apiaries and drone supports
- Creating and maintaining mating nucleus colonies
- Catching/Harvesting of mated queens
- Accommodating hives for queen rearing and for honey production
- Hands on portions for cell-building, grafting, and mating nucs

## UC Davis Haagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven Garden Grand Opening

Bee enthusiasts, gardeners, and just about everyone who enjoys food will find something to buzz about at the grand opening of the Haagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven at UC Davis. Kids' activities, garden tours and hands-on demonstrations are all in store. Try some bee-built Haagen-Dazs ice cream flavors and learn about the important role bees play in pollinating one-third of all the foods we eat. Take home a few tips for what you can do to support bee survival. For more information and an up-to-date event schedule, please visit <http://beebiology.ucdavis.edu/HAVEN/index.html>

\*Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010

10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility  
Bee Biology Road, UC Davis

<http://gallery.mailchimp.com/e35ab6b4f3633ac590a8802d4/images/map.jpg>

- \* Take I-80 to CA-113 N
- \* Take exit 27 for Hutchison Dr.
- \* Turn left onto Hutchison Dr.
- \* Stay on Hutchison Dr.
- \* Follow Hutchison through two traffic circles
- \* Turn right at the first, left at the second
- \* Turn left at Hopkins Rd.
- \* Watch for parking assistants
- \* The garden is located on Bee Biology Road/North Lane