

# THE MARIN BEEK NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 8

September 2011

## What You Missed

For our August meeting we gathered at Draper Farms for the Marin Beekeeper annual potluck. Over 60 Beeks, families and friends, enjoyed a wonderful evening strolling among the rows of vegetables, listening to music, 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 1, 2011 at the American Legion Log Cabin, 20 Veterans Place, San Anselmo, CA, starting at 7:30pm.

Guest Speaker:

Mike Andree, apiarist for the Bee Informed project

Mike's work for the Bee Informed project includes testing beehives for *Nosema Ceranae*, hygienic behavior, and *Varroa* mites as part of the largest data bank ever assembled. Mike will speak about "How bees stay healthy - bee biology".

<http://beeinformed.org/author/michael-andree/>

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**October 6, 2011**

John Jacobs, proprietor of Old Sol Enterprises.

John's topic is titled "Selection, Care and Propagation of Survivor Stock Bees".

**November 3, 2011**

Dewy Caron, Emeritus Professor, University of Delaware; Affiliate Scientist - Horticulture Dept, Oregon State Univ., Corvallis

The title of Professor Caron's talk will be "Back To The Future"... How have your bees been preparing for over-wintering and what might help them survive and prosper this next season? What could/can we as bee stewards do to better insure survival and colony "success" (however we might care to measure it) this season?

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### December 1, 2011

Steve Sheppard, Entomology Department Chair  
Professor, Graduate Faculty  
Apiculturist, Thurber Memorial Chair  
Washington State University  
Professor Sheppard is an expert in honeybee genetics and evolution. His topic has yet to be determined.

### January 5, 2012

Thomas D Seeley, PhD, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell University

Dr Seeley's talk will focus on his latest book "Honey Bee Democracy".

### February 2, 2012

Diana Sammataro, Research Entomologist  
USDA-ARS Carl Hayden Honey Bee Research Center.

Diana will discuss "Honey Bees and Proteins".

### March 1, 2012

Eric C. Mussen, Ph.D., Extension Apiculturist  
University of California Davis

Dr. Mussen will speak on the current state of beekeeping.

### April 5, 2012

Katie Lee, the Bee Informed Project

Katie will speak about "The Bee Team: helping CA bee breeders select stock"

## Fair Results

Thanks to everyone who helped set up, answer questions at the exhibit and enter your hive products at the County Fair. This year saw an increase in attendance and in particular more interest in the bees. We certainly got some good PR for the girls. Here are a few photos of the booth, including Wendy Lee-Ezekiel and Tim Cross's "Bee Friendly Plant" display supplied by Sunnyside Nursery. We had 11 entries in the wild flower honey class. The competition was so close that the judge, Clyde Serda, offered up 2 blue ribbons for that class.



If you missed the County Fair results in last month's newsletter here they are again:

### Honey

#### Eucalyptus Blend

- 1st Linda Albion, Woodacre
- 2nd Bonnie Bollengier /Gary Morse, San Rafael
- 3rd Peter Bauer, San Rafael

#### Floral

- 1st Richard Hyde, Belvedere
- 2nd Peter Bauer, San Rafael
- 3rd Richard Hyde, Belvedere

#### Wild Flower

- 1st Marina M Wright, Sausalito
- 1st Jeff A Kent, San Rafael
- 2nd Bill Papendick, San Rafael
- 3rd Bonnie Bollengier /Gary Morse, San Rafael

### Crystallized

1st Bill Papendick, San Rafael  
2nd Helen E Douglas, San Rafael  
3rd Lora Templeton, Novato

### Chunk

1st Daniel Stralka, Mill Valley  
2nd Marina M Wright, Sausalito

### Comb

1st Daniel Stralka, Mill Valley  
2nd Bonnie Bollengier /Gary Morse, San Rafael  
3rd Marina M Wright, Sausalito

### Hive Products

#### Natural Beeswax

1st Bonnie Bollengier /Gary Morse, San Rafael  
2nd Daniel Stralka, Mill Valley  
3rd Rebecca Ets-Hokin, Tiburon

#### Molded Beeswax

1st Bonnie Bollengier /Gary Morse, San Rafael  
2nd Daniel Stralka, Mill Valley  
3rd Bill Papendick, San Rafael

#### Hand Dipped Beeswax Candles

1st Anna Taylor Gravley, Corte Madera  
2nd Daniel Stralka, Mill Valley

#### Full Frame

1st Lora Templeton, Novato  
2nd Bonnie Bollengier /Gary Morse, San Rafael  
3rd Daniel Stralka, Mill Valley

### Special Awards

#### Best of Show – Honey

Jeff A Kent, San Rafael

#### Salvisberg Award

Bonnie Bollengier /Gary Morse, San Rafael

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



NOTE: If you noticed that the fair photos looked a lot like last year you were right. The correct fair photos are included in this month's newsletter courtesy of Bonnie Bollengier.

Apologies to Anna Taylor Gravley, whose name was butchered in last month's fair results. Anna took first in the Hand Dipped Beeswax candle category.

## Workshops

### PREPARING YOUR SURVIVOR STOCK FOR WINTER

Date: Saturday, October 8, 2011

Time: TBA

Location: TBA

John Jacobs, proprietor Old Sol Enterprises

## Dues are Due

A reminder that annual dues for 2012 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.

Workshops continued from page 3

### **BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT**

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2012  
Time: TBA  
Location: TBA

Diana Sammataro, Research Entomologist  
USDA-ARS Carl Hayden Honey Bee Research Center.

### **SELECTING DISEASE RESISTANT COLONIES FOR BREEDING STOCK**

Date: Saturday, April 7, 2012  
Time: TBA  
Location: TBA

Katie Lee, the Bee Informed Project

Watch for more information on these workshops in future newsletters and on the Marin Buzz.

## It's a Party

Dave Peterson will again be hosting an "Extraction Party" at his Honey House (his garage in Ross) on September 24 & 25 for Members with fewer than 30 frames to extract. It's a lot easier to extract your frames while the extractor and uncapping set up is all in place. That way you don't have to pick up, set up, clean up and return the equipment.

This is especially good for the Newbees who have not extracted using the Club's equipment in the past. To set up a time and get directions e-mail Dave directly at: [dpeterson307@aol.com](mailto:dpeterson307@aol.com).

## News from the Library

We've added several new titles over the summer for Club members to borrow:

- Better Beekeeping by Kim Flottum
- The Beekeeper's Handbook (4<sup>th</sup> edition) by Diana Sammataro and Alphonse Avitabile
- The Beekeeper's Lament by Hannah Nordhaus

We also have some older issues of the American Bee Journal which are available to members on a "first-come, first-served" basis. If anyone wants to circulate their magazines to the membership via the Library, you're welcome to bring them to the meeting. If you have borrowed a book, please remember to bring it back to the September meeting. The Club Library is available to all members and we appreciate your help in keeping the books moving. Drop by the Library table during the meeting and have a look. We welcome your suggestions for new items that would be useful for you in your beekeeping adventures!

Marina Wright ([marinamay@earthlink.net](mailto:marinamay@earthlink.net))

## Marin Pollen Project

### 2012 Marin Pollen Project Update:

In 2012, the Marin Pollen Project, in conjunction with Maryann Frazier and the Pennsylvania State University Colony Collapse Disorder team, will conduct a study to assess pesticide use and potential impacts on pollinators in urban environments in Marin County.

27 beekeepers have volunteered to collect monthly pollen samples from hives in 43 locations across Marin. This pollen will then be screened by Penn State for some 172 different pesticide residues. The results will be shared with the greater community in order to help educate the general public of the problems beekeepers are experiencing locally with pollinator populations and how individuals can help be a part of the solution.

At this time, the area in/around Sausalito is the largest urban area in the county not represented. If you - or a beekeeper you know in Sausalito - might be interested in participating, please contact Bonnie Bollengier: [info@marinpollen.org](mailto:info@marinpollen.org).

In May we began a campaign to raise money for this important research. We are pleased to report that we have exceeded our goal of \$10,000 to fund the project thanks to the generosity of many beekeepers and other wonderful people.

More information at <http://www.marinpollen.org>

## More Potluck Photos

