

THE MARIN BEEK NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 1

January 2020

What You Missed

Our last meeting featured presentations by Megan Denver and Jorik Phillips. Megan and Jorik are owners of [Hudson Valley Bee Supply](#). They, along with Dr. Tom Seeley, are directors of the American branch of [Bees for Development](#). Their talk was on the Hudson Valley Resource Hive along with an overview of their work for Bees for Development.

Bees for Development is a program that promotes sustainable beekeeping to combat poverty and to build sustainable resilient livelihoods in third world countries. They support beekeepers to maintain environments that are good for bees, for biodiversity and for people. All donations to Bees for Development North America go directly to support Bees for Development worldwide.

Hudson Valley Bees is Jorik and Megan's business, located in upstate New York. They provide:

- Honeybees and queens
- Classes and workshops
- Local honey
- Beekeeping supplies

Local Honey:

In their area there are two distinct honey flows – 7000 lbs. of honey were produced this year.

Queen Rearing:

They make a lot of nucs so they need a reliable supply of queens. The nucs sell for \$245. Their nucs are overwintered.

Jorik said he wasn't into honey production at first. He was more interested in the biology of bees. Then he found an article by Mike Palmer about making fall nucs and then letting them overwinter. Mike had learned it from Kirk Webster of New Hampshire, who started overwintered nucs in the area. Kirk learned it from Brother Adam. The concept has been around for many years.

You can turn one strong colony into several colonies. There will be no honey and you will have to feed them, but it is possible.

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What's the Buzz?

Our next meeting will be on Thursday January 2, 2020 at the American Legion Log Cabin, 20 Veterans Place, San Anselmo, CA. starting at 7:30 pm. The meeting will feature a presentation by [Toni Burnham](#) of the D.C. Beekeepers Alliance and a regular Bee Culture contributor. Her talk is titled "Teaching Bees to Kids."

Upcoming Meetings:

February 6, 2020

A Panel of local beekeepers, "Beekeeping in Other Countries"

March 5, 2020

[Andony Melathopolous](#), Asst Professor, Pollinator Health Extension, [Department of Horticulture](#), Oregon State University, Topic TBD

April 2, 2020

[Meghan Milbraith](#), Michigan State University Extension, [Northern Bee Network](#), "Why Bees are the Coolest"

May 7, 2020

[Anne Leonard](#), Associate Professor, University of Reno, "How Flower Rewards Shape Interactions between Bees and Plants"

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June 4, 2020

[Wyatt Mangum](#), American Bee Journal columnist, author of "*Top-Bar Beekeeping: Wisdom and Pleasure Combined*" and "*Bee Child*", "History of Bees and Hives in America"

July 2020

Marin County Fair

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The Hudson Valley Resource Hive:

Starts with 10 frame equipment:

- Dedicated bottom board with a board to block bees moving back and forth. An entrance for each colony is on opposite ends of the hive.
- The bottom box also is split into two sides.
- The top is two boxes side by side with four frames each.
- Special top inner cover.
- Can add another box for storage of extra honey.
- Regular top covers.

It creates a large colony mass:

- Partition in the middle.
 - Frame of honey/nectar.
 - Frame of brood.
 - Frame of brood.
 - Frame of drawn comb.

Introduce a queen:

- Hatched brood moves to the honey frame.
- Queen has room to lay.
- Build up is pretty quick.
- Need to be fed.
- Pollen and nectar can be used against the partition.

As winter approaches the colony tends to shut down, but is a full four frames of bees. They wrap them up with insulation. Snow is a big concern.

Other ways to use the resource hive:

Swarming season is a good time to make up spring/mating nucs. Spring nucs tend to build up to swarm again so they need more management. Use swarm cells or add a mated queen to create a nuc.

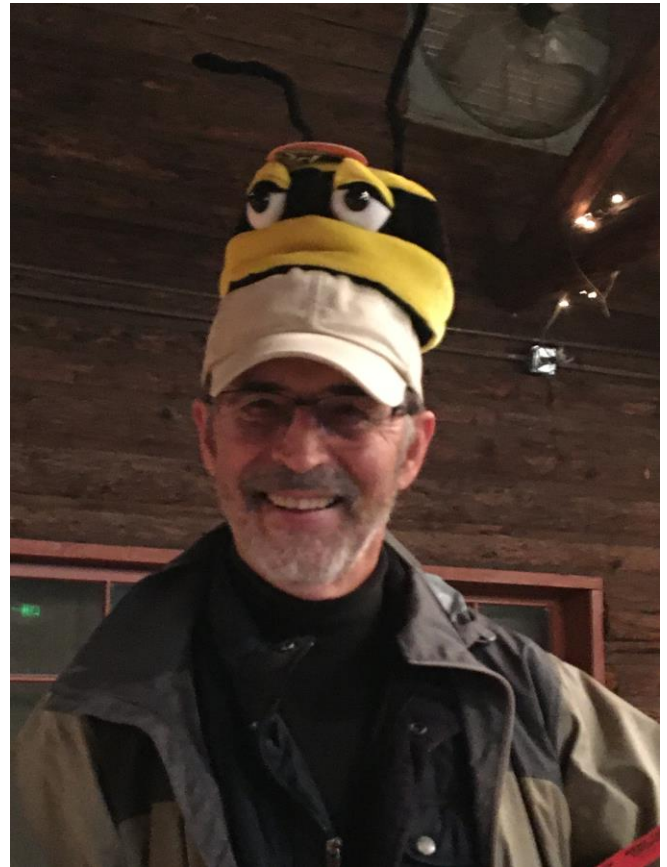
Bees like to grow in a tall narrow cavity.

Nucs don't really make drones because they are busy building up.

Jorik uses Homasote, a cellulose based fiber wall board, on top of the inner cover to absorb moisture. Homasote can be found at your local building supply.

He uses a 1 ½" wide center partition. Then there is no additional space on the sides for burr comb.

Dadant and Betterbee both have resource hives for sale.



Raffle Winner!

Hive Tips

By Bonnie Morse, [Bonnie Bee & Company](#)

Reprinted from the January 2019 Marin Beek News.

By now, you've hopefully made sure your hive is queenright and ready for winter. Unless there is good reason (extreme weather events, for example) to do otherwise, it's now best to let the bees alone.

Inspecting hives now will break propolis seals (which will be hard for bees to repair in cold temperatures) and release heat needed to keep the brood warm. If the cluster is small, the latter could prove disastrous as they may have difficulty bringing temperature back up.

For the curious, you can find out a lot of information without opening the hive. Put your ear up to the side and knock gently. What kind of buzz do you hear? Does it sound like a large cluster or a few sporadic bees?

Try to lift one end of the hive. Is it heavy with stores? Or is it light and lifted with ease? If you have a screened bottom board, what do you see on the monitoring board? From debris, can you see if the size of the cluster is the same, smaller or larger than when you looked last? Do you see dark cappings from brood emerging? Or lighter cappings where stored food is being consumed?

The eucalyptis is blooming. If you have a strong hive, they may even make you a little winter honey!



Observing Bee Activity

Membership Renewal

Time to Renew Your Membership

If you have already renewed for 2020 or joined after November 1, you can disregard this notice.

Membership dues remain at \$20.00 for another year. Memberships include all family members residing in the same domicile and are for the calendar year. Those new members joining after NOVEMBER 1 are paid through all of 2020. Renewals are due by the January meeting and delinquent after the February meeting. In mid February, we will purge the Buzz, Swarm and BeekAdmin list subscribers who have not renewed by that time.

The best and easiest way to pay your 2020 dues is

online at www.marinbeekeepers.org. You do not need to sign in or use a password. Just click on "become a member", fill out the form and submit. Be sure to complete the payment section at the end, which is via PayPal. You do not need to have a PayPal account to pay using a credit card. There is a small transaction fee added to your dues that is assessed by PayPal.

Or you can mail a check payable to Marin Beekeepers to our Treasurer:

Mary Nordquist
2072 Hatch Rd.
Novato, CA 94947

Of course, you can always renew at the door when you come to the monthly meetings by cash, check, or credit card.

Bee Classes

College of Marin, CA
Winter semester, January – March 2020

Re-envisioning Beekeeping in a time of crisis

This course is an introduction to a system-based approach to beekeeping. We will combine contemporary entomological research, the study of natural wild beehive environments and cutting-edge trends in life sciences to better understand the complexities of the life and the needs of honeybees.

For all levels of beekeeping; beginners welcome. Registration will open in early December. More info at <https://www.apisarborea.com/events/>