
THE MARIN BEEK NEWS

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April 2022

FROM THE EDITOR

Happy Spring!

The Marin County Beekeepers Club is excited to announce that this month's **April club meeting will be IN PERSON at the American Legion Log Cabin, 20 Veterans Place, San Anselmo. We start at 7:30, Thursday April 7th.**

We ask that you wear a mask if you are unvaccinated, and stay home if you show any signs of illness or have been exposed to someone who is sick.

It looks like we're slowly returning to in-person classes with Bonnie Bee and Co and Jennifer Berry hosting workshops in person this season. As always there are opportunities to continue attending classes online too!

It's swarm season! The last two weeks have seen a noticeable uptick in the number of postings on the club's Swarm email listserv. I've caught a few swarms myself this season already, and we have tips later in the newsletter on how to set up your own bait hive.

As always, drop me a line if you'd like to add anything bee-related to the newsletter. jenniferberrybees@gmail.com -jennifer



APRIL SPEAKER

This month's club meeting speaker will be our very own Bonnie Morse.

Bonnie is a beekeeper and co-owner of Bonnie Bee & Company in Marin County, California. She founded Bee Audacious, a non-profit that organizes conferences and educational events. Bonnie combines her interest in pollinators with her experience as a horticulturist and ISA certified arborist to local habitat demonstration gardens and the Marin County Biodiversity Corridor Initiative. Bonnie's topic is Reading the Combs.



FARM DAY 2022 STEVE LAMB

CLUB NOTICES

After a two year absence, Farm Day made a strong comeback this year drawing about 1,500 children, teachers and parents to Childrens' Island at the Marin Civic Center Lagoon.

Our Marin Beekeepers exhibit, featuring two observation hives provided by Dave Peterson, was a main attraction. This year Dave created two hives, one with a queen and one in the process of raising a queen. The favorite activity was looking for and finding the queen which earned an "I Found the Queen" sticker to wear.

This year's exhibit also included an empty hive that could be opened for inspection, hive tools, flashcards teaching the difference between Honey Bees and Yellow Jackets, honeycomb and honey extraction equipment, and educational posters.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who made it happen:
Patrick Richardson, Carol Dimeling Gee, Shannon Porro, Natalie Bitton, Barry Tombs, Wanda Sarti, Bill Papendick, Linda Albion, Richard and Karen Hyde, and Dave Peterson.
Look for Farm Day next year in March!

The Club is looking for a new Marin County Fair Coordinator. By taking on this job, you would become a regular member of the Nuc. For most of the year there is not much activity for this job, but with the Fair in early July, things will be ramping up shortly. If you are at all interested in this volunteer position, please reach out to David Peterson or any other member of the Nuc to find out more about the job.



From the Librarian:
The Club Library will be back in business at our in-person meeting this Thursday! For those of you new to the Club, the Library has a wide variety of materials that are available for borrowing. For those of you who have been active users in the past, please check your bookshelves & bring back borrowed items so we can get them in circulation again. I appreciate you taking care of them for the past two years!

cheers,
Marina

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

It's time to Renew Your Membership !

Membership Dues are now \$30.00 for the year for those who have not renewed their membership yet. Memberships include all family members residing in the same household and are for the calendar year. Renewals are due by the January 7 Meeting and delinquent after the February meeting.

We need to hear from you.

Please renew your membership Online at www.marinbeekeepers.org. As of now we have several new members, and many more regular club members have renewed their membership in the last couple of weeks. There are many benefits from being a member, aside our monthly meetings, where you can chat with guest speakers from all over the beekeeping world:

Use of the Club's extractors, electric uncapping knives, wax-melter, hive carrier, embedding tool, and other beekeeping equipment;
Free subscription to the Marin Beekeepers Newsletter (11 issues a year). Back issues on the website are available for background information and beekeeping tips;
Preferred registration for beekeeping workshops (usually 4 or 5 per year) and special events;
We have a great library that includes books, magazines and catalogs on everything from starting your first hive or baking with honey to raising your own queens.
Free admission to our monthly meetings, where we have speakers among the foremost bee experts in the world (normally a \$10 donation);
Subscription to our "BUZZ" email listserv which is where we converse online about beekeeping in Marin;
Subscription to our "SWARMS" email listserv which is where we notify mem-

bers of any swarms that need hiving; Subscription to our "Event List" email listserv which is our general notification list of events and workshops.

The best and easiest way to pay your 2022 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.



CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

with Michael Joshin Thiele. Micheal will be teaching a series of Beekeeping classes through the College of Marin's Community Education program. Re-envisioning Beekeeping in a Time of Crisis. Wednesday evenings beginning March 30. More info at: https://marincommunityed.augusoft.net//index.cfm?method=ClassInfo.ClassInformation&int_class_id=5147&int_category_id=0&int_sub_category_id=0&int_catalog_id=0

Bonnie and Gary Morse are hosting both Zoom classes and in-field workshops in San Rafael this summer, with levels geared for Beginner and Intermediate Beekeepers as well as a number of specific topics such as Pollinator Habitat and Honey Production. Check out their website at <http://bonniebeecompany.com/wp/classes/>

Jennifer Berry will be hosting a number of in-field classes at her Mill Valley apiary, including Intro, Beginning and Intermediate Beekeeping. For more info visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/jennifer-berry-bees-17793724238>

David Peterson. David will be hosting a Cone Extraction Workshop, free to members. The date is yet to be determined, but will be at least one session of learning during the setup on either 4/9 or 4/10 and a few followup visits to monitor progress and to see the final results. David will also cover building a shopvac of your own for doing cut-outs. The club needs more folks who can answer extraction posts on the Swarm list. email David directly at dpeterson307@aol.com



LOCAL NUC SALES

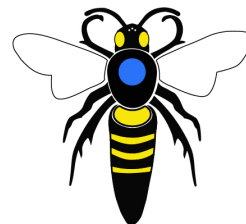
Bonnie Bee & Co are still taking orders from past customers and students from their classes.

Email bonnie@bonniebeecompany.com to put your name on the reservation list. Bonnie will also be keeping a list of people who want splits (queen right or not) and their clients who will have splits to sell.



Bonnie Bee
& Company

Jennifer Berry is taking orders for medium nucleus colonies with a waitlist for deeps. She is also selling a limited number of 2022 queens this spring, with more in mid-summer. Deposits can be made directly at www.jennifer-berrybees.com



Jennifer Berry
Bees

BAIT HIVE FUN DAVID

PETERSON

I've been keeping bees for 18+ years, always at my house in Ross and for a number of years by the parking lot of a building in Corte Madera near the High Canal. I have kept 10 or more colonies at both my house and Corte Madera apiaries. Yet in all this time, I have never put out a Bait Hive. The fact is I have always enjoyed capturing swarms the old fashion by shaking them into a hive box. My favorite way to get new bees is by extraction, using the Cone Method to coach a colony into a catch hive and have them raise their new Queen.

Bonnie and Gary have always talked a lot about Bait Hives and the success they have had. This year, with so many of our members successfully catching swarms using Bait Hives, I decided to give it a try.

After research, I put out three Bait Hives around my property some distance away from the apiary. I used single deep boxes with six frames of old comb, two empty frames, each with a 1 inch strip of wax



foundation at the top.

This leaves an empty space where the three more frames would fit. There is a thought that the swarm scouts might prefer a cavity with some amount of open

space. As an added incentive to attract a swarm I placed a cotton ball with several drops of Lemongrass Oil at the back of the box.

Almost immediately after setting them up, there were several bees checking them out. After only about a week, I had a move in. I didn't get to witness the arrival, but noticed a lot of activity at the entrance. When I opened the inner cover, I was delighted to find a large colony with 7 or 8 frames of bees. They had already begun to draw fresh comb, adding to the strips in the open frames.

They had also started to draw comb down from the inner cover in the open space. I removed that comb and filled the open



space with two more frames of old comb in the open space I had left. I took a picture of one of these frames 10 days after arrival. This frame was nearly filled out to the edges and partially attached and full of perfectly capped brood.

You should give it a try. It's the easiest way to get new bees.

Tom Seeley has information for bait hives at <https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/2653>. The Alameda Bee Club's Phil Stob has a good video on the subject at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uCz3Qu0xivg>.

REMEMBERING DAN STRALK

We lost a dearly beloved member of the Marin bee club, Dan Stralka. He passed away quite suddenly in November. It would be strange to put out the newsletter without a tribute to him, since he was a huge part of the club. He mentored many folks and was one of the first members in the Survivor Stock Program. He made mead and wine and was happy to share his latest batch. He made candles, and taught others how to do it so he could have a good competition at the Fair. He'd just retired from his job at the EPA. I have a memory of Dan showing up at a swarm call that I'd taken. It was on a busy street and the swarm had landed on a car, so there were gawkers and lots of excitement. Dan came and helped me out, kept people calm and even loaned me an extra swarm box for the big job. It was just in his nature to be part of the community with his generosity.

"It was Dan who was always first to lend a hand or teach a newbie like me how to catch a swarm and use a bee vac 12 years ago. He answered swarm calls that he knew would not end with a box of bees for himself but because he knew the bees had to be rescued or that a person needed help." Cynthia Perry

"I have no doubt that Dan touched many of our beekeepers' lives in the same way he touched mine. And I have no doubt that he touched lives in every circle where people gather and he was present." Anna Taylor

The Daniel Stralka Memorial Pollinator Garden that will be installed at Dominican University in fall '22. This educational garden will feature only native plants and will not only highlight planting ideas for pollinators, but also water conservation and tips on creating defensible space.

Send a check payable to Planetnetwork / Bee Audacious to PO Box 3835, San Rafael, CA 94912. [Planetnetwork](#) is the fiscal sponsor of [Bee Audacious / 10 x 10 + 10](#) and is a 501(3)c so all donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowable by law.

Purchase a 10 x 10 + 10 sign for your yard showing your support for pollinator habitat. Signs are \$25 and available at the Fairfax Backyard Farmer. \$10 from your purchase will go directly to the memorial garden.



GARDENING INFO



Creating Pollinator Habitats Across the Bay Area

To Be(e) Involved, Simply

10'x10' : plant a 10' square space with pollinator friendly plants, preferably natives.

+\$10 : Buy a sign to bring attention to your pollinator habitat at [Fairfax Backyard Farmer](#) and [Heidrun Meadery](#). The cost of the sign offsets admin costs and supports habitat restoration programs in the Bay Area. Visit tenbytenplusten.com for more information and to share your gardening stories.

LOCAL BEEKEEPING SUPPLY STORES

BACKYARD FARMER in Fairfax

We continue to stock drivert sugar, pollen patties for feeding.

We always keep in stock plenty of assembled and unassembled woodenware and frames. We also have wooden and cardboard nuc boxes for bait hives.

We now carry [Home ground habitat seed](#) for local pollinator plants. These seeds are locally harvested, allowing local genetics to remain in the area!

We have Tom Seeley's newest book [The Lives of Honeybees](#).

We have Wood Mason/Leafcutter homes with reed tubes to promote habitat for these important honeybee allies

[The Fairfax Backyard Farmer](#)

135 Bolinas Rd

Fairfax Ca 94930

Fairfaxbackyardfarmer@gmail.com

415-342-5092

Open Wed-Fri 11am - 6pm Sat 12 - 6pm
& Sun 12- 5 pm **Closed Mon - Tue**

BIOFUEL OASIS in Berkeley

Beekeeping supplies, backyard chickens, and more. Classes online.

141 Ashby Ave, Berkeley

(510) 665-5509

Open Mon-Fri 11am - 6pm, Sat 10 - 4pm, and
Sun 12 - 4pm

MANN LAKE in Woodland

Beekeeping supplies, backyard chickens, and more.

500 Santa Anita Dr, Woodland, CA 95776

(866)880-7678

www.mannlakeltd.com

Open Mon-Fri 8am - 6pm, Sat 8pm - 4:30pm
Closed Sundays

ABOUT THE MARIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB

We are people who share an avid interest in honey and native bees. We are a mix of hobbyists as well as professional beekeepers. We have a wide range of interests, covering bee biology, pollination, survivor stock bee breeding, health aspects of bee products, international beekeeping, and other bee-related topics.

We welcome you to attend our meetings and to become a member. <https://marinbeekeepers.org/become-a-member/> Monthly meetings are typically on the first Thursday of the month and usually feature a knowledgeable speaker and/or project and includes informal sharing of information by members throughout the meeting (\$10 donation for non-members).

Meetings are a good way to learn about beekeeping. Please consider becoming a member whether you have bees or not.



ABOUT THE NUC

Mary Nordquist serves as our Treasurer and is the only official officer of the Club. The Nuc serves as the informal team to oversee the functioning of the Club through regular volunteer work. Thanks to all of you who step forward when needed! We have a new nuc member, Cecil Nielsen.

"I love beekeeping, tending to our chickens, dogs and goats!! Love hiking, yoga and baking too! Enjoy grant writing and traveling. Currently the Bee Project 4H leader for San Rafael and on the Marin 4H Council. You will always find me volunteering at Farm Day, Western Weekend and the Marin County Fair."

Current Nuc Members are the following:

Karen Hyde: karen@hyderanches.com — Club Meeting Refreshments

Richard Hyde: rh@hyderanches.com — Workshop Coordinator

Steve Lamb: stlamb1@gmail.com — Farm Day Coordinator

Bonnie Morse: bonniemorse10@gmail.com — Speaker Coordination, Survivor Stock

Gary Morse: gpmorse@comcast.net — Survivor Stock

Mary Nordquist: neilmary@verizon.net — Club Treasurer

Neil Nordquist: neilmary@verizon.net — Equipment Coordination

David Peterson: dpeterson307@aol.com — Membership Coordinator, ListServ Management, Equipment Coordination

Rob Tysinger: rob@tysingerengineers.us — Equipment Coordination

Marina Wright: marinamay53@gmail.com — Librarian

Jennifer Berry: jenniferberrybees@gmail.com — Editor of the Newsletter

Cecil Nielsen, 4H coordinator
crnielsen415@gmail.com