

THE MARIN BEEK NEWS

Vol 15 Issue 06

December 2025

 Join Us This Thursday – Marin Beekeepers Meeting

 Thursday, December 4, 2025 – 7:00 PM

 American Legion Log Cabin, 20 Veterans Place, San Anselmo, CA 94960

For beginner, intermediate, and advanced beekeepers

Please join us for our monthly meeting which will be a potluck.

Thursday evening, 7 PM, at the American Legion Log Cabin, in San Anselmo.

Feel free to come a little early and hang out with fellow beeks in the downstairs bar.

CLUB NEWS

Potluck Meeting - Robert MacKimmie

Please join us this Thursday evening as we celebrate our Second End of the Year Marin Beekeepers' Potluck, December 4th, 7pm, our usual Log Cabin gathering spot.

More than a year ago, members were experiencing an appreciation of our recent organizational trend, which included a more group-based focus, and people were appreciating getting to know and share with other truly remarkable members.

We've made it a very easy gathering, a potluck where everyone brings a meaningful contribution, creating a hearty and delicious Api-Epicultural gathering. Bring what you would like, to share with six or so others, and the collective meal will likely delight all as we chat and dine, dine and share, share things bee and personal.

Bring your own plate, silverware, glass, cloth napkin from home, with a food contribution, a beverage of your choice. We will pack out our stuff, though there is a sink for rinsing, if we leave it spic and span.

Last year was truly enjoyable. We hope every and all members will attend, and share.

Robert MacKimmie

Marin Beekeepers' Education

Hive Checks - Jim Lawson

Take advantage of any breaks in the current cold snap to check your hives for food and mites. Also, plan on reducing the volume of your hives, so the bees have less space to heat.

Club Equipment - David Peterson

The club has electric extractors for harvesting your honey. Each extractor comes with an extraction kit that includes uncapping bin, electric knife, and a scratcher.

David Peterson, in Ross, manages six and 12 frame extractors. He also has a hand crank two frame extractor for those who need the exercise. Mary and Neil Nordquist, in Novato, manage six, 12 and 20 frame extractors.

The six and 12 frame extractors can generally fit into an SUV, station wagon or minivan. The 20 frame extractor requires a pick up truck or something equivalent.

You can schedule a request for use by contacting them at:

dpeterson307@aol.com

neilmary@verizon.net

OTHER EVENTS

Ceramics Open Studio - Tuppy Lawson

Antonia (Tuppy) Lawson is hosting an Open Studio on the weekend of December 13th and 14th from 1-5pm and she has a lot of Bee related pieces.



Antonia (Tuppy) Lawson
tuppyceramics@gmail.com
instagram: Tuppyceramics
<https://www.antonიაart.com>

Beginner Beekeeping Class Series (9 hours, \$175) - Bonnie Morse

Know you want to keep bees? Classroom sessions will include basic bee information and biology, seasonal cycles of a colony, equipment options, where to place your hive, how to get bees and tips on working with your equipment. When the weather warms up, there will be a field session so you can observe and practice working with your tools and bees.

Classroom sessions:

Saturdays, January 24 (Zoom) and January 31 (field if weather cooperates, Zoom if not) 9am – 12pm

Field Day:

Saturday, March 21, 9:30am – 12:30pm, location San Rafael (Rain date April 4)

[Register Now](#)

[Refund Policy](#)

Intermediate Beekeeping Class Series (9 hours, \$175) - Bonnie Morse

You've got your colony through winter (or not) – now what? Class sessions will include how to clean up your equipment, expanding hive size for spring, swarm prevention- and if that fails, swarm capture, setting up bait hives for swarms, identification of common pest and diseases and management options for them. Topics will also include dealing with special situations: defensive hives, queen failures, laying workers and more. Field day will include information on how to split a colony, pest and disease ID, and swarm prevention.

Classroom sessions:

Saturdays, February 7 (Zoom) and February 14 (field if weather cooperates, Zoom if not) 9am – 12pm

Field Day:

Saturday, March 21, 1:30pm – 4:30pm, location San Rafael (Rain date April 4)

[Register Now](#)

[Refund Policy](#)

Learn from the Bees Bee Behavior & Biology Course - Live on Zoom! - Jennifer Radtke

Thursday evenings at 6pm: Dec. 4th & 11th, Jan. 8th & 15th

Sliding scale: \$125-\$175

RECORDINGS: You will get both video and audio recordings after the class, so you can rewatch in months to come.

Bee behavior is fascinating and amazing! Learning it will give you a deeper understanding of the "why's" of beekeeping so you can make better decisions to help your hive.

This course will give you a solid foundation in bee biology & behavior with an emphasis on practical applications for San Francisco Bay Area urban beekeeping. We'll cover everything bee: anatomy, communication in the hive, behavior from robbing to making queens, genetics, intelligence, nutrition, the yearly pattern of growth & decline of the hive, and much more!

[Click here to register!](#)

Instructor: Jennifer Radtke has been keeping bees in her backyard for 20+ years, and has developed the beekeeping education program at the Urban Farm Oasis. She has a group [bee mentorship program](#) on Bay Area Urban Backyard Beekeeping.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Membership Dues are now \$25.00 for the year for single members, \$40.00 for families.

We need to hear from you. Please renew your membership Online at www.marinbeekeepers.org. 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 members 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 2025 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 County Beekeepers Association** to our Treasurer:

Malcolm Goldsmith 105 Molino Ave, Mill Valley, CA 94941.

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, sustainable 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.