



The Diablo Bee

July 2016

Next Meeting: July 14, 7:00 pm @

The Pleasant Hill Community Center, Perera
Pavillion.

320 Civic Center Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA

Bee Chat 7:00--7:15, Business/General Meeting 7:15--7:30, Program
7:30--8:30, Focus Groups 8:30-9:30

President's Message

by Judy Weatherly

Summer has arrived and chances are a bit of a dearth has also started to hit in your area. This time of year always makes me feel a bit sorry for the bees as they have to work even harder to find the forage they need. It's also a time that beekeepers have to pay particular attention to what's happening in the bee yard. Just yesterday we went out to take a quick look at the hives and found robbing going on. We quickly closed up the hive that was the focus of the attack and grabbed robbing screens to replace the reducers on our smaller hives. Our stronger hives weren't having problems with the robbers, so the reducers seemed sufficient.

Things calmed down after a bit and we were just happy we were home to manage the situation when it happened. When we did our beekeeping today, we checked to see if the food reserves had been impacted by the robbing and assessed the strength of our hives. We ended up combining a couple of our smaller hives hoping to build up their strength and ability to defend themselves. Our hives can be robbed by other hives within our yard, but these little buggers were coming from elsewhere and we could see them carrying that precious nectar right out of the hive and out of our yard. Just another reminder to keep a good eye on what's happening in our bee yard!

It seems that in beekeeping there's always a "reminder" just waiting to nudge us, shove us, or give us a quick kick in the tush! The goal, I think, in terms of "reminders" is to try to be proactive instead of reactive, but sometimes that isn't possible. The situation in May with the incident in Concord was a kick in the tush for sure. Another "kick" was felt in Marin Co. a week or so ago when a similar incident occurred. Though there may have been some overly defensive bee genetics in either or both of those situations, there were definitely obvious missteps by beekeepers in both incidents.

Being proactive starts with education and learning and requires that we continue that learning process throughout our beekeeping experience. MDBA is a wonderful resource and I encourage all you to actively engage in all that MDBA has to offer. Our speakers are wonderful, the library is full of some of the best books available, our workshops are invaluable, and our members are incredibly generous with their knowledge and expertise. Get to know members and use all the resources at your disposal. I can assure you a gentle nudge is far better than a kick in the tush!

Did you lose your notes from June's meeting?

[The slideshow from June's presentation with Scott Jorgensen can be downloaded here.](#)

Additionally, Scott made a mashup of the presentation's audio and the slideshow and put it up on youtube. [Click this link to be redirected to the video.](#)

In this Issue

- Message from the President
- June Speaker Bio
- Focus Group Information
- Plant(s) of the Month
- MDBA Board Election Information
- Hive Tips
- Member Education Corner
- **Mentor Program Update**
- Community Education Corner
- MDBA Library Update and Guided Reading
- Regional Bee News/Events
- Club Classifieds



July Speaker: Doug Vincent

Making Splits and Nucs; Overwintering

Doug Vincent will be speaking on *Making Splits and Nucs; Overwintering* on July 14th at the MDBA Meeting. I met Doug when I was a new beekeeper. He and his wonderful staff at Beekind in Sebastopol were always there to answer questions and helped us find our way with the bees.

Doug Vincent became a beekeeper in 1998 after his garden continued to fail and he realized his fairly desperate need for pollinators. The following year his garden exploded as well as his passion and respect for honeybees. Joining the then "little" bee club in Sonoma County at the time, he recognized the amazing qualities of local and varietal honeys and the many other gifts the beloved honeybee brings to the table such as pollen, propolis, beeswax, royal jelly, bee venom and fascination. Doug then became immersed in the club learning to educate the public at the fairs and events that the club participated in. Doug saw a need to make available a steady and local source for beekeepers to sell their honey and purchase supplies. After meeting with the club and getting the group's approval, Doug and his wife Katia opened the Beekind Honey and Beekeeping Supply Shop in Sebastopol in 2004 right before the Honeybee crash of 2004-2005.

Little did they know they would become Bee central for all local aspiring backyard beekeepers to offset the huge honeybee losses at that time and into the now. The once small Sonoma County Beekeeper's Association has now grown close to 500 members. This club and association growth has been seen across the country and the world as backyard beekeepers have risen to the call of saving the honeybee. Doug, his wife, son and several amazing employees continue to work in and around their store in Sebastopol providing education and making and selling all things

bee: honey, beeswax candles, bees, supplies and gifts. They also have an outlet in the San Francisco Ferry Building where they sell honey and candles. At Beekind, you will always find amazing local, varietal, regional and international honeys to taste until your heart is content.

JULY FOCUS GROUPS

We'll be meeting in Focus Groups at our July 14 th meeting. A lot of people want to meet in their geographical groups and those groups will be available. This will be an opportunity to discuss the night's speaker presentation about making splits/nucs and overwintering.

There are a few other topics people would like to explore with others who are interested: 1) Top Bar Hives, 2) Flow Hives, 3) Creating Bee-Friendly Cities, and 4) Local Beekeeping Ordinances. If you have another interest you would like to explore with other members, let Judy Weatherly (president@diablobees.org) know that you'd like to facilitate a group. Focus Groups will not meet in August, as that meeting will be the Gadget Sharing & Honey Tasting meeting.

2016 Future Meetings and Programs

Some programs and speakers may be changed as the dates come nearer

July 14 Making Splits and Nucs; Overwintering- *Doug Vincent*

August 11 Honey Tasting and Beekeeper Gadget Sharing - *Membership*

August 15 Mini Bee Workday-- Honey Extracting 10am-12pm @ *MarElla apiary*

September 8 Bee Health - *Claire Kremen*

September 10 Mini Bee Workday -- How do I prepare my hives for winter? @ *Gary Lawrence's apiary*

October 13 MDBA Member BBQ

There are no meetings in November and December.

2016 MDBA Board of Directors

President - Judy Weatherly

Vice President - Stacey Bauer

Secretary - Lois Kail

Treasurer - Ann Moser

Membership - Janet Kaidantzis

Member Education - Nancy Burke

Community Education - Jan Spieth

Webmaster - Andy Scheck

Newsletter Editor - Scott Jorgensen

Ex Officio - Gary Lawrence

Past President - Sylvia Goemmel

Don't be shy, introduce yourselves to us! We like to talk about bees. We wear nametags at the meetings.



July's Featured Plant(s)

Yellow Star Thistle, *Centaurea solstitialis*

The words OUCH and DADGUM may burst from your lips if you walk through a patch of these ornery invasives! But our bees love that they provide a sizeable nectar flow during hot dry months, and craft honey producers covet the lightly colored honey that is distilled from the nectar. The bees do not rely on this plant for pollen.

From Cal IPC website:

Centaurea solstitialis (yellow starthistle) is a bushy winter annual (family Asteraceae)

that invades 12 million acres in California. Yellow starthistle inhabits open hills, grasslands, open woodlands, fields, roadsides, and rangelands, and it is considered one of the most serious rangeland weeds in the state. It propagates rapidly by seed, and a large plant can produce nearly 75,000 seeds. Several insects from the Mediterranean region, including weevils and flies, have been employed as biocontrol agents for yellow starthistle with minor success.



Mimosa Silk Tree, *Albizia julibrissen*

This tree is another exotic plant species that is a nectar source for our honeybees. This year, I noticed trees starting their bloom in the beginning of June. I still see many trees blooming in the beginning of July, but I am confident that the bloom will end by the second half of July. This leads me to think that flowering is directly influenced by day-length for this species. The tree is deciduous and drought tolerant. It is common in suburban landscapes and sometimes as freeway decoration.

MDBA 2017 BOARD ELECTIONS

The Board of Directors for the Mt. Diablo Beekeepers Association is made up of volunteers elected by the members. The MDBA Board is elected anew each year. While some Board members stand for reelection, there is no preference given to previous board members. Each board position is open for election. Board members serve for one year and fulfill roles vital to the association's success and progression. Obligations include attending a monthly Board meeting and carrying out specific responsibilities associated with each position.

At our General Meeting on September 8th, we will elect officers for the 2017 calendar year. Any member who wishes to run for office must submit in writing (or via email) a statement listing his/her qualifications. Member statements should be sent to MDBA Newsletter Editor Scott Jorgensen at newsletter.mdba@gmail.com . Statements must be received no later than July 20th. Nominees will be introduced at the August 11th General Meeting. Candidates' statements will be printed in the August Newsletter.

Written ballots will be distributed to members at the September General Meeting, when voting will take place. The 2017 Board of Directors will be introduced at the October BBQ. If you have any questions, please ask Gary Lawrence (garylance508@gmail.com) or any of the Board members.

BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR

MDBA has a long standing tradition of naming a member as "Beekeeper of the Year." This is one of the ways to acknowledge and thank members and volunteers for giving back to the MDBA community. Think about someone who has contributed to MDBA in a positive way (i.e. mentoring, answering questions, always willing to help another club member, education, etc.).

Ballots will be distributed at the September 8 th meeting. You can name up to three (3) members who you believe have contributed to making MDBA such a great bee association. The person named the most on the ballots will be named "Beekeeper of the Year." All those named in the voting will be acknowledged at the October BBQ. The only rule is that it cannot be someone who has already received the honor.





Notes from Randy Oliver Workshop, morning session July 25, 2016 by Janet Kaidantzis

Beekeepers today are challenged by uncertainties of climate change, drought, changes in bloom times, decreased protein content of pollen, and varroa. For example, this spring, Randy observed bloom times 30 days earlier for some plants; this can be a problem if colonies are still small because they can't take full advantage of the nectar flow and they may face starvation later.

Bees prefer fresh pollen over stored pollen (bee bread). When a colony is growing rapidly, they consume pollen as fast as they bring it in. Lack of a pollen band does not necessarily indicate poor nutrition; the best way to assess nutrition of the colony is to check the amount of royal jelly in the uncapped brood. (Discolored larvae are sick larvae.)

During a nectar flow, brood raising and swarming takes second priority to foraging and comb production. If you don't see evidence of white wax flakes on the bottom board, don't bother putting in new foundation or adding supers. Bees won't build comb until they need it.

Prevent swarms by having 1 st-year queens and lots of drawn comb, not honey, next to the brood nest. If bees see honey directly above the brood nest, they think they have run out of room in the hive. The natural way bees organize a hive is to fill the cavity at the top with honey leaving space below for brood. When this space fills, they may swarm, so give bees a buffer of drawn, empty comb (it can be a corridor of a few empty drawn frames in an otherwise full honey super) between brood box and honey super. Reversing brood chambers is also a good technique to prevent swarming.

For guidance on productive hive management read C.L. Farrar, available as a download on BeeSource.

Queen excluders: don't place them under a super of empty frames without comb because bees prefer to put honey into comb that has previously contained brood (drawn, dark comb).

Sidenote: wax moths

don't like dark comb so empty frames of dark comb can be safely stored when not in use.

Feeding bees during a dearth (typically late summer and January). Randy prefers the more expensive

pollen substitutes Ultra Bee and Mega Bee but says they are effective during the first 2 brood cycles (so OK as a supplement for 42 days or less). He also notes that the protein content of natural pollen in the environment has declined; a problem with no immediate solution. Sugar syrup is 1:1 ratio, by weight or volume; Randy adds 1 teaspoon bleach per gallon (I didn't catch why). Other options are a partial invert commercial mix, or drivert sugar, which can be dumped dry onto the landing board or into hive in early spring, or fondant placed on top of frames.

Sugar should not be fed to bees while honey supers are on because it compromises honey quality. Bees will ignore sugar and pollen supplements if they are finding enough in nature.

Looking at a hive in Gary's apiary: We gather around and look at the entrance. Randy observes there is a nectar flow on because there is a lot of flight activity and returning bees have extended abdomens and leaving bees have slim abdomens. He observes it is a good sized, healthy colony because bees are using the full entrance to fly in and out and there are few or no bees walking on the ground (a sign of deformed wing virus and varroa).

Using a smoker. Randy prefers dome-topped smokers because they stay lit for an hour, are easier to direct the smoke, and minimizes smoke. Smoking a hive is disruptive and curtails honey production for a day. Keep the smoker air intake hole (at the base) clear of debris. Randy uses Ponderosa pine needles collected from roadways (they are fluffier), but oak wood chips or anything that doesn't irritate the beekeeper is OK. Avoid burlap (irritant). White smoke is cool smoke; gray is too hot. Guard bees turn their heads and look at you before they fly out to sting; they also make a high pitched buzz before stinging. Guard bees are only on the periphery of the hive so there is no need to smoke the cluster. Also, house bees (who aren't old enough to fly) don't sting.

Gloves: 5 ml white nitrile gloves. During a hive inspection (in general, Randy keeps hive open for 10 minutes or less to avoid stressing bees), Randy might cage the queen to prevent injury. He places her in a queen cage, stuffs the end loosely with a leaf and puts the cage back in the hive. The leaves will wilt and allow queen to escape after a couple hours.

Closing up the hive: Shake the bees off a frame over the open hive before inserting the frame; this avoids crushing bees. (Shaking bees does not provoke stinging behavior.) Once all frames are in, Randy uses hive tool to push the frames together, hard, against one end of the hive then the other to squeeze out as much propolis as possible. Then he centers the "compressed" frames in the hive body. He reassembles hive by replacing the super kitty corner (offset) on top of the hive, then pivoting it into place to avoid crushing bees.

Tip: more bees equals more varroa so toward the end of summer, when honey flows are done, don't add another brood box; let the colony shrink down naturally. A hive with a narrow column of bees in several boxes should be combined (frames) into one or two snug boxes going into winter.

MDBA Revenue and Expenses

2016 January - June

Income

Donations 1,514.10
Extractor Rental 275.00
Membership Dues 7,855.00
Raffle Sales 959.00
Randy Oliver Workshop 1,103.05
Speaker /Education Revenue 1,950.00
Swarm Fees 3,635.00
Total Income 17,291.15

Expense

AHB R&D 249.95
Bank and P.O. Box fees (26.04)
Board meetings 375.00
Business Licenses & Permits 20.00
Education Expenses/Supplies 131.19
Insurance Expense 975.00
Nametags (10.00)
Library 30.00
Newsletter/Postage/Forms 243.86
Raffle Supplies 456.01
Rent Expense 990.00
Speaker Expenses 750.00
Supplies 251.40

Total Expense 4,436.37

Net Increase 12,854.78

July Hive Tips

Package Bees Need Treatment -- Beekeepers that use package bees should treat their colonies with a miticide to help ensure that their colony doesn't die and that mites are not spread to neighboring colonies. If you are going to treat your colonies. **TEST YOUR MITE LEVEL BEFORE AND AFTER APPLYING THE TREATMENT.** Testing helps you evaluate the effectiveness of a treatment and also can help you find out when your bees have been REINFESTED with mites from a neighboring colony. Testing/treatment season begins in July and extends through October. Do the homework.

General tip: **BIG COLONIES MAKE THE HONEY**

Triple Check your Ant Protection!

Take Notes! -- Dust off your notebook and start writing down what you see. Keeping good notes can help you troubleshoot any problems that may arise in the season. Record what is blooming, how the weather has been lately, conditions of the brood pattern, etc. The more that you record, the more that you will be able to see and understand.

Only Harvest Capped Honey!-- June continues honey harvesting season. This editor recommends leaving 30 pounds (say, a mostly full super) of honey on the colony at all times. When you are inspecting your beehive and choosing which frames of honey to harvest, only take those which have fully capped cells. If the honey isn't capped then the bees are still processing it. If the honey isn't capped then it is possible that there is too much water in the honey. Too much water means the possibility for the honey to ferment and spoil. Yuck!

Seek Information! -- There is a wealth of information for beginning beekeepers on the internet, but sometimes knowing where to look can be hard. For beginning beekeepers who want a thorough primer on keeping honey bees in contemporary America, the MDBA Board recommends reading the Beginner's Pages on Randy Oliver's website, www.scientificbeekeeping.com. Another good resource to browse is www.beesource.com which is an interactive forum for beekeeping questions. Give it a look!

UPDATE ON STEVE GENTRY'S HEALTH

I checked in with Steve on June 29. He reported that he just learned this week that his heart fibrillator is now working normally. He is recovering slowly, and is grateful for all the good thoughts sent his way, and especially for the continual caring of Thelma Fung. However, he feels that he will not be in good enough condition to conduct the Mini Bee Work Day on September 10 - "HOW DO I PREPARE MY HIVES FOR THE WINTER?". So, instead, Wayne Scott will conduct that work day at Gary Lawrence's apiary, and he will take sign-ups for it at the September 8 meeting.

--Gary Lawrence

Member Education Corner

We just finished a busy weekend with Randy Oliver. Randy came to MDBA full of great information; both practical and scientific. On Saturday June 25th, almost sixty MDBA members spent the day at the Church of the Resurrection in Pleasant Hill. Randy began the lecture with a wealth of scientific research.

He explained that one of the alarming results of our changing weather patterns is that we are having shorter winters and longer summers. There seems to be less nutrition in pollen due to these changes. This is one of the things that makes beekeeping tougher to do.

The shorter winter and longer summer also gives varroa more time to grow. Locally adapted bee races will take advantage of local plant bloom. This speaks to having local stock whenever possible. Many beekeepers have commercial stock which does not survive on its own in nature without management.

Many more topics were brought up such as treatment options, mite testing, and identifying and dealing with various diseases.

And the simple tips from the bees:

- They need a warm dry cavity and like a vertical cavity better.
- They need nectar and pollen.
- Manage parasites.

On Sunday, June 26th, beekeepers who have three years or more experience spent the morning opening hives and getting a lot of great beekeeping tips from Randy. In the afternoon Randy worked with the new beekeepers who seemed to learn a lot from the experience.

MDBA Mentor Program Information

Your very own MDBA is a great source of help at any stage or season of beekeeping. Keep reading and studying as we enter the middle of summer and your bees are starting to think about winter. Refer to your MDBA roster to find a member who has volunteered to mentor or contact someone from your focus group. Our library is full of books to borrow - pick one up at the meeting next week. The lists below have books and online resources to help you along the way. No need to figure this out on your own - contact a MDBA mentor who is more than willing to share their knowledge and experience.

If your bees are humming along and you're looking for advice on next steps, or something went wrong and you need some help – feel free to contact a mentor noted on the MDBA Membership Roster you recently received by email. Here are some simple guidelines for mentees and mentors:

Mentee

1. Read – Buy a book, borrow a book from a friend or the MDBA library, look at beekeeping websites, subscribe to a beekeeping magazine.
2. Attend a Mini Bee Workshop. Every Saturday following a General Meeting a mini bee workshop will be held for members to gather hands-on experience and ask questions in the field. Observing and working with other hives is an invaluable experience.
3. Learn the correct terms for everything in the hive. A mentor can help you better if you call things by the correct name.
4. Find a mentor that works for you. Every beekeeper has their own way of keeping bees. Find a mentor or mentors that work in a way that makes sense to you. 10 beekeepers will have 20 ways to do the same thing. Choose which way is right for you OR step outside the box and try something new.
5. Hold Harmless. Please remember we are all in this beekeeping adventure together. Mentors may make mistakes or not always have an answer for you. Be kind and respectful. You are ultimately responsible for your actions.

Mentor

1. Always respond to a call for help, even if you can't assist. Let the mentee know if you don't have the time or knowledge to help them at the moment. Refer them to another mentor or resource.
2. Encourage the mentee to read books and articles from a variety of standpoints. Let them know what works for you or other methods you've tried or heard of.
3. Be kind and respectful. You were once a beginner, too.

Here are some basic beekeeping publications in PDF form (great for downloading onto your computer or phone):

Fundamentals of California Beekeeping (PDF)
From: University of California, Division of Agricultural Sciences
http://www.beeguild.org/CA_Beekeeping_V1.pdf

Beekeeping in California (PDF)
From: University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources
http://www.beeguild.org/CA_Beekeeping_V2.pdf

Basic beekeeping books:

[Beekeeping in Coastal California](#)
By Jeremy Rose

[First Lessons in Beekeeping](#)
By Keith Delaplane

[Top Bar Beekeeping](#)
By Les Crowder and Heather Harrell

[Top Bar Hive Beekeeping: Wisdom & Pleasure Combined](#)
By Wyatt A. Mangum

[The Backyard Beekeeper](#)
By Kim Flottum

[Natural Beekeeping](#)
By Ross Conrad

[The Practical Beekeeper: Beekeeping Naturally](#)
By Michael Bush

...and a beekeeping magazine for beginners:

Bee Keeping: Your First Three Years
(magazine subscription)
From Bee Culture Magazine
<http://www.beeeculture.com/tag/beekeeping-your-first-three-years/>

This information is also available under "files" on the MDBA Facebook page and should be on the MDBA website soon. If you have any questions or answers, please contact Stacey Bauer at vicepresident@diablobees.org.



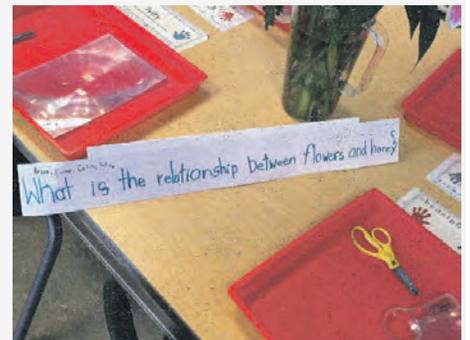
Community Education Corner

MDBA volunteers were active in the schools and the community in June. Many thanks to Stacey Bauer, Judy Weatherly, Ellen Walters, Russ Kettering, Marjorie Cook, Kathy Bairey and, Barbara Vigil – great community education volunteers!

Where did Community Ed volunteers go in June? On June 1st, Stacey and Jan visited the 1st grade classes at Murwood Elementary in Walnut Creek to teach about honeybees. On June 9th, Jan, Judy and Ellen traveled to College Prep Elementary Charter School in Richmond and taught six classes of children about life in the hive, the roles of the bees and pollination. San Ramon was the destination on June 17th, as Russ Kettering and Jan took an observation hive and beekeeping artifacts to the Bishop Ranch Office Park to engage employees in the complex about honeybees. On June 20th, Marjorie and Jan journeyed to Faith Lutheran Summer Day Camp with bees, beekeeping equipment and honey for tasting. Oakley was the destination on June 27, 28 and 29 as Jan, Russ, Marjorie, Ellen, Kathy and Barbara all were involved in teaching children who attended a ‘Lunch & Learn’ program about the wonders of honeybees. A rewarding sight and one that stays with us: seeing the excitement and wonder on the faces of the mothers in the room as they joined their children to look for the queen at the observation hive.

If you have a few hours during the month and enjoy talking with children and adults about the wonders of honeybees, you’d be perfect as an MDA Community Education volunteer. Talk with any member about his/her experience or speak with me about getting involved.

Jan Pinkerton Spieth



READ A BOOK!

Have you ever used the club's AMAZING library to further your beekeeping curiosity?

Some of the most valuable beekeeping lessons occur outside of the apiary and within pages of writing.

Barbara Vigil and Russ Kettering maintain our books and would be very happy to direct you towards more information. Members in good standing are invited to check out books for one month per check-out.

Remember to bring a \$20 deposit in order to check out books (sorry, we've had bad experiences in the past).

Book Reviews

The Beekeepers Lament (2010) The joys and sorrows of being a beekeeper on a large scale was written by the journalist Hanna Nordhaus. Hanna followed John Miller from his apiaries above Sacramento to where he winters his hives in North Dakota. Hanna weaves a wonderful true story around the beekeeping scene on a personal level. I loved this book because I enjoy reading about personal beekeeping experiences and how to cope with them. I also loved it because it was very easy to gain more knowledge about beekeeping without feeling like you are reading a textbook!

Check it out of our library or buy your own copy so you can highlight or dog ear the places you want to return to. --Barbara Mayne

A Field Guide to Honey Bees and Their Maladies

Come and take a peek at our Field Guide to Honey Bees. You can keep this small reference guide in your pocket or the glove box in your car. This is a quick reference guide complete with pictures. After reading about American Foulbrood I can't stop thinking about the smell and the pictures of the of the glue-like dead larva. Foulbrood is one thing you don't want to get in your hives! -- Barbara Mayne

BEE AUDACIOUS!

Presented by beekeepers in Marin County (and beyond) with Planetnetwork as a fiscal sponsor.

Please help us get the word out about "Audacious Visions for the Future of Bees and Beekeeping", or Bee Audacious for short!

You may have seen Mark Winston's editorial in the April 2015 Bee Culture magazine. He finished it up by suggesting that conference planners include a session at their next conference "Audacious Ideas for the Future of Beekeeping". Beekeepers in Marin County, California, thought it was a great idea! But why just a session? Why not a whole conference? So we're working to get some of the best bee minds on the planet together for a working conference December 11-13, 2016. Be part of the solution and help us make this bee think tank happen!

Your financial support is very much needed to help make this all possible. Buy a t-shirt or make a donation to support conference expenses, including leader travel and accommodations, AV for panel discussion, post conference writings and more. The current [booster.com](http://www.booster.com) campaign will run until May 15, 2016. Click here to order a t-shirt now: <http://www.booster.com/beeaudacious3>. Or go to: <http://www.beeaudacious.com/index.php/the-fundraising/> and click on the word "donations" to download the form to make a donation in any amount.

Mark your calendars for the panel discussion that will be live streamed at 7:00 pm PST on December 14, 2016 and available through <http://www.beeaudacious.com>. (If you can make it to San Rafael, CA, you can see it in person at Dominican University of California.) The ten conference Thought Leaders (Tom Seeley, Marla Spivak, Mark Winston, Jim Frazier, William Klett, Stephen Martin, Heather Mattila, Chas Mraz, Francis Ratnieks, and Neal Williams) will be presenting the ideas generated by the two-day gathering.

Feeling audacious? Half of the 90 participants will be selected from submitted registration applications. Seeking constructive, collaborative and thoughtful people who will bring experience from a wide variety of fields that produce impacts on pollinators and how pollinators are viewed by the general public. Applications available at: <http://beeaudacious.com/index.php/conference>.

The Vision:

These aren't normal times for bees. The conventional wisdom about how to keep bees and encourage wild pollinator diversity and abundance no longer serves beekeepers, farmers or the critical societal imperative for environmental sustainability. It's time for bold new ideas that recognize beekeepers as stewards of both managed and wild bees, promoters of healthy environments, and managers of economically sustainable apiaries.

The Conference:

The Bee Audacious Conference will present a timely and unique opportunity for in-depth dialogue on the latest ideas, research, and technology to advance survival of honeybee colonies, beekeeping, and wild bees.

The Conference will be a thought-provoking gathering unlike any other conference. From December 11 to 13, guided by methodology used by the Simon Fraser University Center for Dialogue and Thomas Seeley's article "Five Habits of Highly Effective Hives," the critical social, economic, and environmental issues that are impacting the survival of bees and pollination will be explored. Ten experts (Tom Seeley, Marla Spivak, Mark Winston, Jim Frazier, William Klett, Stephen Martin, Heather Mattila, Chas Mraz, Francis Ratnieks, and Neal Williams) will be engaged as Thought Leaders in a format led by Dr. Mark Winston, Professor and Senior Fellow at Simon Fraser University's Centre for Dialogue.

The Thought Leaders will facilitate discussion between ninety individuals divided into nine working groups in active dialogue, using an agenda developed in advance by the participants themselves. The Thought Leaders will recommend 45 individuals for participation. The other 45 participants will be selected from Conference registration applications.

After two days of high-level collaboration, the Thought Leaders will present the findings at a Panel Discussion held at Dominican University of California on December 14. The Panel will be open to the general public, live-streamed and posted to the <http://www.beeaudacious.com> website. Dr. Mark Winston will write the Proceedings for future posting to the website.

The Outputs:

The panel discussion with thought leaders immediately following the meeting will be webcast, and available subsequently on our website, allowing an online portal for dissemination of the meeting's outcomes and global access to the conference's ideas.

Participants – including many published authors - will be encouraged to write about all aspects of the conference. Additionally, Mark Winston, award winning author of "Bee Time: Lessons from the Hive," will produce a readable and comprehensive post conference report that will be freely available online. We have engaged an experienced research assistant to coordinate note taking and summarize the extensive notes from breakout groups, insuring that all the conversations are included as part of the conference outcomes.

Participants have regional and international influence and are the perfect conduit to disseminate information from the conference and work towards implementation of ideas generated. Conference sessions will be devoted to addressing how those attending can carry the conference's outcomes back to their home communities.

Conference Details:

Main Conference: 12/11/16 – 12/13/16, Marconi Conference Center, Marshall, California
Panel Discussion: 12/14/16, 7:00pm, Dominican University of California, San Rafael

Website address: <http://www.beeaudacious.com>

For more information, contact:
Bonnie Morse, Project Manager
info@beeaudacious.com
tel: [415-250-9720](tel:415-250-9720)

EDITORS CORNER--odds and announcements

Some members have told me that they would be interested in writing the newsletter for 2017. I've met you, but I did forget your names. If you are interested in it, please email me your statement so that I can publish your nomination in the next newsletter.

- Mike Rushford and other members have vouched that they use ointments containing vitamin E to help control the itching of honey bee stings. If stings really bother you, give it a try!
- MDBA T-shirts will now be ordered ONLY in February, so plan ahead!
- Any MDBA t-shirt not picked up in July is forfeit and becomes club property

The Diablo Bee Classifieds

WANTED

Cappings Requested
If you have unwanted cappings I will melt and clean them for the beeswax.
AND: Bee Suit Repairs
Please contact Lois Kail
lois.kail@gmail.com or 925.356.2602

WANTED: Help in the kitchen before and after the monthly meetings! We are a volunteer-run organization.

FOUND

A blue Staples steno book from Randy Oliver workshop.
Contact Lois Kail lois.kail@gmail.com

FOR RENT

The MDBA honey extractors (electric)
\$10 for 1st day and \$5 for days 2-5
\$10 per day thereafter
For Concord area contact Lois Kail 925.356.2602
lois.kail@gmail.com
For Alamo area contact Leo Tscharnner 925.838.5600
leotscharner@comcast.net

FOR SALE

Grafted Queen Cells from a cell builder colony (my best stock)
Cells available in June. Pick-up only, in Livermore.
\$10/cell, Place order ASAP so that know when to make the next batch
My operation uses organic miticides and IPM only
Contact Scott Ball
925.997.0336 or 66gtsball@gmail.com

FOR SALE

4-deep Hand Crank Honey Extractor
\$250, very good condition
Contact Margarito Leon
925.395.3776

FOR SALE

Extractor 18/9 Frame For Sale.
Used Once in Concord \$1,000.00.
Viktor Yusupov [415 706-1843](tel:4157061843)

FOR SALE

BEESWAX
Lemon-yellow, candle grade
\$7/lb or \$6/lb if 20lbs or more
Bill Cervanka, Cervanka Apiaries
650.365.5548 or billcervanka@comcast.net

FOR YOUR CURIOSITY

Steve Etheridge and Leo Tscharnner have offered instructions on how to make your own bee vaccuum.
Follow up with them at the meetings if this interests you.

Queens

I have a couple of Russian Queens from Bee Genetics in Vacaville.
I am willing to demonstrate how to remove bees from an existing hive with my bee vacuum and then add Queen to create a colony.
I need to find homes for a couple or Queens. Call 925-838-5600 or try email <Leotscharner@comcast.net>

FOR SALE

Approx. 500 back issues of American Bee Journal and Bee Culture
FREE (but you have to come to my house to get them)
Contact Major Branzel
707.643.9433

Hercules Bees

Top Bar Beehives and Top Bar NUCS
www.herculesbees.biz
510.421.3671

MarElla Honey B's

Beekeeping Supplies and Honey
Authorized Dealer on Mann Lake Ltd. Supplies!
950 Detroit Ave, Suite 12, Concord, 94518
www.marellahoneybs.com
<http://www.marellahoneybs.com/Bees-for-sale---2016.html>
925.575.7444

Bee Happy Solutions

Honey Bee Attractant/Swarm Attractant
Great for marking bait hives.
Many local testimonials
\$22 for a 0.5 oz bottle
415.272.0596 or beehappysolutions@gmail.com

To Submit Articles or Classified Ads

Have you got something to share about bees?
Contact Scott Jorgensen at newsletter.mdba@gmail.com
Deadline for submission is the 25th of each month