



The Diablo Bee

Newsletter of the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association



April 2010

Please join us at Heather Farms on MAY 13th for our Guest Speaker Dr. Robbin Thorp, who will "Native Bees: Their Diversity and Lifestyles."

Professor Thorp's academic career includes BS and MS degrees in Zoology from University of M Arbor, and PhD degree in Entomology from University of California, Berkeley.

Robbin joined faculty at UC Davis in 1964 where he many entomology courses and conducted re: pollinated by honey bees, especially almond.

He was elected a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco in 1986.

He retired in 1994, but continues to conduct research with an emphasis on native bees, their biolo and roles as pollinators of crop and wildland plants.

Robbin W. Thorp, Professor Emeritus
Department of Entomology, University of California, Davis, CA 95616-8584

- In This Issue**
- Currently Blooming
 - MDBA Library
 - Spring Bee Workshop
 - Beekeeper Survey
 - Spring Build-Up
 - Organic Beekeeping
 - Wants/Swaps/Needs

Currently Blooming

253 Twinview Drive, Pleasant Hill
home of Gary and Joan Lawrence
phone (925)-932-2458

FREE FOR ALL MDBA MEMBERS - (DUES ARE \$15)
MDBA WEBSITE - www.diablobees.org
BRING YOUR BEE SUITS AND VEILS
PICK UP YOUR QUEENS AND COLONIES FROM
MARY ANDRE (before noon, please)
WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS

Tentative Schedule:

- 9:00 -- coffee, other beverages and breakfast snacks on the deck
- 9:30 -- Gary Lawrence will lead you to his hives and give brief explanation
- STEVE GENTRY WILL OPEN A HIVE, EXAMINE BROOD, AND DEMONSTRATE HIVE CARE



Visit the MDBA Yahoo Group
to keep up with what's going on
<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/mtdiablobees/>
Also
Bring a bouquet of local flowers to the meeting to
show others.

Equipment

Extractors:

Sylvia & Dan Goemmel
(6 frame)

Lois (8 frame)

Jeff Peacock (6/3
frame + old 4 frame
extractor that needs
some repair)

Demo Hive:

Powdered Sugar

Blowers:

Gary

Jeff Peacock

Extractor with

Knife, Fork, Tub:

\$10 for day 1

\$5/day for 5

subsequent days

then \$10 per day

MDBA Library Needs Your Help

Please look around for the
following library books that
are missing from the MDBA
library. Our books should
have a MDBA book label on
the inside cover or cover
page.

ABC XYZ of Bee Culture

All About Bees, Beekeeping
and Honey

Spring Bee Workshop

Spring honeybee workshop is set for Saturday, April 17, 2010.

Package bees will be ready for pickup at the MDBA Spring
Beekeeping Workshop on Saturday, April 17th at Gary Lawrence's
253 Twinview Dr Pleasant Hill CA.

If you have the screen boxes from previous years orders and they
are in good condition and clean, you can bring them to the MDBA
meeting, Thursday April 8th, or leave them on Mary's front porch
between April 8th and April 14th.

It is often recommended to order the 3# package if you are new to
beekeeping as the colony can better handle the losses while it is
getting settled in before it is reduced to too few bees.

For online information about how to install packaged bees into a
hive box, Google "installing package bees" and you will get many
sites. There are a couple of good YouTube videos:

www.nebees.com - How to Install a Package of Honey Bees

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ek7dDtZ0IK8>

Beekeeping - Bee Package Installation

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-GaOQvavnw>

NOTE: There will be no candy in the queen cages so do not
remove the cork and thus release the queen until a few days after
installing the package into the hive boxes. Look at the queen when
you take the queen cage out of the package to check that she
seems OK. I will have a few replacement queens if needed but
cannot bank them for long

Pollinator Conference In July

Register Now for the International Conference on Pollinator Biology, Health and Policy
Hosted by The Center for Pollinator Research at Penn State
UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - The first International Conference on Pollinator Biology, Health and
Policy is being hosted by the Penn State Center for Pollinator Research on July 24-28, 2010 at
the University Park campus. The abstract submission deadline is May 15, 2010, and the early
registration deadline is June 1, 2010. Registration is limited to 300 people. For more
information and online registration, please visit the conference website at
<http://agsci.psu.edu/pollinator-conference>.

The focus of the conference will be current research on pollinator biology and health, as well as
policies related to pollinator conservation. The keynote speaker will be Dr. May Berenbaum,
Professor and Head of the Department of Entomology at University of Illinois, Urbana-
Champaign. Dr. Berenbaum is internationally recognized for both her research and conservation
efforts related to pollinators, including chairing the National Research Council's Committee on
the Status of Pollinators in North America in 2007. A full listing of the symposia and confirmed
speakers is below, and can also be found at the conference website.

The conference is supported by generous donations from Haagen-Dazs, Anthropologie/Urban
Outfitters, Bayer CropScience, Penn State's Department of Entomology, College of Agricultural
Sciences, and The Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences. For more information, visit the
conference website or contact conference organizers: Christina Grozinger, (814)-865-1895 or
cmg25@psu.edu; Diana Cox-Foster, (814) 865-1022 or dxc12@psu.edu; or Ed Rajotte, (814)
863-4641 or uvu@psu.edu.

Swarm Control