



The Diablo Bee

Newsletter of the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

MDBA Elections	2
Q & A	3-
Airport Bees	4-
I Phone Bees	5
Bees in the News	7
Announcements & Calendar	8
Classifieds	9-
Bee Q&A	10

SEPTEMBER 5, 2011

September Speaker

Leonard Barton will be our August speaker. He will be speaking on his personal use of Top Bar Hives.



MDBA Board Elections 2012

By: Gary Lawrence

It's time to start thinking about who will lead us next year. If you would like to nominate someone, or volunteer to serve yourself, please contact [Gary Lawrence](#) who will filter names and suggestions and come up with a slate with at least one nominee for each office by September. To guide you, here is the August status of current board members:

Nominees for 2012 Board

President - Brian Wort

First Vice President - Dan Goemmel, Terry Holcomb, Dylan Wort

Secretary - Lois Kail

Treasurer - Seth Tator, Stephanie Taube

VP Community Education - Annie Bisbee, Kristen Egan, Peter Schumacher, Mike Stephanos

VP Member Education - Sylvia Goemmel

VP Membership - Jan Spieth

VP Newsletter - Gabrielle Harrel

Beekeeper of the Year - 2011

Nomination forms for Beekeeper of the Year will be available at the September meetings. Each member may name up to three beekeepers. The award to be made at the October barbecue, where all those nominated will be introduced.

These previous winners are not eligible:

2002 - Marilyn Mangle

2003 - Gary Lawrence

2004 - Major Branzel

2005 - Steve Gentry

2006 - Stan Thomas

2007 - Gary Eubanks

2008 - Judy Casale

2009 - Lois Kail

Nectar Flow in Contra Costa County

Recently we have had several questions about when the nectar flow ends in California. The MDBA news asked two of our MDBA experts their opinion and these are the answers we received.

Q; When does the "nectar flow" end in California?

A: would say that in California honeybees may be going out as late as Thanksgiving, if there are warm days. That is a little extreme, but you should judge your hive by its activity, and by the flowers in your area.

Gary Lawrence

A : This question is too broad and cannot be answered. A nectar flow ends when there are no longer any floral sources secreting nectar that are within foraging range of a colony. Thus, there is always a nectar flow "somewhere" in California.

In Contra Costa County, most backyard beekeepers will find that the main nectar flow occurs from Feb thru mid June. Once the rains stop and things get hot and dry, the bees will usually collect sufficient for their needs, but very little, if any, surplus will be stored. Occasionally, small colonies will actually starve to death during the summer. Every location will be different and it will be up to each beekeeper to observe his colonies over the course of several years to learn how his specific area performs. Of course, A weather conditions will vary year to year and greatly affect the nectar flow. This must also factor into the assessment of an area. In summary, check your colony every few weeks and don't count on anything after mid June.

Terry Holcomb, T-H Apiaries

At O'Hare Airport, Unused Land Is Going to the Bees

That buzzing sound you hear at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport could be a jet taking off. Or maybe it's coming from the 1.5 million bees that call the airport home. In May, the Chicago Department of Aviation partnered with a community group to start a 2,400 square foot apiary on-site. Now [23 beehives](#) are up and running and are scheduled to yield 575 pounds of honey this year.

The project offers a creative, sustainable, and productive way to use otherwise wasted open space at mega-airports like O'Hare. The bees' new home on the east side of the airport campus had long stood vacant, so it was a natural spot for the bee program to begin. And if that's not enough benefit, the beehives provide employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated adults (similar to other projects that [teach prisoners beekeeping](#)).

[Sweet Beginnings](#), the offshoot of the local economic development agency that's managing the project, trains felons in the art of beekeeping and the process of making honey, candles, and lotions, which are sold under the brand Beeline. O'Hare's shops intend to start selling the hyper-local honey products soon. "It is the perfect example of a green business operating and growing in Chicago, while also providing opportunities to those who need a second chance," said former Chicago mayor Richard M. Daley.



The "airport beekeeping movement" has been growing in Germany since 1999, when scientists realized honeybees could be helpful for [monitoring air quality](#), but O'Hare is the first American airport to get an apiary. In a way, it's a return to the airport's [agricultural roots](#): O'Hare was founded on a former apple orchard, which lives on in the three letter airport code "ORD."

Got an iPhone? You've Got A Bee Beard.

Irish cider maker Magners launches a free iPhone app as part of its “bee aid” campaign to help save urban bees.

For every download of the app, Magners will make a donation of 50 bees to the British Beekeepers Association and the Federation of Irish Beekeepers.

Another 50 bees will be donated each time users “like” the Magners Facebook page.

Magners’ “bee aid” campaign aims to save 1.5 million urban bees in the UK and Ireland.

“Magners loves bees,” the company says in a statement. “We love their friendly nature and their dress sense, but most of all we love that they pollinate the apples we use to craft our delicious cider. However, with numbers falling all across the UK we need your help.”

Magners cider is made from a blend of 17 varieties of apples.

“Magners understands just how important bees are,” Head of marketing Kirsty Hunter says. “After all it’s the bees that pollinate the apples in the Magners orchards which are blended and crafted to make Magners Original cider – so without the bees there simply wouldn’t be any Magners.

“In Clonmell, Co. Tipperary, the home of Irish cider, we have a specialist beekeeper who keeps his hives in our orchards. This dedication means the bees pollinate the apples, which in turn ensures we can make great tasting cider.”

The free Bee Beard app is based on the latest

Magners TV ad that launched in April, featuring Eamon, the Clonmell beekeeper. It shows Eamon having a bath, going to the bakery and catching a bus, all with his beard of bees. At the end, he reaches the apple orchard and sends them off to work while he enjoys a sandwich.

App users can overlay a virtual beard of bees on a picture of themselves in six different styles...a full beard without mustache, a waxed mustache, a goatee (called The Beehive), full beard with mustache, a mustache with chin whiskers and full sideburns. Use either a photo already taken, or take a new photo, line up the chin and mouth with the onscreen guides, choose the bee beard style you want, and push the button. Instantly, hundreds of bees fly onto the screen and line themselves up in the style you choose. Save the photo of the beebarded person, then keep or send from your phone. You can download to facebook, send in an email...or keep for later. And best of all...It’s FREE! Find the app at the iTunes store, under entertainment, search for Magners Cider.

The company has teamed up with the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) and the Federation of Irish Beekeepers Associations (FIBKA) to offer 25 Magners Facebook fans the chance to become fully-fledged urban beekeepers.

The winners will get an urban beekeeping scholarship from the BBKA and FIBKA that will train, educate and provide them with everything they need in order to create an urban hive and look after a bee colony of their own.

Mini Bee Work Day August 13

About 30 (mostly new) beekeepers gathered at my apiary on this nice warm day. We harvested 10 frames of honey this time, and demonstrated how to manually extract it. We could not locate the queen in the first 5-frame nuc box, and they were very hostile (possibly because they were so overcrowded). We took out two frames of brood from this hive and put them in Bob Kelly's hive, which is failing and has no brood or queen. Perhaps they will use a larva to create a new queen, but that is problematical at this season. Later on, Larry Areias and Rob Evans located a queen in a calmer, less crowded nuc box and marked her. People worked very cooperatively with each other, and the hands on experience was helpful. I hope to continue with these small work days again in the spring.

Gary Lawrence

The MDBA has purchased a three year subscription to the prominent BeeKeeping Magazines, Bee Culture & American Bee Journal. They are available for your use at these local libraries.

Clayton Concord Martinez San Ramon Pleasant Hill
Spread the good News!!

New Q&A Columnist

Hello Diabo Beeks,

This is my first year keeping bees and I am teeming with questions that I would love to pose to experienced beekeepers. If the question and answer period at the meetings is any indication, you are too. Starting next edition, this column will provide another way to ask the pro. The idea is that you provide the questions - either by dropping them in a basket at the meeting or by shooting me an email at kristen@buzzgardener.com - and I will consult the experts and bring the answers here. Any beekeeping related question is welcome from bee behavior and care to recipes and equipment design. You can be sure that if you have a question a lot of us do also, so please ask!

Until next month, Kristen

SEPTEMBER 2011						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Coming Events

MDBA Events

Next Meeting:
 Sept 8, 2011
 7:30 Heather Farms.

Other Events:

Sept 6, 2011
 Camelina Meeting
 To submit events, [email us](#).

Plant Camelina for Bees and Biofuel

The USDA is providing an incentive program for California growers to grow camelina for biofuel production. Camelina is a member of the mustard family and potentially could be a good nutrition source for honey bees. It has a low moisture requirement and may possibly provide pre-almond bloom forage in some areas. In other areas and conditions, post-almond bloom flowering may be available for bees.

California growers can attend a Camelina Information Session to be held Tuesday, Sept. 6 at Harris Ranch Inn & Restaurant in Coalinga. 11:45 am – 1:30 pm (lunch). RSVP lsheahan@susoils.co. Here's more information on the event:

http://www.susoils.com/documents/BCAP_Camelina_Postcard.pdf

If you are unable to make Tuesday's meeting, but are interested in this program, contact Tom Prata, Wilbur Ellis, at tprata@wilburellis.com. His phone number is: 559-304-1353. Tom is willing to make a site visit or work with you via conference call to successfully apply and plant this crop. The incentive program ends Sept. 16:

In July, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a new Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) that provides incentives to growers in California, Montana, and Washington for the production of camelina for advanced biofuels use. The five-year program has a very limited sign-up period. Growers must enroll at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office by September 16, 2011.

Camelina info: <http://www.susoils.com/camelina/> <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=CASA2>

Grower opportunities: <http://www.susoils.com/opportunities/> <http://www.turlockjournal.com/section/12/article/10795/>

Have something to share?

Do you have an idea for an article or an announcement to make? Send an email to: mdbanews@gmail.com



Classifieds

I am interested in buying your extra wax, unprocessed, scrapings, broken comb. I will purchase your junk wax!

Email Terry

WA6KAH@aol.com

UNWANTED CAPPINGS?

Do you have unwanted cappings? I will melt and clean them for the beeswax.

Lois Kail, lkail@juno.com,
(925) 356-2602



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Place your order in for the Spring Workshop Today!

Hive bodies, frames, queen excluders, hive tools, clothing, smokers, and more...

[We buy used gear.](#)

Mike 925-808-1919

www.gandmhoney.com

Mentors Needed
Contact Dan Goemmel
kq6ar@astound.net
925-825-6361 eve.

To add to the classified section please send an e-mail to mdbanews@gmail.com

Need a spinner?
The MDBA has one available for members to rent.
\$5 rental for 2 days; \$10 per day thereafter until returned.
For more info call:
John Shoemaker at 925 808 9379 or
Leo at 925-838-5600

Thriving hive split in July, Italian bees with young queen less than 1 year old. Bees and hive with two 8-frame supers. \$150.00. Contact Ric Wright at [707-759-5907](tel:707-759-5907). Will deliver.

Bee Suit Repairs?
Call or Email
Lois Kail
At
lkail@juno.com
(925) 356-2602

I'm looking for a honey extractor to rent or buy.

Nicholas Surjan
Carmichael, CA
[916 468 8663](tel:916-468-8663)



**Mount Diablo Beekeepers
Association**

2010 Board Members

- **President** - Brian Wort
- **First Vice President** - Corey Wood
- **Secretary** - Lois Kail
- **Treasurer** - Jay Todesco
- **VP, Community Education** - Judy Casale
- **VP, Member Education** - Sylvia Goemmel
- **VP, Membership** - Jan Spieth
- **VP, Newsletter** - Gabrielle Harrel

www.diablobees.org

Mt. Diablo Beekeepers Association (MDBA) is dedicated to [educating communities](#) about honeybees and the historic art of beekeeping.

The MDBA is one of the largest bee associations in the United States with members from around the world. The MDBA meets at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of every month, except November and December, at Heather Farm Garden Center in Walnut Creek, California.

Each month, the MDBA presents a different speaker on a variety of topics and has an open forum for people to exchange ideas and helpful tips.

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