



September 10, 2012

MDBA BBQ

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October is the last meeting of the year and it will be celebrated with our annual BBQ. The meeting will commence at 6:30 pm on October 13, 2012. This event is open to MDBA members and members of their immediate family.

The MDBA will provide BBQ. Please bring a side to share. Assignments have been made alphabetically. You may also wish to bring a bottle of wine, beer, soda, or whatever you prefer, to enhance your meal and share with your table mates.

It's desirable that all salads, side dishes and desserts be on the tables by 6:30pm.

Help setting up is welcome. Please arrive

Member Side Dish Assignments

Alpha by Surname

A-G: Salad

H-R: Vegetable/
Potato/Pasta

around 5:30 to help with table-setting, decorating, and generally getting the party going.

During the meeting

there will be a SUPER RAFFLE that is member donated. Please bring unwrapped quality items for donation. The donation items need to be given to before the beginning of the meeting.

The BBQ is a great way to end the MDBA 2012 year and celebrate with friends and members. We are excited to see you there!

YOU MUST RSVP IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING THE BBQ!

Please RSVP to Lois Kail 925 356 2602
lois.kail@gmail.com

Board Nominations

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2013 MDBA BOARD

The following members in good standing have been nominated. Any others who wish to volunteer, or to name another person to serve, should contact Gary Lawrence or any current Board member, and then nominations will be closed, with the election at the September meeting.

President - Brian Wort

Vice President - Sylvia Goemmel

Secretary - Lois Kail

Treasurer - Stephanie Taube

VP, Community Education - Mike Stephanos

VP, Membership - Jan Spieth

VP, Member Education - Gabrielle Harrel

VP, Newsletter Editor - Deborah Walker

BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR

Nomination sheets will be available at the August and September meetings. You can nominate up to three beekeepers, and the award will be presented at the October barbecue.

Better Beekeeping

by Terry Holcomb

Winterizing in the Bay area

Honeybees by nature are programmed to unceasingly forage, collect, and store food. In bee biology this is termed "hoarding behavior". A bee colony will never "decide"

there are enough reserves and reduce their foraging activity. They simply go, go, go....until they are worn out and die. This behavior evolved in order for the species to survive long dearths of food, primarily extended winter cold in

temperate climates. Because of this instinct a colony in an environment with ample forage and ideal weather will store substantially more honey than is needed for survival. This extra honey is "surplus". The "surplus" is what beekeepers harvest.

But therein lies the problem. The colony will fill every available space with honey, including the brood combs. By this time

of year, often the bees have clogged the brood nest with honey such that the space for brood rearing has been dramatically reduced. Outer frames will be completely

filled with honey and center frames 1/2-3/4 filled. Right now the colony needs to be rearing a large population of young, healthy, fat bees to carry them thru the winter. 6-8 frames each 3/4 or more full of brood is paramount for mid September here in our area. The bees hatch-

ing out now also need to be healthy without having been predated on by varroa, which seriously weakens them and cuts their lifespan.

note - test and treat for mites, as needed, NOW!

Because the winters here are very short and mild, the colony does not need massive amounts of stored honey. 4 frames in



Better Beekeeping by Terry Holcomb

in the brood chamber and honey in the upper portions of the brood comb is way more than adequate. This is roughly 30#. Any more than this will simply not be used during the winter, will likely crystallize in the comb, possibly absorb moisture and ferment, and/or develop a slight fungal growth on the capping. It is much easier to harvest excess honey now rather than deal with a problem in the early spring, plus the colony will be healthier without the "spoilage" inside the hive.

Of utmost importance, get the honey out of a honeybound brood nest so the queen has room to lay eggs to raise that winter population. Do this by moving full frames of honey to an upper super, or extracting. Move frames less than half full of brood to the center of the super above the brood nest and put a full frame of honey between them to break up the brood "cluster". This will help discourage the queen from also moving up, if not using an excluder. note - do not leave excluders on when weather turns cold. The queen can be trapped below and freeze when/if the bees cluster on the honey reserves above. For now, organize the brood chamber with at least 4 frames containing brood, with an empty frame in the center, an empty frame either side of the brood and any frames containing stored pollen

at the outside. If there are more than 4 frames over half full of brood, leave them all in the brood chamber and forego the empty frames at the sides. Remember, 6-8 frames of brood, with stored honey and pollen in each outer frame is ideal now. Over the next 6 weeks, the total brood will decline as the queen's rate of egg laying slows down.

National publications and reference books often talk about winter stores in amounts exceeding 50#/colony.

Beekeepers in our area often have difficulty discerning that such recommendations are directed at cold winter climates, rather than ours. Too much honey is a bad thing, too much being defined as "way more than needed". I often hear beekeepers say they "put their colony to bed for the winter" and they don't ever look at or check them again until spring. Then they come to bee chat in Feb/Mar wanting to know why their colony died. The answer is simple: neglect. They neglected to get the surplus honey out and they neglected to care for the colony throughout our mild winter.

Terry Holcomb

T-H Apiaries

wa6kah@aol.com

Beekeeping Class Offered

Randy Oliver Intensive Beekeeping Class October 20, 2012 - 8:45 am - 5:30 pm

8 hours of classroom and hands on instruction from a seasoned professional.

Class Topics will include:

Strategies for Keeping Honey Bees - more than the basics

How to know if your bees are healthy - sight, sound and smell

Where your Bees are at this time of year - and in this climate (Alameda County)

How and when to prepare for a fantastic spring

Increasing Bees vs Maximizing your Honey Harvest

Strategies for maximizing your honey harvest - how the pro's do it.

Class will be held in the Berkeley / Oakland area.

Class is limited to 14 people

Bring your own lunch.

Class Fee: \$45 if received by Sept 28, 2012

\$65 if received by October 13, 2012

\$85 at the door

ACBA membership required - \$10 additional fee if you're not already a member.

Send your check made out to ACBA to hold your place in this class. Please include your name, full mailing address, phone number and email contact info.

mail your check made out to ACBA to the class coordinator:

Alice Rosenthal

BeeHappySolutions

1837 Prince Street

Berkeley, CA 94703

415-272-0596

Do not mail your check to the Rotary center. If your check is received after the class is closed it will be returned to you. There will be no refunds if you fail to show up for the class - you are welcome to find a

YOUR EXPERTISE, PLEASE!!

The larger 8 medium frame club extractor is needing a 'better' lid system than the plastic lids that came with it. The plastic lids are not really designed for a 'mobile' extractor and keep breaking. It is getting expensive to keep replacing them. I was wondering if there was anyone in the club who 'does' metal work and could fabricate a pair of metal lids to replace the plastic ones. The 6 frame club extractor has a metal lid and it certainly has worked nicely for the past few years. Please contact me and we can talk details. Thank you.

Lois Kail 925 356 2602 lois.kail@gmail.com

The MDBA is still in search of people willing to help with the sound system. Please Contact a board member at the next meeting if you are interested.

FREE BEE PROGRAM: Bees are fascinating insects that play a vital role in sustaining our environment. In celebration of National Honey Month, naturalist Morgan Rani Evans will host a program from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the Environmental Education Center of Tilden Nature Area, Berkeley. After a talk about bees and their life cycle, Morgan will lead the group to the center's Kid's Garden to see the bees that live and work there.

MDBA in the News

The MDBA placed observation hive at the Lindsey Museum was the subject of a recent article in the Pleasant Hill Patch. According to the author the hive has received rave reviews.

The article states:

"On the first day the bees moved in (Aug. 14), a young girl spent the better part of her afternoon watching and talking to the bees as her grandmother patiently sat nearby," said Michele Setter, director of wildlife encounters at Lindsay.

The article also features our own Mike Stephanos and his contributions to the Lindsey Hive.

We appreciate all those involved in the process of placing the observation hive!!

For the full article in the Pleasant Hill Patch as well as links to other articles about the Lindsey Hive click [here](#).

Coming Events

MDBA Events

Next Meeting:

September 13, 2012
7:30 Heather Farms.

Other Events:

To submit events, [email](#)
[us.](#)

Moon, Venus and the Beehive star cluster before dawn September 12

If you're up at dawn, you'll easily see the waning crescent moon pairing up with the planet Venus. After all, the moon and Venus rank as the second-brightest and third-brightest celestial bodies, respectively, after the sun. But if you're up before the onset of dawn, you can also catch the glorious Beehive star cluster in close vicinity to Venus. In a dark country sky, the Beehive looks like a small smudge of light with the unaided eye. Binoculars, though, reveal that this faint fuzzy is actually a cluster teeming with stars. Venus lodges close to the Beehive for the next several days, making it rather easy to locate this star cluster in the predawn sky. By the way, the Beehive resides very close to the center of the constellation Cancer the Crab. Two faint yet visible stars flank the Beehive cluster: Asellus Borealis (Northern Donkey) and Asellus Australis (Southern Donkey). According to star lore, creatures such as donkeys were unbeknownst to the giant Titans when the Olympians and Titans were engaging in their legendary struggle. The donkeys' braying – which the Titans had never heard before – alarmed them so greatly that they readily retreated from the Olympians. In gratitude, Jupiter placed these donkeys in the sky, providing them with a crib of hay forever after. This larger-than-life tale takes stage within a single binocular field of view, a classic that's as timeless as the stars! Use the waning crescent moon to find Venus, and this dazzling planet to locate the Beehive cluster during the predawn hours on Wednesday, September 12

Classifieds

Nucs for Sale

Contact

Dan Goemmel at
kq6ar@astound.net

UNWANTED CAPPINGS?

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

Lois Kail, lois.kail@gmail.com,
(925) 356-2602



Smoker Fuel

5 large burlap bags for \$5
(6# of burlap). Held Starbucks coffee beans, from plant in Seattle. Available at the meeting. Email qty desired to Terry Holcomb at wa6kah@aol.com

Mentors Needed

If you would like to be a beekeeping mentor please contact Dan Goemmel at kq6ar@astound.net

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

Bees and Queens For Sale

2012 Mated and Laying Queens
\$30 picked up in WC
5 frame Nucs
Bees, brood and 2012 laying queens on 5 new frames in your boxes
\$100 picked up in WC
Terry Holcomb
T-H Apiaries
wa6kah@aol.com

G&M Honey

Bees and Bee Supplies
For Sale
text orders to
925-808-1919
or email to
orders@gandmhoney.com

Bee Suit Repairs?

Call or Email
Lois Kail
At
lois.kail@gmail.com
(925) 356-2602



Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association

2012 Board Members

- **President** – Brian Wort
- **First Vice President** – Dylan Wort
- **Secretary** – Lois Kail
- **Treasurer** – Stephanie Taube
- **VP, Community Education** – Mike Stephanos
- **VP, Member Education** – Sylvia Goemmel
- **VP, Membership** – Jan Spieth
- **VP, Newsletter** – Gabrielle Harrel

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.