



The Diablo Bee

Newsletter of the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association



March 2010

Please join us for our next meeting, **March 11th at 7:30PM**, with speaker Bill Cervenka at the Heather Farms Garden Center in Walnut Creek.

Topic: "I have a bee hive, now what do I do?"

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Currently Blooming



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.

Spring Bee Workshop and Packaged Bees

Spring honeybee workshop is set for Saturday, April 17, 2010. Andre will be taking orders for 2 and 3 pound packages of bees with queens (no separate queens) beginning at the February meeting. Bees will be delivered and picked up at the workshop. Contact her at maryrsvp@yahoo.com or 925-934-7530 if you cannot attend the meeting.

Packaged Bees Orders - 2010 for MDBA Members

Place your order now through March 11th if you would like to get package Italian honeybees. The queen is included and not marked.

\$53 for 3 pounds of bees or \$43 for 2 pounds of bees (4000 bees/pound)

Payment due in advance. Mary Andre will be available at the February and March meetings to take your order or contact her at maryrsvp@yahoo.com.

Package bees will be ready for pickup at the MDBA Spring Beekeeping Workshop on Saturday, April 17th at Ga

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

At the Hive Entrance

Bees - A First Discovery
Book

Beekeeping for Dummies

Beekeeping in California

Beekeeping in the United
States

Bees Wax The Natural
History of Pollination

Lawrence's.

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

Blossom Festival March 14

Frog Hollow Farm will be celebrating spring time with a Blossom Festival on Sunday, March 14, from 10:30am-2:00pm here at our farm in Brentwood. Dr. Gordon Frankie from UC Berkeley will give a presentation about his current pollinator research and Alan Hawkins of A.W. Hawkins Apiaries will be our special guest. Tickets are available at <http://www.froghollow.com/events>. The cost of admission includes lunch catered by Curt Clingman and Mary Jo Thoresen of Jojo.

Swarm Control and Spring Cleaning

March is the beginning of spring swarm season. Your bees will swarm if you do nothing, so perform these simple tasks to prevent swarming. If you are not prepared to do this, contact a MDBA member at the meeting (or on yahoo groups) to come over and help you. If you give them the artificial swarm, you will find someone to do it for free.

March 1: Get into the hive and prevent it from swarming. You will need to take the frames with bees on them and place them in the bottom box, and the frames without bees in the top box. Your goal is to have empty frames in the middle (or all) of the top box. This gives the bees room to grow up before they swarm. Keep in mind that brood have to be kept warm, so you may move them to the bottom, but keep honey in the first/last frames, and brood near the middle.

A less invasive alternative to the above is to simply swap the top and bottom colony boxes.

March 15: Split your hives to artificially swarm them. You must remove

Beginning with Bees

Buzzing the Hive

Contemporary Queen Rearing

First Lessons in Beekeeping

Fundamentals of California Beekeeping

How to Keep Bees and Sell Honey

Keeping Bees

MDBA DVD 1 & 2

Practical Beekeeping

Rearing Queen Honey Bees

Robbing the Bees Swarming: Its Control and Prevention

The Secret Life of Bees

The Wisdom of the Hive

The Queen and I

If you are unable to bring it to the meeting, please mail it to 21 Lee Street, Walnut Creek, CA 94595 or drop it off on the front porch. Mailing media rate is fairly reasonable. Thank you, Mary André

half of the bees from your hive (along with the queen) to prevent them from swarming (leaving on their own). Take off the top colony box and either give it to another beekeeper, or use it to start another colony. Put new/empty colony boxes on top of each of the new colonies you created from this split. One of the colonies will have the old queen, and the other colony will make their own new queen.

April 1: Put a super on top of each double-deep colony. Do not use a queen excluder.

April 15: Put an additional super on top of the previous super. Use a queen excluder between the two supers.

May 1: This is the end of Spring. For the rest of the year (in general) the bees will be using more honey than they store. Some locations may get a Fall nectar flow which is great enough to fill up another super, but this is not guaranteed. Some locations will get another (or 5 more) super full of honey stored in the spring/early summer. To ensure you allow the bees room to fill up another super with honey if they can, replace the super you harvested with another super above the queen excluder. If you spun off your honey, use the same frames with drawn comb. Keep harvesting honey in the top super if the bees fill it--this is yours!

Summer and Winter: Keep the 2 colony boxes and 2 supers on throughout the Summer and Fall. In mid Fall, after the thistle flow in September:

Break down the bees into one colony box

Put all the honey into 1 super

Partly or fully cover the screened bottom board

Discard old frames

You are prepared for winter (note, this does not include disease treatments).

The efficacy of small cell foundation as a varroa mite control

A. M. Ellis Æ G. W. Hayes Æ J. D. Ellis

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Abstract

Due to a continuing shift toward reducing/minimizing the use of chemicals in honey bee colonies, we explored the possibility of using small cell foundation as a varroa control. Based on the number of anecdotal reports supporting small cell as an efficacious varroa control tool, we hypothesized that bee colonies housed on combs constructed on small cell foundation would have lower varroa populations and higher adult bee populations and more cm² brood. To summarize our results, we found that the use of small cell foundation did not significantly affect cm² total brood, total mites per colony, mites per brood cell, or mites per adult bee, but did affect adult bee population for two sampling months. Varroa levels were similar in all colonies throughout the study. We found no evidence that small cell foundation was beneficial with regard to varroa control under the tested conditions in Florida.

Introduction

Varroa mites (*Varroa destructor* Anderson and Trueman), first discovered in the US in 1987, have been labeled as the most devastating pest of honey bees (*Apis mellifera* L.) worldwide (Sammataro et al. 2000). Varroa threatens the survival of feral and managed colonies, the beekeeping industry, and possibly the future of some agricultural crops that rely on honey bee pollination (Sammataro et al. 2000). Varroa control has been largely chemocentric but many acaricides commonly used to control varroa can affect honey bees

A. M. Ellis (&) G. W. Hayes

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, Bureau of Plant and Apiary Inspection, Apiary Inspection Section, 1911 SW 34th St., Gainesville, FL 32614-7100, USA

e-mail: ellisa@doacs.state.fl.us; jamamellis@hotmail.com

J. D. Ellis

Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory, Department of Entomology and Nematology,

University of Florida, Bldg. 970 Natural Area Dr., Gainesville, FL 32611-0620, USA

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Wants/Swaps/Needs

... point me in a direction for finding beeswax locally. Do you have any that you'd be willing to part with? Erryn Cain athene342@gmail.com

Wanted: Two used colony boxes with frames. Will pay up to \$30 each if in good condition (925) 943-2400

Nucs, established colonies, and complete beginner kits for sale. Call Major Branzel 707-853-2712 for prices.

If you have donations, bring them to the meeting so we can raffle them.

Become a Mentor

If interested in becoming a mentor to new beekeepers, please contact Dan Goemmel via email, kq6ar@astound.net

Hunting for Bees

We are excited to announce Bee Hunt, an opportunity for you and your group to participate in science research about the natural world. Many of you already know about our Bee Hunt project, but some of you do not, and we want to get the word out far and wide... help us spread the word! Bee Hunt is a project of Discover Life (<http://www.discoverlife.org>). Discover Life provides unique online tools for studying natural history and tracking the impacts of ecological problems. We are building a network of study sites across North America and we'd like to invite you to participate!

4th Annual Bee Symposium

Sunday, March 7, 2010, 9-5

SUBUD CENTER

234 Hutchins Ave

Sebastopol, CA

pfspsbees.org

\$25 'Early Bee' Registration Through March 1 \$30 after March 1 (\$10 discount for PFSP Members-Join Now!)

"Bee Happy" Bee Lure (Nasonov Pheromone) Swarm Attractant

Hi

My name is Alice Rosenthal and I am a beekeeper interested in INCREASING the number of beehives. I am interested in catching as many SWARMS as possible so I have been researching how to do have the greatest success. Articles I found on the Internet say that I will have a 50% to 80% HIGHER SUCCESS RATE if I use NASONOV PHEROMONE (Bee Lure / Swarm Lure) in my bee traps / empty hives when trying to catch swarms. I am hoping to become a sidelinier so I need to catch a lot of swarms. In my research I found that the Beekeeping suppliers, like Dadant and Mann Lake, charge between \$3.50 and \$16 for just a few milliliters of swarm lure. I found that too expensive. Being the rebel I am I decided to contact a friend who is a chemist who helped me buy the ingredients to make my own Nasonov Pheromone / Swarm Lure from the main ingredients called Citral and Geroniol. These two items are terpenoids molecules or oils found in things we eat and come into contact every day. Normally we don't come into contact with them in this concentrated form, so it's important to remember they are very powerful. Just a drop or two will do the job. I could have bought just enough of these chemicals for myself but I decided there is no harm in sharing them with my friends and fellow club members so I bought a little extra and I am happy to pass on the savings to you. I am selling 15 milliliter bottles for \$20 and 30 milliliter bottles for \$30. I have bottled and labeled the Nasonov Pheromone and I call it "BEE HAPPY" Bee Lure. I have a separate instruction sheet on how to have the most success catching bees by using bee lure in you swarm traps or empty hives.

Bee Happy Honey Bee Lure:
Synthetic Nasonov Pheromone
Made from kosher food grade organic oil molecules of
Citral and Geroniol
15 ml \$20 / 30 ml for \$30. Shipping & Handling \$6.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions:

Alice Rosenthal
 1837 Prince Street
 Berkeley, CA 94703
 415-272-0596
 Alice@meta4.us or BeeHappySupplies@gmail.com

Useful Bee Sites

California Native Plant Society Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=38417209275&ref=share>

The Xerces Society is a nonprofit organization that protects wildlife through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitat.
<http://www.xerces.org/mission/>

Honeybee World
<http://www.honeybeeworld.com/diary/menus/topics.htm>

Discussion archive for bee knowledge
<http://www.beekeepingforums.com/>

CCD Update
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/silence-of-the-bees/new-report-shows-modest-decline-in-colony-losses-may-27-2009/5146/>

American Bee Journal
www.americanbeejournal.com

UC Apiaries Newsletter
<http://entomology.ucdavis.edu/faculty/mussen/news.cfm>

Queen Rearing and CCD video
 Clint Walker's take on queen rearing and CCD. This is a unique queen producer perspective
<http://blip.tv/play/AYHFwnkC>

MDBA Yahoo Groups
<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/mtdiablobees/>
 You can see pics of the Holiday Party and blooming plants

MDBA Website
<http://www.diablobees.org/>

2010 Board Members

At the October meeting the Board for 2010 Board was elected:

- **President** - Rick Kautch
- **First Vice President** - Bob Kelly
- **Secretary** - Lois Kail
- **Treasurer** - Jay Todesco
- **VP, Community Education** - Judy Casale
- **VP, Member Education** - Sylvia Goemmel
- **VP, Membership** - Jan Spieth
- **VP, Newsletter** - Steven Sparks
- **Past President** - Stan Thomas

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