
May 2010

Please join us at Heather Farms on MAY 13th at 7:30 for our Guest Speaker Dr. Robbin Thorp, who will present:

"Native Bees: Their Diversity and Lifestyles."

Professor Thorp's academic career includes BS and MS degrees in Zoology from University of Michigan, Ann 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 research on crops 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 biology, conservation and roles as pollinators of crop and wildland plants.

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

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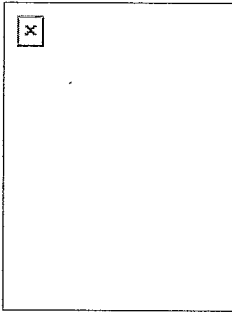
So, you introduced your packaged bees from the Spring Work Day, and now you need to see how they are doing.

Open the hive in the afternoon on a hot day. This way, most of the mature bees will be harvesting, and you may not get stung. Smoke them, wait a few minutes, and then open the lid...

If you cannot easily open the lid, your bees may have built comb on the lid, and not on the frames. If you introduced your package using an empty super on top of the colony box; then you almost certainly have lots of comb hanging from the lid. This is a big problem, and a reminder to always fill your boxes completely with frames, and never allow bees room to build from the cover.

Currently Blooming

Here is what happened:



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.

Bees cluster in the cold. It was a cold spring. You dumped your bees into the empty super on top of the colony box. You put the can of syrup (and maybe a protein patty) next to the bees in the empty super. The bees clustered hanging from the cover and started building comb.

You need to cut out this comb, place it into wooden frames, and put it back into the colony box. You do this the same way as you would in an extraction. Ask someone how to do this, or look on youtube.

Here is what you can do to eliminate this problem next time:

Remove your deep frames from the colony box.

Add 5 shallow (super) frames to the colony box.

Add 1 frame of new nectar/pollen from another hive (or entrance feeder or division feeder and protein patty)

Dump in the bees.

Add the rest of the shallow frames.

Cover.

It is my opinion that shallow frames should always be used on the bottom colony box for the following reasons:

-Bees can cluster from the bottom of the shallow frames.

-Once the colony is large, workers can gather under the frames without crowding the brood.

-Swarm cells can be spotted (and stabbed by a skewer) by looking through the screen at the bottom of the shallow frames.

-You can dump in a swarm or package without crushing the bees with the deep frames.

Honey Collection

If you bought packaged bees this year, you will collect honey next year. However, if you have bees who made it through the 2009 winter, and are now in 2 deep colony boxes; it is past time to put on the honey supers.

The long, rainy winter has given us a short, abundant nectar flow. A strong colony will fill a honey super in 2 weeks. You can help your colony efficiently store nectar by giving them lots of room. Here are some hints:

-Add a super after the bees have begun to draw comb to the top of the 2nd colony box. If you split your colonies (to avoid swarming) last month, your splits should be ready for supers. If they are not ready for supers, then check for queenlessness. You will not be harvesting honey from them this year.

-When the bees start storing nectar in the super, take the middle three frames from the super and replace them with new frames. Take these nectar frames and put them in a new super. Put this new super on top of the old super. In short, bait the 2nd super.

-Remove capped honey, and repeat the baiting process until the nectar flow is done. Leave the bees 50lbs of honey (1 super or 7 deep frames) for their own use. The hive should weigh 75lbs in total going into the summer.

Membership in MDBA = Name Tag

When you join MDBA, as a new member you are entitled to a name tag (yellow background with the MDBA logo and your name). There is no

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

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

charge for the initial name tag. If there is a family member who wants a name tag, or if your name tag is lost, an additional or replacement name tag may be ordered for \$12.00. Students/4-H club members are entitled to free membership in MDBA, including name tags. Name tags, including initial 'new member' name tags, will be ordered upon the request of the member. This is the new policy discussed and approved at the March Board meeting. If you are a new member and would like a name tag, please speak with Jan Spieth before or after the monthly meetings.

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

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

Established swarms in new colony box with new frames and cover and screened bottom \$200. Call Steven 510-913-8155 or email stevencarlsparks@yahoo.com

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

Getting Swarms Started

If you capture a swarm near your house and put it into a deep colony box with deep frames, the bees may all leave (abscond). Why? A few reasons:

They have no cluster space, and get cold at night clinging to the plastic frame. They have not reached the hive they want to inhabit, so they just fly off to get there!

Here are a few hints to get your swarms to stay:

Use shallow frames on your colony box (see above).

Add a frame of brood/nectar/pollen from a strong hive. Take this from the middle of the 1st super if possible (newer means fewer diseases). If you use a queen excluder, then take it from the colony box.

Reduce the entrance so the bees cannot easily all fly off.

If you cannot get a frame of brood and food, then use an entrance or division feeder and protein patty. It will take the bees a week (wild guess) to start feeding on fermented pollen, so help them out with a protein patty.

Eventually, you will get tired of losing swarms, so make them an offer they can't refuse!

Bee swarms follow 'pied pipers'

A tiny group of bees act like pied pipers to trigger the onset of explosive swarms leaving the hive, report scientists.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-earth/hi/earth_news/newsid_8562000/8562904.stm

"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

front porch.
Mailing media rate
is fairly
reasonable. Thank
you, Mary André

to become a sideline 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 Geraniol. 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 your swarm traps or empty hives.

Bee Happy Honey Bee Lure:
Synthetic Nasonov Pheromone
Made from kosher food grade organic oil molecules of
Citral and Geraniol
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/>

<http://www.beetight.com/home> They allow you to keep records on 6 hives for free and up to one thousand hives for \$15 a year. And if you bookmark it to your iPod/iPhone, then you could record inspection data etc. in the field.

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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