

CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPING ALLIANCE

Mission Statement: In the San Luis Obispo County, California bioregion, to foster the health and well-being of honeybees by supporting best beekeeping practices through networking, education and raising public awareness.

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Club Updates

-New leadership

Post COVID we are looking for new energy and leadership. Have an hour or two a month to help out? Send us an [email](#) or attend the next meeting.

-Have a Swarm?

Please report it via [this link](#)
(Scroll to the bottom)

-Want to catch a swarm?

Fill out this [link](#) OR Contact:

Coastal Areas:

Bruce Terry 805.459.0762

North County:

Tim Ball 805.714.7142

Upcoming Events



July:

N/A

August:

We will send out a meeting date in late July.

CONNECT WITH US

Email:

sloccba@gmail.com

Website:

www.centralcoastbeekeepers.net/

Facebook:

facebook.com/groups/ccbaslo

What to expect in your hive in July?

The following is drawn from [Jeremy Rose's](#) book "Beekeeping in Coastal California" with permission.

It is July. We are in a significant drought. What should you expect?

What the bees are doing?

- The bees are busy raising brood, bringing in resources, consuming honey, and preparing for Autumn.

What the beekeeper may want to do (based on a two-deep brood box hive)

- Add honey supers if needed.
- Ensure that the colony has enough food—honey 2-5 frames, pollen 1 or more frames
- Check the hive for Varroa. If necessary, begin a treatment (if you are new, reach out to someone in the group).
- Requeen hives if necessary

Common Problems

- Not enough food
- Increased aggression and robbing (often because of a lack of food)
- Argentine Ants



I want to be a
beekeeper.
Where do I
begin?

By Ryan Alaniz

Have a question?
Send questions to
slocba@gmail.com

Have a question? Ask the club

We have all been there. Bees are cool. We need them. I like honey. What next?

Great question!

1. First, purchase an introductory book about beekeeping, really any book will do. Start reading and find out what it is all about.
2. Second, attend a meeting and connect with some friendly beekeepers. All are welcome!
3. Third, visit a hive. We often have meetings at a bee yard and our previous president [Erin Holden](#) often runs a short introductory all-inclusive class \$25 Text her (805.720.5992) to learn more.
4. Fourth, ask questions at a meeting or on [our Facebook page!](#) Some might include: do I have enough space? I live in a city—what are the ordinances? How much does it cost? Will I get stung? (Yes)! At the meetings we are happy to talk about our passion and how we started.
5. Finally, go get some bees!

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Hack of the month Dealing with Ants

Pros and Cons of ant control strategies

Have a hack you would like to share? Please send to:
sloccba@gmail.com

When dealing with any predator, it is important to use integrated pest management (IPM). IPM is “a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks” ([UCANR 2022](#)). Below are a few examples of addressing ants.

Hive stand legs in oil

Pro-most effective

Con-may be challenging to build after you have bees.

Tanglefoot, grease, or Vaseline on legs

Pro-effective, inexpensive

Con-must re-do every month or two. Dust and debris create bridges for the ants.

Ant Bait or Borax in sugar solution

Pro-[effective](#), may kill colony

Con-Need to refill and replace (be sure bees cannot drink the solution)

Recipes are available online.

Diatomaceous Earth

A [2021 article](#) found that yes, diatomaceous earth does work.

Pro-Cheap (buy the 50lb bag from farm supply, it is only a few dollars more expensive than the five lb bag), easy

Con-somewhat effective, rain and wind wash it away

Cinnamon

A [2014 study](#) found that cinnamon essential oil is in fact highly effective in repelling and killing ants **at certain concentrations**. Anecdotal evidence by local beekeepers have not found it effective against Argentine ants.

Pro-Cheap, easy

Con-somewhat effective, rain and wind wash it away

See also [UCANR Ant Resources](#) this article.

For a comprehensive list on pests for bees or your garden, see the [University of California Agricultural and Natural Resources \(UCANR\) IPM website](#).

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