

# 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

### -Golden Oak Festival

\*Want to have volunteer at the CCBA booth. Please contact Jodi

Phone: 805.440.6987

Email: [Goldenoakqueen@gmail.com](mailto:Goldenoakqueen@gmail.com)

### -New leadership

\*Have an hour or two a month to help out? Send us an [email \(slocoba@gmail.com\)](mailto:slocoba@gmail.com) or attend the next meeting.

\*Upcoming meeting to discuss the future of the club.

### -Have a Swarm?

Please report it via [this link](#)

(Scroll to the bottom of the page)

### -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

### *October:*

Saturday October 22, 10-5pm Event

[Golden Oak Honey & Pumpkin Festival](#)

Downtown City Park, Paso Robles

**See poster on page 2**

CONNECT WITH US

Email:

[slocoba@gmail.com](mailto:slocoba@gmail.com)

Website:

[www.centralcoastbeekeepers.net/](http://www.centralcoastbeekeepers.net/)

Facebook:

[facebook.com/groups/ccbaslo](https://facebook.com/groups/ccbaslo)

A Downtown Paso Robles Main Street Association event. . . .

**Golden Oak**  
**HONEY &**  
**PUMPKIN Festival**  
**Kids' Flea Market**



**Sat., Oct. 22nd**

**10 am to 5 pm — Downtown City Park**

**BACKYARD BEEKEEPING / OBSERVE A BEE HIVE**  
**BEEKEEPING PRACTICES / HONEY TASTING**  
 (by the Central Coast Beekeepers Alliance SLO)  
**ARTS / CRAFTS / VENDORS / NAVY SEA BEES**  
**YOGA (EarthTones) / 811 Dig / C.E.R.T.**  
**ALMOND COUNTRY QUILTERS Demonstration**  
**SPELLING BEE & MONSTER MASH DANCE**  
**CONTESTS (by Optimist Club of Paso Robles)**  
**BUZZ BUZZ GOLF**



Info call 805-238-4103 or visit [PasoRoblesDowntown.org](http://PasoRoblesDowntown.org)

CONNECT WITH US	Email: <a href="mailto:sloccba@gmail.com">sloccba@gmail.com</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.centralcoastbeekeepers.net/">www.centralcoastbeekeepers.net/</a>	Facebook: <a href="https://facebook.com/groups/ccbaslo">facebook.com/groups/ccbaslo</a>
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## What to expect in your hive in September and October?

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

### What the bees are doing?

- Raising important generation of winter bees
- Facing stresses due to lack of nutrition, presence of parasitic mites, and shorter days
- Superseding failing queens
- Organizing hive structure for winter-uncapped honey to top box and storing pollen and rearing brood in bottom box

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

- Concluding miticide treatments that began in August;
- Checking for mites again in mid-October (there may be a resurgence of varroa at this time)
- Add [sugar syrup](#) (click here to see how) and pollen supplements if needed. Ensure clean water is present
- Combine weak hives (four frames of bees or less)
- Reducing entrances
- Provide clean water

### Common Problems

- Starvation, Malnutrition
- Increased aggression and robbing (often because of a lack of food)
- Varroa mites resurgence
- Potential collapse after first cold weather along with high varroa mite populations



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## #beekeepinghack Combining Hives The Newspaper method

Have a weak  
hive? Combine  
it with another!

Have a hack you would like to  
share? Please send to:  
[sloccba@gmail.com](mailto:sloccba@gmail.com)



Photo from [Pinterest](#)

It is not unusual to see a decline in bee population during the fall. Mite levels are peaking, forage is low, and queens have begun the process of laying less eggs to ensure there are adequate stores for the winter bees. Queens may also have perished for any number of reasons.

If you find one of your favorite hives weakened or another queenless, it may be time to combine hives. In the spring and summer, it is possible to buy a queen and replace or re-queen. In the fall, it may be difficult to find a queen to purchase and too late to jumpstart a hive.

One of the most common solutions to this issue is to combine hives using the newspaper method. The newspaper method refers to adding a sheet or two of newspaper on the top of one hive and then adding a box of bees from another hive on top.

Please note that you can not just add two colonies together. As each colony has a different pheromone attached to a queen, the smell of a different pheromone will lead to fighting and a bee massacre. The use of newspaper prevents fighting as it allows the two hives to become accustomed to each other's smell as they slowly chew through the paper, which will take between one and a few days.

In short, combining colonies is a great way to ensure two weaker hives will make it through the winter. Below are simple instructions taken from the website honeybeesuite (<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/how-to-combine-colonies-with-newspaper/>).

1. You should have only one queen. Keep the strongest queen and destroy the other. There is no point in letting them "fight it out" because you could end up losing both.
2. Place a layer or two of newspaper over the topmost brood box of the bottom colony. One sheet is enough, although I frequently use two, just to slow the process a little.
3. You can let the paper hang over the edge—or not. In wet areas, the paper may wick some rainwater into the hive although it's usually not much since newspaper disintegrates quickly.
4. Place the second colony on top of the newspaper. The bees should be happily combined in a few days—the larger the colonies the quicker it happens. You can remove the remaining paper if you want, or the bees will remove it by themselves.

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