

CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPING ALLIANCE



Swarm season is upon us!

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Club Updates](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [What to expect in your hive in May and June?](#)
- [#beekeepinghack
Splitting your hives
Why and How!](#)
- **Have a question? Ask the Club!**

Club Updates

-Become a Member!

*See [page four](#) for more information
See fill out [this survey](#) (~3 minutes)

-Register your hives

[SLO County Apiary Registration](#)

It is free!

“Per the California Food and Agriculture Code, all beekeepers operating within the state of California must register annually with their chosen home county.”

-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.

Upcoming Events

May:

Club Meeting

Thursday May 11 6-8pm
Santa Margarita Lions Club
(9610 Murphy Ave., Santa Margarita, CA.)
Theme: [Bees and Water](#), Splits

June:

Mid-State Fair Honey Tasting Competition

Applications due June 6

Club Meeting

Thursday June 8 6-8pm
Santa Margarita Lions Club
(9610 Murphy Ave., Santa Margarita, CA.)
Theme: TBD

CONNECT WITH US

Email:
slocoba@gmail.com

Website:
www.centralcoastbeekeepers.net/

Facebook:
facebook.com/groups/ccbaslo

What to expect in your hive in May and June?

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

What the bees are doing?

- Finishing storing honey from spring nectar flow
- Expanding quickly
- Swarming

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

- Requeening hives that become queenless after swarming
- Raising queen cells if they will be need to make splits or requeen
- Splitting hives
- Adding honey supers
- Catching swarms
- Monitoring for Nosema and treating if necessary only after removing honey crop
- Potentially feeding sugar syrup if necessary

Common Problems

- Overcrowding results in swarming
- Hives with brood disease, mites, viruses, or Nosema do not produce honey
- Argentine Ants
- Spontaneous loss of queen bee
- Honey bound—Hive becomes queenless after running out of space to store honey



Raising Queens ([Photo](#))



Hive infected with Nosema (gut parasite) ([Photo](#))
[USDA information on Nosema](#)

CONNECT WITH US

Email:

slocbba@gmail.com

Website:

www.centralcoastbeekeepers.net/

Facebook:

facebook.com/groups/ccbaslo

(Photo [credit](#))

#beekeepingback Splitting your hives

Photo [credit](#)

What is splitting?

As part of spring management, it is often a good idea to investigate whether your hive is growing too large for its hive. In the last newsletter, checkerboarding was discussed as a way to ensure the bees have enough space. However, especially after our amazing recent winter rain, your hive still may run out of space. Other reasons to split your hives is to increase your number of colonies, reduce swarming, control mites by having a brood break, requeen a hive, and make an aggressive hive less so. Spring is also the ideal time to split as it is a natural period of growth and there are plenty of resources (pollen, nectar, water) available.

Splitting a large hive can:

- Increase the number of hives
- Reduce swarming
- Control mites
- Enable requeening
- Lower aggression of a hive

How to do a walkaway split

There are many ways to split hives, some of which are easier than others. To keep it simple, this section will describe a walkaway split. Below are other resources, including YouTube videos from reputable universities that describe other methods.

1. Examine your “mother” hive looking for the brood, honey, and pollen are located.
2. Place an empty same size hive box next to the mother hive. Split the brood nest between the mother and new hive ensuring that there are eggs, uncapped and capped brood, and sufficient nurse bees to cover the brood frames.
3. Put the brood nest frames in the middle of the box. Add a frame of pollen and then a frame of honey on both sides of the brood.
4. Fill the box with other resources if available, or empty frames if not. If there are not sufficient resources, add a sugar syrup feeder and a protein patty.

Honey	Honey	Pollen	Brood	Brood	Brood	Brood	Pollen	Honey	Honey
-------	-------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	--------	-------	-------

5. Now, add more nurse bees from the mother hive into the new hive by shaking them off of their frames. The mother hive will not be harmed because: 1. The queen will continue to lay and increase the population and 2. It will receive hundreds of returning foragers.
6. Walk away!

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

CONNECT WITH US

Email:
slocbba@gmail.com

Website:
www.centralcoastbeekeepers.net/

Facebook:
facebook.com/groups/ccbaslo



If a queen runs out of space, it will cause a desire to swarm. Splitting reproduces this process in a controlled manner.

It does not necessarily matter which of the boxes does not have the queen, although if you can find her all the better. The queenless new hive will create multiple queen cells from the three-day old larvae. Thirteen days later a queen will appear. This virgin queen will need five to eight days to develop her flight muscles and reproductive organs before taking her mating flight (See [Penn State description](#)) so do not expect to see eggs until about four weeks after the split.

To ensure greater success, be sure both hives have ample resources and try not to disturb them too much.

See these videos for great tutorials on splits:

Dyce Lab for Honey Bee Studies- [A Beginner’s guide to walk-away splits](#)

University of Guelph-[Three methods of splitting Hives](#)

CONNECT WITH US	Email: sloccba@gmail.com	Website: www.centralcoastbeekeepers.net/	Facebook: facebook.com/groups/ccbaslo
------------------------	---	---	---

Become a CCBA Member for 2023

Want to support your local beekeeping club? Here is an easy way to make sure we have the funds to continue serving SLO county beekeepers and the community.

We have two requests:

1. Fill out [this survey](https://forms.gle/MpxV6YKqbj3YoHdY7) (~3 minutes) so we know who you are and can update the contact list.

(<https://forms.gle/MpxV6YKqbj3YoHdY7>)

2. Pay \$20 annual membership fee. This is per household.

All funds go toward supporting CCBA activities (e.g. renting meeting space, speakers, materials for shared projects, etc.)

Fee can be paid via:

- Venmo (see below)
- Check--Make payable to Central Coast Beekeeping Alliance; PO Box 42, Templeton, CA. 93465
- Cash--at our next meeting.



CONNECT WITH US

Email:

slocbba@gmail.com

Website:

www.centralcoastbeekeepers.net/

Facebook:

facebook.com/groups/ccbaslo