

# CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPING ALLIANCE



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.

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## Club Updates

### -Become a Member!

\*See [the last page](#) for more information and fill out [this survey](#) (~3 minutes)

### -Register your hives

[SLO County Apiary Registration](#)

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

### -Using chemicals to treat your hives?

You may need a permit from the county before you can buy treatments. The permit is easy to obtain; it is a half to one-hour meeting with the county to discuss the use of chemicals and precautions. They are knowledgeable and want hobbyists to be successful.

Reach out to Laine Bauer: [lbauer@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:lbauer@co.slo.ca.us)

### -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

### *December:*

No Club Meeting-Have a great holidays!

### *January:*

#### Club Meetings

Thursday January 18 Time: 6pm

Santa Margarita Lion's Club

Theme: Jeremy Rose speaking about bee gear and obtaining bees

Saturday January 20: Time: 12pm

Lena's Barn

Theme: Building boxes, frames, and foundations workshop

### *February:*

#### Club Meeting

Thursday February 15: Time: 6pm

Santa Margarita Lion's Club

Theme: Spring hives and swarm management

Saturday February 17: Time: 12pm

Lena's Barn

Theme: Low cost BeeVacs construction Workshop

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)

## What to expect in your hive in November and December

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

### What the bees are doing?

- Evicting drones from the hive
- Minimal brood rearing
- Forming a tight cluster around the brood as the temperature drops
- If upper box is empty, remove it. If there is some honeycomb, consolidate with bottom box. Bees will not move off of cluster far and can starve even if there is honey in the upper box.

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

- Try not to disturb hives unless necessary
- 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) **Only when it is above 55 degrees**
- Reducing entrances
- Provide clean water

### Common Problems

- Starvation, Malnutrition
- Condensation under the lids and drips on clusters
- Varroa mite not taken care of in fall may cause collapse
- Ants (will leave when the rains arrive)

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### Guide to QUEEN MARKING

Years Ending in:



|              |              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1<br>or<br>6 | 2<br>or<br>7 | 3<br>or<br>8 | 4<br>or<br>9 | 5<br>or<br>0 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|

(Photo [credit](#))

*#beekeepinghack*

## Know your queen colors!

Every year we mark our queens with different colors. Here is an easy chart and graphic to help you remember the color of her majesty.



|      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|------|------|------|------|------|

|                        |   |   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|---|
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## San Luis County 4-H Beekeeping Projects Receive Grants



Photo used with permission from Mindy Wilkinson

Two members of the Central Coast Beekeepers Alliance received 2023 Bee Keeping Mini Grants awarded by the University of California (UC) 4-H Youth Development Program. Mike Lindsey of Templeton 4-H, and Mindy Wilkinson of Edna 4-H Club each received a \$300 mini-grant that can be used to purchase beekeeping equipment, a hive, supplies and curriculum. These resources remain the property of the 4-H Clubs and allow them to build up a Beekeeping Project.

The mini grant program is an ongoing program through the state Extension office to encourage beekeeping project development. Project leaders across California who receive the grants are asked to implement a community service activity related to bees that benefits our greater community. The Edna 4-H project has been volunteering at the Nipomo Native Garden to provide a natural playground for kids to see and interact with native chaparral and pollinators. Mike's Templeton 4-H Beekeeping Project has been up and going for about 15 years. He hosts between 6-8 families and about a dozen kids every year. His project starts meeting in spring as the bees begin to build up. The members meet frequently through early summer to support families in setting up an apiary, establishing a hive, and pulling honey. Templeton's grant funds were used to purchase a dedicated project hive that will be maintained with the goal of providing splits to 4-H members ready to start their own hives. Look for Mike's project members selling 4-H honey at the Oak and Honey Festival in fall!

The Edna 4-H project started their 3rd year with Mindy Wilkinson and Ben Brown as co-leaders. This beekeeping project meets from September to April and uses bees as a starting point to explore agriculture, ecology, and community for a group of 8 mostly elementary aged kids. Kathy Longacre donated used hive boxes that have been given to members to help launch this project. This year Mindy used the award to purchase new hive equipment housed at the Garden Project leader's farm. The new hive, and eventually an ant-resistant stand will provide years of use for the club hives. The Edna 4-H members have enjoyed a joint garden/bees project honey extraction party with the honey frames carried in directly from the garden. For the rest of the summer, the honey sweetened the mint tea grown by the garden project.

Thank you to everyone who has donated your time and efforts to educate local families about beekeeping! Your support in sharing your equipment, expertise, and skills is very much appreciated. --Mindy Wilkinson

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## Become a CCBA Member

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.



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