

CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPING ALLIANCE



Finally, the fruit of our labor—honey!

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 [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.”

-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

-New leadership

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

*Upcoming meeting to discuss the future of the club.

Upcoming Events

July:

Club Meeting

Thursday July 13 6-8pm

Santa Margarita Lions Club

(9610 Murphy Ave., Santa Margarita, CA.)

Theme: [Bees and Water](#), Splits

Saturday July 15 Special Event

Honey extraction tutorial 2 sessions: 11am and 1pm

Contact John to RSVP (jchestnut@slonet.org)

August:

Mid-State Fair Honey Tasting Competition

Applications due June 6

Club Meeting

TBD

Theme: TBD

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Website:

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Facebook:

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What to expect in your hive in July and August

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

What the bees are doing?

- Raising large amounts of brood
- Consuming honey stored from spring
- Reorganize brood nest for Autumn
- Superseding failing queens, especially queens from swarms

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

July

- Feeding if necessary
- Dron brood varroa mite trapping
- Requeening weak hives

August

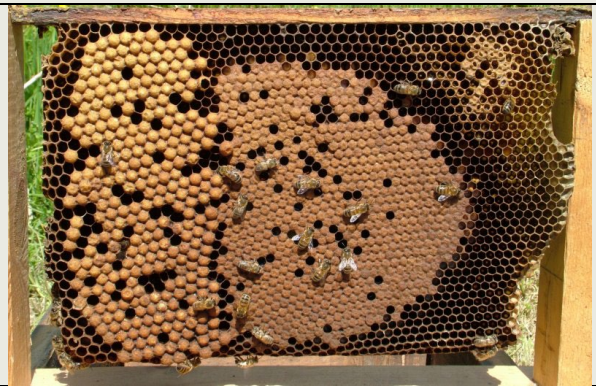
- Removing honey from a summer nectar flow (if there was one) – Don't take too much.
- Applying a soft chemic al treatment for Varroa if needed
- Feeding pollen supplement and sugar syrup if necessary
- Requeening weaker hives that have not been requeened

Common Problems

- Nutritional deficiencies (nectar, pollen) and starvation
- Increase aggression and robbing
- Varroa mite population increases rapidly, which can cause collapse
- Argentine Ants
- Large sections of drone brood, which Varroa mites prefer (Drones take longer to mature than works, which gives the mite more time to reproduce.)



Extracting honey (Photo: John Chestnut)



Drone brood on left worker brood on right ([Photo](#))
[USDA info on Varroa preference for Drone Brood](#)

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(Photo [credit](#))

#beekeepinghack Dealing with Argentine and Pavement Ants

Photo [credit](#)

How do ants pose a problem?

Two different ant problems affect us whether you are in south county/coast or north ([see this webpage](#) for examples). South county has a difficult time with Argentine Ants, which can invade and even force a hive to abscond. North county has a problem with Pavement ants, which tend to be more annoying than devastating.

Argentine Ants (See [UCANR article](#) for a detailed description)

Pavement Ants (See [UCANR article](#) for a detailed description)

Controlling for ants protects the hive, especially the stored honey. More [recent evidence](#) suggests that ants can also harbor viruses that harm bees, such as deformed wing virus.

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

Whether it is Argentine or Pavement ants, there are multiple ways to deal with them.

1. Be sure there are no weeds touching your hive or hive stand. Ants will walk up a mustard plant and into your hive.
2. Use stands that have defensible legs. This means narrow legs that can either be put in a container (a pail, a pie pan, tuna can etc.) full of water or mineral oil (vegetable oil goes rancid). Add as needed. The ants can't cross the moat and enter the hive.
3. Use a sticky barrier such as tanglefoot or Vaseline that the ants can't cross over. The challenge is that dust and debris will also stick rendering this solution suboptimal. Re-application needs to happen every so often.
4. Add diatomaceous earth, cinnamon, or other ingredients (a mix of borax and sugar) around the base of your stand legs. This works, but only for a little while; wind and rain and remove this barrier.
5. Be wary of your use of sugar syrup to feed the bees. Do not spill any on or near the hive.

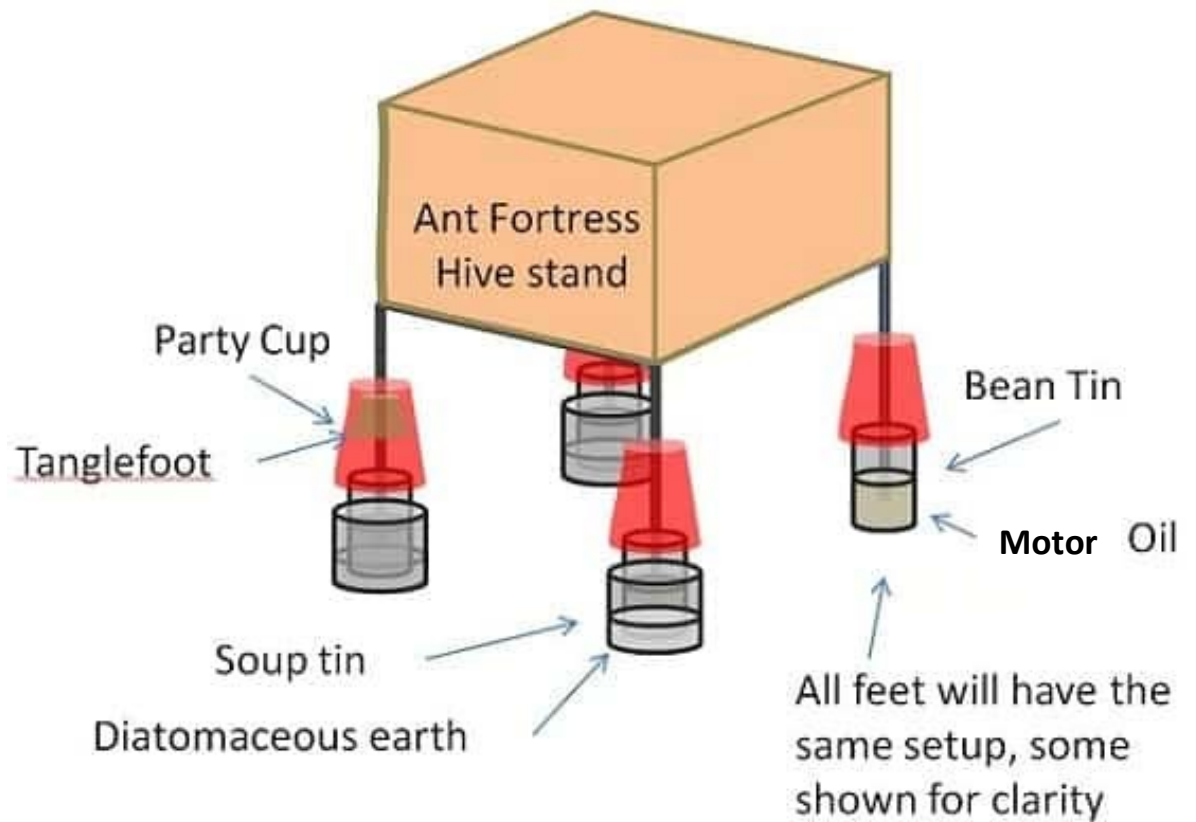
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An example of multiple methods used to prevent ant invasions ([graphic credit](#))



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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.



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