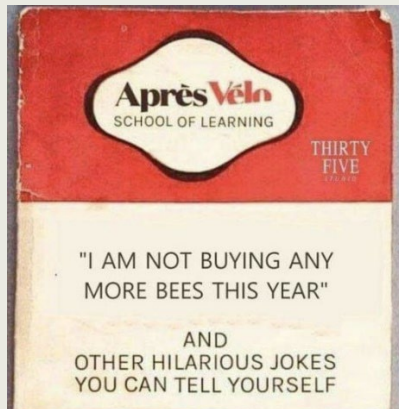


CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPING ALLIANCE



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.

IN THIS ISSUE

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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!

-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.

-Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday May 5 12-4pm

[Cambria Bee Faire](#)

We need volunteers to help at the club booth! Please be in touch with Jodi T. (goldenoakqueen@gmail.com)

Newsletter written by Ryan Alaniz

Upcoming Events

April:

Thursday April 18 6-8pm

Oak Creek Commons Great Room

635 Nicklaus Street, Paso Robles

Park on Nicklaus St. and follow signs into the complex toward the Great Room

Theme: Bee-friendly local plants

May:

Sunday May 5 12-4pm

Cambria Bee Faire

We need volunteers! Please be in touch with Jodi

Thursday May 16 6-8pm

6-6:30 social, 6:30-8pm

Santa Margarita Library, intersection of Murphy and I St.

Theme: TBD

June:

Tuesday 6/4

Mid-State Fair entry for honey are due June 4

<https://www.midstatefair.com/fair/contest-information.php>

Thursday 6/20 5:30-7:30pm

6445 Corral De Piedra Edna Valley (off of HWY 227)

Follow dirt road until the end.

Bring chairs, jackets and veils, and questions 😊

Theme: How to check your summer hive

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What to expect in your hive in March and April

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

What the bees are doing?

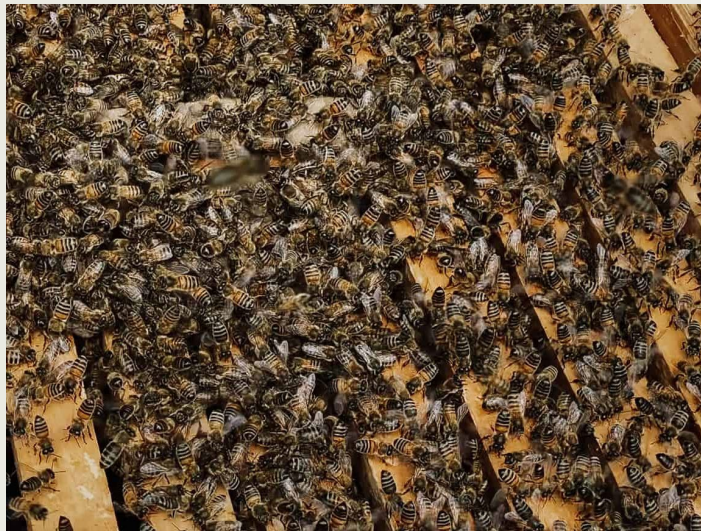
- Hives are increasing population
- Swarming
- Recovering from Varroa mites, viruses, protein deficiency
- During poor weather bees are rapidly consuming stored honey
- Storing surplus honey

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

- Requeening hives that show persistent spotty brood patterns or Varroa mites
- Making early divides to prevent overcrowding
- Adding honey supers to prevent overcrowding; checkerboarding supers (see page 3)
- Monitoring for Nosema
- Raising queen cells

Common Problems

- Weak hives due spotty brood patterns
- Overcrowding results in swarming
- Nosema weakens the hive's forager population
- Varroa mites cause parasitic mite syndrome
- Spotty patterns due to a lack of nutrition, virus, and/or mite problems
- Argentine Ants
- Spontaneous loss of queen bee
- Honey bound—Hive becomes queenless after running out of space to store honey



Overpopulated hive. Solution—add a box on top!

Photo: Homegrownhopes.com

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Spring time is swarm time

#beekeepinghack Catching Swarms

What to ask before you leave
What to bring

What to ask before you leave

Questions for the person reporting the swarm

How long has the swarm been there?
How big is it? (A baseball, a cantaloupe, a football, a watermelon)
Where is it located? How high off the ground?
Is the location visible from the road? Is it publicly accessible or is it on private land? Who can let me in?
Can you please send a photo or, even better, a video?
We request a \$XX (e.g. \$25) donation for gas and our time. Is that ok?

Swarm Catching Kit

What to bring when you are chasing a swarm

There are many variations for a swarm catching kit depending on how big the swarm is, where it is located, how long it has been there, what the weather is like, and even what time of day it is. However, below are the basic essentials of a kit and reasons for each item.

1. Protective gear (jacket, veil, gloves, thick pants, boots)-Although most swarms are gentle, one should always be prepared.
2. A nuc box or five-gallon bucket—You need some place to put the bees. I have a five-gallon bucket (Thank you Sue H.) that is amazing at gathering the bees and catching all the flyers by using a funnel at the top so they can go in but cannot get out. Nuc boxes are more efficient (no transfer) but they are heavier and cannot be hung.
3. A white sheet or towel—This is to put below the swarm in case some of the cluster (and the queen) falls on the ground.
4. A sign, caution tape, or cone—No need to draw attention to oneself, but it is good to let people know what is going on, especially if you leave the box unattended.
5. A queen clip and green marker (2024 are green queens)—In case you find her, you can give her a bit of paint color (for the year) and put her where you want her.
6. A feather or brush—Often the bees are in some nook or cranny and need a little push to get into the box.
7. Repellant—This is to spray the area where the bees were so that they do not return. They sell commercial repellant but a few drops of peppermint or vanilla extract with water in a spray bottle works for me.

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

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8. Hand pruners and 2-3" loppers—You may need to cut branches to get to the bees and sometimes you can cut a branch and put the whole bivouac in the box.
9. A rope with a carabiner or knot mechanism—Swarm way up in a tree? That is where the scouts are going to return to. Use a rope (or paracord) to hang your box/bucket from that branch helping the scouts return to their family in the box.
10. Old, dirty frame of comb—Bees are attracted to old comb. If bees are on the ground, lay the comb next to them and they will walk right onto it. Then shake them into the box.
11. Duct tape—So versatile and useful. Just bring it.
12. Medication—Children’s chewable Benadryl and perhaps an EpiPen (keep cool).

Extras

Ladder—You should know if you need one or not before you leave.

Sugar syrup in a spray bottle—I have found this distracts bees as they focus on licking the syrup from one another rather than that they are stuck in a box.

Water to hydrate yourself and wet your towel—If it is a warm day and the box will be in the sun, the bees will become too hot and start to die. Wetting the towel you brought and covering the bucket can keep them cool.

Smoker, fuel, lighter—Bees generally run from smoke and so smoke can be used to get them in the right direction; you can smoke yourself if they become aggressive.

A pole—If your bucket has an attachment, this enables you to reach much higher and “bump” a branch so the cluster will fall into the box.

Business cards—People want to know who to contact if they run into another swarm.



Ryan’s swarm kit

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Become a CCBA Member for 2024

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](#) (~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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