

CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPING ALLIANCE



Caring for your protective equipment is important for your safety and the health of your apiary

Photo [credit](#)

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](#)
[Caring for your suit and gloves](#)
- **Have a question? Ask the Club!**

Club Updates

-Become a Member!

*See [page four](#) for more information

*Or 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 16 6-8pm

Santa Margarita Lions Club

22501 I St, (next to the Library), Santa Margarita

Theme: Protective gear, requeening difficult hives, splitting hives, and [Bees and Water](#)

June:

Tuesday 6/4

Mid-State Fair entry for honey are due June 4

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

Club Meeting

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

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

Follow the dirt road until the end.

Bring chairs, jackets and veils, and questions!

Theme: How to check your summer hive

Edited by Ryan Alaniz, Master Beekeeper

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](#)

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(Photo [credit](#))

#beekeepinghack

Caring for your suit and gloves

Washing gear regularly:

- Maintains a more hygienic and sanitary apiary
- Prevents disease from spreading between hives and apiaries
- Prevents bees from being drawn to you. Your jacket and gloves will have the scent of previous bee sting venom, dead bees, and pheromones. Washing removes these scents (so you might be stung less!)
- Ensures your equipment will last longer

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

If you are like me, you don't think much about your jacket, veil, or gloves unless you are wearing them. Out of sight, out of mind, right? That is, until they are so dirty, stinky, and sticky that they become a hindrance to working the bees. Indeed, if you ever wondered why bees will not leave you alone, it may be because you smell like a hive--propolis stains, honey drips, melted wax, and bee pheromones. It is time to wash your gear.

Jackets, full suits, and veils

Jackets and full suits are quite easy as they are often made of cotton and are durable. But before you throw it into the washing machine, take these initial steps. First, remove the veil. The veil is delicate and should NOT go in the machine. You can take a soft bristle brush and a bowl of water with detergent (even dishwashing detergent will work) and scrub the inside and outside taking care not to damage the fabric. When in doubt, check the manufacturer's instructions. Second, check your pockets! You don't want the odd queen marker getting loose and coloring your white jacket. Third, take some time to pre-treat stains on your jacket and/or full suit. Use the scrub brush, detergent, and cool water on stains. Propolis, the sticky stuff that seems to be a permanent challenge, can be addressed with a 1part dish soap and 1 part white vinegar solution pre-treatment. Finally, you can either wash your jacket/suit in a sink or bathtub by hand or put it in the washing machine. It is **not** advisable to place any other materials in the machine at the same time.

Gloves

There are many opinions about *if* people should wear gloves and what kind of gloves (nitrile vs. gardening vs. canvas vs. leather) they should wear. Since the majority of folks wear leather gloves, here are some strategies to ensure they do not spread disease and will last multiple seasons. Like your jacket, it is best to clean off any dirt, wax, propolis, and honey before washing your gloves. One easy way to remove wax and propolis is by placing the gloves in a bag in the freezer for a few hours. The material should then flake off.

Once the debris is off, fill a bucket with cool water and a little dishwashing detergent. Either put your hands into the gloves and rub them together like you are washing your hands or simply wash one at a time with a bristle brush (or do both methods). Next rinse with clean water, wring out any excess, and hang dry. Finally, it is advisable to add leather conditioner to prolong the life of the leather.

Clean, sanitary gear will make working the bees more enjoyable, protect you from stings, and protect them from the transfer of diseases.

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Become a CCBA Member or Renew your Membership

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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