

Bee Friendly

A Newsletter of the New Mexico Beekeepers Association



Talking Africanized Bees at the Organic Farming Conference

By Kathy Grassel

By now, everyone, whether a beekeeper or not, has heard of Africanized bees. Before the African queens got away in Brazil, we thought—more or less correctly so—that a honey bee was a honey bee. After all the horror stories we heard in the 1970s about marauding “killer bees” in Central and South America, we thought—not correctly so—that we here in North America didn’t need to worry. Amy Owen, NMBKA member and past board member, in her talk at the 2020 New Mexico Organic Farming Conference

in February, brought home the reality that Africanized honey bees are here and have been since 1990—at least in our border states up to latitude of 34 degrees. Albuquerque is, whew, 36 degrees, but Burqueños who again thought they didn’t have to worry, think again, the bees are here, too. What Amy emphasized to her audience is to fear not, that these bees can be managed. We need to adjust our beekeeping practices to account for increased defensiveness as well as wisely consider placement of our apiaries away from population centers.

How to know if Africanized bees moved to your hives? Physically, the European and Africanized honey bee look the same. You may think your bees are gentle, and maybe they were, but Africanized workers have been known to sneak into hives, the workers spreading the queen’s pheromones, so your once gentle bees are now going defensive. Amy says that one way to know is if you notice the hive sending out more guards to defend. They can be defensive as far as 50 feet. They

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From the President

Communication tops the list of plans that a new NMBKA has in mind.

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Nucs, Splits, and Queens

John Gagne delivers the skinny on managing all those bees in the spring season.

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Rosemary--Beloved by Bees

Allison Moore tells us all the details about this early blooming perennial.

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Spring 2020

Our newsletter is a quarterly publication of the New Mexico Beekeepers Association (NMBKA).

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Report from the President

By Stephen Black, President, Board of Directors, NMBKA

Saludos compañeros apicultores! Greetings fellow beekeepers! Selection of the new NMBKA Board members took place as scheduled at the conclusion of our winter conference on February 1. In addition to last year's board members Frank Gibbons, Kathy Grassel and Lu Lu Sage, five new members were added which will undoubtedly add new voices and energy to the organization. As per our bylaws, the board then elected four new officers and I am excited and honored to have been elected the next President of NMBKA.

I have been a member of NMBKA since the start of my beekeeping career, which began almost three years ago after I retired from a career in engineering management at Los Alamos National Laboratory. I am proud to have been asked to play a role with a great team of folks who have stepped up to keep NMBKA moving forward.

Our recent winter conference was a huge success with many attendees, and two days of stimulating presentations, including several by author Hilary Kearney of "Girl Next Door Honey" fame and Megan Mahoney reporting her research in Hawaii concerning VSH queens. Now that our winter conference is in the books, we have

already begun the planning process for the summer conference on August 8th to feature Randy Oliver of Scientific Beekeeping and a regular contributor to *American Bee Journal*. As our planning matures, we will certainly be mindful of state and local policies and guidance regarding the convening of large groups during the worldwide outbreak of coronavirus (Covid-19).

For me, hive inspections during this time of "social distancing" are more appreciated than ever. I am a second year Certified Beeks student looking

forward to completing my schooling. As a relatively new beekeeper, I have been lucky to be able to take full advantage of the mentoring offered by several NMBKA members with more experience.

I would like to thank Craig Noorlander, Jeremy McKeller, and Meghann Dallin for their efforts and leadership while serving on the board this past year.

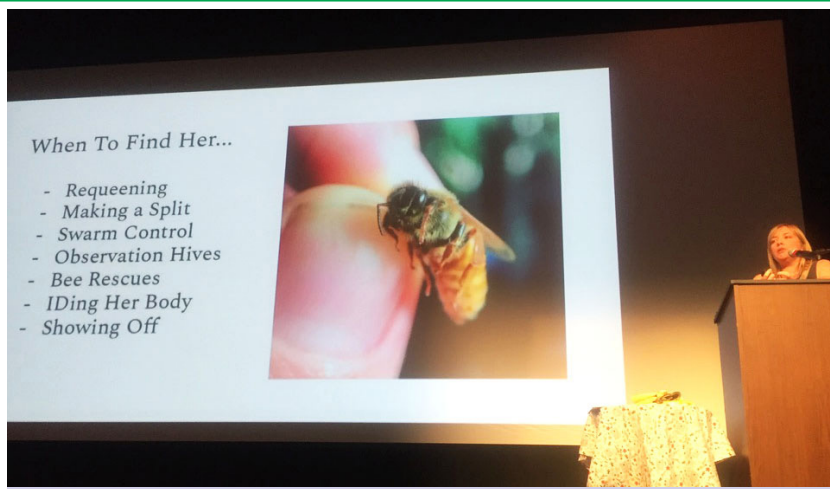
I look forward to

talking with those of you that I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting and hearing your ideas on how to continually improve the association and therefore the benefits of membership.

Watch for updates and new information on the NMBKA website and please remember, "Bee Kind"...to yourselves and others!



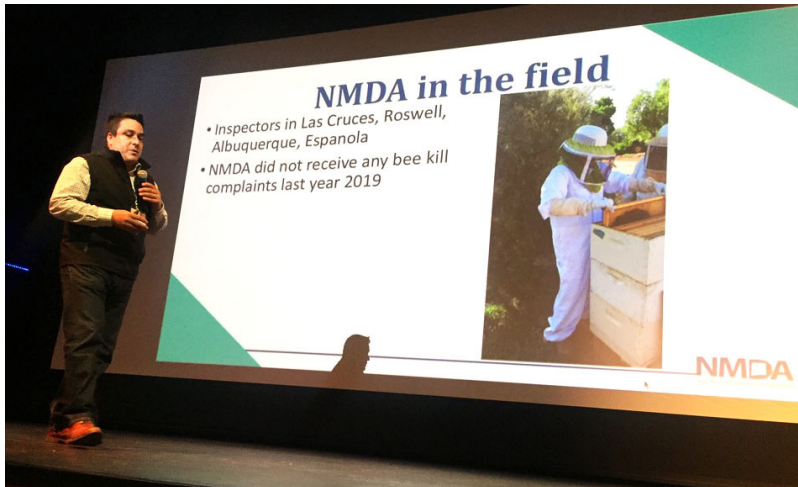
Bringing home my very first nuc ... haven't wiped the smile off my face since!



Hilary Kearny came from San Diego and gave us talks on Queen Spotting, Common Mistakes New Beekeepers Make, and Storytelling Techniques. Her popular blog is "Girl Nextdoor Honey."



New Mexico welcomed back Megan Mahoney, born and raised in Albuquerque. Megan has been away in Hawaii working as a project coordinator for a specialized VSH (varroa sensitive hygiene) breeding program. She gave us two talks--one on her VSH experience and the other on pests (especially varroa) and diseases in bees.



Steve Baca has served for many years in the Pesticide Compliance Section at the NM Department of Agriculture. He keeps us informed of evolving policy around pollinator protection.

2020 Annual Conference

Many thanks to all the speakers:
 Hilary Kearny
 Megan Mahoney
 Steve Baca
 Lu Lu Sage
 Anita Amstutz
 John Gagne
 Olivia Carril
 Sue George and
 Sara Van Note
 ...and to all the vendors and silent auction donors.

The multi-purpose room was packed with conference goers visiting the many vendors and sampling their wares. Pictured is Lee McKeller and daughter Kaylee. Lee and husband Jeremy, who everyone knows from the registration table, are moving to Alaska. It won't be the same without them!



Springtime in the Bee Yard: Prepping for Splits

By John Gagne, San Juan Apiaries, Santa Fe, NM

I know everyone has bee fever so wanted to let beekeepers know about what's happening in the yards. I finally got out last week for a few days and started feeding some 50/50 sugar syrup. Tons of pollen coming in. In my many years of keeping bees in this area I have never seen the need to feed artificial pollen, especially in the spring. I have noticed that many people like to buy the pollen substitute and try to pump up their bees a little. For me that would be yet another expense that I don't find necessary. Remember, there is not one ingredient in any of the pollen substitutes that bees could find naturally.

PREPARING FOR A SPLIT

I plan on starting to make up splits around April 15th. Nucs will be allowed to grow into a 5-frame box and expand. If not enough nectar is being brought in, they'll get at least one round of feed.

Personally I start *reversing* my colonies as soon as the weather warms up to set them up for spring expansion. Basically, tear the hive down, scrape off the bottom board and put the box with the most bees in it on the bottom, then place the other boxes with empty comb back on top of the cluster. It all depends on how many boxes you're using for a set-up. Usually when I reverse I try to take away one of the empty boxes and condense the



equipment and confine the bees. This allows them to rear brood faster. At this time the more robust hives with the best brood are marked for "split" in around two weeks.

DIVIDING A COLONY

There are lots of different ways to make colony divides. Last spring I made up around 40 5-frame nucs. Then in early July I make up more nucs that over-winter in a double nuc set-up. An easy way to make a split is to take 2-3 frames of brood with adhering nurse bees from a strong hive and place them in an empty box on top of the colony above a queen excluder. If you're not sure where the queen is, or you don't see her, you can simply shake the bees off down into the cluster (gently). You don't want her in the top box with the elevated brood. You can fill in the empty frames if it's a 10-frame box, or do like I do and place a 4-frame nuc box on top of the excluder and just place a board over the rest of the space to seal things up. The next morning

you simply go back into the yard with your empty 5-frame nuc boxes all set up and open the donor hives and take the frames of bees and brood. This process works well because you know for certain that you're not taking the queen, and you don't have to waste time looking for her either. Put those frames into your empty nuc box and add another frame of comb or foundation. I then take mine to another yard

3 or 4 miles away. Do not short them of food reserves. Make sure they have a lot of honey or feed them for a couple weeks.

Option #2: If you're stacking brood like this to take for new splits and you happen to see the queen (you most often see her if you're not looking for her), you can take her and some brood and let her head up the new nuc. I do this *walk-away split* technique a lot when I find my year-old queens. Start looking for the hives that are making lots of ripe queen cells for swarm preparation. After doing this type of split I shut them up and wait 28-30 days before I look for eggs or larva. I never open them up until then. This allows your new queen to hatch, mate, mature and start laying. My success rate for this kind of split is high, probably 9 out of 10 times. These queens are generally very good queens as they came from strong healthy genetics--a good queen mother--and the bees themselves raised them as they would

WORKING THE BEE YARD—CONT. ON PG. 5

WORKING THE BEE YARD—CONT. FROM PG. 4



Example of an overwintered double nuc

normally be raised to supersede or replace a swarm queen. This almost always knocks the swarming instinct out of them as now they are queenless and attention is placed on preparing for their new queen. These are not *emergency cell queens*, rather are the best queens raised under the best spring-

time conditions. You can't ask for anything better than that. This process of knocking your strong hives down so they don't swarm, and giving them plenty of room to store surplus nectar is what makes a honey crop, and at the same time provide you with a new locally raised queen from your own stock.

INTRODUCING THE QUEEN

Normally I only wait a few hours before introducing a new queen. The most reliable method that I have found is to use push-in queen introduction cages. Place the new queen (without attendants) underneath the cage over some brood, emerging brood, and empty cells. Normally within a day she will acclimate and start laying eggs in the empty cells. At that point she is not just a mated queen, but also a laying queen. Her pheromones also change, and the likelihood of her being rejected when you release her are very slim, provided there is not another queen

present in that hive. I release the queen on day 4, but before you remove the cage look over ALL the other frames to be sure that there are no other fresh eggs present. If there are, remove that new queen because they'll just kill her.



Example of a push-in queen intro cage

John Gagne has been keeping bees since 1984. He moved to Santa Fe in 1981 and started San Juan Apiaries. He specialized in honey production and nucleus colony management. In 2018, he was the recipient of a SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) grant in which he established mite resistant nucleus colonies using USDA Russian and VSH queens. He presented his results as a speaker at the NMBKA annual conference on Feb. 1, 2020.

Glyphosate Harms Bees! There are Alternatives

By Anita Amstutz, Think Like a Bee

To beekeepers and neighbors of beekeepers, for those of you who know me, you know how much I care about bees. Losses have soared. I lost 5 of 7 hives this winter. I worry that what affects the bees affects humans and all animals. The chain of life is so interlinked. Spring is here and weeds are growing fast as the weather warms. Roundup use soars among back/front yard users at this time, especially under the names Preen/Pre-emergent, etc. If you want alternatives, please check out this excellent article by the [Xerces Society](#). Science studies with invertebrates show that bees are weirdly attracted to these fun-

gicides and herbicides and actually like them because of their "sweet" taste. Deaths are three times higher when exposed. Scientists think they are trying to find new sources of food as the usual sources are changing/disappearing. A quote from <https://magazine.scienceconnected.org/2018/02/honey-bees-attracted-common-fungicide-herbicide/>, "Glyphosate, the world's most widely used herbicide and one long touted as harmless to animals, might be taking a toll on honey bees. The chemical appears to disrupt the microbial community in the bees' digestive system, making them more vulnerable to infection." I encourage everyone to

share this on your Nextdoor Neighbor social media groups and other community networks or social media.

If you have any questions about pollinators and safe practices, check out **Burque Bee City** and **Think Like A Bee** on Facebook! Happy Springtime!

Anita Amstutz has a popular blog post called "Think Like A Bee," and her not-for-profit by the same name. She was instrumental in getting the City of Albuquerque designated as a Bee City USA, the first in the Southwest. Anita is a member-at-large on the NMBKA board.

Rosemary, *Rosmarinus officinalis* – One to Remember

By Allison Moore, Landscape Architect and NMBKA board member



Even before spring, we have had enough warm winter days in Albuquerque to coax flowers from some early bloomers such as the aromatic

Rosemary. Rosemary is a reliable perennial here in Albuquerque and in most of the southern part of New Mexico but may be more of a tender perennial to almost an annual plant in areas north including Santa Fe and Taos. Whether is a perennial or annual in your specific area; Rosemary deserves a spot (or two) in your garden for its beauty, usefulness and also as early food source for all pollinators.

Here in Albuquerque we can grow both the upright *Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Tuscan Blue' and low growing varieties such as *Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Prostratus'. In northern New Mexico the hardiest variety is the upright growing *Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Arp'. Originally from the Mediterranean region of the world Rosemary

prefers hot temperatures, full sun and dry well drained soil conditions. It especially loves a southwestern exposure in elevation over 6500' and will do well against a rock wall or boulder to take advantage of the extra radiant heat. Rosemary grows well with other herbs, perennials, and grasses such as Lavender, *Salvia greggii* (Autumn Sage), *Oenothera macrocarpa* (Missouri Primrose) and *Nasella tenuissima* (Mexican Feather Grass). As mentioned above it has light blue flowers in spring and early summer and may bloom sporadically throughout the summer. The foliage is a finely textured needle and creates a wonderful evergreen contrast with colorful flowers and soft grasses.

Rosemary is often referred to as the herb for remembrance, most notably in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* where Ophelia states, "There's rosemary, that's for remembrance." It is also associated with fidelity, constancy, and love. Rosemary makes a wonderful ingredient in many recipes from marinades to stews and also as last minute skewers for vegetable shish kabobs. Medicinally, Rosemary is considered one of

the best sources of antioxidants, extremely beneficial for the immune system and recommended to treat the respiratory system, skin issues, the circulatory system, and brain health. These treatments could be in the form of infusions (teas), tinctures, and ointments or salves.

Infused Honey recipe

One of my favorite ways to enjoy herbs is as medicinal food; more specifically as an infused honey. In this form you receive the benefits of the herb as well as the honey. The honey can be either eaten straight from a spoon or mixed in with a tea. This recipe uses the fresh flowers from the Rosemary plant but the entire plant (except for the roots) can also be used for a more pungent and intense flavor.

- In a medium pan heat 1 quart of honey over low heat until is just warmed through. It is very important to maintain a slow and low temperature and not bring to a boil.
- Add ½ cup finely chopped fresh herbs or whole flowers and continue heating for 15 to 20 minutes.
- Pour the mixture into a glass canning jar or other heat tolerant glass jar and close tightly.
- Label with ingredients and date - this mixture should be good for approximately 18 months stored in a cool dark location.

The infused honey will be stronger the longer that you let it sit. When ready to use you can either leave the herbs in the honey or gently warm and strain out the herbs before eating the honey.



AFRICANIZED BEES—CONT. FROM PG. 1

might also swarm on you. Amy says that genetically they are habituated to dearth so will swarm if they deem food supplies to be low.

Reproductively, the Africanized honey bee is more virile. The reproductive cycle is a full two days shorter, giving them a time advantage. Drones are also more insistent. European drones will be out for a couple hours;

Africanized drones are out all day!

So what to do? Amy lists suggestions. Use more smoke. Place hives five feet apart. Wear complete protective gear. For your own safety, let others know when and where you are working with Africanized bees. Requeen early

and often and hope that eventually they will calm down as European genetics take over. Locate Africanized hives away from population. They have been known to follow people, cattle, and vehicles for more than a half mile!

More suggestions: Always requeen a captured swarm. Mark your queen so you will know if Africanized have usurped your hive. Don't allow splits to raise their own queens. Flood



Amy Owen is calm inside her veil

your area with non-Africanized drones. Close up unused or weak hives.

So do Africanized bees have good characteristics? Do some beekeepers prefer them? Yes and yes. They are better pollinators. They are better honey producers. They are more resistant to Varroa mites.

For urban beekeepers, Amy says some cities have nuisance laws. If you suspect your bees are defensive, position your hives so their flight path is away from people. Don't let your bees swarm because of poor management. Know your bees! The more we know and educate others, the better we will all coexist.



Amy Owen inspects her hot bees

Think Like a Watershed

By Anita Amstutz, Think Like a Bee founder and NMBKA board member

THINK LIKE A WATERSHED: This is exactly what [Think Like a Bee](#) has been trying to do the past three years.

Because bees and all pollinators are so dependent on a healthy watershed for habitat, Think Like a Bee obtained a grant to film the voices of local farmers and Indigenous leaders along the Rio Grande Watershed. Interviewees shared what their families and communities have done for hundreds, even thousands, of years, to ensure a healthy watershed for all future life communities.

Think Like a Bee presented [one of these short documentaries](#) to a packed room at the 2020 New Mexico Organic Farming Conference, with time

for questions and shared farming tips. Not surprisingly, watershed was a recurring theme throughout the weekend, with many excellent presentations from generations of New Mexican farmers, such as Rudy Garcia from Medanales, NM, who has been creating regenerative soil and increased water efficiency through conscious, dense organic growing methods. In turn, keystone pollinators and plant species have thrived.

Think Like a Bee will continue to use the Rio Grande Watershed documentaries as pollinator education tools to ensure the future of healthy bees and engage communities in habitat/water conservation.



Welcome New Board

Fresh Faces, Fresh Ideas, as the New Board Digs In

Anita Amstutz, member of NMBKA, former co-facilitator of ABQ Beeks, and a graduate of the first Certified Beekeeper program, has been keeping honey bees for over 10 years. In 2015, she founded Think Like A Bee, a 501(c)3, to teach children, educate neighborhoods, and advocate with the City of ABQ for bee protection and conservation of habitat. She helped pass the pollinator protection resolution, Burque Bee City USA, in 2016. Anita is an Ohio native, has lived in ABQ for 18 years with a husband, half a million bees and two felines. She is an author, retreat leader, sings with the local ensemble Quintessence, works with program development at Ghost Ranch and loves time in the natural world, which is her true habitat.

Stephen Black came to New Mexico with his family from New York in 1988 for a “one year assignment” at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), fell in love with the “Land of Enchantment” and has lived here ever since. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Adelphi University. After more than 20 years at LANL, the last 10 years of which he led the Applied Engineering and Technology Division, Stephen retired three years ago and moved with his partner to Santa Fe. His retirement plan, which so far has been “wonderful and rewarding,” includes volunteer work with foster children and becoming a beekeeper. Stephen is an avid skier and beginner snowboarder, returning to Pajarito Mountain in Los Alamos most weekends in the winter. This is Stephen’s third year keeping bees and this year added a top bar hive to his two Langstroths. While he has yet to take much honey, their garden has truly benefitted from all the beneficial pollination. Stephen is currently enrolled as a second year student in the Certified Beekeeper program.

Frank Gibbons, Ph.D., is Emeritus Professor of Horticulture at Cal Poly Pomona and has also taught at Kansas State University. He is a retired U.S. Army officer with tours of duty in Germany and Vietnam, and as an Army reservist was

called back to active duty for the Gulf War. He started keeping bees in 1970 in his home state of Kansas, but quit after a few years when he moved to Iowa. He started beekeeping again in 2017 and graduated from the NMBKA Certified Beekeepers Program in 2018. Frank has both Langstroth and top bar hives. He currently lives in Santa Fe and plans a move to Tucson in the near future.

Kathy Grassel was raised on a farm in South Dakota where she remembers taming Hereford bulls for her father’s annual sale. She has held diverse jobs including working as an animal technician in a primate research lab (Holloman AFB), payroll accountant (Geneva, Switzerland), public radio reporter (Albuquerque), newsletter editor at the UNM Institute of Public Law, field data intern with US Geological Survey, and water resource specialist at the state engineer’s office. Since 1994, Kathy has taught Tai Chi Chih at venues ranging from jails to churches. She is a member of the Huning Highlands community garden where members plant for pollinators as well as for the kitchen. Kathy has been a long-distance runner and cyclist, now enjoying hiking, snowshoeing, bird photography, and of course beekeeping. This will be her fifth year as a beekeeper and is a 2018 graduate of the certification program. She attended her first NMBKA conference featuring Mark Winston, became a member and has been helping present the conferences since then.

Allison Moore originally hails from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia where she grew up in a family of artists, folklorists, landscape architects, and world travelers. She went to Virginia Tech and obtained a BA in Landscape Architecture. During a college internship at Sunset Crater National Monument outside of Flagstaff AZ, Allison fell in love with the southwest and vowed to return after college graduation. She lived and worked in Santa Fe for 25 years doing landscape gardening and design with several companies as well as ran her own business for five years. Allison also worked with Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails program as a project manager and was instrumental in

the renovation and expansion of the Santa Fe Rail Trail. Over the years she has acquired a design certificate in Permaculture Design and a certification in Botanical Medicine at Milagro Herbs in Santa Fe. Allison currently lives and gardens in Albuquerque with her dog Lucy and resident roadrunner. She is enrolled as a second year student in the NMBKA certification course and looks forward to keeping bees this summer as well as being a member-at-large for the NMBKA board.

Bob Reneau has enjoyed professional careers covering banking, software engineering, management in the computer industry and health industry, and database and accounting systems development—all the while beekeeping and applying his beekeeping expertise by holding beginning and advanced beekeeping workshops to share his knowledge. Bob has been a certified Master Beekeeper since 1979. He is the cofounder and immediate past president of the Paseo Del Norte Beekeepers Association in Las Cruces, NM, an organization that promotes beekeeping in southern New Mexico and El Paso County. Bob’s primary interest in serving on the board is promotion of local New Mexico beekeeping clubs, extending educational opportunities to them and making them more aware of the benefit from a closer affiliation with NMBKA.

Carrie Spates was raised in Texas and from there escaped to Alaska. Some of her Alaska memories include living without running water for six years and without electricity for two. She moved to Albuquerque from Alaska, and has been a resident here for the past 13 years. Her work has covered the spectrum of administrative jobs, accounting, fundraising, HR, the service industry, banking operations, and every customer service job you can think of. You could say Carrie is a generalist. Getting away from the stresses of life and work, look for Carrie out in nature or in front of microphone as a standup comedian. She’s new to beekeeping and is ready to begin the second year of the Certified Beekeeping program. As a brand new empty nester, she’s adjusting to the freedom of exploring her interests.

Report a Swarm

We have provided a list of our beekeepers that are available for collecting bee swarms in different areas of New Mexico. Give a beekeeper a call as soon as possible! This listing is also on the website nmbeekeepers.org. Click on Resources and select Report a Swarm. Any beekeeper group or individual beekeeper may ask to be included on the website list by contacting NMBKA at info@nmbka.org

What is a Swarm? A swarm is formed when a queen bee leaves the original colony with a large group of worker bees, usually in the spring and early summer, but can occur through fall. Swarming is a natural form of reproduction for honey bees. The bees can stay in the cluster for a few minutes to a few days, so call a beekeeper quickly.

Albuquerque Area

Albuquerque Beekeepers (ABQ Beeks)

Website: <https://abqbeeks.org/page/swarm-call-list>

Alamogordo & Ruidoso Area

Sacramento Mountains Beekeepers

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/483236118374096/>

Point of Contact: Rob Sheplar

Belen/Valencia County Area

Raymond Espinosa (505) 861-1693,
antiguasdelnorte@att.net

Bosque Farms Area

Ken Hays (505) 869-2369

Carlsbad Area

Efrain Nieto (575) 302-0737

Clovis Area

High Plains Beekeepers

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1670238479881226/>

Point of Contact: Paul Hopkins

Cotton City/Hildago County Area

Southwest NM Beekeepers

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2299960260060163/>

Point of Contact: Kyle Josefy
(575) 496-1037

Farmington Area

Jim Marquis (505) 861-2360

Las Cruces Area

Paseo Del Norte Beekeepers

Association

Website: <https://pdnbeekeepers.org/report-swarm/>

Point of Contact: Tom Soltero
(505) 934-2178

Red Rock / Grants County

Red Rock Honey Co.

Point of Contact: Lynn Whatley
(505) 269-8199

Rio Rancho Area

John and Laura Hunter (505) 366-9184

Roswell/Artesia Area

Pecos Valley Beekeepers Association

Point of Contact Hugo Hernandez
(505) 410-1781
email: hherna01@gmail.com
Kevin Thatcher (575) 973-7422

Santa Fe Area

Sangre De Cristo Beekeepers

Website: <https://sdcbeeks.org/report-swarm/>

Santa Teresa, Doña Ana County and El Paso County, TX

Paseo Del Norte Beekeepers

Association

Website: <https://pdnbeekeepers.org/report-swarm/>

Point of Contact: Josh Meier
(830) 357-8207

Silver City/Grant County Area

Grant County Beekeepers

Website: <https://www.grantcountynmbeekeepers.org/bee-removal>

Updated March 28, 2020.

Happenings

Craig Noorlander, past NMBKA president and owner of Papa Bear's Honey, gave a lecture on "The Art of Beekeeping" in Corrales this February. The Village Mercantile, a retail outlet of rural lifestyle products, sponsored the talk. According to Laura and John Hunter, who attended the event, it had an amazing turnout, standing room only with some 80 chairs provided, with close to 95 people in attendance. Interest in beekeeping is high! It was free to the public. The Mercantile holds talks once a month throughout the year, with beekeeping being one of the topics every year.



Concerns about spread of the coronavirus has resulted in a growing number of cancelled or postponed events in which NMBKA traditionally participates. All indoor meetings at the Open Space Visitor Center were cancelled for the near future, followed by the decision to cancel both Levels I and II classes of the Cert program for the year. Plans are to produce YouTube videos for the entire beekeeping community. The NMBKA board is holding its meetings via Zoom for the near future. We look forward to a return of normalcy; in the meantime we invite everyone to take all recommended precautions to stay safe and healthy.

Save the Date: Summer Conference Coming Up August 8th!



Meet Randy Oliver

NMBKA Summer Conference
Saturday, August 8, 2020

Randy Oliver has over 50 years of practical beekeeping experience, plus holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biological Sciences. Randy researches, analyzes, and digests beekeeping information from all over the world in order to not only broaden his own depth of understanding and knowledge, but to develop practical solutions to many of today's beekeeping problems, which he then shares with other beekeepers through his various articles in bee magazines, his speaking engagements worldwide, and on his website: www.ScientificBeekeeping.com

Randy owns and operates a small commercial beekeeping enterprise in the foothills of Grass Valley in Northern California. He and his two sons manage about 1500 colonies for migratory pollination, and produce queens, nucs, and honey.

Plan for a full day of talks and hands-on beekeeping, plus casual evenings of good food and socializing.

South Broadway Cultural Center
1025 Broadway SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102



Membership \$ Costs \$ Update

At our annual meeting after the conference on Feb. 1, our treasurer Jeremy McKeller spoke of a decline in NMBKA revenue coupled with rising costs, concluding that we must consider sustainability of our organization either by reducing our activities or by raising the cost of membership. Members voted in favor of an increase in fees, while expressing the desire that NMBKA give them added bang for their buck. The board has lots of ideas about how to make that happen. The board will be discussing options for pricing to keep it fair and affordable, and will probably opt to keep membership dues the same at \$30 and add a mild increase to conference admission, such that there will be options for mixing your participation based on your preferences. For 2020, membership remains at \$30 and will take you through the summer and winter conferences, any change taking effect in 2021. We thank you for your input and willingness to make NMBKA all that it can be!