

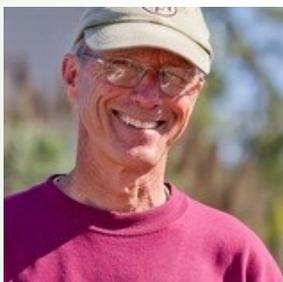
# Santa Barbara Beekeeper's Association



## President's Message from "The Bee Man"

### Inside this issue:

<i>Bee The Change</i>	2
<i>Summer Beekeeping</i>	2
<i>SBBA Membership</i>	2
<i>Sweet Start</i>	3
<i>Pollinator Friendly</i>	3
<i>Edible Santa Barbara</i>	3
<i>La Casa de Maria Apiary &amp; Classes</i>	4



I am happy to announce the publication of the first SBBA .org newsletter. This newsletter and subsequent issues will be an important part of this organization. It has been two years since SBBA.org was formed. SBBA.org has grown to become a GO TO organization to help the honeybee. I am truly amazed to see the rapid growth in member-

ship, the number of honeybee colonies that have been saved, and the proactive accomplishments that have occurred in the environmental arena. Our efforts to educate the public (and State Agencies) about Pesticide use seems to be paying off with the news this week that they will be considering Organic Treatments in the fight against the Asian Citrus Psyllid. Check out our [SBBA Blog](#) for regular updates. I have been a beekeeper for over 40 years, and have seen lots of great ideas to help save the honeybee. With the onset of hot weather, and as best beekeeping practice, it is important to maintain a close water re-

source for the bees. I came across this interesting watering system in an article published on the web:

<http://weekendhomestead.net/posts/how-to-water-honey-bees/>

The author suggests using a bucket with wire on the walls and corks to prevent the bees from drowning, and adding some drops of lemon balm as an attractant. Let me know how this honeybee waterer works in your apiary.

Bee Well and Bee Happy.

Paul "The Beeman" Cronshaw  
President, SBBA.org

### The Bees Need Your Help:

- Please consider making a [Donation to SBBA](#). Between Bee Rescues & Relocations, [Sweet Start](#), [Bee The Change](#) and our [Pesticide Awareness Program](#), you will not only be helping the honeybee, but also the environment that we share with her.

## Fund for Santa Barbara Supports SBBA

*The Fund for Santa Barbara* awarded SBBA a Multi-Year Grant totaling \$15,000 over three-years to support our work to increase public awareness of environmental concerns affecting honeybees. This was in addition to a \$2,500 grant last year for the Sweet Start Program. SBBA was also awarded an Emerging Need Grant for our outreach and

education work in the wake of spraying and soil application in Santa Maria and Goleta of pesticides that are highly toxic to bees and have been banned in Europe, and, most recently, that killed more than 50,000 bumblebees in Oregon. Last, but not least, SBBA leaders want to appreciate the Fund's Technical Assistance Program, whose staff have provided

regular one-on-one advice over the last year and most recently the opportunity to attend a fundraising workshop by nationally recognized grassroots fundraiser Kim Klein.



## Bee The Change & More Than Honey



JOIN  
PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK

[www.honeybeehaven.org/](http://www.honeybeehaven.org/)

[www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org)

On May 31, SBBA and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Los Angeles co-hosted a standing-room-only screening of the internationally awarded documentary, *More Than Honey*, directed by Markus Imhoof. This film takes viewers on a journey to meet people whose lives depend on bees: a Swiss beekeeper living in the Alps, almond farmers in California, a bee brain researcher in Berlin, a pollen trader in China. All report on how the bees are vanishing and

bring home the point that there is more at stake here than a few dead insects, and a great deal more than just honey. The audience of 400+ people were visibly moved by the film and many asked "what can we do?" To that end, SBBA has developed a set of recommendations so that everyone can help *Bee the Change*. We have set a goal of making Santa Barbara a *Honey Bee Haven*. It takes just 500 households committed to eliminating their own pesticide use and providing good habitat

for bees to put our county on the map. We further encourage Santa Barbara residents to learn more about the issue, spread the word to friends and neighbors, and begin to address the root causes of bee declines by adopting sustainable landscaping practices that enhance the resilience and productivity of our environment for bees and people, too.

## Summer Beekeeping in Santa Barbara



It seems that summer is here and you may find that your bees may just want to be left alone for the next couple of months. You will want to inspect the hive occasionally, but try to resist more than once a month until the fall. If you see them "bearding" out on the front porch, that means that

they are trying to keep things cool inside, and you may want to consider giving them an additional deep brood box or add a honey super to give them a little extra room. A good source of water nearby is very important. Varroa mite levels should be closely monitored this time of the year, along

with ants and yellow jackets. With all of the activity of the hives during the summer, it's a great time to just sit and watch them stumble in, laden with pollen and nectar. The "crash" landings when they are full of nectar is quite entertaining!

## SBBA Membership and How You Can Help



In just two years our little organization has grown to more than 150 members, mostly new backyard beekeepers. We come from all walks of life with a common goal... to help our friend the honey bee. As a member of SBBA you have the opportunity to visit apiaries, mentor someone or be mentored, take classes and use cool

equipment. *Membership* also helps fund bee rescues and educating the public on the plight of the honey bee. You get all that and more for only \$25./yr. Family or \$100/yr. Sponsor. SBBA to date has been 100% volunteer supported, but very soon will be hiring our first paid staff to assist with Sweet Start, our Pesticide

Awareness Program, the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) Alternative Treatment Program, Bee The Change and we will be adding several new beekeeping educational classes due to a huge demand from all of you. We are very busy bees! Please consider joining SBBA and/or making a *donation* to our 501(c) 3. The bees need your help.

## *Sweet Start-How Sweet it is!*

The vision of *Sweet Start* was originally Gina Jepson's (SBBA's founding Secretary) idea and was to provide Paul Cronshaw's students attending La Cuesta Continuation High School with quality coaching and job training that would give them experience and confidence for a future career path as beekeepers. The average age of beekeepers in this country is 65 and we need more beekeepers! Those willing to make a commitment to themselves, the bees and the community

will receive pre-job training and can apply for internships with commercial beekeeping businesses or will participate in setting up the Sweet Start Community Apiary that we are in the process of establishing alongside the Santa Barbara School District. *Sweet Start* graduates will be offered continued support through scholarships and career mentoring and our goal is to have their first Sweet Start Honey on the shelf in Whole Foods Markets this next spring.

We had 16 applicants for the first session, and selected the first 5 interns that have just completed their after-school classroom training with Paul. This summer we will work with them at a few of our local apiary sites, and involve them in several of our rescue projects. We will continue working with these 5 interns, and hope to involve them in mentoring and training another 5 interns when school resumes in the fall.



## *Pollinator Friendly Gardens*

As part of the SBBA's education outreach, a Sustainable Landscaping workshop was offered on June 8th in Montecito. The workshop was developed to educate homeowners how to design and maintain their yards in a safe manner to protect people, other animals including pollinators, plants and the environment. Corey Welles, Plant Health Care Co-

ordinator at Lotusland, presented the talk that included slides of healthy soil microbiology, the key to thriving plants. The talk was followed by a Q&A and a demonstration of non-toxic rodent trapping, organic fertilizers, compost tea and amendments. Handouts and resources were provided. Attendees were treated to a guided tour of the serene 4-

acre woodlands restored to its original splendor by homeowner Penelope Bianchi and her husband 14 years prior. The 100% chemical free property included a lake, chickens, composting, and abundant native landscape habitat earning the property a wild life preserve designation. For information on the next workshop, email Trish: [tsdbythsea@gmail.com](mailto:tsdbythsea@gmail.com).

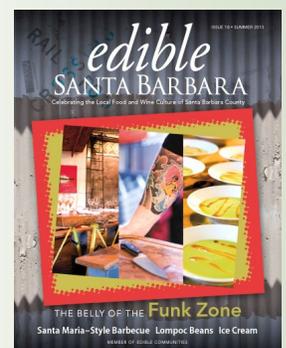


## *Edible Santa Barbara—2013 Summer Edition*

Be sure to pick up a copy of the summer issue of *Edible Santa Barbara*. The article "[Where Have All the Honey-bees Gone?](#)" by Krista Harris takes an in-depth look at the issue of how Santa Barbara beekeepers are facing the threat of pesticides.

The article and Krista's letter from the editor "Food For Thought" also tell a personal story about her experience as a beekeeper and losing a hive. In a sidebar accompanying the article, readers are given concrete suggestions for how to avoid using pesticides in their gardens and ways in which they can help the plight of bees.

For more information about where to find a copy, how to subscribe or to access online articles, visit [www.EdibleSantaBarbara.com](http://www.EdibleSantaBarbara.com).



# Santa Barbara Beekeeper's Association

1503 West Valerio Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**BEE LINE: 805-699-6229**

**EMAIL: [beewellbeehappy@sbba.org](mailto:beewellbeehappy@sbba.org)**

*(Send us your email address if you would like to be added to our "paperless" distribution list)*

The Santa Barbara Beekeeper's Association is dedicated to the promotion and advancement of beekeeping through best management practices, the education and mentoring of people about honey bees and beekeeping, and increasing public awareness of environmental concerns affecting honey bees.

---

Find us on the web:

[www.sbba.org](http://www.sbba.org)

---



bee well & bee happy



SBBA would like to thank the following supporters:

- The Fund for Santa Barbara
- Whole Foods Market
- Orfalea Foundation
- La Casa de Maria
- Lotusland
- SB County Agricultural Commissioner
- SB Board of Supervisors
- Santa Barbara School District
- SB Residents for helping to Save the Bees!

## *La Casa de Maria Apiary & Beekeeping Classes*

Santa Barbara Beekeepers Association has forged a new alliance with La Casa de Maria Retreat and Conference Center in Montecito. The Center serves many non-profits and faith-based organizations, as well as offering its own programs and individual retreats. This new alliance began with a meeting between Todd Bebb and Paul Cronshaw of SBBA and LCDM director, Stephanie Glatt, and program director, Juliet Spohn Twomey. SBBA brought forward the offer of providing a place for "rescue hives" at La Casa, renewing the existing apiary, and offering classes to current or aspiring beekeepers. Up until a few

years ago, the apiary at the center was a healthy one, providing a constant supply of home-grown honey for the center's guests. La Casa staff eagerly accepted the offer, pointing out that this would be a perfect match and is in alignment with La Casa's fourth goal—to renew the environment. Further, the 26 acres at La Casa provide a 3.5-acre organic orchard in the center of the property, with ample room—and need—for resident bees.

Two level-one classes—filled to capacity—have already been presented by Paul Cronshaw. Participants report enthusiastically about the content of the

classes—honeybee society and biology and resources for beekeeping—as well as the hands-on aspect—actually suiting up, inspecting the hives and handling the equipment. Additional level-one classes, as well as a level-two class, will be listed in the SBBA Newsletter and on the LCDM website, [www.lcdm.org](http://www.lcdm.org).

