Beekeepers to discuss their future in Tahoe



The California State Beekeepers Association is meeting in Stateline Nov. 19-21. Photo/John Miller

By Kathryn Reed

Survival of the honeybee is of much greater importance than whether or not there will be honey on store shelves.

“We are having a hard time keeping bees alive … mostly the honeybees,” John Miller, president of the California State Beekeepers Association, told *Lake Tahoe News*. “Domestic honeybees are the global champions of pollination and honey production. They may be the most beneficial insect on Earth.”

But their habitat is shrinking as farmers plant nonnative crops that then take away areas for bees to forage.

Some of this is happening in North Dakota – one of three locations where Miller operates Miller Honey Farms. (The other locales are in Newcastle in Placer County and in Idaho.) North Dakota farmers are planting soybeans and corn on land that once was “summertime pasture for bees in California.”

This is one of the topics that will be discussed Nov. 19-21

during the state organization’s annual meeting at Harrah’s Lake Tahoe.

“We are the gatekeepers of the food supply. Thirty percent of what people now eat in America is directly traceable to honeybees,” Miller said.

The afternoon session on Nov. 19 will be about improving access for honeybees as well as the link between bees and almonds. Miller said the two are co-dependent.

“Without the bees, the almond industry will not continue to thrive and prosper, and without the almond industry, the beekeeper business model will fail,” Miller said.

What people are putting on their crops is of importance too, because bees consume pesticides and herbicides. Even the average homeowner should avoid applying pesticides in the middle of the day when “pollinators are visiting.”

Miller says the domestic-European honeybee is the most productive bee. All fruits with a pit benefit from them, as do pumpkins, kiwis, apples and berries, to name a few foods.

“As we become more wealthy as a planet, we improve our diet. As we improve our diet, we buy more of the foods that are dependent on bees for pollination,” Miller said. Without bees, he said, people will be eating a whole lot more corn and rice.

What groups like his can do is advocate for conservation programs to be reinstated. Miller said for various reasons a lot of public land is not available to beekeepers.

“We have to be the voice for our living. There is no government program,” Miller said.

He pointed to the Placer Land Trust as an entity that has been good to beekeepers. The group planted a seed mix that is a benefit for native species and pollinators.

While bees on their own fly from area to area pollinating plants and creating nectar, it is the beekeepers like Miller and his brethren who bring the bees in large numbers to farmers.

They are portable as they happily live in a hive. Some people are hobbyists, while others make a living as beekeepers. It’s not unheard for a beekeeper to have 10,000 hives.

The beekeepers can then make honey, which comes from just about every state. Flavors are all over the board, and this is because the bees are foraging on so many different plants.

Some facts about honey from Miller:

• Honey is the only food consumed by humans that is produced by an insect.

• The average honeybee will make only one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime.

• To make 1 pound of honey bees travel as far as 55,000 miles, getting nectar from more than 2 million flowers.

• A colony produces 60 to 100 pounds of honey a year.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Raven

Raven is one of the few kittens at the shelter. He just arrived from the Placerville shelter.

He is so friendly and playful that he'll fit into just about any household. And look at his smile! Raven is 4 months old and very sweet.

Raven is neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated. He is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes.

Go online to see photos and descriptions of all pets at the shelter.

Call (530) 573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go online.

– Karen Kuentz

Letter: LTCC gives time,

money to Bread & Broth

To the community,

“Serving at Bread & Broth was fun and gives you a sense of fulfillment and being able to help those less fortunate,” said Randy Joslin, facilities director at Lake Tahoe Community College.

Joining Joslin at Bread & Broth’s dinner on Nov. 4 were Dave Burba, director of IT; Cheri Jones, director of enrollment services; Sue Saia, dean of students and academic support services; and Saia’s husband, Pete Gochis.

Bread & Broth would like to thank LTCC’s management team for donating $250 to sponsor the free dinner served at St. Theresa Church’s Grace Hall and the LTCC sponsor crew who stayed the entire evening and were eager to help the B&B volunteers in any way they could.

As the dinner service came to an end, Sue Saia said, “I’m so impressed with everything. Great food, great portions. The diversity of people who attend is amazing. I’d personally like to become a regular server.”

It was a great evening thanks to the generosity of the Lake Tahoe Community College’s involvement. The dinner guests raved about the mushroom stroganoff and roasted vegetables, the LTCC crew made jokes making others laugh. More than 90 community members received a nutritious, tasty and filling dinner.

Thank you Lake Tahoe Community College for your part in making South Lake Tahoe a caring community.

To help B&B as a donor or sponsor, please contact me at (530) 542.2876 or carolsgerard@aol.com.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth

NDOW releases 2 bears into the wild

Nevada Department of Wildlife officials this weekend released two nuisance bears back into the wild.

Employees from Wind River Bear Institute of Florence, Mont., helped NDOW, including on of the agency's Karelian bear dogs.

An 8-year-old female bear captured in Zephyr Cove on Saturday was released Sunday morning in the mountains above her capture site. The bear had never been captured before.

A bear captured on the west side of Carson City on Friday was released by NDOW on Saturday south of Gardnerville in the Carson Range. The male bear had been captured once before, in Washoe Valley, about three weeks ago.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

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Sierra Club drops challenge to Buffett buying NV Energy

By Cy Ryan, Las Vegas Sun

CARSON CITY – The Sierra Club is dropping its opposition to the $5.6 billion sale of NV Energy to billionaire Warren Buffett.

Buffett's MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co. reached the deal to acquire NV Energy, Nevada's primary electric utility, in May. NV Energy is the parent company of Nevada Power Co. in Las Vegas and Sierra Pacific Power Co. in Reno. It serves an estimated 2.4 million electric customers in Nevada.

A stipulation was filed Friday with the Nevada Public Utilities Commission in which the Sierra Club says that MidAmerican has agreed to continue plans to shut down the coal-fire Reid Gardner Power Plant, accused of being a major source of carbon dioxide air pollution.

Read the whole story

No reason to pay full price for lift tickets

By Janet Fullwood, San Jose Mercury News

Skiers and snowboarders are perpetual optimists who like to believe the coming season will bring more powder than ever before. While that's up to Mother Nature, one hard, cold fact is for sure: Peak-season rates at prominent resorts now top

$100 a day at the ticket window.

Snow-sports enthusiasts can just say “ouch” – or go online to save.

Taking their cues from airlines and hotels, mountain resorts are selling discounted lift tickets online and through smartphone apps, and pricing them according to anticipated demand. Many are also enlisting third-party resellers whose sophisticated platforms allow them to release a limited number of tickets at a given rate or otherwise change prices on the fly.

“Because resorts can control dates and volume, they can put out deals up to 80 percent off the walk-up rate,” says Ron Schneidermann, co-founder and CEO of Liftopia, a San Francisco-based site that is to snow-sports enthusiasts what Expedia is to air travelers.

“The airline industry did a good job of conditioning people to book in advance,” he adds, “and that’s what the ski industry is doing now. The focus is on advance-purchase, online bookings, whether through the individual resort websites or us.”

Season passes bought early in the year (the best deals dry up after Labor Day) offer the best value for those who plan to spend a lot of time on the slopes. But for those who can’t justify the cost or just want to try someplace new, advance purchase of a date-specific lift pass can bring significant savings of 10 to 60 percent.

And it’s not just infrequent skiers who bite. According to Schneidermann, about one in five Liftopia customers holds a season pass to a resort other than the one for which they’re buying tickets online.

Read the whole story

Choirs to perform ‘For the Love of Music’

Tahoe Choir and Lake Tahoe Community College Chorus will be putting on two performances of “For the Love of Music.”

The first is Dec. 7 at 7:30pm in the Duke Theater at Lake Tahoe Community College in South Lake Tahoe.

The next performance is Dec. 8 at 3pm at St. Theresa Catholic Church, 1041 Lyons Ave., South Lake Tahoe.

The cost is $10 for adults and $8 for students/seniors.

Hospitality Holidays launching in Kings Beach

North Tahoe businesses, restaurants and residents will kick off the holiday season with Hospitality Holidays, a first-time North Tahoe event that will pair food tastings and live music with local vendors and a silent auction.

The free event is Dec. 4 at Kings Beach’s North Tahoe Events Center from 5-10pm. It is being put on by the North Lake Tahoe Chamber/Convention Visitors Bureau/Resort Association.

DJ One Truest and Sneaky Creatures will play live music, and Tahoe Flow Arts Studio will perform at the event. The event will feature food tastings from a variety of local restaurants

and beer from event sponsor Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. at the no-host bar.

Other event activities include a photo booth where attendees can take photos with Santa, a raffle and silent auction.

For more information, call Ginger Karl at (530) 581.8764.

Meyers to light tree Dec. 6

The third annual Meyers Tree Lighting is Dec. 6 from 5-7pm.

The Meyers Community Tree is next to Divided Sky.

There will be cookies, hot chocolate, popcorn, Lake Valley's holiday fire truck, and Santa dropping in from the sky.

Feds develop program to better cope with drought

By John Flesher, AP

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Federal agencies will provide better and more accessible information about matters such as long-term weather prospects and soil moisture levels under a program designed to help communities prepare for future droughts and respond more effectively when they happen, Obama administration officials said Thursday.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration will lead the initiative, which grew out of a series of regional forums held in response to the 2012 drought, the most severe and widespread in more than 70 years. It covered more than two-thirds of the continental U.S. and caused more than $30 billion in losses from crop failures, wildfires and other ripple effects.



Regan Beach in South Lake Tahoe in late October. Photo/LTN

“We were very aggressive in responding to the drought but all of it was after the fact,” Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in an interview with The Associated Press. “We made money available for technical assistance after the fact. We provided disaster loan assistance and extended grazing aid after the fact. We purchased surplus product after the fact.”

With droughts likely to become more frequent and widespread as the climate warms, “we have to adjust to this new normal and we have to understand what it means to be proactive instead of just reacting,” he said.

Vilsack announced Friday the creation of the National Drought Resilience Partnership, which also will involve the Department of Interior, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Administration. The goal is to help communities and individual farmers, ranchers and others whose livelihoods are particularly vulnerable during low-water

periods to be ready and cope.

Read the whole story