

## [News from The Melissa Garden](#)

**Issue #2**

**April 2009**

Dear Friends,

We hope that you and your bees are thriving.

See below for our class and garden tour schedule. To register, send an email to [queenbee@themelissagarden.com](mailto:queenbee@themelissagarden.com), or leave a message at (707) 433-2114. Be sure to include both your email address and phone number when you make your reservation. We'll get back to you with details on where to mail a check and will send you a map to the garden. Note that we now have PayPal on our web site, too. We will be adding more classes as soon as we finalize some details, including an apitherapy class on bee venom therapy.



We have added lots more images to our Photo Album, including bee favorite plants that are labeled to help you in planning your garden. [Take a look!](#)

We also added recipes to our web site. We often serve treats that incorporate honey at our classes, everything from the Greek honey and sesame spread, Tahinomelo, and the Greek honey and sesame seed treat, Pastelle, to Honey Bran Muffins and Honey Oat Bars.

Also, check out the new link for Honeybee Communication. We had a session in February with interspecies communicator, Sharon Callahan. Sharon's prior communication with the bees is on [her web site](#). In it, she communicates that honey should be thought of as a sacrament, along with other profound and moving observations that validate the importance and high level of evolution of the bees. Sharon talked with the bees at The Melissa Garden and emphasized that love is what will keep the bees healthy, more than any other thing we can do for them.

In a few weeks, we will be adding links on our web site to other bee gardens and bee sanctuaries. The concept of bee sanctuaries clearly has "truth" to it, as so many people have told us they will be planting gardens specifically with the honeybees in mind.

Those who would like to start beekeeping in 2009 with Biodynamic beehives and would like information, please contact Michael Thiele at [gaiabees@gmail.com](mailto:gaiabees@gmail.com). The hives are

from a Biodynamic farm and apiary in Germany, and delivery can take up to 3 months.

Bzzzzzz!

Barbara, Jacques, Michael, Priscilla, Kate and Juan

### **Tours of The Melissa Garden, by Garden Designer Kate Frey**

#### **Garden Tour Date schedule for 2009:**

Friday, May 15 ~ 10 - 11:30 am  
Friday, June 5 ~ 10 - 11:30 am  
Friday, July 3 ~ 10 - 11:30 am  
Friday, August 7 ~ 10 - 11:30 am  
Friday, September 11 ~ 10 - 11:30 am  
Friday, October 2 ~ 10 - 11:30 am



Come experience the buzz and blossoms at our honeybee sanctuary with garden designer Kate Frey. We will have regular tours throughout the year on the first Friday of most months. Learn why we decided to create this special garden as a honeybee habitat, and about some of the honeybee and pollinator plants in our lush garden. One of our beekeepers will be on the tour to give a brief introduction to some of our "alternative hives." Wear comfortable shoes.

Fee: \$25.

*Kate Frey is an internationally distinguished garden designer who has been awarded two gold medals at London's Chelsea Flower Show. She worked for 18 years at Fetzer's organic garden in Hopland, CA which was used as a test plot for pollinators by Dr. Gordon Frankie at U. C. Berkeley. She now specializes in creating beautiful habitat and pollinator gardens.*

### **Holistic Beekeeping Series 2009: "Abundance & Propagation" with Michael Thiele**

**April 25, 2009: 10am-4pm**

As the bee season progresses, we adjust to the ever changing activities of the bees. This class will include everything about swarming & propagation and more summer topics. We will spend time at the biodynamic apiary of The Melissa Garden and talk about forage and gardens for honey bees & pollinators. In addition, we will explore simple, sustainable bee hive designs, with instructions on how to build them yourself.

Tickets : \$45.00

*Parts of the class will be outside - please dress accordingly and bring a bag lunch.*

**"Buzz and Blossoms for Kids" - a bee/pollinator program for children**

**May 13, 2009: 10am, 12noon, 2pm, 4pm**



We will offer insights into the life of the bees and their relations with the environment, with a gentle introduction into beekeeping. Bee hives will be opened and honey tasted. An opportunity to use all of our senses in exploring Mother Earth.

Fee: \$25

**"The Beehive - a Path Toward Contemplating the Human Soul" with Michael Thiele and Barbara Schlumberger**

**September 5, 2009: 10am-4pm**

Rudolf Steiner described the bee colony as being completely permeated by love. How can we today re-discover that love within us and how can bees become a deep inspiration to our life? For millennia humans included bees in their most sacred places of life. Monastic settings were always complemented by bee hives. Bees have been part of religious ritual and inspirational to culture and arts. This class invites everybody, beekeeper or not, to The Melissa Garden for a day of contemplation as well as a day of unusual exploration of ways in which bees can be a medium of inspiration for the human soul/heart. Participants are welcome to bring something to share, whether it's a poem, art or something else important to you.

Tickets : \$45.00

*Parts of the class will be outside - please dress accordingly and bring a bag lunch.*

*Michael Thiele grew up on a farm in a tiny village in central Germany. He has been deeply influenced by the German Biodynamic beekeeping movement. Michael lived with his wife and children at San Francisco Zen Center, where he was the beekeeper and received lay-ordination.*

*Barbara Schlumberger gets to live at The Melissa Garden with her husband Jacques,*

*Luke the Tibetan terrier and Horus the Peacock. She has been practicing "inspired beekeeping" for several years and takes great pleasure in the direct teaching the bees provide. It is a mutually beneficial and cherished relationship.*

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