

The Melissa Garden Newsletter

Issue #1

February 2009

Dear Friends,

We hope that you and your bees are thriving. It is still deep winter at The Melissa Garden, with very few blossoms right now. However, last year's phacelia re-seeded itself prodigiously throughout the orchard, and there are other signs of the imminent abundance of Spring. We did lose two of our hives over the winter, but the remaining hives are robust and, no doubt, already dreaming of swarming.



Tours of The Melissa Garden, by Garden Designer Kate Frey

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.

Kate Frey is an internationally distinguished garden designer who

Holistic Beekeeping Series 2009

"Awakening & Expansion" with Michael Thiele

February 7, 2009: 10am - 4pm



Preparing for the new bee season in the light of the "bien" -- the colony as a single complex entity. This day long class is for beginners as well as for practicing bee keepers. We will examine the life forces of the colony and explore natural & sustainable bee keeping practices. Among other topics, we will learn how to keep bees on natural comb and/or transition from foundation to comb (in any kind of bee hive). An additional feature of this class will be that participants can use "Melissa link", an email support link and resource for ongoing bee keeping questions.

Tickets : \$45.00

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

Those who would like to start beekeeping in 2009 with biodynamic beehives and would like information, please contact Michael at gaiabees@gmail.com. (Hives are from a biodynamic farm and apiary in Germany; delivery can take up

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.

Garden Tour Date Schedule for 2009:

Friday, March 6, 10-11:30 am

Friday, April 3, 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

Registration

Fee: \$25. Please register in advance by sending an email to queenbee@themelissagarden.com, or by phone: (707) 433-2114. Be sure to include both your email address and phone number when you make your reservation. We will email you a map and the address to mail your check to.

to 3 months).

"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 6, 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.

"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.

Bee Symposium 2009 with Gunther Hawk

The Honeybee Crisis: A Critical Point in Evolution - "Beekeeping that Respects the Colony as an Organism" - Holistic Solutions to Colony Collapse Disorder

Saturday, March 7, 2009: 9am-6pm

This year's symposium will explore our critical point in evolution, and what we have to do to protect the honeybees for the future. We are featuring Gunther Hawk, an authority on natural beekeeping. He has been a biodynamic gardener and beekeeper for 33 years. In 2006 he co-founded Spikenard Farm, Inc., a 610 acres farm with a honeybee sanctuary in its heart. The day will also include a Panel discussion with Gunther and local beekeepers: Kathy Kellison, Serge Labesque, Michael Thiele & Doug Vincent.

Location : Summerfield Waldorf School & Farm, 655 Willowside Road, Santa Rosa, CA -- Limited Parking - please carpool!

Tickets: \$45.00 (In Advance), \$50.00 (At the Door). Lunch included (yummy, organic, vegetarian, with a drink & cookie).

Ticket Purchase Options: 707-824-2905 (at beekind Honey Shop, 921 Gravenstein Hwy. 116 South in Sebastopol) and online at www.beekind.com

Additional Events with Gunther Hawk

"The Honeybee Crisis: A Critical Point in Evolution"

Friday Night Talk: March 6, 2009: 7:30-9pm

At Summerfield School & Farm

Tickets at the door only - \$10.00 (included with a Saturday ticket)

"Honey Bee Sanctuaries", An Intimate Conversation with Guenther Hauk

Sunday Brunch: March 8, 2009: 11 - 2pm

Come join a small group to hear from Guenther about the impulse in the world to create honeybee sanctuaries and share thoughts on the spiritual nature of the honeybees. At The Melissa Garden.

Tickets: \$35.00

Contact queenbee@themelissagarden.com or call (707) 433-2114. Includes catered brunch. (Part of the proceeds of this event will benefit two honeybee sanctuaries: Spikenard Farm and The Melissa Garden).

Sincerely,

Queen Bee
The Melissa Garden

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