
THE BEE LINE

The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 24, Number 5

June 1999

Tualatin Valley Club Hosts Bee Field Day

By Ray Varner

The Field Day at Bill Rufener's place in Banks was held on Saturday, May 22nd, and the sunny weather brought out old and new members alike. The Tualatin Valley Club hosted the new event, which may come to be held annually.

Bill Rufener opened the meeting and spoke about his colonies. He split his hives in April and gave many hints about what to do and not do in terms of feeding and relocating. Bill says he feeds back honey in a 60/40 solution (60% honey, 40% water) in hive top feeders.

Dan Hiscoe demonstrated the methods he uses for splitting hives. He also shared a queen cell rearing experiment and requeened both a split and a nuc with cells from this experiment. Dan will keep club members informed of the results.

Those attending were also invited to bring any extra new or used equipment they had on hand for an informal swap meet and garage sale. People had a chance to exchange ideas and even a few good stories. Bill even provided hot dogs for lunch. Thanks, Bill!



Bill Rufener works bare-handed...



...and with gloves to check brood pattern in split

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Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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To join the OSBA, complete the membership application in this issue and send with payment to: Phyllis Shoemake, 1874 Winchester NW, Salem, OR 97304

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OSBA members	\$ 2.00
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President's Notes

by Torey Johnson

Hope to find everyone in good health. Hopefully your bees are surviving swarming season. It seems that we are in for a season of extremes. It's going to either be really good or it's going to be really cool and wet. This normally spells swarms.

If you are having some problems try calling one of the OSBA State Reps (see page 10 for a listing each month). They can help, or refer you to someone who can, or at least tell you their swarm stories.

This talk about swarming brings me to a sore subject. Yep, I'm talking about scars, the kind that remind you that you're a beekeeper. There was the time when I grabbed my smoker (scar one) which was a little too hot. Then there was the time I fell through my hive stand and landed with my hand on top of my upright hive tool (scar two). And the time I was moving bees and stepped on a nail (scar three). And then there's the time I tried to beat the hive of bees down the hill. Yep, bee-ing a beekeeper, you have to "bee" tough, and hard, or as my family says: clumsy.

See you in the beeyard!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jun. 25 Deadline for *The Bee Line*

July 12-15 Western Apiculture Society Annual Conference Reno, Nevada (see related article)

Aug. 21 Annual Summer Picnic, Tillamook County. Details to be announced.

Sept.12-18 Apimondia, Vancouver BC
For further information visit web site:
<http://www.apimondia99.ca>

Oct. 28-30 NW Corner Fall Conference
Hood River. Details to be announced.

Sample Pollination Contract

Members from various clubs have asked to see what a pollination contract looks like and when a contract should be used. One member of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers provided a copy of what he uses, and suggests that it is always a good idea to use the contract when siting bees. The contract helps prevent misunderstandings and gives the grower and the beekeeper a written document that answers most questions. If others have different contracts they would share or comments to make about contracts, please contact the editor.

Pollination Contract

This agreement is made on (Month/Day/Year) between (Grower's Name) and (Beekeeper's Name). The term of this agreement shall be for the (Year) growing season.

Responsibilities for the beekeeper:

1. a. The beekeeper shall supply the grower with (number of) hives (colonies) of honeybees to be delivered to the (describe location).
- b. Approximate date of introduction: _____.
Number of days after written notice from the grower _____.
- c. The beekeeper shall locate said bees in accordance with the directions of the grower, or, if none are given, according to his judgment in providing the maximum pollination coverage.
- d. The beekeeper agrees to provide colonies of the maximum standard: _____ frames of brood; _____ frames covered with adult bees
- e. The beekeeper agrees to open and demonstrate the strength of colonies randomly selected by the grower.
- f. The beekeeper agrees to maintain the bees in proper pollinating condition by judicious inspection and supering or honey removal as needed.
- g. The beekeeper agrees to leave the bees on the crop until: Approximate date of removal: (List date). Days of written notice from grower: _____ (List days) Time in relation to the bloom (List

time).

Responsibilities for the grower:

2. a. The grower agrees to provide a suitable place to locate hives. The site must be accessible to a truck and/or other vehicles used in handling and servicing the colonies. The grower shall allow the beekeeper entry on the premises whenever necessary to service the bees, and the grower assumes full responsibility for all loss and damage to his fields or crops resulting from the use of trucks or other vehicles in handling and servicing such colonies of honeybees.
- b. **The grower agrees not to apply pesticide, toxic to bees, to the crop while the bees are being used as pollinators, nor immediately prior to their movement into the field or orchard if the residue would endanger the colonies.**
- c. The grower also agrees to properly dispose of all pesticide solutions in such a manner that the bees will not be able to contact the material while searching for a water source.
- d. The grower agrees to give the beekeeper 48-hour notice if hazardous materials not listed on this contract need to be applied. The cost of moving the bees away from and back to the crops to prevent damage from the toxic materials shall be borne by the grower.
- e. The grower agrees to provide adequate watering facilities for the bees, if none are available within one-half mile of each colony used in pollinating the crop.
- f. The grower agrees to pay for (Number of) colonies of bees at a rate of \$(Rate) per colony. Payment shall be made to the beekeeper at a rate as follows: \$(Amount) per colony of delivery and the balance on or before (Date) of said year. Additional moves or settings shall require \$(Amount) per hive per move.
- g. The grower is liable for theft or vandalism while the colonies are on the grower's property.
- h. The beekeeper is not responsible for any stings while the colonies are on the grower's property.

NOTE: In addition, some Pollination Contracts include supplemental information for the

(cont. on page 4)
(cont. from page 3)

grower. Following is an example:

A Grower's Dozen Do's

Notice unexpected colony removal.

Notice rain water accumulation.

Turn entrances toward the field, away from roads.

Establish flight paths and locations away from dwellings, parking lots, vehicular and foot traffic.

Avoid shady locations and low spots.

Provide "drives" for bee trucks and specific, enlarged "bee drops" in the field.

Inform beekeeper of scheduled irrigations and schedule changes that may occur.

Discourage drifting by marking hives, spacing hives irregularly, or providing landmarks in the field.

Choose "staging" areas carefully. High densities of homes won't tolerate hundreds of hives nearby.

Avoid visibility of hives whenever possible.

Avoid excessively traveled roads over flight, especially at passenger level (so bees do not get killed).

Avoid pesticide losses to your beneficial pollinators, including honeybees.

(PROVIDE SEPARATE SIGNATURE LINES, DATE, ADDRESSES, and DAY & NIGHT PHONE NUMBERS FOR BOTH PARTIES at bottom of document).

Northwest Beekeeping

June - Crops in bloom producing nectar and/or pollen: berries, vetch, spearmint, radish, mustard, clover. Others: honey locust, poison oak, pyracantha.

- Provide water continuously.
- Examine colonies every ten days and treat as in May, except: toward month's end, reduce the number of empty frames in each super to about ten. Lift off the supers, tilt up the second story and look for queen cells along the bottom of the brood comb. **IF you find** only eggs and larvae in the queen cells and the hive is crowded with bees, remove all cells --- top and bottom. Put the hive body containing mostly worker eggs or larvae on the bottom board, and the other containing mostly sealed brood on top. Add supers to provide 10-18 empty full-depth combs, or their equivalent. **IF you find** sealed or ripe queen cells, or possibly hatched ones, divide the colony. **NOTE:** queen mating is always dependent on decent mating weather and the supply of drones this time of year. **IF you find** eggs and no attempt to rear queens, and the hive is full of bees, examine the supers and add more to provide 10 to 18 empty combs or their equivalent.
- Order queens for July delivery.
- Continue to be on the lookout for American Foulbrood.
- Start moving sealed frames of honey to top supers, or collect to extract.

Thank you to Portland Beekeeper Association members Stephanie Barnes, David Gage, Rosemary Marshall, Ernie McCormack and Bill Ruhl, for Almanac review and suggestions, 1996.

OSBA Board Meeting Minutes April 24, 1999

The meeting, at the home of George Hansen, was called to order at 3 pm. Present were Bob Allen, George Hansen, Torey Johnson, Ray Varner, Dr. Lynn Royce, Dr. Mike Burgett, Chuck Sowers and Phyllis Shoemake.

The Tillamook Association has offered to host the annual Summer Picnic on August 21st. According to Bob Allen, the Tillamook Association will donate up to \$75 of the cost and he asked how much over that amount the OSBA would be willing to spend. They would like to purchase oysters and salmon in addition to the usual items. George moved that we authorize us to \$100 from OSBA funds. Motion was seconded and passed.

Discussion turned to the auction at the Fall Conference. George is working on how to allocate auction proceeds among the participating states. He has offered to be in charge of both the silent and the oral auctions.

Dr. Lynn Royce requested a financial commitment from OSBA toward a USDA grant on which she is working. It will develop what she called "smart keys" for certain pest identification. Caneberries will be the first crop studied. Growers would be able to find out from the web what pesticides to use on certain crops. The goal is to reduce use of pesticides. Growers will also be able to find the pollination list on the web site. Torey sees the value to beekeepers from this proposed and also indicated he is very pleased with the speed of the Section 18 exemption for coumaphos. Ray Varner suggested that any of the unused funds committed to the mite research project be used. George moved that we pledge \$1,000 with the funds coming from "bee day" registrations, from the auction and the general fund if the bee day and auction funds are not adequate to make up the \$1,000. Motion seconded and passed.

There followed discussion about the Fall Conference plans. Bart has secured from speakers for the conference and the Board agreed that we

would like to have one more "big name" speaker. Torey will discuss this with Bart.

Torey brought up the campaign of the National Coalition Against Pesticides (NCAP) and expressed concerns that their effort might harm beekeepers' use of tools against mites and disease in bees.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Shoemake
Secretary/Treasurer

Backyard Beekeepers Assn. Offers Survey Participation

The OSBA was contacted by the Backyard Beekeepers Association (Fairfield Co., CT) to invite OSBA members to participate in a voluntary survey. Francois Verglas, Senior VP at Newsweek magazine and Backyard Beekeepers Association member, published an article about surveys in the January 1999 issue of *Bee Culture*. The survey form is being included for those member who might wish to participate.

In the May 1999 issue of *The Bee Line*, Dr. Michael Burgett from OSU published results from the Pacific Northwest Honey Bee Pollination Survey. As noted in the report, survey requests were sent to beekeepers with 25 or more hives. There are many OSBA members not included in this survey who might like to participate in the BYBA survey. The BYBA provided a form document which is reproduced on page 9. The form document listed OSBA Secretary/Treasurer Phyllis Shoemake as the person to receive the completed form. Members may also forward the survey directly to BYBA at the following address:

Francois G. Verglas
313 Umpawaug Road
West Redding, CT 06896

In case you did not see the January 1999 issue of *Bee Culture* regarding this survey, the two data boxes from that article are reprinted below.

Also, the website address for the BYBA is:

www.fairfieldweb.com/byba.

Apimondia Lodging Information

Apimondia'99 is being held Sept. 12-18 in downtown Vancouver, British Columbia at the Trade and Convention Center. The Organizing Committee has negotiated reduced rates for more than 2,000 hotel rooms at downtown hotels (US rates from \$85-\$185/night). Details on those hotels can be found at the website www.apimondia99.ca.

There are numerous B&Bs in the area ranging from US\$35 to \$135/night. Three organizations can help you locate and make reservations at a B&B that meets your needs: Old English B&B Registry (604-986-5069, relax@oldenglishbandb.bc.ca; www.oldenglishbandb.ca); Bed&Breakfast Inns of BC (604-255-9199, webbia@direct.ca); and Best Canadian Bed & Breakfast Reservations (604-738-7207, bestcanbnb@aol.com).

There are several hostels that offer good accommodations at excellent value. The Vancouver Downtown Hostel (604-684-4565, vandtown@axionet.com) and the Backpackers Hostel (604-688-0112) are within walking distance of the Convention Centre. A short bus commute is needed to reach The Jericho Beach Hostel (604-224-3208, van.hostel@deepcove.com).

If you plan to camp, you will want to contact one of the nearby RV Campgrounds, all of which have facilities for both motorhomes and tents. The closest campground is Capilano RV Park (604-987-4722). Situated just across Lions Gate Bridge from Stanley Park and close to the Park Royal Shopping Centre, it is only a short 20-30 minute ride by public transportation to the Convention Centre. The cost is approximately US\$160/week for full hookup. Ten miles each of downtown Vancouver is Burnaby Cariboo RV Park (www.bcrvpark.com, camping@bcrvpark.com, 604-420-1722). It is adjacent to Burnaby Lake and Lougheed Shopping Centre. A bus from the park entrance (every half hour) connects with the Skytrain to the Convention Centre (day pass US\$4). The trip takes about 45 minutes.

If you plan to attend Apimondia, make your reservations now!

Western Apiculture Society Annual Conference Information

The annual conference for the Western Apiculture Society will be held this year from July 12-15 at Harrah's Hotel and Casino Center in Reno, Nevada.

The event opens Monday, July 12 with registration at 2 pm, followed by delegate meetings and a buffet dinner at 7 pm, known as the Bee Buzz. Sessions begin Tuesday morning with Dr. Robert Page from UC Davis speaking about "Factors Influencing Pollen Collection by Honey Bees." Other presentations on Tuesday include "Methods of Verification of Antibiotic Resistance in Bacteria," "Conducting Experiments with *Varroa jacobsoni* in the Laboratory," "Marking Bees," "Detecting Tracheal Mites," and "Research Gadgets."

Wednesday's sessions include topics such as "The Role of Amitraz in Mite Control," by our own Dr. Lynn Royce, "Will *Varroa* Bring About its Own Extinction on Santa Cruz Island, or Will the Bees Survive?" and "Red Imported Fire Ants in California." Wednesday afternoon is set aside for tours of either a local apiary or a local attraction. Presenters on Thursday cover topics such as "Entertaining with Honey Bees," "Treating Honey Bees: When and Why," "Important Considerations When Using Bees for Pollination," and "Africanized Honey Bees in Southern California." Business meetings, and delegates and directors meetings are scheduled for the remainder of the afternoon.

Social events are scattered throughout the Conference. A pool party is set for Tuesday night, lunch on Wednesday is scheduled at Planet Hollywood, a slot tournament, a Bar-Bee-Que at Idyllwild Park in Reno and a silent auction. Harrah's is also making special discount show tickets available for Tuesday night. Tickets that normally sell for \$21.95 will cost only \$10.

Cost for the entire conference, including conference registration, lodging for four nights (Mon.-Thurs.), Monday night Bee Buzz buffet, Bar-Bee-Que, Annual Banquet and the special luncheon is \$321 for one person, \$446 for two. (Note: lodging

at Harrah's is \$49 per night; you pay room tax upon departure.)

To register, contact WAS Treasurer Ron Neese at 268 Pearl Way, Woodland, CA 95695; telephone 530-666-4053 or email at was@mother.com.

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WEB PAGE

<http://www.orsba.org> (Eff. 2/99)
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REGIONAL BRANCH

ASSOCIATIONS

Coos County

Meets 7:30 pm third Friday (except
December) Coquille Annex, Coquille
Pres: Wade Weathersby 541-756-3378
VP: Don Barney 541-267-5945
Sec./Treas.: Toni Wyatt-Kirkeby

Klamath County

Inactive at the present time

Lane County

Meets 7:30 pm second Tuesday
Pacific Cascade Credit Union
1155 Chambers St., Eugene
Pres: Chuck Hunt 541-607-0106
V Ps: Gene Garner 541-746-5972
Denny Jessup 541-687-0912
Treasurer: Frank Svejcar 541-688-9153

Portland Area

Meets 7 pm second Thursday
Clear Creek Mutual Telephone Co.
18238 S. Fischers Mill Rd., Oregon
City
Pres: Jim Allison 503-663-1058
VP.: Denise Dickens 503-655-7848
Sec.: Paul Hardzinski
503-631-3927
Treas.: Charlie Snider 503-829-9169

Southern Oregon

Meets 7:30 pm first Monday
S.O. Research & Extension Center
569 Hanley Rd., Central Point
President: Stan Kee 541-664-3238
VP: John Campbell 541-664-4867
Sec.: George Steffensen
541-474-4305

Tillamook County

Meets 7 pm first Thursday
Forestry Building
4909 Third Street, Tillamook
President: Bob Allen 541-322-3819
VP: Doug Taylor 541-842-4245
Sec./Treas.: Wayne Auble

Tualatin Valley

Meets 7:30 pm fourth Friday
OSU Extension Office, 18640 SW
Walker Rd., Beaverton
Pres.: Roy MacMillan 503-628-0277
VP: Bob Ward 503-324-8123
Sec.: Mary Moss 503-357-4782
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Willamette Valley

Meets 7:30 pm fourth Monday
Rm. 112, Building 50
Chemeketa Community College, Salem
Pres: Richard Farrier 541-327-2673
VP: Ray Varner 503-662-4559

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In order to stay within our operating budget while providing the best publication possible, expiration dates on mailing labels will be monitored and *The Bee Line* cannot be mailed to memberships 60 days past the date code. As an additional service, a membership and publications form will be printed on page 11 each month. Note additional savings are available when ordering magazines through OSBA.

Research Contributions

To make tax-deductible contributions for honeybee research at OSU, make your check payable to Agriculture Research Foundation (ARF) and send it to Dr. Royce at OSU (see her address on page 10).

For those of you who want to contribute to OSBA above the \$15 membership dues, please note a new line item on the form below. Your contribution can be earmarked for the Research or General Fund (specify your choice). The Executive Board wants to hold the line on increasing dues across the board but recognizes that some members would like to make one-time or ongoing contributions. Thank you for your support!

Membership and Publications

Membership in the Oregon State Beekeepers Association is open to anyone who has an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. OSBA membership is \$15 per person and includes a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on other bee related publications, ten issues of *The Bee Line*, and more. Foreign membership is \$23.

Name _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone __ (____) _____ Local Group _____

Additional Voluntary Contribution: \$ _____ Please apply to Research / General Fund (circle one).

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<i>American Bee Journal</i>	_____ 1 yr. \$14.44	_____ 2 yrs. \$27.38	_____ 3 yrs. \$38.96
<i>Bee Culture</i>	_____ 1 yr. \$12.75	_____ 2 yrs. \$24.75	
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1874 Winchester NW
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NUCS: Five frame, \$32.50 w/frame exchange, minimum orders of 50. \$35.50 no exchange. Orders under 50, call for details. 541-840-8119.

FOR SALE: 200-217 used Black Plastic Western Feeders \$1.85 each. Call 503-835-5300



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