
THE BEE LINE

The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 24, Number 6

July 1999

Lane County Learns Dissection Techniques to Detect Tracheal Mites; Holds Field Day

By Kathy Hunt

The Lane County Beekeepers Association is located in Eugene and meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm. The group has had a busy spring. In May we gathered at the Biology Lab at the University of Oregon to be instructed on how to properly dissect a honey bee. Dr. Lynn Royce from OSU demonstrated this art showing us the details on a large television screen. It was an amazing sight to watch mites crawl out of their host bee on the screen! Dr. Royce also presented a superb discussion on tracheal mites and bees, then she encouraged everyone to give dissecting a try themselves. Peter Weatherwax from the U of O graciously allowed us to use all the microscopes he could locate. It was a very informative evening.

In June we held our annual Field Day. This was a very successful event with twenty people in attendance. New beekeepers had an opportunity to watch and listen to some more experienced members while going through a hive. This year's gathering was held at Winberry Honey Farm, located east of Eugene near Fall Creek Reservoir. Our host was Denny Jessup, club Vice-President.

Our next big events include the club picnic at the end of July and then the Lane County Fair in

August. We hope that a number of the members will enter their honey and wax at the Fair, so there will be more competition this year. Also, we always have an information booth and may have the bee observation tent this year.

If you are in Eugene on the second Tuesday of the month, give club President Chuck Hunt a call at 607-0106 and join us for an interesting evening of education and tales!



Brood chamber box ready for inspection

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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Oregon State Beekeepers Association

The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association and is published ten times a year. Subscriptions are included with OSBA membership.

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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Classified Ads, 30 words, per issue:

OSBA members	\$ 2.00
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President's Notes

by Torey Johnson

July is upon us already. Honey is starting to be extracted and beed moved to the final pollination stops. We also are getting a lot closer to some fun upcoming events: the Summer Picnics, Fairs and the Fall Conference.

The OSBA Summer Picnic will be hosted this year by Tillamook Beekeepers (see related article). You can't go wrong at the Coast in August – they've promised great weather! We will be supplying local oysters to feed on, and if any other club wants to supply some salmon there are facilities for cooking them available. I will see you there!

We also have County and State Fairs over the summer and the Fall Conference coming up in October. I would ask that we try to get as much promotion out of the Fairs as possible. A nice Fair

exhibit really puts honey and bees on the general public's mind, which helps all of us. Bart is going strong on the conference preparations (see related article). He and Donna have moved to Eugene and are in the middle of unpacking, so he is doing triple time.

On a more serious side, I took my kids to see Star Wars. Now I can't get away from those little Jedis. Actually, I think the younger one joined the dark side! Well, it set me to daydreaming about the bee yard. I had a hive that was trying to swarm. It still had fresh eggs in it so I was looking for the queen before making a split. I couldn't find her after going back and forth. Finally, a Jedi drone spoke up. His name was Yoda. Yes, I'm not kidding, Yoda the Drone. He said if I was to become a Jedi Queen Finder I would have to endure much hardship. I asked him to train me; he replied he sensed much impatience in me. I answered, "I can learn, I can learn." So he said, "Here's what you do: 1) receive many unneeded stings, 2) endure lots of work in the rain, 3) see lots of good weather ruined by bad weather, 4) receive lots of stings and 5) go through the hive never to find the queen. But with persistence you will find her the next time."

Well, Yoda the Drone knew what he was talking about, so I said, "I can do this." When I was done muttering those words it struck me. Has this drone ever found a queen? He's still alive so he must not have been successful himself. I turned to Yoda the Drone and said, "Do you really know what you're talking about?" He looked stunned, and he had that look of fear I've seen in drones in late August when the nectar flow is done. He knew he was no match for a trained and hardened Jedi Drone Finder. Yes, I was incognito. No Jedi Drone was safe. To make a long story short, there's no longer a Jedi Drone. May the force be with you!

See you in the beeyard!



Fall Conference Update

By Bart Snyder

Dr. Hachiro Shimanuki of the Beltsville, Maryland Bee Lab will be the featured speaker for the Fall Conference in Hood River on October 28-30 this year. Dr. "Shim" as he is known among beekeepers around the world, is a repository for bee information that is not paralleled by anyone. He will give two talks at the conference. The opportunity to meet and talk about our multiple lady friends with a person of this stature is unique.

We also look forward to the return of Lilia Guzman (who worked with Dr. Burgett at OSU), presently at the Baton Rouge Bee Lab. She will report on the progress of the Africanized bees. She will also talk about the apparent varroa resistance of the Russian bees imported into Louisiana for testing. This is current information and she will discuss some unpublished results on those studies.

The conference will begin on Thursday evening with a Wine and Cheese reception. Friday and Saturday will be full days of speakers on all aspects of beekeeping. The State meetings for the Oregon State Beekeepers, Washington State Beekeepers and Idaho State Beekeepers will take place on Friday afternoon.

The Research Luncheon will be Saturday at noon and Dr. Burgett will regale us with his latest exploits at that time. The Banquet will be Friday evening with the auction following immediately after.

Run, don't walk to your nearest calendar and mark off the dates for this event. Special rates for the Best Western are in place and will be published later. We will have an application form in the next issue of *The Bee Line*.

July - Crops in bloom producing nectar and/or pollen: alfalfa, lima beans, various herbs, carrot, clover, corn, fireweed, melon, mustard, radish, spearmint. Others: hollyhock, snowberry, teasel.

- Provide water continuously.
- Examine supers frequently but don't leave much empty comb on colonies that are light in stores in the brood nest. Add supers only to the top of the filled ones, not below them, unless hives are near a commercial crop (add supers below filled ones).
- Check colonies for queen and requeen if queenless.
- Check colonies for old queens and replace with young ones.
- Requeen any colony with undesirable characteristics such as poor production, mean temper, European Foulbrood, poor brood pattern, unwanted color markings, etc.
- Continue to be on the lookout for American Foulbrood.
- Remove supers containing well ripened honey to extract.
- Don't tempt robber bees with exposed honey.
- Place any extracted honey frames to be stored in a dry, cool area, with moth crystals.
- Depending on your apiary location and on the weather, a critical nectar dearth exists between July 10 and Sept. 1 in this area. Leave 40-50 lbs. of honey in each colony for fall buildup or feed equivalent amount of sugar syrup (2:1). Feed supplementary pollen patties if stored pollen is inadequate and pollen dearth exists.

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

Summer Picnic Update

By Bob Allen

The OSBA Summer Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 21 at Kilchis Park, with food serving time beginning at 1 PM. Kilchis Park is about one mile north of Tillamook on Hwy. 101 (see map).

Bring your own table setting and lawn chair, and your choice of either a main dish and salad, or a dessert dish. The Tillamook Beekeepers will provide coffee and soda pop, and oysters to be cooked on site. We will be prepared to cook salmon or other fish if furnished (please notify in advance in you plan to bring fish so we will be ready).

We are hoping for a total of about 30 people. It would be helpful if you let us know that you plan to attend. There should be great weather and the setting is beautiful. Hope to see you there!

Directions: From Hwy. 101 South come through Tillamook. Approx. 1 mile north of the Tillamook Cheese Factory will be the sign for the Kilchis Park. Turn right and follow signs and paved road to the Park (at the end of paved road). From Hwy. 101 North go through Bay City and turn left at sign for Kilchis Park. Follow signs and paved road to the Park (at the end of the paved road).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Jul. 25 Deadline for *The Bee Line*

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.

By Diane Varner

Will swarm season ever end? Hardly a day goes by that we don't get a call to come get a swarm. Today we had three calls, but all three involved bees that had gotten into walls of buildings and established colonies. Ray has picked up at least fifteen swarms, and referred about a dozen to other beekeepers. Most of them have been low to the ground and easy to get, but there were a memorable few that presented challenges. And then there were the two that flew off just as he arrived to hive them!

We are in the middle of honey house inspections, and learning a lot about what our inspector requires. Once we're done I'll share the whole story. Would love to hear from others that have gone through the process. Maybe we help educate inspectors and provide a more uniform inspection criteria. Wishful thinking?

Speaking of the State, the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture puts out a brochure that lists all the publications available from them. There are several that beekeepers would find helpful. All are free for the asking. They are:

1. [Direct Marketing Handbook.](#)
2. [Food Processors Handbook.](#)
3. [Food Labeling Requirements/Guidelines.](#)

The first and second titles are available from the Agricultural Development and Marketing Division. Their telephone number is 503-229-6734. The third title is available from the Food Safety Division. Their telephone number is 503-986-4720.

The complete brochure listing all the publications is available by calling 503-986-4558. You can also pick up the brochure and many of the publications listed at the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture in Salem at 3420 Cherry Avenue NE (off Salem Parkway), Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. In the Portland area, publications are available at the Agricultural Development and Marketing Division at 121 SW Salmon, Suite 240, Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM.

The ODA also has a website for obtaining information and some of the publications listed in the brochure. Check it out at:

<http://www.oda.state.or.us/oda.html>. This location is maintained by the ODA and provides text and photo descriptions of the department's various divisions, job listings, databases, notices, press releases and news stories, some of the department's publications, and links to other sites.

Hope to see you at some of the local club's summer picnics, and definitely at the OSBA Summer Picnic at Tillamook. Doesn't the Coast in August sound wonderful? And oysters! Hope some good fishermen bring a salmon or two to grill. Yum!!!

Preparation of Honey for Competition

by Bill Ruhl

Select two or three frames of honey in new combs for each entry.

Place a clean nylon stocking in a gallon jar with the top stretching over the jar (or a piece of nylon strainer cloth fastened tightly over the top).

With a hive tool, scrape comb and honey into the strainer cloth, starting in the lower corner and proceed up the comb, breaking it all up except the midrib. If you are careful, the foundation can be saved. Everything must be clean and kept clean, the jar, hive tool and stocking. I use new nylon knee high stockings.

With wax and all the jar should be 3/4 full, to be sure there will be enough honey for each entry. Cose the top of the stocking, tie and hang to drain into a clean container.

Warm the honey to 110-120 degrees. Strain through 74 mesh nylon bottling cloth. Bottle into one pound fancy honey jars, filling well to the top. It is good to have one or more jars than is required for entry, in case more is needed to bring the jar up to the right level.

Three jars are required for most county and state fair entries, but four for the national competition.

Heat jars again to 110-120 degrees so bubbles and any wax will rise to the surface. With a teaspoon skim off all bubbles and wax to about 3/8 inch from the top, having all jars equal.

With a damp cloth wipe honey from the neck of the jar, both inside and outside. Put on a good clean cap.

From this time on keep the jars perfectly upright so honey will not get on the inner cap. Wipe glass jar clean of all fingerprints, lifting only by the top.

Be sure to enter honey in the right category or class. Good luck!

Honey should be heated until totally liquefied and a temperature of about 125 degrees is reached. It should then be thoroughly strained through fine nylon strainer cloth to remove all wax particles, etc. The honey should then be cooled to about 80 degrees.

When the temperature of the honey is between 70 and 80 degrees F., ten percent (10%) of starter, which consists of fine, creamy, previously processed honey, is thoroughly mixed with the honey that has been heated, strained and cooled. The seeded honey is left to settle for an hour or two to allow large air bubbles to rise to the surface. Skim and fill containers of desired size.

Store the containers at a temperature not higher than 57 degrees or lower than 45 degrees until completely crystallized. This usually requires about eight days. Moisture content should be 17.5% to 18%.

Processing Creamed Honey

by Bill Ruhl

From the scorecard of the Dept. of Entomology, Oregon State University

EXTRACTED HONEY

<u>Points</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Comments</u>
20	Degree of density. All the entries above 18.6% disqualified.	Do not add water to your honey to "lighten" it in color to impress judge. This may not be judged at the County Fairs.
10	Freedom from crystals.	Do not feed bees sugar water to obtain clear honey, for here is where you can get caught.
30	Degree of cleanliness and freedom from foam.	Most important category. Settling and some filtering are most "important" here. Honey is heavy so most "sediment" rises to the surface. Pour from the bottom of the tank slowly and carefully to avoid air bubbles.
10	Cleanliness and neatness of containers.	Clear, clean containers, new and without markings from a previous use should be used.
10	Uniformity or entry and accuracy of filling.	Containers should be filled to the ring, or top, and should be of the same clarity (type of honey) throughout the container.
20	Flavor. Down-grade for objectional flavor, over-heating or fermentation.	Bottle only honey from fully-capped cells. Store honey in glass or stainless steel containers, and do not heat about 104 degrees F. Keep tightly covered while settling.

100 points possible.

CHUNK HONEY

<u>Points</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Comments</u>
20	Neatness of cut. Ragged edges, parallel cuts, four-sided cuts and uniformity of size of cut.	In other words, neat and uniform cutting of the comb.
20	Absence of watery cappings, uncapped cells and pollen cells.	Submit only entry cut from the top center of center frames.
30	Uniformity of appearance. Uniformity of capping structure. Color and thickness of comb.	No crushing of cells during handling. Use only foundation made for cut-comb honey.
20	Cleanliness. No travel stain, specks of foreign matter, flakes of wax, foam and/or crystallization.	Cut with a razor or thin-bladed knife, and really look at what you are packing.
10	Density and flavor of liquid part.	Take frame out of hive that was filled during your best flavored honey flow for Fair entry.

100 points possible.

4-H Beekeeping Leaders Wanted

Want to work with kids and get a new generation involved with keeping bees? Portland Area

Beekeeper Paul Hardzinski has been a 4-H Beekeeping Leader for several years and is enthusiastic about the activities. However, he knows of no other counties that have active programs and hopes this information will encourage others to get involved with this very rewarding project.

The first step in getting involved is talking to your local County Extension Agent. 4-H is part of the Oregon State University Extension program, and each county has an agent or contact person. Ask for the OSU Extension Agent in charge of 4-H Youth Development. They can provide you with a Beekeeping Project Manual for both the Leader and Members. The Manual outlines various project options, learning objectives, project guideline ideas and ideas for club meetings (January – October). In addition, there are lists of reference materials available, including project bulletins, books and films.

4-H members are encouraged to prepare exhibits to share their knowledge with others, particularly at County Fairs and the State Fair. Members can also do presentations to various groups or classes, and the Manual gives lots of ideas. Finally, members learn record keeping skills when they keep detailed records on the Oregon 4-H Beekeeping Record forms.

Paul offers some other inside tips:

1. Get started! Have the kids involved with hands-on activities with the equipment as soon as possible, as they lose interest just listening. If you follow the 4-H calendar year, start right after Christmas break. There's lots to do before the bees arrive in April.
2. As with any livestock project, the kids will have expenses (bee suits, equipment, etc.). Parents may be hesitant about the expense. Not everything has to be purchased all at once, and check with your local beekeeping club for used or donated equipment.
3. Don't require the 4-Her to keep bees if they don't want to. The Manual lists other activities.

However, I've found that after awhile the kids do want to keep bees.

4. When deciding what size supers to get, remember that a deep filled with honey and bees weighs about 100 lbs. Kids have a better chance of lifting Westerns, and if you start out with just one size equipment (all Westerns) it will make your life a lot easier.

Paul hopes that more beekeepers will get involved with kids and harness that energy and enthusiasm. He's also hoping for some competition at the Fair! Paul is currently the Secretary for the Portland Area Beekeepers club, and would be glad to talk to anyone interested in getting involved. His telephone number is 503-631-3927.

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WEB PAGE

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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
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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 503-322-3819
VP: Doug Taylor 503-842-4245
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
Treas.: Jerry Schwanke 503-357-9284

Willamette Valley

Meets 7:30 pm fourth Monday
Rm. 112, Building 50
Chemeketa Community College, Salem
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VP: Ray Varner 503-662-4559
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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!

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