
THE BEE LINE

The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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The Bee Charmer

By Alandra Hutchins of the *News-Times* -
serving Forest Grove, Cornelius, Banks and Gaston
(reprinted with permission)

John Herinckx shuts his clear, wide eyes as he tightens his grip on a large, very full bucket of his North Willamette Valley Blend of honey. His muscles strain a little as he hefts the two gallon bucket over to the honey purifying machine.

He loads honeycomb into the device, which spins the comb until it separates from the honey. Herinckx's large eyes twinkle as he opens a nozzle at the bottom of the machine and watches a thick golden stream pour into the bucket. This stream is the end result of his hard work.

Every day, Herinckx spends hours on his so-called "hobby" of beekeeping. He maintains his 50-odd hives that fill his backyard north of Cornelius, each of which produces between 60 to 70 pounds of honey.

Herinckx, a retired dairy farmer, World War II veteran and grandfather of 19, has worked hard his whole life and isn't about to stop now. At 83, an age when most people have long since slowed down, Herinckx continues to plow ahead. He says that he just likes to keep busy. Maybe that is why he chose to spend so much time with bees, renowned as the busiest creatures on the planet.

"It keeps me busy, I don't know," smiles Herinckx. "It keeps me young."

Herinckx grew up in Roy and was raised to know the values of hard work. When he was a boy, he says, he was allergic to bees. Once a bee stung his finger and it swelled to a massive size. His father, however, didn't think the swollen finger should excuse him to doing his chores. And Herinckx shakes his head and cracks a slow smile when he remembers milking three cows with that swollen finger. Now, Herinckx barely notices when he gets stung. "Now when I get stung, I just put honey on it and it feels fine," he says.

Herinckx enjoys watching the bees. He pulled out one cell of a hive and placed it between glass to create a kind of "bee farm." The cells hang from the Herinckx's front porch where the beekeeper and his family can watch all the busy insect activity.

"It's fun to watch. It's a complete town. They even have undertakers that haul out the dead," says Herinckx, pointing to a long tube where the bees fly in and out. "The kids say, 'If I had that, I wouldn't need no TV'," he laughs.

But for all the time and effort Herinckx puts into making honey, he rarely gets to enjoy the product he creates – he's diabetic. He says he sneaks a taste every now and then, but tries to do it when his wife, Florence, isn't looking.
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Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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President's Notes

by Ray Varner

The Fall Conference agenda looks impressive, don't you think? I am sure that by November the airline situation will be resolved so we can get our speakers here. There are some areas where help is needed – please see the article immediately following mine.

Vice President Dave Graber has indicated that he won't be able to continue after this year as VP. If you are interested and want to know more about it, give Dave a call. Secretary/Treasurer Phyllis Shoemake expressed a desire to gradually retire, and if anyone is interested in her position in a year or two give her a call. I would be happy to stay on one more year, members willing.

Thanks to those of you who have been so generous in your expressions of support and encouragement during our son's illness. He is currently in remission and will be undergoing chemo to maintain it. He's on a list to find a bone marrow donor if the doctors decide to go that route. We are in a temporary lull right now. We received some very good news from another daughter and son-in-law, who are expecting their first baby next March. Natalie will have a cousin – how fun!

Hopefully, we'll see you at the Conference!

Help Needed at Fall Conference

We need some volunteers to help make the Conference come together. If you can help in any of these spots, please call VP Dave Graber at 503-762-2539 or Ray Varner at 503-662-4559.

Registration desk – Friday and Saturday morning

Speaker transportation to and from PDX

Auctions – both oral and silent. Someone to keep track of donated items, &, tag them for silent auction

(cont. from page 1)

Right now, Herinckx's hives are filled with a mix of black and golden bees. He says this mixture creates a unique blend of honey that he calls the North Willamette Valley Blend. He doesn't dilute the pure mixture and receives many compliments on the sweet flavor. "We're proud of it," he says.

The honey is sold on the farm off of Cornelius Schefflin Road, in local farmer's markets and from the Herinckx family car. The business is fully licensed. But the couple aren't concerned about making money or expanding. The hobby, no matter how successful, will remain just a hobby.

But Herinckx shows no signs of slowing. "I love it," he says, "and I am going to keep doing it as long as I am able."

Northwest Beekeeping

October

- Remove Apistan strips this month (after they have been on 56 days).
 - Feed all light colonies with a saturated sugar solution (two parts sugar to one part water). Don't feed poor grades of honey.
 - Tilt all hives, making them $\frac{3}{4}$ " higher in the back than in the front to drain condensation out of the entrance.
 - Replace summer lids with metal telescoping covers and provide ventilation space under the inner cover.
 - Raise hives onto stands, off the ground. The hives should be exposed to the sun and protected from winds.
 - Some Northwest beekeepers do not reduce the size of hive entrances, but if you choose to do so, do so now.
 - Continue precautions against robbing.
 - Store comb in a cool, dry place and use moth crystals to fumigate, not mothballs.
 - Repair and store equipment.
 - Make plans for next year and start equipment supply order list.
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Northwest Corner Fall Conference Nov. 8-10 at the Best Western Inn, Hood River, OR

By Dave Graber, OSBA Vice President

The agenda and registration for the Northwest Corner Fall Conference are included as separate pages in this issue. Topics range from bee stock to varroa to marketing – something for everyone. For the first time, there will be a **free** buffet Thursday night in lieu of our regular wine and cheese social hour, hosted by the National Honey Board. They will also be providing door prizes.

Confirmed speakers include Dr. Bill Wilson (retired) from the ARS Lab, Dr. Gary Reuter from the University of Minnesota, Dr. Robert Currie from the University of Manitoba, Dr. Steve Sheppard from Washington State University, Dr. Michael Burgett from Oregon State University, George Hansen of Foothills Honey, and Cappy Tosetti. Two other tentative speakers are Richard Adee, a commercial beekeeper (50,000 colonies!), hygienic queen breeder and President of the Honey Producers Association, as well as Dr. Jerry Bromenshank from the University of Montana.

The Best Western Hood River Inn is beautifully located right on the banks of the Columbia River in Hood River. The single or double rooms facing the village are \$52 per night plus tax. The rooms with spectacular river views are \$62 per night plus tax. These accommodations carry the "It is a great deal!" quote from our previous attendees. Call the Hood River Inn for your reservations at 1-800-828-7873 or 541-386-2200.

Western Apiculture Society Delivers at OSU

By Harry Vanderpool, Willamette Valley
Beekeepers Association President

At the end of the first full day at the WAS meeting at OSU, George Hansen presented a most important concept a beekeeper cannot overlook. Most of us unfortunately do. It is my opinion that George hit the nail right on the head and is the first person to articulate this one point so perfectly. In order to keep you on the edge of your chair even further, I will tell you where you can gain access to this wonderful information later on in this article. I hope he doesn't mind!

Dr. Nicola Bradbear was the first speaker up. Her topic was "Bees for Development." Have you ever listened to a speaker that was so interesting that you lost track of time and space while in the grip of their presentation? And when you were unfortunately beamed back to earth at the close of their presentation, you shake your head and say to yourself, "Whoa...I was in another world for a bit there!" This was my reaction after listening to Dr. Bradbear.

To the counterpoint, prior to her presentation I looked at the agenda and her brochure and thought to myself, "Oh, no, I am not interested in how people in THOSE other countries do things. What has that have to do with us?" In hindsight, after working through her presentation, I must admit that I was completely ignorant to an entire world of hard facts. Facts that we cannot call ourselves beekeepers and choose to ignore.

Dr. Jim Tew ripped us to shreds with, "One Dozen Challenges Facing the Beekeepers." Have you considered the many problems that you brave and are a witness to? Dr. Tew said what we all know but hesitate to say, "Beekeeping is no longer simple. The sooner we recognize this, the better for us all." Do you remember when beekeeping was simple? What has changed since then and what will be our response as first-class beekeepers? We are first-class beekeepers, aren't we?

Dr. Eric Mussen presented data and concepts relating to adaptation of our target pests in his talk titled, "Drug Resistance in AFB." What is resistance

and how does it take hold in a small operation such as our apiaries? The bottom line is that for every temporary solution arrived at to combat pests, there is a tiny population of that pest with gene variations that allow them to survive. They may be the only pest surviving the treatment or procedure designed to eliminate them. It is easy to see that before long, you have a *new* strain of the old pest that we like to label "resistant."

I have a profound respect for a speaker (genius) like Dr. Mussen that can take an extremely complex scientific subject and present it in a very understandable manner to a "nuts and bolts dirt farmer" type listener such as myself.

Mr. Kim Flottum, editor of Bee Culture, gave a wonderful talk entitled, "Bigger Pictures – East and West Coast Beekeeping and Everything in Between." Times are changing. Beekeeping is on the move. Some beekeeping issues involve all of us equally. Other issues involve action that must involve regions as a group. The remaining issues involve individual choices that we all must make. These are the decisions that have an immediate impact on our lives, but eventually will have the most important consequences on beekeeping of all.

Then our beloved George Hansen unmasked the answer to many of the questions, challenges and hurdles facing us in his outstanding presentation, "Bees-Bears-Barcodes." I will not soon forget this vital presentation. As promised in the beginning of this article, I will tell you how to gain access to George's powerful information. Here it is: take your beekeeping seriously! Attend the next Conference and hear it for yourself! I do not want to botch Mr. Hansen's beautiful presentation so I will say no more.