**Have you noticed the lime green plastic frames at your local bee supply store? Wondering what they’re for?**

They are Pierco drone frames intended for a non-chemical form of varroa control. As you may know, varroa mites prefer to parasitize drone brood over worker brood, because the long capped period in drone pupa development gives them extra time to reproduce in those cells. This quirk allows you to trap mites and remove them before they emerge, using these frames, dealing a serious blow to varroa populations.

A controlled study from Cornell University, reviewed in the August Bee Culture, Confirms that systematic drone brood removal can significantly suppress varroa populations without chemical miticides.

The trick is to use those green frames properly!

Drone frames should be placed in the active brood nest and must be removed after the drone brood is capped, but before adult drones emerge.

Think about it: the mites prefer drone brood because they reproduce well there, so if you leave the drone comb in too long you actually INCREASE the mite population.

(continued on page 4)

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**Going Green !**  
**Drone Frames for Varroa Control.**  
Johnathon Loftin

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**Keep Your Bees Alive!**  
Harry Vanderpool

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The Northwest Corner Beekeeper’s Fall Conference, will be held at the Agate Beach Inn in Newport Oregon on October 27, 28, and 29 2005. This is a tri-state conference including Oregon, Washington and Idaho State Associations. Beekeepers from all across the nation will be in attendance as well.

The theme is *Keeping Your Bees Alive.* An agenda and registration form are included in this issue. **Please register as soon as possible!** Early registration helps greatly in the planning and holds down on needless expense for the event.

Make your room reservations **as soon as possible,** at the Agate Beach Inn, (800) 547-3310 and ask for the Beekeepers Fall Conference special room rate. You must make sure that they know you are attending the Northwest Corner Beekeepers Fall Conference when you make reservations to get the bargain rate. We will definitely require more rooms than are available at the convention site. The Agate Beach Inn staff will assist in locating additional lodging facilities.

Volunteers are needed for a few small tasks. Would you like to pitch in a few minutes and help in making this event a success?

Maybe you would like to help a speaker to the airport? You can’t beat conversation like that task provides! Could you help in registration for a couple of hours? Call 503-399 3675 or E-mail Shallotman@yahoo.com

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**A Peek Between the Frames........**

President’s Corner  
Illegal Chemicals  
Pollen Feeding Tips  
A.B.F. Convention Notice  
Conference Schedule
O ur OSBA Fall Conference at Newport is coming up at the end of October. Once again we all have the incomparable opportunity to mix with others who share our struggles and successes in beekeeping. At no other time of year are so many beekeepers in one place, trading stories, telling lies, making plans, asking questions. Judging by the din during breaks, I would guess that this aspect of our meeting is quite popular.

I do not mean to diminish the value of what our honored speakers bring to our Conference. OSBA Vice-President Harry Vanderpool, along with conference committee members, Jordon Dimmok, George Hansen, Jan Lohman, and Tory Johnson, have again assembled an outstanding panel of speakers.

The cost of attending the meeting (I like to think of it as “tuition”) is indeed low compared to the worth of what our speakers will bring our meeting. We can expect to learn the latest about varroa, small hive beetle, queen breeding, various aspects of commercial beekeeping, and more.

All of our speakers will be accessible, so I urge one and all not to miss this opportunity to enlarge our beekeeping horizons.
BISMARCK, N.D. — Illegal sales of sodium cyanide to beekeepers across the country -- uncovered when three barrels of the deadly chemical tumbled off a truck -- have been traced to a single distributor in North Dakota, the Environmental Protection Agency said.

"I'm not saying that it's not possible that people are getting their hands on it from another source -- but we've been unable to identify that," said Tim Osag, an EPA enforcement coordinator in Denver. Some beekeepers have found sodium cyanide, which turns into a lethal gas when it gets wet, to be the most effective poison to control such pests as wax moths in their honeybee hives. But the chemical is not registered as a pesticide.

The EPA began investigating the illegal use of sodium cyanide after three barrels fell off beekeeper John Roeder's truck in North Dakota last September.

The agency said it has traced that sale and others to Washburn-based EnviroKem. Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson said the state has learned that drums sold by EnviroKem went to Florida, Nebraska, Minnesota and California.

The state already announced fines against the company and 10 beekeepers for pesticide. The fines totaled about $190,000. Johnson also said six beekeepers and the other cases, including the case of EnviroKem, are pending.

The largest fine of $54,000 was levied against EnviroKem and its owner, Randy Salli. The company, which has a warehouse in Minot, is accused of illegally handling more than four dozen containers of sodium cyanide from 2003 to 2004.

California officials fined two brothers each for illegally using sodium cyanide to fumigate their hives, said Veda Federighi, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Federighi said the brothers acknowledged using six, 110-pound drums on their hives, and said they bought the chemical from EnviroKem's warehouse in Minot. "It was all used up by the time we talked to them," Federighi said. "They threw the drums out in the trash. They didn't hide anything. They were very open about it."

Paul Roeder, who runs an apiary operation near Hebron with his brother, said it was well known among beekeepers that the chemical could be purchased from EnviroKem, which normally sells janitorial supplies and soap to commercial car washes. Sodium cyanide often is used in the commercial chrome plating, mining and pharmaceutical businesses.

Paul and John Roeder have been fined $34,000 for using and transporting the chemical. Two of the barrels that fell off John Roeder's truck last September were found immediately. The third was not found until October, after a weeklong air and ground search that included the FBI and the chemical's maker, Dupont Co.
Sodium Cyanide - (continued)

"We didn't know if it was legal or not," Paul Roeder said. "We assumed that since we could get it, that it was legal. This has been a big wake-up call." But Johnson said the skull and crossbones symbol on the chemical's kegs was a clue. "For anyone to suggest they may might have thought it was legal, well, that's bogus," he said.

Duane Mills, DuPont's product stewardship manager, said DuPont did not sell the chemical directly to EnviroKem, but through an unnamed distributor. Chris Caldwell, a spokesman for DuPont, said the company has tightened its distribution channels, although it still sells sodium cyanide to the distributor. "They have made major changes and we're monitoring them very closely," Caldwell said.

Source: Associated Press

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(-Drone Frames continued)

The Cornell study removed drone frames on a one month rotation, four times during the summer.

After removal the frames should be frozen overnight to kill the mites (and brood).

One possible concern is the effect of diverting hive resources to raising all of those drones, but in the Cornell study, worker populations were unaffected and the drone-removal hives produced about 26 lbs. more than control hives!

Locally, in the Eugene area, Lane County Beekeepers Association secretary, Barbara Bajec and I, have both been using the green frames, and we've had positive experiences so far.

Planning ahead is the key; I found a hatched-out frame when I got back from vacation (oops!) and Barbara discovered that it's a lot of work to get at that green frame when it's in a brood box under several supers full of honey!

It's not quite as easy as using chemical strips, but its another tool in the tool kit. Perhaps most importantly, it's a measure that you can take against mites even when the honey supers are on the hive!

Time will tell, but it looks like this will be a very useful method of varroa control.

Johnathon Loftin is Editor of the Lane County Beekeepers Association Newsletter.
E-mail: lcbanewslettereditor@hotmail.com
Beekeeping in the Northwest, September
Harry Vanderpool, W.V.B.A.

Crops in bloom producing nectar and / or pollen: various herbs, white clover, peppermint, pumpkin, squash, gourds.
Others: aster, borage, hollyhock, sagebrush, thistle.

*Provide a supply of water continuously; there are a few hot days ahead!

*Don’t tempt robber bees by exposing, honey, cappings, or wet comb.

*Feeding honey between colonies is not recommended as it can spread disease.

*Install mouse guards on all hives. Use galvanized hardware cloth with 1/2-inch holes.

*As humidity increases, make sure hives have ventilation or some route of air flow. This will reduce the onset of fungal problems later on when the rains start.

*Yellow jackets are living the high-life this month. Be a party pooper! Set out traps baited with ham or turkey slices. Three traps properly managed will protect one acre of ground in an average year.

*Stored supers with frames of comb should be protected by placing paradichlorobenzene (PDB) crystals on a small piece of paper on every fifth super in the stack, which should then be covered. PDB kills adults and immature wax moths, but not eggs. The continuous presence of crystals within the stack not only repels moths and prohibits egg laying, but also kills any young larvae that hatch after the combs are placed in storage. Untreated combs should be inspected regularly for signs of infestation, especially if temperatures rise above 60 degrees F. and permit wax moth activity. Naphthalene, or old-fashioned moth balls should not be used!

*Check colonies for stores and feed light ones heavy syrup if needed. Each gallon of heavy syrup will increase hive weight by seven pounds. Hives should have at least 50 lbs. of feed at Thanksgiving time, as a general rule.

*Check your calendar, and don’t forget to remove the mite controls that you placed into the hives in August. Overwintering bees with spent miticides in the hive accelerates the mites resistance to the strategy.

*Consider medicating your bees with Fumidil -B to control nosema disease especially if your bees were stressed in late summer. Add 100 mg. to 2:1 heavy syrup. Two gallons of this medicated syrup is recommended per hive. (Note to cheapskates: Yes, it is expensive, but hives with nosema will go nowhere next year. Do the math.) :-o !!

*As the temperature drops slightly, plan your fall tracheal-mite fumigation. Your favorite supply house will advise you in temperatures for shipping and using fumigation products.

*Hive parts treated with copper naphthenate should be treated in September at the latest and set out to cure as long as possible. Follow the instructions on the container label for application. Make sure to have good air circulation, and always wear glove when applying this stuff.

*Did you make some stupid mistakes this year? Well, who’s perfect around here anyway? Put your best foot forward and start mapping out your approach for next year. To quote Jim Elkins, “Every year is another chance to get things right” or George Hansen: “ Despite it all, the bees just keep coming back; thank heavens for that !”. 
Feeding Bees Pollen Substitutes

Eric C. Mussen, Extension Apiculturist, UC Davis

Honeybees derive their protein, vitamins, minerals and some carbohydrates from pollens. Since no single pollen source provides all their nutritional needs, honeybees must have a number of pollens available to them to remain healthy and to produce the royal jelly required to feed the queen and rear brood. When colony inspections reveal little or no pollen in the combs, or the anticipated weather is going to prohibit pollen foraging for more than a couple days, it is time to feed some pollen substitute. It also would be best to feed sugar syrup at the same time.

The substance that most similarly mimics pollens in nutrition, and can be purchased at a reasonable cost, is Brewer’s yeast.

Yeast can be fed to the bees dry, but they use it much better when it is fed as patties with a consistency similar to peanut butter.

For beekeepers operating only a few colonies, the yeast is often mixed with fifty percent sucrose syrup. Watch out for lactose and over two percent salt (sodium chloride) with the casein and lactalbumin. The patties are encased in waxed paper or in plastic bags to try to maintain the moisture. If patties get hard, the bees won’t eat them. Beekeepers, who feed their colonies high fructose corn syrup, use that syrup to formulate patties that maintain their moisture well because of the attraction of moisture to fructose. Other nutrients are sometimes added to pollen substitutes. When about ten percent pollen is added, we call the mixture "pollen supplement." Beekeepers tend to add casein, lactalbumin or soy flour to their mixtures.

Watch out for lactose and over two percent salt (sodium chloride) with the casein and lactalbumin. And try to get the soy flour expeller processed (retains some lipids) and "toasted" (knocks out enzymes that interfere with honey bee digestion). The addition of a "feed yeast" (like Torula) to the mixture enhances the nutritional value of the substitute, but it increases the cost quite a bit, too.

Pollen substitutes will not generate brood production the way that sources of incoming pollens will. However, pollen substitute will prevent a total shut down of brood rearing if the weather turns bad for a long time. Pollen substitute will lead to "fatter" winter bees in areas (like the west) where pollen supplies are short in the late summer and fall. Fatter bees, with more stored nutrients, winter better and rear more brood the next spring than non-fed bees.

Bees do not find pollen substitutes particularly attractive. It must be placed directly in contact with the bees as close to the brood as possible. As long as the bees are bringing in a trickle of natural pollen, pollen substitute will be consumed. If no pollen is being brought in, the substitute will be ignored and spoil over time.
ABF Assembling Top Program for Louisville Convention

Top speakers on the program, beekeepers from across the nation and around the world, all the important bee supply dealers and manufacturers, informative educational workshops, entertaining after-hours social activities, engaging coffee break conversations, a Brush-Up Beekeeper Short Course for skills enhancement — stir all these up and organize them carefully, and you have the 63rd annual convention of American Beekeeping Federation, which will be held Jan. 11-14, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Louisville hotel.

Researchers from all four USDA Bee Labs as well as universities will reveal the latest scientific developments. Beekeepers will share hands-on tips and techniques in the educational workshops and in the Special Interest Groups — for Commercial Beekeepers, for Package Bee & Queen Breeders, for Honey Producer-Packers, and for Sideliners-Hobbyists. The Trade Show will be full of the newest gadgets and supplies. There will be ample opportunity to talk bees with old friends and new acquaintances over coffee. The American Honey Show will show off a wide array of honeys and marvels of beeswax artistry.

The ABF Convention is like no other in U.S. beekeeping. Every year, new people attend, only to become “hooked” to attend subsequent ABF Conventions.

To get on the mailing list for convention information, contact the ABF Office, P.O. Box 1337, Jesup, GA 31598, ph. 912-427-4233, fax 912-427-8447, e-mail: info@ABFnet.org, or visit www.ABFnet.org. Information is also available for opportunities to promote your business product or

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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 $20 per person and includes a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on other publications and ten issues of *The Bee Line*. Membership outside the US is $29.

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*If you are a member of an OSBA Branch Association, make your check payable to that Branch and attach this form. The Branch Association Treasurer should submit this form and a check to OSBA, retaining $1 for the Branch Association. If you are not a member of a Branch Association, make checks payable to OSBA and send this form with payment to: Phyllis Shoemake, 1702 Toucan St. NW, Salem, OR 97304

**Central Oregon Beekeepers**
Meets 3rd Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Deschutes Public Library
(Hutchinson Room)
Bend, Oregon
Pres: Dennis Gallagher
541-389-4776
denbend@coinet.com
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**Willamette Valley**
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6694 Rippling Brook Dr. SE
Salem, OR 97301
503-581-9372

**Regional Associations**

**Clatsop County**
Meets 3rd Wed 7 p.m. at the Extention Office 2001 Marine Dr. Astoria
Pres: Steve Lindros 503-325-1127
slindros@hotmail.com

**Coos County**
Meets 3rd Sat Exept Dec.
Olsen Baxter Bldg.
631 Alder St. Myrtle Point
Pres: Joe Goularte 541-759-4665
V.P.: Chuck Baim 541-347-9654
Sec: Ona Smith 541-348-2372
Treas: Jane Oku 541-396-4016

**Lane County**
Meets 3rd Tuesday at the EWEB Meeting Rooms
500 E. 4th Ave. Eugene
Pres: Mike Harrington 541-689-8705
beekeeper@comcast.net
V.P.: Morris Ostrofsky 541-685-2875
ostrofsky@pacinfo.com
Sec: Barbara Bajec 541-767-9086
mbartels@bbastodesigns.com
Newsletter: Johnathan Loftin
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Treas: Nancy Ograin 541-935-7065
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todd@fns@jeffnet.org
V.P.: Terry Parker 503-632-3305
Sec: Preston Gabell 503-530-1436
preston@rosbells.com
Treas: Trudy Gissell 503-429-6603

**Tillamook County**
Meets first Thursday
5005 Third Street, Tillamook
Forestry Building
Pres: Bob Allen 503-322-3819
V.P.: Terry Fullan 503-368-7160
tfullan@nehalemtel.net
Sec/Tres: Wayne Auble

**Tualitin Valley**
Meets last Friday 7:30
OSU Extension Office
18640 Walker Rd #1400
Beaverton, Or
Pres: Ken Kite 503-769-2941
kiteman@hotmail.com
V.P. Mike Rodia 503-364-3275
drooria@yahoo.com
Sec: Susan Rauchfuss 503-391-5600
smokfoo@cybers.net
Treas: Evan Burroughs 503-585-5924
n7ifj@quest.net

**Portland Metro Area**
Meets 2nd Thursday 7PM
13930 S Gain, Oregon City, OR
Pres: Sam Hutchinson
503-829-7744
samh@molalla.net
V.P. Peter Forrest 503-236-7787
pdxpete57@msn.com
Sec: Paul Hardzinski 503-631-3927
breadstick@ccwebmaster.net
Tres: John Keeley 503-632-3682
Webmaster: John Holderness
503-658-1724 holdern@pacifier.com

**Willamette Valley**
Meets 4th Monday, 7:00 PM
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Chemeketa College, Salem
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kiteman@hotmail.com
V.P. Mike Rodia 503-364-3275
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