The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association

Volume 32, Number 4 May 2007



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Above: Stamps celebrating honey bees and the role they play in pollination. (From: postcard printed by Tamagawa University, Institute of Honeybee Science, Tokyo, Japan.) Honey bees are responsible for pollinating approximately one-third of crop species in the United States. Recent estimates are that crop value wholly dependent on pollination by honey bees is \$15 billion.

PRIORITIES FOR KEEPING HONEY BEES

The Oregon State Beekeepers' Association has established the following set of priorities to support and promote the beekeeping industry and the general public. The association invites members to take an interest in, and adhere to, these priorities. Take care to address priorities in the order in which they are listed.

Safety First

The safety of the public and the beekeeper is a top priority. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Care in hive transport and placement
- Vehicle and machinery fitness for use
- Employee safety management
- Product safety
- Maintenance of colony health
- Training for new beekeepers

Quality Second

Quality standards affect the public, beekeepers, and the industry. They include, but are not limited to:

- Strength and suitability of hives for pollination
- Hive product standards consistent with local ordinance(s)
- Maintenance of colony health
- Training for new beekeepers
- Quality of employee work experience
- Thoughtful interaction with and consideration for fellow beekeepers
- Professional conduct and behavior

Production Third

Once safety and quality issues have been addressed thoroughly, beekeepers are in a good position for setting up and maintaining a healthy and productive business.

The Bee Line

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

Please send news about your bees and your experiences in keeping them, as well as corrections, letters, comments, photographs and stories (old and new), interviews, and requests for advertising to the Editor, *The Bee Line*, PO Box 42363, Portland OR 97242; thebeeline@comcast.net.

Advertising Costs Per Issue

Business Ads:

Business card \$10.00 Quarter page \$25.00 Half page \$50.00 Full page \$100.00

Classified Ads (30 words):
Members \$3.00
Nonmembers \$5.00

Please submit all copy by the 10th of the month prior to publication. The next issue will be June 2007. Contact the Editor for any additional information. Thank you!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

From California to Oregon, the West Coast is the place to be this year. This is even more true for beekeepers than for other folks. The last few weeks of the almond bloom was just about perfect. The bees brought home more pollen than most years. It was the first year since mites were introduced that I remember white wax on top of the comb and more honey coming home than when going down. Best year I have seen in at least the last twenty. Some old-timers say it is the best year since 1976. My memory fails long before it gets that far back.

The last few days, the Oregon weather has been very <code>unOregon</code> (my computer doesn't like that word). With the temperature in the seventy-plus range, the bees are in the maple trees and bringing in more honey than I can handle. Mark says this happens one year in ten. I just know it is better than last year in the rain and wind. I was going through hives under a tent tied to my truck so it wouldn't blow away.

What a change since I started to write this article. It was so cold the last two days that I loaded bees on the truck and was in Hood River before dark. The trees are a great sight. If you have not seen the fruit bloom in The Dalles or Hood River, you should remind yourself to drive up the always-beautiful Gorge next year. A full day would let you tour both areas and return over Mount Hood. You could even stop and view the fish at Bonneville Dam. Take the kids or grandkids to show them how wonderful the world can be. What a great region in which to work and play. Of course, I am assuming that every one reading this lives in the Willamette Valley. I know this is not entirely true.

Getting back to the problems with mites and bees—are you seeing many mites this year? We treated with Mite-Away II formic acid this year while in California. It was much more time-consuming than I thought it would be. Still, I have not seen mites on the hives treated with the formic acid. The bees look great. We did not get a treatment on one group of hives scattered in almond orchards. When preparing them to go to The Dalles, we found many mites in the drone brood. I guess that shows something. I hope you are keeping an eye on your mite load and forming a plan to contain it. August will be here before we know it, and September will be too late.

I hope this is a honey of a year for you.

Chuck

Nosema RESEARCH

Abstract

In this report, an experimental infection of *Apis* mellifera by Nosema ceranae, a newly reported microsporidian in this host is described. Nosema free honeybees were inoculated with 125,000 N. ceranae spores, isolated from heavily infected bees. The parasite species was identified by amplification and sequencing the SSUrRNA gene of the administered spores. Three replicate cages of 20 honeybees each were prepared, along with one control cage (n = 20) supplied with sugar syrup only. The infection rate was 100% at the dosage administered. The presence of *Nosema* inside ventricular cells was confirmed in the samples using ultrathin sectioning and transmission electron microscopy. By day 3 p.i. a few cells $(4.4\% \pm 1.2)$ were observed to be parasitized, whereas by 6 days p.i. more than half of the counted cells (66.4% \pm 6) showed different parasite stages, this value increasing on day 7 p.i. (81.5% \pm 14.8). Only one control bee died on day 7 p.i. In the infected groups, mortality was not observed until day 6 p.i. (66.7% \pm 5.6). Total mortality on day 7 p.i. was 94.1% in the three infected replicates and by day 8 p.i. no infected bee was alive. After the infection, the parasites invaded both the tip of folds and the basal cells of the epithelium and the autoinfective capacity of the spores seemed to spread the infection rapidly between epithelial cells. On day 3 p.i., mature spores could be seen inside host cell tissue implying that the developmental cycle had been completed. The large number of parasitized cells, even the regenerative ones, the presence of autoinfective spores and the high mortality rate demonstrate that *N. ceranae* is highly pathogenic to *Apis mellifera*. Possible relation with bee depopulation syndrome is discussed by authors.

Reprinted from: *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology,* Volume 94, Issue 3, Mariano Higes, Pilar García-Palencia, Raquel Martín-Hernández, and Aránza-zu Meana, Experimental infection of *Apis mellifera* honeybees with *Nosema ceranae* (Microsporidia), Pages 211–217, Copyright © 2006 Elsevier Inc., with permission from Elsevier.

CCD REMINDERS

Testimony

Originally, CCD collapses were reported primarily by commercial migratory bee keepers who move their colonies from one area to another. More recently, it is clear that non-migratory beekeepers are also experiencing CCD. Of particular note, several queen breeders/packagers have experienced severe CCD symptoms in their operations. This causes particular alarm since many bee keepers depend upon these operations for new bee colonies and these losses translate into fewer bee colonies being replaced or started anew this year. It is now clear that CCD is a problem facing all bee keepers; it will have a major impact.

From: Prepared Testimony of Diana Cox-Foster, Professor Department of Entomology, The Pennsylvania State University, before the US House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture on *Colony Collapse Disorder in Honey Bee Colonies in the United States*, March 29, 2007. Entire testimony is available at: www. ento.psu.edu/MAAREC/CCDPpt/CoxFosterTestimonyFinal.pdf.

Recommendations

What can beekeepers do to reduce the likelihood of getting CCD?

- Keep colonies strong by practicing best management practices.
- Don't stack dead or weak colonies on strong colonies.
- Feed colonies fumagillin in the spring.

In addition, beekeepers are asked to complete the survey found at: www.beesurvey.com.

From: maarec.cas.psu.edu/ColonyCollapse-Disorder.html. For current information about Colony Collapse Disorder and the CCD Working Group, see: maarec.cas.psu.edu/index.html.

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION RESOURCES

OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Columbia Basin: Debbie Morgan

3800 Benson Rd, The Dalles; (541) 298-5719

Eastern Oregon: Jordan Dimock

2635 Mitchell Butte Rd, Nyssa; (541) 372-2726

Metropolitan Area: Doug Woods 14285 S Union Hall Rd, Mulino

North Coast/Webmaster: Thom Trusewicz

90041 Logan Rd, Astoria

(503) 325-7966; ccbee@intergate.com

Southern Oregon: Pat Morris 1333 Rogue River Hwy, Gold Hills

(541) 855-1402

Willamette Valley: Harry Vanderpool 7128 Skyline Rd S, Salem; (503) 399–3675

shallotman@yahoo.com

OSBA REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS



Central Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 pm, third Tuesday, Bend Deschutes Public Library, Hutch Rm **President:** Dennis Gallagher

(541) 389-4776; haymakeroo@yahoo.com **Secretary/Treasurer:** Glenda Galaba (541) 383-1775; galaba@msn.com

Coos County Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 pm, third Saturday (except Dec) Olsen Baxter Bldg, 631 Alder St, Myrtle Pt

President: Thomas Kyelberg (541) 297-4017; usvi@charter.net

Vice Pres: Spike Richardson; (541) 267-4725 Secretary: Marda Burgdorff; (541) 888-5695

Treasurer: Jane Oku; (541) 396-4016

jane_oku@hotmail.com

Lane County Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 pm, third Tuesday, Eugene EWEB Meeting Rooms, 500 E 4th Ave

President: Morris Ostrofsky

(541) 685-2875; ostrofsky@pacinfo.com

Vice President: Judy Scher judy scher@catdreams.com

Secretary: Barbara Bajec; (541) 767-9086;

mbartels@bbastrodesigns.com

Treasurer: Nancy Ograin

(541) 935-7065; woodrt@pacinfo.com

web site: www.lcbaor.org

Portland-Metro Beekeepers

Meets 7 pm, second Thursday, Oregon City Hous Auth Clackamas Bldg, 13930 S Gain

President: Kerry Haskins

(503) 632–8448; kh251@aol.com Vice President: Peter Forrest

(503) 236-7787; pdxpete57@msn.com **Secretary:** Paul Hardzinski; (503) 631-3927

Treasurer: Barbara Derkacht

(503) 631-3063; bderkacht@yahoo.com

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 pm, first Monday, Central Pt So Or Res & Ext Ctr. 569 Hanley Rd

President: John Jacob

(541) 582-BEES; oldsol@jeffnet.org **Vice President:** Floyd Pawlowski 415 Pompadour Dr, Ashland

Secretary/Treasurer: Suzanne Davis

suzanne@mighty.net

web site: www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org

Tillamook County Beekeepers

Meets 7 pm, first Thursday, Tillamook Forestry Building, 5005 Third St **President:** Bob Allen; (503) 322-3819

Vice President: Terry Fullan

(503) 368-7160; tfullan@nehalemtel.net **Secretary/Treasurer:** Wayne Auble

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 pm, last Friday, Beaverton OSU Ext, #1400, 18640 SW Walker Rd

President: Andrew Schwab

(503) 537-0506; pyr4ausi@verizon.net

Vice President: Todd Balsiger

(503) 357-8938; toddbalsiger@comcast.net

Secretary: Preston Gabel

(503) 530-1436; preston@gabelhaven.com

Co-Treasurers: Michael and Brigette Hendrickson

hendricm@ece.pdx.edu

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 pm, fourth Monday, Salem Chemeketa Comm College, Bldg 34, Rm A **President:** Richard Farrier; (541) 327–2637

Vice President: Harry Vanderpool

(503) 399-3675; shallotman@yahoo.com

Secretary: Mike Rodia

(503) 364-3275; drodia@yahoo.com **Treasurer:** Susan Rauchfuss

(503) 391-5600; smokfoot@cyberis.net

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Lane County Beekeepers

Ken Ograin writes that this year's Bee School was the best yet thanks to the high-tech facility that they where lucky enough to have use of. Attendees came from Idaho, Washington, and California, as well as from throughout Oregon. Eighty came with a need to learn



about beekeeping basics, and their evaluations of the event indicate that they all went away enthused.

Spring may finally be here, and it looks to be an early blooming season compared to last year with cherries, plums, maples, and pears blooming

in late March. Ken says that the hives he has been into look to be in good shape, and orders are in for queens for doing some splits and requeening soon. Swarming has gotten an early start also, with the first reported on the 28th of March. Beekeepers will be removing a colony of bees that has been living in a tree near a popular jogging path soon.

Note: Honey bees have been the subject of many newspaper articles of late. One of these, Eugene's *The Register-Guard* (April 11, 2007), included photos of Ken and his Elmira bees (with *Varroa*) and featured comments from Judy Scher, Chuck Sowers, and Kenny Williams.

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Andrew Schwab notes that the February meeting was the group's mead-tasting event, which he thought went very well. (How could it go bad?) Doug from the "Main Street Homebrew Supply Company" talked to the group about how to make mead quickly, step by step. There were at least six different meads to taste afterwards, all very different from one another. In March, Jim Marshall presented on installing nucs/packages and making splits. Questions were many. This is one of the best years in quite a few for making splits. As Andrew adds: "IF we don't, the bees surely will.:) ." The group is looking for help and

suggestions in finding a new place to meet this year, as the building has been sold. They would like to stay in the Hillsboro/Beaverton area because that is where most of their members are now located.

AROUND THE REGION

Sheryl Johnson at Ruhl Bee Supply reports that, as those coming in to pick up bees and equipment know, the store has been sold. More about this in a future issue of the newsletter.

At GloryBee Foods, Margaret Forsythe notes that Bee Weekend was a huge success—customers picked up 470 packages of bees. Owner Dick Turanski hived six packages for installation demonstrations. And KVAL news was there for a demo. Margaret notes that some optimistic folks are starting to keep bees *because* of all the problems—to do their part. Among the store's new beekeeping tools are queen-grafting tools, spray bottles, and refractometers.

KEEPING BEES IN WESTERN OREGON

Todd Balsiger

May is an exceedingly busy month for beekeeping—a transition time into the summer nectar flow. There are many tasks that need do be done.

- Light hives can still starve if the weather turns bad. Make sure your hives have at least two or three frames of honey. After the maples and fruit trees bloom, there is actually a decrease in available nectar until the summer nectar flow begins.
- Swarming is at its zenith in May (late April, too), so continue swarm-control practices. The old saying holds true (well, almost): a swarm caught in May is worth a load of hay; a swarm caught June is worth a silver spoon; and a swarm caught in July ain't worth a fly.
- Keep a nuc box at the ready with one or two drawn frames (preferably dark) and the balance foundation for swarms. Pour some honey or sugar water on the frames before you knock the bees in. They'll stick!

Continued on page 6

KEEPING BEES—Continued from page 5

- Consider setting up decoy hives to catch stray swarms in your apiary. Make sure the mice can't get in.
- Decreasing queen pheromone production and its distribution within the hive triggers the swarm impulse, so the two best ways to reduce swarming are to requeen regularly (young queens produce more pheromone) and to reduce congestion by reversing, equalizing, and splitting.
- Visually look at your colonies for health are they actively foraging and bringing in pollen? Investigate any colony that is not performing well. Has it become queenless and developed laying workers? Does it have a disease like AFB? Are the bees raising a supersedure queen? Did the colony swarm? Take appropriate action. If you don't know what to do, go to your next beekeepers' association meeting and ask.
- Look for signs that it is time to super—e.g., the bees lose interest in sugar syrup, you couldn't make the bees rob if you wanted to, or there's new, white wax on the frames. And, oh yes, additional signs may include a large field of crimson next to your hives or blackberries in bloom....
- Give bees abundant room for storing honey early in the season (it's opposite in late season when we crowd them). Get your supers out of storage, air them out if you used paradichlorobenzene crystals, and place a couple on each hive.
- Bees work from the center of most combs, and they work up. If you have both foundation and drawn comb, put the drawn comb on the outside. Always use ten frames per box for foundation; otherwise, the bees will build misshapen combs. Go to nine frames the following year to make uncapping easier.
- Research has found no difference in topsupering versus bottom-supering. Do what is easier for you.

- Although there are exceptions, I strongly recommend use of queen excluders. Brood in honey supers is a major problem when you take honey off. Moreover, supers that have had brood are dramatically more attractive to wax moths. Make a clear distinction between your brood boxes and honey supers, and always keep them separate. Never use brood boxes that have had *Varroa* strips for honey production.
- ❖ Bees collect water in the summer as avidly as they collect nectar and pollen. If appropriate water resources (creeks, ponds, and lakes) are absent, provide water early and let the bees train themselves to use it. This is especially important in urban settings where bees may end up in your neighbor's swimming pool or pet bowl. (Good luck with this. Bees love water splashed out of swimming pools; it's easy for them to lap up from the concrete.)

MARY RAYBURN

August 20, 1935–April 5, 2007

Mary Rayburn, a member of OSBA and the Portland-Metro group, was born Mary Tyschenko in Chernin, Ukraine. In 1951, she immigrated to Weiser ID. She married Claude E. in 1956. Mary lived in La Grande, where she graduated from Eastern Oregon College of Education, and moved to Portland in 1974. She was a teacher for Portland Public Schools and a member of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Claude passed in 1998. Survivors include her daughter, Vivian A. Odell; her brother, Nick Shur; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Note: Adapted from *The Oregonian* (April 8, 2007). Mary was a dear person to many of us. We will miss her along with her warmth, sense of joy in life, and serious questioning for understanding the bees and sharing that with others.

MESSAGE BOARDING 101

Rosanna Mattingly

It was a dark and stormy night.... This particular night, I had an e-mail request from a teacher who wanted a beekeeper to visit her classroom. I passed the request on to a few people I thought might be able to help her. Very often I don't get responses to queries, so I was happy when I received a response to this one. It was not a response that I had hoped for, however. Harry Vanderpool wrote: "Maybe we should post this on the message board????" The trouble was, it soon became clear that he didn't mean we; he meant me.

Long silence on my part.... It may be that some of the folks who've queried this past year about using / not using the message board have felt the same way.

I've posted to message boards in the past. Yet somehow I needed to do more than fumble my way through this one. When I went to the board, the "help" button at the top of the screen didn't help. I felt somewhat lost. There were so many choices in the topics listed. And they seemed to keep changing. I finally talked to Thom Trusewicz. The thing that he told me that I hadn't "gotten" and the thing that helped me the most is that the first list that comes up when you click on "Message Board" at www.orsba. org is a *stable* one. It doesn't change. It is called



The home page of the OSBA Web site. From here, click on "Message Board."

"General" and allows you to go into what are called the "sub-boards."



The stable list of "sub-boards," which include general beekeeping topics, organic beekeeping, and each of the OSBA regional groups. The first sub-board listed is the General Beekeeping Board.

The sub-boards cover (1) General Beekeeping, (2) Organic Beekeeping, and (3) each of the OSBA regional groups. If you want back out to the site's home page from the stable General list or from any of the sub-boards, all you have to do is click on "Go back to orsba.org" at the top, left-hand side of the screen. Despite my initial sense of things, I learned that it's fairly difficult to lose your way.

The sub-board that appears to get the most traffic is the General Beekeeping Board. Topics there pile up somewhat like a geologist's dream core of the earth: oldest activity at the bottom, most recent activity at the top. If you see a topic of interest or potential interest, you simply click on that topic. You then can view all comments to date. Should you want to add your thoughts on the topic to the mix, simply click on "reply" near the top right-hand side of the posts. The site will ask you to enter your name and to type what you see (several letters and numbers) for security clearance. Then you can type your message in the box provided. When you're ready to submit your comments, simply click on "post reply." The same process holds for adding a topic of your own. For this, you go to the top right-hand side of the sub-board list of topics rather than the topic itself and click on

MESSAGING—Continued from page 7



The list of topics, from most recent to oldest activity, on the General Beekeeping Board, a sub-board of the message board. To view the conversation, click on a topic of interest. This page is where you can post a question or start a topic of your own.

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A page showing the comments made about a particular topic listed on the General Beekeeping Board. Here you can add comments of your own about the topic.

"new thread." The site will ask for the same information plus the name of the subject you are adding. You can visit the site to learn more about beekeeping and beekeeper concerns at any time. And you can join in the discussion as a guest for as long as you like. You can also register on the site. There are advantages to doing so. Among them, you don't have to go through the security clearance each time you add a comment or start a new thread if you are registered. In addition, you can easily tell which posts have been added since you last visited the site. And you receive karma as a result of your actions. I'm trusting that it is karma of the good kind. It may well be time for me to register on the board myself!

WAYS AND MEANS...

Court Says USDA Violated Law: The USDA has failed to abide by federal environmental laws in approving a genetically engineered crop without conducting a full Environmental Impact Statement. Andrew Kimbrell, executive director of the Center for Food Safety, notes not only recognition of the lack of consideration for environmental and economic threats from genetically engineered alfalfa but also the lack of review of cumulative impacts of such crop approvals. See story at the Organic Consumers Association Web site: www.organicconsumers. org/articles/article_4492.cfm.

Additional Funding for CCD: The National Honey Board recently approved an additional \$100,000 funding for research on CCD and awarded the funds to the CCD Working Group.

Coming Soon to a Theatre...: November 2007 is the scheduled release date for "Bee Movie," written by Jerry Seinfeld. Seinfeld is also the voice of Barry Bee Benson. The animation, produced by DreamWorks, highlights the importance of bee pollination in plant production. For more information and to view trailers, see: www.beemovie.com. The National Honey Board is planning honey promotions, including hang tags, stickers, and recipes, to tie in with the movie release across the country. Send ideas/feedback to moviestuff@nhb.org.

Swarm Box Stays: Last year Helga Moll was set to donate a hive and a swarm box to the Portland-Metro Bee Day. When Doug Woods arrived to pick up the hive, he told her that he uses a swarm box while he is working his bees. When he finds a queen, he places that frame in the box and returns everything to the colony when he is finished. (Yes, Helga kept the box!)

Small Business Considerations: Joann Olstrom notes that SCORE (www.score.org) and related centers are valuable resources for folks starting or in a small business. Joann adds that she and Bob have learned that it's important to have product liability insurance if you place honey in stores and to have labels OKed by food safety experts *before* they are printed.

HIVASTAN APPROVED

David Priebe notes that the Environmental Protection Agency has approved the request for Section 18 emergency use of fenpyroximate (Hivastan, manufactured by Wellmark International) to control *Varroa destructor* in honey bee colonies in Oregon in 2007. Use may begin immediately and continue through 28 February 2008.

Please direct any questions to David at: State Registration Specialist, Pesticides Division, Oregon Department of Agriculture, 635 Capitol Street, Salem OR 97301; (503) 986-4656.

If you want to gather honey, don't kick over the beehive.

—Abraham Lincoln

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MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS FORM

Membership in the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association is open to anyone with an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. Membership includes a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on publications, and ten issues of *The Bee Line*. To become a member, send check made payable to OSBA with completed form to: Patricia Swenson, 11665 Webfoot Rd, Dayton OR 97114.

Name:			
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Telephone number:	e-mail	address:	
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May we all continue to learn from the bees.

The **Oregon State Beekeepers' Association** is a nonprofit organization representing and supporting all who have an interest in honey bees and beekeeping.

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