The honey harvest is over and all of us beekeepers are heading into our fall management practices, which include storage of extracted honey frames and spare frames used for brood.

It’s often recommended that these frames be placed in a freezer for 48 hours prior to storage to kill any wax moth eggs or larvae present. Good advice and doing so will certainly work, but how many of us really have that kind of room in the freezer to treat lots of frames in a timely manner? The use of moth balls or “moth crystals” to prevent infestation during storage is another alternative that is relatively easy and cost effective.

Now, many authors do not recommend the use of commercial moth balls such as the type you can find at your local hardware store or home center. “Moth crystals,” available exclusively through beekeeping supply stores, are, however, often recommended.

Historically, this advice made sense as mothballs found in home centers were always made from a compound called naphthalene and officially known as \textit{bicyclo[4,4,0]deca-1,3,5,7,9-pentene}. While naphthalene is a very effective deterrent for moths and other insects, it is also quite flammable and its “coal tar”-like scent often lingers far longer than desired.

Although naphthalene moth balls are still available, most manufacturers have switched to a compound called \textit{para-dichlorobenzene} (officially known as \textit{1,4 dichlorobenzene}). This compound is not flammable, does not smell like coal tar, and is an effective deterrent to moths and other insects. The compound is also a solid (not a waxy gel) at room temperature and pressure, and is thus easy to handle and dispense. You can also purchase it in smaller quantities than Para-Moth crystals sold at the bee supply houses, which means you do not have to buy and store more material than you really need.

Interestingly, \textit{para-dichlorobenzene} found in commercial moth balls is the same compound sold as Para-Moth crystals. The 1,4 dichlorobenzene from the home center costs about $4 for enough material to treat about 250 frames. A pound of Para-Moth, which will also treat about 250 frames, sells for about $14 (not including shipping) at the bee supply houses. That’s a price difference of about 250 percent! Further, “moth balls” from the local store are often packaged for convenient dispensing—no need to measure or weigh out anything.

To see if there really is a difference between materials, I collected samples of four different brands of commercial moth balls from my local Bi-Mart, Ace...
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In many ways I was expecting the interest from the media in bees to drop off a bit by now. Instead, when it comes to bees, the media is still thirsty for stories and information. I get calls from journalists because I am listed as president on the website. Luckily in a previous position I held in industry I was trained several times on dealing with the press. Usually when they contact me they are looking for a statewide perspective. However, when the journalist or radio talk show host is looking for a local perspective they will search for a local person. In these cases, anyone in our membership could be contacted by the media to be interviewed. All of us should be somewhat prepared to respond if asked. If it is general questions about beekeeping, it can be fun to talk about your experiences, share general knowledge, talk about the benefits of beekeeping, and mention the local bee club.

Issues and problems can come up when asked to comment on some event that could generate a negative impression of beekeeping, beekeepers, or companies and their products. Remember, everything you say to a reporter is “on the record” and the record today is permanent and worldwide! And it is perfectly acceptable to respond with “I can’t answer that question” or “I don’t know.” It is important to stay on the subject and not get off on a tangent; the more you talk the more likely it is you will be taken out of context.

Suppose you lost half your bees to an erroneous pesticide application in your area. Local journalists are going to want to talk with you. Most journalists will just want the facts and possibly your point of view on the event and how it affects you. Just make sure your facts are indeed facts and your opinions are qualified as just that, your opinions. You should always try to think about your answer first before stating it, and the interviewer should be willing to work with you on this.

Sometimes you may get a reporter or radio talk show host with an agenda, such as bashing the chemical companies, the environmentalists, or just plain sensationalism no matter which direction it goes. Be careful not to get into a situation where you are “bad mouthing” anyone or any company’s product. It can ruin your credibility. If the interviewer is pushing to try to get you to say something you don’t think is right, you can stop the interview. Don’t compromise your beliefs.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and take care.

Paul

USDA SEEKS INPUT ON PROPOSED STANDARD OF IDENTITY FOR HONEY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19, 2014—The Agricultural Act of 2014, also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, charged the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) with completing a report on whether a federal standard of identity for honey would be in the interest of consumers, the honey industry, and U.S. Agriculture. Consistent with this direction, USDA is seeking input from the public to assist USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) as it develops the report.

AMS will send the report to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which establishes standards of identity for fruits and vegetables and other foods, for their consideration in creating a regulatory standard. Standards of identity determine what a food product must contain in order to be marketed under a certain name in interstate commerce. USDA will take into consideration the March 2006 standard of identity petition that citizens filed with the FDA, including any current amendments or clarifications necessary to update that petition.

The notice soliciting comments will be published in the Aug. 20, 2014, Federal Register. Comments must be submitted to www.regulations.gov by September 19, 2014. For a copy of the standards or more information, visit www.ams.usda.gov/scihome or contact Robin Chilton, Chief, Standardization Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Program, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, National Training and Development Center, Riverside Business Park, 100 Riverside Parkway, Suite 101, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406; telephone 540.361.1130; e-mail robin.chilton@ams.usda.gov.
ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

Dewey M. Caron

This fall, Oregon and Northwest beekeepers will hold the annual conference November 6–8 at the Seaside Civic & Convention Center, same place as last year. The program this year features a good mix of speaker experience and expertise. Bee losses, pollination, propolis, beekeeping in practice, pesticides, IPM, and a bit of history will all be covered.

Our featured speakers include Dr. Marla Spivak, University of Minnesota, Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, University of Maryland and head of the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) program, and Kim Flottum, editor of Bee Culture Magazine. Our local beekeepers include George Hansen, Past President of American Beekeeping Federation, Judy Scher, Eugene backywarder, John Jacob, Rogue River commercial queen rearer/commercial beekeeper, and Sarah Red-Laird, Ashland Bee Girl. Dr. Ramesh Sagili, Mike Burgett, myself, and Paul Jepson from Oregon State University, Steve Sheppard of Washington State University, and students from both Oregon and Washington will also be presenting their recent findings. See the complete up-to-date program in this issue and inevitable last-minute changes on the website (www.orsba.org).

Our popular all-day Bee School will again be offered as an alternative on Friday for beginners and those with less experience. Our Saturday program will again be a dual offering of topics. On Thursday, there will be a day-long Oregon Master Beekeeper Institute for Journey-level participants in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program (by invitation).

Registration

The OSBA website and Bee Line have a registration form [see page 4; tentative agenda, page 11]. We are seeking to keep costs close to those of last year. Pre-register by October 24 by mail. You do not have to be a member to register, but we encourage you to join our association for full benefits.

Thursday Social-Friday Meals

Our Thursday evening social features great food snacks (many make it a lite meal) and then Thursday night at the movies! This year we will show “More Than Honey,” the critically acclaimed movie from Austria that contrasts industrial apiculture (featuring John Miller of California) with small-scale beekeeping.

Our two big meal events at the annual conference are a Friday noon Research Luncheon and the Friday evening Banquet, preceded by a social hour (complimentary hors d’oeuvres and a no-host bar). We encourage you to include these meals when you pre-register as there will be limited availability at the meeting as we must guarantee a number in advance. Following the banquet, there is our popular annual auction to generate funds for research. Saturday provides an opportunity to enjoy local restaurants in Seaside.

Lodging

The Best Western Ocean View Resort (on the Boardwalk), Rivertide Suites, and the Inn at Seaside have room blocks with special OSBA discounts for bee conference attendees. If you have another favorite place you like to stay, please mention the purpose of your visit as many businesses contribute to Convention Center upkeep, which helps keep our meeting costs reasonable and may also discount their regular rates.

OSU Honey Bee Lab

The OSU bee crew will once again set up the popular OSU Honey Bee Lab. This will be a chance to see bees close up and to get help with bee mite and disease identification/diagnosis. You are welcome to bring a sample of your honey bees in a vial with alcohol, 300 for a Varroa mite count and Nosema analysis. If you have brood disease concerns, bring a piece of comb wrapped in paper (no plastics as mold will quickly take over) that includes one of more suspicious cells for analysis. The lab will also have samples for demonstrations. They will also look at suspected samples of Small Hive Beetle or other unusual hive suspects if you bring them along.

Auctions, Honey Show, and Vendors

We encourage members to bring unique and one-of-a-kind bee items to contribute to our silent and banquet auctions. Our silent auction items are displayed. You sign up with a bid, with highest bid at close of the auction taking the item home. Bring your best bee products of the 2014 season and participate in our honey show for ribbons and prizes. Entries must be entered by 10 am on Friday with judging emphasis on those quality factors that beekeepers influence. The same entry categories and judging standards used for the state fair (see honey exhibitors handbook at www.oregonstatefair.org) will be used at Seaside.

Don’t forget your checkbook or credit card so you can purchase the latest gadget, bee memorabilia, hive bodies/frames, other bee equipment items, or pick up the latest bee book. We plan to have a mix of Oregon, regional, and national supply dealers on hand. Some of the dealers may arrange to include your order “on the truck” if you order in advance and specify delivery at the conference. The best opportunity at our annual conference is the chance to share with fellow beekeepers during breaks, social events, while talking in the vendors and in the hallways. Make plans NOW to attend November 6–8.
2014 Annual Conference

Oregon State Beekeepers Association

November 6–8, 2014
Seaside Civic and Convention Center
415 First Avenue, Seaside, Oregon 97138

Individual and Family Registration

Name:____________________________________________________________Date:__________________
Company:_____________________________________________________________________________
Address:______________________________________________________________________________
City:_______________________________________________State:_______________Zip:____________
Contact Phone:___________________e-mail:________________________________________________
Names of Family Members Registered:___________________________________________________

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| Full Conference                            | Individual - $140  
Family - $175    | $            |
| Friday Conference Only                     | Individual - $90  
Family - $110    | $            |
| Saturday Conference Only                   | Individual - $90  
Family - $110    | $            |
| Friday Research Luncheon¹                  | $25 per Person  
Number Attending:_____ | $            |
| Friday Banquet                             | $45 per Person  
Number Attending:_____ | $            |
| Donation to Research Fund²                 | $            |
| Annual OSBA Dues                           | $40 per Person  
Number:_____ | $            |
| Total Cost                                 | $            |

Please make check payable to OSBA and mail with this completed registration form, postmarked no later than October 24, to: Bunny Cramer-Carter, P.O. Box 779, Stayton, Oregon 97383.

Note: Hotel reservations are not included in these costs. Special rates are available at the Best Western Ocean View Resort (800.234.8439), the Rivertide Suites (503.717.1100), and the Inn at Seaside (800.699.5070). Be sure to ask for the Beekeepers Conference special room rate when you make your reservation.

¹The Friday Research Luncheon is limited to the first 150 registrants. For Saturday’s lunch, please enjoy your meal at one of the local establishments of your choice.
²The Oregon State Beekeepers Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. Please consult your accountant for details.
Oregon State Beekeepers Association
EXECUTIVE BOARD AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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carond@hort.oregonstate.edu

Secretary: Bunny Cramer-Carter
PO Box 779, Stayton 97383
503.703.8546; dbcramer@hotmail.com

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541.929.5337; mitebee@peak.org

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North Willamette Valley: Harry Vanderpool
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503.399.3675; shallotman@yahoo.com

South Willamette Valley: Jason Rowan
80881 Turkey Run Rd, Creswell 97426
541.942.6479; beetanical@q.com

OSBA REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Cascadia Queen Breeders
Meets quarterly; contact the secretary for information
Chair: Paul Maresh
503.283.2060; pmaresh@spiretech.com
Vice Chair: James Hensel
Secretary: Alvalea Fong
503.742.0910; mamagoose@mac.com
Treasurer: Rex McIntire
503.720.7958; remcintire_5@msn.com

Central Oregon Beekeepers
Meets 6:30 PM, second Thursday
Partners in Care, 2075 NE Wyatt Ct, Bend
Visit www.orsba.org, Message Board, Central Oregon Branch. For information and meeting details, e-mail: contact@cobeekeeping.org
Ring Leader: Bindy Beck-Meyer
Bookkeeper: Allen Engle
Website: www.cobeekeeping.org

Coffee Creek Beekeepers

Coos County Beekeepers
Meets 6:30 PM, third Saturday (except December)
Ohlsen Baxter Bldg, 631 Alder St, Myrtle Point
President: John Gardner—541.572.3847
Vice President: Shigeo Oku—541.396.4016
Secretary: Bobbie Gardner—541.572.3847
Treasurer: Jane Oku
541.396.4016; janeoku1958@gmail.com

John Day River Beekeepers
Meets quarterly
President: Matt Allen
541.934.9101; apricotapiaries@gmail.com
Education Coordinator and Secretary: Liz Lovelock

Klamath Basin Beekeepers
Meets 9:00 AM, last Saturday (except Nov/Dec)
OSU Extension, 3328 Vandenberg Rd, Klamath Falls
President: Jim Smith
541.892.5888; tulebee@gmail.com
Vice President: Doug Youngberg
dyoungberg@e-isco.com
Secretary: Cathy Vick
541.884.6274; elliott772@aol.com
Treasurer: Steve Vick
541.884.6274; stevevick@aol.com
Website: www.klamathbeekeepers.org
The Bee Line

Lane County Beekeepers
Meets 7:30 pm, third Tuesday, Trinity United Methodist Church, 440 Maxwell Rd, Eugene
President: Katharine Hunt 541.607.0106; keehhunt@gmail.com
Vice President: Pam Leavitt—541.344.4228
Secretary: Jodi Wiktorkowski
Treasurer: Polly Hablenton
Website: www.lcbaor.org

Southern Oregon Beekeepers
Meets 7:30 pm, first Monday, Southern Oregon (6:30 PM hands-on demo at SOBA hives thru bee season)
Res & Ext Ctr, 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point
President: John Jacob 541.582.BEES; john@oldsolenterprises.com
Vice President: Ron Padgett 541.592.4678; padgett25@frontiernet.net
Secretary: Dana Rose—puckamok@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Cheryl Housden—541.955.5146 chousden@earthlink.net
Website: southernoregonbeekeepers.org, facebook.com/SouthernOregonBeekeepersAssociation

Linn-Benton Beekeepers
Meets 6:30 PM, third Wednesday, South First Alternative Co-op Meeting Room, 1007 SE 3rd, Corvallis
President: Linda Zielinski 541.929.4856; Ilz50@peak.org
Vice President: Steve Oda 541.745.7227; odafamily1@comcast.net
Secretary: Robert Williams rober2w@gmail.com
Treasurer: Suzi Maresh 541.967.9607; sjomaresh@msn.com
Website: www.lbba.us

Tillamook County Beekeepers
Meets 7:00 PM, second Tuesday (except December)
Fresh Cafe, 9120 5th Street, Bay City
President: Bob Allen—503.322.3819
Vice President: Jim Fanjoy 503.637.5522 ; jim@fanjoy.com
Secretary: Jeffrey Hall 503.739.0893; jlh434@mac.com
Treasurer: Stan Scotton 503.232.4945; 4scotton@gmail.com

Oregon South Coast Beekeepers
Meets 6:00 PM, third Wednesday, OSU Extension Office located at the Fairgrounds in Gold Beach
President: Carla Fletcher
Vice President: Jim Sorber
Secretary: Wayne Berry berrydogs@gmail.com
Treasurer: Barbara Fitts

Willamette Valley Beekeepers
Meets 7:30 PM, last Tuesday
Cameron Public Svcs Bldg, 155 N First Ave, Hillsboro
President: Mike Van Dyke 503.642.5338; mvand581@gmail.com
Vice President: Andrew Schwab 503.538.7545; beesbuzzin@gmail.com
Secretary: Paul Andersen 503.332.5410; paulande@easystreet.net
Treasurer: Jerry Maasdam 503.648.7906; jmaasdam@mac.com

Portland Metro Beekeepers
Meets 7:00 pm, second Thursday, Clackamas Community College, Clairmont Hall, Room 118, Oregon City
President: Joe Maresh 503.703.5060; joemaresh@bctonline.com
Vice President: Rex McIntire 503.720.7958; remcintire_5@msn.com
Secretary: Patty Anderson 503.887.7057; wiseacrefarms@me.com
Treasurer: Barb Derkacht 503.631.3063; bderkacht@yahoo.com

Portland Urban Beekeepers
Meets 6:30 PM, first Wednesday, Calaroga Terrace Rtmt Comm, Terrace Auditorium, 1400 NE Second Ave, Portland. For information, e-mail: officers@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
President: Tim Wessels—503.380.9381 president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
Vice President: Bill Catherall—503.572.6467 vice-president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
Secretary: Mike Card—971.207.9726 secretary@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
Treasurer: Keith Gilman—503.830.3178 treasurer@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
Website: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Website: www.heidkamsbees.com
 Queens, Bees, Honey & Pollination
REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives

South Coast
Oregon South Coast beekeepers have been very busy with the Curry County Fair at the end of July, a demonstration in graftless queen rearing, a representative at Mentor Day, and an excellent presentation from a member from neighboring Coos County beekeepers.

They have a large booth area at the Curry County Fair, selling all the quarts of honey provided by Alex, who makes the metal bee stands with adjustable rear legs. Many people signed up to be on the e-mail list and showed an interest in learning more about honey bees and beekeeping. Club members did an excellent job fielding question and talking about the activity in the observation hive that was central to the display surrounded by poster-sized photographs by club members showing bee activities.

Randy Sturgis of Myrtle Point made an impressive presentation at the July meeting, showing one of his many little queen castles for overwintering a spring supply of reliable and readily available queens for as many colonies that he keeps in an idyllic setting in his backyard that extends to the open meadow with shallow lake surrounded by wild grasses sheltering a myriad of wildflowers flourishing and prospering because of all the pollinators from the beeyard.

Carla Fletcher, president, on the first Saturday of August, made her process of setting up graftless queen rearing frames into a demonstration presentation for club members.

Russian bees that came in a nuc from Old Sol at the end of May are about to have a population explosion. Nobody told them that the blackberries are done blooming. “Dandelions, here we come!” Hopefully this build-up results in a strong colony for overwintering. All of us are impressed with the Russians so far—except for the neighbors who objected to the Russians moving into their Italian neighborhood.

Coos County beekeepers report that all is quiet on the bee front at the moment and that the club didn’t have a booth at the fair this year.

I attended Mentors Day at OSU and was very impressed by both the guided presentations and the extensive and valuable sharing by many mentors of helpful ideas for management of colonies and mentees. The many door prizes of books by club members and others, queens, mead, and other beekeeping paraphernalia donated by beekeepers and supply businesses, along with one paid admission for the annual conference in November, brought it all to a very pleasant conclusion.

—Mureen Walker

North Willamette Valley
The end of the honey flow will be earlier this year. Expect a long, protracted dearth and hope for late summer rains. Supers should be removed earlier this year and/or expect to feed more. I personally feed in June and July for late start ups and stragglers to avoid feeding during crazy times (robbing season).

If you want your hives to survive this winter—I’m thinking of the Portland beekeeping group which sustained 50 percent plus losses last winter—apply an effective mite treatment in early August and make sure your bees go into winter fat and heavy. That plus healthy queens and avoiding pesticide sprays should dramatically increase winter survival rates.

—Todd Balsiger

South Willamette Valley
Summertime is here and mother earth is heating up the south valley here in Oregon. A few things to remember this time of year: September means no nectar so bee aware of your hive’s weight and ability to protect itself. Additionally, it would be a good idea to check queen status to make sure you still have a viable queen running things. I get discouraged with the data on how many hobbyists lose colonies over the winter and your window is closing rapidly for making the necessary management choices to have a live hive in the winter.

Here in our operation we try to remember a few key things when checking the hives: A. Mites = don’t like; B. Poor Queens = don’t like; C. Low honey stores = don’t like. Three simple things to check that can make a huge difference in winter survival. If you haven’t treated for mites, then get on it. There are a lot of products, organic and nonorganic, that can help. If you’re not treating for mites, good luck. If you have a small colony, try fall requeening and feed sugar and pollen til you run out of time. Also, take small colonies and knock them down to a single box so they can defend and heat themselves during critical times. If you think your small hive will just have to make it on its own, then good luck. Lastly, if you think the bees should have made enough stores without checking on them, good luck. Sugar and pollen patties are not very expensive and they are a cheap fix. Having good luck is a wonderful thing at the casinos, but when it comes to bees remember the year before and if you had troubles try making different choices this fall.

I hope your honey harvest went well and your bees are looking good for winter. Don’t forget to check your hives. The bee season doesn’t stop just because the summer is ending.

—Jason Rowan
REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

COFFEE CREEK BEEKEEPERS

The colonies will have some harvested honey despite having run the full gamut of bee challenges this first year. Our volunteers feel like the participants have experienced many things at the intermediate beekeeping level and they seem to be keeping up very well. We received news of some established colonies in an outbuilding at another facility and are considering the possibility of a cutout at some point. It would be great to expand this very satisfying and successful program. —Coffee Creek Crew

LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS

Club members were treated to our annual discussion about extracting honey at our July 15 meeting. Ken Ograin shared his extensive knowledge on the topic. He showed a number of different methods he has developed and uses to strain honey from the wax cappings. He emphasized the importance of having a wet cloth handy to clean your hot knife between uses, as it will start to burn otherwise. Ken also noted that it is very important to clean all your equipment once you are finished extracting. This is especially important when using club equipment!

Sunday, July 27, saw four club members hosting at the Lane County Fair. Every year the club provides a LCBA display for the Grange building. This year the theme was leadership. Nancy Ograin designed a great poster describing the leadership roles that the club provides in Lane County. Ken and Dave had set up the display stand the previous weekend, which Nancy Ograin and Katharine Hunt then decorated. On the last day of the fair, Pam and Les Leavitt, along with Judy Scher and Katharine Hunt, represented the club answering questions about beekeeping and encouraging people to vote for their favorite display.

Besides the club’s Grange display, a number of club members had entered in the Products of the Hive Division. The honey was placed on two display panels which Ken Ograin built a number of years ago. These panels have lights under the honey, which enhances their different colors. The following club members entered honey: Polly Habliston won the Fair Board Award; Doug Habliston, 3rd place in medium honey; Nancy Ograin, Best of Show by Irving Grange and 1st place in both medium and dark honey and 1st for her beeswax; Ken Ograin 2nd in both medium and dark honey and 2nd for his beeswax. Connie Duke also entered her honey. The Hornadays (Backyard) won 3rd place in dark honey. Busy Bee (Hornaday) won 3rd place and Washington Park (Hornaday), 1st place in light honey. Jonathan Loftin won 2nd place in light honey and 1st for his frame of sealed honey. There were no entries in the chunk honey class.

Chip Kiger answered the club request for a volunteer on July 30. Amanda Peth, University of Oregon photojournalism student, wanted to photograph a beekeeper working bees in the Eugene area. Chip volunteered and had Amanda come over to his place and suit up. She did a hive check with him and got several close-up photos of frames and active bees. Thanks, Chip, for helping out. Club member Chuck Hunt noted that his “Bee Bee” tree (Tetradium danielli or Korean evodia) started to bloom earlier this year attracting bees as early as July 18. Usually it blooms in August supplying a good nectar source for the bees. —Katharine Hunt

PORTLAND METRO BEEKEEPERS

Our August meeting was our annual picnic at Max Patterson Park in Gladstone. It was a perfect day, and we had a great turnout! Our next meeting will be held on September 11 at 7:00 PM. The active storage season is about over, and we will be discussing feeding, fall forage, and winterizing hives. Don’t miss this meeting! We will be giving away three door prizes of tuition for the Oregon State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference. —Patty Anderson

PORTLAND URBAN BEEKEEPERS

As the nectar flow begins to wind down, some Portland Urban beekeepers are still busy chasing swarms, some are sorting frames and constructing supers, some are harvesting their golden honey treasure, and some are just sitting back and enjoying the “Zen” of being a beekeeper. Luckily, apiaries in the urban area are less impacted by the nectar ebb and flow, so the coming dearth is less of a concern. However, those in the foothills are beginning to plan for the late-summer lack of food diversity.

As some predicted, the use of pesticides hit some PUB member apiaries hard this year, but so far there have been no massive kills in the urban area like last year’s linden tree mis-application in Wilsonville. The media still loves the story, and these events still received a great deal of attention. Dewey Caron, one of our featured speakers at the July PUB meeting, talked at length about one of the sudden bee death cases. While it looked early on to be a pesticide kill, the mounting evidence suggests that it may have actually been a combination of factors or just plain starvation. In this case study, Dewey explained how susceptible apiaries are in the foothills to a lack of bio-diverse food sources.

The other speaker at July’s meeting was Bill Catherall (PUB vice president), who made a presentation on foundationless Langstroth beekeeping. Our final speaker for the meeting was Janet Shea (PUB secretary), who was selected to be our member spotlight for the month. The
KEEPING BEES IN SEPTEMBER

Ken Ograin

September is a month when one needs to be observant. In August, you were busy with honey harvesting, mite control, and inspecting colonies.

❖ Honey frames need to be protected from wax moth.
❖ Your honey supers should be cleaned and stored for next year’s honey flow.
❖ Things you need to be mindful of are winter food stores, robbing, yellow jackets, and Nosema treatment; also, get your bee yards tidied up.
❖ Keep hefting your hives to monitor food stores. Your colonies will be consuming more food than is being brought in. Feed heavy syrup if needed in a top feeder or inside feeder at this time, as entrance feeders tend to attract robbers.
❖ Robbing and yellow jackets can and may be a major problem this month. Entrance reducers will help, but the UC Davis robber screen that Dewey Caron has brought to our attention is a good thing. The screens are easy to make using just scrap wood and 1/8-inch hardware cloth. I made many of these last year, and they do an excellent job of deterring robbers.
❖ Monitor for mites, and be sure that you have followed manufacturer’s instructions for any products that you may have used. Be sure to remove any unused product in a timely manner.
❖ If you did any requeening or combining of weak colonies last month, be sure to check them. All colonies need to be queenright with a healthy population of winter bees that will carry the colony through winter.
❖ If your colony did not produce any surplus honey but seems to have a large population of bees and is queenright, Tom Seeley may have the answer for you. One, if your colony had swarmed, then your population may have not recovered in time for the major nectar flow. Another possibility, Tom says, is Nosema or tracheal mites as both of these can reduce a bee’s life span—and it is the foraging phase that will be shortened. This would be a good reason to test your bees for both so that you can treat them while there is still time—that is, before winter temperatures will prevent your ability to do so.
❖ Hives need to be protected from winter rains and winds.
❖ Be sure you have good-fitting lids, and weight them down.
❖ Tip hives up slightly in the back if you use solid bottom boards.
❖ Don’t forget about mouse guards. It will not be long before daytime and nighttime temperatures will be getting down, forcing bees to cluster for long periods.

From: The Bee Line, September 2012.

Without Chemicals

Lynn Royce

Many pests and predators search for their food close to the ground. Yellow jackets that live underground search in the fields and forests most commonly 6–10 inches.
above the surface. Skunks are surface hunters. Raccoons and opossums will be attracted to the low, large entrances we give our bees. You can make it more difficult for these pests by raising the entrance of your colonies. Also, reducing the entrance for winter preparations will help keep out mice and make it easier for colonies to defend against other intruders. More and more beekeepers have both raised and reduced their entrances.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Oregon Master Beekeeper Institute</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>OSBA Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Social with Light Snacks</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Movie (&quot;More Than Honey&quot;) To Follow</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Friday, November 7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM–5:00 PM</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM–3:00 PM</td>
<td>Bee School</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Driven by Bee Colony Declines &amp; Losses</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drivers of Bee Colony Declines &amp; Losses</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM–4:00 PM</td>
<td>Open Bee Lab, OSU Bring samples or drop in to view/ask questions</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 AM</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drivers of Bee Colony Declines &amp; Losses</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM–4:00 PM</td>
<td>Open Bee Lab, OSU Bring samples or drop in to view/ask questions</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Entries to Honey Show Due</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Update on Current Bee Research &amp; Extension Activities at Oregon State University</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Resin to Propolis: Plant Sources-Effects on Bee Health</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Research Luncheon</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15 PM</td>
<td>10 Rules for Modern Beekeeping</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>How to Become a Millionaire, and Other Beekeeping Secrets</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 PM</td>
<td>Predicting and Managing Pesticide Risks to Bees</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Update on Oregon Master Beekeeper Program</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15 PM</td>
<td>General Membership Meeting</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Social Hour/Banquet/Auction</td>
<td>Tentative Conference Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hardware, and Home Depot stores, and Para-Moth from a reputable bee supply house from their online catalogue. All of the samples claimed on their labels to be 99.5 percent or more para-dichlorobenzene by mass.

The composition of each sample was determined using a technique known as Wavelength Dispersive X-Ray Spectroscopy (WDS). Briefly, WDS involves shooting a representative amount of each material with a stream of high-energy electrons. When the electrons strike the atoms in the sample, they cause them to become excited. When the atoms relax back to their ground state, they emit x-rays of energies characteristic of the atoms they came from. By measuring the wavelength, or energies, of the emitted x-rays emitted from the samples, we can determine the type and number of each atom present in the sample.

No alteration of the samples occurred—each was measured in its “as sold” condition. The error in the measurement for these types of materials is about 0.1 percent.

Not unexpectedly, I found that the WDS spectra of all the samples were essentially identical, which means that all of the samples contained the same type and number of atoms. A representative example of the WDS spectra, collected with 7kV electrons, is shown in Figure 1.

As observed, no atoms other than carbon (C), chlorine (Cl), oxygen (O), and silicon (Si) were detected in the samples. The WDS method is not sensitive to hydrogen atoms (H). Additional characterization of the samples via grazing angle x-ray diffraction methods (data available upon request) suggests that the silicon and oxygen atoms are present on the surface of the p-dichlorobenzene pellets as SiO₂, or ordinary sand, which is a common anti-caking additive used to prevent solids from “clumping” during shipping and storage. The amount of SiO₂ present in each sample is on the order of 0.4 percent by mass. That means that each sample of contained about 99.6 percent para-dichlorobenzene—which is consistent with their labels.

To confirm that the carbon and chlorine atoms are in fact present as para-dichlorobenzene, each sample was further characterized via Fourier Transform Infrared spectroscopy. Results of this study, which are available upon request, suggest that all of the samples comprised 1,4 dichlorobenzene as reported on their labels. The presence of no other organic compound was detected at a detection limit of 0.3 percent by mass. The WDS data are represented graphically in Figure 2.

What this all means is that within the error in the measurement, there is no difference in the composition of Para-Moth material sold by bee supply companies and moth balls containing para-dichlorobenzene sold at your local home center or discount store.

So, why does Para-Moth cost so much compared to the same stuff at the discount center? Interestingly, according to the National Pesticide Information Center, both moth balls and moth crystals made from para-dichlorobenzene are registered by the US Environmental Protection Agency as pesticides for “direct consumer use.” As such, both
products are subject to the same requirements for purity. So the expensive stuff sold by bee supply houses does not have to meet a higher standard for purity than do the para-dichlorobenzene moth balls sold at the local discount store. Thus, there is no “guarantee of purity” that can account for the price difference.

Here’s the scoop: The EPA is explicit in stating that it is illegal to use any material registered as a pesticide in a manner for other than that expressly stated on the label. Since para-dichlorobenzene moth balls from the discount store do not state that you can use them to treat your frames on their label, it is, strictly speaking, illegal to do so. Conversely, use of Para-Moth to treat your wool sweaters is also illegal. However, since Para-Moth is the only source of para-dichlorobenzene that is specifically labeled for treatment of frames, it can command a premium price from beekeepers interested in using it for that purpose.

Finally, please remember that pesticides from any source, as useful and beneficial as they can be, are not materials to be mistreated. If you decide to use them, please follow the directions, use only the minimum amount necessary for the job (under-dosing can be worse than over-dosing), and store and dispose of them properly. The bees will thank you for it!
UPCOMING EVENTS


September 17–20: Western Apiculture Society Conference. For information, visit: ucanr.edu/sites/was2/Conference_Information/Conference_Details/.


November 6–8: OSBA Fall Conference. Seaside Civic and Convention Center, Seaside. For information, visit: www.orsba.org/htdocs/bee_schools_and_events.


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Thank you!

Effective Date: 1/1/2014
The next issue to be printed will be the October 2014 issue. The deadline for submitting copy is September 10, 2014. Please let me me know if difficulties and otherwise honor this.

Thank you!