TREE HIVE BEES

Lynn Royce

The natural home of the honey bee is any space that is large enough for a honey bee colony and that has an entrance through which the bees can come and go. Examples include: walls of buildings, eves of houses, chimney spaces, and tree hollows. Probably, in the Pacific Northwest, the most commonly used space is that of a tree hollow. Because the honey bee is so accepting of spaces, it was not a big stretch for early beekeepers to put bees in wooden boxes, especially after the introduction of moveable frames, and have bees go to work for humans. Early in this honey bee human relationship, honey was the main income for the beekeeper. Boxes of bees were placed out near clover fields in groups of 60 or more and these did well with forage such as clover plus other plants in and around the clover fields. The ability to get honey more easily encouraged more people to take up beekeeping.

“Bigger is better” seems to have been the mentality then and continues to be so today. Agriculture grew to larger fields and orchards. Bees no longer have the same diversity of flowers that they had even 20 years ago. Placed out in larger groups of colonies in or near crops of a single plant meant getting enough was difficult because so many bees used up the closer resources quickly, then bees had to fly farther and farther to get enough for their colony. Diversity loss especially from increased use of herbicides has meant a lower quality of food. Layer this problem with the introduction of new bee pests and parasites, and the bees are in trouble. Adding to these problems are the other changes brought about by human ability to to manipulate colonies of honey bees: loss of the community of organisms in a hollow, introduction to new predators (skunk, opossum, yellow jackets, mice, raccoons), greater space in the hollow, cavity with thinner walls, entrance height above the ground much less, constant migration so that food location changes often.

Nature does not have the concepts “good” and “bad”; instead, there is community. For feral honey bees these interactions may begin in a forest. A tree loses a limb, weather brings moisture to the wound, attracted to this moist (perhaps rotting) wood are insects like ants and termites. These insects increase the hollow space inside the tree. Debris collects from these insect colonies as they feed and/or live inside the wood. Eventually the space increases enough for other forest inhabitants: woodpeckers, squirrels, aerial yellow jackets. Now there is room for a small colony of honey bees

Continued on page 4
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is definitely a warm summer and the bees are really busy storing honey. I am hoping for a good sized crop this year and will probably be harvesting by the time you read this.

Summers always go by so quickly and before you know it the conference is here. As a reminder the conference is on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday this year at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton (near Salem). I know we are repeating this a lot, but if you want to stay at the Garden you need to make your reservation soon, and if you know of anyone planning to come who may not see this message, please pass it along. Once the Oregon Garden rooms are filled you will be stuck driving 15 to 20 minutes from Salem. The conference agenda is coming together and it looks like it will be a good one.

The OSBA has been growing in the number of associated branches. According to the list in *The Bee Line*, we have thirteen local branches plus Cascadia Queen Breeders and Coffee Creek. I would like to encourage anyone who is near one of the local branches to stop in and sit through one of the meetings. I am always surprised by the local knowledge and level of participation I experience at these local branch meetings. In many cases I have learned of a new technique or of new information that has come available about beekeeping. It has always been a positive use of my time and I meet a lot of new beekeepers. Please check this resource out if you don’t already belong to one of these branches, I think you will be pleased you did.

Take care and I hope everyone has a good harvest this year.

Paul
### Friday, November 6

7:00 PM  Kick-Off Wine and Cheese Social

### Saturday, November 7

7:30 AM  Registration

8:00 AM  Silent Auction Begins

8:15 AM  Welcome & Announcements
          Paul Andersen, OSBA President
          General Session

8:30 AM  Oxalic Acid and Concepts in Mite Management
          Randy Oliver

8:30 AM– Bee School (Concurrent)
          3:00 PM  Thom Trusewicz, Director

9:15 AM  Bee Informed Partnership
          Ellen Topitzhofer, Oregon State University

10:00 AM Break

10:15 AM 2J Honey Farms
          Jay Miller

11:00 AM National Honey Board Report
          George Hansen

NOON  Luncheon (Preregistration required)
          Oregon Master Beekeeper Program
          Carolyn Breece

1:15 PM Wholesale Honey Considerations
          Alan Turanski, GloryBee

2:00 PM VanCalcar Apiaries, Amity, Oregon
          Nick VanCalcar

2:45 PM Break

3:00 PM Changes on the Landscape Impacting Honey Bee Forage and Nutrition
          Pete Berthelsen

3:45 PM Swarm Fundamentals
          Karessa Torgerson

4:00 PM Silent Auction Ends

4:30–  OSBA General Membership Meeting

5:45 PM Social Hour

7:00 PM Banquet
          Dr. Clint Walker
          Benefit Auction

### Sunday, November 8

7:30 AM  Registration

8:15 AM  Welcome & Announcements
          Paul Andersen, OSBA President
          General Session

8:30 AM Wax Is Wax
          George Hansen

9:15 AM Beekeeping Mistakes, Lessons Learned
          Jay Miller

8:30 AM– Mead Workshop (Concurrent)
          10:00 AM  Andrew Schwab

10:00 AM Break

10:15 AM Understanding Bee Biology Over the Course of a Season
          Randy Oliver

11:00 AM Pests, Pathogens and Poor Nutrition: Understanding and Mitigating
          Dr. Ramesh Sagili

NOON Luncheon (Preregistration required)
          Cascadia Queen Breeders
          Panel of Northwest Queen Producers
          Jordan Dimock, Moderator

1:15 PM Package & Queen Production
          Pat Heitkam

2:00 PM Effects of a Neonicotinoid Insecticide on Honey Bee Health and Physiology
          Stephanie Parreira

2:45 PM Break

3:00 PM Maximizing Honey Production
          Dr. Clint Walker

3:45 PM Final Comments
          Paul Andersen, OSBA President

4:00 PM Adjourn

**Note:** To register, see Registration Form, page 15. Please be aware that preregistration is definitely encouraged this year!

**Reminder:** Check out current resources at: http://www.extension.org/bee_health
and in the collected debris below the hollow are other small arthropods. Some of these are predators some are saprophytic (feeding on rotting organic matter of wood and dead organisms). This part of the tree hollow community will clean up debris that may drop from the honey bee colony and can include live parasitic mites as well as dead bees, frass, and bits of wax and pollen. The honey bees are a part of the community. In hollows examined so far we have found: fly larvae, dipluran, collembola, moth larvae (not wax moths), and noninsect arthropods such as pseudoscorpions and mites—both predatory and saprophytic.

We have a prototype hive that can be hung on tree trunks that includes a debris box or bio box for organisms that live symbiotically with the bees. This hive is smaller in width and length than on-the-ground hives. Colonies in these hives make enough honey for themselves, but would not produce a lot of excess. They serve as a pollination unit and perhaps a better choice for those who want to help bees but do not want to keep bees. The tree hives place the bees above pets, people, and landscaping.

Note: More information about tree hive bees is available on Lynn’s website: www.treehivebees.com. The preliminary results of fungal research, data from last summer, are published in the March 2015 issue of Bee Culture. Lynn’s current indiegogo project, The Secrets of Bee Trees: Solving the Crisis, is set to end very soon. A link to the project can be accessed through her website, where donations can be made through PayPal as well.

**Tree Hive Bees—Continued from page 1**

HB 2653 Relating to Location of Apiaries

*Mike Rodia*

Bottom line for HB 2653 is that it is now on the Governor’s desk awaiting her signature. There have been no revisions of the bill since my last update. It has passed without a single negative vote through Ways and Means, the full House and the full Senate. Only one “scare” arose when in a Ways and Means sub-committee there was initially attached a funding cost of $300,000. Both Raine Ritalto and I testified this was not in accordance with our understanding, since the Oregon Department of Agriculture and ourselves were not asking for funds. Oregon State University, however, had made a mistake and assumed they would need funds. Following our testimony, Rep. Gorsek’s staff met with OSU and a note was added to the bill that any funding for OSU, although unlikely, would come out of the overall funding for OSU programs relating to pollinator health. The cities and counties, under the bill, will be responsible for distributing the recommendations developed.

In other news that some of you may be aware of, Raine Ritalto, Joe Maresh, Dick Temple and myself have been involved assisting beekeepers in the Cities of Hubbard and Forest Grove, who were notified to remove their bees from their residential properties. We provided testimony that the “codes” cited did not apply and/or that the codes are in conflict with other “codes” or good sense. Moreover, there were no real problems, other than just having honey bees, at issue. It was also pointed out that the beekeepers, put on notice, maintained exceptional apiaries and that they aided the city by collecting swarms. Each city was also provided a packet of information relating to the benefits of beekeeping, urban beekeeping guidelines, the risks associated with stings, and articles on urban beekeeping “codes” in other cities. We have also provided some assistance to the City of Dayton in the process that updated their code to allow beekeeping with a minimum of restrictions.

I hope these updates have been of interest and that you share the information with others including those in your local OSBA association.

---

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* 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: Ken Anthony—klanthony1@comcast.net
Treasurer: Tom Chester

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
President: Allen Engle
Treasurer: Patricia Moreland
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/Secretary: Liz Lovelock

Klamath Basin Beekeepers
Meets 9:00 AM, last Saturday (except Nov/Dec)
OSU Extension, 3328 Vandenberg Rd, Klamath Falls
President: Paul Davitt
president@klamathbeekeepers.org
Vice President: John Wilda
vicepresident@klamathbeekeepers.org
Secretary: Judy Olson
secretary@klamathbeekeepers.org
Treasurer: Ray Rutler
treasurer@klamathbeekeepers.org
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: Pam Leavitt
541.344.4228; pamseaver2000@yahoo.com
Vice President: Max Kuhn—541.997.7390
Secretary: Jodi Wiktorkowski
Treasurer: Polly Habliston
Website: www.lcbaor.org

Linn-Benton Beekeepers
Meets 6:30 PM, third Wednesday, Corvallis Waldorf School, 3855 NE Highway 20, Corvallis
President: Steve Oda
541.745.7227; steve@lbba.us
Vice President: Everett Kaser
541.924.9214; everett@lbba.us
Secretary: Robert Williams
541.740.4705; robert@lbba.us
Treasurer: Suzi Maresh
541.967.9607; suzi@lbba.us
Website: www.lbba.us

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

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; wiseacrebarms@me.com
Treasurer: Barb Derkacht
503.631.3063; bderkacht@yahoo.com
Website: portlandmetro.org

Portland Urban Beekeepers
Meets 6:30 PM, first Wednesday, Alberta Abbey, 126 NE Alberta St, Portland
For information, e-mail: officers@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
President: Bill Catherall—503.572.6467
president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
Vice President: Sylvan Zimmerman
vice-president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
Secretary: Janet Shea-Tangeman
secretary@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
Treasurer: Keith Gilman
treasurer@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
Website: portlandurbanbeekeepers.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; johnoldsolenterprises.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

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

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers
Meets 6:30 PM, last Tuesday
225 S First Street, Hillsboro
Contact: tualatinvalleybeekeepers@gmail.com
President: Jeff Clark
Vice President: Bob Ward
Secretary: Jillian Hetinga
Co-Treasurers: Barb Falconer & Jerry Maasdam
Web: www.facebook.com/TualatinValleyBeekeepers

Willamette Valley Beekeepers
Meets 7:00 PM, fourth Monday, Chemeketa Community College, Building 34, Room A, Salem
President: Richard Farrier
541.327.2673; rfarrierfarms@gmail.com
Vice President: Mona Kanner
Secretary: Emily Cross
Treasurer: Laura Evans
Website: http://wvbahive.org

Reminder: Among preparations for winter are those for managing Varroa—which now include Oxalic Acid, registered earlier this year. For all treatments, take care to review options, methods of application, and label requirements.
August 2015

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives
South Willamette Valley

Is it really August? Time passes so quickly these days I find myself trying to remember when winter ended and the bee season began. August in the south valley means honey off and to get your mites in check before you find yourself scratching your head wondering what happened. Things to remember if pulling honey in August are do it fast and do it safely. Getting your honey off without getting robbing going is key to a mellow pull. Get the bees agitated and commence the nightmare. Keep your honey covered and get your entrances down. Being safe while working in the August sun is essential for you to have another year in the apiary. Look for problems now before they find you. I find it best to mark any hive that did not make any honey and come back to check them. It may be necessary to move a queenless hive away before repairing with a queen or a nuc. Let’s make the start of winter prep a success so our overwinter losses are minor. So feed as much as necessary both syrup and patties. These are cheap tools that can help you control potential devastation. Even though the honey season is over, there is much work to be done. Thank you for keeping bees. Good luck.

—Jason Rowan

Klamath Basin Beekeepers
Hello from the Klamath Basin Beekeepers. After the hottest June in recorded time we have now entered a hot but stormy July with the chance of thunderstorms daily. We were privileged to witness the mass return to the hive when thunder started booming last weekend, with thousands of bees returning to the hive within the few minutes right before the deluge. What a sight! The wildflower and the propagated flower blooms are very early this year with most blooms a month to a month-and-a-half early. The bees along with the native pollinators have enjoyed this mild winter and hot summer and the incredible abundance of wildflowers that only bloom when the weather is more forgiving. Our midsummer frosts have not occurred this year (knock on wood) and frost intolerant ornamental plants such as zinnias are thriving. Hopefully the bloom from the native mallow and rabbit brush will last into the fall but the goldenrod (usually a fall staple) is already in full bloom.

Here is my bloom diary for July 1: Clover, hollyhock, native and ornamental borage, vipers bugloss, lavender, columbine, sweet William, monarda, rose, strawberries, raspberries, phacelia, fireweed, thyme, catmint, colomia, yarrow, seline, Oregon sunshine (a bumper year!), lomatium, royal penstamen, checker mallow, blue mallow (invasive but a real summer long staple for the bees), guilia, potentilla, poppies, California poppies, fireweed, dandelions, and sedum and a host of other native plants that I am unable to key out! It must be a record number of plants blooming at once in central Oregon. Yahoo!

—Judy Olson

Regional Associations

Cascadia Queen Breeders
Cascadia Queen Breeders will once again be sponsoring a “Lunch With the Queen Breeders” at the OSBA annual fall conference at the Oregon Garden. This year’s conference will feature Queen Breeders from the Pacific Northwest. Be sure to reserve your spot for this popular luncheon when you register for the annual OSBA conference.

—Paul Maresh

John Day River Beekeepers
Summer is moving along. The weather has been very hot and dry, already we have a few scattered fires. Some areas in the basin are very smoky while others are clear.

The spring honey flow was really pretty good. A few areas produced really nice light honey. The timing is still pretty weird this year. The sweet clover, which normally blooms in July/August is in many areas, bloomed out and dried up. Along creek banks and ditches with abundant moisture the bloom is progressing a little slower. One yard with abundant knapweed really dried up and did not produce like it often does. Still, the reports from beekeepers around the region are good and the bees are making honey.

We are excited for our 2nd-ever JDR Beekeepers Club booth at the Grant County Fair. Last year it was a big hit with an observation hive and other educational displays promoting beekeeper education and pollinator awareness.

—Matt Allen

Lane County Beekeepers
Honey harvest has begun. The Lane County Fair was held in July this year, as opposed to the usual date in August. Our members can only submit honey and honey products harvested after the 2014 Fair. This requires some earlier harvesting, but with the weather changes we have experienced in the valley, the major honey flow from blackberries is over. The club always encourages the members to submit entries into the fair. It is a means to promote beekeeping within the county.
The August meeting topic will be Overcoming Barriers to Beekeeping, presented by Morris Ostrofsky. His study of this topic has been printed in *Bee Culture* Magazine. We are very fortunate to have Morris in our club and as a leader in the Master Beekeeping Program at Oregon State University.

Members of the club were eager to help with Oregon State Fair this year. I was very pleased with the turn out of volunteers to staff the OSBA booth at the Fair on August 30. We actually had more volunteers than spaces available for the day we picked to represent our club.

We hope your harvesting was fruitful and your bees are going into fall with good health. —Pam Leavitt

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Portland Metro beekeepers held our July meeting on Thursday, July 9th. Honey harvest time is here! We had our own Kerry Haskins demonstrate his routine in harvesting. We all have our own way, and it evolves each year with experts sharing their experience and tips with us. Thanks Kerry!

Our roundtable discussion is always very informative. Installing new queens and splits were main topics with many different schools of thought. Feeding was also discussed, and many folks are feeding now and others will be starting soon. Depending on where you live, there may not be much left to forage.

We will have a booth at the Clackamas County Fair on August 18th. It’s the first day of the fair and also kids day. It’s our favorite day to share beekeeping! The kids are so excited to see our hive and are so eager to learn about bees. We are happy to share our knowledge with all the future beekeepers.

Our club is holding several workshops in the coming weeks. Saturday, July 11th, will be a mite workshop with Dewey Caron and Joe Maresh. On August 15th we will hold a honey harvest workshop, and in October we will have a candle making workshop.

We will hold our annual potluck picnic on Sunday, August 9th. It will be held at Max Patterson Park in Gladstone from 11 AM to 2 PM. It really is an enjoyable time to get to know our fellow beekeepers better and share our favorite dishes.

Our club voted to make a donation of $250.00 to Dr. Lynn Royce for her research. Tree Hive Bees research is based on reproducing the ecosystem of the tree hollow, which is

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Save the date for our 38th Annual 2015 WAS Conference in Boulder, Colorado “Healthy Bee — Bee Healthy” October 1-3, 2015

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www.coloradobeekeepers.org/western-apicultural-society-was-meeting
the natural home to honey bees, and modifying equipment and techniques to mimic those conditions. If you would like to join us in donating to this vital research, please visit her website at treehivebees.org.

For more information about our meetings and events please visit our website at portlandmetro.org. —Patty Anderson

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Our July 1st meeting came full of practical beekeeping advice from our local experts, as well as some thought-provoking conversations about hive treatment methods and philosophies.

Tour De Hives, PUB’s biggest annual event, was a huge success this year! Thanks to all of the volunteers and hosts who helped make it possible. With this year’s success, we hope to expand next year to be even bigger and better! As such, we are currently looking for volunteers for next year’s planning committee. If you are interested, visit PortlandUrbanBeekeepers.org/TdH2016/.

Following Glen Andresen’s always popular “What’s In Bloom This Month” Dewey Caron gave his monthly “Do You Have A Plan” presentation. While we were challenging the bees by oversupering last month, this month he encourages us to undersuper with the goal of getting the bees to finish up partially filled honey frames. Dewey also encourages us to continue tracking our mite counts to give context as we move into fall.

Portland Urban supports beekeepers of all methodologies, and this month Bill Catherall gave a presentation on Treatment-Free Beekeeping. He outlined the spectrum of methods, ranging from natural to industrial. He then talked through a number of hive management techniques through the eyes of a treatment-free beekeeper, whose goal is to work with natural selection with the goal of allowing genetically strong bees to prosper while genetically weaker hives die out. Ultimately, he opened up the floor for discussion around a hybrid Varroa mite treatment approach proposed by Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, with the Bee Informed Partnership. To read more, check out Bill’s blog post on our website at portlandurbanbeekeepers.org/2015/07/01/treatment-free/.

We are excited to be sponsoring the bee booth at the Oregon State Fair on Saturday, August 29th. Come say hi!

Our website has a new Classifieds section. Become a PUB member to take advantage of our local trading post for beekeeping equipment, goods, and services at portlandurbanbeekeepers.org/classifieds/. For more information about Portland Urban Beekeepers, check out our website at PortlandUrbanBeekeepers.org!

—Courtney Todd Campbell

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

While in year’s past our honey flow was like a roller coaster, this year seems to be more like a zip line. Our spring brought rains, and blooms, but seemed to start about a month, or maybe even two, early. The bumper crop was welcomed, but after more than a week in the triple digits, we fear all unirrigated forage is dried to a crisp.

At our July meeting, Pres. John Jacob encouraged beekeepers to get their supers off ASAP and start monitoring for mites, and treating if need be. I’ve been telling folks to also consider leaving an extra super on for the bees, as it might be a hard go into winter for our girls with the lack of nectar flowing in. I’ve also been encouraging beekeepers, and bee lovers, to put out fresh water for our bees. A bird bath with wine corks for the bees to land on makes the perfect “watering station.”

Before the heatwave, we’ve had an amazing year for swarms! Huge kudos to Barbara Jones for managing the swarm call list so diligently, and to Ellen Wright for keeping up the website and our “swarm form.” It’s a great service to the community, and now that beekeeping is legalized in most Southern Oregon cities, we want to stay on everyone’s good side.

On August 1st we will be hosting the wonderful Dr. Dewey Carron, and Master Beekeepers Morris Ostrofsky and Karessa Torgerson for Fall Bee School. The topics covered will be producing fat fall bees, Varroa management, fall colony inspections, and mistakes that beekeepers make. It will be a great day, and we are looking forward to the depth of knowledge and passion these great beekeepers will bring us!

—Sarah Red-Laird

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

The Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association (TVBA) meets monthly on the last Tuesdays in downtown Hillsboro.
Monthly meetings include social and questions time from 6 to 6:30 pm, a 30 to 40 minute expert presentation on a beekeeping topic of value to club members, followed by a short business meeting and time to ask questions. Meetings take place at 225 S. First Ave. (at Washington) in Hillsboro. Free parking is available in the public garage above the first floor meeting rooms.

In June, the club enjoyed an excellent presentation from Karessa Torgerson on “Five Mistakes Beekeepers Make,” and the meeting presentation on August 25th will cover the use of newly approved Oxalic Acid in Varroa mite control, as well as details of bee colony preparation for Fall and Winter survival success. In July, the club met outdoors for a mini Bee Day, with Dr. Dewey Caron leading hive inspections and mite counting demos, plus a demonstration of honey extracting tools and process, followed by a barbecue potluck picnic. Thanks to our good friends Mike and Diane van Dyke for hosting this great day.

Tualatin Valley beekeepers offer an active FaceBook page and local swarmcatcher list, and an annual Bee School in April. Benefits of membership include meeting and networking with a great group of active beekeepers, our monthly newsletter, monthly educational and social meetings, participation in an annual spring Nuc buy, a Bee Day in July, and access to the club’s honey extraction facility. Membership dues are $20 per household per year. Cheers and thanks! —Debby Garman

**KEEPING BEES IN AUGUST**

*Kenny Williams*

What we do for a colony of bees in August (and July, too, for that matter) can greatly increase the chances of that colony surviving the coming winter and emerging the next spring as a healthy and vigorous colony of bees. In fact, many beekeepers consider August as the beginning of Fall. In August, the honey flow is largely over and done in western Oregon, and many earlier sources of nectar are drying up. In parts of eastern Oregon, or where bees are kept near a cultivated, irrigated crop, these remarks may apply several weeks later.

❖ Honey supers should be removed and the hive configured for winter, usually in two brood chambers.

❖ Be sure to guard against robbing, which is easily started when there is no nectar flow and difficult to stop once started. Such guarding can be done by covering exposed boxes of comb with a screen lid or a wet, heavy cloth, such as burlap. Try to work the hive quickly, and doing so in the cool of the morning will also help. Another reason to guard against robbing is to prevent the spread of American foulbrood.

❖ After the honey supers are removed, if a colony feels light, think about how you might feed that colony, either with frames of honey or with sugar syrup, so that it will have 40–60 pounds of stored feed by October 1.

❖ In hot weather and during prolonged dry periods, be sure to make water available to colonies that may not have a natural source nearby. Bees use water to metabolize food and to maintain the proper colony temperature and relative humidity.

❖ Identify any colony that is weak, and determine why it is weak. Often this is due to being queenless, having a poor queen, or suffering from a brood disease such as American foulbrood.

❖ It is not too late to requeen, and this may be done by replacing five empty frames with five frames from a queenright, five-frame nucleus, previously established in anticipation of such a need. Also, several queen breeders who advertise in the *American Bee Journal* offer queens later into the summer and in small quantities. A weaker colony that you have boosted or requeenied may also need an entrance reducer or mouse guard to help it defend against robbing honey bees or yellow jackets while it recovers. Another option for helping a weak colony is to combine it with a stronger colony and store any leftover comb indoors, to be restocked the following spring by dividing a strong colony or purchasing a package. On the subject of yellow jackets, it is my opinion that hives which succumb to this nuisance were weak to begin with, owing to one of the causes listed above; strong, healthy, queenright colonies can repel invaders or may need nothing more than an entrance reducer.

❖ August is also the time to monitor and treat for the Varroa mite. This wider topic has probably been covered at a meeting of your local bee association or at a bee school you may have attended in the spring. Whatever material you choose to use, be sure it is approved for use in a beehive, and follow the instructions on the label. Tracheal mites may be treated with grease patties.

❖ For many years, American foulbrood, or AFB, was treated with a tetracycline-and-sugar

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dusting as a preventative. In recent years, the *Paenibacillus* species that causes this brood infection has developed a resistance to this antibiotic, although some beekeepers continue using it. Another antibiotic, Tylosin, is now registered for use against AFB, but as a treatment on infected colonies rather than as a preventative on every colony. In either case, follow label instructions. Heavily infected colonies are probably best burned.

After extracting honey from the comb, or if you bring any brood frames indoors for storage, be sure to protect against wax moth damage, either with Para-Moth crystals or by freezing. Warm conditions favor the rapid development of wax moth larvae, and unoccupied comb stored in a warm space can be ruined in a matter of weeks. Actually, the two wax moth species are somewhat misnamed, as they feed largely on cast larval skins left behind in the comb after the adult honey bee emerges and, to a lesser degree, on stored pollen, honey, and wax. Therefore, your stored dark brood comb is more vulnerable than yellow honey comb that has been used above a queen excluder for honey and not brood-rearing.

Without Chemicals

Lynn Royce

Unfortunately, we cannot always predict the weather, so it often becomes difficult to know how much feed should be left for the bees for winter and spring. Honey and pollen are the best food for bees. If we take too much honey or the bees were unable to put up enough honey, we have to feed a carbohydrate source (basically sugar). The easiest to come by are corn syrups and beet or cane sugar. We are often constrained by how much we need and our ability to haul large quantities. These refined sugars are not a good replacement for honey, but they will keep a colony alive for short periods. Pollen is the protein source for the colony. There are a number of products that are fed to bees as both a replacement if no pollen is present in a colony or as a supplement. But pollen is what bees have evolved to use and is the best protein for them. It helps bees to have a variety of pollen. Good food means a healthy colony; otherwise, the mite population will be increased.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

First Wednesday, 7 PM: Douglas County Bees, “Let’s Talk Bees.” Third floor, Douglas County Courthouse. Information: douglascountybees@gmail.com.

August 1, 9 AM–4 PM: Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association Fall Bee School.

August 10–14: Eastern Apicultural Society Conference, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada.


October 17: Second annual Oregon Honey Festival, Ashland. To be a Vendor, Sponsor, or Advertise in the Program, contact: OregonHoneyFestival@outlook.com (see ad, page 12).

November 6–8: OSBA Fall Conference 2015, Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, Oregon.

Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Membership Application

☐ New Member  ☐ Membership Renewal

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association is a nonprofit organization representing and supporting all who have an interest in honey bees and beekeeping. Membership 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 the ongoing work of the organization on behalf of the honey bee and beekeeping, a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on publications, placement on the swarm call list, three free ads on the website, and an annual directory and subscription to The Bee Line.

Please send check made payable to OSBA with a completed form for each individual to:

Jeff Milligan, PO Box 20548, Keizer OR 97307

First Name:___________________MI:____Last Name:__________________

Company name:____________________________________________________

Type:☐ Small scale (less than 25) ☐ Sideliner (25–300) ☐ Commercial (more than 300)

Mailing address:____________________________________________________

City:__________________________State:__________Zip:________________

Telephone number:______________ e-mail address:____________________

Contact information: The OSBA respects the privacy of members. Please let us know if you want your contact information included in a membership directory sent to OSBA members only:

☐ Do not include contact information

☐ Share all OR ☐ Share mailing address ☐ phone number(s) ☐ e-mail address

Local group, if member: _____________________________________________

Membership dues: $40 per person ($50 per person outside the US) $________

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Reminder: Comparisons of American foulbrood and European foulbrood can be viewed online, including at: www.ent.uga.edu/bees/disorders/bacterial.html

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Reminder: Comparisons of American foulbrood and European foulbrood can be viewed online, including at: www.ent.uga.edu/bees/disorders/bacterial.html

OREGON STATE FAIR
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Reminder: To volunteer, visit www.orsba.org
OSBA Fall Conference 2015  
Oregon State Beekeepers Association  

November 6–8, 2015  

Oregon Garden Resort  
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Please make check payable to OSBA and mail with this completed registration form, postmarked no later than October 24, to: Jeff Milligan, P.O. Box 20548, Keizer OR 97307

Attendees qualify for preregistration rate if application form (with registration fee) is postmarked on or before October 24. Late or on-site registration rates are: One Day Individual $110.00, One Day Family $130.00; Full Conference Individual $190.00, Full Conference Family $220.00.

Note: Hotel reservations are not included in these costs. Special rates are available at the Oregon Garden Resort: (503) 874-2500 Ext 0

___________  

*The 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.
Reminder: The date on the mailing label is the expiration date for membership. If the date is August 2015 (or earlier), this is your friendly renewal notice.

You know you’re a beekeeper when just spent Saturday morning standing in line at the supermarket to buy nothing more than bags of sugar.

The Bee Line

The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Annual subscriptions to the newsletter are included with each membership in OSBA.

Please send news about your bees and your experiences in keeping them, as well as events, corrections, comments, questions, photographs and stories, interviews, recipes, points of view—and ads/advertising—to: Rosanna Mattingly, The Bee Line, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland OR 97206; e-mail: osba.newsletter@gmail.com. It’s your newsletter—we do want to hear from you!

The next issue to be printed will be the September issue, 2015. The deadline for submitting copy is August 10, 2015. Please let me know if you find difficulties with the deadline so we can work out the space and timing for the material.

Thank you!

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