



The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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August 2016

Of Yellowjackets and Honey Bees . . .

Sandy Fanara

Note: Sandy is a Washington state Journeyman beekeeper, who begins her account with her experiences with yellowjackets over the years. After being stung, taking revenge by dissecting 8 feet x 4 feet x 1 foot of a nest site (and still not done), and witnessing yellowjacket assault and hive kill, she began to do research on the western yellowjacket. To read her full story, which includes additional details on this insect's life history as well as her suggestion for what to do when all else fails, visit: orsba.org/resources/.

When I compared the western yellowjacket (yellowjacket) yearly cycle with our honey bee yearly cycle, it became obvious where problems arise, and how they arise, and gives insight towards solving some of the problems.

After a comparably similar period of low/no activity with both over the winter months, spring blooms and the earliest meeting of the two insects begins. The overwintered yellowjacket queens begin foraging for small insects and nectar on the same plants/flowers as the honeybees forage. The yellowjacket colonies are normally very small at this point and of little danger to the growing honey bee colony. Once the first brood of the yellowjacket are hatched, they take over foraging duties, putting more and more yellowjackets in the vicinity of the honey bees. Honey bees are still way ahead in population, and only quick inspections are done by the beekeeper, leaving little opportunity for the yellowjacket to invade the honey bee hive.

Over the course of the summer months, the yellowjacket and the honey bee populations increase depending on both weather and foraging conditions. If optimal, then both colonies can grow rapidly. The yellowjacket feeds its brood larval insects. It finds these larvae both on plants and by following adult insects, like the honey bee, back to their colonies. The impact on the honey bee by the yellowjacket at this point is dependent on the proficiency of the guard bees and overall strength of the honey bee colony, and the strength and variety of forage for the yellowjacket. If there is easier-to-get food elsewhere, the yellowjacket is more likely to seek it before confronting the guard wall of a honey bee hive. This is the point where yellowjackets often come into conflict with people with food and drinks outside. The beekeeper often is doing longer inspections and manipulation of the beehive. The breaking of brood and honeycomb can attract yellowjackets to the hive.

Toward the end of summer, the yellowjacket queen lays brood that will be next year's queens. Foraging yellowjacket workers prioritize quality food for these babies, seeking out plump, protein-rich larvae to feed them. The population of the yellowjacket nest is as large and strong as it will be all year. Male brood has also been laid, and the hatched males create a need for even more food. Plant forage has decreased, and so have the small insects and caterpillars found on them. The yellowjacket increases its foraging range, taking on hard-to-procure meals. The honey bee enters a time of vulnerability, especially if the beekeeper is not

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Image above: Yellowjackets live in colonies, have barbed stingers, and are even called *bees* at times. Yet, despite their close relationship to honey bees as Hymenopterans, yellowjackets and honey bees simply do not mix. Even so, the western yellowjacket, *Vespula pensylvanica*, the subject of research presented on this page, is a common ground-nesting species with fine qualities in *other* realms.



Message from the President

It's August already! Most pollination is over, but critical bee work certainly is not.

In the Willamette Valley, we have had a saying for many years, "The most important work with bees is in the fall." Stated differently, "The worst mistakes that can be made in bee management are often made in the fall." Which path will we chose?

Clearly, winter poses the most treacherous conditions for our bees. Right now is the time to give them every advantage that we can to see them through until springtime. And if one seeks to pollinate almonds in February, just keeping them alive is not enough. We seek to overwinter strong, healthy, populous colonies that will be ready to rock and roll when they hit the ground in California!

The eggs that are laid in our hives beginning in August should produce healthy winter bees that will see our colonies through until brood rearing commences in late winter.

Sadly, I have overheard private conversations at bee meetings many times in late August or even September, "It's still coming in! I'm still seeing nectar pouring in" says beekeeper. Someone asks, "But what have you done to adjust your mite levels?" "I'll do that as soon as I can; it's still coming in!" This story never ends well.

All beekeeping is local, and there are ways to manage mite levels so that one can pull a fall crop. But one way or another, pest and disease control must be under way right now.

Nutrition, nutrition, nutrition! Even in the hives that test a bit higher in mite levels than we like to see, the combination of a sound pest & disease control strategy and copious feed regimen can give great results in the fall, with persistence.

I want to thank former OSBA Vice President Mark Johnson for a great tip that he gave me last year. For years I have felt fairly confident in the amount of additional syrup fed in the fall to bulk up the hive weight for winter feed. Yet, I still sustained a handful of hives perishing from starvation in winter despite my best efforts.

It turns out that after feeding up hives in the fall, he feeds them at least two more times than I.

And here is the concept to repeat over and over to one's self as we write the checks for all of that additional feed, "It's a long, long time before the next honey flow." I took Mark's advice and experienced far fewer losses due to starvation over winter. Thanks, Mark!

"The most important work with bees is in the fall."

"It's a long, long time before the next honey flow."

Two great quotes that I will be mumbling to myself this year again in the fall, doing my very best to give the bees every advantage.

Harry Vanderpool

CALL FOR CONFERENCE VENDORS AND ADVERTISERS!

If interested in being a vendor at the 2016 OSBA Fall Conference at the Oregon Garden October 26–28 and/or placing an ad in this year's Conference Program, contact Harry Vanderpool at: shallotman@yahoo.com. (See TENTATIVE AGENDA, page 13.)

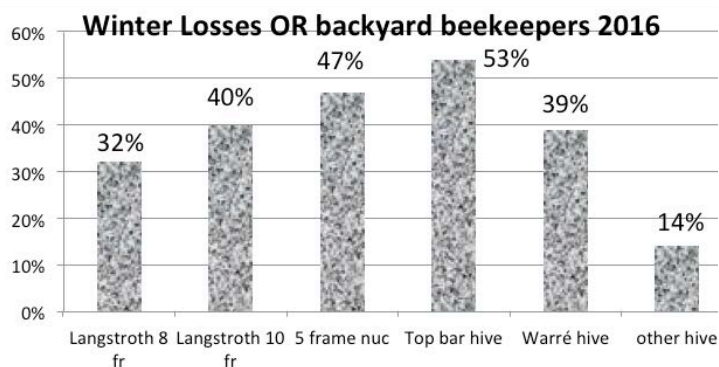
Backyard Overwinter Bee Losses

Dewey M. Caron and Jenai Fitzpatrick

Ramesh and I reported 2015-2016 colony overwinter loss of 15.7% of 11 Oregon Commercial beekeepers in last BEE LINE. Eight semi-commercial Oregon beekeepers had a 23.4% colony loss rate. The 19 total commercial/semi-commercial beekeepers responding to our loss survey maintained 50% of the estimated colonies in Oregon. In a separate survey, we found overwintering losses of 249 Oregon backyarder (small-scale) beekeepers of 40% in 2015-2016. For all three beekeeper groups, losses were elevated over the previous winter.

The backyarder survey was conducted electronically mid-March to first week of May (see: www.pnwhoneybeesurvey.com for copy of survey), supplemented with paper surveys distributed at late-March and April at several local association meetings.

Losses were determined by asking number of fall colonies and colony survival to spring for 8 and 10 frame Langstroth hives, 5-frame nucs, Top Bar hives, Warré hives and "other" hive type categories. The 249 OR small-scale beekeeper respondents started winter with 937 Langstroth 10-frame hives (74% of total), 191 Langstroth 8-frame hives, 30 5-frame nucs, 67 Top bar colonies, 25 Warré hives and 14 "other" hives (5 long hives, 5 9-frame hives, 2 feral hives and 2 mini-hives). The accompanying graph shows percent loss reported for each hive type.



Winter losses varied from a low of 22% for 9 LBBA member respondents to a high of 80% loss for 3 KBBA members. Seven associations had more than 20 respondents with loss varying from 27% for LCBA to 57% for PUB members. Washington State had 52 respondents with a 60% loss.

Overwinter loss was computed by hive origination as well. Thirty one percent (31%) of overwintered colonies died. Fifty nine (59%) of package bee installations did not survive. There was loss of over 50% of swarms (53%) and

feral hive transfers (51%). Swarm captures (43%) and nucs (36%) exhibited better survival.

Not everyone had loss. Thirty six percent, 78 individuals reported total winter survival. Forty four 44 individuals (21%) had total loss. Fifty five individuals (39%) lost a single bee colony, the highest colony loss number, while 51% of respondents lost 1, 2 or 3 colonies. Highest loss was 16 colonies with 5% of respondents losing 10 or more colonies. Median number of fall colonies was 3/individual; highest number was 43.

When asked for reason for loss, 17% cited weak fall colonies and an additional 17% attributed losses to varroa mites, 16% attributed loss to queen failure and 11% each felt starvation, poor wintering conditions and I don't know were the reason for their colony(ies) not surviving.

Managements of feeding, wintering practices, sanitation and screen bottom board use were tallied along with non-chemical and chemical mite control options utilized. We also gathered information on queen events from respondents. Backyard loss data collected over the past two winter seasons will be compared to the use of the various managements and controls.

The entire survey results have been posted to pnwhoneybeesurvey.com for both OR and WA backyarders. Also posted, or soon to be included will be individual club report with specific information for the local club respondents. Results for the previous survey year can be accessed on the same website, as well as several analysis reports of survey data.

CLASSIFIED AD

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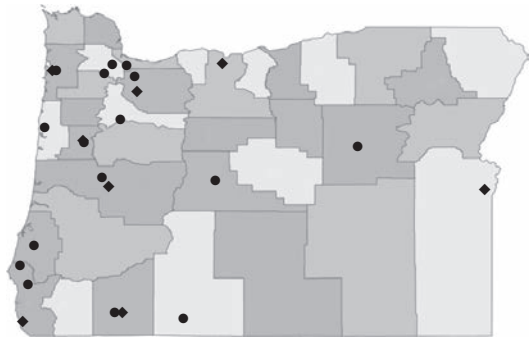
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Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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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 Coast Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 pm, fourth Wednesday
Newport Library, 35 NW Nye St, Newport
Information: centralcoastbeekeepers@gmail.com
Co-President: Nancy McDowell
541.487.4666; carverranch@gmail.com
Co-President: Anne Schatz
541.418.1156; rapscallion.retiree@gmail.com
Website: www.ccbaor.org

Central Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 pm, fourth Tuesday (except December)
The Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas Ave, Bend
Information: contact@cobeekeeping.org
Co-President: Allen Engle
aengle@bendbroadband.com
Co-President: Patricia Moreland
oregonpat@gmail.com
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: Betsy Fleming
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

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 Wiktorowski
 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: Laurie Bowman
 541.250.1006; secretary@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: Curt Sawall
 Secretary: Lynn Sorber
 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; wiseacrefarms@me.com
 Treasurer: Barb Derkacht
 503.631.3063; bderkacht@yahoo.com
 Website: portlandmetro.org

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 pm, first Wednesday
 Alberta Abbey, 126 NE Alberta St, Portland
 For information, e-mail: officers@portland
 urbanbeekeepers.org
 President: Bill Catherall—503.572.6467
 president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
 Vice President: Laren Leland
 vice-president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
 Secretary: Simone Miller
 secretary@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
 Treasurer: Linda Callahan
 treasurer@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
 Website: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 pm, first Monday (6:30 pm demo thru bee
 season) Southern Oregon Res & Ext Ctr
 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point
 President: John Jacob
 541.582.BEES; john@oldsolenterprises.com
 Vice President: Risa Halpin
 rhalpin906@aol.com
 Secretary: Ellen Wright
 541.941.1894; ewright42@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Cheryl Housden
 541.659.6654; 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: Rick Stelzig
 rstelzig@embarqmail.com
 Secretary: Claire Moody
 503.318.9149; claire@vanirmail.com
 Treasurer: Terry Fullan
 503.368.7160; tfullan@nehalem.tel.net

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 pm (6:00 pm social time), last Tuesday
 225 S First Street, Hillsboro
 Contact: tualatinvalleybeekeepers@gmail.com
 President: Jeff Clark
 Vice President: Debby Garman
 Secretary: Dianne Hutto
 Co-Treasurers: Barb Falconer
 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



BEE EVENTS

August 20: Oregon Honey Festival. Ashland, Oregon.
Information: oregonhoneyfestival.com.

October 12–15: 2016 WAS Conference. Honolulu, Hawaii.
Information: www.westernapiculturalsociety.org.

October 28–30: 2016 OSBA Fall Conference. The Oregon Garden, Silverton, Oregon.

November 15–17: California State Beekeepers Association Annual Convention. Kona Kai Resort & Spa, San Diego. *Information:* www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/events.html.

January 10–14, 2017: North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow. San Luis Resort & Galveston Island Convention Center, Galveston, Texas. Mark your calendar. This is a joint conference of the American Beekeeping Federation, the American Honey Producers Association, and the Canadian Honey Council.

REGIONAL NEWS

Note: For all groups, see pages 4–5 for meeting time and place, website, and/or contact information. All groups welcome visitors to join them at meetings! In addition, regional groups often offer opportunities for learning, many of which are posted on their websites.

Regional Representatives

North Coast

What a great time of year to be a beekeeper on the North and Central Oregon Coast. There are bees in the air, and the hives are humming. Tillamook and Central Coast Bee Clubs have been active and it is time to prepare County Fair.

Central Coast Beekeepers had a presentation from Rita Ostrofsky and Rick Olson on the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. I was lucky enough to have participated in the original group of apprentices and am amazed at how quickly the program has grown and adapted to the numbers of participants in this, its fifth year. Thank you Rita and Rick for the presentation. The rest of the meeting was sharing and question and answer. Central Coast has great mixture of experienced, returning, and new beekeepers so there are few questions not being asked and no lack of answers.

The Tillamook County Beekeepers had several new people attend their last meeting. We had updates on how the flow hives were working, swarm collections, bait hives, queens, and much more. The Tillamook County Fair is August 10–13 and Vice President Rick Stelzig has taken the lead in

organizing their booth.

The one thing I am always reminded of when I attend both bee club meetings is how different it is beekeeping on the coast as opposed to the valley and even up some of our river valleys. One person may have already pulled and extracted while others of us have two or maybe even three honey supers of wet nectar and are waiting for it to dry out and be capped.

Stan Scotton

South Coast

Members of the two clubs at the southwestern corner of Oregon, Coos County Beekeepers, and Oregon South Coast Beekeepers have had three infusions of honey bees this year. Carla Fletcher has been coordinating that project of survival queens for meeting the challenges of weather conditions of inland Washington and Oregon coast.

The beeyards of the apprentices of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program in Curry County are active and impressive. The multitude of various shaped hives in many colors among the abundance of flowers in the garden of Cheryl Walz is an array of Warré, Langstroth, and Top Bar. All while the mentor keeps stressing the benefits of comb management standardization. Another of the OMB students, Dan Crumley, is quietly going for honey production, ever since his daughters gave him beehives for Christmas when he retired.

Meanwhile, I buzzed off to Spain to walk the pilgrimage, El Camino de Santiago, during May. I looked for honey bees all the way across the 500 miles the northern way from France to the Atlantic and saw only two beeyards, both fairly large groupings of hives, and two places with honey bees foraging. And in one, a public picnic garden of herbs, the flower was the Rosemary.

When I returned, Michael, who beetended for me, was concerned that the population in one of the hives had dropped and there was a pile of dead bees below the entrance. We found dozens of small dead mites on the white board. No adults. That had happened previously and the sugar dusting didn't result in the fall of any mites. It turns out that the bees had built drone comb below the brood box and had apparently destroyed most all of the immature mites and evicted all the drones. So, apparently honey bees do know what we have figured out about getting the mites to lay in drone comb and then eliminating them there. These bees apparently did not pull out the drone pupae from the mite-infested cells, but acted immediately upon their emergence. It's an amazing pile of drones below the porch.

Oregon South Coast has a booth at the Curry County Fair in Artisan Hall, August 24–27. The observation hive is a focal point, and it's always the kids who spot the queen first. Having a nuc ready to go to the show is a challenge. Next year the Educational Apiary that Carla Fletcher is seeing through to completion will likely have that as one of its tasks.

Treasurer Barbara Fitts regularly receives donations to the club, including favorite foraging plants, which are auctioned off to benefit the club treasury. Always the meetings are highlighted with a variety of potluck delights to enjoy while networking between sessions.

Mureen Walker

Regional Associations

Central Oregon

Here in Central Oregon we are just about past our swarm season. With the early, warm spring and great nectar we had quite a few folks with surprise swarms (and the associated consternation about the new queen surviving and mating properly). Currently the main issues some of our members are seeing are queen losses, defensive hives, and poor brood patterns. The early summer dearth is just about over, with the sagebrush and sulfur buckwheat just getting ready to burst forth.

We've had a great Oregon Master Beekeeper Apprentice class this year in Central Oregon and have enjoyed several talks from the students. We're also looking forward to meeting next year's class. In June, we had a great talk by Dewey Caron about Africanized honey bees and products of the hive (including tasting Africanized honey bee honey), and a very informative presentation about some of the non-Langstroth hives our members have used (Tree Hives, Warré, Top Bar & Long Hives). July events include a panel discussion on commercial beekeeping at our meeting, as well as a field day on Varroa detection and control. August is our annual picnic. Mostly social, but still no end of bee discussions. We're also working to schedule an advanced class on honey bee anatomy.

Allen Engle

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

This year has brought mixed blessings for Klamath beekeepers. What started out as a big fruit bloom and early flowering season came to a sudden halt with a solid week of freezing and near-freezing temperatures in the second week of June. Promising fruit crops have shriveled and died and any blooming plants that are not frost hardy died with the fruit. Many stalwart bloomers such as hollyhock and borage

were damaged and have just now recovered enough to start blooming going into the second week in July. The honey flow that had begun with gusto also screeched to a halt and is just now back to pre-frost briskness. It's challenging to be a bee in the central Oregon high desert!

On a brighter note, the annual KBBA field day was a success and the annual BBQ is scheduled for the July 30.

Judy Olson

Lane County Beekeepers

Busy, busy, busy is the only word to use for this time of year in Lane County. We certainly have been enjoying summer sunshine and a full calendar of events. The Olympic Track and Field Trials were held in Eugene, bringing amazingly trained athletes to our home town as well as many spectators. In addition, both the Oregon Country Fair and the Lane County Fairs were held in July. Our club members were able to display honey and products of the hive at the County Fair and vie for



The LCBA booth at this year's Lane County Fair.

ribbons. I hope to have the names of some winners for the next month's newsletter. One club member provided an observation hive to the Country Fair for the educational opportunity of fairgoers. Gardens are flourishing and the pollinators are taking advantage of all the sources of nectar and pollen. It is a pleasure to watch them as they fly from blossom to blossom.

Our August meeting on the 16th, will be a question and answer session for our members. We have many new members who are in their first year of beekeeping. The LCBA board decided to offer this meeting as an opportunity to divide into small groups and have a couple of our experienced beekeepers lead each group discussion. We all remember those first few years when we realized we needed advice and answers to our many questions. The mission of the club is education and getting members together to share experiences is a valuable learning tool.

I hope you are able to find time to relax and have some fun this summer.

Pam Leavitt

Linn-Benton Beekeepers

At the August meeting, Bumble Bees will be presented by Dr. Sujaya Rao. During July's meeting, Kenny Williams will tackle the sticky subject of Honey Extraction. At our meeting in mid June, Carolyn Breece presented information about the Oregon Master Beekeeper

program to recruit for 2017 students. President Steve Oda noted that blackberry blossoms were winding down or done. As a result of cool mornings lately, bees were starting flights later. With the humor and skills of a master teacher, Dr. Dewey Caron presented "Do You Have A Plan?" He laid out the background for beekeepers to create their own proactive plan for spring and summer management. This plan can be based upon a beekeeper's own measure of success, as well as an understanding of seasonal changes and local conditions, and how the colony's life cycle coincides. Dewey also enthusiastically noted that Argentina won the soccer match against Bolivia, played in Seattle. The logic thus follows to watch the landing board for bees playing pollen ball on warm summer evenings. All that fanning is actually the crowd going wild.

Laurie Bowman

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Portland Metro Beekeepers Association will hold its annual picnic on Saturday, August 13th at the home of club member Andy Rapp. This will take the place of our regular monthly meeting so there will be no August meeting. Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 8th.

Our own Kerry Haskins gave us a demonstration of honey extraction. He has an extraction business and shared with us his many tips and tricks he has learned over the years. Extraction is not a difficult process, but can be a huge project. Kerry's advice and tips will make the job much easier!


We also had part two of our roundtable discussion on making/using splits, and how and when to requeen.

We will be hosting a booth at the Clackamas County Fair on August 16th. It's the first day of the fair and kid's day! Will be fun to share beekeeping with the kids.

Patty Anderson

Portland Urban Beekeepers

As always, a huge thanks goes out to Glen Andresen for sharing his monthly Pollen & Nectar report. Alas, as the end of blackberry season is upon us, we also see the end of the honey flow. But there are plenty of blooming nectar and pollen plants still out there that are keeping our girls busy through October/November. For example, Scabiosa (also called the pincushion flower) will keep flowing and blooming on through November. For a



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more-detailed report, check out Bridgetown Bees (www.bridgetownbees.com/whats-in-bloom/) for Glen's monthly "What's in bloom" report.

We heard once again from Dr. Dewey Caron as he shared this year's results for the PNW Honey Bee Survey. He also shared best practices for mite control. This is something that all beekeepers must do to keep their hives healthy. His presentation outlined three basic methods for monitoring mites which include counting mites on drone brood, in natural mite drop on sticky board, and by the popular sugar shake method. Again this is an essential step in maintaining your hives to give them the best chance to survive winter.



Glen Andresen (left) and Tim Wessels.

We also heard from Tim Wessels and Glen Andresen, co-owners of Bridgetown Bees. In addition to providing honey and beekeeping equipment at their brick-and-mortar store, the primary mission of Bridgetown Bees is to selectively breed and raise queen bees in the city of Portland that are suitable for year-round survival here and in other cities in the Pacific Northwest. Tim and Glen shared an informative presentation for their queen raising methods.

Tour De Hives 2016 was a smash success with our largest turnout yet! Thanks to all the volunteers, hosts and people behind the scenes that made it happen.

Scott Macdonald

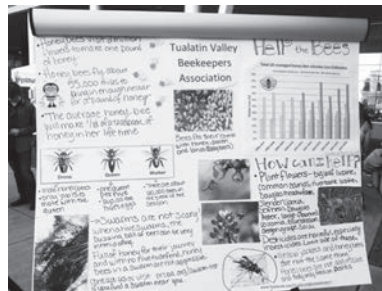
Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

The Tualatin Valley group TVBA thanks Dr. Dewey Caron for a great presentation on rearing queens at our June meeting. We had a fantastic members and their families picnic and field day on July 16, with Dr. Caron leading apiary inspections and demonstrating mite counting. Everyone had a great time socializing, and new member beekeepers were introduced to use of the honey extraction tools and process at the TVBA Honey House.

Tualatin Valley members have been doing lots of education outreach to support honey bees, including a stint at the Tuesday night market in Hillsboro in honor of National Pollinator week. We plan to once again offer a scholarship to support participation in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program as Apprentice and we encourage members to submit their applications to that program.



Market booth crew, left to right: Brian Harris, Stephanie Haugen, and Alden Potter. Stephanie created the poster (below).



Alden Potter will be presenting information about Fall feeding to ensure winter colony survival.

Debby Garman

Keeping Bees in July

Jason Rowan

August is a very important time for keeping bees. The season for honey has passed but rest assured some of the most crucial work remains. Focus needs to be shifted from honey harvesting to mite treatments and supplemental feeding.

- ❖ When finishing honey harvesting, it is necessary to pay close attention to keeping honey covered and your hives closed up. Robbing becomes much more of an issue the further we get from the main nectar flow. Waiting to harvest can mask many problems like mite infestations, and queen issues.

- ❖ Monitor and treat your hive as soon as possible. The sooner you get control of a situation the better. The bees raised from here on need to be as healthy as possible for winter survival. Mite loads can jump rapidly during this time of the year so stay on your treatments to get the best results. Make sure to do a post-treatment sample to ensure you have the results you want. On long summers it is important to keep an eye on your hive regularly.

Continued on page 10



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- ❖ Identify queen or hive problems and solve them by installing either new queens or nucs. It may be necessary to fold up colonies that are too far gone. Doing nothing creates big problems down the road. Another option is to combine weak colonies in hope of capitalizing on extra bees or resource combs (i.e., honey, brood, or pollen).

- ❖ Feeding colonies with syrup and pollen supplement can extend the brood rearing and longevity of your bees. Typically swarming is over by now so don't be worried about hives too heavy but use your judgment. Starvation is one of the few things that we can control so take advantage of that and let's get all the girls through the winter.

Remember doing nothing kills the bees most of the time so monitor, inspect, treat, and feed. Good queens, lots of food, large populations, and low mites will yield the best results for winter survival. Happy keeping.

Yellowjackets—Continued from page 1

aware of the danger. The honey crop is generally taken during the last weeks of summer. The beekeepers open up hives, create a great deal of commotion and activity in and near the hives, and inadvertently draw the yellowjacket to the apiary. Hives that may have swarmed can be less protected both in strength and population. Varroa may have increased and weakened the colony. And now the

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smell of honey and broken brood comb is on the air—like ringing a dinner bell.

The new yellowjacket queens hatch and mate in the early fall months of September and October. Feeding of the queens and males is high priority. Most of the easier forage is gone so the pressure on honey bee hives can be extreme. If the hives are opened or honey is harvested during this period, then the onslaught of yellowjackets can be overwhelming, and can occur days/weeks after the beekeeper has left. The bees, of course, are in a state of clean-up and repair after the honey harvest. The queen bee has decreased egg laying, and the first of the smaller winter bees are hatching. Cooler temperatures make the bees cluster up, exposing outer frames to robbing, or providing a space for the yellowjacket to invade. From those outer frames, the yellowjacket can clean out honey stores for quick fuel, and pick off the outer layer of bees from the cluster with little effort. They can even work their way into brood that can be taken back to the nest. If a hundred or even a thousand or more yellowjackets make their way to the outer frames inside of a beehive, then the bee colony can be destroyed quite quickly (ours was in less than 3 days) from the inside.

A Little Insight

The yellowjacket is an opportunistic feeder. So, if the beekeeper eliminates or reduces the opportunity, much of the problem is solved. Here are a few of my suggestions:

- ❖ Reduce the entrances of beehives to under an inch early in the summer and leave them until winter. Yes, the beehives are strong and guard bees do their best, but every yellowjacket that sneaks in some unprotected edge of a beehive increases the yellowjacket colony knowledge of the food source. When their population increases that memory will lead more to the hive. We use a 1/8-inch square hardware cloth/stainless screen cut to length and bent “hot dog fold” for a quick pressed in entrance reducer. It does not restrict airflow like the wood ones, and holds up in all weather. I really like many of the more elaborate reducers/robbing screens found online and in some store and catalogues.

As long as what you use can be reduced to a very small opening, I think it would work well.

- ❖ Be a gentle beekeeper during hive inspections. Remember that high activity alerts yellowjackets to the hives. A calm inspection keeps fewer bees from flying and from being alarmed. Smoking or using essential oil mixed syrup sprayed toward the bees may also help keep them calmer.

- ❖ Be a clean beekeeper during inspections and especially during the honey harvest. Broken brood and honey comb smells will attract yellowjackets to the hives, so clean up as much as you can and dispose of it away from the hives. During the honey harvest, keep frames covered as much as possible, and remove full boxes away from the hives. Also place cappings or wet comb out to be cleaned well away from the hives.

- ❖ Completely close off the entrance right after the honey harvest for a day or two or three. I will probably get some grief over this, but the heavy activity of having the hives open, all that yummy smell, broken honey and brood comb, etc. is a dinner bell that just doesn't quit ringing until the bees have time to clean up the mess in their hive. This will also eliminate robbing by other beehives on the weaker hives. Once you open it, keep it reduced to just enough space for a bee or two at a time (see first suggestion).

- ❖ Keep other food sources of the yellowjacket cleaned up or away from the apiary. Those foods are, but not limited to: Soft skinned and rotting fruit, dog food and stool (contains proteins), cat food and stool, dead animal carcasses, open mulching piles/bins, uncleaned bar-b-Qs, open soda/beer, uncovered garbage.

A little caveat here: The yellowbacket is a beneficial insect and has a place in the environment. It is a carnivorous larva/caterpillar/aphid eater that feeds on crop destroying insects. I am not suggesting that all yellowbackets should be eradicated from the environment. I am only interested in removing them from the immediate vicinity of my apiaries, especially when my beehives are at their most vulnerable.

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OSBA Fall Conference 2016

Oregon State Beekeepers Association

October 28, 29 & 30, 2016
 Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, Oregon 97381
 Individual and Family Registration

Name: _____ Date: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____ email: _____

Additional Family Members Attending

Names: _____

Event			Cost
Friday Night Hospitality Room			Complimentary
Full Conference ¹	Individual - \$150 Family - \$180		\$
Saturday Conference Only ¹	Individual - \$90 Family - \$110		\$
Sunday Conference Only ¹	Individual - \$90 Family - \$110		\$
Saturday Luncheon	\$28 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Saturday Banquet	\$50 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Sunday Luncheon	\$28 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Research Donation ²			\$
Annual OSBA Dues	\$40 per Person	Number: _____	\$
Total ^{3,4}			\$

#1) Attendees qualify for preregistration rate if application form (with registration fee) is postmarked on or before October 18. Late and on-site registration rates are: One Day \$110.00, One Day Family \$130.00, Full Conference \$190.00, Full Conference Family \$220.00.

#2) The Oregon State Beekeepers Association is classified as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Research donations made out to the OSBA may be deductible; please consult your accountant.

#3) Please make check payable to OSBA and mail with this completed registration form, postmarked no later than October 18, to: Oregon State Beekeepers Association, 2016 Fall Conference, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland, Oregon 97206.

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

TENTATIVE AGENDA

OSBA Fall Conference 2016 ❖ Oregon Garden ❖ October 28–30, 2016

Friday, October 28

- 6:00 PM **Registration**
7:00 PM Kick-Off **Wine and Cheese Social**

**Saturday, October 29**

- 7:30 AM **Registration**
8:00 AM **Silent Auction** Begins
8:15 AM **Welcome & Announcements**
Harry Vanderpool, OSBA President
General Session, Pavilion
8:30 AM **The Grand Interaction of Flowers, Bees, Growers, and Beekeepers**
Dr. John Skinner, University of Tennessee

8:30 AM– **Bee School**
(Concurrent, Natural Resources Building)
2:45 PM *Thom Trusewicz, Director*

- 9:15 AM **TBA**
Judy Wu, University of Nebraska
10:00 AM **Break**
Deadline for Entries for Honey Show
10:15 AM **TBA**
Dr. Elina Niño, UC Davis
11:00 AM **TBA**
Ellen Topitzhofer, Oregon State University/BIP
NOON Luncheon (*Preregistration required*)
Pollinator Protection in Oregon
Dr. Andony Melathopoulos
1:15 PM **TBA**
Dr. Steve Sheppard, Washington State University
2:00 PM **TBA**
Miksa Honey Farm
2:45 PM **Break**
3:00 PM **Following the Wild Bees: The Craft and Science of Bee Hunting**
Dr. Tom Seeley
3:00 PM **Overcoming Barriers to Beekeeping**
(Concurrent, Natural Resources Building)
Morris Ostrofsky
3:45 PM **TBA**
Brandon Hopkins, Washington State University

- 4:00 PM **Silent Auction** Ends
4:30– **OSBA General Membership Meeting**
5:45 PM
6:00 PM **Social Hour** (Main Lodge, Orchid Room)
7:00 PM **Banquet** (*Preregistration required*)
George Hansen, Foothills Honey Company
Benefit Auction to Follow

**Sunday, October 30**

- 7:30 AM **Registration**
8:15 AM **Welcome & Announcements**
Harry Vanderpool, OSBA President
General Session, Pavilion
8:30 AM **The Bee Colony as a Honey Factory**
Dr. Tom Seeley
8:30 AM– **Mead Workshop**
10:00 AM (*Concurrent, Natural Resources Building*)
Andrew Schwab, Instructor
9:15 AM **TBA**
Dr. Steve Sheppard, Washington State University
10:00 AM **Break**
10:15 AM **TBA**
Miska Honey Farm
10:15 AM **The Miller Method**
(Concurrent, Natural Resources Building)
Morris Ostrofsky
11:00 AM **OSU Honey Bee Lab**
Dr. Ramesh Sagili, Oregon State University
NOON Luncheon (*Preregistration required*)
Ellen Topitzhofer
1:15 PM **TBA**
Dr. Elina Niño, UC Davis
2:00 PM **Oregon Master Beekeeper Program**
Carolyn Breece, Oregon State University
2:45 PM **Break**
3:00 PM **Those Other Pollinators, Native Bees**
Dr. John Skinner, University of Tennessee
3:45 PM **Final Comments**
Harry Vanderpool, OSBA President
4:00 PM **Adjourn**

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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:*

Oregon State Beekeepers Association, Membership
4207 SE Woodstock Blvd, Ste 517, Portland, Oregon 97206

Date: _____ New Member Membership Renewal

First Name: _____ **MI:** _____ **Last Name:** _____

Company name: _____

Type: Small scale (less than 25) Sideline (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 information *OR* Share: mailing address phone number e-mail address

Local group, if member: _____

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

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Thank you!

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The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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In a time of destruction, create something.

—Maxine Hong Kingston

. . . as the bees do following our harvest!

Reminder: The date on the mailing label is the expiration date for membership.
If the date is August 2016 (or earlier), this is your friendly renewal notice.

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 want to hear from you!

The next issue to be printed will be the September issue, 2016. The deadline for submitting copy is **August 10, 2016**. 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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