

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 35, Number 3

April 2010



Herb Brasington

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Image above: Finding the queen—an ageless activity that opens doors to learning about honey bees.

Bee Schools (some now completed and others to follow, see page 10) and similar events provide an essential means through which those interested in keeping bees are able to hone their skills. At the same time, beekeepers and other honey bee enthusiasts are able to educate young and “old” alike through community events such as those presented in this issue. This spring may be a good time to look for and create similarly fun and memorable opportunities.

Reminder: The Swarm Call List on the Web site has been cleared for this year. All members need to make a request to webmaster@orsba.org to have their names put on the list for this year.

FEEDING COLONIES OVER WINTER

Heike Williams

During the 2009 Northwest Corner conference this past November, Dr. Frank Eischen presented a very interesting—and very dense—talk on “Feeding overwintering honey bee colonies.” When I say *dense*, I mean it was chock full of data and charts: many slides on multiple experiments all exploring questions regarding the effect of different kinds of feeding on colony strength and health. When he talked about overwintering colonies, keep in mind that he is the Research Entomologist at the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Weslaco, Texas, a location with a much-warmer climate than we have here in Oregon—and where bees do not shut down in the winter as they do here.

In this article, I will try to reproduce some of the highlights and results of his experiments. For most of the experiments, colonies were fed one-pound pollen substitute patties every 10–14 days throughout the winter (from October to January). Nurse bees generally do not move more than six inches on the frames, so the patties were placed between the two brood chambers. The patties were products available on the market.

Nutrition and Nosema

Question: What is the effect of feeding honey bee colonies during the winter on the Nosema level? In this experiment the feeding was started with pollen and followed by Mann Lake’s Bee Pro + 4% pollen. The study did not compare different types of patties.

Result: As long as the colonies are not heavily infested, feeding pollen substitute patties helps the colonies cope with the disease.

Nutrition and Varroa

Question: What is the effect of feeding pollen patties on the level of Varroa in the colony?

Result: Colonies that were fed pollen patties (Bee Pro + 4% pollen) and had low mite levels overwintered the best.

Feeding pollen patties did not cause an increased Varroa population. Feeding pollen patties offset in some way high mite infestation.

Timing

Question: When is the best time for winter feeding? What duration results in the strongest colonies?

Continued on page 3

The Bee Line

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

Send news about your bees and your experiences in keeping them, as well as corrections, letters, comments, photographs and stories (old and new), interviews, and requests for advertising to me at: *The Bee Line*, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland OR 97206; e-mail: osba.newsletter@gmail.com.

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Please submit copy by the 10th of the month prior to publication. The next issue will be the May 2010 issue. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Many thanks!

—*Rosanna*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, it is March in California, the almond bloom is waning, and bee work begins again—if only we can avoid the rain showers. It is great to see the bees turning from winter bees into summer bees, and we are looking forward to our trek to The Dalles for cherry pollination.

April is scheduled to be a busy month for us. We are expecting beekeepers from Chile who would like to visit our Oregon operation, and I have several speaking invitations with other interested groups. It is great to be able to spread the word about the importance of our furry friends.

Also, the OSBA officers were invited by the Portland-Metro group to attend Bee Day in Colton on April 24th at George and Sue Hansen's place. I have always wanted to attend this event, but have found so many excuses *not* to go because of my busy schedule or catching up on much-needed sleep. I am really looking forward to attending this year and spending time talking bees and spreading the word about the benefits of belonging to the Oregon State Beekeepers Association.

Speaking of George Hansen, did you know that he has been elected vice president of the American Beekeeping Federation? He does such an amazing job of representing Oregon beekeepers within our state and with national organizations. If you are not a member of the ABF, please consider joining. You will be glad you did. As Chuck Sowers said in the last *Bee Line*, the next ABF Conference will be in Galveston, Texas, in 2011. Please plan to attend.

Did you know that aerodynamically the bumble bee should not be able to fly, but the bumble bee does not know this so it goes on flying anyway? I think there is a lesson to be learned here about perseverance!

Happy Bee'in!

—*Jan*

A VISITOR FROM AUSTRIA

Paul Andersen

A couple of days after Christmas, I received an interesting phone call from Wolfgang Pointecker who found my name and number on the OSBA Web site. Wolfgang is a beekeeper from Austria and was in town visiting family. He wanted to meet with some local beekeepers and discuss the trade. I set up a meeting at a local restaurant and was able to get Mark Johnson and Jerry Maasdam from the Tualatin Valley branch to join us. I always look forward to meeting with beekeepers from out of the area to find out how are they addressing some of the problems we are all faced with and what they are doing in general.

This meeting was a fascinating couple of hours. Wolfgang has been a beekeeper for 39 years and runs a very diverse operation outside of Salzburg. It is his primary source of income. He is a Master Beekeeper, which is required as he employs two apprentice beekeepers in his operation. To make beekeeping work financially, he has to get the most out of every aspect of his bees. He usually comes out of winter with about 500 hives and sells off about 150 hives in the form of 6-frame styrene nucs to other beekeepers. This leaves him with about 350 hives going into the first significant honey flow, which starts in April. The flow starts in the lower elevation (800–900 feet) and gradually moves to higher elevation (2,500 feet). Each year, Wolfgang moves his colonies three or four times, as he chases the different varieties of honey up the hillsides in the foothills of the Alps to maximize his honey yield. He usually extracts between every move to take advantage of the different varieties. In a decent year, he averages about 130–150 pounds per colony, and bottles and markets this himself through grocery stores. He has to maximize his honey yield because there is no pollination business. Farmers there have yet to believe in the advantages of pollination with honey bees.

As he is managing his honey production, Wolfgang is also raising queens. Throughout the spring and summer, he supplies about 2,000 queens to other beekeepers in his part of Europe. There may not be a pollination business, but there is a market for pollen which he collects and sells along with propolis, beeswax candles, balms, and cosmetics. He markets these products in local communities around Salzburg. Much as we do, Wolfgang pulls the last of the honey around the first of August. He then immediately prepares for wintering by doing summer divides and making the 6-frame nucs he will sell in the spring. The styrene nucs boxes have a reasonable cost and good insulating properties that help the nucs get through the winter. At the same time, he starts his Varroa treatments in a two-step process. First, he applies Api-Life VAR™ (mainly thymol) which goes on in August right after the honey is removed. The Api-Life VAR part of the treatment continues until November. Next, once the Api-Life VAR is removed, he does an oxalic acid dribble to hit the last of the Varroa that managed to survive the thymol.

Wolfgang says that he has been using this same treatment process for 11 years and it is still very effective.

When we asked him about Nosema, he stated that he has not had any issues with it. He credits this to the fact that he turns over all his woodenware every two years, which keeps Nosema spores to a minimum. So, you can guess what he does all winter. Replacing half of his frames every year is a lot of equipment to build—especially given the fact that he mills the wood for the frames in his wood shop. Besides that, he presses his foundation from his leftover wax.

It was a fascinating couple of hours that was enjoyed by all four of us. I hope that Wolfgang took as much away from our part of the conversation as we took away from his.

Overwintering Bees—Continued from page 1

Result: Colonies that were fed every two weeks to the end of January generated the highest income in almond pollination, taking into account the cost for the feed.

Any feeding is better than no feeding.

Feeding earlier in winter is better than later feeding.

Feeding patties with a higher content of natural pollen—15 percent instead of 4 percent—resulted in stronger colonies.

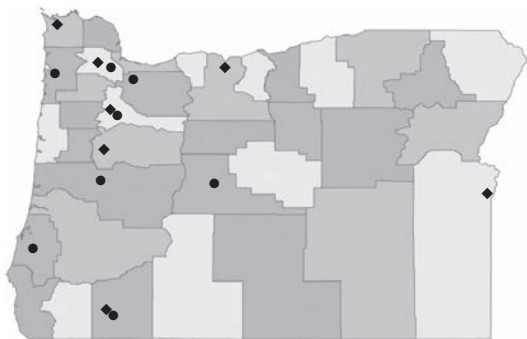
“Shut Down” Project

Dr. Eischen and his colleagues found that colonies that fly due to warm weather before the almond bloom in February decline in strength. Feeding pollen patties can prevent that decline, but requires resources (costs for labor and feed).

Question: How do colonies overwintered at higher elevations where bees are prevented from flying due to cold temperatures compare to colonies overwintered in warmer climates at lower elevations?

Result: When they were transported to the valley at the beginning of the almond bloom, highland non-fed colonies had less brood compared to the lowland colonies that were fed during the winter, but they caught up by late February. Considering that they did not require the cost of feeding, these colonies generated more income in almond pollination than their lowland counterparts.

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION RESOURCES



◆ OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Columbia Basin: Bill Edwards; 5040 Lost Lake Rd
Hood River 97031; 541.354.2223

Eastern Oregon: Jordan Dimock
2635 Mitchell Butte Rd, Nyssa 97913; 541.372.2726

Portland-Metro Area: Bev Koch
20495 S Geiger Rd, Oregon City 97045
503.655.7447; johnbev@aracnet.com

North Coast: Terry Fullan
39450 North Fork Rd, Nehalem 97131
503.368.7160; tfullan@nehalem.tel.net

South Coast: Open

Southern Oregon: Floyd Pawlowski
415 Pompadour Dr, Ashland; 541.482.4797
fmpawlowski@ashlandwireless.net

North Willamette Valley: Harry Vanderpool
7128 Skyline Rd S, Salem; 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

Central Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third Tuesday, Bend
63211 Service Rd, Suite 130

President: Dennis Gallagher; 541.389.4776
For information, please contact: John Connelly
johncobka@gmail.com

Coos County Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third Saturday (except December)
Ohlsen Baxter Bldg, 631 Alder St, Myrtle Point

President: Shigeo Oku; 541.396.4016
Vice President: John Gardner; 541.572.3847
Secretary: Bobbi Gardner; 541.572.3847
Treasurer: Jane Oku; 541.396.4016
jane_oku@hotmail.com

Lane County Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, third Tuesday, Eugene
Trinity United Methodist Church, 440 Maxwell Rd

Lane County (continued)

President: Judy Scher; 541.344.2114
judy_scher@catdreams.com
Vice President: Barbara Bajec; 541.767.9086
Secretary: Lane Hillendahl; 541.942.6838
Treasurer: Nancy Ograin; 541.935.7065
woodrt@pacinfo.com
Web site: www.lcbaor.org

Portland-Metro Beekeepers

Meets 7 PM, second Thursday, Oregon City
Clackamas Comm College, Clairmont Hall, Room 118

President: Nancy McFarlane; 503.260.3930
nancymariemcfarlane@yahoo.com
Vice President: Paul Hardzinski; 503.631.3927
breadstick@ccwebster.net
Secretary: Alvalea Fong; 503.742.0910
mamagoose@mac.com
Treasurer: Barbara Derkacht; 503.631.3063
bderkacht@yahoo.com

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, first Monday, Central Pt
So Or Res & Ext Ctr, 569 Hanley Rd
President: John Jacob; 541.582.BEES
john@oldsolenterprises.com
Vice President: Floyd Pawlowski
415 Pompadour Dr, Ashland; 541.482.4797
Secretary/Treasurer: Jonathon Boulton
jonnyboulton@hotmail.com
Web site: www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org

Tillamook County Beekeepers

For meeting and other information, please contact:
President: Bob Allen; 503.322.3819

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, last Friday, Beaverton
OSU Ext, #1400, 18640 SW Walker Rd
President: Herb Brasington; 503.701.4180
herb@hwbsystems.com
Vice President: Kevin Beckman; 503.539.5996
kevin_beckman2@msn.com
Secretary: Jerry Maasdam; 503.648.7906
jmaasdam@mac.com
Co-Treasurers: Brigitte and Michael Hendrickson
503.625.3828; mdhendri@gmail.com

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7 PM, fourth Monday, Salem
Chemeketa Comm College, Bldg 34, Rm A
President: Richard Farrier; 541.327.2673
Vice President: Harry Vanderpool; 503.399.3675
shallotman@yahoo.com
Secretary: Mike Rodia; 503.364.3275
drodia@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Patricia Swenson

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Lane County Beekeepers

The highlight of this past month was the buzzing success of our annual Bee School. On Saturday, March 6th, seventy attendees were happily inundated with first- and second-year beekeeping knowledge.



Brandt Weaver demonstrating how to build that hive!

Talks included an introduction to beekeeping by Chuck Hunt, equipment by Barbara Bajec, packages and handling bees by Jonathan Loftin, spring management by Morris Ostrofsky, and fall management by Judy Scher. Demonstrations on feeders and woodenware assembly were given by Ken Ograin, Katharine Hunt, Brandt Weaver, and Morris Ostrofsky. The Bee School, our major fundraiser, brought in approximately \$1,000. Our evaluation feedback was the most positive ever!

—*Judy Scher*

Portland-Metro Beekeepers

President Nancy McFarlane opened the meeting with a welcome to all, and especially to Helga Moll. Jim Barlean was named an honorary lifetime member. Paul Hardzinski then led a discussion of practices for spring. Many reported losses starting in November, with some having piles of dead bees in the hive and some with almost total disappearance of bees. One member asked if it was okay to use the honey left from a dead hive in a new batch of bees. The consensus was to wait for several months.

John Edwards of Ruhl Bee Supply presented current beekeeping information and new products. This is his fourth year of ownership of this 112-year-old company. He expects package bees to arrive April 5th and encourages people to order soon if needed. John noted last year's late summer start with the missed blackberry flow followed by a very hot summer with low nectar flow. In addition, it

was a bad yellow jacket year. He began hearing reports of colony failures in the fall, which continued from January to March. On a positive note, there were pockets of beekeepers, including commercial operations, doing "extremely well." John noted the trend to emphasize better bee nutrition, i.e., that having a variety of plants to choose from helps bees. Paradoxically, this means that city bees may do better than some bees in a rural area. As coumaphos and Apistan® are losing favor, people are tending toward the use of formic acid pads to manage for Varroa and tracheal mites. Thymol is used in the summer for Varroa. Essential oils are becoming more popular, even though there is less evidence that they are effective. John discussed tools for Integrated Pest Management, including use of drone comb, powdered sugar, and brood interruption through splits. Next month's meeting will feature Dr. Caron's presentation on small-scale requeening.

—*Paul Jarrett*

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

The attendance for the February meeting was 35. We discussed losses, which appear to be heavier than normal this year. Ramesh Sagili delivered a presentation on his research at OSU to a very enthusiastic audience. We will be sponsoring a Bee School which starts on Monday, March 15th, from 7 PM to 9 PM, and concludes on Saturday, March 20th, from 9 AM to 4 PM.

—*Paul Andersen*

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

John Edwards spoke at our March meeting. He brought items (a lot of them), and some, particularly the woodware, are unique to Ruhl Bee Supply. John provided a brief overview of the history of Ruhl Bee, the changes he has made and plans to continue into the future. Although we highly recommend the Bill Ruhl Memorial Bee Day, it will likely occur *after* many will have received and packaged their bees. In consideration of this and our success last year, we will hold a Bee Day on April 10th at Susan's (old) house starting at 9:00 AM (see page 10). Our swarm list is now being assembled, as we can expect swarming to begin in April and last into June. If interested, please contact me. For newbees, if not otherwise committed, Mike Rodia can go with you on your first swarm catch, if so desired.

—**Adapted from:** March 2010 *WVBA Newsletter*

KEEPING BEES IN APRIL

Todd Balsiger

Each spring we need to verify that colonies are queenright, healthy, and well fed so they can build up to maximum populations to capitalize on the summer's nectar flow. In this, consider the following:

- ❖ Mouse guards can be removed.
- ❖ Spring is usually when starvation occurs. Find light colonies by lifting (tilt one side up) and feeling relative weight. Feed light colonies—syrup is okay now. If they're starving, make a thick syrup; for stimulation, thinner. You can transfer excess frames of honey from overly heavy colonies to lighter ones also.
- ❖ On a calm, warm day, go through colonies and clean them. By *clean* I mean to make the colony easy to work again—to free and unbind frames from the clutch of wax and propolis. Remove burr comb. Replace poor-quality frames or brood frames older than five years with new comb or foundation. At least, move poor-quality frames to the sides of the brood boxes and place the best-quality frames in the middle. It is best to separate the brood boxes to isolate the queen, and to work one brood box at a time.
- ❖ Exchange the bottom boards with clean, dry bottom boards (or at least clean them). Screen bottom boards should be okay.
- ❖ When reassembling the hive, if the lower brood box is mostly empty, which is often the case, reverse its location and put it on top. This will relieve congestion and provide expansion room for the queen and the brood nest. There are times when you may not want to reverse based on the brood nest configuration. For example, if brood is located in both boxes and it is still early in spring with cold temperatures, reversing and separating a portion of the brood from the main and then not having enough adult bees to cover both areas of brood can lead to chilled and dead brood. In another example, if the queen is already working in the lower box and the upper box is still mostly food stores, then reversing would not increase space for the queen. In this case, it would be better to pull excess frames of honey and replace them with empty frames.
- ❖ You may want to requeen weak colonies and make divisions out of strong ones. A large adult population, lots of brood, and a solid brood pattern are indicators of a good queen and a strong colony.

A queenright colony has eggs and brood, so unless you want to requeen or make a division at this time, you do not need to find her.

- ❖ Always scan brood frames for the presence of foulbroods, particularly American foulbrood.
- ❖ April is the best time to make divisions to make a robust honey crop the current year. Making divisions is also a form of Varroa control, as it disrupts the brood cycle and sets the mites back. (Swarming does the same thing and to a greater extent.) Keep in mind that well-mated queens are not always available early in spring, and that feeding and the need to make well-balanced divisions (ratio of adults to brood) may be necessary to prevent chilled brood.
- ❖ Consider adding disease-free, dead-out brood boxes to booming two-story hives in anticipation of making divisions when your queens arrive. It will relieve congestion and give these overly populous colonies something to do—clean and refurbish frames. It will make an excellent division later.
- ❖ Continue to look for signs of Nosema infection. Provide Fumagilin-B medicated sugar syrup to suspected cases. Effects of Nosema include reduced bee life spans, increased supercedure and colony death, slow spring buildup, and reduced honey yield.
- ❖ Keep the front of hives clear of grass to promote ventilation and forager access.
- ❖ If you believe tracheal mites are a problem in your apiary, consider the use of plain extender patties (two parts sugar to one part vegetable shortening). Place patties in the middle of a two-story colony, or on the top of a single story.
- ❖ Determine your Varroa load and whether or not the population should be reduced. This is a good time (and maybe your last window of opportunity) to use controls that require higher daily high temperatures, and have shorter withdrawal times before supering.
- ❖ In a normal year, May is the month to add supers, but it depends on your location and the year. Last year, early supering would have been advised. Some people try to capitalize on the bigleaf maple nectar flow (Salem/Corvallis area comes to mind). Where my bees are located, they frequently need that honey to ward off starvation. I also have heard that it is time to super when the apples are in bloom. Well, it is March 8th as I write this. The apple trees outside my window are about to bloom, yet the freezing level

just dropped to 1,000 feet. My suggestion is to keep an eye on both the blooms and the weather. Super early if it is warranted. Remember the withdrawal time requirements for treatments. Also, if you use paradichlorobenzene for moth control, air out supers on a warm day.

❖ If you want to give your colonies a boost, begin stimulating feeding (equal parts sugar and water by weight) six weeks prior to the major nectar flow (i.e., start about mid April). DISCONTINUE stimulative sugar feeding before supering.

❖ Swarm season starts with the flush of new growth on plants and trees, and will continue into June. Nuc boxes containing one frame that has had brood, one frame of honey and pollen, and the balance foundation are ideal for catching swarms. Consider pouring sugar water or honey all over the frames to increase their attractiveness and to provide additional resources for drawing out foundation.

❖ Wax moth activity dramatically picks up when temperatures rise. Keep an eye on stored supers, especially those with pollen or that have had brood. Use moth crystals (paradichlorobenzene) or freeze the frames for control. Exposing the frames to light can inhibit the moths, too.

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BUG FEST: A CELEBRATION!

Herb Brasington

Each year just prior to Labor Day weekend, the Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District conducts a Bug Fest to raise the awareness of insects for young children and adults. Bug Fest is held at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park Interpretive Center in Beaverton and is a celebration of invertebrates and the important roles they play in our environment. The event is a partnership between the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District and Metro.



Bug Fest aspires to challenge preconceived images and engage local citizens in a fun summer event focused on insects and other invertebrates—changing the typical reaction from “Oh, gross” to “Wow, cool!”

Bug Fest combines interactive discovery stations, craft tables, and games with a range of activities that help attendees experience these boneless/spineless

Have you thanked a “bug” today?

Make plans to celebrate Pollinator Week: June 21–June 27, 2010! List your event at: www.pollinator.org.



creatures that make the world go round. This year, the featured invertebrate was the Dragon Fly.

Paul Andersen and I managed the beekeeping display at Bug Fest with an observation hive with marked queen, beekeeping equipment, and six different local honeys for tasting. Many questions about honey bees and beekeeping were answered with the most popular activity being locating the queen. Most of the kids seemed to enjoy being so close to honey bees, and all enjoyed the honeys.

In her thank-you note, Bug Fest Director, Elisa Joy, said that the TVBA and the honey bees would have to be a permanent part of Bug Fest.

FOR DONATIONS TO THE NORTHWEST APICULTURE FUND FOR HONEY BEE RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATION

- Make your check out to: **OSU FOUNDATION**
- On the memo line, take care to write:
THE NORTHWEST APICULTURE FUND FOR HONEY BEE RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION
- Mail your donation to the: Oregon State University Foundation at 850 SW 35th St, Corvallis OR 97333-4015

If you have any questions regarding details of the fund or how to donate, please contact Kenny Williams, Chairman of the OSBA's Endowment Fund, at 541.456.2631.

IMPORTANT: Making your check out only as described above ensures that your donation is correctly applied to the appropriate Endowment and not to any other program.



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POLLINATOR APPRECIATION

Lynn Royce

The governor of Oregon designated the week of June 22–28, 2009, to honor our pollinators. I took my observation hive, a poster with some facts about bees in Oregon, and a number of brightly colored pictures to the two First Alternative Coops in Corvallis to help educate the public. It was a trial run. This small effort for bees was put together at the last minute and was not advertised. In addition, the beekeeper in question here is an early morning person and found not too many families out shopping first thing on a summer morning. Next year, I will involve more beekeepers and interested parents of potential beekeepers, get an ad poster up early, and maybe see if the local paper will run an advance story. The bees will draw a crowd if people know they are going to be there.

My little observation colony hangs out in my yard in a nuc box—four frames and a feeder. The bees are doing well and have drawn out a couple of frames while they wait for a gig. The observation hive itself is a two-frame affair, so half the bees get to stay home while half go with the queen. Drones from other colonies came along in separate cages to be cuddled by youngsters and adults alike.

Other visits with the bees include two trips to Lincoln School this spring and a visit to each of the local farmers' markets, Saturday and Wednesday in Corvallis and Saturday in Albany. At Lincoln School, the bees met with two fifth-grade classes. The fifth graders loved them. They also enjoyed trying on bee suits and veils, as well as puffing the smoker. Their favorite activity, however, was holding a drone. These fuzzy guys are endearing. Smear a little honey in front of their face where their antennae can contact it and they stick out their tongue and lick the hand that feeds them. A frequent question is, "Can I take the drone home?" My helpers also enjoy the drone-holding station, and we always caution children that drones do not visit flowers.

The farmers' markets are outdoor events and can be cold, wet, or hot. I take the bees in late spring in hopes for cooler weather but no rain. The market provides a shade tent, but drones often fly away if

it is hot, especially after eating a little honey. They orient to the site and come back a bit later. As an incoming bee, they tend to make folks nervous. Every now and then on a warm day, we get an occasional stray worker or yellow jacket attracted to the smell of honey. I worry a little about these hazards, but never has anyone been stung. We also make pipe cleaner bees, as follows:

Pipe Cleaner Bee

Twist one yellow and one black pipe cleaner together. Wrap these around a pencil to form the bee's body.

Bend half a black pipe cleaner into a V shape. Then elbow them into antennae.

Slip the bee body off the pencil and slide the point of the V into the space left by the pencil.

Some children get creative, with additions of stingers created during the wrap around the pencil or wings with a few additional pipe cleaners. If there are other colored pipe cleaners available, they may vary the bee's colors.

The possibilities are many!

I often wonder what, if any, impact these visits have. Not long ago at our visit to Corvallis Saturday Market, a woman stopped and asked, "Were you at Lincoln School this spring?"

"Yes, I was," I respond.

"My daughter loved that," the woman continued. "She has been fearful of all flying insects and did not want to hold a drone. But when all the other children were holding them, she gave it a try. Now she realizes that not every flying bug will hurt you."

It is a delight to watch young children with them. Some have no fear and are fascinated by the bee they can hold and examine from the start. Others, like the child at Lincoln School, have to overcome fear to even come close. Then, as they observe those who are holding the drones, they actually give it try. The joy of discovery is a wonderful thing.

I encourage you all to give travel with an observation hive and drones a try. It is a great way to build on bee appreciation. I know you are busy, but do it anyway.

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SCHOOL DAYS: April 2010

Southern Oregon Bee Day

Saturday, April 10

Summer Joe's, Grants Pass

With Dr. Lynn Royce. Please contact Ann Padgett for registration details and menu: padgett25@frontiernet.net or 541.592.4678.

Willamette Valley Bee Day

Saturday, April 10

Susan's (old) house, Salem

9:00 AM—approximately NOON

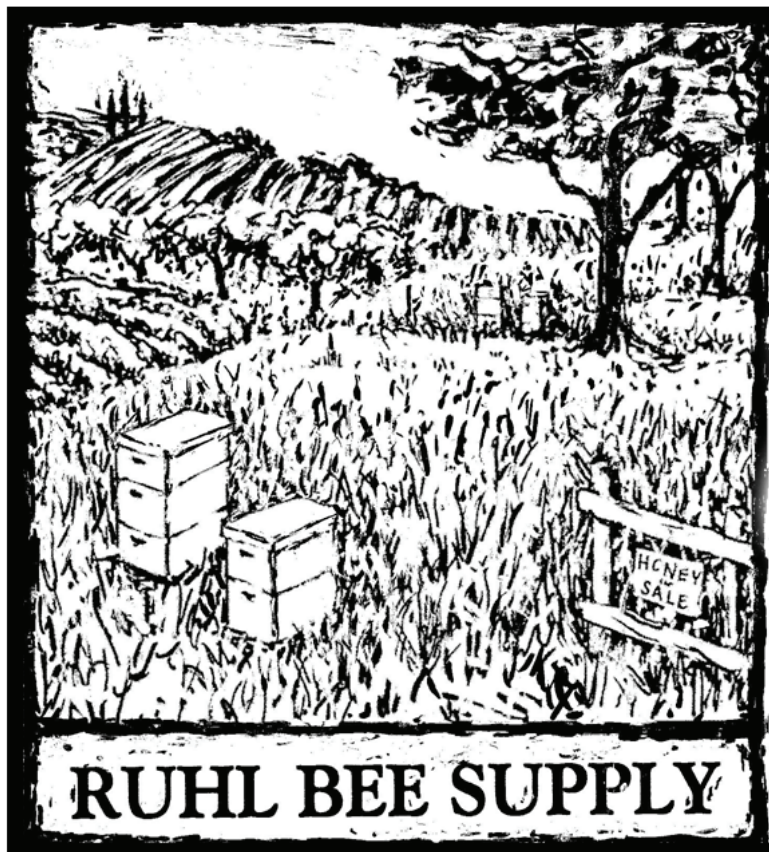
To provide beekeepers with an experience of hiving of a package of bees, examining established colonies, locating the queen, and identifying eggs, brood, honey, pollen stores, and disease. We will also provide demonstrations on how to light/continue the burning of a smoker. No charge and no lunch. For directions, call Mike Rodia: 503.364.3275.

Bill Ruhl Memorial Bee Day

Saturday, April 24

Foothills Honey, Colton

See details and Registration Form on page 12.



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SURVIVOR STOCK SELECTION AND DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Calling all citizen scientist beekeepers. Old Sol would like to invite all to participate in our Survivor Stock Selection and Distribution Program. This program is an opportunity to identify superior breeder queens, to provide a source for identification and distribution of thoroughly vetted survivor stock genetics.

Participants in this program will be provided access to an online database to document queen performance and colony traits, as well as include images with field notes. Suggested best practices and protocols will be built into the system. After the selection period, the top 1–3 percent of performers will be chosen for propagation and distribution of two daughters to each participant the following season (total of a minimum of three queens for the enrollment fee).

Each of the program queens will be marked and specifically associated with its breeder mother, and then shipped—with an enrollment fee of \$100 (plus shipping) and access to enter data into the publicly viewable Queen Tracker pages on our site. Superior performing daughters will be chosen as

breeders the following year from the participants with the best data and results. The selected breeder queens will be subsequently returned to Old Sol for propagation and distribution of daughters for each participant whose queens were not chosen. Ten program daughter queens will be sent the beekeepers whose queens are identified as the best breeder stock candidates and returned to Old Sol.

Participants can better the plight of the honey bee by helping identify productive pest/pathogen-tolerant queens. The Survivor Stock Selection Program is a team effort. With solid data collection, we will be able to make progress towards improved honey bee genetics and distribute the rewards of our efforts to the apicultural community. This is a great opportunity for all beekeepers, and we sincerely look forward to your participation.

—*John B. Jacob*
Old Sol Enterprises

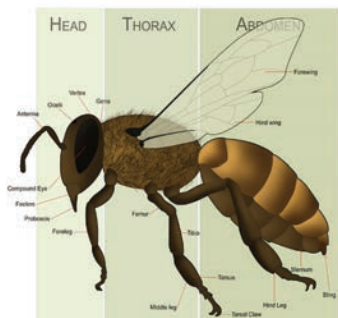
CLASSIFIED AD

Bee Truck for Sale: 1980 Ford ¾-ton 4x4 flatbed with electric swing boom loader. \$1,500 or offer. Contact Oliver Petty at 541.928.7924. or Walt Petty at 541.342.3537.

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Portland-Metro Beekeepers Association

presents the

BILL RUHL MEMORIAL BEE DAY

Saturday, April 24, 2010

PLACE: George Hansen's
Foothills Honey Farm
30576 S Oswalt Road
Colton OR 97017

TIME: Saturday, April 24, 2010
Registration: 9:00 AM
Presentations: from
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

COST: \$20 per person/\$30 per family*, pre-registered
\$25 per person/\$35 per family*, day of the event

*Family registrations include two lunches; additional lunches may be purchased for \$7 each.

GEAR: Bring your "bee protection equipment": bee veils, gloves, suit, etc.

PRESENTATIONS (about 45 minutes each):

- A. Beekeeping Equipment
- B. Basic Hive Inspection
- C. Nuc installation/Package installation
- D. Finding the Queen
- E. Diagnosis and Management of Honey Bee Diseases
- F. Problems in the Hive

For more information, contact: Nancy McFarlane (503-260-3930)
Paul Hardzinski (503-631-3927)

Complimentary morning beverage provided. Soda available for purchase. Great Oregon water available free; cups will be provided, but save a tree: bring your own cup or water bottle! Bring a lawn, folding, or camp chair for your sitting pleasure.

To pre-register, return this form with \$20 per person/\$30 per family to PMBA c/o Barbara Derkacht, 17130 S Seal Court, Oregon City, OR 97045. Make checks payable to Portland-Metro Beekeepers Association (PMBA). Families: additional lunches should be ordered and paid for at this time, too, to ensure your sandwich choices. Mail by April 16th. Thank you.

Name _____

Address _____


City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____


Telephone _____ **e-mail** _____




Number attending ____ **Lunch preference(s):** ____ veg.; ____ ham; ____ turkey; ____ beef

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Please check your mailing label. If the date on the label is near **April 2010**, your membership is due to end soon. See *Membership Form (page 15)* to renew.

Western Apicultural Society

August 30–September 2, 2010

Red Lion Hotel, Salem OR

☞ See “Conference Information” at the WAS Web site: <http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/> ☞

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

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This issue of *The Bee Line* is printed on recycled paper by Powell Minuteman Press; 503.234.2040.