

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 36, Number 4

June 2011



J'aime ona Pangaia

IN THIS ISSUE...

Trek to a Bee Tree	1
President's Message	2
OSU Research	2
Honey ID	3
Point of View	3
OSBA Resources	4
Regional News	5
Portland Metro Bee Day	6
Ag Fest 2001	7
Keeping Bees	8
Questions of the Month	9
Endowment Donations	9
Magazine Subscriptions	13
OSBA Membership Form	15
Classified Ad	16

Image above: A bee tree located outside of Chiangmai, the largest city in northern Thailand, where a Portland-area beekeeper began her all-day adventure to a similar tree marked by a Karen man (front story). Which honey bee made the honey that she now keeps in her kitchen cupboard? Are the prized larvae *giants* as compared to those of our more-familiar *Apis mellifera*?

JOURNEY INTO THE JUNGLE FOR HONEY

J'aime ona Pangaia

This is the *real* reason I go to 24 Hour Fitness twice a week: To go on a trek through the northern Thai jungle with three Karen men and my half-tribal guide Chaiya, who speaks several distinct tribal languages as well as Thai and English.

When I asked for the opportunity to observe tribal people collecting wild honey from the trees, I had no idea what I was in for. The only shoes I brought to Thailand were my comfortable, stylish, expensive woven sandals from Italy by way of Nordstrom. I can tell you right now that they are completely ruined; my feet retain the strange henna pattern of their dyes.

Chaiya and I leave my guesthouse in Chiangmai at 6:30 AM and head north for two hours to the tribal Karen village. Along the way, we stop at a roadside village market and buy precooked sticky rice with black beans in bamboo sections, some Chiangmai sausage links, and a bag of small tomatoes. The village, with approximately twenty-five families and headed by a friendly, tattooed, 70-year-old head chief, sits alongside several other tribal groups.

They are separated from one another by patches of farmland and surrounded by mountains and jungle. From the village, we ride two-to-a-motorbike, sans helmets, as we careen up and down narrow and rutted dirt paths with a dog running eagerly alongside us. In fact, the dog accompanies us the entire day.



We leave the bright day along with the bikes at an empty bamboo shack and continue by foot into the dark jungle of fat, clumping bamboo stands, tall wild banana trees, old rubber trees, and a thick underbrush of many other kinds of smaller trees and shrubs I don't know. For much of the way, one man leads as he whacks away with his machete. At times, one of the men walking ahead of me burns a dry, fibery root to smoke away the bugs that are everywhere.



The path soon crosses over and then empties into a small, rocky stream. For much of the remaining two hours, that stream, or another, is our path. The men walk briskly and surely as they move over the boulders and slippery rocks. They scramble easily up one ravine after another. In contrast, I am challenged. One of the men notices my caution and cuts a length of bamboo, which he quickly trims into a sturdy walking stick. My thoughts still circle around and around: "I can't believe I'm doing this." "How much longer?"

Continued on page 10

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I think that we've been away from home too long! Our living conditions are a bit cramped, and the bees are really suffering with this extended cold and wet weather. I am not sure who is the most resilient, the bees or the beekeepers. At any rate, it will be so good to be back home again along with our queening routine and some welcome sunshine.



Portland Metro Bee Day was, as always, a huge success. Being from east of the Cascades, when rain is pouring from the sky we usually head for cover. I was absolutely amazed that no one seemed to care too much about being a little damp. Nancy McFarlane and the Portland Metro group helped George and Sue Hansen make several hundred beekeepers feel totally welcome to enjoy the day and expand their knowledge of honey bees. If you have not been to a Bee Day, do yourself a favor and put it on your schedule for 2012.

Preparations are underway for the 2011 fall conference at the Seaside Convention Center. Paul Andersen has lined up some interesting speakers, and we are adding some new and exciting items to our agenda this year. Keep your schedule open for November 17, 18, and 19.

I keep checking the weatherbug to get a long-range weather forecast in hopes of seeing some sunshine in our future; for now, things still look bleak. This rain has really taught us to appreciate a warm sunny day when the bees can get out and do their work and we don't have to worry about the status of their feed. Here's hoping that spring improves, summer is quickly upon us, and our bees start to make some honey. Don't worry, bee happy.

Jan

RESEARCH at Oregon State University

Ramesh Sagili

Hope you are finally getting busy with the bees. Just wanted to quickly update and provide a summary of a couple of grants that we have received recently.

Western SARE (\$38,536)

Establishing the economic threshold for and epidemiology of *Nosema ceranae*, a relatively new species of microsporidian parasite in the honey bee, for the Pacific Northwest

The objectives of this project are the following: (1) To develop an economic threshold of *Nosema ceranae* for the Pacific Northwest, (2) To study the epidemiology of *Nosema ceranae* in the Pacific Northwest, (3) To evaluate the efficacy of delivery methods of Fumagillin for *Nosema* control, and (4) To develop a reliable and

simple sampling protocol to estimate *Nosema* spore counts in infested colonies.

National Honey Board (\$31,900)

Comprehensive evaluation of the role of nutrition in honey bee colony losses

The specific objectives of this proposal are: (1) To determine the effects of nutrition on age of first foraging, longevity, physiology, and colony growth, (2) To investigate the effects of nutrition on the incidence of parasites, diseases, and immunocompetence in honey bee colonies, and (3) To evaluate the effects of antibiotics (Terramycin and Fumagillin) used prophylactically by beekeepers on beneficial gut microorganisms that aid honey bees in nutrient assimilation.

These projects have just been initiated. I will provide an update on the results as we progress. Thank you all for your support and help.

HONEY STANDARD OF IDENTITY

The May 3, 2011, *Oregonian* reports that “hobbyist beekeeper Fred VanNatta” testified in favor of House Bill 2947 “on behalf of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association.” This bill, authored by Representative Brian Clem out of concerns about the sale of contaminated honey—such as that seized from a warehouse in Salem this past March, has now passed *both* the House and the Senate. When asked about the process from here, Fred e-mailed that only after the bill passes both the House and the Senate does the leadership sign an “enrolled copy.” That copy then is delivered to the Governor. When he signs it, the effective date will be January 1, 2012. Fred notes that “there is no specific provision for the Dept of Ag to move ahead before that date on the rule adoption process. They may have some general authority and resources to allow some work on rule development, but they can’t adopt any rules until after the first of the year.” Even with the wait, good news! Thanks to the time and effort given by Fred and a number of other Oregon beekeepers, we soon will join Florida, California, Wisconsin, North Carolina...as state by state officially recognizes that bees rule in the making of honey.



POINT OF VIEW: Backyard Bees

Thom Trusewicz

With a breath of spring in the air, gardeners and nature enthusiasts hunt down beekeepers in hopes that we will have an extra colony that needs a home in their backyard. These enthusiasts seem not to want to take on beekeeping themselves; they just want us to share the joy with them. It is a thing of wonder to see a colony of honey bees out in one’s garden space, but many do not realize the work, time commitment, and expense it will cost to share your joy of beekeeping with them.

Many beekeepers add colonies to their collection every year and eventually run out of room. They are appreciative of any opportunity that provides sites for their bees. I have found that, because of competition, four colonies in a location can produce as much as ten colonies in the same location. There are only so many nectar sources available in a given area, and the farther the bees have to travel, the more work it takes to produce the same amount of honey.

In years past, I gladly accepted these invitations to

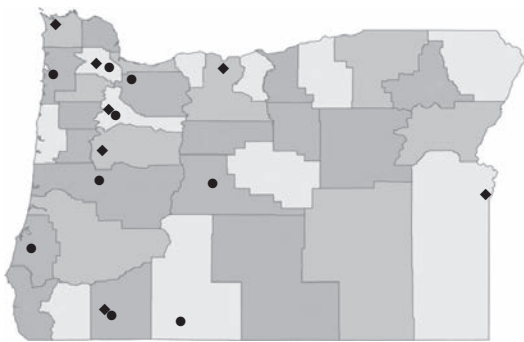
place my bees at foster locations; however, as time went on, I realized the time, effort, travel expense, and liability were simply not worth adding new flavors to my honey. Beekeeping is always somewhat dicey in a neighborhood situation. Even the most attentive, proactive beekeeper can encounter problems with a given colony, be it colony temperament or swarming. Having bees on land with no nearby homes is ideal, but keeping bees in neighborhoods is difficult and can sully the reputation of beekeeping in general.

Consider who is liable when a swarm emits from a hive—before you can get there to capture it. The swarm flies off and takes up residence in the walls of a neighboring home. What about a colony that suddenly becomes defensive or remains a little hot after an inspection, and a neighbor’s child, pet, or someone mowing their lawn gets stung with no apparent provocation? What about the honey bees that start mobbing a neighboring hummingbird feeder or are found in numbers floating in someone’s hot tub or pool? Some neighbors are annoyed when they park cars under the flight path of bees and then find streaks of yellow fecal matter that aren’t so easy to clean off. Depending on the size of the colony and how attractive the bees find the neighborhood, bees may disrupt or limit a neighbor’s outdoor activities.

I am not saying that beekeeping in a neighborhood is bad. It’s just not a good idea for an absentee beekeeper to put too much trust that nothing will go wrong in a colony. Do you have liability coverage if something does go terribly wrong?

For those who really want to get familiar with bees, perhaps you can lease a colony to them in your bee yard. There you can mentor them while they learn about bees and keep an eye on the colony when they aren’t there—or should they lose interest. Leasing a colony is better in the long run because it places a value on the service you are offering, the training you are providing. People will be more likely to follow through on their commitment to take care of the bees for a season. Once you see how well the new beekeeper(s) are coming along with their stewardship, you may be able to tell them that you feel comfortable that their level of responsibility meets and hopefully exceeds the understanding and skill sets to keep bees on their own in their own backyard. Until that goal is achieved, it is a disservice to beekeeping for people to get colonies and wing it while hoping for the best outcome.

Oregon State Beekeepers Association EXECUTIVE BOARD AND RESOURCES



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 OFFICERS

President: Jan Lohman
77225 Colonel Jordan Rd, Hermiston OR 97838
541.567.3209; 541.980.0304 (cell)
vazzafarms@yahoo.com

Vice President: Paul Andersen
19255 SW Prospect St, Aloha OR 97007
503.649.5089; 503.332.5410 (cell)
paulande@easystreet.net

Secretary: Carolyn Breece
743 NW 18th St, Corvallis OR 97330
541.207.3668; 541.224.2859 (cell)
carolyn_breece@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Paul Kowash
5959 SW Taylors Ferry Rd, Portland OR 97219
503.452.2664; 503.367.5242 (cell)
paulkowash@aol.com

Past President: Chuck Sowers
26730 S Hwy 170, Canby OR 97013
503.266.1740; sowers@canby.com

♦ OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

North Coast: Terry Fullan
39450 Northfork Rd, Nehalem 97131
503.368.7160; tfullan@nehalemtnet.net

South Coast: Open

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

• OSBA REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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

Klamath Basin Beekeepers
Meets 9:00 AM, last Saturday (except Nov/Dec)
OSU Extension, 3328 Vandenberg Rd, Klamath Falls
President: Tom Chester; 541.850.8384
klamathbeekeepers@gmail.com
Vice President: Jim Smith; 541.892.5888
Secretary: Donna Schmerbach; 541.891.3066
Treasurer: Ed Geise; 541.892.6016

Lane County Beekeepers
Meets 7:30 PM, third Tuesday, Trinity United
Methodist Church, 440 Maxwell Rd, Eugene
President: Judy Scher; 541.344.2114
judy_scher@catdreams.com
Vice President: Rita Ostrofsky; 541.685.2875
Secretary: Barbara Bajec; 541.767.9086
Treasurer: Nancy Ograin; 541.935.7065
woodrt@pacinfo.com
Website: www.lcbaor.org

Portland Metro Beekeepers
Meets 7:00 PM, second Thursday, Clackamas Comm
College, Clairmont Hall, Room 118, Oregon City
President: Nancy McFarlane; 503.260.3930
nancymariemcfarlane@yahoo.com
Vice President: John Keeley; 503.632.3682
keeley81@bctonline.com

Secretary: Bernard Newland; 503.656.6621
berternew@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Rex McIntire; 503.720.7958
remcintire_5@msn.com

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, first Monday, Southern Oregon
Res & Ext Ctr, 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point
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
Website: www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org

Tillamook County Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, second Tuesday, Art Space
Hwy 101 & 5th St, Bay City
President: Bob Allen; 503.322.3819

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, last Wednesday
OSU Ext, #1400, 18640 SW Walker Rd, Beaverton
President: Kevin Beckman; 503.539.5996
kevin_beckman2@msn.com
Vice President: Herb Brasington; 503.701.4180
herb@hwbsystems.com
Secretary-Treasurer: Jerry Maasdam
503.648.7906; jmaasdam@mac.com

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, fourth Monday, Chemeketa
Community College, Building 34, Room A, Salem
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; pkswenson@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

Agriculture Liaison: Harry Vanderpool; 503.399.3675

Fairs and Exhibits: Marjie Ehry; 503.434.1894

NW Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education: Kenny Williams; 541.456.2631

Nominations: Chuck Sowers; 503.266.1740

Public Relations: Paul Andersen; 503.332.5410

HONEY BEE RESEARCH

Dr. Dewey Caron
302.353.9914 (April–October)
carond@hort.oregonstate.edu

Dr. Lynn Royce
541.929.5337; mitebee@peak.org

Dr. Ramesh Sagili
541.737.5460; sagilir@hort.oregonstate.edu

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives

North Coast

Coastal area blueberry growers have bloom at this time. Growers with small acreage called to rent bees recently. An ad ran in the local newspaper from a grower of blueberries requesting any available swarms. Tillamook beekeepers meeting was held on May 10.

The north coast hosted a premiering of the documentary *Queen of the Sun* in Astoria on April 22 and 23. Local folks interested in bees and nature attended. A very interesting look at beekeeping from a global perspective. Many found it a positive way to spend Earth Day evening 2011. —Terry Fullan

Portland Metro

It's been sort of quiet after the big push of purchasing colonies, getting them installed, and then waiting for moments between showers to feed or check up on them. I've heard of a few swarms in the Portland area. The Portland Metro Beekeepers group is recuperating from the largest showing they've had yet at the annual Bee Day at George and Sue Hansen's place in Colton on May 7. In spite of the rain, people were getting their questions answered from many well-experienced and knowledgeable people in the field. —Bev Koch

South Willamette Valley

Well, another month has passed and honey will hopefully flow in copious amounts this year. Here in the south valley, spring weather seems to have paid off in the end. The maple materialized out of nowhere, saving the need to feed immediately. It caught some of us by surprise with no honey boxes on the truck. Things to keep in mind include making sure that all hives are Q right and have enough weight to get to the blackberries without starving—or conversely pushing them into swarming due to congestion of the brood chamber. Get those boxes on and hope for the best year we have ever seen. —Jason Rowan

Regional Associations

Portland Metro Beekeepers

The May meeting began with each beekeeper sharing what she or he is doing this spring. Dr. Dewey Caron announced the results for our group's winter losses at

The Bee Line

48 percent. Although lower than last year, this is still higher than other areas of the state.

The second half of the meeting featured Jim Barlean with a presentation on honey supering. First, he said that in his experience many beliefs about beekeeping are “myths.” For example, he does not clean his queen excluders each year. In fact, using a propane torch to clean them may warp the steel and thus make a space for the queen to get through. He puts supers on as early as April. One group of his hives has already put in a lot of honey. He asks, “What good they are doing in the garage? The bees know what to do!” Jim has concluded with much research that the medicine for Nosema may last less than 24 hours in the syrup solution. Thus, if you put a large amount in the hive and expect the bees to eat it slowly over a week or two, most of it is going to waste. His solution is to “dribble” the estimated correct amount over the frames so that the bees clean themselves and thus eat the medicine before it loses its potency. —*Paul Jarrett*

Tillamook County Beekeepers

President Bob Allen opened the May meeting. Local beekeepers gathered to an open discussion and a question-and-answer period. Swarm control and doing divides were the main topics of discussion. Another lively debate focused on honey bee removal from homes and farms. Tricia Kauffman provided the meeting with two plates of sweet baked goods. Our next scheduled meeting is June 14. —*Terry Fullan*

EVENTS FOR THE BEES

Portland Metro Bee Day

Nancy McFarlane

Portland Metro Beekeeping Association hosted Bee Day 2011 at George Hansen’s Foothills Honey in Colton. The two hundred new beekeepers who attended this all-day workshop began the day with choices.

There were two concurrent education sessions in the morning. The first session included a choice between Beekeeping Equipment presented by club member Jim Mellis and State of the Bees presented by Dr. Ramesh Sagili. The second set of concurrent topics included Nonchemical Beekeeping presented by Dr. Lynn Royce

and Diagnosing and Managing Honey Bee Diseases by Dr. Dewey Caron. After the education sessions, all attendees eagerly went out to the bee yard.



Lynn Royce (above) engages beekeepers with nonchemical treatments on their minds while Mark Johnson (below) takes time out with his grandchild.

Many bee stations were available. Intermediate beekeepers were encouraged to go to stations staffed by Dr. Dewey Caron, Jan Lohman, George Hansen, and Dr. Lynn Royce. Beginning beekeepers were invited to stations staffed by experienced beekeepers who included long-time club members, Jim Barlean and Kerry Haskins, as well as invited guests, Mark Johnson, Carolyn Breece, Thom Trusewicz, Glen Andresen, Paul Andersen, and Harry Vanderpool.



The day is possible only because of the many association members who volunteer time and talent: Rex McIntire, Bev Koch, John Holderness, and Lonnie Addleman, to name a few. We are very grateful to George and Sue Hansen for their generosity in inviting the Portland Metro Beekeeping Association to Foothills Honey for this popular workshop. We are also appreciative of all the volunteer instructors at the hives with the beekeepers.

It was a full day with plenty of time with the bees. Although the weather was typical for this time of year in the valley, the bees were quite cooperative in allowing us to learn from them. *Thank you, girls!*

Note: Attendance has been high for many of the bee schools and bee days throughout the region as well as at events such as Ag Fest. Those who have participated have left with new knowledge, resources, and appreciation. Let us hear how things have gone for you!

Ag Fest 2011

Ken Vial

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association again sponsored booth space with the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association staffing the exhibit at Ag Fest 2011. Oregon Ag Fest is dedicated to educating the public—especially the youth—about the importance of agriculture. The bee exhibit is located in what is called *Ag Country*, which is an interactive, agricultural “community” that gives kids hands-on experiences like spinning a honey extractor, watching bees in an observation hive, planting seedlings, digging for potatoes, watching chicks hatch, and more. The two-day event was held on April 30 and May 1, 2011, with great weather both days. Early estimates are that 17,500 people attended the event—a record.



Left to right: Scott Dotson and Gordon Kroemer take a moment to chat—just before the crowds roll in!

Rich Farrier, president of WVBA, donated the bees for the observation hive again this year and provided the observation hive equipment. Ken Vial provided a nuc, a two-frame extractor, ten-frame hive, and other equipment. Material was obtained from the National Honey Board for handouts. They included first-class photography by professional photographers and artwork second to none. The *i♥u honey* stickers from the National Honey Board proved to be a big hit with the children, as we handed out about 3,000 of these. Two brochures “A Sweet Story: The Making of Honey” and “From Honey Bees to Brain Freeze” also were very popular. In addition, we handed out a smaller



A posting that the Governor has signed a proclamation of **Pollinator Week in the State of Oregon: JUNE 20–26, 2011**, is now at: www.pollinator.org! May events throughout the state be posted also, and may they be exceptionally well attended—and fun and inspiring for all.



John Bednarczyk (above) along with his granddaughter (right) demonstrate the fine arts of extracting and finding the queen.



number of “Light + Fresh Honey Recipes,” “The Story of Honey,” and “The Story of Pollination.” To see the colorful brochures, go to www.honey.com, click on the tab *Honey Industry*, and then download the *NHB Supply Catalog*.

Gordon Kroemer, Scott Dotson, Adam Braun, Randy and Tamara Blair, and Fred Mann staffed the event on Saturday. On Sunday, Erma Hamilton, Bunny Carter, Dennis Robbin, Bruce Roller, and John Bednarczyk handled the duties. Of special interest on Sunday was John B’s grandchild, who donned a bee jacket and pants, and helped for a while handing out bee stickers.

The staffers found that it takes three people to cover the exhibit for most of the time; they also suggested that a larger space would be helpful. Proves how much interest there is in our exhibit. Our participants suggested that a second observation hive, a display of honey types in jars, club pamphlets, and demo items such as drawn-out frames with honey in them also would be helpful. A big *Thank You* to those who staffed the exhibit. You did a Great Job!

Snow Peak Apiaries

Custom Wood Shop

All types of supers, including 8-frame,
Cedar top and bottom boards; Frames—all styles
Custom cut to fit your operation

Franz & Audrey Yordy

541.451.3752
Toll free 1.877.530.5882

34769 E Lacombe Dr
Lebanon OR 97355

KEEPING BEES IN JUNE

Todd Balsiger

Blackberries are in full bloom this month; nectar flow will be at its zenith. Recommendations are as follows:

- ❖ Super ahead of the need for space. This increases honey production and reduces swarming. You may want to walk through your apiary and reshuffle the supers away from colonies that are lagging behind and give them to strong colonies packing the honey in.
- ❖ If you have foundation to draw, get it on now. Summer's nectar dearth is around the corner. Continue to replace old, poor-quality brood frames with foundation. It is recommended to replace brood frames every five years.
- ❖ Remove and extract supers containing well-ripened honey. The moisture content should be around 17.8 percent or less. Honey harvested early in the season (June) has more moisture than late-season honey (late July/August). Avoid harvesting too many frames of uncapped honey early in the season or you may risk having too much moisture in your honey—a bad thing. You can check the ripeness of uncapped honey in a given frame by giving it a hard downward shake. If there is a shower of nectar, then it is too wet to extract.
- ❖ If you have hives around agriculture crops, then become familiar with the pesticides that are commonly used on them. Make inquiries. Find out what's going to be sprayed, when, and the dangers the spray poses to your bees. It may be very prudent to move your bees out. See OSU Extension Publication PNW 591 for more information on how to reduce bee poisoning.
- ❖ Some hives may still be on a swarm trajectory. It is possible to lessen the likelihood of swarming by doing some work! Remove forming queen cells, rotate brood boxes, and pull from two to four frames of bees and brood. Replace the void with empty comb. You can add the frames of bees and brood to weaker colonies or make new startups. Note that swarm cups are a natural condition in the hive; their presence does not necessarily mean the hive will swarm.
- ❖ Swarms issue one or two days after the first queen cells are capped. If you find a colony at this stage, I would not destroy the queen cells as this colony probably needs them. If you want more bees, then, with care, remove a few frames of bees and brood along with some queen cells. Put them in a nuc as usual and let them raise their own queen. Make sure to leave queen cells behind. I would avoid "digging" too much. Every time you pull a frame, there is the possibility of destroying queen cells on the bottom of the frame.

Why shop with **MANN LAKE**?
WE KNOW BEES

FREE SHIPPING!
*On Qualifying Orders Of \$100 Or More.
*Offer Applies To Lower 48 States Only.

Join Our Bee Buck\$ Program
Earn 2 1/2% Back On Purchases

Mann Lake Ltd.
An Employee Owned Company
800-880-7694
www.mannlakeltd.com

- ❖ This is my own opinion, but, since the introduction of the Varroa mite, I think the "badness" of swarming is overplayed. Through swarming, new queens are raised and the brood cycle is broken up. This will reduce the Varroa population. I have found it still possible to get one or two westerns of honey from colonies that have swarmed.
- ❖ Provide a steady supply of water.
- ❖ Continue to be on the lookout for American foulbrood.

From: *The Bee Line*, June 2010. The publication, PNW 591, *How to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Pesticides*, is out of stock but still available at: <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/20772/pnw591.pdf>.

QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH ? ? ?

Question

What is the best way to lift the supers to and from the stack?

Response

Dewey Caron: Free the super by ensuring the entire propolis seal is broken first by using the hive tool inserted into the back corners. If two people work together, each should lift the super from side and back handholds. Place removed supers on two extra hive bodies (to reduce back stress of reaching to ground) just outside the hive working space at the back of the hive (avoid carrying a heavy super over rough terrain). If you find you have less finger strength, replace the handholds with pieces of wood nailed to the outside of the boxes. Hive lifters do the same thing and permit removal of two supers together, but they require two people to operate. Working jointly or with a hive lifter is tricky when supers are chest high and you need to change arm positions to remove supers. If working alone, free the super and then seek to rotate it 90 degrees; then you can lift it off using your chest to support one end of the super. Avoid lifting or removing supers using just your back and then twisting your body to place it on the ground. If supers are super heavy or stacked high, try tilting the

entire hive backwards onto the ground then separating the supers, but a word of caution: If the supers are not well sealed with propolis, this technique can create quite a problem if the hive separates and boxes crash to the ground. Finally, consider if you need all that honey. Super with one box and remove frames (not supers) as they fill. This may involve more extracting occurrences, but you can put full frames in a freezer until several are accumulated for extraction. Do not remove frames and then leave them around for more than a couple of days before extracting.

Question

All of my bees died within the month of March with plenty of honey frames in the hive. Is this the same situation as the question about losses in the fall asked in the March-April *Bee Line*? I found them all clumped together between several frames. What happened? Can I use those full honey frames to support the bees in another hive that is struggling?

Response

Dewey Caron: In that issue, depending on the numbers of bees in the dead cluster, I suggested that this could have been the result of Nosema. With too few adult bees present, the bees would have been reluctant to abandon the brood; they starved even though honey was on adjacent frames. Frames of honey are absolutely re-usable and valuable as feed frames. Honey remains a relatively uncontaminated hive product.

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 to: 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, Chair 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.



Honey and
Crop Pollination

George and Susan Hansen
30576 Oswalt Rd
Colton, Oregon 97017

(503) 824-2265
www.foothillshoney.com

The Bee Line

Bee Tree—Continued from page 1

“My knees hurt.” “What will it be like coming back down?” “I’m glad I took that Ibuprofen just before we left!”

There are more bugs, mostly what look and sound like mosquitoes, though Chaiya assures me they’re not. Besides the incessant flies, I see at least four or five different butterflies. Something creates a steady chirping, almost like the hum of eastern US crickets at night. I hear the whistling of many different birds calling.



We stop periodically to rest. My heart is pounding, and my face feels flushed. The men chatter away in a friendly tone in their native tribal language. Their voices blend into the sounds of the rest of the jungle.

When I ask about various trees, the answers come like this: This is the one the squirrels like to eat from. This is the one we use the leaves to cook food in sometimes. This is the one the monkeys like the fruit from. This is the one this bird (pointing) likes to make its nest in and eat from.

I suppress my child’s inquiry, “Are we there yet?” Then, as I haul myself up a nearly dry streambed, we are. The men quickly clear a spot to sit on, collect wood, and make a fire. I am perched on a rock and one of the men realizes I might be uncomfortable. He chops and splits a couple of lengths from a banana tree to make a softer seat; he then adds a bundle of leaves on top for a cushion. Chivalry is alive and well with the Karen men.

I pass out sugary rice and sesame crackers I bought this morning. Someone swiftly chops up segments of a fat bamboo stalk and turns them into cooking containers. Another man digs around in the streambed and comes up with small crabs, about 2–3 inches across. He nonchalantly rips off the legs, stuffs the crabs in his pocket, and searches for more. He then fills two of the bamboo containers with water from the stream, adds the crab bodies, and places them upright in the fire to cook. Someone fills another container with water to boil the fresh eggs the men brought along from the village. I eat one of the crabs; it would have been impolite of me to refuse. If I’m ever starving in the jungle of northern Thailand, I’ll know what to eat.



One of the men politely tries one of my tomatoes. They all think it is strange to eat them raw.

Meanwhile, two of the men climb up the steep hill behind us to harvest the bamboo they will use to assemble a ladder system for climbing the honey tree. One of the men chops sections of bamboo into pegs for the ladder. They cure the pegs over the fire on a makeshift rack.

The men go hunting here throughout the year for wild boar and deer. They know the way into, throughout, and back again. Tribal custom allows that if someone spots a beehive, he can mark the tree as his so no one else can claim the honey. It’s the tribal law. The tree with the honeycomb is called a *Po*. It is a soft wood. The men drive stakes into it all the way up; anchored further by bamboo poles, they climb these stakes to get to the honeycomb.

Chaiya burns the incense he brought to make an offering to the tree and the bees. He describes himself as both animist and Buddhist.

I ask if the wives ever come up here. No, never. I’m the first woman to ever accompany them. I think to myself, “Some women have the gift of children; I have the gift of wild international adventures.”

More split bamboo and large cut fronds of banana leaves become our common serving trough and platters for sharing the various foods everyone brought: the boiled eggs, sausages, steamed Chinese broccoli, and green beans, sticky rice, hot chili paste, and a small pile of salt.



A bit later, the men boil water and make cups as needed for us to drink a tea made from the root of a nearby small bush. It’s slightly bitter and reputed to be good medicine for many things. The trimmings from all these manufacturings are thrown into the fire to keep it smoking and help keep the flies and little sweat bees away. I think to myself, “Yes, I really am doing this.”

I hear a breeze high in the canopy but it never reaches us. Soon, a heavy torrent of leaves falls on us for at least a minute; then everything is still again. Everything is completely covered with debris from above.

Unlike honey bees in North America or Europe, these wild bees don’t make a hive in a hollow. They live in individual combs stretching down one by one from various branches of the tree. Many of these combs are very large—sometimes several feet across and down to a rounded point.

It takes several hours for the men to construct the long bamboo ladder that will take them up to the honeycomb.

The long lengths of bamboo are laid against the tree with holes carved out every two feet or so. The pegs are pounded through these holes into the tree. Six long bamboo poles are needed to reach the honeycomb. It's 3 PM and already the shadows are getting long. This is an all-day affair, with three men working steadily. I learn that, besides the honey, they collect and eat the larvae, roasted. It's as big a treat as the honey.

About an hour later, I see our honey-stealer *waaaay* up there, with, yes, a bamboo basket on his back. These people could as easily be called the *Bamboo People* as the *Karen People*. I pause to recognize that this is ultimately dangerous work. He is at least 50–60 feet up with no rope harness, just holding onto the bamboo steps he pegs in as he goes along.

Short, slight, and wiry in his early 30s, soon he climbs across a large branch to cut the comb that hangs from it. Dangling from his belt is a tightly bound bundle of vine wood fibers to smoke the bees out. When he smokes them, they burst off the comb by the tens of thousands. He wears a makeshift face mask that looks to be made from the sleeve of a wool sweater, sewn shut at one end. A hole cut for the face has a six-inch disk of metal screening sewn into it. That's all the visibility he has with all those angry bees swirling around him. He cuts the comb free and places it first into a plastic bag and then into his back basket.



Once down, we take trophy pictures of him, of everyone. We taste the honey and all agree it's very good. The men divide the comb into two packages, one for the honeycomb and one for the larvae comb, jammed packed with wiggling little larval bees. Remember the "Law of the Jungle."

We break camp and head out. It's two hours back and down and we all want to get me out before dark. The soil is dry, sandy, and impregnated with many rocks that roll easily underfoot. It's the dry season, when deciduous trees shed their leaves here. The ground is covered with all manner of leaves, fallen dead branches, and low-to-the-ground tripping vines.

Periodically, we pass short areas that are thickly littered with light purple, white, or bright carmine flower petals. We also pass a tree that has dropped two million little red berries that stink of fermentation. As usual, the way back seems to take less time than the way in. We make it back to the open meadow where the motorbikes are parked in time to watch a beautiful red sunset. Then, another hair-raising ride back to the village. I giggle out of pure nervousness.

Back at the village, I arouse curiosity, but the people, not even the children, shyly do not approach me. The one- or two-room homes are situated on

raised platforms with plenty of tied and freely roaming livestock: chickens, ducks, small black pigs, and water buffaloes, as well as an abundance of dogs and cats.

The honey yield is a little over a liter and a half. I take a little less than a third in a small whisky bottle that we find. I pay the one thousand baht price for the three men taking me into the jungle and another five hundred to the tribal elder, who will distribute most of that to the people of the village who need help with things such as children's uniforms and books so that they can attend school.



Another three thousand go to Chaiya, who has to pay one thousand to his friend who loaned him the car to take me on this trip and five hundred to the guesthouse for a "finders fee" of me. I also pay for the gas and food, which is another thousand baht.

Tourist business has been slow in Thailand, due to the world's economic woes and because some travelers are wary of Thailand now after last years' big red-shirt

The Bee Line

demonstrations. Besides myself, Chaiya only has one other two-day trek scheduled for this entire month.

At a market, I learn that the tribal people can typically sell their wild harvested honey for about two hundred baht a liter. That's about six US dollars. I also learn that here in Thailand beekeepers pay the farmers for the right to feed their bees off the farmers' trees. Plus, they give them some honey. It's definitely not easy for beekeepers here, whether they are commercial or wild harvesters.

Note: J'aime adds, "All photos in this article are by J'aime ona Pangaia" and that she can be reached at ona_pangaia@comcast.net. She welcomes questions for additional information or should anyone want, as she says, "perhaps to go there themselves someday on a wild, hairy adventure!" Thanks to J'aime for sharing her travels and to Walt Sofko for his consideration in introducing us.

In the news!

The Bee Informed Partnership is a new extension project that endeavors to decrease overwinter losses of managed honey bee colonies. To learn more, visit: www.beeinformed.org.



Dadant *Everything for the Beekeeper*

Call our branch offices: Jeff in Fresno or John in Chico for fast courteous service. *Free Full Color Catalog*

PO Box 2837 2765 South Golden State Blvd. Fresno, CA 93745 Phone (559) 495-0230 Fax (559) 495-0232 Toll Free 1-877-432-3268	 	15 C Valley Court Chico, CA 95973 Phone (530) 893-0921 Fax (530) 893-0922 Toll Free 1-877-332-3268 Website: www.dadant.com
---	----------	---

COMA APIARIES
Don and Erin Coma
8057 Bass Pond Road
Millville, CA 96062
ph 530 547 5773

Italian queens Packages NucS

www.damoc.com
small orders welcome

GloryBee
Beekeeping Supplies

GloryBee carries a wide selection of beekeeping supplies for everyone from the hobbyist beekeeper to the professional. Shop with us online or request our FREE 108-page catalog today.

Equipment • Tools • Containers
Books • Gifts • HoneyStix
Royal Jelly • Bee Pollen • Propolis
Family Owned & Operated Since 1975

www.GloryBeeFoods.com • (800) 456-7923

Guarantee Your Order... Call Today!

Olivarez Honey Bees, Inc.
Pollination • Package Bees • Queens

Premium Quality Queens
Produced in the Heart of
Northern California
Since 1963

Italian New World Carniolan Minnesota Hygienic

FRESH
Queens

OUTSTANDING QUALITIES
Hygienic Behavior • Brood Rearing
Honey Production • Gentle Bees

TOLL FREE
(877) 865-0298

OHB is Proud to Announce...

Big Island Queens
A Division of Olivarez Honey Bees, Inc.

www.ohbees.com

CALIFORNIA
(530) 865-0298




HAWAII
(808) 328-9249

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please use the forms provided here, with current pricing information, to subscribe to magazines at the discounted rates offered to OSBA members. Take care to renew subscriptions before they expire to avoid lapses in subscriptions.

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL		ASSOCIATION MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION	
New Subscriptions and Renewals for OSBA Members during June 2011 SAVE 25%			
Association _____	Secretary's Name _____		
Subscriber's Name _____	Address _____		
Address _____	City _____		
City _____	State, Zip _____		
State, Zip _____	Phone _____		
Phone _____	U.S.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. - \$19.50	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. - \$37.00
<input type="checkbox"/> NEW	<input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL	Canada	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. - \$33.50
(PRICES GOOD THROUGH DEC. 31, 2011)		Foreign	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. - \$65.00
			<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Yr. - \$52.15
			<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Yr. - \$94.15
			<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. - \$41.50
			<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. - \$81.00
			<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Yr. - \$118.15
Return white copy to: American Bee Journal, 51 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341			Retain yellow copy for your records.

	ASSOCIATION MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION	
	<i>Bee Culture Magazine</i>	
New Subscriptions and Renewals for OSBA Members during June 2011		
Association _____	Secretary's Name _____	
Subscriber's Name _____	Address _____	
Address _____	City _____	
City _____	State, Zip _____	
State, Zip _____	Comments _____	
Phone # _____	For Office Use Only Acct. # _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEW	<input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yr. - \$21.00
		<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. - \$38.00
		Canada - add \$15.00 per year All other foreign add \$20/year
Return white copy to: Bee Culture, Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 706, Medina, OH 44258		
Please discard any other forms. Use only this form. Prices subject to change without notice.		

	Association Member Subscription Form	
	Please check one: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal of expired subscription <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of current subscription	
For New Subscriptions, Extensions, and Renewals for OSBA Members during June 2011		
Name _____	Special Subscription Rates:	
Company _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$13.25 for 1 year	
Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.25 for 2 years	
City/State/Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$34.00 for 3 years	
I am a member of (assn. name) <u>Oregon State Beekeepers Association</u>	Canada & Mexico add \$3.00 per year for postage	
Mail this form with remittance to:	Allow 4 to 6 weeks for subscription order to be processed.	For credit card orders, send number, expiration date and signature on back of this form.  
The Speedy Bee P.O. Box 998 • Jesup, GA 31598-0998		

"Breeder and Shipper of Northern California Italian Queens"

Wooten's Golden Queens, Inc.

"BEST TO THE BEST"

2011 Price List For Italian Queens

Queens	Spring-Summer
1 to 9	\$22.00
10 to 24	\$19.75
25 to 49	\$18.50
50 or more	\$18.00

Our Beekeeping Family prides ourselves in continually improving our best breeder queens and drone populations. We constantly are verifying our uniformed brood patterns, strong hygienic traits, disease and Varroa Mite resistance and the best springtime clusters for the almond pollination. With over 20,000 colonies, our family's mission is to make the better always the BEST!

Phone: 530-549-3555
Toll Free: 888-565-8439
11189 Deschutes Road
Palo Cedro, CA 96073
www.wootensgoldenqueens.com



PENDELL APIARIES

- Italian Queens
- Almond Pollination

Frank & Sheri Pendell



2040 Fouts Spring Rd
 P.O. Box 40
 Stonyford, CA 95979

Ph: (530) 963-3062
 Fax: (530) 963-3063
fpendell@stonyford.com

OSBA WEBSITE: www.orsba.org

Webmaster: Herb Brasington

503.648.9118; webmaster@orsba.org



HONEY POLLINATION

LEONID ZAYTSEV
 17496 SE HEMRICK RD
 BORING OR 97009

FAX (503) 558-8222
 CELL (503) 804-5044
WWW.BEEWAYHONEY.COM

As time permits, enjoy such sites as honeybeelab.oregonstate.edu, www.extension.org, www.pollinator.org/honeybee_health.htm, and news.discovery.com/earth/bees-colony-collapse-honey.html!



RUHL BEE SUPPLY

Biggest Beekeeping Store in the Northwest

- Full Line Beekeeping Supplies**
- Northwest Hive Kits**
- On-Site Manufacturing**
- Beekeepers on Staff**
- Comprehensive Classes**
- Consulting & Support**
- Worldwide Shipping**
- Hobbyist to Commercial**
- Local Raw Honey & Beeswax**

www.ruhlbeesupply.com
 17845 SE 82nd Drive
 Gladstone, Oregon 97027
 503 657 5399



Oregon State Beekeepers Association Membership and Renewal Form

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, and an annual subscription to *The Bee Line*. For new memberships and renewals, send check made payable to OSBA with this completed form to: **Paul Kowash, 5959 SW Taylors Ferry Rd, Portland OR 97219**

Name: _____ **New** ___ **Renewing** ___

Additional name(s) for added memberships at the same address:

Mailing address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone number: _____ **e-mail address:** _____

Contact information: The OSBA respects the privacy of members. Please check if you do not want your contact information included in a membership directory sent to OSBA members only: **Do not include contact information** _____

Please also check if you want to share only a portion of your contact information:

Share only mailing address _____ **phone number(s)** _____ **e-mail address** _____

Local group, if member: _____

Membership: \$25 per person (\$34 per person outside the US) \$ _____

Voluntary contribution(s):

General Fund \$ _____

Research Fund \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Thank you!

Bee Culture

THE MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN BEEKEEPING

Don't Miss Even One Exciting Issue of *Bee Culture* Magazine filled with everything you want to know about:

- **Bees • Beekeeping • Beekeepers •**
- **How-To's • Honey Report • Profiles • Recipes •**
- **Funny Stories • Research • Something For Everybody •**

Send check to: **Bee Culture Magazine**
623 W. Liberty, Medina, OH 44256 or call
800-289-7668, Ext. 3220 with credit card

HEITKAMS' HONEY BEES

PAT, RUSSELL & CRAIG HEITKAM
 4700 FIRST AVENUE • ORLAND, CA 95963
 BUS. 530-865-9562 • FAX 530-865-7839
 Email: heitkamsbees@hughes.net

Queens, Bees, Honey & Pollination

The Bee Line
Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association
4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517
Portland OR 97206

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG US POSTAGE PAID PORTLAND OR PERMIT NO. 2358

Note: For new memberships and to renew, see form on page 15.

CLASSIFIED AD

For Sale: Ross Rounds Comb Honey Supers. The best way to make comb honey. 40 Ross Rounds Supers with 8 frames each. Supers with eight frames are \$45 each. Call 541.607.0106, evenings or weekends.

The Bee Line

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

Please send news about your bees and your experiences in keeping them, as well as your corrections, comments, questions, photographs and stories (both from “old” times and “new”), interviews, recipes, and points of view to: Rosanna Mattingly, *The Bee Line*, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland OR 97206; e-mail: osba.newsletter@gmail.com.

The next issue to be printed will be the July 2011 issue. The deadline for submitting copy is June 10. *Thank you!*

Advertising Costs	
Per Issue	
Business Ads	
Business card	\$10.00
Quarter page	\$25.00
Half page	\$50.00
Full page	\$100.00
Classified Ads (30 words)	
Members	\$3.00
Nonmembers	\$5.00