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THE BEE LINE



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Seminar offers varied fare

Southern Oregon Beekeepers have been busy planning the spring seminar March 10 and 11 at the Central Point Grange in Central Point.

To reach the grange hall, (5th and Pine), take the Central Point exit off Interstate Freeway. Watch for signs near downtown Central Point.

Glenn Sackett is coordinating plans for an interesting, varied program.

Meals will be served at noon Friday, 6 p.m. Friday and noon Saturday by Central Point Grange members.

Members can pay a small registration fee and for meals upon arrival. Lodging will be on your own. Facilities are located in Medford, although there are motels off the freeway between Grants Pass and Central Point.

Registration is set from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Friday.

- Kathy Sackett, Glenn's sister, has been studying honey and will discuss "The Composition of Honey" at 10:15 a.m.

- At 11 a.m., several wives of beekeepers will present a panel discussion on cooking with honey.



- Friday's lunch, Paul Heins will discuss the proposed honey queen program. Paul serves on the national honey queen committee.

- Afternoon speakers will be Mike Burgett, our apiculturist at Oregon State University in Corvallis, discussing pesticide problems, and Ruth Beber, nutritionist at South Oregon College. Ms. Beber will be speaking on "Honey Nutrition."

Then Dick Hoskins of the Bandana Corp. of White City (near Medford) will talk about planting bee pastures. The project has been funded by the government to provide nectar sources for bees and work for unemployed persons.

An auction will be held about 4 p.m.

Speaker at the 6 p.m. banquet will be Bill Fike, horticulturist for Jackson and Perkins Co. of Medford, rose growers.

Saturday's session starts at 9 a.m. when Bernard Puduska, Fresno, Calif., beekeeper, will talk about the costs and problems of providing pollination services.

Also scheduled is Glen Tuttle, president of the Northwest Willamette Horticulture Society, who will talk about the growers' views on using pesticides. Tuttle raises raspberries.

The program includes Dan Hull, a representative of Southern Sales, who will talk about the future of fruit-growing in the Rogue River Valley.

Bring donations for the auction. You can donate all or part of the sale to the association to help defray expenses of the meeting.

Those who wish to bid can find good buys of new and used equipment and miscellaneous and novelty items connected with beekeeping.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Portland Beekeepers Association will hold the annual spring meeting at the Dundee Woman's Club building at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 19 in Dundee. Everyone is invited.

The building is located across from the post office and next to the railroad tracks on Hwy 99W about 30 miles south of Portland.

Bring food for a potluck dinner to be served at 1:30 p.m.

There will be demonstrations of putting in foundation and wiring. Those who wish can tour the United Bee Manufacturing Co., operated by Alan Ehry just south of town.

Marge and Al Ehry have arranged the event.

The summer picnic will be Aug. 13. Officers await an invitation from a branch association. Any comers? (Tillamook, Coos County, The Dalles-Hood River?)

Beekeepers from British Columbia, Washington and Idaho are expected to join Oregon beekeepers at the Northwest Beekeepers Association's meeting Oct. 19 to 21 at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

Mike Burgett, the coordinator, has already contacted some speakers. The program will include topics for commercial and part-time beekeepers.

CAPPINGS

Beekeepers Betty Fowler and Patrick Sughrue of Hood River, who met when he spotted bee equipment in the back of the VW she brought to him to be repaired, plan to marry in June.

They own about 50 hives between them and have decided

Healthy hives depend on drones

Perhaps the most underrated participant in the honeybee hive is the male bee, the drone.

The presence of drones in the hive — or the lack of drones — tells the beekeeper several things.

In the spring, the start of drone brood means nectar is coming in and the bees are getting ready for spring and summer. Whatever may be said, the psychological atmosphere of the bee hive depends upon the presence of drones during the nectar flow.

It takes approximately 31 days for a drone bee to mature — from egg until he is a fertile male. And the maturing of a queen takes approximately 19 days, from egg to mating time.

This age difference of 12 days is important. Drones should be hatching ahead of queens.

It's almost impossible for the beekeeper to stop this action. Thus the scraping of drone burr-comb will not stop or control the need for drones in the hive. To help control the building of drone burr comb, allow a small amount of drone comb to remain in each hive.

Several other important notes:

1. Fall requeening will be difficult when the hive is kicking out the drone.
2. Spring requeening will be difficult until drones are in the hive.
3. Excessive numbers of drones mean problems:
 - (a) a poor queen;
 - (b) unnecessary amounts of burr comb;
 - (c) a non-productive colony.

It is important to assess the drone population of the hive in light of (a) fertility age; (b) adequate numbers of drones, but not excessive number; (c) some drone comb but not over 10 to 15 per cent (of brood); (d) a healthy hive will have drones.

Other evaluations that can be made about drones are: color and size; the drone is your best indicator of mating of the queen; small drones often mean a poor quality or queen or no queen at all.

—Tom Thayer

to sell part of these and equipment.

They will hold a sale at Patrick's home — 3245 Stadelmand Drive, Hood River — April 1 and 2. (See ad, The Bee Line.)

Betty teaches at the Hood River Christian School and Patrick works with sheet metal.

Patrick got curious about

the word "honeymoon" and learned it goes back to the custom of month-long celebrations when the participants and the wedding guests drank mead — made of honey — the ancient drink of the gods, of course. (Watch for more news about the honeymooners.)

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HONEY: Better or Worse Than Sugar?

Editor's note:

The composition of honey and honey's use as a sweetening agent in cooking will be discussed at the spring seminar March 10. The following article was taken from The Speedy Bee, national beekeeping newspaper published in Jesup, Ga.

I think the thing to remember about honey is that it is a good food and tastes good; it is not a medicine or cure-all for ails. If sold as such, it can be replaced when someone discovers a new "cure", such as blackstrap molasses. We need to know what honey is, how to cook with it and how to promote it as a food.

You may not agree with the writer of this article or with the editor. Check your own sources. Bring ideas to discuss to the seminar.

BY DOLLY KATZ
Knight News Service

Have you ever reached for the sugar bowl at a friend's house and had honey thrust upon you instead? Honey, you were told, is better for you than sugar. It is more natural, it has more vitamins and minerals, it is healthy and sugar is unhealthy. Bunk.

Eat honey if you like the taste; put it in your tea or coffee, spread it on your toast. But don't eat it because you think it's good for you. Honey is no better or worse for you than refined white sugar, brown sugar, or the supposedly "raw" sugar that you can buy in health food stores.

Chemically, they are all just about the same and, although

there are some differences among them in the amounts of calories, vitamins and minerals they contain, the differences are too small to be important to consumers.

The white sugar that you buy in the store is made from the juice of sugar cane and sugar beets. Chemically, it is sucrose, a type of sugar that is itself composed of two simpler sugars, fructose and glucose. In sucrose, these two simple sugars are held together by a strong chemical bond.

Sucrose, fructose, and glucose are all natural sugars; all are manufactured by fruit bearing plants as a way of storing the energy obtained from the sun.

Honey is a natural substance, too, of course. It's manufactured by bees out of nectar they obtain from flowering plants.

Like sucrose - table sugar - honey is also composed of two simple sugars. And like sucrose, these two simple sugars are fructose and glucose.

The difference is that, in honey, the fructose and glucose are not held together by a chemical bond, so they don't form sucrose.

That's not the only difference. Table sugar is chemically much purer than honey. It is virtually nothing but sucrose, with the barest traces of iron (a half milligram - about 1-50,000th of an ounce - per pound), sodium (5 milligrams per pound), and potassium (14 milligrams per pound).

Honey, on the other hand, has a lot of impurities. It is only about 78 per cent fructose and glucose. The rest is water (14

per cent), sucrose (2 per cent) and a mixture of other sugars (close to 6 per cent).

But honey also contains protein, calcium, phosphorus, iron, sodium, potassium, thiamine (a B vitamin), riboflavin (another B vitamin), Niacin (another B), vitamin C, and magnesium.

Wow! A veritable gold mine of nutrients! Surely this nutrient-rich honey must be better for you than sterile old white sugar.

There is, of course, a catch. Honey does contain all these nutrients, but in vanishingly small quantities. A pound of honey contains 23 milligrams of calcium, or about one-fourth of the U.S. recommended daily allowance. +

PEACHES AND CREAM PIE

- 1 9-inch unbaked pastry shell
- 2 tablespoons soft butter or margarine
- 1 can (1 pound 13 ounce) sliced cling peaches, well drained
- 1 cup (1/2 pint) dairy sour cream
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup mild flavored honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Cinnamon or nutmeg

Spread bottom of pie crust with butter and chill thoroughly while preparing filling. Pat well drained peach slices between paper towels. Arrange in a circular overlapping pattern in bottom of pastry. Combine cream with eggs, salt, honey and vanilla. Spoon over peaches. Sprinkle lightly with cinnamon or nutmeg. Heat oven to 425 degrees (hot). Bake 12 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees (moderate). Bake 15 to 20 minutes longer. Serve warm or cold. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

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**The Bee Line
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Wanted: News from branch associations: Have you elected new officers? What night do you meet? What programs do you plan for 1978? How many members now? Where do you meet? Send a roundup of information: The Bee Line, 1033 Gibson Hill Road, Albany, Or. 97321.

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