

President
JACK ROWLAND
4100 Bethel Hgts. Rd. N.W.
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362-6164

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Rt. 1 Box 162
Jefferson, Oregon 97352
327-3609

THE BEE LINE



Oregon State Beekeepers Association

AFFILIATED WITH AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION

July 1979

Vol. 3 No. 6

AUGUST 12 IS PICNIC TIME

by: Marge Ehry



The above photo is of Orvel Bassett at the March, 1979, OSBA meeting. His article on queen rearing appears on page 4.

SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Aug. 11 7:00pm BAR-B-Q at Ehry's, Dundee

Aug. 12 12:30pm Oregon State Beekeepers Picnic: Oak Grove Area, Champoeg Park

Aug. 12 2-6pm Business meeting and Free time

Aug. 20-24 Western Apiculture Society Meeting: OSU CORVALLIS

Aug. 25-Sep. 3 Oregon State Fair, HONEY SHOW, Salem

If you like fun, food, and Beekeepers, you can't miss our annual get-together. The site chosen is the Historical Champoeg Park.

Champoeg is just 28 miles south of Portland and about 9 miles from Ehry's, which made us realize that we didn't know much about the history in our back yard. So last Sunday afternoon Alan, our son Chris, and myself made the trek to Champoeg. We found the area rich with history from the Robert Newell House of 1852, which has been restored, to the old pioneer school, jail and cabin.

The new visitors center is a must! It is situated on a bluff overlooking the old town site at the entrance of the park. In the visitors center you will feel as though the Calapooya Indians, fur trappers, traders, and "DOC" Newell are all there to help you enjoy the day.....Besides all of this, there are bicycle and hiking trails, baseball diamonds, the Willamette River, trees, and peace.

As evening fell the rest of our family were ready to send out a scouting party when we finally made it home. August 12th is the date set for the state beekeepers picnic. We will be located in the Oak Grove Area, for the picnic and business meeting. "WATCH FOR THE SIGNS". There is also a camp grounds for those of you who would like to camp, although you can not make reservations, it is first come first serve. Because of this, Alan and I have decided that any beekeeper that would like is welcome to camp at our place. Saturday night we will have a campfire Bar-B-Q for any beekeepers in the area. WATERMELON AND CORN ON THE COB PROVIDED.....So you all come.

Fair Trophies

by: Marge Ehry

Cash, ribbons, and a sweepstakes Trophy are awarded to the winning entries in the Honey & Bees Division at the Oregon State Fair each year. However, this year 3 new trophies have been added, plus a special award for the top winner in each class. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

The Heins Honey Company of Albany will award a trophy to the top winner in the Bees and Honey Division. The Sweepstakes Winner will not be eligible for this award.

Ruhl's Bee Supply of Portland will award a revolving Hobbist Trophy. This award will be given to the best exhibit entered by a beekeeper with 25 or less colonies.

The Happy Bee Apiary of Dundee will sponsor a Youth award. This award will be given to an exhibitor 18 years of age or younger. There must be a minimum of three exhibitors for this trophy to be awarded.

* * * *

For a premium list write to:

Oregon State Fair
Salem, OR 97310

Ask for Honey & Bee Division

The state fair offers the beekeepers the opportunity to show off the very best of their wares. Also, it is a great chance for us to do our P.R. work for the HONEY BEE. I really encourage those of you who have never exhibited to try your hand at it. But if you aren't ready, try a shift manning the booth and take a close look at the prize winning entries. Anyone interested in spending a few hours answering question and having fun, let me know.

Marge Ehry
P.O. Box 112
Dundee, OR 97115 ph. 864-2138

The schedule is being drawn up now with two shifts per day 10am-5-pm and 5pm-10pm.

SPECIAL AWARDS

The first place winners in each class will compete for a special award presented by the following local beekeeping associations:

Lane County
Portland
Southern Oregon
Tillamook
Tualatin Valley
Willamette Valley

South Coast Ramblings

by: Dick Lemery

Coastal beekeeping always has its ups and downs. Right now it's the Northwest wind, which has to be a down for the bees. Almost daily wind of up to 30 mph in the afternoons doesn't help bee flight. It's a good thing that this wind circulates the ocean water, bringing the nutrient-rich, cold water up from the bottom where the sun stimulates algae growth. Thus the food chain of the ocean continues and we can catch and eat salmon. I'm glad I know this, because it is very easy not to see any good in this wind.

Recently, when placing hives at the cranberry bogs for pollination services, my wife and I were very careful to locate on the western side of the bogs. By placing the entrances either south or east, sheltered by trees and brush, we hoped to protect the hives from chill and allow easy landing for incoming fielders. These cranberry plants are only about six inches tall, so maybe the bees find wind shelter near the ground. If you stand right next to one of these bogs, you can soon pick out the pollinating bees down in the vines working on the myriads of tiny pink blossoms.

Prospects for honey this year appear good. The Himalaya blackberries are in full bloom now. The evergreen blackberries will follow. Many acres of these berries grow wild on waste or forest land, and provide free bee pasture! One neighbor reported seeing lots of bees on a chittum

Continued from Page 2

tree that was in bloom. This is the tree whose bark is peeled, dried and used to make a laxative. One farmer, where we have some hives (drones in March), showed us gleefully the excellent pollination obtained on his plum and prune trees. Honestly, the green plums were hanging like grapes all over his trees. He asked if we liked plums! I do think plum trees stimulate early brood rearing, but this is just a theory so far.

My wife gave me a present the other day--a big piece of propolis that smells just like a cottonwood tree in spring. These big trees grow in river bottoms and

you can sure notice their fragrant smell when you pass them on a warm spring day. I never realized though, that bees collect propolis from them.

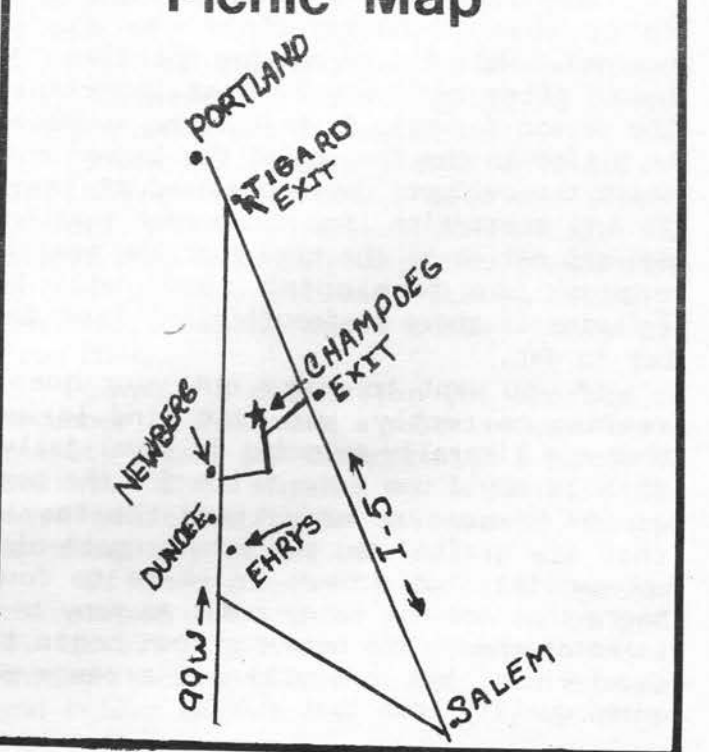
Dick Lemery

Rowland's Report

By OSBA President
Jack Rowland

Beekeepers are reminded of the benefits from frequent visits to county extension offices. The county agents may be able to help in making contacts with farmers for honey and pollination locations, in obtaining the latest government bulletins, and possibly in providing farmers and spray applicators with information to help reduce bee losses from pesticides. If beekeepers are placed on the mailing lists for spray recommendations issued by these offices it may help beekeepers to understand the current pesticide practices and to avoid bee kills.

If you plan to move bees from Oregon to California by early next year, you are reminded to notify the Commodity Inspection Division of the Oregon State Department of Agriculture, State Agriculture Building, Salem, OR 97310, there may be an extra charge for the special inspection required before the moving certification is issued.



Spraying approximately 10,000 acres in Lake County with malathion for grasshopper control has been authorized and is under way. It has been announced that an additional 850,000 acres will probably have to be sprayed. The additional area lies in a broad band extending from Umatilla County through Grant, Wasco, Crook, and into Lake County and possibly in other adjacent counties. Beekeepers should watch for announcements of spraying in their areas, and get in touch with their county extension agents as to the exact location to determine if any action to protect their bees is indicated.

Among the issues before the Oregon State Beekeepers Association are: recommending a change in the pollination standards to allow credit for strong colonies returning from the California almond orchards; recommendations for pollination fees; consider the possibility of attracting more members by changing the dues schedule starting next year. The first opportunity for an open discussion of these issues will be at the picnic on August 12th. All members are urged to attend.

A fine program is planned for the winter meeting Nov. 30, Dec. 1st & 2nd in Portland being held jointly with the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

QUEEN REARING EXPLAINED

Queen Rearing

by: Orvel Bassett

These are the things I look for in an Oregon queen. It should overwinter well. You don't want to have two thirds of your bees on the floorboards of the hive every spring because they can't stand the damp, muggy winters. You also want stock that is prolific enough to peak during the honey flow. If the hive peaks too fast or in June when it is too late, you don't want it. You want to watch for stock that fits our area. It should be gentle and easy to manipulate. It should be non-swarming and have good longevity. You can judge the queen by the bees she produces. If the workers that the queen produces are gentle, if they are good housekeepers, if they like to forage, if they have longevity, and if they are highly resistant to European foul brood this is what you want for Oregon. Don't raise queens from bees that seem susceptible to European foul brood. You want those colonies that are greedy to get out and forage and survive.

Grafting

Grafting should be from 12 hours to no later than 36 hours after the egg is hatched. Well-fed larvae for the first 36 hours after hatching is most important. The reason for this is that there seems to be a time in the feeding of the larvae that start the oviducts developing and if there is any starvation from the moment that the egg can eat on to the time that the cell is capped the developing queen will be inferior if there is insufficient food for her to eat.

If you want to start out your queen rearing correctly, you must find larvae that are literally swimming in royal jelly. This is why I use a swarm box for the best queens because so many times the larvae that are grafted and put into a queen-rite colony will show larvae in three to four hours that are not being fed. As many as a third of them. The bees may then begin to feed them, but you will get a range of queen quality from that graft.

Cell Building Colony

For the proper set up of a cell building colony the requirements are that it be very strong with young bees and have an adequate food supply of both honey and pollen. There are three types of finishing unit. You take cells that have been in the swarm box 12 to 14 hours and put them into a finishing colony. This is three deeps or better in a eight frame colony. I have removed the queen from free movement in the colony and placed her in the bottom deep below a queen excluder on drawn broodless comb. Put the brood and honey in the second and third frame. The third story has sealed brood and open brood. The graft is put into the third story the next day to finish the cells. The second finishing unit is a queenless colony that is a very strong two story colony on 10 frame equipment. Even if it is strong, I add from three to five pounds of young bees to it and put the graft in after the swarm box. I get a high percentage of beautifully fed cells. I feed pure honey to them using an inside feeder. I leave them in four days after they are grafted. A frame of open larvae is on one side of the graft and a frame of pollen on the other side. Remove and place in weaker queenless unit to finish.

The best queens are raised on a natural honeyflow. The third method is the Ferrar principle. I altered this method to fit my needs. It could be an excellent way for persons who wanted to raise from 30 to 100 queen cells in a season without ever wrecking his colony of bees. The principle behind it is to isolate the queen on one frame and during the process you get the colony built up by adding capped brood from other colonies. The queen is confined in a center frame. She lays until she doesn't have a cell left and the hive is full of bees. You then put in a frame of hatching brood beside the partitioned off frame and a frame of pollen next to the graft. I never saw a colony that fed cells more uniform and beautifully than they do. A new graft can be added every fifth day removing the capped cells at the same time.

Grafting of Larvae to Cell Cups

I built myself an inexpensive incubator of fiberglass, plywood and a thermostat that would switch on and off. I also use a diary thermometer and a low watt light bulb to achieve the correct temperature of 92 degrees F. I found that if I set the cells I am going to graft into the incubator I have nice warm cells to graft into, and I don't lost as many of them as I did when I grafted outside in the cold. I also set the frame I am grafting from in the incubator. The humidity is controlled with a pan of water in the incubator. It keeps the larvae from drying out. After grafting I put the cells in a swarm box made of approximately five pounds of bees that are very well fed, one or two frames of pollen, two empty frames and a feeder. I put the graft right in them because the bees are desperate to feed something and they will give you a nice cell start.

I call a ripe cell one that has been through all the stages and has been capped. It is the eighth to ninth day after the egg has been layed that it becomes a capped cell. After they are capped over in the cell builder colony I put them in a cell finishing colony until the ninth or tenth day after grafting when they are about 14 days old. At that point I place them in the nuclei.

This is the way that I make up my nucs. I go into the outlying bee yards with three to four beehives with hardware cloth screens fastened to the bottoms. When I come to a hive that is large and can afford to give me bees and brood, I take a frame from each of these. I take these to the grafting yard and stack them up with a feeder in each. I keep gathering until I have enough bees and brood to match the queen cells that I have prepared. I then take the nuc boxes and lift off one decent frame of brood and bees to cover and one extra frame with food in and a feeder if needed and a queen cell each. I plug the nuc end because the cell won't hatch for a day or two. The box has ventilators. I stack the nuc boxes in the shade until the queens are hatched and then distribute them in the yard where the drones are. Handle the nucs and queen cells with all possible care to not damage wing development, which is last to form on the queen.

Drones

If you have a good queen that you really like but it is a year old, let her live to furnish drones. Watch it to make sure it does not go weak; these colonies can be the colonies to make your drones that have proven quality.

Sixty per cent of my queens are used one year. If they prove out good they go into the second year and if they maintain well I allow them to go into the third year. They all get a frame or two heavy with drone cells. One way to judge your second year queens is if they start skipping in their brood pattern.

Notes: The best time in the Willamette Valley to rear queens is usually late April, and in May and June. One final thing, if you are going to raise queens you should read Eckert and Laidlaw's QUEEN REARING book. Queen rearing is the fun of beekeeping. You keep bees with good queens.

A colony without a top quality queen makes you more work. It isn't productive and it sometimes doesn't pay the rent on the home you provide for it.

Honey Pot Showing

At the Albany Public Library through July 30 there will be a display of Connie Petty's honey pot collection.

There will be 87 pieces on display, including honey pots, salt and pepper shakers, a silver bank and some bears. The pieces come from many countries besides the United States; Holland, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Japan, and a wooden honey pot from Russia.

Connie's collection got started on December 1950 when a relative gave her a teapot, sugar, and creamer with a honeycomb design. She is going to be looking for more additions to her collection on her upcoming trip to Europe.

If you can stop by and see the collection, the library is located at 1390 S. Waverly Drive. It is open Monday through Wednesday 10am to 9pm, and Thursday and Friday 10am to 6pm.



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Whether you keep one hive for pleasure or are a commercial beekeeper, the best way of keeping up with technological advances and of enjoying the fellowship of other beekeepers is to join the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. At state conventions, seminars, and social occasions members exchange ideas and share experience. You can learn the latest in both research and practical application within the OSBA. The more you participate as a member, the more knowledge you will gain. And that single new idea can both earn you money and enhance your enjoyment in keeping bees. Your membership will also strengthen the Association's ability to work for you. An application blank is attached for your convenience.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

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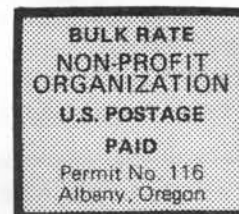
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Address Correction Requested



Fair Time!

