

The Bee Line

Vol. 15 No. 1 Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association Jan./Feb. 1991

Apiary Program Under the Knife

Running only one year after extensive revisions, Oregon's bee registration and inspection program is apparently due for still more changes. At a January 9th meeting of the Apiary Advisory Board, Department of Agriculture officials explained that the Governor's recommended budget for the next biennium has no General Fund allocation for support of the Apiary Program.

As currently managed, the Program gets about 25% of its dollars from fees paid by beekeepers and 75% comes from the General Fund.

**75% Cut
in
the
Works**

Program services, as outlined elsewhere in this Bee Line, cost \$124,000 per year. The reason for elimination of Program funding is, of course, the abrupt restructuring of state government financing caused by passage of Ballot Measure 5.

Faced with the question of "What does the industry want to do?", the AAB at its meeting benefitted from the presence of the OSBA Legislative Committee and other interested beekeepers. Open discussion covered many options we might have, and these were eventually condensed into three points by George

Hansen:

1. ODA should retain the capacity to inspect colonies at the request of individuals;
2. OSBA should work with ODA to find ways to reduce costs in the program and still meet industry requirements; and
3. the bee industry should lobby the legislature and consult with ODA to keep some General Fund money for the Apiary Program in the budget. These points met general approval of those present and were accepted by the Advisory Board as a resolution.

On the third point, the message to be carried to legislators and the Department is that bees provide unrecompensed benefits to other sectors of the agricultural economy, and need public support to continue to do so.

**What Do
You
Want
Salvaged
?**

Beekeepers with opinions on what should be done, or those who wish to participate in the struggle are encouraged to contact OSBA President Marge Ehry (864-2138) or Legislative Committee Chairman Fritz Skirvin (581-9372).

The President Says ...

By Marjorie Ehry



Several members have asked that I give a rundown of my activities as president in each issue of the BEE LINE. I have resisted because of the cut in wages I knew would follow....Actually, what is accomplished gets done because of efforts of many others so when I list these activities, please know I did not do them alone!

1991 is off and flying! It seems that we never did touch ground. In mid-December the ODA notified us that the bee program had been cut from the budget. Several meetings have been held and more will be held to find a solution by the end of January.

On January 12th, I represented OSBA at the Willamette Valley Tree Fruit Grower's annual meeting. The theme was "What's the Buzz in Oregon's Beekeeping Industry?".

For upcoming events, there'll be a program featuring Lynn Royce and Joan Heater at OMSI on January 20th. The Honey Queen coronation is scheduled January 29th in Portland, and the three-day NW Ag Show at the end of the month will feature a bee industry booth for the first time.

As your president, I have given several presentations to schools and community groups in December and January. However, my greatest pleasure is to introduce Bill Rufener as the new BEE LINE editor. I hope all of you will help with your support, news items and articles. Remember, the BEE LINE is an important arm of the Association.

Editor's Corner

My friends and my wife reacted with similar supportive comments when told I was going to try to edit the BEE LINE:

What?!?

"(Gasp...)"

"Are you nuts?"

Foolhardy though this attempt may be, its a task I've felt a lingering urge to do.

In these heady moments of beginning the job, I'll boldly outline plans for this newsletter. The best features of previous BEE LINES will be continued, namely:

ten issues per year;

costs substantially

covered by ad revenue;

accuracy and objectivity

in reportage.

Articles from the science community will be favored, but there'll always be room for material that speaks to the mystery of why six-legged insects have become such an important part in the lives of otherwise sane people.

In general and hopeful terms, this should be a lively little journal of news, opinion and humor by and for committed beekeepers.

- WHR -

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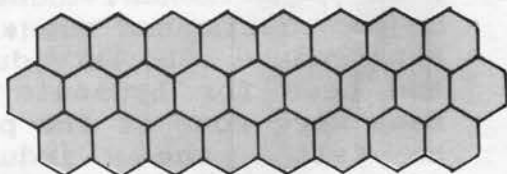
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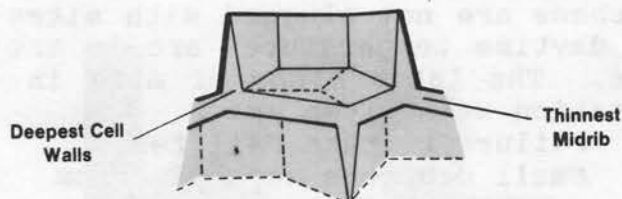
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CONFERENCE NOTES AT LINCOLN CITY

1. Technical Presentations

Contributed by Marshall Dunham and Bill Rufener

Photography by Marshall Dunham

In his opening appearance, **Eric Mussen** of UC Davis discussed tracheal mites. He believes menthol is effective against *A. woodi* when used properly, namely in the spring when tracheae are not plugged with mites and daytime temperatures are in the 70's. The later signs of mite infestation were given as:

- Failure to take Fall feed;
- Small clusters separate from the main one;
- Exodus of walking bees from the colony;
- K-wing phenomenon;
- A rectal obstruction causing "pressurized" bees; and
- Continuous dwindling, leaving a tiny cluster and a queen that is not infested.

Mussen conducted a trial with package bees to determine the value of various treatments--including



Amitraz and Apistan--in controlling tracheal mites. None of the treatments significantly reduced mite levels relative to untreated controls, suggesting that prolonged absence of emerging young bees, as is done with packages

or swarming, is by itself a cleansing treatment against *A. woodi*.

Jim Bach, the Washington State Apiary Inspector and continuing President of the Apiary Inspectors of America, discussed migratory beekeeping trends. Loss of 2-10% of queens during a move, up to 50% supercedure of introduced queens, and need for hygienic behavior of bees were some of the problems that he felt the industry should address with greater support for research. Bach also predicted the impending presence of African bees in Texas will divert movement of colonies to California almonds instead of overwintering them in south Texas.

Lynn Royce of OSU reviewed her tracheal mite research, which includes an on-going survey that has found mite infestation levels of 43% in wild colonies versus 81% in managed colonies in the Willamette Valley. Additionally, managed colonies had more mites per bee than did feral colonies, and drones had a higher rate of infestation than did workers. These and other observations have prompted Lynn's hypothesis that swarming is an important natural mechanism for the control of tracheal mites. The implications of this are that 1) by preventing swarming, beekeepers create favorable conditions for the pest, and 2) the parent or residual colony remaining after swarming is at a disadvantage in resisting *A. woodi*.



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Conference Notes, continued...

Glen Mills, an organic farmer and retired display maker at OMSI, showed many of the bee-related exhibits he's made and handed out small lenses that can be used for viewing mites. He described successful use of honey for maladies such as diaper rash, hemorrhoids, Athlete's Foot and many others.



Mike Burgett discussed his recent trip to Belize and the effect of AHB on beekeeping in the Tropics. African bees as presently found there would be useless for commercial pollination because they will not tolerate being moved. Mike reported that AHB swarms coming north are still genetically identical to the Tropic-adapted bees originally brought from Africa to Brazil. As these bees enter cooler temperate areas of the US, they will probably be at a survival disadvantage and will be replaced by cross-breeds from their mating with European bees. The behavior and range that the crossbreeds will have is still a matter of speculation and great interest.

Joe Traynor, a provider of scientific services to California farms, brought insight into the factors affecting demand and prices for bees in almond pollination. Hopefully his presentation will be printed for further study.



Dave Turner, our State Bee Inspector, reported that 62,000 colonies were nominally inspected in 1990 and AFB finds amounted to less than 1% infection rate. Some 50,000 colonies were nominally sampled for Varroa mite and 10 outfits were found to be infested at low levels. No Varroa were found in backyard hives or in the Willamette Valley.



Dave Gets a Gold Brick

Next month's BEE LINE will cover the business meeting and non-technical presentations at the 1990 annual meeting.



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A Letter from Blodgett

by B.A.Stringer

An interesting article in The American Bee Journal in 1875 recently came to my attention. Mr J.W. Wills had sent this magazine (ABJ) a "notation of honey producing plants in the vicinity of Aurora, Marion County, Oregon, for the year A.D. 1874". You may be interested in comparing these flowering dates with those in your area. If you live near Aurora, are familiar with many of the listed plants, and would be interested in recording this year's flowering dates for the plants, please contact me at the above address immediately for further details. I have modified the list slightly for clarity.

February:

The willow was in bloom from Feb 14 and continued to April 18.
Chickweed, Feb 16 to April 4
Hazelnut, Feb 28 to April 8.

March:

Meadow cress, March 16 to April 24.
Balm of Gilead (Balsam Fir), March 20 to April 8.
Salmonberry, March 28 to May 4.
Dandelion, March 30 to July 12.

April:

Peach, April 1 to April 28.
Wild currant, April 1 to May 18
Plums, April 1 to April 28.
Oregon grape, April 4 to May 3.
Gooseberry, April 4 to May 10.
Cherry, April 9 to May 14.
Big leaf Maple, April 10 to May 20.
Apples, April 16 to May 18.
Prunes, April 16 to May 3.
Vine Maple, April 18 to May 24.
Raspberry, April 22 to June 3.
White Clover, April 25 to Oct 12.
Serviceberry, April 25 to May 22.
Sheep Sorrel, April 25 to Sept 2.

May:

Wild Crab Apple, May 3 to May 20.
Evergreen Wild Blackberry, May 6 to July 20.
Red Clover, May 12 to Sept 30.
Old Man in the Ground (Wild cucumber), May 14 to July 25.
Thimbleberry, May 14 to June 30.
Wild & cultivated chamomile, May 14 to August 18.

May, continued

Red Huckleberries, May 10 to June 3.
English Laurel, May 17 to June 20.
Snowberry, May 18 to June 16.
Canada Thistle, May 18 to August 10.
Salal, May 23 to July 29.
Milkweed, May 28 to Sept 12.

June:

Cultivated Grape, June 8 to July 10.
Spiraea, June 8 to July 20.
Heal-all (Self Heal), June 15 to July 25.
Arrowwood, June 15 to July 25.
Blue Elderberry, June 18 to July 26.
Catnip, June 18 to heavy frost.

July:

Corn, July 8 to August 20.

August:

Farm products that produce honey are successfully raised here, such as rape, buckwheat, etc.

September:

A number of the above named flowers bloom again until after the early fall rains and continue until the frosts kill them.

Bertie's address is 19919 Summit Street, Blodgett, OR 97326 Telephone (message machine) 456-4221

1990 Sweepstakes Winning Recipe

Fran Neavoll of Salem won the big prize in the cooking-with-honey contest at the Oregon State Fair last summer. Her recipe follows:

Honey Pecan Tart

Shell: 1 1/3 cups regular flour, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon orange peel, 1/2 cup butter-flavored Crisco, 3 tablespoons cold water. Oven at 425 degrees. Mix flour, salt and orange peel in a medium bowl. Cut in Crisco to form pea-sized chunks. Sprinkle water, toss lightly with fork until dough forms a ball. Roll pastry in a circle. Place pastry into 9-inch tart pan with removable bottom that has been floured lightly. Wrap sides of pastry in foil. Bake for 10 minutes. Cool slightly in pan before adding filling.

Filling: 1 cup chopped pecans, 3 beaten eggs, 1 cup honey, 1/4 teaspoon rum flavoring, 1 1/2 tablespoons melted butter, 1/2 teaspoon vanilla, 3 Tab. mini-semi-sweet chocolate chips. Mix together eggs, honey, rum flavoring, butter and vanilla. Blend well. Add pecans. Sprinkle chocolate chips on cooled tart shell. Pour honey filling over top of chips. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Drizzle 1/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips melted with 1 teaspoon butter.

The Sweepstakes judges were Phyllis Shoemake, Jackie Redmond and Marjorie Ehry. John and Judy Mespelt donated about 2 gallons of honey for prizes in the contest.

Apiary Program Review

For readers who may not be totally clear on what Oregon's Apiary Program is, the following description, provided by ODA, may be helpful.

The current program requires inspection of all apiaries that were known to be infected by pest or disease the previous year. Any apiaries not known to be infected are required to be inspected at least once every other year. Any complaint received by the Department either by phone or a written complaint alleging a violation in ORS. 602, concerning an apiary within the state, would cause the inspection of said apiary. Certification of colonies for out of state movement (which requires inspection for American Foul Brood and Varroa mite) paid by those requesting certification. Trachea mite inspection on request.

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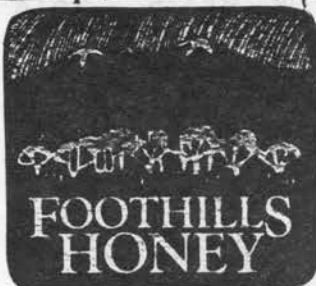
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Initially Foreboding

Ever feel stunned and threatened by all the names and acronyms being thrust into our beekeeping vocabulary? Here are a few selected ones appearing in this and future issues of the **BEE LINE**:

AHB - The African or Africanized honey bee.

AAB or **AAC** - The Apiary Advisory Board or Committee, a group of beekeepers nominated by OSBA and selected by ODA to advise the State Department of Agriculture on industry matters.

ASCS - The federal agency administering farm programs and subsidies. Stands for Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

AFB, ABF - A slip of the tongue can get you either the historically important disease of bee larva or the nation's largest beekeeping club.

ABJ, GBC, SB - The beekeeping periodicals we all know and enjoy.

HQ, HQP - Our Honey Queen and the program supporting her.

NHB - The National Honey Board.

ODA - The Oregon Department of Agriculture, within which the Commodity Inspection Division administers our Apiary Program.

OMSI - The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, which often features beekeeping exhibits or programs.

TM - Has stood for the proprietary antibiotic treatment for AFB, as in TM-50, but may now also stand for tracheal mite, *Acarapis woodi*.

VM or **Vj** - Varroa mite, *Varroa jacobsoni*, scourge of brood and adult bees.

WSVMCA - Western States Varroa Mite Compliance Agreement, under which Oregon and neighboring states have uniform requirements regarding VM levels of bees in interstate movement.

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Corvallis, OR 97331

Local Group Meetings

Portland

The Portland group meets in the Oregon City branch of Far West Federal Bank on McLoughlin Boulevard, 7:30 PM on the fourth Monday of each month.

Southern Oregon

Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Ag Extension Auditorium on Maple Park Drive in Medford.

Lane

Lane County meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Public Employees Credit Union Building at 1155 Chambers Street in Eugene.

Coos

Beekeepers gather at the Coquille annex, next to the Extension Service Office, at 7:30 PM on the third Friday of each month except December.

Tillamook

The Tillamook group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Department of Fish and Wildlife, 4909 Third Street, Tillamook.

Klamath

Meeting places and dates vary. Call either of the officers for particulars on the next meeting.

Willamette

Beekeepers cluster in Room 32B at Chemeketa Community College on the fourth Monday of each month from 7:30 to 9:00 PM.

Tualatin

Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month during the school year at Rock Creek Campus of Portland Community College, at 7:30 PM in Building #3.

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Package Bees: Italians, 3-lb with Queen, \$20. Two lb with queen, \$17. Select winter-hardy stock, quality bred. State health certificate furnished. Edward Norman, Rt 1 Box 727, Raner, AL 36069 205-562-3357. 15-1

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