

# The Bee Line

Volume 15  
Number 8

Newsletter of the  
Oregon State Beekeepers Association

October  
1991

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## Making Fall Nucs

by Bob Arnold

Each winter I kept bees in Oregon I experienced the same early spring disappointment where one of the better fall hives comes up queenless. While the hive is strong with plenty of bees and stores, it clearly has either no evidence of eggs or evidence of a drone layer. The fall checks would have shown this hive to have a young queen with a good laying pattern, plenty of young bees and ample stores. Additional stores with Fumidil could have been added to top off the hive for the winter months.

At this time in the spring if you haven't anticipated this problem and been prepared there would be no recourse for this hive but to combine it with another. While this is perfectly acceptable as you can easily regain the hive later in the spring and still make a good yield with it— what if you have early pollination commitments and this hive was important to meet them.

One way which I found to be quite successful was to winter over some small nucs with young queens which I would use to replace failed queens in larger hives. Early in the fall (August thru October) I would make up four frame nucs using brood from some of the strongest hives and either a purchased or a queen I raised. Introducing a mated queen to a small nuc is successful with almost any technique you have read about. Simply put the mailer cage into the nuc above some brood with the sugar end up and the cork out. Usually it was best to start the nucs in August and feed them sufficiently to fill one deep box of bees, brood and stores by November. A weight of 50 pounds was usually sufficient to get them thru March.

Often five frames of bees and honey were quite adequate to get them to the first spring checks in late January or early February.

These nucs are wintered over on the top of a strong hive using a double screened bottom board. The bottom board was constructed from scraps of one-half inch sheathing plywood gleaned from construction sites. The board used a 2 inch by 3/8 inch entrance and a 1-1/2 entrance porch. A hole on the order of 6 by 6 inches square was cut in the center of the board and window screen stapled on both side of the opening. Once the nuc was well established, it was moved away from its location to another yard 2 to 3 miles away and placed on the top of a strong hive.

The idea is for the strong hive to provide some warmth for the small hive helping it to survive through until it is needed in the spring. Usually these small nucs would winter quite well with seldom a loss. If the nuc was especially small (3 frames of brood, bees and several additional frames of honey) I would use these nucs for the very first failing queens I found. Usually you will see queens fail throughout the spring even though they started off laying well in February so the larger nucs can be used as the spring proceeds. It is most important to keep the inside of all your hives dry during the winter. A top entrance is essential but is not usually sufficient. Many of your hives will be sopping wet even though you have a top entrance. The rain simply runs into the hive between the migratory lid and the top box. I used some heavy tar paper which extended 2 to 3 inches beyond the edge of the hive causing the rain to drip off the top rather than run down the side of the hive.

Continued on page 6



*Oregon Beekeepers are honored to host the National Honey Board and Nominations Committee during their October meeting. It is our hope that board and committee members will have the opportunity to visit our beautiful state.*

*Portland is only about an hour from the mountains or the Pacific Ocean. Oregon Beekeepers will be happy to advise their guests of their "favorite" place to visit—that is if members find any free time during their stay in "Ory-gun!"*

## President's Comments

## Do you get the Drift?

Last week—while reading the "trusty Capital Press" (circulation 35,114 in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Northern California) I spotted an article entitled "Oregon Crop Duster Penalized." It seems a pesticide application firm, out of Eugene, applied chemicals improperly, by not following labeled use instructions. Cause for penalty was incorrectly diluted chemical during application and the big enemy—DRIFT! The penalty was enforced when the pesticides drifted to adjacent properties. Lorna Youngs, assistant Department of Ag director stated: "Pesticides are a *valuable production tool*, but they must be used properly." I agree with Lorna; I just wish she had been here in the late 60's and early 70's.

I read this with interest mainly because "in the past" for many years we beekeepers suffered great losses from "pesticide drift." with applicators "thumbing their noses" and if real pushed by a beekeeper, the department would send the culprit a letter of reprimand, saying, "DON'T DO IT AGAIN!!" The reasons given for this common occurrence were, we didn't know they were there, can't see bees from the air (that was a good one,, bees and beekeepers always get in the way, beekeepers hide them close to trees, they shouldn't be flying when I spray, or my favorite... "I get paid to spray insects and bees are insects!"

Well, a lot of work has gone into better understanding between applicators, farmers and beekeepers, largely due to ODA, OSU, and the ASCS. They have been very helpful in achieving a working relationship between all parties. However we must never let down our guard. HONEY BEES are *also* extremely valuable as a production tool — I would say, equal to the wind, the rain, and the sun!

Marjorie Ehry

National Honey Board  
Tentative Meeting Schedule

October 27-30, 1991

The National Honey Board will be meeting at the Portland Benson Hotel, 309 SW Broadway. Sessions Monday through Wednesday are open to the public. Beekeepers are invited to attend and observe the NHB in action. Beekeepers may join the board for meals, but must make arrangements with Tina for number attending and price.

## Sunday, October 27

Executive meeting

## Monday, October 28

8-12 Presentations

12 noon Lunch

1-5 pm Industry Relations Committee Meeting

1-5 pm Product Research & Development Committee Meeting

## Tuesday, October 29

8-12 Presentations

12-1 pm Lunch

1-5 pm Advertising & Consumer Information Committee Meeting

## Wednesday, October 30

7-8 am Committee Chairperson/Staff Breakfast

8-3 Board Meeting

12-1 pm Lunch

1-5 pm Nominations Committee Meeting



## ADVERTISING RATES

Business ads, per issue:	
Business Card Size	\$7.50
Quarter Page	20.00
Half Page	35.00
Full Page	100.00

Classified ads, per 30 words:	
OSBA Member	\$2.00
Non-member	3.00

Deadlines are the 15th of the month before the ad is to appear. Make checks payable to the OSBA.

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## Oregon State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference

December 6-7, 1991

**Chumaree Hotel Convention Center**  
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### SUCCESSFUL BEEKEEPING 1990'S – WHAT WILL IT TAKE

#### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(Subject to Change)

#### FRIDAY, December 6th

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 10:30 – 12:30 | <b>Tour of the home of Betty Ramsey and her extensive honey pot collection</b> |
| 10:00 – Noon  | Executive Meeting  |
| 11:00 – 1:00  | Registration and Coffee  |
| 1:15 – 2:00   | <b>Featured Speaker: Rob Page, UC Davis – “African Bee Update”</b>             |
| 2:00 – 2:45   | Ira Powers – “Keys to Successful Beekeeping in the 1990's                      |
| 2:45 – 3:00   | Break  |
| 3:00 – 3:15   | Marge Davenport – “Introducing the new Oregon Cookbook”                        |
| 3:15 – 3:45   | Neil Miller, Blackfoot, Idaho – “Marketing Honey”                              |
| 3:45 – 4:30   | Dr. Jim Redmond – “Attitudes for Success”                                      |
|               | Randy Johnson – “Getting Along”  |
| 4:30 – 5:15   | George Ashby – “Candle Making”   |
|               | Dinner on Your Own   |
| 7:30          | Hospitality Room   |

#### SATURDAY, December 7th

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 8:00 – 9:00   | Registration and Coffee  |
| 8:30 – 9:00   | Welcome  |
| 9:00 – 10:00  | George Ashby – “Pollen Production”   |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Break for Spectacular Omelets by OSU Extension Agent                       |
| 10:00 – Noon  | <b>Silent Auction</b>  |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Rob Page – “Breeding for Pollen Production”                                |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | Dave Turner, Oregon Department of Agriculture                              |
| 11:15 – 12:00 | Panel – “Successful Beekeeping”  |
| 12:00 - 1:30  | <b>Research Luncheon: Dr. Michael Burgett – “Mite Update Treacheal”</b>    |
| 1:30 – 2:15   | Dr. Lynn Royce – “How to Defeat Mites (Varroa)”                            |
| 2:15 – 3:00   | Honey Board  |
| 3:00 – 3:15   | Break  |
| 3:15          | Business Meeting (written reports from local associations and committees ) |
| 6:30 – 7:00   | No Host Bar  |
| 7:00 – 8:00   | Banquet  |
| 8:00          | <b>Annual Oral Auction with Special Event</b>                              |

Two local events of interest are the Greens Show at the State Fairgrounds and the Christmas Show of Historical Homes, on this same weekend.



## Bee Plants in the Garden

## Ice Plant

by B.A. Stringer

In a section of your garden with lots of sun but poor soil, try planting some Ice Plants for your bees.

Most Ice Plants are perennial but, in our climate, many are treated as annuals. They are low maintenance plants, requiring little water once established, and are good for areas which are hot and dry in summer. Bees visit the blossoms eagerly for both nectar and pollen during the bloom. Honey from southern Californian species was described by H.G. Vansell, in *Nectar and Pollen Plants of California*, as granulating "almost as fast as it is made." However, on a home garden scale, it is unlikely that the amount of Ice Plant nectar collected would influence the honey crop.

2365. *Mesembryanthemum aureum*. (X30)

The fleshy grey-green leaves and bright daisy-like flowers make Ice Plants interesting specimens for dry banks or sunny walls. Ice Plants were all once classified botanically as species of *Mesembryanthemum* ("midday-flowers") or Fig-Marigolds. The genus was originally a 'catch-all,' where all the known species bloomed at noon. They have recently been split out into several different genera, all with tongue-twisting names. These succulent plants and the cactus-like Living Stones (*Lithops* species) together belong to the plant Family Aizoaceae.

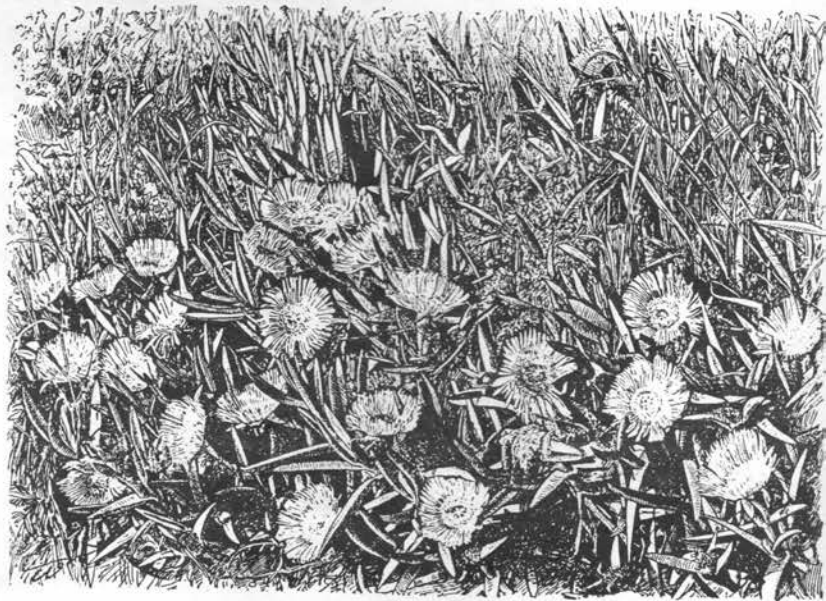
One easily grown annual Ice Plant is the Livingstone Daisy, *Dorotheanthus bellidiformis*, which is quick to bloom when sown in warm soil. Its

daisy-like flowers are up to 2" across, in shades of pink, red, orange, white, and yellow with orange centre. The plants will flower from midsummer until early autumn, opening the blooms in sun and closing in shade. For optimum bee forage it is best to plant Livingstone Daisies in full sun where they will be open for the longest time.

Livingstone Daisy's botanical name, *Dorotheanthus*, means "gift of the gods flower." Seeds of this plant can be purchased at a garden store or nursery, and will begin to bloom about two months after sowing.

You may also wish to consider perennial Ice Plant genera such as *Lampranthus*, a sub-shrub, and *Malephora crocea*, often used in highway landscaping and as erosion control. Both of these are spring bloomers. Because of their succulent nature, Ice Plants are somewhat fire retardant, and may be used in landscaping for this purpose.

B.A. Stringer is co-author of *Nectar and Pollen Plants of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest*, an illustrated dictionary of northwest bee plants. It is available from Honeystone Press, PO Box 511, Blodgett, OR 97326, for \$11.95 postpaid.

2365. *Mesembryanthemum edule*.—Hottentot fig.



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**Making Fall Nucs (continued)**

I have also wintered multiple nucs in one deep hive by placing a divider board down the center of the box splitting the box into two hives. This seemed to work but not as well as the bees never were quite as strong to start and also seemed to drift to one side. They did cluster against the center board preferring the warmth of the neighbor swarm to the outside of the box.

One thing you will notice is the strong hive will stay absolutely dry and winter over surprisingly well.

When you find a hive with a failing queen during your spring checks, simply take the nucleus and combine it on top of the failing hive. Remove the double screen bottom board and place a sheet of newspaper on the top of the failing hive with the nucleus on top of the newspaper. If there is still a queen in the old hive, it is best to remove her. If you are unsure or cannot find the queen, separate the nuc from the main hive with a double queen excluder (two queen excluders separated by a 3/4 spacer works well). This keeps the two queens apart until the hive adjusts to the new queen at which time just remove the excluders.

This may seem like a lot of work to just save a colony. However, the queen you obtained in the fall can be a very good queen as marking conditions can produce more reliable matings than for spring mated queens. You always need replacement queens in the spring. Spring queens will often fail absolutely at the wrong time giving you nothing for your efforts. This is especially true in western Oregon since the honey flow is usually late May to early July which does not allow for any queen problems.

**1992 Bee Masters short course offered in February**

The 1992 Bee Masters Course will be offered 10-15 February at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, just outside the scenic city of Vancouver. The Bee Masters is a week-long, intensive course in advanced beekeeping that has been offered every second year for almost 40 years.

The course is offered jointly by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Simon Fraser University, and includes topics such as seasonal management, nutrition, queen rearing, pollination, diseases, mites, Africanized bees, pesticides, marketing, hive products (honey, pollen, propolis, royal jelly, wax, etc.) and much, much more. The course combines illustrated lectures, laboratory periods, social events, lots of discussion, and an optional final examination. Participants are expected to have previously kept bees and to have some knowledge about bees and beekeeping; hobbyists, sideliners, and commercial beekeepers are welcome, and all will benefit from and enjoy this course.

Lecturers for the 1992 course include Cynthia Scott-Dupree, Denis McKenna, Alan Trambly, Mark Winston, Paul van Westendorp, Doug McCutcheon, and many others.

For further program and registration information, contact: Conference Services, Continuing Studies, Halpern Centre, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6 Canada. Phone (604) 291-4910 and 291-3649, or FAX (604) 291-3420.

**OSBA HAPPENINGS****1991**

Oct. 28-31 NHB Fall Meeting, Benson Hotel, Portland

Dec. 6 & 7 OSBA Annual Convention  
Chumaree, Salem  
Full Program in October Issue

Dec. 6 -  
Executive Committee Meeting, 10-12  
Registration, 11-1  
Hospitality Room, 7:30

December 7 -  
Registration & Coffee, 8 am

**1992**

Joint Oregon/Washington Convention  
Hosted by OSBA

**Washington State Beekeepers Association  
ANNUAL MEETING**

Hosted by the  
Columbia Basin Beekeepers Association

October 24-26, 1991  
Red Lion Inn, Pasco, Washington

**Registration Information**

Registration fee is \$62 before October 1 and \$68 after October, and covers cost of Friday banquet, Saturday continental breakfast, coffee breaks and annual syllabus. At the door registration for Friday only is \$36 and includes syllabus, refreshment breaks, and banquet.

For more information and to register, contact:  
John D. Pettigrew, 3916 Melody Lane  
Pasco, WA 99301, (509) 545-1501

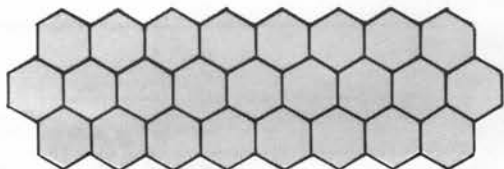


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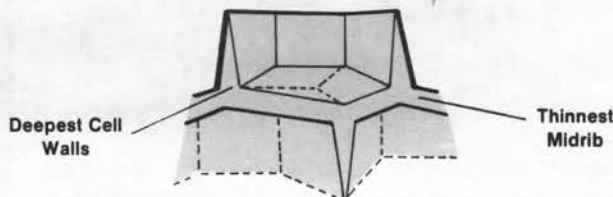
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NHB Fall Meeting, Portland



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### Marketing Committee Notes —

In several issues of *The Bee Line* between October and spring, there will be a free listing of all those who have buckets or barrels of honey to sell on the wholesale market—i.e. to packers or other beekeepers. Someone besides the government might be interested in your excess honey.

If you want to list your honey, send the following information to the Marketing Committee, Joann Olstrom, 3164 Maple Ct., Reedsport, OR 97467.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Varieties of extracted honey for sale:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Oregon, Wash, Dakotas, etc.

Price (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Container sizes( barrels or buckets?) \_\_\_\_\_

What else (comb honey? wax?) \_\_\_\_\_

Buyers of honey will probably ask for a sample container of the honey. Always put your name and variety of honey on each sample. It is very confusing to receive several samples—as at a conference—and none are labeled in any manner. Sellers of honey should always label honey with at least an address sticker. How else will the buyer know where to go back to for the Best Honey There Is? (That goes for gift jars to friends and neighbors, too—always label the product.)

### Just Send Money...The Rest of the Story!



You will remember Ole Blue, Bob Ramsey, and the stolen bees (July *Bee Line*). Well, we left Bob in pretty sad shape after Ole Blue and 30 hives of bees had to be bailed out of storage and Bob had to pay towing all because of the lack of communication between State Police departments. So, Bob got a little testy and threatened to get a lawyer after those fellows! Guess he didn't think all those fees should be his alone.

What do you know, Bob's wife Betty sat right down and wrote a nice little letter explaining the circumstances surrounding the evening in question. About three weeks went by and one day an officer in a blue uniform and badge knocked at Bob's door. Why, he apologized, saying that "they make mistakes, too!" Now, wasn't that something. Bob's looking pretty smug, Ole Blue's just sitting around, the bees are unloaded in the pasture, and if anyone wants them, Bob says, "load 'em yourself!"

And that's the rest of the story...good day!



To order copies of *Cooking with Honey*, please use this coupon:

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## Who's Who in Oregon Beekeeping

## 1991 OSBA OFFICERS

**Pres:** Marjorie Ehry 864-2138  
19500 N Hwy 99W  
Dundee, OR 97115

**Vice Pres:** Richard Turanski 689-0913  
PO Box 2744  
Eugene, OR 97402

**Sec/Treas:** Phyllis Shoemake 364-8401  
1874 Winchester NW  
Salem, OR 97304

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

## Willamette Valley:

Don Ames 935-1644  
25222 Arnold Lane  
Elmira 97437

## North Coast:

Bob Allen 322-3819  
PO Box 434  
Garibaldi 97118

## South Coast:

Bruce Yeager 888-6833  
6833 Joe Ney/Davis  
Coos Bay 97420

## Central Oregon:

Bob Morgan 2985719  
3800 Benson Road  
The Dalles, OR 97058

## Eastern Oregon:

Danny Bade 938-5378  
Rte 2, Box 278  
Milton Freewater, OR 97862

## Southern Oregon:

George Steffensen 474-4305  
1634 Fish Hatchery Road  
Grants Pass, OR 97527

## AFFILIATE OFFICERS

## Coos County

**Pres:** John Shank 269-5862  
**Sec:** Becky Lieper 267-5089

## Tualatin Valley

**Pres:** Otto Wenzloff 206-576-0558  
**VP:** Mark Johnson 621-3137  
**Sec:** Jim Marshall 642-3319  
**Treas:** Paul Liddell 397-3830

## Southern Oregon

**Pres:** John Cambell 664-4867  
**VP:** Bob Conlogue 899-8961  
**Sec:** Dennis Morefield 535-6050

## Portland

**Pres:** Lewis Morgan 775-2796  
**VP:** Frank Courtway 761-2961  
**Sec:** Carol & Scott McConnachie 656-4241

## Klamath

**Pres:** Ken Crow 882-1893  
**VP:** Chet Hamaker 882-2404

## Lane County

**Pres:** Lloyd Gordinier 344-5851  
**VP:** Glenn Miller 937-2070  
**Sec:** Christine Erwin 942-7061  
**Treas:** Jim Sheridan 344-1354

## Tillamook County

**Pres:** Bob Allen 322-3819  
**VP:** Fritz Hoffman 842-6856  
**Sec:** Ed Klock 368-5312

## Willamette Valley

**Pres:** Darrell Gulstrom 859-2103  
**VP:** Gene Barr 364-6536  
**Sec:** Carol Walker 581-2371  
**Treas:** Fritz Skirvin 581-9372

## OSBA COMMITTEES

**Honey Promotion:** Joann Olstrom  
**Nectar & Pollen Flora:** Bertie Stringer  
**Pollination:** Dan Keeley  
**Laws & Regulations:** Fritz Skirvin  
**Honey Queen:** Joan Heater

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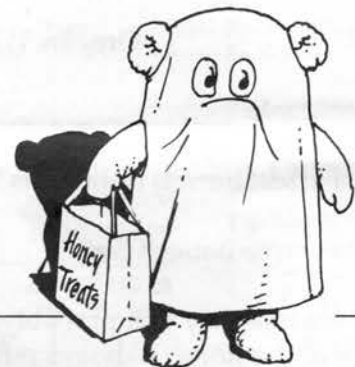
**Pres:** Bruce Yeager 888-6833  
**VP:** Bill Rufener 324-2571  
Al Freeburne 855-7243  
DeWayne Keller 889-8279  
Fred Van Natta 585-8254  
John Mespelt 926-1850  
Bob Morgan 298-5719

## STATE BEE INSPECTOR

David Turner 378-3774  
Department of Agriculture  
635 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97310

## EXTENSION ENTOMOLOGIST

Dr. Michael Burgett 737-4896  
Department of Entomology  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, OR 97331



## Local Group Meetings

## 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 Dec.

## KLAMATH

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

## LANE

Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Public Employees Credit Union Bldg, 1155 Chambers St, Eugene.

## PORTLAND

Meets in the Oregon City branch of Far West Federal Bank on McLoughlin Blvd, 7:30 pm, the fourth Monday of each month.

## SOUTHERN OREGON

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

## TILLAMOOK

Meets the third Tues. of each month at 7:30 pm at the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, 4909 Third St.

## TUALATIN

Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month during the school year at Rock Creek Campus of Potland Com. College, at 7:30 pm in Bldg. #3.

## WILLAMETTE

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

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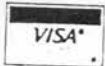
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