



OSBA Announces - The Spring/Summer Field Day!

Mark your calendars

JUNE 3



The OSBA has just announced the tentative program and schedule for its annual Spring/Summer meeting and Field Day. This year's meeting will be hosted by Dr. Michael Burgett at the OSU Bee Lab. The OSBA and all beekeepers in the Northwest are fortunate to have a resource like Dr. Burgett, and we are excited about the program that is being put together for us for this meeting. And, this year, we will have Dr. Lynn Royce on hand as part of the program. Dr. Royce, is the developer of the queen breeding ball and a nationally recognized expert on mites and parasites effecting bees.

Not only is this your chance to see and hear the latest information on research in apiculture, it is a chance to meet old friends and make new friends. We are also planning to have BARBEQUED OYSTERS fresh from the coast in addition to the BYO brown bag lunch!

The preliminary program is:

9:00 AM Arrival, coffee and doughnuts and meeting new and old friends.

10:00 AM SWARMING AND SWARM CONTROL - Learn the causes and cures for this persistent beekeeping problem. Bees, like all living creatures, have the inbred urge to reproduce, and swarming is the natural means for bees to create new colonies. Swarming is in direct opposition to the needs of beekeepers. How do we identify colonies before they prepare to swarm? How do we minimize swarming? How can we use this natural urge to our advantage? These are just some of the points Drs. Burgett and Royce will address in this session.

NOON: BAG LUNCH & OYSTER FEED!

We are planning to have fresh barbequed oysters to fill in the gaps in your own brown bag lunch. This is also

an opportunity to chat with both of our presenters and socialize with fellow beekeepers.

1:30 PM MITE CONTROL - This session will not only address Varroa mites, but will delve deep into the topic of Tracheal mites. These tracheal mites are often ignored by Northwest beekeepers because we not only cannot see them, we have very few effective ways to deal with them. Some experts feel that tracheal mites may actually be a much greater problem to hive health than the Varroa mite. Learn the latest in parasite research and how you can avoid drastic hive losses with an effective mite control program.

BUSINESS MEETING - President, George Hansen and Vice-president, Ron Bennett will discuss some ideas on new directions for the OSBA.

WHERE - The OSU Bee Lab - Parking is limited at the Lab. Additional parking is available at Parker Stadium and we hope to have a few vehicles available to shuttle people to and from the Lab.

The cost is only \$10 per person (\$15 for a family) for OSBA members. Non-member fee is \$20, and includes a one year OSBA membership (a \$15 value). Call Ron Bennett at 838-2328 or George Hansen at 824-2265 for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by George Hansen

I've always been amazed at how easily our impression of the world changes. For what seems like forever the weather this April has been cold and rainy. What promised to be an early pear and apple bloom in Hood River kept getting postponed. Orders for new queens were set back, and the feed tank got lots of use. Pear growers noting daytime highs in the fifties and frost at night are of course worried about a crop. Pollenizer varieties haven't always been blooming at the same time as the target varieties. Night after night the temperatures in the fruit growing areas dipped into the mid twenties. Frost alarms went off and pear growers have had to keep beekeepers' hours. A couple of nights of running fans and smudge pots is very expensive, easily outstripping the rent on bees. But without it the crop is lost or damaged.

I am so sick of working bees in (Cont. on Page 2)

Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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(Cont. from Page 1)

a rainsuit. I almost prefer the insulated coveralls when its just cold, but by the end of the day, working in such raw weather takes a toll. Delivering bees to a blooming orchard during a snowstorm has to make you wonder. I ran across a hive the other day that had obviously raised its own queen. Normally, this time of year, I hunt up the virgin, kill her and put in a queen in a cage. But this queen had somehow gotten mated and was making a beautiful start. When were there enough nice hours of weather in mid April to make a mating flight? Wonders will never cease.

Today is the second sunny day in a row now, and temperatures here will get into the 70's, and maybe even 80. Just as depressed as I was last week about the ceaseless poor weather, today I am boundlessly optimistic. In just one day almost all the ills of the world are rectified. Bees immediately take advantage of a change of weather and look wonderfully flush with activity. The last gallon of syrup now appears to be an absolutely foolish precaution. Things are happening so fast, I wonder if there are enough supers, and the nucs are busting out of their boxes.

Once we get into the flow of the season and the bees are doing so well, it is easy to forget the troubles we had last fall and winter. That is one of the best things about beekeeping; the new season is forgiving, and the bees seem to be zealous to make up for past problems. But we can't be lulled into thinking that because our hives are vigorous now, that mite problems are a thing of the past. Especially tracheal mites seem to be an elusive problem that still can cause serious losses even when some care is taken to keep them under control.

The OSBA field day will be a chance for all of us to get together and go through the various methods of treatment and their timing in an atmosphere where we can compare notes and look at some beehives that have been treated and not been treated. The date for the field day has been set for June 3 at the OSU Bee Lab.

Our thoughts have been with Alan Ehry as he is recovering from his accident. We are looking forward to seeing you again at our meetings. Get well soon!!!!



Commerce Announces 141% Dumping Duty on Chinese Honey

by Troy Fore, AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION

The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) has given the U.S. beekeepers some good news. In its preliminary finding, the DOC has determined that Chinese honey is being dumped into the U.S. market at an average rate of 141.61%.

The finding became effective on Mar. 20, the date it was published in the Federal Register. Any honey from China which clears U.S. Customs on that date or later will be assessed the dumping duty. The dumping duty will be in place until a final dumping order is filed in the case—likely in about four months.

Officials of the beekeeper organizations which petitioned the federal government to find that Chinese exporters are dumping honey here were excited over the determination.

"It's a great victory for the U.S. honey producer," said Richard Adey, president of the American Honey Producers Association. "It will bring a halt to the Chinese exporters' predatory marketing practices."

David Sundberg, president of the American Beekeeping Federation, looking forward to the next step of the anti-dumping case, said, "This really puts more importance on the ITC questionnaires. We can't rest on this decision. We have to do the best job we can on those questionnaires."

Market Reacts Positively

The honey market, which had already been inching up in recent weeks took a dramatic jump following the DOC announcement, which was made public at noon on March 14. One producer reported concluding the sale of his 1994 crop of light amber honey immediately following the announcement at a price of five cents more than he had been offered a week earlier. The Mid-U.S. Honey Producers Association reports white honey moving at 55 cents per pound.

The dumping duty will be applied to the Chinese exporters invoice price, F.O.B. China—which approximates the customs value reported in U.S. import statistics. For December 1994, the weighted average customs value for bulk honey imports from China was 32.5 cents per pound. The addition of the average dumping duty would increase this price to 78.5 cents. To reach the selling price to U.S. honey packers, the cost of ocean freight and insurance, the normal tariff, Honey Board assessment, and importer's commissions, would have to be

added to the F.O.B price.

DOC Stays on Schedule

DOC rejected requests from both the Chinese exporters and the National Honey Packers and Dealers Association to delay the preliminary determination for 50 days. The U.S. beekeepers had mounted a campaign to have members of Congress ask Commerce Secretary Ron Brown not to grant an extension.

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The case involves 28 Chinese exporting companies who responded to the DOC request for data on their shipments to the United States. Previous to this case, the largest number of foreign respondents in an anti-dumping case was 16.

To pare down the investigation and to allow it to return the preliminary determination without an extension of time, DOC fully analyzed the data from just four of the exporters, choosing the four which accounted for over 75% of the shipments to the United States during the period of investigation, May-October 1994. To these four companies, DOC has assigned individual estimated dumping duties, based on the preliminary analysis of each one, ranging from 127.52% to 157.16%.

Normally, DOC applies individual dumping rates to those exporters which cooperate by supplying data and are fully analyzed and best information available (BIA) rates to non-cooperating exporters. The BIA rate tends to be more punitive, since it is the higher of the highest margin claimed in the U.S. producers' petition or the highest calculated rate of any responding company. In this case, however, DOC noted that it would not be fair to assign a BIA rate to the other 24 companies, since they did furnish (Cont. on Page 9)

The D.E. HIVE

by David Eyre

My beekeeping experience spans 40 years and 2 Continents. When I came to take up beekeeping here in Canada, I was horrified to discover only one hive in production. My beekeeping has been based on a number of hives, some I've loved and some I've hated. The Langstroth is regretfully not one of the ones I've loved. So I decided if I can't buy one, I'll make my own. With all this in mind I set to and designed a hive with the following parameters.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is run as submitted with only minor corrections. It is not normally the policy of the OSBA to run article that fall under the category of "adver-torials" - that is, an editorial that is basically an advertisement. However, this submission had some interesting claims on production and on hive ventilation that my set some of our members thinking about some solutions to the moisture build-up in our hives. This may be a solution (more ventilation, not necessarily the D.E. Hive), to some of our Winter losses.

The OSBA in no way endorses this product and has not made any test to support these claims.

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weatherproofing, to provide dead air space under the hive floor. A new hive floor, which had to be lighter. Square boxes for better wintering, a round cluster will be a better fit in a square than a rectangle. Lighter frames and standard size foundation to fit regular extractors. A better Queen excluder, easier to clean. Shallow honey supers as standard. A better inner cover and finally a controllable ventilation system, this being the main feature.

We have succeeded beyond all our dreams. The D.E. Hive is now in its fourth season and the results are truly amazing. The hive produces far more brood and from that

quite incredible amounts of honey. Far in excess of Provincial and local averages.

The first year it produced 193 Lbs. Bear in mind a brand new hive has 3 deeps and 3 shallows to be drawn out. The Provincial average was 61 Lbs. They wintered well, came out in Spring and had no dysentery, because it's a good dry hive. That year, '93 we took 612 Lbs. from 2 D.E.'s an average of 306 Lbs. Provincial average was 115 Lbs. This year '94 was another good year, we took 120 Lbs. of buckwheat honey in early July, plus 3 nuc's for Queen rearing and gave them 33 frames of foundation to draw and we still took a total of 190 Lbs. per hive. We should have taken more, but late July-August was strange, a dearth of nectar, in fact we had robbing problems in August, which is very unusual at that time of year. The amount of produce from these hives is just amazing and the work load for the keeper is not excessive.

The deep box or brood box is square 18 x 18. It holds 11 frames, to provide more brood space, as I strongly disagree with reducing the amount of frames (from 10 to 9) to make it easier for the keeper. We need more brood space not less, less frames, less bees, less honey. We run our hives on 3 brood boxes, that's 33 frames in total. In early Spring we find a good Queen will be laying in all 3 boxes.

Our frames are different, they're thinner wood, longer end lugs for you to hold onto. With the separators it makes for a cleaner hive. You don't need to pry up each frame to get it out as there is virtually no propolis. We use a diagonal one piece wire foundation and with our ventilation there is no need to horizontally wire these frames.

The Queen excluder is flat, either zinc or plastic, very easy to clean - and without the build up of wax and propolis that you're accustomed to seeing.

The Shallow Super is made to the same specifications as the Deep Box, but uses 6" foundation and therefore is much lighter and more manageable for lady apiarists. With the extra large hand holds these are easier on the fingers and back muscles.



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The Inner Cover is plywood rather than masonite. We have found that the shiny surface of masonite will sweat and the water beads up, this is as true in Winter as in Summer. In Winter, the condensation freezes and in the Spring it melts, and eventually this condensation will drip back into the cluster. It's cleated to provide bee space on both sides and has mesh covered holes provide ventilation. We have also provided a Winter top opening which can be opened and closed as needed.

Next is the Ventilation Box. The same as the honey super but with slanted screened holes to provide through ventilation. This works on the same principle as the soffit vents in our houses. The ventilation is controllable, as in the Summer we need maximum ventilation and in the Winter it is drastically reduced.

The roof has 3 ventilation holes on the front, its cleated on the inside to make it ride on top of the ventilation box. One to provide a large open area, the same as our attics, and two, to provide space for feeder pails, etc.

So much for the mechanics, now to explain our thinking regarding ventilating bee hives. The laws of physics are legion. The two we are interested in are "hot air rises" and "hot air takes up moisture". The hot air in the hive rises, takes up the moisture from the air that the bees are

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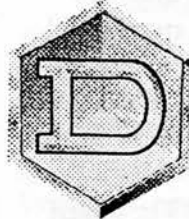


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busy making from the nectar they are bringing into the hive. In your hives, because they are sealed in, the hot wet air has nowhere to go. The bees spend hours fanning, trying to get it out of the hive. In our hives it gets out through the top of the hive easily and without obstruction, which explains our large crops - the hive assists the bees in their efforts.

Another point to ponder. If one of the primary causes for swarming, is, amongst other reasons, too much heat, it stands to reason that with a ventilated hive there should be less swarming tendencies. That is what we have found. In four years, we haven't had a hive swarm on us.

We live in an area where the temperature can go from -30°C to +40°C (-22°F to 104°F - ed.), our hives are made to withstand these variances of temperature. They are out in a field with no shade or wind breaks and they're doing just fine.

In conclusion, I would like to say this has to be the Rolls Royce of the hives. If you're a beekeeper rather than a box keeper, you'll like to work these hives. They're easy to open, and much cleaner, you need very little smoke (less disturbance), the bees are healthier and must be happier as they work so hard.

If I have raised your curiosity and you want more information write or call. The Bee Works, 9, Progress Drive, Unit 2, Orillia, Ontario, L3V 6H1. 705-326-7171 or 706-326-9461 (Res).

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TODAY

Another article from the Wildbees Electronic Bulletin Board - HINT FOR THE HIVE #118: PRODUCING POLLEN

It seems that beekeepers are easily seduced by schemes that appear to be fool proof at the outset, but when closely investigated, are fraught with problems. In the 1950s, Professor Frank Robinson, now retired, of the University of Florida, saw first hand the effects of one of these phenomena. At that time, the royal jelly market appeared to explode with possibilities. Profits were high and many beekeepers in search of quick gain, borrowed money and converted large portions of their operation to jelly production. The result, the jelly market collapsed, putting many beekeepers out of business and forcing others deep into debt.

Now comes the pollen boom of the 1980s, touted as a can't loose proposition by its promoters. After all, they say, not only is the demand for pollen as human food at an all time high, but also trapping pollen from a colony is beneficial to the bees, reducing swarming while at the same time increasing honey production. Is all of this too good to be true? That's for the beekeeper to decide, but more and more facts come to the fore each day, and all should be carefully studied before a decision is made to go for broke producing bee collect-ed pollen.

BEE POLLEN AS FOOD -- THE FDA'S POSITION:

"Bee Pollen Great Food--For Bees," is the title of a recent article that appeared in the April edition of FDA Consumer, information organ of the Food and Drug Administration. The article detailed the Food and Drug Administration's position on bee pollen:

"Under the law, since the pollen has not been shown to be harmful other than to those suffering allergy, bee pollen may be marketed as a food, provided no nutrition or therapeutic claims are made or implied regarding it. Thus, if the labeling (including pamphlets or advertising associated with the product) does not suggest that it is intended for use other than food, bee pollen marketed as a food need only meet the same general labeling requirements as other foods, and be prepared, packed and held in a sanitary manner."

The article goes on to say that those who claim bee pollen cures or alleviates any illness or produces therapeutic benefit are promoting the product as a drug. Recently FDA asked that all shipments of a particular product and its promotional literature, advocating use

of pollen in this sense, be recalled by the manufacturer. Other steps may also be taken, including seizure, injunction and criminal prosecution.

With reference to bee pollen's value for humans, the article also sets about debunking some claims made by many promoters: (1) pollen is not a giant germ killer in which bacteria do not exist; it is rapidly attacked by bacteria, yeast and other fungi, (2) pollen cannot be called nature's most perfect food; it isn't even perfect for bees which require supplementary carbohydrates (nectar or honey) to survive, (3) pollen doesn't retard aging by peoples in the Caucasus region of Soviet Georgia; a study of eating habits there doesn't even mention pollen, (4) pollen is not the richest source of protein known to science; the major constituent of pollen is carbohydrate, not protein, and the amount of the latter varies considerably among pollens from various sources, (5) bee pollen does not relieve allergy, asthma and hay fever; no scientific studies support this, on the contrary, persons eating pollen must be on the look out for potential allergic reactions, (6) pollen improves athletic performance; extensive study at Louisiana State University reveals no significant improvement in either training or performance.

POLLEN UTILIZATION:

Although usefulness of pollen as a human nutrient is still an enigma, a recent study does show that pollen from at least one species of plant is digestible by mice. J.O. Schmidt and Patricia J. Schmidt in "Pollen Digestibility and Its Potential Nutritional Value," *Gleanings in Bee Culture*, Vol. 115 (6), June, 1984, pp. 320-322, show that velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*) pollen is digested and supports mice growth. There is one caveat, however. It appears to take greater consumption of mesquite pollen by mice to equal weight gain provided by comparable milk and egg protein-based diets. The authors conclude:

"Pollen can be considered either a potential food or a nutrient supplement. Whatever it is considered, potential consumers should be aware that the levels present in half a dozen tablets, or about 3 g, does (sic)

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not provide nutrients to equal those present in an otherwise unbalanced diet. This is not to suggest that pollen cannot be of any value, only that if pollen is treated as food, more than 6 tablets may be needed to accrue real benefit. When compared to supplements such as vitamin/mineral tablets, pollen contains much lower levels of these micronutrients than the supplements. This . . . does not imply that pollen has no potential benefit, only that it should not replace good dietary and health practices. Pollen in addition to a good diet could conceivably be beneficial, but to date there is little evidence to support or refute this."

It should be emphasized, that the above study was done on bee collected pollen from only one species of plant. Most pollen trapped by beekeepers over time will be a mixture from several plant species. According to Dr. P. Witherell, "Other Products of the Hive," Chapter XVIII, The Hive and the Honey Bee, Dadant & Sons, Inc., Hamilton, IL, 1975, pollen can vary greatly in its nutritional content from as low as seven percent protein (pine) to over thirty-five percent (date palm). Thus, even for bees, a mixture of pollens is necessary to achieve a well balanced diet.

Something addressed by few is the nutritional loss in stored pollen. Study by Dr. A. Dietz at the University of Georgia has shown that stored pollen (especially dried pollen) loses some of its nutritional value for bees over time. Studies of this sort for bee collected pollen in human nutrition might be extremely revealing, but none have been done so far.

POLLEN CONTAMINANTS AND STANDARDS:

Beyond immediate benefit to humans, there are other questions that have yet to be answered concerning bee collected pollen as food. Among these are potential contamination with heavy metals or pesticides. And, as noted elsewhere, pollen from some plants may be responsible for severe allergic reactions. Many pollen product labels instruct the user to begin with small doses just in case potential for allergic reac-

tion exists.

The lack of standards in processing bee collected pollen could be a time bomb. As mentioned above, of prime importance to the Food and Drug Administration is that pollen, ". . . be prepared, packed and held in a sanitary manner." Details as to what this means have not been spelled out, but at any moment FDA could institute specific regulations regarding pollen preparation. A recent article by K. Benson of El Toro, California in The Speedy Bee, Vol 13 (5), May 1984, pp. 14,20 deals with this important question. The author emphatically states:

". . . collecting pollen commercially is an expensive and labor intensive enterprise that requires mechanization, special training and constant attention. Frequent collection and processing are needed to produce quality pollen. It must be collected, cleaned and frozen quickly before it becomes too dry, too wet, mildewed, ruined by insects, or overflows the pollen drawer. There are no vacations during the pollen season."

Of primary concern, the article states, is cleanliness of bee collected pollen. The kinds of debris and foreign matter that can be found in pollen is remarkable. A partial listing includes: (1) lost bee parts; (2) bits of plants like leaves and straw; (3) pollinia or stamens from certain plants that stick to bees and pollen; (4) hair-like threads; (5) various insects, some invisible to the human eye and (6) mummies and scales from bee diseases. Wax moths also find the pollen drawer as a marvelous haven; their droppings, webs and cocoons must be removed. In addition, a few mouse droppings will render the entire pollen batch unusable and spilled pollen should never be run through a cleaning machine. Competent buyers will not touch pollen that has any beekeeper dirt in it. Mr. Benson has developed a pollen cleaning machine (write Mr. "B", Box 1066, El Toro, CA 92630), but suggests that some hand sorting is invariably necessary in producing a quality product. He also cautions that bee collected pollen must be picked up at regular intervals from traps and protected from moisture; if it becomes wet, it is not salvageable.

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Stored pollen is a marvelous medium for growth of fungi and bacteria. Of major concern in moist environments is the ever present threat of aflatoxin, produced by fungi of the *Aspergillus* genus. Stored products, such as soybeans, peanuts, and corn, in Florida, are carefully monitored for presence of aflatoxin. Bee collected pollen is not usually consumed in as great a quantity as other stored products and is generally quickly dried to below twenty-five percent moisture, optimum for *Aspergillus* growth, so that danger from this is minimized. However, it nevertheless is a quality

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factor that cannot be ignored at present, and one ripe for bureaucratic regulation in the future.

POLLEN TRAPPING:

Some promoters have suggested pollen trapping to be beneficial to a bee colony. This is debatable at best. Dr. Dietz, at the University of Georgia in his studies of honey bee-marsh interactions, believes that constant trapping of pollen decreases population potential by as much as one-third in some colonies. Steve Taber, retired from the Tucson Bee Laboratory, in "Pollen and Pollen Trapping," *American Bee Journal*, Vol. 124 (7), July 1984, pp. 512-513, says:

"If you put on pollen traps, you should expect certain hive problems that you don't have without them. Don't hurt your bees. Don't force the bees into a pollen deficient diet...My suggestion is that after trapping pollen for two weeks, you should remove the traps for a week."

Finally, there is the question of the efficiency of trapping pollen from bees. This varies considerably. A study by Canadians A. Tellier and U. Soehngen, reported in the *Cook-Dupage Beekeepers' Association Newsletter*, Vol. 39 (5), June 1984, evaluates several traps. According to the authors:

"The Efficiency of pollen traps varies from approximately 10% to 50%. Efficiency is influenced by the uniformity of the openings in the trap, differences in body sizes of the foragers (which may be considerable both between and within colonies), and by the sizes of the pollen loads. In addition, the number of openings in a trap influences the degree of crowding within the trap, and consequently, its efficiency in collecting pollen. It is apparent, therefore, that each colony-trap combination is unique and that an accurate determination of the efficiency of trap design, derived from observations made on one colony-trap combination is impossible."

Their preliminary results (research is continuing) suggest the bottom mounted Barrhead Pollen Trap (manufactured in Canada) to be superior in most trials, providing the greatest quantity of clean pollen. The OAC (Ontario Agricultural College) trap was rated poorest in pollen cleanliness. The front mounted USDA Pollen Trap was second best in terms of pollen production. In general, cleanliness of resulting pollen is not as good in bottom mounted traps, which tend to collect all hive debris, but this is offset by other advantages such as rear drawer removal, protection of collected pollen from the weather and provision for escape of drones and queens.

POLLEN MARKETING:

Too often marketing is one of the last considerations thought about in the beekeeping business. The lesson of the jelly market collapse of the 1950s should not be lost. Existence of a reliable market is paramount before thinking of diverting resources to pollen production. Last, but certainly not least, the beekeep-

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Commerce Announces 141% Dumping Duty on Chinese Honey, *Cont. from page 3*

all requested data, and since the DOC lacked resources to analyze them. Therefore, a special single rate of 141.61% is being applied to those companies, a weighted average of the rates assigned to the four fully analyzed exporters.

The four companies receiving the individual rates and the 24 receiving the average rates are listed in the Federal Register notice. All other exporters must pay a duty of 157.16%—the highest rate of the companies which were fully analyzed.

Case to Conclude in September

The next step for DOC will be to send investigators to China to verify information the Chinese companies have filed in their questionnaires. Following the thorough investigation, DOC will issue a final determination of dumping duties. The DOC final is due Aug. 2, since the Chinese have requested a 60-day extension.

Now that DOC has found affirmatively for the petitioners, the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) will begin its final investigation. The ITC must find that honey imports from China are materially injuring, or threaten material injury to, the U.S. honey producers. In its preliminary decision, the ITC found threat of injury. The ITC final is due by 45 days after the DOC final, or Sept. 18. If the ITC again finds affirmatively for the petitioners, the final dumping order will be filed seven days later. If either the DOC or ITC final determinations are against the petitioners, the case ends at that point.

The ITC final determination will depend on the questionnaires ITC will send to producers, packers, and importers. The producer organizations have been working to get a better response from their members on the questionnaires. For the preliminary questionnaire, the ITC sent about 400 to producers and producer-packers. Only 116 of them were returned to

ITC, and just 75 were fully usable.

"The 140% dumping margin is great news," said ABF Secretary Troy Fore, "but we must show the ITC that we are truly being injured. If the ITC doesn't find at least threat of injury, there is no dumping, from a legal standpoint.

The producer organizations are developing an instruction sheet to help producers complete their questionnaires. "We're looking at providing something like the instructions with a tax form," said Mr. Fore, "not a 'crib sheet' but a further explanation from a beekeeper's perspective of the sort of data ITC wants. Much depends on the questionnaire responses being submitted to the ITC; their importance cannot be over emphasized."

The ITC questionnaires will be sent out in April or May. Acknowledging that this will be the height of the bee season, Mr. Fore noted that there will be a longer period of time—about 30 days—to respond than was provided for the preliminary questionnaire.



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From the Editor's Desk

Well, here I am on the next to last page! You'd think I'd have more influence on where I appear. The main reason is that there was so much information to tell you and interesting articles.

George's message talks about new directions and adding value to your membership and we'll have more on that next issue after the next Board of Director meeting. There are lots of events and programs we're putting together for you and hope that you can arrange the time to participate.

This issue has a submitted article with a caveat from me that you should always keep in mind in reading an article or gathering information on beekeeping. This is not to say that the article does not have value, but that you should consider all that you read when someone has something they are offering for sale.

We also have another article from cyberspace on pollen, and great news from the American Beekeeping Federation.

I want to thank all of you for your kind comments and support - it's been great fun putting this together and I look forward to each issue with renewed joy.

Yours truly, Ron Bennett

Summer Picnic Plans - Mark your calendar!

from Joann Olstrom

Our annual summer picnic and get together will be on August 12 & 13. Sunday the 13th will be the picnic at Bastendorff Beach in the Charleston - Coos Bay area. In addition to the fun get-together picnic, we hope to be able to tour a cranberry farm and discuss the unique pollination needs of cranberries on Saturday the 12th.

Camping is available at Bastendorff Beach (\$15 hook-up/\$13 tent) on a first come, first served basis. Campsites at Sunset Beach State Park (a mile down the road) are possible (\$19 full hook-up, \$17 elec. only, & \$15 tent) and can be reserved for an additional fee by calling 503-888-4902. Shore Acres State Park is within walking distance of Sunset Beach (no fee) or \$3/ car full. There are many private campgrounds and motels in the area.

You can dig clams, fish, hike, fly a kite, beeline, or just sleep in. A full program and a map will be in the next *Bee Line*.



Membership and Publications

Membership in the Oregon State Beekeepers Association is open to anyone who has an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join the OSBA. OSBA Membership is \$15 per person and includes a vote in all OSBA elections, discounts on other bee-related publications, 10 issues of *The Bee Line*, and more. And, if you are already a member of a local group, your group will receive \$1.00 from your OSBA dues. Foreign membership is \$23.

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The Bee Line

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