

The Bee Line

The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association



Volume 20, Number 5

June 1995

Annual OSBA Picnic is COMING! August 12-13th

Our annual picnic and get-to-gather will be August 12 and 13 in the Coos Bay area. We are most fortunate to live in a state that is one of the great international vacation destinations. One of the most beautiful areas of our glorious state is the South Coast. We tend to take the natural beauty and wonder of Oregon for granted because we all live in wonderful areas. Here is your chance to take a "business vacation" to one of the worlds wonder areas and get together with your fellow beekeepers.

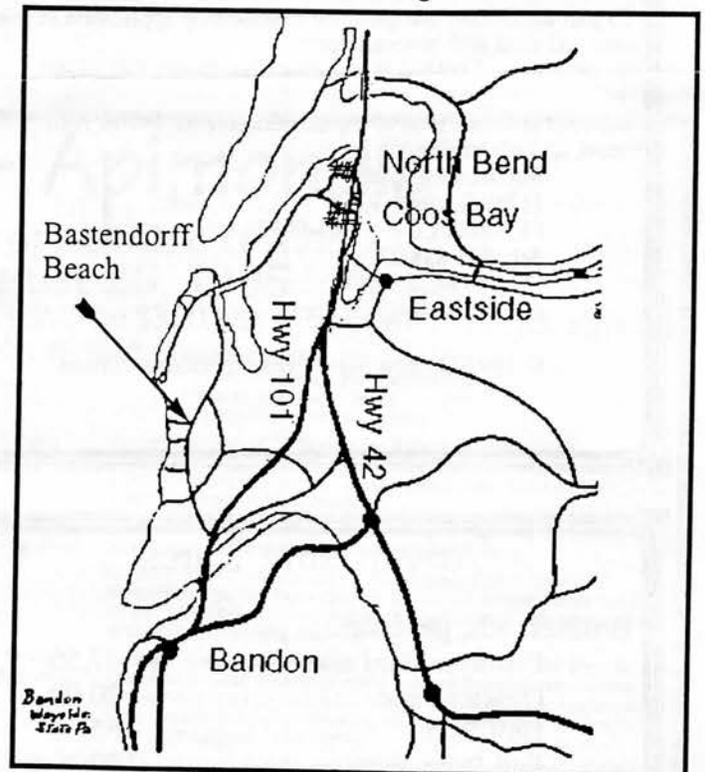
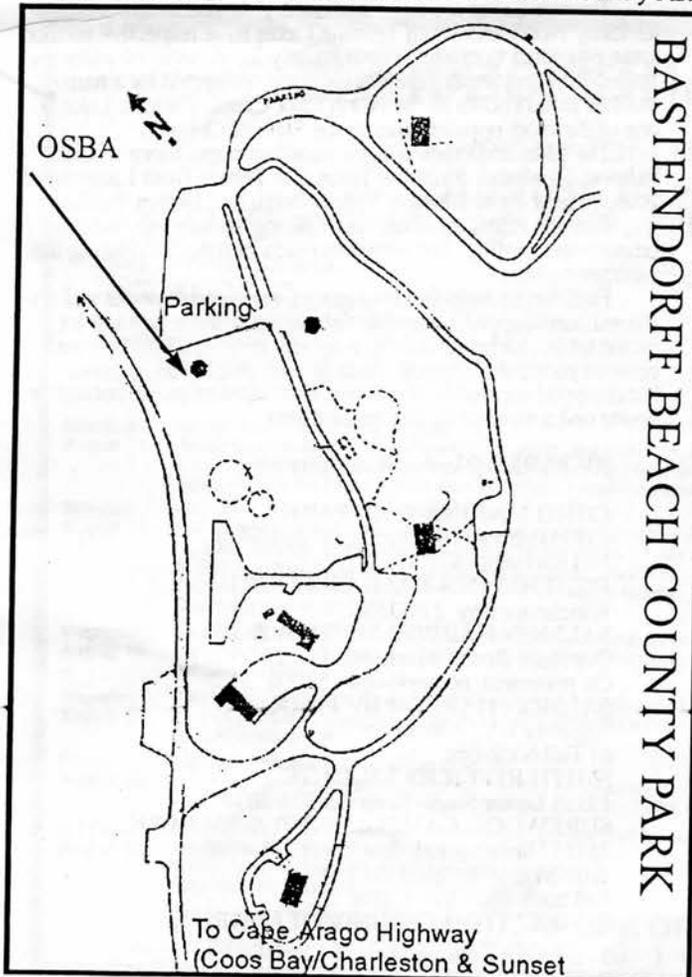
Joann Olstrom, Chairman of this year's picnic and meeting has put together a great program and found a fine spot for the picnic. We will start out by visiting a cranberry grower near Bandon on Saturday August 12, and learn first hand the unique requirements of cranberry pollination. The afternoon and evening will be free for socializing and exploring the area. Sunday the 13th is the day of our picnic and meeting. We will meet at Bastendorff Beach County Park

which is located 1/4 mile off the Cape Arago State Highway, about two miles west of Charleston. The campground is open year round and has 56 water and electric hookup sites and 25 non-hookup sites, each with its own picnic table and fireplace. The four loops of campsites include individual, private sites screened in trees and shrubbery. Buildings providing restrooms and shower facilities are located in three sections of the park.

The day use area provides two picnic sites with picnic shelters; large lawn for softball and volleyball; large fire pit barbecues; horseshoe courts; playground area for children, including fort, lighthouse boat, swings, slides, teeter-totters merry-go-round, and bouncing animals; basketball court; fish cleaning stand; and pay telephones.

Ample parking with ocean view overlooking Bastendorff Beach and Jetties - Gateway to the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay - is near the day use area.

Bastendorff Beach County Park also includes Bastendorff Beach day use area on the Southern Oregon Coast shoreline.



Nearby recreation includes:

Deep sea fishing; including salmon steelhead, and many ocean species of groundfish:

- Beach combing
- Clam digging (no license required)
- Windsurfing
- Fishing from Jetty
- Hiking
- Rock hounding
- Whale watching

(Cont. on Page 2)

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To join the OSBA, complete the membership application in this issue and send with payment to:
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Business ads, per issue:

Business Card size	\$ 7.50
Quarter Page	20.00
Half Page	35.00
Full Page	100.00

Copy, art, and payment must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Contact the editor for any special requirements and mechanical information.

Classified ads, 30 words, per issue:

OSBA members	\$ 2.00
Non-members	3.00

Sunset Bay - swimming area
Simpson Reef - home of sea lions
Shore Acres Botanical Gardens
Sightseeing the spectacular Southern Oregon Coast
From the North are Umpqua Discovery Center in Reedsport, and the Elk viewing area just east of Reedsport.

Other State Parks in the area are:

JESSIE HONEYMAN

Adjacent to north boundary of Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, 3 miles south of Florence on U.S. 101.
Campsites: 68 full hookup, 75 electrical, 238 tent.
Attractions/services: Campground on shore of freshwater Cleawox Lake sheltered by towering sand dunes, some reaching 500 feet high; hiker-biker, group camps; boat ramps on Cleawox Lake and at Woahink Lake, the park's east boundary.

SUNSET BAY

Just west of the fishing port of Charleston via Cape Arago Highway, 12 miles southwest of U.S. 101 at North Bend/Coos Bay.

Campsites: 29 full hookup, 34 electrical, 75 tent.
Attractions/services: Landlocked bay featuring safe swimming area; boat launching area; nearby parks and trails.

BULLARD'S BEACH

At mouth of Coquille River, 2 miles north of Bandon.
Campsites: 92 full hookup, 100 electrical, 8 primitive.
Attractions/services: Horse, hiker-biker camps; access to river and ocean beaches; boat ramps; historic Coquille River Lighthouse.

Other county parks in the area:

TENMILE LAKE PARK AND BOAT RAMP

(503) 396-3121 EXT. 354

Tenmile Lake Park and Boat Ramp is located in Lakeside on Tenmile Lake at the south end of 11th Street and Park Avenue.

Tenmile Lakes are large shallow highly productive freshwater lakes. North and South Tenmile Lakes have respective surface areas estimated to extend approximately 2,000 acres of water and land. North and South Tenmile lakes are connected by a narrow, shallow canal known as the North Lake Canal. Tenmile Lake is one of the most popular lakes in the State of Oregon.

The lakes and creek contain excellent populations of Coho Salmon, Steelhead, Rainbow Trout, Cut Throat Trout Largemouth Bass, Striped Bass, Bluegill, Yellow Perch and Brown Bullhead.

Tenmile offers excellent water skiing, swimming, wading, boating and angling. Temperatures reach into the 70's during the summer months.

Facilities include five boat ramps, two service docks and a t-shaped handicapped accessible fishing dock, large parking lot, picnic tables, barbecue stands, a cement restroom building with covered picnic shelter (with flush toilets), small park gazebo, handicapped accessible restrooms, fish cleaning stand, horseshoe courts and a swimming and wading area.

RV PARKS (North of Coos Bay area)

COHO MARINA & RV PARK

1580 Highway 101, Reedsport 271-5411

Full hook-ups - \$12; Cable

FISHERMAN'S TRAILER COURT

Winchester Bay 271-3536

SALMON HARBOR MARINA & RV

Ork Rock Road, Winchester Bay 271-3407

On pavement, no hook-ups - \$ 7.00

SALMON HARBOR RV PARK

Highway 101, Winchester Bay 271-2791

61 Full hook-ups

SMITH RIVER RV VILLAGE

19535 Lower Smith River Rd 271-2071

SURFWOOD CAMPGROUND & RV PARK

75381 Highway 101, Reedsport 271-4020

Tent - \$12; Water/elect - \$13

Full hook-ups - \$14; Cable

TAHKENITCH FISHING VILLAGE

80135 Highway 101, Gardiner 271-5222
 Water/elect - \$12.00
UMPQUA BEACH RESORT
 Salmon Harbor Dr., Winch. Bay 271-3443
 Full hook-ups - \$15
WINDY COVE CAMPGROUNDS
 Salmon Harbor Dr., Winch. Bay 271-4138 271-5634
 Full hook-up - \$12.60
 No hook-ups - \$9.45; Cable

This is only a partial listing of camping facilities in the area. There are also many hotel and motel opportunities in the area.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by George Hansen

The OSBA Fall Conference is probably the most traditional and best attended activity that our Association puts on. Every few years we participate in a two-state convention with Washington. This Fall, the WSBA is hosting a three-state meeting with Idaho included. Normally, we do not put together a separate meeting but have our yearly business meeting right at the multi-state

get together. This Falls' tri-state affair will be in Spokane, October 5th and 6th. I encourage any of you to go that can manage. These larger meetings have something to offer and people to meet that don't come to your local meetings.

Unfortunately, a meeting in Spokane is not conducive to building our Association back up. There is no way we can expect the kind of representation of Oregon beekeepers there that we need to mobilize for the American Beekeeper's Federation meeting in Portland in January of 1996. In no way do I want to be going against the Tri-state meeting, but the Executive Board of the OSBA has decided to have our own meeting at another time and place not to conflict with the WSBA plans.

We have chosen December 1st and 2nd as the time, and the place (somewhere on the Oregon Coast) has yet to be decided. We will put together a full and interesting program for you (see Editor's Message). Even though we are getting a late start, I am confident this will be a meeting no one will want to miss. Besides it will be an important prelude to the big doings the following month at the Portland Red Lion. So, while you are at it, promise yourself that you are not going to miss the Federation meeting. I'm really looking forward to all the activities and the chances to learn all I can from the opportunity. I hope lots of you will get fully involved too.

Switzerland - Apimondia

Escorted by Paul Heins of ALBANY TRAVEL

August 14 - August 26, 1995

13 days - \$2,855 pp double (single supplement \$500) (Will be \$300 less if 30 or more people sign up)

PRICE OF TOUR INCLUDES:

- Economy class airfare
- Washington D.C.-Geneva/Zurich-Washington D.C.
- 11 nights accommodations/breakfasts
- Rail fares/museum fees
- Motorcoach transportation
- Luggage handling (one piece per person)
- English-speaking guide

NOT INCLUDED:

- Travel insurance (recommended)
- Tips to guide and driver
- Apimondia conference fees

Monday August 14 Leave Dulles Airport, Washington, D.C. Arrive Geneva Airport: Motorcoach drive along Lake Lemman to Lausanne (pronounced *Loh-zan*) for opening ceremony of Congress of Apimondia at the Palais de Beaulieu. Overnight: Lausanne/Hotel Jan

Tuesday August 15 Lausanne: Continental breakfast at hotel. Full-day excursion: (English speaking guide) to Montreux (*Mont-truh*) on Lake Geneva: Visit Chateau de Chillon (castle) set on an islet close to shore; a stronghold of counts and dukes Gruyere: Tour a model Gruyere cheese factory Broc: Visit the Cailler Chocolate factory. Overnight: Lausanne/Hotel Jan

Wednesday August 16 Lausanne: Continental breakfast at hotel Full-day, Apimondia conference (self arranged); optional beekeeping excursion; Overnight: Lausanne/Hotel Jan

Thursday August 17 Lausanne: Continental breakfast at hotel Full-day tour to mountain village of Zermatt nestled below the 14,692-foot Matterhorn Overnight: Lausanne/Hotel Jan

Friday August 18 Lausanne: Continental breakfast at hotel; Afternoon conference (self-arranged). Final day of conference Free day for sight-seeing/shopping. Overnight: Lausanne/Hotel Jan

Saturday August 19 Continental breakfast; Motorcoach to Berne through Yverdon and Avenches; stop at Murten (German) or Morat (French) on French/German linguistic border on Lake Murtenese (Lac de Morat). Take leisurely stroll in walled medieval village.

Sunday August 20 Berne: Tour 13th-14th city on Aare River; federal capital of Switzerland and geranium capital of world; see the historic clock tower the bears in their pits - Berne means bear - To Interlaken: Overnight (hotel to be announced)

Monday August 21 Interlaken: Buffet breakfast at hotel. Drive to Open Air Rural Museum at Ballenberg; Travel Brunig Pass to Lucerne (*Luzern*) Lucerne; Walk cobbled streets and see famous landmarks in Switzerland's picture book city: the *Wasserturm* (water tower), statue of the *Dying Lion of Lucerne* and the *Kappelbrucke*, a 14th century covered bridge. Overnight: Hotel Astoria/Lucerne

Tuesday August 22 Lucerne: Continental breakfast; board a lake steamer for a scenic boat ride on Lake Lucerne to resort town of Brunnen; reboard the motorcoach to travel over 6,916-foot St Gotthard Pass to Lugano on Lake Lugano (the Italian-speaking regions known as Swiss Riviera). Overnight: Lugano/Hotel Meister

Wednesday August 23 Buffet breakfast; half-day tour of Italian-like city of Lugano and the area around Lake Lugano. Overnight Lugano/Hotel Meister

Thursday August 24 Buffet breakfast: drive to Chiavenna, Italy, then on to St. Moritz (*Sar mah-rits*) in east Switzerland. Transfer to train station to board narrow-gauge Rhaetian Railway for spectacular ride to Chur; motorcoach to Appenzell (*Ahp-uhn-tel*) Overnight: Appenzell/Hotel Hecht

Friday August 25 Buffet breakfast at hotel; full day excursion to St Gallen, south of Lake Constance; through the Toggenburg Valley to Lichtenstein, then tour Vaduz, capital city of tiny principality. Overnight: Appenzell/Hotel Hecht

Saturday August 26 Buffet breakfast at Hotel Hecht; Leave and drive to Zurich for return flight

Albany Travel, P.O. 517, Albany, OR 97321. Final payment due June 30, 1995
 Phone: 1-503-967-1022 or 1-800-327-2699 FAX 1-503-967-8069

Mite excreta: A new diagnostic tool for detecting Varroa mites!

The varroa mite, *Varroa jacobsoni* (Oudemans) is a large reddish mite which is an external parasite on larval forms and adult honey bees. This mite is a serious pest of the U.S. beekeeping industry and is causing significant economic losses. In order to control the mite through cultural or chemical means, early detection of adult mites in apiaries is essential for commercial and hobbyist beekeepers. Some present methods for detecting the presence of mites and determining levels of infestation involve the use of smoke or other chemicals (e.g. ether) to drive the mites out of the combs. The dead or stunned mites then fall to the bottom of the hive where they collect on a paper sheet or sticky cardboard grid for counting. During biological investigations of the life history and physiology of this economically important mite, Dr. Eric H. Erickson of our laboratory (CHBRC) discovered an indirect method of detecting the mites even when no adults could be located. Although the varroa mites are large enough to be easily seen with the unaided eye, the mites are often cryptic and hide from view. Thus this visual appraisal, using the characteristic white mite fecal spots, can provide beekeepers with an easy indicator of the presence of damaging Varroa mites. This visual method involves the characteristic brilliant white fecal spots made on the dark brown brood cells of infested combs. This reliable visual technique will be discussed.

Once a frame has been removed, and the bees shaken or brushed off, the inspection for varroa mite excreta can begin. The beekeeper should hold the frame with both hands so that it can be easily tilted and closely examined. By placing your back to the sun in morning or afternoon intense sunlight it will be easy to recognize the irregular white spots.

Several irregular brilliant white patches which are the nitrogenous excreta left by Varroa mites within the open brood cells of the brood nest area can easily be seen by this method. Interestingly, Drs. Erickson and Allen Cohen (USDA-ARS Western Regional Cotton Laboratory, Phoenix, AZ.) performed sensitive chemical analyses on these mite excreta. Surprisingly, using High Performance Liquid Chromatography, they determined that the mite excreta consisted of 95% pure guanine, an important amino acid.

(Adapted from an article with pictures on the electronic hypertext homepage at the Carl Hayden Bee Research Center. The Center can be reached via the World Wide Web on Internet at <http://gears.tuscon.ars.gov/>.

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MINUSCULE MINERALS

By Malcolm T. Sanford, University of Florida

Every once in a while, I am told by beekeepers that they find the addition of salt to the bees' diet to be beneficial. Perhaps the beekeeper perceives this as true, but there is evidence to the contrary. In the 1992 *The Hive and the Honey Bee*, the chapter by E. Herbert on nutrition provides some information. Unfortunately, the author says "Less is known about the mineral requirement of honey bees than the other classes of nutrients." He goes on to say that salt mixtures used in vertebrate feeding often contain excessive amounts of calcium and sodium and insufficient amounts of potassium. Studies using Wesson's salts, for example, showed less diet consumed and less brood reared when compared with those fortified with ash (minerals) from pollen. The most striking feature was the sodium level in Wesson's salts (3.3%) compared to pollen ash (.22%).

Recently, there was a discussion about the effects of iron on honey bees across the Internet. Allen Dick, a Canadian beekeeper, writes: "Our water system gives out rusty water sometimes and this may be the only water convenient for diluting syrup. Additionally barrels used for storing syrup tend to get rusty after a few years of intermittent use. Is there a danger of toxicity to bees from rust, or is it only elemental iron that is dangerous?"

Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk at the University of Montana replied via the Bee-L Internet discussion list: "Like any element, bees,

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mammals, people, have more or less fixed tolerance ranges. Within the tolerance range, the body can probably regulate the levels in tissues via a variety of mechanisms, such as excreting excessive amounts. Elements like iron generally have to be present at some minimal level for healthy bees, but too much is not necessarily better or good."

Should one use rusty equipment? Dr. Bromenshenk says no, not because there is evidence of harm, but because he is not in favor of introducing high levels of any chemical into a food-producing system. He knows no way to determine how much might get into honey, most likely to happen if you are providing water on hot days in rusty containers. The effects of high iron content on colonies, if any, according to Dr. Bromenshenk, are likely to be subtle and hard to identify, although they could be economically costly. Dr. Bromenshenk concludes, therefore, that unless you really dose them with iron, one won't see piles of dead bees.

Even fluoride (F) poisoning rarely results in the typical scenario described above for pesticide kills, according to Dr. Bromenshenk. Fluoride accumulation is a hotly debated issue, he says, but there is evidence in the older U.S. and European literature that this element is not good for bees and concentrates in their tissues.

Over the last 20 years, Dr. Bromenshenk has found that beekeepers near aluminum smelters, oil refineries, phosphate plants, or in areas where the water is high in fluoride (either naturally, such as occurs in deep artesian wells in Montana or fluoridated, as in city water supplies) have "elevated" levels of F in their bees. On a dry weight basis, any with concentrations of more than 40 (ppm) or parts per million ($40/1,000,000 = .00004$ or .00004 percent), he says, is elevated. Bees near refineries tend to range from 40-80 ppm; those close to phosphate plants may show 120 ppm or more. On an island between Canada and New York, with aluminum smelters on both sides, the F levels were found to be over 200 ppm.

Bees appear to get most F from the air, according to Dr. Bromenshenk, and levels will be about twice as high in forager bees as in nurse bees while not detectable in larvae or pupae. He and his students have followed F dispersion for 60 to 90 miles from a large industrial source. However, as noted above, high levels could also come from an artesian spring or fluoridated water supply.

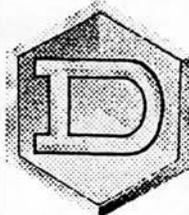
Dr. Bromenshenk's observations are based on commercial beekeepers running several thousand colonies near smelters and migratory beekeepers moving bees in and out of these regions. The results are variable, he concludes, as bee kills occur every few years, generally in the spring during buildup or during periods of nectar dearth. The bees always die in the same yards, usually down-

wind from the industrial source. There is almost always a gradient, with bees at yards closest to the source getting hit the hardest. Residue levels in these dead bees normally exceed 120 ppm F.

In conclusion, according to Dr. Bromenshenk, one can have bees even with 180-200 ppm F levels and no obvious toxicity, but only if they are in good condition. This means not being heavily stressed by other factors such as poor nutrition and mite parasitization. Unfortunately, one cannot easily detect chronic effects of F toxicity because losses may be not be expressed directly, but only in reduced disease resistance and lowered productivity. Would Dr. Bromenshenk put bees where either the water or air had elevated F? NO! Does he think beekeepers suffer losses from F? YES!

If sodium, iron and fluoride levels all bear reexamination in beekeeping, this is probably true for other minerals as well. High mineral levels may be the reason, Dr. Herbert says in *The Hive and the Honey Bee*, bees winter poorly on honey dew honey which contains about 0.73% ash as opposed to floral honey with 0.17% ash. He concludes, therefore, that "Excessive levels of minerals can be toxic to honey bees..." And, as pointed out by Dr. Bromenshenk, it may not take more than a minuscule amount to make a big difference."

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QUEEN EXCLUDERS

By Gordon M. Starr

The need for queen excluders is manifest: they keep brood out of honey supers, providing a positive separation between the queen's space and our space. But commercial excluders have a few design problems. They are now costly, they allow bees laden with pollen to pass through, and they create an "empty space" larger than 5/16" between the top and bottom bars, so burr comb is often built right through them.

The fouling with burr comb can be handled, and is a nuisance, but the more serious problem is pollen-filled cells in honey supers. Quite often the harder pollen will not cut cleanly during uncapping, resulting in tearing out a portion of adjoining cells. Drawn comb is precious! Sure, the bees will probably repair the tear-if you are not using plastic-based foundation-but why bother with that problem in the first place if it can be avoided?

Realizing that worker bees will readily pass through a 1/4" mesh hardware cloth, but a queen cannot, gives us a starting point. Another point is that queens will only rarely venture to the outside frames, or to the very ends of the foundation. This means we can lay a sheet of deburred hardware cloth in the bee space-between the top bars over the brood chamber and below the bottom bars of the lowest honey super. Bee space is maintained, virtually eliminating burr comb. A width of 10 inches will hit the middle of the top bars on the next-to-outside frames of either 9 or 10 frame hives. A length of 17 1/2" will leave about a 1/2 inch on each end, actually ending right about the side bar projections on the top bar. A 10 x 17 1/2" hardware cloth of 1/4" mesh will keep the queen confined in 9 out of 10 hives, at least.

I tried various lengths and widths in experiments before settling on the above measurements. A length of 14" will allow about 1 in 4 queens to escape into the honey supers, for example, but the width of 10" seems to work just fine.

The best benefit of 1/4" hardware cloth home-built queen excluders is that it acts as a pollen trap. That makes uncapping easier, and the frames are nicely in balance when extracted. There was some minor propolizing of the mesh, but it was minor and easily removed. Freezing the mesh makes propolis brittle, and wire-brushing will remove it fast enough.

Making queen excluders from 1" hardware cloth is relatively easy. Start with a 36" roll of the mesh, which then only has to be cut in half and trimmed a square to arrive at the 17 1/2" length required. Try for a length that minimizes waste. A 6 foot length (72") allows for 7 strips of 10" x 36", with no waste, as cutting each strip wastes 1/4" of mesh (8 inside cuts of 1" means 2" lost, adding up to 72" overall.)

Small wire cutters work best to trim and cut the hardware cloth. Remember that a cut end is sharp, however, and that bees have exoskeletons which do not mix well with sharp edges! Run the cut pieces of hardware cloth on edge past a grinding wheel to remove all sharp edges, and feel the edges with your hands to make sure they are smooth!

Standard metal-bound and plastic queen excluders are available from mail-order catalogues for \$5.45, plus postage. A 36" by 72" piece of 1/4" hardware cloth costs \$11.34 (Farr's in Eugene), and yields 14 excluders for a cost per each of 81¢. For 14 exclud-

ers, that is a savings of \$64.96, excluding postage, over cheap metal-bound commercial excluders - enough to build another hive!

The main advantage to hardware cloth excluders is that they work, and work well.

ED Note: I talked with Mr. Starr about his article and the fine job he does with the Coos County Beekeepers Association Newsletter and he advised me on updates to his article. I've included them here as an addendum to this article.

"You asked about reprinting in The Bee Line my article "Queen Excluders" as published in the CCBA Newsletter, Vol. 4, #5, page 4. In the article I mentioned that a 10" by 14" hardware cloth excluder has a failure rate of about 25%. Recent experience has shown that the 10" by 17 1/2" excluders have an early spring failure rate of about 10%. Cutting the hardware cloth to dimensions of 12 1/2" by 17 1/2" allows only the outside of the outside frames to be uncovered, and I have not yet had a failure with that size excluder. The 12 1/2" width projects to about the middle of each outside top bar on either 9 or 10 frame spacing, and has all of the advantages listed in the article."

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Mr. Starr as collected all the articles he has written for the CCBA newsletter into a 144 page booklet. It is available direct from him for \$15.00, postpaid. Contact him at:

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News from the National Honey Board

National Honey Board Taps Leading Chef for Foodservice Chain Education Program

The National Honey Board will be calling on selected foodservice chains to present a honey education and menu concept program showcasing the value-added benefits of honey.

Larry D. Benares, a chef and affiliate of Culinary Core Consulting, will represent the Honey Board at these critical, hands-on meetings. As the executive chef of the Town & Country Hotel and Convention Center in San Diego, Chef Benares is a nationally-recognized culinary figure. To date, Chef Benares has concentrated his career in hotel operations, working as executive chef of the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim and the Hotel Queen Mary in Long Beach, California. He is also an award-winning member of the 1986 and 1992 USA culinary Olympic teams. In addition, Chef Benares has served as a chef instructor at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, Calif. and has participated in many workshops, seminars and public appearances. He is an active member of the American Culinary Federation and has served as president of his local chapter.

Chef Benares will be spreading the honey messages to restaurant chains around the country.

Cardetti is New Director of Board's Food Technology and Product Research Program

The National Honey Board has strengthened its food technology, product research and crisis management programs by hiring a director of food technology/product research. Marcia Cardetti was hired in December 1994 to oversee the development and implementation of the Board's food technology and product research programs.

Cardetti graduated from Purdue University with a B. S. in Food Science and obtained a graduate degree in Food Science from the University of Missouri - Columbia. For the past 10 years, Cardetti worked with Celestial Seasonings in Boulder as a product developer and manager of the company's quality laboratory.

The Board values the experience and skills of Thomas J. Payne Market Development and will continue an ongoing working relationship with the firm. Some work that was contracted with outside vendors will be brought in-house due to Marcia Cardetti's strengths and capabilities. The food technology and product research programs will benefit from this collaborative effort.

Hang Tags Helps Hook Customers

The National Honey Board has developed hang tags for honey containers.



The full-color eight-panel hang tags include honey use and storage information as well as four easy, delicious honey recipes. The front panel features the honey industry's familiar honeybear proclaiming "Let's Get Cooking." Each tag is folded to 2 1/4" x 2 1/4" and has an elastic cord for easy attachment to the necks of queen-line jars and squeeze bears.

The tags are sold in packs of 500 at a price which defrays the Honey Board's actual printing and shipping costs only - 4 cents per tag (totaling \$20 for each 500 tag package).

"Hook" new customers by adding these attractive and informative tags to your containers.



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FLUVALINATE-USE IT RIGHT OR LOSE IT!

By Malcolm T. Sanford, University of Florida

It is now official! Resistance to fluvalinate, the active ingredient in Apistan®, has been found in Varroa mites. This was published in the February 1995 issue of *Bee Culture* (Vol. 123, No. 2, pp. 80-81) in "9th International Congress of Acarology," by E. Sugden, K. Williams and D. Sammataro. According to these authors: "The most ominous report came from Dr. Roberto Nannelli of Italy. He has found areas where Varroa mites are over 90 percent

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fluvalinate-resistant, and his claims have been confirmed by German scientists."

Oscar Coindreau, representative of Sandoz Agro, the company that makes Apistan®, also verified this report at the recent meeting of the American Beekeeping Federation in Austin, TX. He indicated that resistance was patchy in Italy, but in certain areas, Apistan® provided no control. And it doesn't take much resistance before Apistan® loses its effectiveness, according to Mr. Coindreau, because anything less than 99 percent control, is in reality, no control. That's because mite populations tend to bounce back so readily in populous bee colonies.

All investigators indicate that the cause of this resistance is not Apistan®, but the misuse of other formulations of fluvalinate. In Europe the product is called Spartan® and in the United States, Mavrik®. All agree the use of these chemical products soaked into wooden strips, cardboard, paper towels, or in some cases, simply sprayed into colonies, is a certain recipe for developing resistant Varroa mites.

Although considered "ominous" in Europe, in the United States resistant mites mean disaster. That's because most other countries of the world have alternative treatments that are legal. According to the authors of the article: "In general, European scientists felt that the best way to slow development of resistance in the mites is to have at least two types of treatment which could be applied alternately." This advice is mirrored in many other situations where possible resistance in organisms to pesticides and antibiotics exists (see "When Bugs Fight Back," *APIS*, Vol. 12, No. 11, November 1994). It turns out that some European countries even have three Varroa mite treatments to

tum to, rotating Apistan® with formic acid and amitraz.

In contrast to those in Europe, United States beekeepers have only one legal treatment, Apistan®. The only other candidate treatment at the moment in the United States is formic acid. Although generally effective, there can be many complications in using this product, including, queen and worker loss even when applied correctly. It is also caustic, one reason it is not looked on favorably by regulatory officials. According to one German researcher, efforts need to be increased to develop a formic acid-based product that is safe and foolproof, and can be registered quickly.

The authors of the article, therefore, conclude: "It may not be a question of 'if' but only 'when and where' the first super-Varroa mites will show up in North America. This should serve a warning to all beekeepers to use control methods only as directed on their labels."

The best way to ensure killing as many mites as possible without developing super Varroa resistant to fluvalinate is to use Apistan® right and only once. This philosophy, along with proper application recommendations, was published in the fall 1994, *Apiculture Newsletter*, published by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Here is what the authors (G. Grant, and M. Nasr, in consultation with L. Goczan of Sandoz Agro Canada) say in their article "Apistan Strips - Use 'em Right, Use 'em once!":

"Apistan® is a plastic strip that contains a miticide, fluvalinate. Fluvalinate is a contact poison that kills Varroa mite. But Varroa mites must contact the right dose before they die.

"Fluvalinate does not mix with water, but it does mix well with oils and waxes. As bees walk over the strip, the fluvalinate moves into the oils found on the surface of their bodies. When bees contact each other in the hive, the miticide is passed on. In a matter of hours all the bees in the hive are covered with fluvalinate. Adult mites that contact these bees will be killed by the miticide.

"As fluvalinate is picked up from the surface of the strip the concentration drops. More fluvalinate then moves out from the

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center of the strip to the outside surface. The strip is designed to deliver the correct amount of miticide to the surface over the 42-day treatment period.

"Eventually most of the fluvalinate is removed from the strip - the strip is spent. There is no longer enough miticide left in the strip to kill Varroa mites . . .

"Why a 42-day treatment period? Worker bees take 21 days to develop from egg to adult. Drones need up to 24 days to develop. By leaving the strips in the hive for 42 days or two worker bee generations, all adult mites and their matured offspring will be exposed to the miticide. Remember, the mite must contact the fluvalinate in order to be killed. Mites in capped brood cells escape exposure until they emerge from the cell with the adult bee.

"Why not leave strips in over winter? Because two potential problems might occur:

1. Residues-fluvalinate mixes with oils and waxes. Leaving strips in over winter might result in a build up of residues in the wax.

2. Resistance- mites are not equally susceptible to fluvalinate. Leaving mites in contact with spent strips may kill the most susceptible mites, leaving the more resistant mites to reproduce in their place."

"Use one (1) strip for every five (5) frames covered by bees in brood boxes. Some strong hives may need three strips, some weak hives will only need one. Place strips down between the frames so that they contact each side of the cluster. The average hive will likely need two.

"Can Apistan strips be reused? No, with one exception. There is no sure way of knowing if enough fluvalinate remains in a strip to guarantee that it will work a second time.

"The exception: if the strip was used once, only for three days to detect mites, and if the strip was then stored properly between use, you might reuse the strip. You might reuse it for either detecting mites for a 3-day period or for one 42-day treatment.

"Store strips in a cool, dry and dark location wrapped in aluminum foil in an air-tight bag. Avoid direct sunlight. Don't store strips near chemicals or pesticides. Don't store strips where they could contaminate food, feed or water.

"In Ontario, Apistan® is registered as a Schedule 3 pesticide. As with other 'homeowner' products, strips are approved for disposal in municipal landfills. Some municipalities have their own special requirements for disposal of Schedule 3 pesticides."

In the United States, the instructions on the label are the law. They must be followed, even if varying from what the authors say in the above article or other writings on the subject. In addition, when applying Apistan®, or any registered chemical, the person must have in his possession a copy of the label.

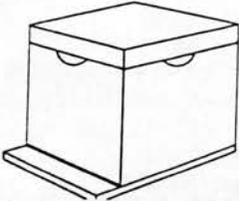
Thus, when it comes to Apistan®, the old adage, "use it or lose it," must be modified. If U.S. beekeepers are to maximize the utility of the one legal and effective treatment they have for Varroa, what many consider the most dangerous organism affecting beekeeping today, they must "use it right or lose it."

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Calender of Events

June	8	Portland Beekeepers meeting
	12	Lane County Beekeepers meeting
	14	Tualatin Valley Beekeepers meeting
	16	Coos County Beekeepers meeting
	22	Willamette Valley Beekeepers meeting
July	6	Tillamook Beekeepers meeting
	11	Lane County Beekeepers meeting
	12	Tualatin Valley Beekeepers meeting
	13	Portland Beekeepers meeting
	21	Coos County Beekeepers meeting
	30	Willamette Valley Beekeepers Summer picnic and Field Day
August	3	Tillamook Beekeepers meeting
	8	Lane County Beekeepers meeting
	9	Tualatin Valley Beekeepers meeting
	10	Portland Beekeepers meeting
	12-13	OSBA Summer Picnic & cranberry tour
	15-18	34th APIMONDIA - Lucerne, Switzerland
	15-18	Western Apiculture Society, Sacramento, CA
	18	Coos County Beekeepers meeting
	21	Willamette Valley Beekeepers meeting
October	7-8	Tri-State Conference - Spokane, WA
Dec.	2-3	OSBA Fall/Winter Convention
January	16-21	American Beekeeping Federation Convention, Portland OR

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Telephone: 986-4620

REGIONAL BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS

Coos County
Meets 7:30 p.m. third Friday (except December)
Coquille Annex, Coquille

President: Gordon M. Starr, 396-4537
Vice president: Steve McGuire, 396-3318
Secretary-treasurer: Pete DeMain, 396-3454

Klamath County
Meeting dates and sites vary.
Call officers:

President: Ken Crow, 882-1893
Vice president: Chet Hamaker, 882-2404

Lane County
Meets 7:30 p.m. second Tues;
Public Employees
Credit Union,
1155 Chambers St.,
Eugene

President: Lee Zigler, 688-5675
Vice president: Edgar Elder, 998-3199
Treasurer: Jim Sheridan, 344-1354

Newsletter Ed.: Robin Gage,
746-0808

Portland Area
Meets 7 p.m. second Thurs
Clear Creek Mutual Telephone Co.
18238 S. Fischer Mill Road,
Oregon City

Info: Rosemary Marshall, 631-7313
Southern Oregon
Meets 7:30 p.m. first Mon.;
Bee Complex, 565 Industrial Circle,
White City

President: Stan Kee, 664-3238
Vice pres.: John Campbell, 664-4867
Secretary: Lynne Behrend, 666-3426

Tillamook County
Meets 7 p.m. first Thursday;
Fish & Wildlife Bldg.,
4909 Third St., Tillamook

President: Bob Allen, 322-3819
Vice pres.: Fritz Hoffman, 842-6856
Sec.-treas.: Gregg Cline, 842-6323

Tualatin Valley
Meets 7:30 p.m. second Wed.
PGE Building,
Old Scholls Ferry Road & Murray,
Beaverton

President: Chuck Sowers, 636-3127
Vice pres.: Jim Marshall, 642-3319
Secretary: Michael Lau, 591-8864
Treas.: PattiJo Campbell, 690-9341

Willamette Valley
Meets 7:30 p.m. fourth Mon.;
Room 112, Building 50,
Chemeketa Community College, Salem

President: Walt Nichol, 585-5705
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From the Editor's Desk

This issue is a little late in going out to you because I wanted to wait until after the Executive Board meeting which was held Friday the 2nd of June. I'm glad I did because I've got all sorts of good news for you. First off, Dr. Burgett had volunteered to prepare the program for the OSBA Fall Winter meeting (see the President's Message), and has been able to secure a commitment from none other than Dr. Bill Wilson to speak at the Convention! We will have full details in upcoming issues, but be sure to mark your calendar.

Speaking of marking your calendars, what happened to all of you who said that you were coming to the Spring Field Day at the OSU Lab? I had expected over 120 people to show up based on all the people I had talked to who said they were coming. In hindsight, maybe the attendance didn't reach my expectations because the date was three weeks after you had all received your last newsletter and didn't mark your calendars. Maybe it was good weather with the promise of rain following on Sunday (not many of you had hay to bail, so that couldn't be the reason). I think the early notice and not reminding all of you a week before may have been the reason.

In any event, we only had about 36 people show up to hear a very informative presentation by Dr. Royce on parasites, hive losses, and treatment strategies, and Dr. Burgett spent a long afternoon session talking swarm control. We were also privileged to have a good number of commercial beekeepers who talked at length on strategies they use to control swarming and hive strength. Bill Ruhl was on hand to help people locate queens in hives. We also had twice as many oysters (thanks to the Tillamook Beekeepers and Bob Allen) than we could eat (and many of us stuffed ourselves on oysters) and several people got great doggy bags full of fresh oysters to take home.

Those of you who miss these meetings are not only missing out on the information in the program, you are missing a wonderful opportunity to meet with your fellow beekeepers and trade tales. For example, I was able to listen in on a discussion between John Mespelt and Chuck Sowers about all the good and bad points of various bee boom systems, and hear some great tales of boom failures. At the same time, several other beekeepers were discussing the high points of various trucks, specific features they have on their rigs, great and not-so-great ideas they have seen over the years on trucks (and asked the burning question "Why are all the 1-ton and above trucks only available in white?"). All around, groups of beekeepers were socializing and learning from each other. This is the true value of the OSBA and of the meetings.

Where else do you have the chance to meet and hear from beekeepers all over the state? Where else can you meet and learn about marketing from Bob and Joann Olstrom, or learn about queen locating and swarm catching from Bill Ruhl, or in depth discussions on 8-frame vs. 10-frame equipment for pollination vs. honey production from George Hansen?

The OSBA IS an group of beekeepers banded together to exchange information and experience, and have some fun along the way. As a member, you should take and give as much as you can. We have a picnic meeting coming up on August 12-13, and I expect all of you there! (If you can't make it, the ONLY excuse I'll accept is a copy of your canceled airline tickets to APIMONDIA!)

And, yes, the type is smaller, I needed more space for more articles.

Yours truly,

Ron Bennett

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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