

OSBA Winter Convention Plans Announced for December 6th & 7th, in Seaside

The OSBA Winter Convention and Business Meeting will be held this year at a new and larger site for us, at the Best Western Oceanview Resort in Seaside. The themes for this year's Convention will be "How to Keep Your Bees Alive" and "What Works - Proven Management Practices." The Meeting will get under way with a no-host causal get-together at, you guessed it, the bar, on Friday night, December 6th at 6:30 PM. This time is for early arrivals to meet, "schmooze", and swap tall tales.

On-site registration begins at 8:00 AM Saturday morning, December 7th (use the Pre-Registration Form in this issue and avoid the wait). The program begins at 9:00AM. Although the exact order of events will not be finalized until later this month (and published in the next *The BeeLine*), the following will serve as a good guide.

George Hansen, President of the OSBA will start the program at 9:00 AM with opening remarks and introduce the speakers, Drs. Eric Mussen, Michael Burgett and Shepard, along with Larry Torsi from the Meadowfoam Growers. The morning sessions will be followed at noon by the very popular annual Oregon State University Research Luncheon featuring our own Dr. Burgett of the Oregon State University Bee Lab.

Afternoon session will follow the OSU luncheon. We then plan to break for a panel discussion on "What Works" with leading Northwest beekeepers discussing management and treatment techniques they have used successfully. After the Panel Discussion, we will hold the annual OSBA Business Meeting.

All day there will be a silent auction, ending at 3:30 PM. At 6:00 PM there will be a no-host gathering in the bar area to be followed by the Banquet and the Live Auction. The Banquet and Auction is a social event NOT TO BE MISSED! For any of you who have not had the chance to attend this event, it is NOT your standard staid convention banquet. Come and see all of your old and new friends get embarrassed.

This full-day event offers you a chance to hear the experts and leaders in the beekeeping industry talk about the future of beekeeping and honey marketing which will affect all of us. But, more important, this is a

chance for new and old hands to meet and share the experience of beekeeping. Probably the greatest joy in beekeeping is the interchange of stories and information between people with the common and shared love of beekeeping.

Seaside, Oregon - one of Oregon's premier resort areas will be our destination this year. (See Page 6 for things to do while in Seaside.)

The **Conference Pre-Registration Form** is included with this issue. Fill this form out and mail it back to Phyllis Shoemake by November 25th and avoid the on-site registration line. Registration will be available on-site and rates for the Convention are as follows:

OSBA Members	\$25
Member family rate (2 passes)	35
Non-member	40*
Non-member family (2 passes)	50*

The special non-member rate includes a year's membership in the OSBA and 10 issues of *The BeeLine*.

The **OSU Research Luncheon**, featuring a presentation by Dr. Burgett of OSU Dept of Entomology Honeybee Lab, is **\$25 per person**, with the profit from this luncheon going to the Research Fund of the OSU Honeybee Lab. Seating is limited.

The very popular and fun **OSBA Banquet and Auction** is only **\$25 per person**. Seating is limited.

The Conference will also include our annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. A slate of nominations will appear in the next issue of the *The BeeLine*, and nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to the election. You are invited to run for any office - we welcome your participation.



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George Hansen
30576 Oswalt Road
Colton, Oregon 97017
Tel: 503-824-2265

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27977 S Schiewe Drive
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1874 Winchester NW
Salem, OR 97304
Tel: 503-364-8401

The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association and is published 10 times a year. Subscriptions are included with OSBA membership.

To join the OSBA, complete the membership application in this issue and send with payment to:
Phyllis Shoemake, 1874 Winchester NW, Salem, OR 97304

Editorial Offices - send news, announcements, letters, comments, and advertising to:

Ron Bennett, editor
11260 Simpson Road
Monmouth, OR 97361-9630
Tel: 503-838-2328
Fax: 503-838-6040
e-mail: ooffy@aol.com

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from the Editor's Desk

by Ron Bennett

Here it is almost Winter and time to wind down our beekeeping activities and think about family and friends. The Fall/Winter Convention is almost here and looks to be another exciting event and chance to meet old friends and make new ones. Those of you who have not made it to any of the other OSBA events in recent times should make every effort to attend. This is especially true for all of you who are new to beekeeping. You will meet the true experts in Northwest beekeeping and learn more in these two days than you can from reading any book, and you will have a chance to meet some of the nicest people you will ever meet. Don't be shy, the Doctors and commercial beekeepers that attend and some of the most accessible people you will ever meet.

I was again reminded that we all need to be very careful of the information we read and hear about beekeeping. This hobby/business has a long history and much has been written and said about different ways to keep bees. I publish, through the year, a lot of articles about different techniques and treatments that are under study around the world, but because you read it here or somewhere else does not necessarily mean that you should be trying these techniques and treatments! Not only is using an unregistered treatment illegal and potentially dangerous, IT MAY NOT WORK AT ALL! Your bees are living things and deserve all the respect that should be accorded any living thing. We should not put their lives in discomfort or danger just to try some different/cheaper way of treating or managing them.

I was especially reminded about the value of some of this information last month in a ongoing dialogue with a beekeeper about treatments using formic acid. The first go-around, the information he got and tried was only strong enough to treat for tracheal mites, not varroa as first told. Upon searching down the source from a mid-west beekeeper using formic acid, and menthol grease boards, the keeper tells my friend that he has stopped using formic acid because three of his worker got injured enough using it to have to go to the hospital for treatment. And, to top this all off, this mid-west beekeeper tells my friend that he is going to try to find some Maverik® to make up his own strips! So much for a credible source.

I was tempted to run an article from an English source about their work on using essential oils as a treatment. But, a local beekeeper called me and asked me if I had the "formula" that had been mentioned in recent articles on essential oils in the local media. I started to talk about the formula the English were using, quickly realized that this information was useless at best, even if the stuff really works. The formula is listed in percentages, with no mention of what concentration of

Cont. on Page 11

Advertising Rates

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

Building Bumblebee (*Bombus*) Nests - a Winter Project for Beekeepers

*Here is a simple set of plans for building your own *Bombus* nests as a Winter project. I've always wanted to try this and I've had several people ask about bumblebee nests and keeping other bees as pollinators, so I searched around and found a couple of different plans for not only bumblebee nests, but plans for leaf cutter bees and mason bees, which we will publish in upcoming issues. Ed.*

GENERAL INFORMATION

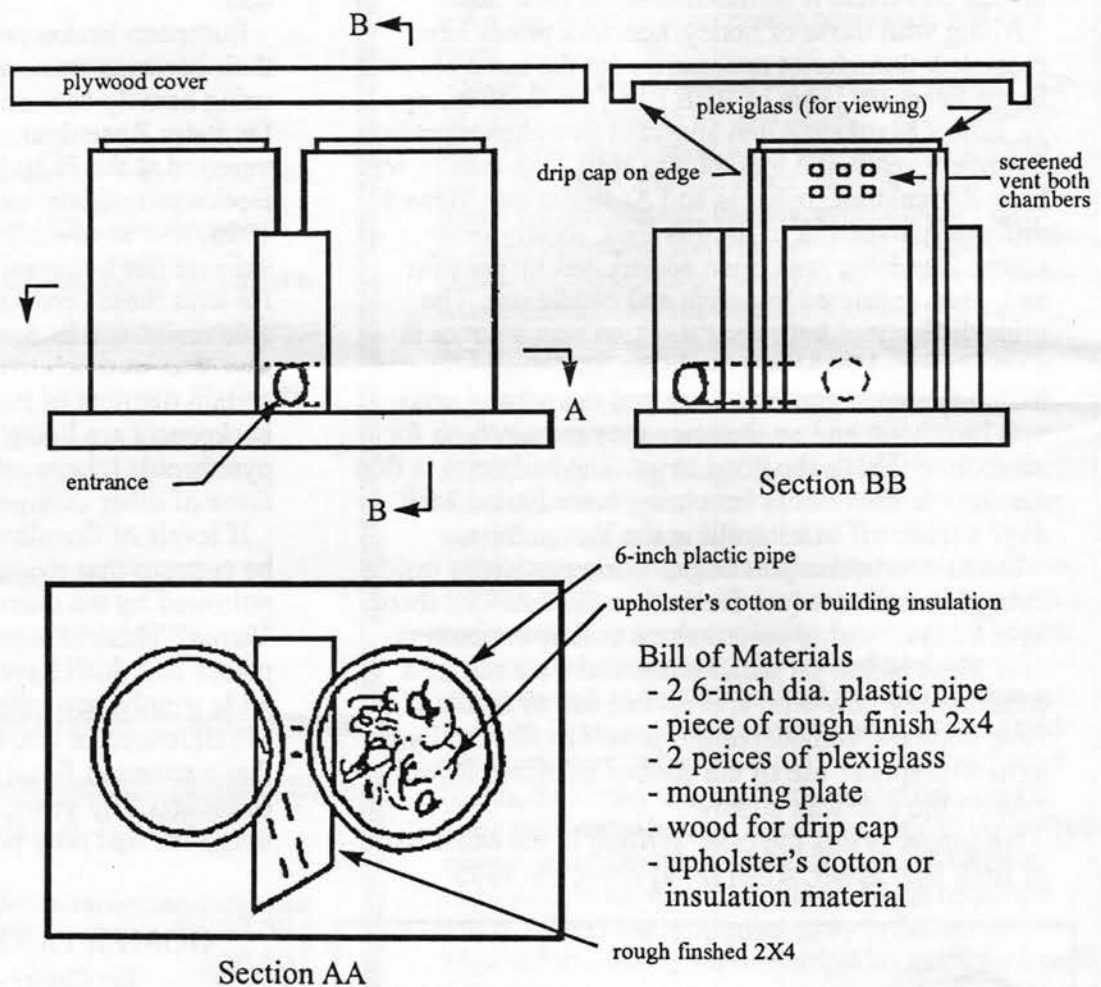
Bumblebees are very efficient pollinators. They work flowers that have no nectar, unlike honeybees. They also grab the anthers of flowers and shake them, which is necessary to free pollen in some blossoms. Bumblebees will work on cool, overcast days while honeybees remain in their hives.

The accompanying drawings illustrate some of the basic needs of the Bumblebees for an outside nest (nests in greenhouses are slightly different as they are out of the weather and the bees are captive in the greenhouse), but are suggestions only. An "Ultimate" Bumblebee nest will only come about as a result of trial and error and careful

observations by interested individuals. A supply of dry insulation material in a dark undisturbed area is the bees basic requirement. Also desirable is limited access - for defense purposes. Two chambers are also helpful. This provides them with a vestibule area where they can defecate rather than contaminating their nest area. Other

Cont. on Page 8

Bumblebee Nest Style, One



Notch the plastic pipe to accept the 2x4. Drill 5/8 inch hole from one end of the 2x4 at an angle to form the entrance. In the center of the 2x4 near the top edge, drill a 1-inch hole to provide a connection between the chambers. Drill vent holes in the plastic pipe (to provide ventilation at both ends of the nest). Cover the holes with fine screen. Assemble the pipe sections and the 2x4 on the base plate using silicone sealant (the plexiglass on the vestibule pipe should be left free so it can be removed for cleaning). Place a cut-to-fit piece of disposable corrugated cardboard on the vestibule floor (this will allow for easy clean-up). Place a plywood cover on the top. Weigh down the top with a brick or stone so it will not blow off in a wind.

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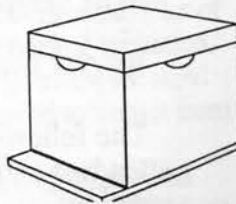
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OSBA Convention Hotel Information

Now is the time to make your hotel reservations for the OSBA Winter Convention in Seaside. The Convention starts Friday night, December 6th with a no-host causal get-together at the Best Western Oceanview Resort. We have made special arrangements with the Oceanview Resort for a discount rate for OSBA Convention attendees.

The Best Western Oceanview Resort is at 414 N. Promenade, right downtown in the most popular part of Seaside.

ROOM RATES -

The following rates will be guaranteed to OSBA attendees and be in effect over the dates of the meeting:

Mountain View/Standard Rooms (MV, STD)

\$ 60.00 per night

Partial View Rooms (OV, SOV, DOV, HCP)

\$ 60.00 per night

Ocean Front Queen (OFQ)

\$ 60.00 per night

Ocean Front Jacuzzi Rooms (OFJ)

\$145.00 per night

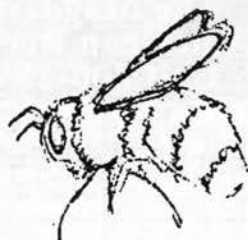
All room rates are subject to lodging tax, currently 7%.

PRE-ARRIVALS/STAY OVERS -

Guests arriving earlier or departing after the official dates will be confirmed on a space available basis. Convention rates will be extended two (2) days before and two (2) days after the official meeting dates subject to availability.

Individuals participating in the OSBA meeting must make their own guest room reservations by calling the Resort directly at 1-800-234-8439 and identifying themselves as being with the Oregon State Beekeepers Association.

All reservation requests are to be guaranteed arrivals, and either secured by major credit card or an advance deposit equal to the first night's room and tax.



Things to Do in and Around Seaside!

Seaside -

Seaside's Million Dollar Walk - Shopping Malls and Speciality Shops all along Broadway.

2-Mile Long "Promenade" (our Hotel is right in the middle of the Promenade).

End of the Lewis & Clark Trail

Fine Dinning

Gorgeous Beach

ASTORIA -

Columbia River Maritime Museum - 325-2323
(*\$5 adults - \$4 seniors - \$2 ages 6 to 17*)

Flavel House - 325-2563

Astor Column

WARRENTON -

Fort Stevens State Park

(10 miles north of Seaside off Hwy 101, a Civil War fort once fired upon by the Japanese during WWII, remains of the shipwrecked "Peter Iredale", gift shop and tour).

Fort Clatsop National Memorial

(15 miles north of Seaside off HWY 101 is the location of Lewis & Clark's winter camp of 1805).

CANNON BEACH -

Artist's Village

Fine Dinning

Shopping

Haystack Rock and Ecola State Park

GOLF COURSES -

Seaside Golf Course - 738-5261

(7 days - \$8/9 holes - \$16/18 holes)

Gearhart Golf Links - 738-3538

(7 days - \$11/9 holes - \$20/18 holes)

Highlands Golf Course - 738-5248

(7 days - \$7/9 holes - \$12/18 holes)

Manzanita Golf Course - 368-5744

(7 days - \$11/9 holes - \$22/18 holes)

SURREYS, BICYCLES ETC. -

Promenade Bike Shop - 738-8251

Seaside Surrey Rentals - 738-0242

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HONEY-NUT CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Rose M. Negri, Torrington, CT
Ladies Home Journal Dec '94

Dough

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- Pinch salt
- 1 cup cold butter, cut up
- 1 pack (8 oz.) cream cheese, cut up

Filling

- 1 cup walnuts
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 6 Tlbs. honey
- 1 tsp. butter, melted
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

1. Combine flour and salt in large bowl. With pastry blender or 2 knives, cut in butter and cream cheese until blended. Divide in half; shape dough into ball. Wrap and refrigerate 1 hour.
2. Filling: Grind nuts with sugar in food processor. Transfer to bowl; stir in honey, butter and cinnamon. Makes 1 cup.
3. Preheat oven to 325°F. Grease 2 cookie sheets. On well-floured surface, roll half the dough 1/8 inch thick. Cut into circles with floured 2-inch round cookie cutter. Place 1 teaspoon filling on half the circles. Top with remaining circles; press edges with fork to seal. Transfer to prepared cookie sheets. Bake 22 to 25 minutes, until golden. Cool on wire racks. Repeat with remaining dough scraps and filling. Makes 4 dozen.

Basics in Northwest Beekeeping

by Ron Bennett

As we shift into our Fall/Winter program, our bees are in the process of preparing to cluster up (they form a tight ball of bees in the central area of the hive to conserve warmth) for the Winter. There are still yellowjackets about and on warmer days, bees from other hives may try to rob, so continue precautions against robbing - reduce the entrance opening of the hive.

One good way to help your hives is to tilt the hive slightly forward by placing a board under the back edge of the hive. This points the entrance downward and helps to keep water from gathering on the bottom board of the hive. Another point to keep in mind is that your top may not be water tight and placing a cover over the top (a sheet of ply larger than the top, of any good stiff water-tight



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material will do) and putting a weight (a brick or rock) to keep it from blowing off will help keep your bees warm and dry.

And, in keeping them dry, they tend to generate a lot of water vapor in the hive in winter from normal aspiration. Cracking the top open and putting a few toothpick sized sticks will give the hive enough ventilation to keep it from turning into a dank damp environment.

Remember to feed all light colonies with a saturated sugar syrup (190 parts sucrose, 100 parts water), but don't feed poor grades of honey.

Fumigate your stored comb against wax moths with mothballs (DO NOT MIX THE TWO DIFFERENT KINDS OF ACTIVE INGREDIENT IN MOTH BALL FORMULATIONS), or expose the comb to sunlight or freeze to kill moth larvae. Your bees invested a tremendous amount of energy and resources into creating that comb and you should value and protect this asset carefully. Also protect your stored comb from mice by whatever method you are comfortable with. Mice can destroy boxes of comb in short order.

And, treat with Terramycin for Foulbrood, either as a program of sprinkling a mixture of one 6.4oz pack of terramycin to two pounds of POWDERED sugar (not granulated) and spreading a hive tool scoopful around the edges of the top bars of the brood frames once a week for three weeks (DO NOT SPRINKLE ANY ON THE BEES OR IN THE BROOD AREA), or as terramycin/vegetable shortening/granulated sugar patties placed on the top bars.

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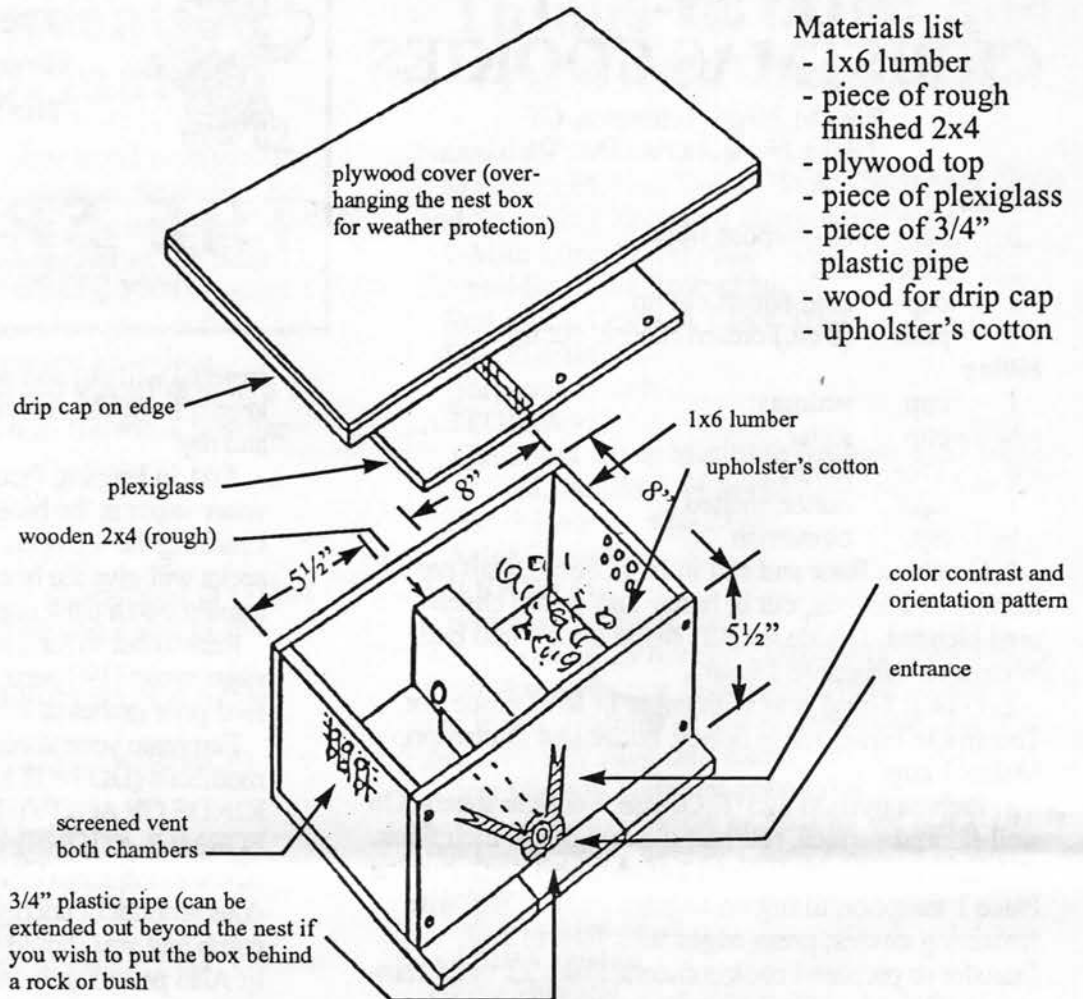
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Continued from Page 4 features that add to the attractiveness are a tunnel entrance, protection from the weather, ventilation and color contrast at the entrance. Several studies seem to indicate that a pattern or "marker" of some type at the entrance helps the bees with orientation and location of the nest. A couple of colors they seem to like are pale yellow and mauve. But again, only time and to experimentation will reveal the ultimate solutions. Last but not least is hygiene. Nest boxes must be sterilized and contaminated items disposed of each year. Consequently it is suggested that you **DO NOT USE PLYWOOD** expect for tops which are not in contact with the bees, unless you plan to replace it each year. It has been found that plywood cannot normally be properly sterilized.

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Bumblebee Nest, Style Two



- Materials list
- 1x6 lumber
 - piece of rough finished 2x4
 - plywood top
 - piece of plexiglass
 - piece of 3/4" plastic pipe
 - wood for drip cap
 - upholster's cotton

Construct the lower box using 1x6 lumber. Screw unit together (using a small amount of silicone sealant in the joints). Cut a piece of rough finished 2x4 to length. Secure it in place using silicone sealant. Drill hole to suit and insert piece of plastic pipe. Drill vent holes in both end and cover with fine screen. Put upholster's cotton in the nest compartment. Put a cut-to-fit piece of disposable corrugated cardboard on the vestibule floor (this will allow for easy cleaning of this area). Secure the plexiglass over the nest area with screws. Using tape as a hinge, position the plexiglass over the vestibule area (this will allow access to the vestibule without disturbing the nest area). Place plywood cover on top. Weigh the top down with a brick or stone so it does not blow off in the wind.

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Queens, Bees,
Honey &
Pollination

Cont. from Page 8 The drawings show upholster's cotton which is readily available at upholster's shops and is relatively inexpensive. Nevertheless, several people have observed that the Bumblebees seem to be quite happy with fiberglass insulation (in the walls of sheds). This is an area that needs more field trial and observation. It could be that different bumblebees prefer different nesting material.

NEST

Nests must be dry and well insulated because Bumblebee larvae are very sensitive to temperature extremes. If the temperature drops below 30 degrees C (Bumblebees create their own heat), the young's growth will be stunted.

As with any collection of bees, cleanliness is very important. This is particularly true with Bumblebees as they will defecate in their nest area. Therefore, the nest should have two chambers; a vestibule chamber where the bees can defecate and a nesting chamber.

Nest chambers should be about 6" X 6" or slightly larger. The vestibule can be slightly smaller.

A landing surface at the entrance is an attraction, particularly for inexperienced foragers.

The use of a tunnel entrance with no steps allows the colony to better protect itself. The ideal entrance diameter is 5/8 of an inch but no larger than 3/4 of an inch.

The inside divider needs to be rough so bees can get a grip when they climb over it.

Make sure adequate weather protection is provided (ie. overhanging roof).

Paint around the entrance hole to provide a color

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contrast; an "orientation-pattern" seems to be even more attractive.

TIPS

Let your nest box weather outside for a while before you put it into use. This will allow any paint or caulking odors to dissipate.

Set nest out in the early spring when the first flowers, such as Willows, are starting to bloom.

Bumblebees may search all day long for up to two weeks to find an "ideal" nest site.

If you are planning to introduce a Queen to your nest, rather than taking a chance that they will find it, it has been suggested that you get a bee without pollen in her "baskets". The theory is that a Bumblebee with pollen in her "baskets" has already chosen a nest site and consequently will not stay in yours. This theory may be true, but still needs some more research.

Bumblebees are very fickle. They may use your nest one year but not the next. Also, if they find a better location before they are really settled in or if they are too badly disturbed, they will move. If you get one box in three occupied, consider yourself lucky.

DO NOT take the cover off your nest (once the Bumblebees have started nesting) more than once a day or the bees will probably vacate.

This article is taken from a sheet from an unknown newsletter with R. Welland listed as the author. Notes indicate that the source is in British Columbia, CANADA. We are thankful to R. Welland for this information.



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Who's Who in the OSBA Resource Guide

OFFICERS

President:
George Hansen
30576 Oswalt Road
Colton, OR 97017
503-824-2265

Vice president:
Charles Mock
27977 S Schiewe Drive
Colton, OR 97017
503-824-3456

Newsletter Editor:
Ronald Bennett
11260 Simpson Road
Monmouth, OR 97361
503-838-2328

Secretary - treasurer:
Phyllis Shoemaker
1874 Winchester NW
Salem, OR 97304
503-364-8401

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Central Oregon:
Bob Morgan
3800 Benson Road
The Dalles, OR 97058
541-298-5719

Eastern Oregon:
Dave Lefore
Rt. 3 Box 207E
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862
541-938-3286

Metropolitan Area:
Chuck Sowers
4390 Lords Lane
Lake Oswego, OR 97035
503-636-3127

North Coast:
Bob Allen
P.O. Box 434
Garibaldi, OR 97118
503-322-3819

South Coast:
Joann Olstrom
3164 Maple Court
Reedsport, OR 97467
541-271-4726

Southern Oregon:
George Steffensen
1634 Fish Hatchery Road
Grants Pass, OR 97527
541-474-4305

Willamette Valley:
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RESOURCES:

Dr. Michael Burgett
Department of Entomology
Cordley Hall 2046
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331-2907
Telephone: 541-737-4896

Dr. Lynn Royce
Assistant/associate
Department of Entomology
Cordley Hall 2046
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331-2907
Telephone: 541-737-4733

Jim Cramer
Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
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Meets 7:30 p.m. third Friday (except
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541-344-1354

Newsletter Ed.: Lee Zigler,
541-688-5675

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

Info: Rosemary Marshall, 503-631-7313

Southern Oregon
Meets 7:30 p.m. first Mon.;
S.O. Research & Extension Center
569 Hanley Road, Central Point

President: Stan Kee, 541-664-3238
Vice pres.: John Campbell, 541-664-4867
Secretary: George Steffensen,
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Meets 7 p.m. first Thursday;
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Vice pres.: Fritz Hoffman, 503-842-6856
Sec.-treas.: Gregg Cline, 503-842-6323

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

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Calendar of Events

October 18	Coos County Meeting, Coquille
28	WVBA Meeting, Salem
Nov. 4	So. Oregon Beekeepers, Central Point
7	Tillamook Beekeepers
12	Lane County Meeting, Eugene
13	Tualatin Meeting, Beaverton
14	Portland Meeting, Oregon City
15	Coos County Meeting, Coquille
25	WVBA Meeting, Salem
Dec 6-7	OSBA Fall Conference, Seaside



Cont. from Page 2

the oils is to be mixed, whether it is by weight or volume, or how much, when, how, or how long to apply the mixture or what mite or mites the treatment is for!

The bottom line is that you should manage and treat your bees per the book! Any of the better beekeeping books will do and tell you all you need to know about how to treat and manage your bees best. You will need to seek the advice of a beekeeping supplier for the latest APPROVED AND TESTED method of treating for mites not listed in your book. Even beekeeping books from the late 19th Century will tell you all you need to know with the exception of diseases such as AFB, Nosema, and mites. Beekeeping hasn't really changed much in the last 120 years.

If you choose to "experiment" with different management or treatments, don't do it to all your hives, and take it slow and document what you are doing. Dr. Burgett told me recently about a professor he had back at Cornell University that upon watching all his young entomology students working on their bees and trying all sorts of different thing on the bees, said "If only bees could cry."

While I'm not too far removed from my diatribe on believing all you read and hear - George Steffensen, our Southern Oregon Area representative sent me the following:

"I found this on the Bee-L list [on the Internet]. You might want to put in the next Bee Line.

As beekeepers you should not be using ibuprofen or its related compounds (fenoprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, sulindac, piroxicam, suprofen, tolmetin, etc). The Maryland Beekeeping Newsletter, indicates that at least two cases have been reported on the use of the anti-inflammatory drug, ibuprofen.

The use of ibuprofen correlated with loss of immunity to bee stings, resulting in allergic reactions. The Internet brought up about ten reports with the reaction being exactly like anaphylactic shock.

The loss of immunity was originally published in Understanding Prescription Drugs by Dorothy L. Smith (pp. 270-271) and referenced in the British Medical Journal 292:378, 1986.

George"

Wonders never cease.

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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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