
THE BEE LINE



The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 23, Number 8

September 1998

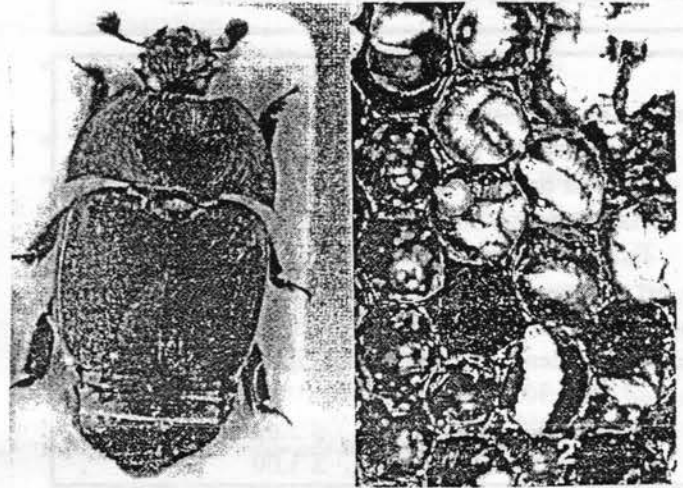
The Small Hive Beetle - How Serious a Problem?

By Dr. Michael Burgett

In the late spring of this year the discovery of a new honey bee pest in the United States was announced. It is called the small hive beetle, or the South African hive beetle. It was initially discovered in Florida – why is it that honey bee pests new to our continent always seem to appear in Florida first? That aside, the news media have given this beetle a relatively large amount of play and many people within the US beekeeping industry are concerned.

The beetle's scientific name is *Aethina tumida* and is a member of the Nitidulidae family, commonly called sap beetles. Prior to its discovery in the US, it was known only from Africa. In Africa this beetle is active during the summer, a period when five generations of beetles can be reared. Adult beetles will collect near the bottom of an infested hive and feed on pollen. The larval beetles are responsible to most of the damage to a hive. They feed on honey and pollen that is stored in the combs. This beetle's life history is actually quite similar to that of wax moths, pests that nearly all beekeepers are familiar with. And, like wax moths, the small hive beetles can be most destructive when unprotected combs are placed in storage.

If Africa, the beetle appears to be confined to tropical and subtropical areas. So the question arises, how far can it spread in the US? And the answer is, we do not know. Certainly for the



southeastern and southwestern US the beetle is a potential threat. But for the northern states, we do not yet know if it can establish itself.

Presently there is an active program on the part of the USDA and the Florida Dept. of Agriculture to learn more about this pest. South African sources have said that the beetle is not a major problem for healthy, strong hives. Some beekeepers in Florida, however, have commented (cont. on page 3)

What's Inside:

- * More on Essential Oils – Dr. Lynn Royce
- * Apimondia '99 – by Connie Petty
- * NW Corner Beekeepers Conference Update and Registration Form

Oregon State Beekeepers Association

The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association and is published ten 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

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Full page	100.00

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Classified Ads, 30 words, per issue:

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President's Notes

by Torey Johnson

Hope to find everyone in good health along with your bees.

Medication is in by now and extracting is going strong. This brings me to a sore subject – honey prices. If you have been trying to sell, or looking at a national publication, you know what I mean. I talked recently with a man from South Carolina who had just sold good quality orange honey for 61 cents per pound. Prices in the book do not look good at all. I've seen as low as 55 cents for amber honey!

Why have we gone back to such low prices? Have we not supported our National Honey Board enough? Is NAFTA hurting us? Is China slipping in more and more honey through other countries that don't have the price restrictions, or is it that our government doesn't care how much is dumped here? The bee community doesn't mean much to them (maybe just a sting in their side).

I've never been one to call my local representative, congressman or senator but maybe we should! Not just beekeepers but farmers in general. Look at the sheep industry, the beef industry, and the raspberry industry. The tons of raspberries shipped in from Argentina doesn't help the raspberry farmer.

Make your voice heard. It won't hurt and it lets the government know we have a pulse and are checking theirs. Addresses and telephone numbers of your local representatives and your US Senators and Congressmen are listed in your local telephone directories.

Good luck – we are all in this together.

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(cont. from page 1)

that this pest will attack even strong hives. And another problem is how far it has spread in the US. We know from experience with the tracheal mite and the varroa mite that once in the US it takes about two years for a new bee pest to spread widely throughout the continent. So far several other states have reported the beetle pest. Florida is a big beekeeping state, and like sun-seeking humans, many thousands of out-of-state colonies over-winter in Florida.

If and when this beetle reaches the Pacific Northwest, how serious a problem will it be? As stated above, at this moment we really do not know. However it is believed that the standard control measures for wax moths will surely have an impact on beetle populations, especially under stored comb conditions. At this time my opinion is that the beetle, if it is able to establish itself in our region, will be a minor problem. With that said, I must also add that there are a number of unknowns concerning this beetle and it might turn out to be more than a minor problem – time and further studies on this beetle in Africa and Florida will provide us with more answers in the near future.

Should any Pacific Northwest beekeeper discover an unfamiliar insect inside a colony, I would strongly recommend that you collect some specimens and send them to the Honey Bee Laboratory at OSU.

Northwest Beekeeping

September- Crops in bloom producing nectar and/or pollen: various herbs, white clover, peppermint, pumpkin, squash, gourds.

Others: aster, borage, hollyhock, sagebrush, thistle.

- Provide water continuously.
- Don't tempt robber bees by exposing honey.
- Install mouse guards on all hives. Use galvanized hardware cloth with ½ inch holes.
- Check your stored comb for possible wax moth infestation.
- Pay your dues to your State and local beekeeper's associations.
- Feed if needed.
- Sign up to make school visitations this month, if possible, when most teachers make their requests. Join a partner if you want to be an assistant.

Thank you to Portland Beekeeper Association members Stephanie Barnes, David Gage, Rosemary Marshall, Ernie McCormack and Bill Ruhl, for Almanac review and suggestions, 1996.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug.27-Sept. 7 Oregon State Fair

Sept. 20 Deadline for *The Bee Line*

Nov.12-14 Northwest Corner Beekeepers Conference, Seaside, Oregon. For more information contact Bart Snyder at 503-245-4524.

Jan.7-12, 1999 American Beekeeping Federation Annual Meeting, Nashville, Tennessee. For further information visit the ABF web site at www.abfnet.org. For info about the Trade Show and advertising opportunities call the ABF office at 912-427-4233.

Sept.2-18,1999 Apimondia, Vancouver BC For further information see article in this Issue of *The Bee Line* by Connie Petty.



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More on Essential Oils

By Dr. Lynn Royce

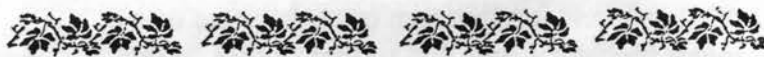
Mite control in honey bee colonies is complicated by the fact that we have two very different mite parasites. The differences in behavior, physiology and probably body size of these parasites affect the efficacy of pesticides. Thus, the same pesticide may kill both mites, but to do so in a colony it may have to be presented in different ways. For example, amitraz will kill both mites. When amitraz is used against varroa it could be impregnated in plastic strips like fluvalinate (Apistan), but this formulation will not reach tracheal mites. However, amitraz is very effective against tracheal mites when it is burned in the hive.

Essential oils are another promising group of chemicals that may affect both mites. Most experiments with essential oils are directed at varroa control. As mentioned in a previous article, reproduction seems to be affected; I suspect that some component of the essential oil mimics a compound essential to the mites physiological pathway to egg production. Direct contact with some essential oils also kills varroa; thus, formulations that bring varroa into contact with the essential oil work well. One method used by researchers at West Virginia University is called a tracking strip. This is a piece of Plexiglas 3" wide by 1/8" thick by 14" long to lie just inside the entrance on the bottom board. A slurry of wax, vegetable oil and essential oil is spread on the Plexiglas such that the bees must walk through the slurry going in and out of the hive; thus, they get the essential oils onto themselves and bring it in contact with varroa. For more information on this technique see web site:

<http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/varroa/varroa2.htm#tracheal>. These researchers have tried several oils in their experiments: wintergreen, tea tree and patchouli. There is some evidence from their experiments that the essential oils are also effective against tracheal mites.

We are familiar with menthol and know that it comes from the oil distilled from mint. Mint belongs to a family of plants with the family name

Labiata. This family also includes mint, germander, sage and horehound, to name a few. All these plants have distinctive odors. Patchouli oil comes from a plant, *Pogostemon patchouli* in the mint family. This plant grows in East Indonesia and Paraguay. Oil of a related species *Pogostemon Heyneanus* is sometimes used, but the components of the oil are somewhat different, and it is considered inferior if you are in the aromatherapy business. I have also read that cedar oil may sometimes be used as an alternate. So if you want to buy a particular oil, be sure you know what you are getting. Since no one has done the research to know exactly which components in the oil are active against the mite a change in plant could change the efficacy of the oil. We have also found that with menthol the efficacy changes in different climates. It is obvious that more work need to be done on these oils and there may be many other plants within this family that have oils to offer for the control of mites.



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Bee Musings

by Diane Varner

Technology is catching up with me. I now have a fax line (503-662-4594) and e-mail (Raybee@band1.bandwidth.net). It is now easier than ever to get in touch with me, and easier for me to make contacts on behalf of *The Bee Line*. I'm learning how to surf the web, and while I find some interesting things I also notice how much bad information is out there. Just because it is on the web does not mean it is accurate information!

I personally purchased a new software program to use in creating *The Beeline*. From what I have seen so far, Publisher 98 will help polish the appearance of the newsletter and make it more professional. The weather has been so nice that I am kept busy outdoors and have not taken time to learn the new program, but with cooler, wetter fall days approaching I'll work on it. Watch for changes.

Ray and I will be working the Bee Booth at the Oregon State Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 2nd. I will have results of judging and let you know who took home the ribbons, with photos and winning recipes, too. Forecasted temperatures are in the mid-80's so hopefully it won't be too bad for either the bees or us.

Interesting publicity this last month: the Aug. 21st issue of the *Capital Press* had an article about entitled "Killer Bee invasion nears California population center". It reports the Africanized bees in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, San Diego, and within 50 miles of Las Vegas, Nevada. El Nino gets the blame for bringing the bees out of the desert and closer to populated areas. Killer bees and mites are the two questions people ask about most often when they find out we keep bees, so the public is concerned.

Please help me use my new technology and send me articles, letters to the editor and/or comments via fax or e-mail. We will be on the road again in September --- watch for us!

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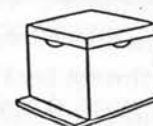
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North America Hosts Apimondia '99 in Vancouver, BC

By Connie Petty

It couldn't be closer: Apimondia '99 – the International Federation of Beekeepers' Association's XXXVIth Biennial Congress – will meet September 12-18, 1999 in Trade and Convention Centre on the waterfront in Vancouver, British Columbia.

If you're among those who have traveled to Budapest or Beijing – or Athens or Acapulco – to take in meetings, you're lucky. Vancouver is less than 1,000 miles from most Northwest beekeepers, and about 400 for those who live in the Willamette Valley.

This time the Hungarians, Chinese, Greeks and Mexicans must travel to what is really part of our Northwest: in a way, it is also our conference.

Apimondia has met three times on the North American continent: At the University of Maryland in 1967 and in Acapulco, Mexico in 1981. The Acapulco meeting was where I witnessed a six-foot Polish beekeeper hugging a four-foot Korean beekeeper he had met at a previous conference.

Planners promise a diversified program of interest to all levels of beekeeping, from hobby to commercial, along with workshops, tours and the ApiExpo trade show. But meeting people is also what these conferences are about.

Languages? No problem for the English-speaking. Sessions will be available in English, French, Spanish, German and possibly others, if justified. Conferees may speak different languages, however, when they tour an apiary, no spoken language is necessary.

The theme of Apimondia '99 is "Beekeeping in the New Millennium". Vancouver apiculturist Mark Winston (a guest speaker at a number of OSBA and Northwest beekeeping conferences) chairs the planning committee.

According to Winston, more than 150 speakers were invited to participate in large plenary and smaller symposia on dozens of aspects of beekeeping and bee research topics. Another

hundred submitted papers. The confirmed speakers list reads like an international "Who's Who in Beekeeping".

To pique your interest, here are a few topics: Advances in Bee Products and Marketing; Commercial Beekeeping in North America; Risks of World-wide Movement of Bees and Bee Products; The African Honey Bee in the Americas; Honey Bees and Native Pollinators; Production of Certified and Hybrid Seed; Honey, Wax and International Trade; The Scientific Basis of Apitherapy; Beekeeping for Rural Development; Beekeeping in Developing Countries, and Beekeeping Education in the 21st Century.

Also, pollination of cranberries and blueberries, and alfalfa flower production and leafcutting bee management, and management of Japanese native bumblebees.

Beekeeping journalists will get together to discuss their aims as well as the validity of the written word in this electronic age.

Speakers and topics include Larry Krause, on migratory beekeeping in the U.S., Jim Tew, on varroa spread in the U.S., and Don Dixon on the Canadian mite experience; Richard Adee on migratory beekeeping as a disseminator during session on the world-wide movement of bees and bee products. Bill Rubink will discuss varroa mites and the population of Africanized honey bees in Mexico and Texas.

Other confirmed speakers include Bob Gulliford, Australia; Dennis McKenna and Gard Otis, Canada; Norberto Milani, Italy; Masato Ono, Japan; Andrew Matheson of New Zealand; Joop Beetsma, The Netherlands; Mark Goodwin, the United Kingdom; and Keith Delaplane and Steve Sheppard, both of the United States.

Apimondia sponsors are: British Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Dadant & Sons, Medivet Pharmaceuticals, Apistan, National Honey Board of the United States, Bee Maid Honey and Western Wax Works, Arataki Honey Ltd., Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada/Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada, Simon Fraser University (Vancouver) and the Canadian Farm Business Management (cont. on page 7)

(cont. from page 6)

Council/Conseil Canadien de la Gestion d'entreprise Agricole. The Congress is hosted by the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists and Canadian Honey Council.

Symposia sponsors: University of Guelph, National Honey Board, American Association of Professional Apiculturists & Apriary Inspectors of America, and the British Columbia Honey Producers Association. Lecture series sponsor: Eastern Apiculture Society. The Program Chair is Gard Otis, Ontario Agriculture College, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

For more information, see the web site at: program@apimondia99.com.

Dr. Eric Mussen Featured Speaker at NW Conference

Dr. Eric Mussen from the University of California / Davis is a featured speaker at the Northwest Corner Beekeepers Conference this November. Dr. Mussen's topic on Friday will be "How About Those Queens". He will also be the keynote speaker at the banquet Friday night.

Dr. Mussen received his PhD in Entomology from the University of Minnesota. His dissertation topic was "Sacbrood Virus of Honey Bees". In 1976 he was hired as an Extension Apiculturist at UC Davis. Since then he has authored over fifty articles in scientific journals and industry magazines, and produces a bimonthly industry newsletter.

Letter to the Editor: Hive Sampling Important Tool

I appreciate the efforts of the OSBA Research Committee that encourages beekeepers to sample their bees. I think it is important to note the date and location the sample was taken, and where within the hive. To understand whether the medication was successful, it is recommended to take a sample before, and then two weeks after you medicate. To compare a before and after sampling you would want to sample as similarly as possible, so your results would not fluctuate due to sampling method. Because a honey bee colony has changing dynamics depending on the nectar, pollen, weather, medications and health of the colony, sample results should be correlated to the varying conditions. It can all seem very confusing, but I think the bottom line is this—sampling helps to give you a picture of the health of your hive, that you cannot observe. It is another "hive tool" that can help beekeepers with management decisions.

Jan Dormaier, Microbiologist
Box 163 - 45289 Rd. Q NE
Hartline, WA 99135



Dr. Eric Mussen

Dr. Mussen's research interests are varied and many. He also recently captured the Guinness World Record for a bee mantle (bigger than a beard). He is well-respected and well-spoken. Don't miss Dr. Mussen at the Conference.

Northwest Corner Beekeepers Conference Update

By Bart Snyder

Seaside, Oregon is the location for this year's Northwest Corner Beekeepers Conference, hosted by the Oregon State Beekeepers in conjunction with the Idaho State Beekeepers Association, the Washington State Beekeepers Association and the British Columbia Beekeepers Association. The Best Western Oceanview Resort will host the meetings, from November 12 - 14, 1998.

Following is a brief outline of the agenda to date:

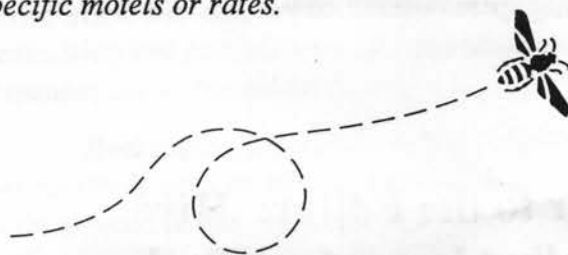
Thursday evening: welcoming reception, with mead, wine and cheese tasting social.

Friday: Welcome from the OSBA President, Torey Johnson; Conference details from the OSBA Vice President, Bart Snyder; *"How About Those Queens"*, by Dr. Eric Mussen, University of California at Davis Bee Lab; *Amitraz Study Report"*, by Dr. Lynn Royce, Oregon State University Entomologist; *"Zoecon Report on other than Apistan Treatment"* (speaker to be announced); *"Essential Oil Study"*, by Dr. Lynn Royce; *"American Beekeeping Federation and National Honey Board Report"*, delegate to be announced; and Dr. William Wilson from WESLACO Bee Lab, Texas, subject to be announced. In addition, there will be commercial exhibits open for inspection. State and Province business meetings are scheduled for late afternoon. In the evening there will be a banquet, with Dr. Eric Mussen as keynote speaker, followed by an OSBA benefit auction.

Saturday: Dr. Steve Shepphard, Washington State University Entomologist and Dr. William Wilson from WESLACO Bee Lab, Texas, will speak on subjects yet to be announced; Dr. Michael Burgett, Oregon State University Entomologist will speak on the *"Madras Pollination Study 1998"*, and a report on the OSBA Web Page Efforts and Pollination List will be made (speaker to

be announced). Other events include the Research Luncheon and several drawings.

A registration form is enclosed in this edition of *The Bee Line*. Please complete and mail the form to Bart Snyder as soon as possible. Also, make your room reservations soon. The Best Western Oceanview Resort can be reached at 1-800-234-8439. *Editor's note: For additional room information at other motels, call the Seaside Chamber of Commerce at 800-452-6740 (inside Oregon only). Another contact is a free service called Overnight Success at 800-365-6343 that lists over 2,000 lodgings. Postal regulations prohibit non-profit groups from listing or recommending specific motels or rates.*



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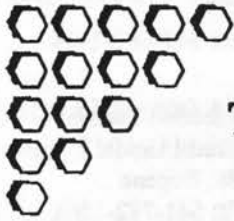
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The "Northwest Corner" Beekeepers Conference

Best Western Inn, Seaside, OR
November 21 - 24th, 1998

Please use a separate form for each individual

Attendee's Last Name _____	First Name _____	MI _____	Registration Date: _____
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Event
Thurs. Night Wine/Cheese Reception
Friday Conference Only @ \$25 (see item 1. below)
Saturday Conference Only @ \$25 (see item 1. below)
Full Two Day Conference @ \$35 (see item 1. below)
Friday Evening Banquet @ \$22.00
Saturday Noon Lunch @ 14.00
OSBA Membership (including Bee Line) \$15.00

Total Conference Registration Fee.

If exhibiting, number of tables @ \$25.00 each. _____

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1. Attendees qualify for the Pre Registration Rate if the Application Form (with Registration Fee) is postmarked on or before Nov 1, 1998. Late or On-Site registration rates are: One-day, \$35; Full Conference, \$50. Registration limited to the **FIRST 200 registrants due to room capacities**
2. Make checks payable to OSBA.
3. Mail all completed Registration Forms and payment to: Barton E. Snyder, 4628 SW 49th Ave., Portland, OR 97221-3019.
4. **Hotel Reservations are not included in these rates.** Make your reservations at the Best Western Inn, Seaside 1 800 234-8439 and ask for the Northwest Corner Beekeepers Conference.

<p>Questionnaire (Optional) In 1998,</p> <p>How many colonies do you own? _____</p> <p>Do you provide pollination services (y/n)? _____</p>	<p>How do you sell your honey? Wholesale (W), Retail (R), or Both (B) ? _____</p> <p>How many hives were used in pollination for hire? _____</p> <p>How many times was each hive rented? _____</p>
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569 Hanley Rd., Central Point
Pres: Stan Kee 541-664-3238
VP: John Campbell 541-664-4867
Sec.: George Steffensen 541-474-4305

Tillamook County

Meets 7 pm first Thursday
Forestry Building
4909 Third Street, Tillamook
Pres: Bob Allen 541-322-3819
VP: Doug Taylor 541-842-4245
Sec./Treas.: Wayne Auble

Tualatin Valley

Meets 7:30 pm fourth Friday
OSU Extension Office, 18640 SW
Walker Rd., Beaverton
Pres.: Sean Killean 503-646-1275
V P: Roy McMillan 503-628-0277
Sec.: Jerry Schwanke 503-357-9284
Treas.: Dan Hiscoe 503-662-4502

Willamette Valley

Meets 7:30 pm fourth Monday
Rm. 112, Building 50
Chemeketa Community College, Salem
Pres: Doug Davis 503-390-9559
VP: Richard Farrier 541-327-2673
Sec.: Ron Bennett 503-838-2328
Treas: Fritz Skirvin 503-581-9372

Classified Ads Continued

FOR SALE: 400 4 & 5 frame nuc boxes w/new frames. \$10 each. Call 503-225-0755.

FOR SALE: 300 colonies of bees with inside feeders on 4/way pallets. Call 503-225-0755.

FOR SALE: 250 gallon stainless steel milk tank used for blending medicated syrup, water jacketed with pump. Call 503-225-0755.

Check your Mailing Label

In order to stay within our operating budget while providing the best publication possible, expiration dates on mailing labels will be monitored and *The Bee Line* cannot be mailed to memberships *60 days past the date code*. As an additional service, a membership and publications form will be printed on page 11 each month. Note additional savings are available when ordering magazines through OSBA

Classified Ads

Classified advertising rates per issue: 30 words, per issue: OSBA members, \$2.00, non-members \$3.00. Copy and payment must be received by editor no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication.

FOR SALE: Steel 55-gallon open head drums, \$6.00 each. Free catalog, includes beekeeping equipment, candle and soap making supplies. Contact Glorybee, 1-800-GLORYBE (456-7923) or in Eugene, 689-0913.

FOR SALE: FOUNDATION. Make honeycomb candles. 8"x16 3/4" medium brood, \$100 per 25 lb. case; 4"x16 3/4" medium brood, \$125 per 30 lb. case. Colored 100% beeswax sheets \$.80 each. Christine Erwin, 541-942-7061, Cottage Grove.

WANTED: Northwest produced honey in 55 gallon drums. Also looking for vetch, snowberry and fireweed honey. Call Bee's Knees Honey at (503) 225-0755 or (503) 640-5757.

FOR SALE: PLYWOOD. Used, excellent for building pallets, lids, bottoms, etc. avg. 39"x41"= five lids or bottoms per sheet. 5/8" \$2.00; 1 1/8" \$3.50. Call (541)826-7621.

FOR SALE: 55 gallon honey drums \$6 to \$10 based on grade and condition. Call Bee's Knees Honey (503) 225-0755 or 503-640-5757.

FOR SALE: FALL NUCs: Available now! \$37.25 - five frame with frame exchange. Wild Bee. Call (541)826-7621.

CLASSIFIED ADS CONT. ON PAGE 11

PHYLLIS SHOEMAKE - 4/99
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SALEM, OR 97304

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Diane Varner, Editor
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