
THE BEE LINE



The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 25, Number 5

June 2000

Young Beekeeper Keeps Busy

(Excerpted from Statesmen Journal)

Alex Kroeger has been interested in bugs for most of his 15 years. He keeps his hives in his rural South Salem yard, and attends meetings of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers' Association.

Dressed in a t-shirt and cotton slacks, Alex walks right up to boxes stacked in his back yard. A few bees land on his arm and shirt. He ignores them. When he accidentally drops a section of the hive, the bees fly angrily in circles. One stings him on the nose, but Alex shrugs it off. He puts up with the pain in pursuit of his passions: beekeeping and entomology, the study of insects.

"For forever, he has liked bugs," said his mom, Joy Sebastian. Alex is drawn to insects much as his bees are attracted to pollen.

After class at Blanchet School where he is a freshman, Alex spends a few hours each day tending his bees, walking sticks and cockroaches. Saturdays, he works with Dr. Lynn Royce at Oregon State University. She encourages his interests. "Insects are extremely important to us," Royce said. "I like to point that out to people because they think insects are yucky or bad."

When Alex was four, an uncle bought him an ant farm. He watched the ants for hours, just as he does now with the bees. "There's so much going on," he said, admitting he likes bees more than ants.

Bees coming in and out of their cells. Bees feeding the queen bee. Bees dropping off pollen.

Alex subscribes to a monthly beekeeping publication and belongs to the Willametter Valley Beekeepers Association. He is well versed in problems beekeepers face, such as keeping mites from infesting bees. He started keeping bees about three years ago, after he and his mother moved to Salem from Virginia.

That fall he saw bee hives at the Oregon State Fair and wanted one of his own. The beekeepers discouraged him from getting one, because the bees are likely to die over the winter, especially if they are not living in an established hive. "I can remember all the people telling me: Don't do it, don't do it," Alex said. He bought a hive anyway, and his bees survived.

At Blanchet School, Alex maintains a 3.6 grade point average. Most of his friends aren't into bees. Luckily, neighbor Darrin Loescher, 14, is a beekeeper. "Alex revitalized Darrin's interest in bees," said Darrin's mom, Cindy Loescher.

Alex will be helping Dr. Royce and graduate student Debbie Delaney this summer on a research

(cont. on page 7)

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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 - *National Honey Board Briefs
 - *Wonderword Puzzle
-

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, 1702 Toucan Street NW, Salem, OR 97304

Editorial Offices: Send news, announcements, letters, comments and advertising to: Diane Varner, Editor

PO Box 123 Yamhill, OR 97148-0123

Tel. 503-662-4559 Fax 503-662-4594

e-mail Raybee@bandwidth.net

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TODAY

President's Notes

by Ray Varner

The OSBA Summer Picnic still needs a host. We're looking for a place to go this summer that would be in conjunction with an Association's own summer picnic. Lane County? Southern Oregon? Coos County? First one to volunteer gets the job!

Dr. Lynn Royce is still seeking assistance in completing the funding for this summer's research project. The unfunded amount is approximately \$3,000 and will cover salary for student Alex Kroeger (see related story on page 1) who will be a vital part of the summer work force. This project involves over 50 colonies in the Corvallis area alone, with another 45 colonies involving three different beekeepers and locations in the Willamette Valley. Managing that number of colonies for an effective research project takes a lot of hands-on time. Lynn and Debbie cannot do the job by themselves so Alex's help is extremely important. Alex, 15, is so committed to the project that his family is willing to make the round trips to Corvallis to drop him off and pick him up.

This is a good project for clubs with some available funds in their treasury. I will be following the project closely and will keep you updated. Donations are tax deductible and gladly accepted. Make checks payable to: Agriculture Research Foundation (ARF) and send to Dr. Lynn Royce at Dept. of Entomology, Cordley Hall 2051, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97333-2907.

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A clover, any time
to him
is aristocracy.*

Emily Dickinson

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Northwest Beekeeping

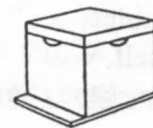
June - Crops in bloom producing nectar and/or pollen: berries, vetch, spearmint, radish, mustard, clover. Others: honey locust, poison oak, pyracantha.

- Provide water continuously.
- Examine colonies every ten days and treat as in May, except: toward month's end, reduce the number of empty frames in each super to about ten. Lift off the supers, tilt up the second story and look for queen cells along the bottom of the brood comb. **IF you find** only eggs and larvae in the queen cells and the hive is crowded with bees, remove all cells --- top and bottom. Put the hive body containing mostly worker eggs or larvae on the bottom board, and the other containing mostly sealed brood on top. Add supers to provide 10-18 empty full-depth combs, or their equivalent. **IF you find** sealed or ripe queen cells, or possibly hatched ones, divide the colony. **NOTE:** queen mating is always dependent on decent mating weather and the supply of drones this time of year. **IF you find** eggs and no attempt to rear queens, and the hive is full of bees, examine the supers and add more to provide 10 to 18 empty combs or their equivalent.
- Order queens for July delivery.
- Continue to be on the lookout for American Foulbrood.
- Start moving sealed frames of honey to top supers, or collect to extract.

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

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Small Hive Beetle Update

Reports of small hive beetle activity this spring have been mixed. As winter in Florida drew to a close, few adults could be detected, but later larvae started appearing again in honey houses. The beetle also began to be spread around. Infestations in Ohio, New Jersey and Pennsylvania have all been linked to package bee shipments from the southeast. The insect also has been reported in Minnesota, where it appears to have overwintered successfully in 1998.

NHB News Briefs

• An article entitled "Doctors Turning Sweet on Healing with Honey" featuring the work of Dr. Peter Molan recently appeared on WebMD's web site, which gets 60 million hits a month. Two other popular web sites - CNN.com and ReadersDigestHealth.com - also featured the article. To see it for yourself, visit

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/HEALTH/alternative/03/08/honey.healing.wmd/>.

• *Martha Stewart Living* magazine's March issue included a beautiful five page article titled "Tasting Honey." The article included historical facts, plus information of varieties, forms and properties of honey. The article also included eight full-color photos and three recipes.

• Due to the enormous popularity of the NHB Official Marketing Kit, it has become necessary to reprint! Orders placed for the kit beginning May 1, 2000 will be charged a \$12 shipping and handling fee to cover printing expenses.

• The National Honey Board's homemade beauty recipes were featured in *Momscape*, an online magazine for moms. The online article was entitled "All Natural Indulgences." If you'd like to see the article for yourself, visit <http://www.momscape.com/articles/natural.htm>.

Cornell University Pollination Study Findings

Drs. Roger Morse and Nicholas Calderone (in a study supported by the National Honey Board) calculate that the value of the pollination contribution made by managed honey bees to US crop growers is just over \$14.6 billion. Some crops such as blueberries and cherries are 90% dependent on honey bee pollination. Almonds depend entirely on the honey bee for pollination. In all, Morse and Calderone studied 50 different fruit, nut, vegetable and field crops that depend on honey bee pollination. To learn more, visit Bee Culture at <http://bee.airoot.com/beeculture/pollination2000/pg1.html> or call 800-289-7668, ext. 3220. You can request information via email at beeculture@airoot.com.

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Federal Range Land Spraying

By Gary Carpenter, State Plant Health Director, USDA

Federal range land adjacent to cropland in your locality may be treated this summer to control serious grasshopper populations. This advance information is being provided to show high risk areas based on current information.

The counties of Baker, Malheur, Harney and Lake appear to be at highest risk based on information gathered from the adult grasshopper survey conducted last summer. Treatments in these counties may be scheduled if the spring survey indicates economically important populations are present. Treatments will be conducted only on federal lands in order to protect adjacent cropland.

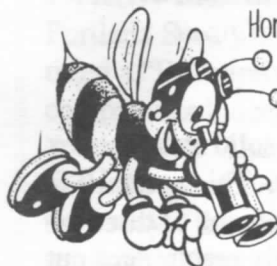
The main insecticides used against grasshoppers are malathion, carbaryl and dimilin. Malathion and carbaryl are non-persistent insecticides that are relatively harmless to humans, livestock and wildlife. Malathion and carbaryl are toxic to bees. Dimilin is a growth regulator which inhibits an insects ability to produce chitin and while also be harmless to humans, livestock and wildlife, is not toxic to bees.

A final notification will be sent out prior to any cropland protected treatments being scheduled.

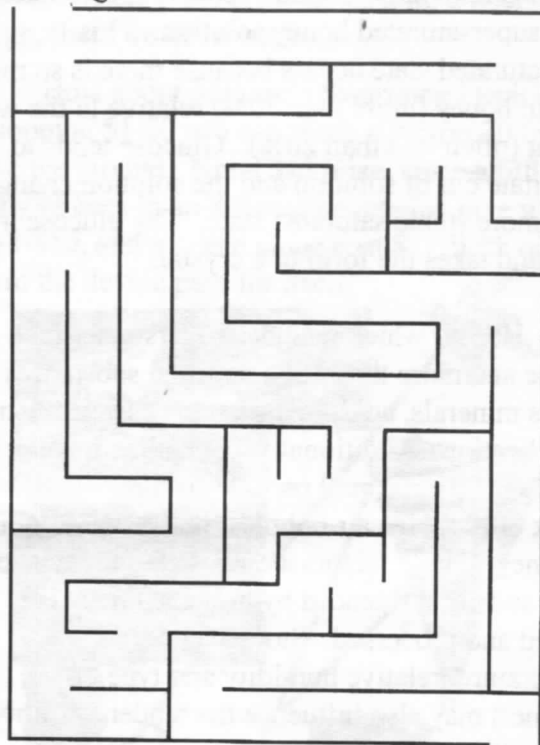
Note: Mr. Carpenter can be reached at 503-326-2135 or 503-326-2814 if any additional information is required.

Kid's Corner

DANCING BEES?



Honey bees communicate by dancing. The dances tell other worker bees where to find the nectar for making honey. This bee has no dancing friends! Help her find her way to the flowers.



HONEY SHAKE IT UP

- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 1-1/2 cups strawberries, sliced
- 1 cup vanilla yogurt
- 1/4 cup honey
- 5 ice cubes



Combine all ingredients except ice cubes in a blender, and blend until thick and creamy. Add ice cubes one at a time and blend until smooth.

Makes 4 (1 cup) servings

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Honey Crystallization

By Fred Salassa (*reprinted with permission from Hi-Bee News, the newsletter of the Hawaii Beekeepers Association*)

Honey sometimes takes on a semi-solid state known as crystallized or granulated honey. This natural phenomenon happens when glucose, one of three main sugars in honey, spontaneously precipitates out of the supersaturated honey solution. This supersaturated state occurs because there is so much sugar in honey (more than 70%) relative to the water content (often less than 20%). Glucose tends to precipitate out of solution and the solution changes to the more stable saturated state. The glucose loses water and takes the form of a crystal.

Honey, which includes sugars other than glucose and more than 180 identified substances such as minerals, acids and proteins, also influences crystallization. Additionally, crystallization can be stimulated by any small particles (dust, pollen, bits of wax or propolis, air bubbles) that are present in the honey. These factors are related to the type of honey and are influenced by how the honey is handled and processed. Storage conditions (temperature, relative humidity and type of container) may also influence the tendency of honey to crystallize.

When granulation is incomplete, the crystalline layer is overlaid by a layer of liquid with a water content higher than that of the original honey. This creates a favorable environment for the growth of yeast and may lead to fermentation.

Controlled crystallization can be used to make a desirable product. This product is known as creamed honey, spun honey, whipped honey, churned honey, or honey fondant. Spontaneous crystallization results in a coarse and grainy product which is usually undesirable. When honey is heated, the sugar crystals re-dissolve to a liquid state. Controlled crystallization results in a smooth, spreadable consistency.

Having the texture of butter, finely granulated honey makes an exceptional spread.

Worldwide, in fact, creamed honey is consumed more often than liquid honey. The Dyce process is often used to make creamed honey. The method involved adding started nuclei to the honey after it has been heated twice to 120 degrees F and 150 degrees F, and then strained. Chilled, dried and finely ground honey (serving as the started "seed") is mixed into the cooling liquid honey. The product is firm in three days and in six days it has a creamy, spreadable consistency.

Spontaneous crystallization is controlled primarily through proper storage, heating and/or filtering. Holding honey at temperatures in the range of 104-140 degrees F during bottling also slows the rate of crystallization. Mild heat treatment delays crystallization by dissolving crystals and expels incorporated air (which can also stimulate crystallization). Filtering removes particles that can act as nuclei that might initiate crystallization. Honey with a low glucose-to-water ratio is likely to remain liquid, avoiding crystallization.

At room temperature, crystallization begins within weeks or months (but rarely days). The crystallization process can be avoided with proper storage, with emphasis on proper storage temperature. For long term storage, the use of air-tight, moisture-resistant stainless steel drums are recommended.

Cool temperatures (below 50 degrees F) are ideal for preventing crystallization. Moderate temperature (between 50 and 70 degrees F) generally encourage crystallization. Warm temperatures (between 70 and 81 degrees F) discourage crystallization but degrade the honey. Very warm temperatures (over 81 degrees F) prevent crystallization but encourage spoiling by fermentation as well as degrading the honey. Processed honey should be stored between 64-75 degrees F. Unprocessed honey should be stored at or below 50 degrees F.

Does the container in which the honey is stored affect crystallization? Honey is sensitive to moisture in the surrounding atmosphere. During storage, low-density polyethylene containers can allow moisture to escape, which may contribute to the crystallization process.

(cont. from page 1)

project at Oregon State University. Colonies will be set up with purebred Russian queens, and their performance evaluated in side-by-side tests with western bred queens, and possibly Russian queens mated with western drones.

Editor's note: Alex's salary is still unfunded, while his assistance is vital to the project. Contributions for this project are tax deductible and greatly appreciated. This is a local research project that may have significant results for local beekeepers. If you can help as an individual or as a club, you can make your tax deductible checks payable to: Agriculture Research Foundation (ARF) and send to Dr. Lynn Royce, Dept. of Entomology, Cordley Hall 2051, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97333-2907.

OSU Summer Research Project Update

By Ray Varner

During the month of May I worked three days with Dr. Lynn Royce and Debbie Delaney at the OSU Hysslop site (east of Corvallis, between Corvallis and Albany) preparing the colonies for the summer research project. As of now all colonies at that site have been equalized and juniper treatments applied. Controls are set up and bottom board screens are in place. Mated Russian queens are due to arrive the week of May 29th.

Mating nucs were set up for introduction of unmated Russian queens on May 2nd at three different sites: the OSU Bee Lab, the Hysslop site and a site in King's Valley. Unfortunately, our weather seems to have foiled the mating flights and this portion of the project may have to go back to square one.

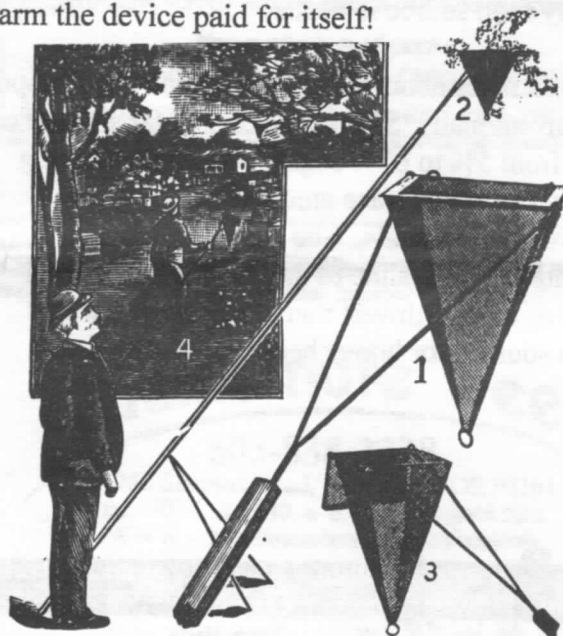
As I mentioned on page 2, Lynn is still looking for funding to complete the project. Also needed are 50-60 queen excluders (will make brood estimation easier if all the brood is in the brood chamber).

Bee Musings

By Diane Varner

I recently came across an old catalog from the Portland Seed Company. Dated 1908-09, it was titled a "Descriptive Catalog of Bee Supplies." The company had locations in Portland and in Spokane, Washington. The catalog was 12 pages long. Many of the items pictured looked just like equipment we use today – the brood frames, the hive boxes, the smokers. There were some interesting devices, though, that I've never seen.

How about Manum's Swarming Device? For a whopping \$1.60 you can reach a swarm 20 feet above the ground. Not a bad price, since a full colony of bees in an 8-frame dovetailed hive went for \$8-\$10, and a queen alone cost \$2. With one swarm the device paid for itself!



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Need a reference book? The new 1908 edition of The A B C and X Y Z of Bee Culture could be had postpaid for \$1.60. This edition was so extensively updated that the price had to be raised a whole dime from the 1907 edition.

The final entry in the catalog is an ad with the question: "Why not raise Poultry?" The Portland Seed Company kept all its bases covered!

Nectar and Pollen Plants Subject of Presentation

Bertie Stringer, co-author of "Nectar and Pollen Plants of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest," was a guest speaker at the Willamette Valley Beekeepers' Association meeting in May. She spoke of the role of nectar and pollen plants as important food sources for honey bees.

Pollen sources vary in nutritional value, and bees will seek out the best pollen available. The first three days after hatching, larvae are fed glandular food by young adult bees. The largest feeding of pollen (fresh is preferred) comes on day five. Once the larvae emerge all protein comes from pollen consumption for 10-14 days. After fourteen days the primary food source is nectar.

It takes about 44 pounds of pollen to support a colony annually, Stringer said. Nectar sources can range from 5% to 60% sugar, with the remaining amount water and trace amounts of fats/proteins/minerals. She completed her presentation with slide of native and ornamental plants of the Northwest that are good nectar and pollen sources for honey bees.



Fig. 241 *Vicia villosa*

Vetch, Hairy
Vicia villosa Roth
 LEGUMINOSAE
 Annual
 Late May through June
 Purple
 n p
 Commercially planted in northern Willamette Valley, and as an escape
 A premier honey plant and a major source in the Rogue Valley. Acreage and importance have declined in Willamette Valley. Source of light, mild honey. Nectar sugar concentration about 45%.

Book Review: *Nectar and Pollen Plants of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest*

Published by Honey Stone Press in 1989 and co-authored by Stringer, Dr. Michael Burgett, and L.D. Johnson, "Nectar and Pollen Plants of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest" is an illustrated dictionary of plants used by honey bees, with detailed line drawings of each plant listed.

The book gives detailed answers to questions such as "why do plants produce nectar and pollen" and "what is a honey plant." It discusses nectar secretion and pollen production in a very reader friendly manner, and gives some background information on beekeeping populations and local geography. Each plant listed is rated for pollen and/or nectar production.

This book is an invaluable tool for beekeepers at all levels. It will increase your awareness of what is growing in your area, and give you ideas of plants to add to your own garden. Check your local beekeeping supply businesses for a copy.

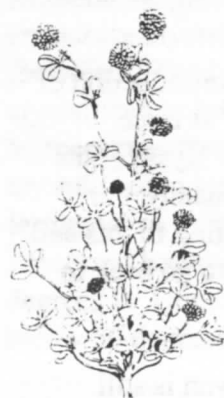


Fig. 56 *Trifolium fragiferum*

Clover, Strawberry
Trifolium fragiferum L.
 LEGUMINOSAE
 Perennial
 April to July
 Purple
 n p
 Chiefly in eastern Oregon
 Bees work the plant freely for nectar (33% sugars) and greenish-brown pollen. Planted as pasture on alkali soil in eastern Oregon and frequently occurs as a volunteer in moist ditches.

WONDERWORD™

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BEE BUSINESS

Solution: 9 letters

E L T T O B D I R C K R A D S
 S N S S S E N I L N A E L C S
 S W E G N E C A F E G O I T Y
 E L E S N H R L L G M T N H E
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 A E C R R L Y M W E M O T C M
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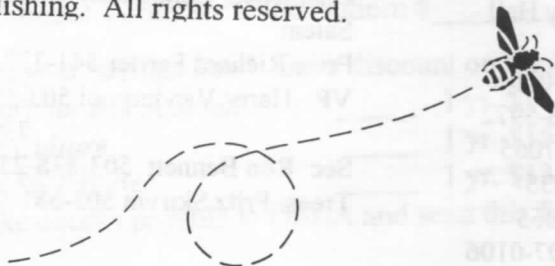
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Dave Graber
2601 SE 141st
Portland, OR 97266
503-762-2539
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26730 S. Hwy. 70
Canby, OR 97013-9373
503-266-1740
E-mail: Sowers@Canby.com

North Coast

Bob Allen
PO Box 434
Garibaldi, OR 97118
503-322-3819

South Coast

Joann Olstrom
3164 Maple Court
Reedsport, OR 97467
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Southern Oregon

George Steffensen
1634 Fish Hatchery Road
Grants Pass, OR 97527
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Willamette Valley

Chuck Hunt
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RESOURCES

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Dept. of Entomology
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Dr. Lynn Royce
Dept. of Entomology
Cordley Hall 2051 / OSU
Corvallis, OR 97331-2907
541-737-5520

Jim Cramer
Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
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3378

VP: Bruce McDonald
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VP: Doug Taylor 503-842-4245
Sec/Treas: Wayne Auble

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