
THE BEE LINE



The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 25, Number 6

July 2000

Argentine Beekeepers Come to the Pacific Northwest

By Dr. Michael Burgett, Honey Bee Laboratory, Department of Entomology Oregon State University

For the last four years OSU has been involved in a cooperative program with the Ministry of Agriculture in Argentina. The purpose is to host study-tours of beekeeping in the Pacific Northwest for practicing Argentine beekeepers. This year will see the third group of 18 Argentine beekeepers arrive in mid-June for a two week period. These are beekeepers who own as few as twenty colonies, to full-time commercial operators with as many as 2,000 hives. In collaboration with Dr. W.P. Stephen, emeritus Professor, OSU, we will tour western Washington and Oregon visiting commercial and semi-commercial beekeepers. We will also spend time in northern California seeing the fascinating and hectic world of commercial queen production.

As most American beekeepers are aware, Argentina is now the largest exporter of honey to the U.S. market. So a question comes up, why do these beekeepers need knowledge and exposure to U.S. beekeeping conditions? And why do they sell their honey so "cheaply" and thereby lower the honey price received by American beekeepers? I can assure you that it is not the beekeepers of Argentina who set the price. In past years the beekeepers who have come are amazed to see the "high" price their honey sells for in the U.S. market. If you are

unhappy with the price you get for your honey, you should appreciate the fact that in other countries the local beekeepers are paid much less for their product. Please remember it is the honey packers and exporter/importers who by and large, set the prices production beekeepers receive for their honey. One of my personal goals is to see a more reasonable price paid to Argentine beekeepers for their product in Argentina, which would ultimately cause an increase in the price of honey on the world market. This would benefit production beekeepers in all countries.

I have been extremely fortunate in my position at OSU to have visited all continents where beekeeping takes place. Nowhere I have visited possesses a beekeeping industry as efficient and as profitable as the U.S. Beekeeping is an international "language" and the basics of working with this fascinating animal are, for all practical purposes, the same everywhere but differences do exist. An example of this is the battle against American foulbrood (Afb). Argentina has only recently seen a major increase in Afb and they are unfamiliar with the methods of Afb control. Another difference in beekeeping management between Argentina and the U.S. is the role of commercial pollination in generating income to practicing beekeepers. The

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Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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President's Notes

by Ray Varner

The OSBA Summer Picnic will go on the road to Bandon this year. Coos County is our host, and the fabulous Oregon Coast is the site (see page 3 for details). Thanks to our friends in Coos County!

A number of projects are in the works right now. Dave Graber is doing a fantastic job of putting the Fall Conference together (see related article). Another project is updating the web site. I am working with Bart Snyder to bring the site current. The OSU research project is continuing. Dr. Lynn Royce has received some financial assistance from OSBA members and greatly appreciates the help. A deficit still remains, however, and the work must go on. Several clubs will be holding auctions and garage sales to help generate funds. I will also be spending a day the last week of June with some hands-on assistance (who knew it was going to be 95 degrees when I volunteered?).

Finally, a committee is working on the issue of what to do when Dr. Mike Burgett retires in 2 ½ years. Several meetings have been held with OSU Deans to discuss the future of the Department of Entomology. It is budget time, and time to communicate with legislative representatives and university officials about the Bee Lab, the outreach program it provides and the research that is carried on. It is possible the budget cuts could eliminate the program and we definitely do not want that to happen. If you would like Dr. Burgett and his department head, Dr. Paul Jepson speak to your group about the issue, contact Dr. Burgett at the address on page 10 of this issue.

Congratulations to Hannah Roach for her winning entry in the 2000 ABF 4-H Essay Contest (see pages 6-7). Oregon has been well represented lately – Aaron Nice won in 1998. We are very proud of you, Hannah!

Hint:

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(cont. from page 1)

at-large agriculture industry of Argentina has yet to take good advantage of the importance of managed pollination in fruit and seed production.

As I tell all students in my teaching at OSU, there is only one species that requires a passport - the human species. Beekeepers around the world share so much in common and we should always let the language of the bees direct our actions. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the Oregon beekeepers who have been so generous with their time and talent in sharing their beekeeping experiences with overseas beekeepers.

Coos County Hosts OSBA Summer Picnic July 22nd

President Wade Weathersby from the Coos County Beekeepers graciously extended an invitation to OSBA members to come to the Southern Oregon Coast for this year's summer picnic. The location will be at Bullard's Beach State Park, just north of beautiful Bandon. The date is Saturday, July 22nd.

Bullard's Beach has full camping facilities and hookups for those wanting to spend the weekend. Call 1-800-452-5687 for reservations. The picnic will be held in the West Shore area at 1 pm. The park opens at 6 am and closes at 10 pm.

The picnic is potluck, and bring your own plates and utensils. For further information, please call Wade at 541-756-3378.

The park is adjacent to the Coquille River Lighthouse, which is open for tours. The City of Bandon has a wonderful old-town area with lots of shops and the famous Bandon Cranberry Candy Factory (try their cheddar cheese fudge!). For golfers, the new golf course in Bandon is getting rave reviews! This is a beautiful section of Oregon that we don't get to often enough. Thanks to our good friends in Coos County for inviting us! Hope to see you their!

Northwest Beekeeping

July - Crops in bloom producing nectar and/or pollen: alfalfa, lima beans, various herbs, carrot, clover, corn, fireweed, melon, mustard, radish, spearmint. Others: hollyhock, snowberry, teasel.

- Provide water continuously.
- Examine supers frequently but don't leave much empty comb on colonies that are light in stores in the brood nest. Add supers only to the top of the filled ones, not below them, unless hives are near a commercial crop (add supers below filled ones).
- Check colonies for queen and requeen if queenless.
- Check colonies for old queens and replace with young ones.
- Requeen any colony with undesirable characteristics such as poor production, mean temper, European Foulbrood, poor brood pattern, unwanted color markings, etc.
- Continue to be on the lookout for American Foulbrood.
- Remove supers containing well ripened honey to extract.
- Don't tempt robber bees with exposed honey.
- Place any extracted honey frames to be stored in a dry, cool area, with moth crystals.
- Depending on your apiary location and on the weather, a critical nectar dearth exists between July 10 and Sept. 1 in this area. Leave 40-50 lbs. of honey in each colony for fall buildup or feed equivalent amount of sugar syrup (2:1). Feed supplementary pollen patties if stored pollen is inadequate and pollen dearth exists.

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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- Honey bees visit two million flowers to make one pound of honey.
- Honey is nature's original sweetener. Humans have enjoyed its golden touch since before recorded time.
- A worker honey bee will gather just 1/12 teaspoon of honey during her entire lifetime.
- Honey bees were brought to North America by the Colonists.
- The keeping of bees is known as apiculture.

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Flower Power! Honey bees gather nectar from flowers to make honey. Flower nectars each have a unique taste. Depending on which field of flowers or orchard the honey bees visit, the honey in their hive will have that nectar's flavor. The most common kind of honey is clover honey. Other types of honey are alfalfa, buckwheat, orange blossom and wildflower.



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OSU Summer Research Project Update

By Dr. Lynn Royce

Currently we are involved with three related projects focused on control of parasitic honey bee mites. These projects include studies of resistance and performance of Russian stocks of honey bees from the ARS-USDA laboratory in Baton Rouge LA (project located in the apiaries of Chuck and Kathy Hunt, Kenny and Heike Williams, and Bertie Stringer and Marshal Dunham), studies on the affects of varroa mites and coumaphos on honey bee drone longevity and mating ability (Kings Valley apiary), and studies on juniper products, screen bottom boards and formic acid gel packs for varroa control (OSU Hyslop farm). These three projects involve 122 experimental colonies plus support colonies (OSU bee lab).

The spring has been busy obtaining the bees, queens, equipment and labor to get these projects going. We are now beginning to collect our first sets of data. We hope this years work will provide baseline information on these different control techniques as well as pros and cons that go along with using them. In following years we hope to combine techniques with the idea of significantly reducing or removing hard pesticides from varroa management. We are searching for management practices that would be useable by large commercial beekeepers as well as sideliners and hobbyists.

We now have the Russian Queens (both those mated in Oregon and those mated to Russian drones in Louisiana), in hives and laying, and the control colonies for this project are ready as well. The first data sets from this project will be collected towards the end of June and will continue on a monthly basis through September followed by close monitoring through winter.

Our first sets of data from the Hyslop farm site are in and it will soon be time to gather the next set. We will use monthly mite drop counts with bee and brood estimates to keep track of how the bees and varroa are doing. We will also try to do some limited sampling for tracheal mites. This is the first time we have used Formic Acid Gel Pack (ApiCure)

and it caught me off guard. To place the pack on the top bars of the brood chamber you need a spacer so the pack will fit. It is also late to be putting formic acid on the colonies as they recommend 28 days before honey flow and we had less than 20 but these are research colonies and the honey is not for human consumption. It is recommended that one pack be placed on a colony and left for 21 days. As has been reported from several other areas the formic acid leaves the gel quickly, probably in the first week of application. A week of treatment with formic acid will not kill many mites. We may see a slight drop in mite populations in these colonies but expect the populations to recover quickly.

The work at the Kings Valley Site is also underway, now that colonies are set up and rearing drones. There will be improvements to protocol as we get into this project, but we hope to have our first data in two weeks as our first set of marked drones become mature.

Many of you have responded to our request for financial help and this is much appreciated. I will try to have a report in each Bee Line as to our progress so you will know where your dollars are being spent. I may not have time to send out individual letters of thanks; please be patient with me as most of my time must be spent on insect identification and education or outreach regarding wheat insects. Also, globalization not only affects our farming community by lowering prices but it is opening cracks for foreign organisms to get into Oregon. This puts new pressure on Extension to find out how these new organisms will interact with our crops and existing fauna. There are at least two new bugs that may require some attention from me this summer. Thus, without help from you, and a special thanks to Ray Varner and the beekeepers working on the Russian Queen Project for their time, not much honey bee research could get done. These are not Lynn Royce's projects, but they are OUR projects and the amount and reliability of the data will be the result of your perseverance as well as that of myself and others at the OSU Honey Bee Lab.

Editor's note: While Lynn has received some financial contributions, there is still a deficit. The study depends on funding; whatever individuals and clubs provide would help the research continue.

Oregon Girl Takes Second Place in ABF 4-H Essay Contest

Hannah Roach, 12, of Bay City took second place in the 2000 American Beekeeping Federation's 4-H Essay Contest for her essay entitled "Honey's Heritage." For her essay, Hannah wove a story about a young girl visiting her grandfather. She won a prize of \$100 from the American Beekeeping Federation, and a book on beekeeping.

"Aaron Nice, the junior leader of my 4-H rabbit club, sparked my interest in beekeeping by showing me the inside of one of his hives. He said if I was interested he would help me get started in beekeeping. Last spring I started two hives. I have enjoyed beekeeping ever since. Beekeeping and Entomology are two of my independent 4-H projects," said Hannah. Aaron won second place in the 1998 Essay Contest.

The first place winner was Jason Heath from New Hampshire for this essay on "Man and Honey Bees Through the Centuries." Third place went to Ginger Clements from Louisiana for her essay on bee-human relationships.

Congratulations, Hannah!

Honey's Heritage

By Hannah Roach

When Rachel arrived home from school, she asked to go visit her Grandfather. Grandfather was a beekeeper with many interesting stories to tell. With her mother's consent, she skipped toward Grandfather's. On the way she tripped and skinned her knees. She continued to Grandfather's. When Grandfather heard her coming, he hurried to her. Grandfather cleaned and rubbed some "Honey Ointment" on her knees, consisting of equal portions of honey and white flour mixed with a little water. Puzzled, Rachel asked, "What does 'Honey Ointment' do?"

Grandfather replied: Physicians years ago often used honey as a dressing for wounds and burns. It provides a barrier against dirt and foreign debris, is easily removed with water, and being non-

corrosive it doesn't damage surrounding healthy tissue, therefore promotes healing. Bacteria-killing agents in honey include a dozen or so mild acids and the disinfectant hydrogen peroxide, made from glucose by the bee-produced enzyme, glucose oxidase. The ancient Sumerians, Babylonians and Egyptians knew honey's use. They made salves with it for treating diseases of the eye and skin. In the winter of 1933 my father was burned severely on his head, hands and feet by hot water. Minutes afterwards he had violent pains. Immediately my mother took large pieces of linen, thickly daubed them with honey and put them on his burns. Almost instantly the pain ceased and he slept good all night.

"When you came I was looking for a sugar bowl in the attic. Would you like to help me continue my search?" asked Grandfather. "Yes, I would," answered Rachel.

She climbed into the treasure-filled attic and looked for the sugar bowl until Grandfather noticed a small wooden chest. They peered in and saw an old book entitled Honey and Mankind. "What are the earliest records associating honey and mankind?" inquired Rachel.

Grandfather answered: Earliest records are from etchings on the wall of a cave in Eastern Spain. Additional paintings on rocks are found in Southern Africa. These records show man using smoke to pacify and repel bees, while collecting what is believed to be honey. No one knows for sure how old the paintings are. We do know bees and honey have been associated with man since recorded history.

Grandfather put the book aside and there beneath it lay the sugar bowl. "We found it!" cried Rachel.

Grandfather said: Good, it belonged to your Grandmother when she was alive. She always kept sugar in it. However, did you know it was only a few hundred years ago sugar cane, which originated in the South Pacific, was introduced into Europe and North Africa? Sugar beets are of even more recent origin, having been developed in the 19th century. Thus we see the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans didn't have a ready source of sugar, other than honey and a few sweet fruits.

(cont. on page 7)

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"Let's see what else is in the chest," said Grandfather, as he took out a homemade recipe book entitled May's Favorites. "Your Great Uncle John and Aunt May owned a bakery. These are the recipes they used. In almost all the recipes they used honey instead of or along with granulated sugar," said Grandfather.

"Why would they do that?" asked Rachel.

"Honey," began Grandfather, "has a very low moisture content, less than nineteen percent, drier than ear. This makes honey hygroscopic. That means it can pull moisture from the air. Therefore baked goods, candies and tobacco stay fresher and softer when honey is used."

Then Grandfather, taking a baby spoon out of the chest, said: "This was my mom's when she was a baby. As a young child she had a very sensitive stomach. Often, her mother would substitute honey for white sugar in her food. This was done because the glucose and fructose, which make up the better part of honey, are more easily assimilated by the human body than white sugar, because they have already been partially digested by the bees. This can be important for both the very old and young with either immature or failing digestive systems. It also can be noted, in India, it was included in the first food of a newborn infant. However, honey, which has been linked to infant botulism, is no longer recommended for babies under one year of age."

Then Rachel pulled out a shiny medal from the chest. "Who won this?" questioned Rachel.

"Your cousin Chris won it is a track race. He always ate honey before and between races," said Grandfather.

"Why did he do that?" asked Rachel.

"Because honey is a quick source of energy and enables rapid recuperation from severe exertion with less evidence of fatigue. The ancient Greeks knew honey relieved fatigue. Athletes drank a mixture of honey and water before major athletic events," answered Grandfather.

Then Grandfather took a key out of the chest. "What does the key remind you of," inquired Rachel.

"It was the key to my first car. Once, I tried some experiments with commercial sweets as an antifreeze mixture for my car's radiator. Results indicated a boiled mixture of equal parts of honey and water to be far ahead of any other combination. This mixture gets slushy at 1.4 F but doesn't freeze solid because honey never freezes," said Grandfather.

Next Grandfather pulled out a picture in a hand-carved frame. "This is a picture of my Aunt Ella. She had arthritis. For it she drank honey and apple cider vinegar mixed with water," said Grandfather.

"How does honey help arthritis?" asked Rachel.

"Honey improves digestion, attracts fluid, helps to destroy harmful germs, and is an excellent food supplement because it contains vitamins, minerals and enzymes, has a laxative effect, aids in preventing constipation, produces sound and refreshing sleep, and helps to relieve pain in arthritis," continued Grandfather.

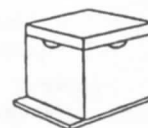
"As you can see, honey has had many uses through the centuries. It's getting late. You better get home. Are your knees any better?" asked Grandfather.

"Yes, they are, thanks to the honey. Good-bye and thanks for sharing with me the many uses of honey!" said Rachel.



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Fall Conference Update

By Dave Graber

Preparations for the 2000 OSBA Annual Fall Conference are well under way. We have a number outstanding speakers confirmed. Registration forms will be available in the August issue of *The Bee Line*. Mark your calendars for November 2-4. The Conference will once again be held at the usual location in Hood River (details to follow).

In addition to Dr. Keith Delaplane and Dr. John Skinner, we will also have Stephan Pernal from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. Dr. Pernal is researching pheromones for varroa as a possible control. Dr. Eric Mussen from UC Davis and Russ Heitkam of Heitkam Honey Bees also plan to attend. Dr. Shimanuki will be with us again, as well as our own Dr. Michael Burgett, Dr. Lynn Royce and OSU graduate student Debbie Delaney. I am awaiting word of confirmation on another speaker.

It's not too early to be thinking about auction items. We need items for both the silent auction and the oral auction.

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Dr. Keith Delaplane and Dr. Eric Mussen Featured Speakers at Conference

Dr. Keith Delaplane is Professor of Entomology at the University of Georgia where he has research, teaching and extension responsibilities in honey bee biology, beekeeping and crop pollination. He was a speaker at the 1997 meeting of the Northwest Corner Beekeepers Conference. Dr. Delaplane is author of over 100 publications, including the book *Crop Pollination by Bees* released by CAB International in the summer of 2000 and co-authored with Dr. Dan Mayer of Washington State University, Prosser.

Dr. Eric Mussen from the University of California/Davis is well-known to Oregon beekeepers. He 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. Dr. Mussen's research interests are many and varied. He recently captured the Guinness World Record for a bee-mantle (bigger than a beard). At past OSBA Conference he's also proven to be an outstanding co-auctioneer with Dr. Mike Burgett.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 20 Deadline for *The Bee Line*

July 22 OSBA Summer Picnic, Coos County
Bullard's Beach State Park (see related Article, page 3)

Nov. 2-4 NW Corner Fall Conference
Hood River.

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Standards for Honey Judges at County and State Fairs

From the scorecard of the Dept. of Entomology, Oregon State University

EXTRACTED HONEY

<u>Points</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Comments</u>
20	Degree of density. All entries above 18.6% disqualified.	Do not add water to your honey to "lighten" it in color to impress the judge. This may not be judged at the County Fairs.
10	Freedom from crystals.	Do not feed bees sugar water to obtain clear honey, for here is where you can get caught.
30	Degree of cleanliness and freedom from foam.	Most important category. Settling and some filtering are most "important" here. Honey is heavy so most "sediment" rises to the surface. Pour from the bottom of the tank slowly and carefully to avoid air bubbles.
10	Cleanliness and neatness of containers.	Clear, clean containers, new and without markings from a previous use should be used.
10	Uniformity or entry and accuracy of filling.	Containers should be filled to the ring, or top, and should be of the same clarity (type of honey) throughout the container.
20	Flavor. Down-grade for objectional flavor, over-heating or fermentation.	Bottle only honey from fully-capped cells. Store honey in glass or stainless steel containers, and do not heat about 104 degrees F. Keep tightly covered while settling.

100 points possible.

CHUNK HONEY

<u>Points</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Comments</u>
20	Neatness of cut. Ragged edges, parallel cuts, four-sided cuts and uniformity of size of cut.	In other words, neat and uniform cutting of the comb.
20	Absence of watery cappings, uncapped cells and pollen cells.	Submit only entry cut from the top center of center frames.
30	Uniformity of appearance. Uniformity of capping structure. Color and thickness of comb.	No crushing of cells during handling. Use only foundation made for cut-comb honey.
20	Cleanliness. No travel stain, specks of foreign matter, flakes of wax, foam and/or crystallization.	Cut with a razor or thin-bladed knife, and really look at what you are packing.
10	Density and flavor of liquid part.	Take frame out of hive that was filled during your best flavored honey flow for Fair entry.

100 points possible.

Who's Who in the OSBA Resource Guide

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Lane County

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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
President: Bob Allen 503-322-3819
VP: Doug Taylor 503-842-4245
Sec/Treas: Wayne Auble

Tualatin Valley

Meets 7:30 pm fourth Friday
OSU Extension Office, 18640 SW
Walker Rd., Beaverton
Pres: Roy MacMillan 503-628-
0277

VP: Jim Marshall 503-642-3319
Sec: Mary Moss 503-357-4782
and Dan Hiscoe 503-662-4502
Treas: Trudy Gissel 503-429-6603
and Jimi Kolesar 503-429-9802

Willamette Valley

Meets 7:30 pm fourth Monday
Rm. 112, Building 50
Chemeketa Community College,
Salem
Pres: Richard Farrier 541-327-2673
VP: Harry Vanderpool 503-399-
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Treas: Fritz Skirvin 503-581-9372


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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.

Research Contributions

To make tax-deductible contributions for honeybee research at OSU, make your check payable to Agriculture Research Foundation (ARF) and send it to Dr. Royce at OSU (see her address on page 10). For those who want to contribute to OSBA above the membership dues, note a line item on the form below. Your contribution can be earmarked for the Research or General Fund (specify your choice). The Board wants to hold the line on increasing dues across the board and recognizes that some members would like to make one-time or ongoing contributions. Thank you for your support!


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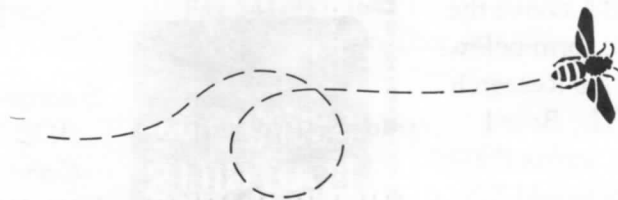
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