



LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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August 2015 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Pam Leavitt, LCBA President

Judy Scher gave a comprehensive presentation on Fall/Winter Management at our July meeting. When the honey supers are off the hives, it is the Fall in the world of honey bees. The work done at this time will help to ensure your bees have a chance of survival through the winter. The speaker for our meeting this month will be Morris Ostrofsky, presenting "Overcoming Barriers". He has published this information in the May and June, 2015, issues of Bee Culture Magazine. Morris covers the issues of the changes that occur with aging or the limitations due to disabilities. This valuable information helps beekeepers make adjustments to their beekeeping duties so they can continue to do what they love.

Part of the success of our club is due to the contributions of our members in the community. We participate in fairs, home shows, mentor college and high school students who are studying bees for school assignments and speak at community clubs. We hold our annual Bee School each March and have a booth at the Bee Day sponsored by Glory Bee. We could not be this involved without the volunteering by our members. In addition, contributing to the club happens when members offer to be an officer or on the board. Our executive board will be meeting at the end of the month and will be electing a nominating committee to fill the officer positions and three board member positions. If you have any interest in putting your name on the ballot, please contact me.

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) annual conference will be held on November 6, 7 and 8 at the Oregon Gardens in Silverton, Oregon. The theme is "Products of the Hive". OSBA is giving each regional association one free individual registration and LCBA will also offer a free registration, worth \$150 ea. The winners will be responsible for their own traveling, lodging and meals. If you are interested in attending, please enter your name in the drawing at our meeting. Drawing will take place at our September meeting. Tentative agenda and registration form on page 5&6. Visit the OSBA website for complete conference information.

NEXT MEETING:
August 18, 2015

Program - 7:30 pm

**Come early to socialize and
share your questions with
experienced beekeepers.**

Hall opens at 7:00 pm

Speaker: Morris Ostrofsky

Topic: "Overcoming Barriers"

Trinity United
Methodist Church
440 Maxwell Road
Turn West off River Road
in Eugene (South of Beltline)

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July Highlights

by Jodi Wiktorowski, LCBA Secretary

Announcements:

- Sign up sheets were distributed asking for volunteers for upcoming- the NW Permaculture Expo on August 29th and the Master Gardener Fall Festival on September 26th, both events at Emerald Park in Eugene.
- Francis Rothauge received \$150 in donation to the LCBA scholarship fund from his volunteer work in bee removal.
- Lynne Royce is looking for donations for her Tree Hive Bee project.
- Dewey Caron reported that the data from the Pacific Northwest Survey is now available! Go to pnwhoneybee-survey.com
- A huge congratulations to LCBA member Max Kuhn for passing his journeyman level!!!

General Meeting Speaker: Judy Scher "Fall and Winter Management"

Judy Scher discussed the importance of Fall and Winter Management. In the fall it is important to have strong hives with good laying queens, to monitor and treat for parasites and diseases, to provide good food, and to begin to control moisture within the hive. Honey supers should be off the hive by August 1st (this date does fluctuate depending on weather). All queen excluders need to be off the hive! After honey is extracted from honey frames, the frames need to be treated for wax moths. This is done by freezing the frames for 48 hours, or by using paramoth. Do not use moth balls! Frames should be allowed to cool to room temperature if frozen, and then stored in airtight containers. The frames can also be stored in the hive boxes if they are stacked in a staggered manner in a dry location.



Varroa mite counts should be continued until winter. The threshold for treatment in Lane County is 24 mites/day by sticky board method, or 12 mites/300 bees. If you are treating for varroa, you must treat as soon as this threshold is met because it may take several treatments to knock down the mite load. Grease patties should be on the hive at all times also. These are used to treat for tracheal mites. Nosema is treated with Fumagillin B, two2 gallons per hive, if needed. Entrance reducers or robber screens are important in the fall to prevent yellow jackets and robber bees from attacking the hive. Entrance reducers or mouse guards are also helpful in preventing mice from entering your hives. Water needs to be available, especially in hot weather. Until the rain starts, you should be sure to have water readily available for your bees.

It is very important to check the strength of your hives in the fall. A hive needs about six to eight frames of bees in order to be strong enough for overwintering. The brood pattern needs to be good. Minor spottiness is OK now so workers can go in these cells to warm up adjacent brood in the winter. If the brood pattern is too spotty, you need to re-queen! It is best to take losses in the fall. If you have a weak hive, combine that hive with a strong hive, as long as there is no disease. Pollen stores are very important in late fall. The bees need good pollen to make the **vitellogenin** for the longevity of overwintering bees. If your hive is short on pollen, be sure to give them a supplement. During the winter months, the worker bees will cluster around the queen once the temperature drops below 45 degrees. There needs to be plenty of honey close to the cluster. As winter progresses, the cluster will work its way up towards the top of the hive, in Langstroth hives. Starvation is a real concern over winter. Each hive needs 50-60 pounds of honey to survive the winter months. This is equivalent to two frames of honey on either side of the cluster as well as a full super on top. If your hive is short on honey, now is a good time to feed syrup. Sugar syrup, in a 2:1 ratio, should be offered through a top feeder from now until October. Once the environmental temperature dips below 50 degrees F°, then you need to feed your bees solid food like fondant.

It is very important to manage moisture and ventilation during the winter. Leaving your hives unwrapped, using the screen bottom board, and adding a screened moisture box on top will all help to prevent too much moisture within the hive. Varroa counts should still be monitored over winter. The pattern of debris on the sticky boards also helps to locate the cluster within the hive. If the cluster moves too far to one side, you can re-center the entire cluster to be sure **they don't run out of honey**. It is normal to see dead bees in front of your hives over winter. On dry warm days around 50 degrees F°, you can also watch your bees fly for cleansing flights during the winter months!

*Judy's slide show presentation is posted on our website: <http://www.lcbaor.org/Reference.htm>

July Highlights Continued



Early Education Class: Ken Ograin had a full house for his discussion on extracting just before the general meeting. The first task in extracting honey from your hives is to remove the bees from the frames of honey! Ken included several ways for bee removal. The bee brush is a very effective and basic way to remove bees from the frames. Mechanical devices including Porter escapes and triangle bee escapes can be used also, but these require lifting the honey supers off the hive and then putting them back on top. Fume boards also work well if you have a warm day. Ken was quick to recommend only using B-Quick or Bee-Dun if you use a fume board.

Once the honey frames are free of bees, then extracting can begin. Ken noted that only frames with at least 70% capped honey should be extracted. The first task is to uncapping the frames. This can be done with a hot uncapping knife, a serrated uncapping knife, or the roller punch. The uncapping should be done over a tank to capture the honey that drains out and to collect the wax. A good use for this wax is cosmetics or candles. If using a hot knife, be sure to have a damp cotton towel available to wipe the knife off between frames to keep it from burning. If you are planning to use the capping pins for anything, they should be drained overnight then soaked and rinsed with tap water at least three times.

After the frames are uncapped, they can be placed into the extractor. Make sure to balance the frames. Spin the extractor gently initially, then turn the frames around and spin the opposite side. This will prevent the heavy honey on one side from pushing the wax out of the frames. Strain the honey through filters no less than 200 microns. This will leave all the pollen in the honey. When finished, be sure to clean the extractor with warm tap water soon after you finish! If you wait until the next day you will need soap and warm water.

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Busy Bee - "Giving Back to the Hive"



Jenny Buckley



Jen Hornaday

Jen and Doug Hornaday's Healthy Bees=Healthy Gardens annual "Save the Bee" event took place on August 2nd at Washington Park. Jen gave a presentation on creating healthy spaces for bees and bee friendly gardens. There was an observation hive and a talk on mason bees.

LCBA had a booth there along with member Bill Wood. Members that helped out at our booth were Rebecca Hale, Jenny Buckley, Deb Elder and Catharine Florence. The Register Guard did a nice article on the event. [Click here](#) for article.

Sunday, July 26th, Polly & Doug Habliston and Nancy & Ken Ograin were hosts in the grange building at the Lane County Fair. They answered questions and encouraged people to vote for their favorite grange display. Ken and Dave Creasey set up our display. Spencer's Creek grange won the "People's Choice" award.

There were five light, thirteen medium, six dark, one chunk, one cut comb and five wax entries submitted. Winners were:

	Light Honey	Medium Honey	Dark Honey	Chunk Honey	Cut Comb Honey	Wax
1st Place	Judy Scher	Healthy Bees	Nancy Ograin	Judy Scher	Judy Scher	Nancy Ograin
2nd Place	Steve Hadden	Nancy Ograin	Healthy Bees			Polly Habliston
3rd Place	Healthy Bees	Healthy Bees	Healthy Bees			Ken Ograin

The first place winners will be awarded a \$10 premium from LCBA at our August meeting. Congratulations winners!

Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and energies. LCBA encourages community outreach to talk about bees and if you present to a group or volunteer at an event, please be sure to let me know so it can be included in the newsletter. pamseaver2000@yahoo.com

Honey & Wax Entries





Polly & Doug Habliston



LCBA Display




OSBA Fall Conference 2015

Oregon State Beekeepers Association

November 6–8, 2015

Oregon Garden Resort

895 W Main Street – Silverton, Oregon 97381
Individual and Family Preregistration

Name: _____ Date: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____ email: _____

Additional Family Members

Names: _____

Event Preregistration			Cost
Friday Night Hospitality Room			Complimentary
Full Conference	Individual - \$150 Family - \$180		\$
Saturday Conference Only	Individual - \$90 Family - \$110		\$
Sunday Conference Only	Individual - \$90 Family - \$110		\$
Saturday Benefit Luncheon	\$28 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Saturday Banquet	\$50 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Sunday Cascadia Queen Breeders Luncheon	\$28 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Research Donation *			\$
Annual OSBA Dues	\$40 per Person	Number: _____	\$
Total Cost			\$

Please make check **payable to OSBA** and mail with this completed registration form, **postmarked no later than October 24**, to: Jeff Milligan, P.O. Box 20548, Keizer OR 97307

Attendees qualify for preregistration rate if application form (with registration fee) is postmarked on or before October 24. **Late or on-site registration rates are: One Day Individual \$110.00, One Day Family \$130.00; Full Conference Individual \$190.00, Full Conference Family \$220.00.**

Note: Hotel reservations are not included in these costs. Special rates are available at the Oregon Garden Resort: (503) 874-2500 Ext 0

*The Oregon State Beekeepers Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. Please consult your accountant for details.

Visit the Oregon State Beekeepers website for complete information on the conference orsba.org

OSBA Fall Conference 2015
Oregon Garden Resort ❖ November 6–8, 2015
Tentative Conference Agenda



Friday, November 6

7:00 PM **Kick-Off Wine and Cheese Social**

Saturday, November 7

7:30 AM **Registration**

8:00 AM **Silent Auction** Begins

8:15 AM **Welcome & Announcements**
 Paul Andersen, OSBA President
General Session

8:30 AM **Oxalic Acid and Concepts in Mite Management**
 Randy Oliver

8:30 AM–
 3:00 PM **Bee School (Concurrent)**
Thom Trusewicz, Director

9:15 AM **Bee Informed Partnership**
 Ellen Topitzhofer, Oregon State University

10:00 AM **Break**

10:15 AM **2J Honey Farms**
 Jay Miller

11:00 AM **National Honey Board Report**
 George Hansen

NOON Luncheon (*Preregistration required*)
Oregon Master Beekeeper Program
 Carolyn Breece

1:15 PM **Wholesale Honey Considerations**
 Alan Turanski, GloryBee

2:00 PM **VanCalcar Apiaries, Amity, Oregon**
 Nick VanCalcar

2:45 PM **Break**

3:00 PM **Changes on the Landscape Impacting Honey Bee Forage and Nutrition**
 Pete Berthelsen

3:45 PM **Swarm Fundamentals**
 Karessa Torgerson

4:00 PM **Silent Auction** Ends

4:30–
 5:45 PM **OSBA General Membership Meeting**

6:00 PM **Social Hour**

7:00 PM **Banquet**
 Dr. Clint Walker
Benefit Auction

Sunday, November 8

7:30 AM **Registration**

8:15 AM **Welcome & Announcements**
 Paul Andersen, OSBA President
General Session

8:30 AM **Wax Is Wax**
 George Hansen

9:15 AM **Beekeeping Mistakes, Lessons Learned**
 Jay Miller

8:30 AM–
 10:00 AM **Mead Workshop (Concurrent)**
Andrew Schwab

10:00 AM **Break**

10:15 AM **Understanding Bee Biology Over the Course of a Season**
 Randy Oliver

11:00 AM **Pests, Pathogens and Poor Nutrition: Understanding and Mitigating**
 Dr. Ramesh Sagili

NOON Luncheon (*Preregistration required*)
 Cascadia Queen Breeders
Panel of Northwest Queen Producers
 Jordan Dimock, Moderator

1:15 PM **Package & Queen Production**
 Pat Heitkam

2:00 PM **Effects of a Neonicotinoid Insecticide on Honey Bee Health and Physiology**
 Stephanie Parreira

2:45 PM **Break**

3:00 PM **Maximizing Honey Production**
 Dr. Clint Walker

3:45 PM **Final Comments**
 Paul Andersen, OSBA President

4:00 PM **Adjourn**



August Beekeeping Tips

by Chuck Hunt, LCBA Member

1. August is one of the most important months of the year for beekeepers. The survival of your hive(s) through the winter into the following spring is determined by what you do this month in terms of disease and pest prevention, stores for the winter, and yellow jacket protection.
2. All honey to be used for human consumption should be removed from the hive by August 15 and either stored or extracted. There are a number of alternatives for mite control available and, if you have screen bottom boards, it is time to monitor the mite populations in your hive(s). Whatever type of mite control you use, make sure to follow the directions given for that type of control and do not leave strips in the hives longer than required. Grease patties should be placed on the hives. The patties will take care of tracheal mites.
3. The honey flow is largely over in the Willamette Valley by August. Be careful exposing honey and inducing robbing in your bees. Make sure that your bees have sufficient honey stores to survive the winter. In the Willamette Valley this is approximately 50-60 pounds of honey or one full western super. Feed hives, that are too light, a thick sugar syrup.
4. Yellow jackets begin to appear in late July. August is a critical month for these pests. Carefully observe your hives to see if they are being attacked. Reduce entrances, close up all alternative entrances, and place yellow jacket traps.
5. Wax moths are also active in August. Strong hives will protect themselves but supers taken off the hives are vulnerable. If wax moths are a concern either use Paramoth or place the supers or frames in a freezer.
6. Make sure that your bees have a source of clean water this month as they will use the water for cooling in the heat of August. Also, if they are not being attacked by yellow jackets, provide small ventilation openings in the hive for the bees to help cool the hive. These may be as small as toothpicks placed under the top cover or between boxes.

Visit our website: www.shastinamillwork.com

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Aug 19th - Ohio State University Bee Lab Webinar Royal Jelly and Queen Development: a Chemical Perspective, Thom Janini, The Ohio State University. Click on link below to sign up or review previous classes. These are free classes. You can join the seminar live or review at a later date. <https://u.osu.edu/beelab/courses/>

Aug 28th to Sept 7th - Oregon State Fair, Salem LCBA will host the state fair booth on Sunday, Aug. 30th.

Aug 28th - 30th - NW Permaculture Convergence Expo 10:00 am –5:30pm River Road Emerald Park The Convergence is all about living more local, green, and advocating resilient homes and communities. <http://www.northwestpermaculture.org/> LCBA will have a booth on Saturday, the 29th.

September 26th - Master Gardener Fall Festival 11:00 am– 4:00 pm Emerald Park

Oct 1-3rd - Western Apicultural Society Annual Conference, Boulder, Colorado The conference theme is "Healthy Bee / Bee Healthy" with the first 2 days focusing on bee health and the final day emphasizing the relationship between bees and human health and interaction. Click on link below for all the information: <http://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/location/>

Nov 6-8th - Oregon State Beekeepers Fall Conference 2015, Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, OR Click on link below for all the information <http://osba2015.orsba.org/> See page 5&6 for agenda and registration form.

Kelly's Beekeeping Blog: "Lane County Hiveways" Follow Kelly as she does her inspections, observations, and other beekeeping activities. <http://lanecountyhiveways.com/>

Florence Garden Club - visit their face book page at www.facebook.com/FGCOR.



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“Feeding Fall Colonies”

by Dr. Dewey M. Caron

Feeding bees in the fall is unquestionably a way to make the difference in whether a colony survives overwinter or not. When colonies are light on food stores, feeding a heavy sugar syrup or not extracting stored honey can improve winter survival. It is the best management option to insure the proper fall configuration and promote raising FAT fall bees. To raise Fat bees the colonies need to be FAT with honey.

For improved wintering success, it is important to ensure the brood nest is situated low in the colony before fall ends. Ideally, an ample ceiling of honey/syrup will be stored above the brood nest enabling the bees to eat their way up through the overhead stores as winter progresses. If your brood nest is still sitting high up in the colony mid-August/early September, I recommend beginning supplemental feeding soon.

Different individuals have different ways to feed and feed different materials. Basically the BEST way to feed is the one you find useful. Many use sugar syrup in a recycled jar that has a removable lid placed above the inner cover hole, with or without a piece of screen material, with an empty shell around the feeder. It is easy to check, refill, and replace **when the bees have taken down the contents. Some feed bees in a common feeder in feed lot style. I don’t recommend this method as it is not a good for urban beekeeping.** I like to drill a hole the size of a plastic jar and put the feeder jar outside the lid. I can remove it and replace it with a filled jar before the bees have a chance to occupy the space of the hole.

Does it make a difference what sugar is fed? Last year the Pacific NW Honey Bee survey y (www.pnwhoneybesurvey.com) data says there was no difference in improvement in loss percentage no matter what you fed. For latest fall (and earliest spring) feeding generally a clean, non-contaminated sugar is recommended. Fall feeding of protein does not make for a larger colony nor improve survival. They do not store the artificial diet material but if there is a lack of pollen stores in a colony, fall protein feeding can help insure FAT bees.

We do recommend that the syrup be mixed heavy in fall feedings. This is to stimulate storage of the material vs stimulating of brood rearing. **If “junk” honey still in a frame is to be fed, score the cappings to make a “mess” to stimulate the bees to move it into their storage pattern.** If you have liquid honey to feed, dilute it and feed in a container feeder within the hive. Be careful when feeding in fall or during a drought that you do not promote robbing behavior. Reduce entrances and avoid spilling honey/syrup outside of colonies.

Should food stimulants (such as Honey-Bee-Healthy, Amino Acid boosters, Pro-Biotics) be used when feeding in the fall? Although they can be good additions to entice the bees into quickly emptying feeders and stimulate healthy colonies, some advocate avoiding adding a food stimulant in the fall. If you are debating the value of such additives, I suggest you try splitting your colonies into two lots, feeding one and not the other and see if you see a difference. New additives seem to frequently come on the market, but most, adapted from feeding other livestock, have not been extensively or independently tested for effectiveness or potential harmful effects.

Should you add vinegar or an acid to syrup to bring the pH down to around 4.7? At one time additives to avoid sugar spoilage and mold growth in feeders was the standard recommendation. Those who feel it important to create a more acidic syrup, thought to better duplicate flower nectars (which have a wide pH range depending upon the flower and plant growing conditions) may help the bees intestinal function. Avoid toxic sugars (such as milk sugars lactose and galactose) and avoid salt as a higher salt content quickly turns bees off.

Will feeding sugar in the fall make a difference? Those who didn’t feed (in the pnwhoneybeesurvey) lost more colonies than those who did feed. My best advice – try it, you might like the improvement in overwintering of your colonies.

Welcome New Members

Ralph Christensen	Junction City
Bridget Piccioni	Veneta
Sam Slotts	Creswell
Ellen Furstner & Lon Otterby	Marcola

Help Still Needed at NW Permaculture Expo

Saturday, Aug 29th, 10:00 am –5:30pm at River Road Emerald Park
LCBA will be hosting a booth and we still are looking for help.
Please contact Nancy Ograin if you can help out.
541-935-7065 or nancy.ograin@gmail.com.

Extractor Information

Please limit your use to no more than three days, and always clean the extractor before returning or passing along to the next member. Extractors clean very easily if cleaned with warm soapy water and flushed out with a garden hose after you finish for the day. The three frame units are the easiest to use and to transport.

Eugene, River Rd Area - Peggy Jillson 541-689-7964 Cottage Grove - Kev Ashley 541-767-0761
Springfield - Justin Boe 541-214-2614 (new number) Pleasant Hill - Tina & John Franklin 541-953-2028
Elmira - Ken Ograin 541-935-7065 Creswell - Amy Sierzega 541-505-4033

The only electric unit is located in Springfield and is a four frame. It is heavy and you will need a truck to transport it. Call Kaylene Stewart 541-743-3925.

Remember--return it on time, and return it clean!

Classified Ads

Bee-related classified ads cost \$5.00 for non-members and are free to members. Classified ads run for three issues and may be renewed by contacting the editor. Bee-related business ads cost \$35 a year. To place an ad, contact Nancy Ograin by the 1st of the month via e-mail nancy.ograin@gmail.com or phone 541-935-7065.

Do your Bees need a New Home?

If you live in the Springfield area perhaps this location will work for you: Hayden Bridge Rd.

If you are interested please contact:

Katharine Hunt: [541-607-0106](tel:541-607-0106) or cell [541-214-8455](tel:541-214-8455)

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For discounts on American Bee Journal subscriptions contact Nancy Ograin for discount forms.

Bee Culture no longer offers discounts, however, we do have the forms you can use for renewal or new subscriptions.

Contact Editor to
advertise here for
the 2015 year.

2015 LCBA Membership Dues

Renewals & New Memberships:
\$25 per year per household or family
Please remit payment at our January meeting or mail to:

LCBA Treasurer
Polly Habliston
1258 Dalton Dr.
Eugene, OR 97404
polly@uoregon.edu

Membership forms for new members and renewals are available on the LCBA website. [Click here](#) to access.

NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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