



LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

130 HANSEN LANE, EUGENE, OR 97404

Website: lcbao.org Email: lcbao@pacinfo.com

President: Max Kuhn 541-999-0744

Treasurer: Polly Habliston 541-461-0339

Secretary: Tamara Andreas 541-968-4106

Past President: Pam Leavitt 541-344-4228

Board Members: Francis Rothauge 541-520-8391

Jim Rundall 541-688-1925

Kelly Goodwin 541-925-3028

Larry Scoville 541-228-0973

Mike France 541-232-1610

August 2017 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Max Kuhn, LCBA President

For beekeepers the high point of August may well be the Oregon State Fair in Salem. Oregon beekeepers have a presence at the fair this year in the form of a display booth sponsored by Oregon State Beekeepers Association (OSBA). The booth (40 feet long) is large, with a children's section, an observation hive, honey display, equipment & gear display, along with lots of information for those interested in bees, beekeeping, and pollinators of all types. The booth is staffed by volunteers and is in need of more beekeepers to work there during the fair.

LCBA is committed to staffing the booth all day on Sunday, August 27th. We have enough volunteers to staff the booth on that day, although we could use on or two people more to completely fill the day. But the other days of the fair remain in need of volunteer beekeepers. If you could fill one of these four hour shifts, but have not signed up because you don't have enough experience, don't let that stop you. If you have bee hives of your own you know plenty to work at the fair. It is fun and a great experience. If you can spare the time I promise it will be worth it. You get a free pass into the fair and a parking pass as well. So please come on out and join us.

To volunteer on LCBA's day, August 27' contact Max, t.maxkuhn@gmail.com.

To volunteer to work on another day during the fair contact Yvonne Shaw by email at ylshaw76@gmail.com or sign up on the OSBA's website at <https://orsba.org/fair-booth-signup/>.

August Meeting Topic: "Time for a Reign Change: Queen Introduction" Morris Ostrofsky covers the why, who, when (including fall) and how of requeening. These are the questions surrounding requeening a hive. The premise is that you are starting with a hive that has a queen and you will be replacing her.

NEXT MEETING:

August 15, 2017

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

General Meeting

Hall opens at 7:00 pm

Program 7:30 pm

Topic: "Time for a Reign Change: Queen Introduction"

Speaker: Morris Ostrofsky

Trinity United

Methodist Church

440 Maxwell Road

Turn West off River Road
in Eugene (South of Beltline)

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Upcoming Events & Announcements

August 16 - Ohio State University Bee Lab Webinar "Viruses in Honey Bees"

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 16th - Linn Benton Beekeeping Assoc. Meeting

Topic: "Is Your Comb Drawing You Down?" (Costs & benefits of comb replacement), Andony Melathopoulos, Assistant Professor, OSU Department of Horticulture.

Location: Corvallis Waldorf School, 6:30-8:30 pm

Visit their website for more information. <http://ww.lbba.us>

Aug 18th - Friday in the Apiary

Location: TBD, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

The August information will be posted soon on their website. Sign up to received notifications and to RSVP at:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mb/blog>.

Aug 19th - 4th Annual Oregon Honey Festival

Location: Ashland, OR

<https://www.oregonhoneyfestival.com/>

No Aug Meeting - Central Coast Beekeepers Assoc.

<http://www.ccbaor.org/>

Aug 27th - LCBA Volunteer Day at the Oregon State Fair

Contact Max Kuhn if you would like to volunteer.

t.maxkuhn@gmail.com

Sept 5th-8th -Western Apicultural Society

2017 40th Anniversary Conference, UC-Davis, CA

<http://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/>

Kelly's Beekeeping Website: "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

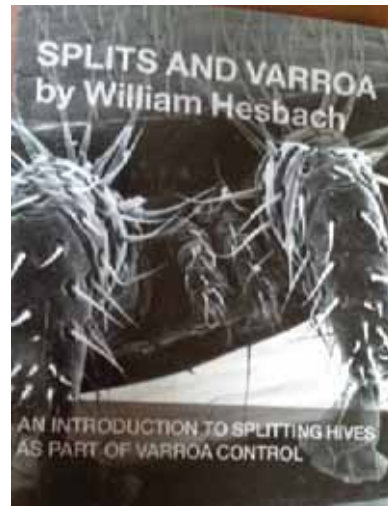
www.facebook.com/FGCOR.

Book Review - by Barbara Bajec, LCBA Member

"Splits and Varroa" by William Hesbach, an introduction to splitting hives as part of Varroa control.

A great little book only 40 pages in length, but concisely covers how splits work, types of splits, queen cells and choosing options as part of your integrated pest management. It's available on Amazon for \$15.98.

A great addition to your beekeeping resources."



Master Gardener Fall Festival Volunteers Needed

Date: Saturday, Sept. 23th, 10:00am-4:00pm

Location: Emerald Park Recreation Center, River Road Park, 1400 Lake Drive, Eugene

Looking for volunteers to help out at the LCBA booth. This is a fun event and we are indoors. If you can help out please let me know.

Nancy Ograin at 541-935-7065

nancy.ograin@gmail.com

Save the Date

Oregon State Beekeepers Association 2017 Fall Conference

Date: Oct 27, 2017 - Oct 29, 2017

Location: The Oregon Garden

895 W Main St, Silverton, Oregon

A tentative agenda and information regarding registration will be posted on the OSBA website when it becomes available.

Refractometer

The clubs Refractometer will be available at our upcoming meeting and throughout the summer meetings to check the honey moisture content of your honey. Honey will be checked before the meeting from **7:00 pm to 7:30 pm**. Please limit your honey testing to **four** jars per member so that everyone has a chance to get their honey checked out.



July Meeting Highlights

by Tamara Andreas, LCBA Secretary

Announcements:

- Oregon State Fair: we still need three to four more volunteers to help manage the LCBA booth at the fair. Each volunteer gets one free pass and one free parking pass for helping. Talk to Max Kuhn about volunteering.

Presentation: Fall & Winter Management by Judy Scher

We are now going into the second part of the year for bees, and the queen will begin to reduce the hive population. Fall used to start around August 15th, but due to climate change, the date is earlier and is around now. Good fall management includes having a strong hive and strong queen; monitoring and treating for parasites & disease; providing good food stores; and controlling moisture.

After honey extraction, by July 15th, be sure to remove the queen excluder and treat the extracted honey frames for wax moths. Wax moths can cause extensive damage to the frames. To treat for wax moths freeze the frames for 48 hours then store them in sealed containers. Be sure to seal up any holes. Another method is to stagger the honey supers in a bee tight room so that sunlight touches the frames. There is also a chemical method using paramoth.

The next step is to treat for varroa mites. A mite count should be done every three weeks. The fall threshold for the mite count is 3%, or nine mites per 300 bees with a sugar shake; or less than 12 mites/day on a sticky board. When you detect this threshold, treat immediately for mites.

If mites are not treated they will spread viruses which quickly diminish the hive population. It also affects the ability of the bees to produce winter or fat bees for a longer life in winter. Treatments that can be used now for mites include Apiguard, Api Life Var (cannot be used above 85° F), and ApiVar. For more information see "Tools on Varroa Management" on the LCBA website, lcbaor.org. There is also information on why a hive might die over the winter, and tips for avoiding that.

Another fall management item is to protect the hive from yellow jackets and robber bees. Use an entrance reducer and/or a robber screen for these problems. A reducer will help the guard bees to protect the entrance. A robber screen helps to prevent bees from other hives from getting in to steal honey. Putting yellow jacket traps nearby is also helpful.

Provide water until it rains, and use rocks and sticks in the water for the bees to land on.

Going into fall, the bees will indicate they are transitioning when they kick the drones out. At that point, check the strength of the hive, which should have six to eight frames of bees in the top box and a decent brood pattern. If the overall hive is hard to lift, then you should have a good supply of honey for the bees.

If necessary, combine a weak hive into a strong hive. Don't combine if the weak hive is diseased. Be sure to kill the queen in the weak hive before you combine the hives. Use newspaper between the hives, with holes punched in it, as a method for combining. Re-queen hives if necessary in order for them to survive the winter. A bad brood pattern can be an indication of needing to re-queen.

For moisture control and ventilation, locate the hive out of the wind. If the weather gets into single digits, then it can be helpful to wrap the hives to help insulate them (rarely needed in the Willamette Valley). Use a screened bottom board at the bottom to allow moisture to drip out. A screened top with a moisture collector (burlap, straw, old towels, leaves) is great at the top of the hive.

Winter bees do not hibernate, they cluster in a mass and keep warm by vibrating their wing muscles. When temperatures go below 45° F, they cluster around the queen. The bees need honey supplies close to the cluster in order to survive. Pollen stores are also needed; if no pollen is stored, provide a pollen substitute. Pollen must be over the brood.

Starvation is very dangerous in winter, but it is preventable. Each hive needs 50-60 pounds of honey. There should be two frames of capped honey next to the cluster, plus a full western of capped honey frames on top.



June meeting highlights continued

If the hive is light and you can easily lift it, provide a 2:1 sugar syrup until the weather gets really cold (up till November), using a top feeder. Check food supplies again at the end of October. In later winter, supply sugar as a food source, or candy canes directly on the frames, or make fondant (the recipe is available on lcbao.org, recipe tab).

Mice are also a problem in winter. They will look for a warm place to nest, and the bees will attack the mouse and sting it to death. However, they won't be able to remove the mouse from the hive. Use an entrance reducer or hardware cloth to keep rodents out.

In later winter, check for the capping pattern on the collection board. If cappings are not centered on the board, then they may starve for lack of food supplies. Move honey supplies around them and re-center them.

Smoker Safety

by Ken Ograin, LCBA Members

Smokers need to be respected, not only because if they burn too hot it is harmful to our bees, but also to us if you touch them. They may look safe as the fire or material being burned is inside a metal container, but if that container gets very hot and you set it down too close to combustible material it might cause a fire. The picture below shows what happened to an LCBA's member fence post and lilac bush when a smoker was hung on it.

With the fire risk at Extreme Danger (as is the current condition) and if you are working in an area with dry grass, you must also be aware that your smoker will send out embers if it gets too hot. It only takes a small spark to start dry grass burning, add a little wind and you will find yourself in a field of fast moving flames.

I was told of one beekeeper's experience of a perfect storm. While working several hives in a field of dry grass an loose ember landed in the dry grass and before he could do anything the fire grew to several acres and burned down a barn.

Keeping safety in mind, do not set or place your lit smoker on or near anything combustible. Use a plug to put out your smoker and this can be made out of a piece of wood dowel or an old broom handle as I did in the picture below. Have a metal pail with lid to empty your smoker into when you finish working your bees. Metal safety pails can be purchased at Bi-mart or Jerry's and most hardware stores.

Smoker with nozzle plug.



Metal Safety Pail





August Beekeeping Tips by Chuck Hunt

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 to 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 around your hives if they are under attack.

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.

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Busy Bee

Sunday, July 23rd, Rita and Morris Ostrofsky, Brian McGinley and Barbara Elliott were hosts in the grange building at the Lane County Fair. They answered questions, helped with security and encouraged attendees to vote for their favorite grange display. Ken Ograin and Dave Creasey set up and took down our display. Thanks to all who volunteered to help out. London Grange won the "People's Choice" award.

Thanks to all those who also entered honey. Doug Habliston's medium honey won "Best in Show"! The first place winners will be awarded a \$10 premium from LCBA at our August meeting. Congratulation winners!

	Medium Honey	Chunk Honey	Honey in Comb	Full Frame Honey	Wax
1st Place	Doug Habliston	Francis Rothauge	Francis Rothauge	Francis Rothauge	Nancy Ograin
2nd Place	Polly Habliston	-	-	-	Ken Ograin
3rd Place	Nancy Ograin	-	-	-	Polly Habliston

There were not many honey entries this year. Next year think about entering your honey. Save some from this year's honey extraction.

Other Bee Activities: Judy Scher and Pam and Les Leavitt met with a U of O student to assist her with her project about honeybees and the threats to these pollinators.

Ken Ograin did an interview for the "Northwest Boomer Senior News". They published an article, 'Bee' a Good Neighbor", in their July newspaper.



Honey & Wax Entries



Welcome New Members

Teresa Dobles & Doug Austin	Eugene
Eric Fager	Eugene
Jim Howell	Eugene
Mark O'Hara	Eugene
Matt Strouder	Harrisburg
Chris Weinstein	Eugene
Carol Wennstrom	Blachley
David Williams	Florence

Attention Beekeepers! 2017 North American Mite-A-Thon

Mite-A-Thon is a national effort to collect mite infestation data and to visualize varroa infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a one week window. All beekeepers will be asked to participate, creating a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

Collect mites using either the alcohol wash or powder sugar roll one day during the time period.

Submit your mite count to: www.mitecheck.com

Learn more at: www.pollinator.org/miteathon

2017 North American *Mite-A-Thon*

The Mite-A-Thon is a Citizen Science Project of NAPPC (North American Pollinator Protection Campaign) www.pollinator.org/miteathone with support of Honey Bee Health Coalition www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org. It is designed to educate beekeepers to the value of testing Honey Bee hives for levels of *varroa* mites across all of North America. It will take place:

Saturday, September 9 to Saturday, September 16, 2017

This is the first Mite-a-Thon. It is an opportunity to gather data on *varroa* mite infestations and to discuss management strategies. Commercial, sideliner, and hobbyist beekeepers are encouraged to participate through their respective clubs and associations to create a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. A common measurement protocol will be used, and data will be downloaded to the NAPPC independent database.

- OBJECTIVE:** To raise awareness about the level of *varroa* mites in bee hives of North American and to teach consistent and effective methods to measure mite load. As a secondary goal, treatment strategies will be made available for discussion utilizing partner developed information and outreach materials.
- PARTICIPANTS:** All beekeepers are welcome to participate.
- COST:** There is no cost. You can create your own test materials or kits can be purchased online. The U Minnesota has one such kit which Mann Lake also sells. www.beelab.umn.edu/bee-squad/resources-beekeepers/varroa/mite-kit
- DATA COLLECTION:** Participants will test the level of mites present in their hives using one of two mite sampling protocols - either alcohol wash or powdered sugar roll. Then the count will be uploaded by location, total number of hives, number of hives tested and local habitat. This data will be collected by Bee Informed Partnership under mite check www.mitecheck.com and analyzed for publication to the participating beekeepers and organizations. The published information will not identify individual participants.
- CONTACT:** Miteathon@pollinator.org. 415 362-1137 www.pollinator.org/miteathon
- TO DO:** Determine your preferred method of testing for mites and commit to a day for testing, either individually or through beekeeping organizations.



Classified Ads

Bee-related classified ads cost \$5.00/month 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 start at \$35 a year. To place an ad, contact Nancy Ograin by the 1st of the month. 541-935-7065 or via e-mail nancy.ograin@gmail.com.

For Sale Hive Equipment

- \$15 Western with 10 drawn Frames
- \$ 8 Western with 7 frames
- \$ 5 ea. 2 westerns-removable screen on bottoms for insulation boxes
- \$ 4 ea. 4 migrating lids
- \$ 4 ea. 2 bottomboards – no Screen
- \$ 4 Top feeder – entry on ends

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(under products)

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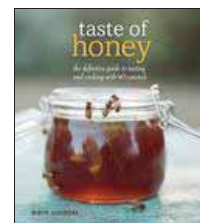
Brood boxes, honey/ western boxes. Wood frames with drawn comb. All frames have been frozen & stored in sealed tubs with no wax moths!

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healthybeeshealthygardens@gmail.com
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Marie Simmons

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

2017 LCBA New/Renewal Memberships

\$25 per year per household or family
Please remit payment 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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Editor: Nancy Ograin
541-935-7065, nancy.ograin@gmail.com