



## August 2018 NEWSLETTER

LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

130 HANSEN LANE, EUGENE, OR 97404

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### President's Message

**Pam Leavitt, LCBA President**

The Lane County Fair was successful and I hope you were able to see the booth set up by the Ograin's and Hunt's. The entries into the Products of the Hive resulted in a number of awards by our club members. Thanks to all our members who entered their products and congratulations to our winners! At our August meeting we will present our winners the LCBA awards.

The State Fair will be August 24-September 3. An email was sent to all members regarding the deadlines for entries of Honey or Products of the Hive. Max Kuhn volunteered to deliver and pick up the entries for our members. I must say there are individuals in our club who are very generous with their time to assist others! I can't personally thank each person, but want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of you who are so willing.

The club is a source of information for community concerns about yellow jacks/wasps/hornets. They have been a major problem this year. We are fortunate to have ALK Source Materials, a research based global pharmaceutical company located in Cottage Grove focused on the treatment and prevention of allergies. They will remove yellow jacket, hornet and wasp nests **for free** to develop products for immunotherapy treatments. They utilize the venom from the insects to make anti venom. They will travel up to a 50-mile radius of Cottage Grove to assist folks with this problem. Often when people have concerns about "bees" they call LCBA and after a short conversation we are able to determine if their issue is honey bees or not. We have referred many to the company. Website: [www.freebeenestremoval.com](http://www.freebeenestremoval.com), phone number 541-510-0191.

We hope your bees were able to supply you with a surplus of beautiful honey. We had five swarms and still were able to harvest nine gallons! This was a great year in my area of the valley. If you are able to spare some of your liquid gold, the club would love to have some for us to bottle in our jars and label for the club to sell. Please bring it to the meetings and we will happily use it for a source of income for the club.

Remember to monitor your bees for varroa mites. This is the time for the development of "fat bees" for winter survival. Our website has the Tools for Varroa Management to assist you with the various methods to monitor and the treatments to use.

### NEXT MEETING:

**August 21, 2018**

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

#### General Meeting

Hall opens at 7:00 pm

Program 7:30 pm

**Topic: Bee Stings & Allergies**

**Speaker: Dr. Jason Friesen, MD  
Oregon Allergy Associates**

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

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**Lane County Fair**

Our LCBA hosts at the Lane County Fair on Sunday, July 22rd were Katharine Hunt, Nancy Ograin, and Pam & Les Leavitt. They answered questions, helped with security and encouraged attendees to vote for their favorite grange display. Thanks for volunteering your time!

LCBA also thanks all those who also entered honey into the fair. We loved to have a good showing of all our honey products. Nancy Ograin'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!

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Light Honey	Polly Habliston	Doug Habliston	Dean Burkhart
Medium Honey	Nancy Ograin	Ken Ograin	Rick Baker
Dark Honey	Polly Habliston	Polly Habliston	
Honey in Frame	Francis Rothauge	Francis Rothauge	Jonathan Loftin
Chunk Honey	Judy Scher		
Cut Comb Honey	Jason Vanderpool	Judy Scher	
Ross Rounds	Katharine Hunt	Chuck Hunt	
Wax	Polly Habliston	Ken Ograin	



Polly's Bees Wax



Katharine's Ross Round



Judy's Cut Comb Honey



Francis's Honey Frame



Nancy Ograin's medium honey won Best in Show.

## Upcoming Events & Announcements

### August 15th - Linn Benton Beekeeping Assoc. Meeting

**Speaker:** Priya Chakrabarti from OSU, Role of Phytosterols in Honey Bee Nutrition

**Location:** Corvallis Waldorf School, 3855 NE Hwy 20

<http://www.lbba.us>

### August 15th - Ohio State University Bee Lab Webinars

Elizabeth Long, OSU Entomology: Protecting Pollinators from Pesticides. To Join a webinar, follow the link below and log in as a guest at about 8:55 EASTERN the day of the event: <http://go.osu.edu/theOSUbuzz>.

You can also review all webinars at a later date at

<https://u.osu.edu/beelab/courses/>.

### August 16th - Thursday in the Apiary, "Are Your Bees Ready for Winter?" What you can do to be prepared.

**Location:** Oak Creek Center (OSU Apiary) 3:00 -5:00 pm

Sign up to receive notifications at:

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

### Aug 18th - Oregon Honey Festival

**Location:** Ashland, Oregon

For more information:

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

### August 25th - Central Coast Beekeepers Assoc.

No August meeting, but they are having their first field day and annual picnic on Aug. 25th. Click on link for more information. <http://www.cccaor.org/>

### Aug 28th - Mite Management for Colony Survival Class

**Location:** 29600 SW Seeley Ave, Suite B, Wilsonville

Sponsored by Bushy Mountain Bee Farm

**Cost:** \$40

[Click here](#) for information.

### Sept 15th - Tom Seeley Event

**Location:** TBD somewhere in the Portland area

**Cost:** Early Bird by Aug. 15th \$40, after the 15th \$50

**Sponsored by:** Portland Urban Beekeepers Assoc.

For more information:

<https://portlandurbanbeekeepers.org/seeley2018/>

**Sept 22nd - A Talk on Bees and Beekeeping**, presented by Sam Comfort

**Location:** Eugene Backyard Farmer, 2:00 PM

### 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 Facebook page at

[www.facebook.com/FGCOR](http://www.facebook.com/FGCOR).

## A Talk on Bees and Beekeeping

Sam Comfort worked for several years in commercial beekeeping across the country before starting Anarchy Apiaries in 2005. Through breeding queens from hardy survivor stock and experimenting with methods and hive designs, Anarchy Apiaries' mission is to 1) make more beehives than there are televisions, and 2) have a good time, all the time (with bees). Anarchy Apiaries runs around 600 hives and 300 mating nucs on the permaculture principal of minimal input; no treatments, minimal feeding, and do-it-yourself hive boxes in New York and Florida. Anarchy Apiaries provides cold-hardy, survivor stock queen bees raised in both Florida and New York. They bring northern, mite and disease-resistant breeder queens south to provide these alternative genetics to beekeepers any time of year.

Sam is the biggest top-bar beekeeper in the Northeastern United States. He has a very large and entertaining store of beekeeping experience. Through teaching self-contained, self-reliant beekeeping, he hopes to make it more affordable, approachable, and enjoyable, as well as bring the means of production back to the beekeeper.

We have been able to read of Mr. Comfort's beekeeping in Bee Culture Magazine, The American Bee Journal, and various state and local journals. Come hear and meet Sam in person. Sam will be visiting Eugene for a few days and he will speak at the Eugene Backyard Farmer at 2:00 PM, Saturday, September 22. The topics will include Treatment-Free But Not Stupid and Queen Raising in the Backyard. The Eugene Backyard Farmer is located at 501 Washington St, Eugene

Bill Wood, (541) 687-8211, [www.beeologique.com](http://www.beeologique.com)

### Save the Date Oregon State Beekeepers Association 2018 Fall Conference

**Date:** Oct 26, 2018 - Oct 28, 2018

**Location:** Salem Convention Center  
200 Commercial St. SE, Salem, OR

For more information visit the Oregon State Beekeepers Association website and click on "2018 Conference."  
<http://orsba.org/>

### Welcome New Members

Brandon Garsow	Cottage Grove
Mary Flippo	Springfield
Kristen James	Eugene
Courtney Salic	Eugene
Thomas Trebaol	Cheshire

### Why Care About Propolis? Webinar

If you missed the live webinar last month on “Why Care About Propolis?” by Marla Spivak with the University of Minnesota, you can view it on YouTube on the link below.

Marla’s research on propolis shows how important propolis is in the hive. Their studies showed that a propolis envelope inside the hive provides constitutive benefits to the bee immune systems. It helps bees reduce disease loads and that bees collect more resin when infected with fungal, but not bacterial brood pathogens. Learn what you can do to help your bees.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xsj8mB4KKZs>

### Oregon State Fair Beekeepers Booth

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) is looking for volunteers from it’s affiliates to help host the OSBA booth at the Oregon State Fair at Salem Fairgrounds from August 24-Sept 3. There are two shifts a day, with three people needed per shift. This way, there can always be 1–2 people available in the booth, even if someone goes for a break (or a walk around the displays!). The shifts are 10 am –4 pm and 4 pm–10 pm. There is seating. Volunteers receive a parking pass and free entry to the fair.

The beautiful honey, creative displays, and fun kid activities, combined with the live bee exhibit, is an intriguing show-stopper at the fair, The informative hosts of the booth really keep the crowd interested. OSBA is asking for your help!

To volunteer please contact:

Bonnie King [bonjking@gmail.com](mailto:bonjking@gmail.com) or

Marjorie Ehry [marjehry@hotmail.com](mailto:marjehry@hotmail.com)

[Click here](#) to view Bonnie King’s letter with information on volunteering and OSBA booth events or visit OSBA website for more information:

<https://orsba.org/state-fair-bee-booth-competition/>

### Avoid Heat Exhaustion While Working Your Bees - By Judy Scher

With the hot weather already upon us this month it’s time for a reminder about avoiding heat exhaustion. Here are things every beekeeper needs to know and have on hand in the hot weather:

Always stay hydrated before and while working bees in the hot weather. If you do not replace fluids in hot weather heat exhaustion may easily occur. If this happens, you need to take it seriously to avoid heat stroke. Your summer inspection tools should contain the following:

- A container with ice
- 1 gallon of water (yes, a GALLON!)
- Sports drinks and/or electrolyte tablets (you can purchase these at REI or at a drug store)
- A cool wet cloth to wrap around your neck while working hives
- Your cell phone in your pocket

If you get flushed in the face and your heart rate increases, you feel dizzy or weak, close up the bees, drink ice water with electrolytes (or a sports drink with ice) while sitting in the shade for 15 – 30 minutes. The shade of your car will work, or your car air conditioner. If your symptoms don’t decrease in 15 minutes pack up and go home. Do not continue to work the hives. Heat exhaustion, which may lead to heat stroke, isn’t worth it. You can always work the bees the next day!

### Master Gardener Fall Festival Volunteers Needed

**Date: Saturday, Sept. 22th, 10:00am-4:00pm**

**Location:** River Road Park, 1400 Lake Drive, Eugene

Looking for volunteers to help out at the LCBA booth.

Contact Nancy Ograin: [nancy.ograin@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.ograin@gmail.com)

### Extractor Information

Extracting time is here. The club has seven extractors with hot knives for use by its members. Six are manual and one is electric. These are on a reserved use basis. 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. If you wait until the next day cleaning is more difficult. The manual, three-frame units are the easiest to use and to transport.

Eugene, Cal Young Area - Pam Leavitt - 541-344-4228

Springfield - Justin Boe 541-214-2614

Elmira - Ken Ograin 541-935-7065

Eugene, North River Road Area - Katie James 541-688-4111

Pleasant Hill - Tina & John Franklin 541-953-2028

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!**



## July Meeting Highlights by Jodi Wiktorowski, LCBA Secretary

### Announcements:

- The pollinator week event in June was a great success and Pam thanked all the volunteers!
- Francis Rothauge volunteered to transport all the products of the hive to the Lane County Fair and State Fair and he also has all the information information regarding registration and entries to the state fair.
- Jim Rundall has provided all materials needed to perform alcohol washes for varroa monitoring.

### Presentation: “Fall & Winter Management”, by Judy Scher



Judy Scher covered important topics in her presentation, “Fall and Winter Management.” Judy noted that in the Willamette Valley, fall begins in July and August. The early part of July, west of the Cascades, the blackberries finish blossoming so there is no nectar source for bees after this. Judy reminded everyone that the bees mark the beginning of fall by kicking the drones out of the hive. If you see this happening at the entrance of your hive, it is a clear indication that fall has begun! Fall management is important to set your hives up to be strong enough to get through winter. The hives need to be strong and they need to have good queens.

In our area, all honey supers should be off the hives by July 15<sup>th</sup>. It is very important to remove any queen excluders before going into winter! Any frames removed from the hive need to be treated for wax worms before going into winter storage. There are two ways to treat the frames for wax worms; freezing them for 48 hours or using the chemical treatment Paramoth. Frames can be stored in sealed plastic bags after treatment, or they can be left in boxes and the boxes can be staggered to allow exposure to sunlight. If Paramoth is used, the frames will need to be aired out for at least three weeks before they can be put back onto the hives in the spring.

Fall treatment is important to send healthy bees into the winter. Varroa counts are extremely important and treatment should be performed with any counts over 3%, or 9 mites/300 bees. Without management of the varroa mites, the colony will often have viruses that are detrimental to bee survival. Unhealthy bees are not able to raise fat bees for winter or to make vitellogenin. Vitellogenin extends the longevity of winter bees allowing them to survive the long winter months. There are several options for varroa treatment. The LCBA website has a link to “[Tools for Varroa Management](#)”. Each treatment option has specific directions that need to be followed, so read the labels carefully. Other important fall management tasks include placing entrance reducers to prevent robber bees and yellow jackets. Traps can be set for yellow jackets. Mouse guards are also helpful to prevent mice from damaging the hives during the winter months. During the dry fall months, water should be made available to your bees.

Later in the fall, during September through October, hive management tasks include monitoring for strong hives and good queens, checking food stores, controlling moisture, and continuing varroa control. Going into winter, hives should have at least six to eight frames of bees and there should be a good brood pattern. It is often said that it is better to take your losses in the fall. This means that weak hives should be combined to create strong hives that are able to survive winter. If there is a poor brood pattern or no queen, the hive should be re-queened. Food stores are necessary to get the hive through the long winter months. A hive needs a good supply of both pollen and honey.

Winter bees do not hibernate. They will form a cluster in order to stay warm. This cluster will move up the hive consuming honey as winter progresses. Honey stores are very important to maintain a hive over winter. A hive will require 50-60 pounds of capped honey to survive through winter. This is equal to one full honey super as well as 2-3 frames on either side of the brood. During the last inspection before winter it is extremely important to check on the honey stores! Right now, if the honey stores are light, it is important to feed 2:1 sugar syrup. It is still warm enough for the bees to dehydrate the feed and store it for winter. Once the outside temperature drops, the bees will not be able to dehydrate the syrup so solid food must be offered. Cane sugar or beet sugar can be fed during winter months. Fondant is no longer recommended as a solid food source in the winter months. When the sugar and vinegar are combined and cooked to make fondant, hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) is produced and this has been shown to be toxic to bees. It is best to simply mix sugar with a little water to the consistency of sand and place on top of the inner cover or make a candy board by letting it harden and place above frames under the moisture box in emergency feed situations. In our climate, it is not temperature that will kill our hives, but moisture will! It is not recommended that we wrap our hives. Ventilation is important and adding a screen bottom board and a moisture box on top help to keep the moisture from accumulating in the hive.

*fall & winter management continued*

During the long winter months, from November through March, it is still important to monitor your hives even without inspections. Varroa counts should still be monitored with a mite board. Counts should remain less than 6 mites/300bees. The mite board is also very useful for indirect monitoring of the cluster. You will be able to see where the cluster is located by the debris pattern on the mite board. If the cluster is stuck to one side of the hive this can be an emergency as they may run out of honey and starve! In this situation you can very quickly re-center the cluster on a day when the outside temperature is above 50 degrees. It is normal for bees to die during the winter months. The dead bees will accumulate near the hive entrance. Be sure to clear the entrance occasionally. On warm winter days you can also monitor your bees by watching for cleansing flights! The bees will not defecate within the hive, so on warm days they will take short flights in order to defecate. This can give you an indication of your hive strength.

\*For more information visit our website, [www.lcbaor.org](http://www.lcbaor.org), reference tab for Judy's power point presentation .

### **July Early Educational Class - "Honey Labeling Laws" presented by Jeff Green, Food Safety Inspector, Oregon Department of Agriculture**



Jeff's presentation was on the regulations of selling and labeling honey. He started off by talking about the regulations that apply to honey and bee registration. Every "person" who owns five or more colonies of bees (Statute ORS 602.090) located in Oregon is required to register the colonies with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Annual registration of colonies is \$10.00 a person. "Person" includes any individual, partnership, association or Corporation. You can download an Apiary Registration Form at: <https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/IPPM/InsectsSpiders/Pages/BeesApiaries.aspx>

Any person extracting honey for commercial activity is required to be licensed by Statute ORS 616. However, extractors who have 20 or fewer colonies and extract only their own honey are considered to be hobbyists, under ODA administrative policy, and are currently exempt from licensing and inspection requirements. They do have to meet the labeling laws. Operations under this exemption require submission of the Honey Extraction Exemption form, which may be downloaded (link below). There is no cost for this exemption.

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/FoodSafety/HoneyProcessorsExemptionForm.pdf>

Labeling – any food that goes to market is required to have a label. The minimum requirements are:

1. Food Identity
2. Net Weight in U.S. Customary and Metric
3. Ingredients (If single ingredient then not required)
4. Name and Address of Manufacturer\*

\*Farm Direct processors must also include the county in the address as described in OAR 603-025-0225(2)

**Food Identity** – Identity of product "Honey" must be prominent on the label. It can be no less than half the size of the largest font. Only if there are additives to your honey then you must list the ingredients.

**Net Weight** – Must have net weight in US and metric. The weight expressed has to be measured as a solid weight, ounces and grams, not quart or pint. Weight must also be on the lower 30% of the label and the font size has to be a minimum of no less than 1/16 of an inch based on the height of the lower case "o" of the font you are using.

**Ingredients** – If you have a single ingredient, like honey, then you do not have to list ingredients. However, if any other ingredient is added, like flavoring, then you must have an ingredient list. Ingredients need to be in order by weight, highest weight first.

**Name and address of manufacturer** – Name, street address, city, state, and zip code are required by federal law. You must have the street address unless you have your product advertised in a local current directory. If you work out of your home and don't want to use your street address on the label, you can omit the street address as long as you advertise in a local current directory and have all the information there. The internet is considered a directory if you use a website like DEX.com and have a profile set up. If you have an established office you can use that address if you have set hours, even if it isn't related to your honey business. There just has to be someone the consumer can contact if there are questions on your product. You still have to have the city, state and zip code listed on your honey label if you omit the street address.

*continued on page 7*

labeling continued

**Farm Direct Sales** – Honey producers who produces, extracts and sells directly to retail customers (end users) do not need a Food Safety Program license, regardless of the number of hives owned . If a honey producer has more than 20 hives and sell retail only, then all honey must bear the required label information and must also state the following in all capital letters, bold-face type, no less than 1/8” in height:

**“THIS PRODUCT IS NOT PREPARED IN AN INSPECTED FOOD ESTABLISHMENT”.**

**“NOT FOR RESALE.”**

Honey producers still need to register their apiary if they own five or more hives. Producers who have more than 20 hives and are selling wholesale need be licensed as a food processor.

If you have 20 or fewer colonies and extract only your honey, and you sell either direct to the consumer or wholesale, you are considered a hobbyist and are exempt from licensing, but you must submit an application for exemption to the ODA.

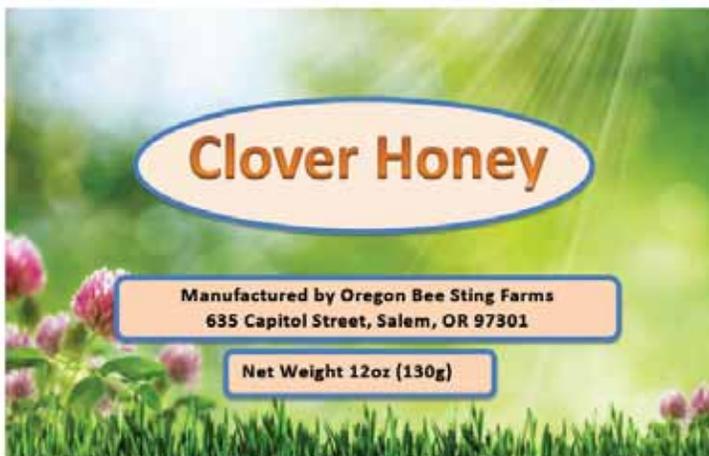
The purpose of a label to is to tell consumer exactly what they are getting. You can have a single label paneling with all the information on it or you can have two labels and split up the information. The principal label has to have name of product and net weight. The second label can have all the other information. If you decide to add pictures or a description there are regulations on this also.

Jeff said the federal laws are very clear about not misleading the consumer. The only time the Oregon Department of Agriculture takes action is if the label is missing information and Jeff has seen the Federal regulators only take action when the product states a claim that is “way out there”, for example “honey can cure a cold”. Jeff said he found numerous honey product labels on the internet that were wrong and with missing key information. He saw one label that said “US Fancy Grade” and that is a term used for apples only. There is no standard for honey, no grades like A, B, C. Another label said it was flavored and 100% honey. If it’s 100% honey it can’t be flavored. There is no federal law or standard for honey. You will see labels that say the honey is certified. Certified by whom? It doesn’t mean anything. A nutritional label is only needed if you make a nutrition claim (you will need to certify that claim) or are selling over 100,000 units.

\*Judy Scher posted on the LCBA website on the Library Reference tab, more information on labeling.

Jeff Green’s power point presentation is posted along with the Oregon Labeling Laws and Farm Direct Rules, and registry and exemption forms. <http://www.lcbaor.org/Reference.htm>

 The basic format...



 The basic ingredients format.



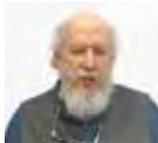
### Busy Bee

Chip Kiger gave a bee talk to young kids at the Child Care Center in Eugene. Chip said the kids were well behaved and asked lots of good questions. Chip had an observation hive and said the kids loved seeing the bees up close in the display case. Chip has done many talks for children and we always appreciate him stepping up and educating the young ones.

LCBA encourages community outreach to talk about bees and if you present to a group or volunteer at an event, please be sure contact Pam Leavitt at [pamseaver2000@yahoo.com](mailto:pamseaver2000@yahoo.com) .

### 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.



## 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 35 to 40 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. This year yellow jackets seem to be especially plentiful and attacking bees and beehives with great aggression. 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. The commercial water traps seem to be most effective although part of the effectiveness of any trap is placement. Pheromone traps may be actually hung on the sides of hives and seem very effective there. Fall cool weather is especially important because yellow jackets seem to be active at lower temperatures than honey bees.
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.

**GloryBee**

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• SINCE 1975 •

### Our Factory Store Is Your Lane County Beekeeping Resource

*We support LBCA members*

The GloryBee Factory Store is truly a unique destination. Our products are great for first-timers and seasoned beekeepers. We have beekeeping essentials such as woodenware, foundations, clothing and nutrition. Come by today and visit with our friendly staff who are always here to answer questions and help you select the right equipment.

EQUIPMENT • TOOLS  
CONTAINERS • BOOKS • GIFTS  
HONEYSTIX • ROYAL JELLY  
BEE POLLEN • PROPOLIS

#### Store Hours:

Weekdays 9:30 am - 5:30 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

29548 B Airport Road, Eugene, OR 97402

Serving Northwest Beekeepers for 40 years



Home of GloryBee Beekeeping  
GloryBee.com | Eugene, Oregon | (800) 456-7923



## Queen Rearing Workshop - WSU by Rick Olson, LCBA Member

*Rick Olson and Rebecca Fain attended a Queen Rearing Workshop at Washington State University on June 15th-16th. They had a wonderful experience and learned a lot. Rick submitted this article on the workshop.*

Reproduction hasn't always been a settled science. Up until 250 years ago there was no understanding that an egg was required for reproduction or what the function of sperm was. Preformationists actually believed that a complete miniature humanoid was contained in each sperm or egg--spermists or ovists. It wasn't till the 1760s that Lazzaro Spallanzani showed that actual contact between egg and semen is essential for the development of a new animal. His experiment consisted of putting hand-sewn taffeta pants on male frogs. Even though the frogs looked fabulous they failed to become fathers. In the 1780s Spallanzani became the first to perform in vitro fertilization and artificial insemination.

At Washington State University they are carrying on the scientific tradition of genetic research and they are on the cutting edge of some fascinating breakthroughs in honey bee genetics. I was fortunate to attend their queen rearing and bee breeding workshop on June 15-16. We got an introduction to the fundamental tools for honey bee stock improvement and given a broader understanding of the complex honey bee genetic topics covered by the WSU staff that includes Steve Sheppard, Susan Cobey, Brandon Hopkins, Tim Lawrence, Melanie Kirby, Jennifer Han and Nick Naeger. Topics included commercial queen production, honey bee genetics, queen rearing principals & methods, stock selection, establishing breeding populations, trait selection and grafting. We also got classes in instrumental insemination and cryopreservation.

The workshop topics covered were centered around Susan Cobey's queen-rearing and research focusing on the instrumental insemination and maintenance of queens focusing on the selection of behavioral traits. Susan is an international authority on instrumental insemination and has taught these specialized techniques for more than 30 years.

Honey bee diversity in the old world is much broader than in the US because of a genetic bottle neck. There are 28 recognized subspecies of *apis mellifera*. Of these there are 26 old world honey bee subspecies recognized--a result of glaciations 18,000 years ago that separated various areas of the Europe allowing different geographic races of bees to evolve and adapt to diverse environments--phylogeography.

German bees were brought to the U.S. in 1622, Italians in 1859, Carniolans in 1877, Caucasians 1880-82. These small subsets of honey bee races created this genetic bottle neck. It was exacerbated in 1922 when bee imports were halted in an attempt to keep out tracheal mites. Further bottle necking is intensified by modern queen producers who create 869,500 queens from just 473 mother queens. With this limited stock they create 1000-3000 queens/day primarily Italians, Carniolans and Caucasians.

Africanized bees brought some diversity to North America, but diversity had been going down till 2014 when germplasm imports from Europe were allowed. This has had a major impact on the North American honey bee genetic pool. WSU has been a leader in using imported honey bee genetics from the old world and designing new techniques for diversifying our stocks. They have the only permit issued by the USDA to import honey bee semen into the U.S. Genetic material has been collected from Italy, Slovenia, the Republic of Georgia and Kazakhstan.

Genetic diversity creates more robust survivor bees. They will communicate better, have a better division of labor, store more pollen and nectar, have a more diverse work force that leads to reduced prevalence and severity of diseases and pests. There will be a greater microbial diversity as well leading to less susceptibility to pathogens.

G. M. Doolittle was a 19th-century beekeeper and author considered to be the father of commercial queen rearing. Beekeepers still use his methods today trying to create the best queens. But bee breeding differs from commercial queen production which actually works against diversity by looking for only a few traits such as honey production and pollination effectiveness.

Genetic diversity, however, is made up of a complex suite of characteristics: productivity, Varroa tolerance, brood viability, temperament, weight-gain, over-wintering, swarming, propolis (resin collection for social immunity--self medication against fungal, bacterial and viral diseases), hygienic behavior, disease resistance, etc.

Bee breeding is a balancing act--a game of hedging bets. Selecting for just a few traits may suppress other traits. Raising good honey producers and pollinators may result in bees with poor Varroa resistance, for instance, or a low winter survival. In other words, you can't breed for just one or two traits. It will take more than a season to adequately evaluate colonies and expand honey bee diversity.

In their research at WSU they control everything about queen genetics. They do not rely on feral drone congregation areas (DCAs). They raise drones as well as queens to control mating. If queens were released to mate with local drones traits would quickly become diluted.

*queen rearing continued*

The basic sequence for queen rearing that Susan Cobey uses: In the spring queen rearing is begun. In the fall a pre-selection is done. Primary traits looked for are brood viability, temperament, pollen/honey stores, disease/parasites, hygienic behavior. Then the bees are over-wintered. In the spring there is a final selection based on spring buildup, production, Varroa growth, brood diseases. As she says, "Breeding takes a career not a season." See <http://honeybeeinsemination.com> for a detailed description of her methods.

Susan Cobey gave us a laboratory demonstration of instrumental insemination of queens. She pioneered these techniques and it was fascinating to watch how efficient she is. She explained that different races of honey bees require a slightly different technique! She offers classes for those who want to go further.

As most of use can't afford instrumental insemination equipment we were given a frame of open brood and shown how to graft by hand. First you need to get a larva that is 24-48 hours old with a grafting tool. Make sure to get a good dollop of royal jelly when you scoop out the larva. It has to be placed exactly in the center of a plastic or wax cell cup. Place cups in a grafting frame. Each frame will hold 15-25 cells. Keep the grafted larva covered with a damp towel before moving them to a starter box. Once queens hatch it's best to place them in a nuc rather than a mini nuc. Though mini nucs take fewer resources they have to be watched more closely than a five frame nuc. Once queens start laying they can fill a small space in no time.

Brandon Hopkins gave us a demo on cryogenically freezing drone genetic material in liquid nitrogen. He has been successful in adapting cryogenic freezing techniques from other live stock such as cattle. Samples are stored at -320 deg F. WSU is using this method to create a repository for honey bee genetics. Theoretically, sperm can be stored for up to 10,000 years and still be viable.

It was an incredible weekend of learning for me. Everything from the history of bee diversity to the cutting edge genetic research of the honey bee and instrumental insemination.

We've come a long way since Lazzaro Spallanzani put pants on frogs!

### Yellow Jacket Traps

I was in a local hardware store getting some more yellow jacket lures and the young woman at the till told me that as of July 27 they had sold 542 yellow jacket traps this July compared to 85 last year in July!

Yellow jackets are a problem this year! Get your traps Up!

*Katharine Hunt*

**Do you have an ANT problem?** New product has come to market, creates a barrier that ants can not cross, but is not sticky like Tangle Foot so will not collect debris. Works well on smooth surfaces but does require aluminum tape on wood or rough surfaces.

The cost \$27.50 for this product, but LCBA can place a bulk order of 10 or more for \$16. It's available in spray or brush on.

## ANTCANT™ ANT BARRIER COATING

**ANTS can't get a grip!**

- Slippery coating for ants
- Easy to apply
- Dry coating is non-toxic
- Works on inclined surfaces
- Ants can't get a grip so they give up and go away



For use in preventing ant infestations and providing an ant barrier for:

- Bee hives
- Fruit trees
- Pet bowls
- Hummingbird feeders
- Indoor/outdoor plants
- Compost stands
- Trash cans
- Barbecues
- Picnic tables
- RVs
- Formicarium/ant farms
- Electrical equipment
- and more!

Shown below: the right half of the pet bowl was protected around the outside and along the inside with ANTCANT.



Shown above: Another hand-painted ANTCANT barrier coating on the smooth base of the tree trunk.

For more information and videos  
[www.CritterTechnology.com/AntCant](http://www.CritterTechnology.com/AntCant)



## Mite-A-Thon

by Dr. Dewey M. Caron



MiteCheck is an online platform that allows beekeepers to enter their sampling counts of *Varroa destructor* mites after monitoring using the powdered sugar roll test or alcohol wash. Participating in this online platform will provide critical information about the health of bees enabling us to see seasonal and geographic trends in mite populations across the country. This information might help develop effective mite management strategies, and understand the risk of mites coming into colonies from other colonies in your area.

Beekeepers need know HOW MANY mites are in colonies under their stewardship. This can only be determined by sampling colonies for mites. It is recommended that Beekeepers sample bees in July, August, September and October as a minimum. If mite numbers exceed 2% to 3% in any colony, it is suggested that mite control follow. High mite numbers mean risk of poor overwintering of the colony, colony loss overwinter (to BEE PMS) or the chance of a “mite bomb” in which a colony with excessively high numbers of mites, spreads their mites to other healthier colonies.

The Mite-A-Thon is a Citizen Science Project of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), <http://www.pollinator.org/miteathon>, with support of Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC) <http://www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org> and the BeelInformed Project <https://beelInformed.org/>. This will be the second season of a coordinated mite counting effort to provide a “snapshot” of mite numbers in September.

The Mite-A-Thon goals are:

- 1) To raise awareness about honey bee colony varroa infestations in North America
- 2) Teach testing protocols and provide resources for possible management strategies.

See website [www.pollinator.org/miteathon](http://www.pollinator.org/miteathon). The website to share sampling is [www.mitecheck.com](http://www.mitecheck.com).

**Saturday, September 8 to Sunday, September 16, 2017**

Participation is easy and free. Test the level of mites present in your hive using either alcohol wash or powdered sugar roll. For detailed information on how to do sugar or alcohol mite sampling, view the Honey Bee Health Coalition *Tools for Varroa Mite Management* Guide (download free from <http://www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa> with accompanying videos). You can easily make your own mite test materials or if you prefer purchase a mite sampling kit online from the University of Minnesota ([www.beelab.umn.edu/bee-squad/resources-beekeepers/varroa/mite-kit](http://www.beelab.umn.edu/bee-squad/resources-beekeepers/varroa/mite-kit)) or purchase a commercial mite sampling device from one of the Bee supply companies.

After entering count data you can see results from sampling in August on the website. Data for highest county mite count is coded as:

- 0 - 3: Relatively low mite level, keep monitoring and managing (splitting, drone trapping, brood breaks, screened bottom boards) mite populations.
- 4 - 5: Intervention suggested (use of a miticide) to increase chances of colony survival.
- 6 - 10: Colony loss or damage likely so intervention is critical to prevent colony loss from mite infestation.
- 11+: Loss of colony likely. Intervention is essential to decrease the threat of horizontal transmission (spread) of mites to neighboring colonies, although colony at this mite level may not be salvageable.

**Need further information CONTACT:** <http://www.Miteathon@pollinator.org>, 415 362-1137 or [www.pollinator.org/miteathon](http://www.pollinator.org/miteathon) or Dewey Caron [dmcaron@udel.edu](mailto:dmcaron@udel.edu)

**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](mailto:nancy.ograin@gmail.com).

**For Sale Bee Equipment**

Several boxes of crimp-wired 100% beeswax foundation, for Shallow frames and for Semi-Deep frames, each box 12-1/2 lbs, each box \$75 ea box (roughly \$60% of new cost)

Drip Trays, 16 1/4" X 20", helpful for stacking supers on a platform easily moved with a hand truck, \$1.50 each (many available)

Escape Boards, triangle style, assists in removing bees from honey supers at harvest time without use of chemicals, \$8.00 each, 30 available.

Please contact Kenny Williams, (541) 456-2631, in Blodgett, Oregon

**For Sale**

Used 2-frame stainless steel extractor \$75

Contact Judy Scher  
541-344-2114

[Judyscher@gmail.com](mailto:Judyscher@gmail.com)

**Your Source for Willamette Valley Queens!**

When you hear "buy local", it really pertains to bees. My breeder queens come from local stock and have survived multiple winters. They have been proven superior and have been selected for survivability, gentleness and honey production.

I have both Italians and Carniolan's available. These queens were grafted from specially selected queens, and have been allowed to lay for a minimum of 14 days. This allows me to ensure you receive only the best queens.

1-25 \$32.00 ea. 25+ \$30.00 ea.

Thad Starr, 541-954-7856, [www.starrfarms.net](http://www.starrfarms.net)

**For Sale****Treatment-free Queens and Nucs**

available for those who missed the first wave.

Queen on frame, \$40

Nucs \$135 plus \$10 box deposit

Contact Kelly Goodwin, 541-925-3028

[kgoodwinus@yahoo.com](mailto:kgoodwinus@yahoo.com)

**For Sale****1 Beehive with 10 Frame Western brood box**

Includes 9 to 10 frames of bees, 2018 queen. All new equipment including top and screened bottom board.

\$220 Contact Morris Ostrofsky at 541-685-2875 if interested.

**"Assistance for New Beekeepers"**

If you need help or advice in the construction of your wooden ware, LCBA member Lee Yamada is offering his woodworking knowledge.

Contact Info: **LEE YAMADA**

[lkyboletes@gmail.com](mailto:lkyboletes@gmail.com), 541-844-1206

**For Sale****Warré Beehives**

I sell complete kits for Warré top-bar beehives and also fully assembled hives.

See the details at

[www.beeologique.com](http://www.beeologique.com)

(under products)

I also offer free guidance in Warré top-bar beekeeping.

**Bill Wood** ~ (541) 687-8211 ~

[beeologique@gmail.com](mailto:beeologique@gmail.com)

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

**2018 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](mailto: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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# LINKS



Residential Beekeeping: Best Practices for Nuisance Free Beekeeping in Oregon  
<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9186>