LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
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August 2023 NEWSLETTER

President's Message
by Fonta Molyneaux

I am writing this on July 31st. This morning was the first time during my morning chores when I could feel fall in the air. In August? Yes, actually! Daytime temps being in the high 80/90s couldn't disguise the colder nighttime temps slowly creeping back. This was confirmed at the sight of the familiar setting sun brood pattern in the top brood boxes of my hives. Created as the queen shrinks back her laying pattern to smaller and smaller concentric circles approaching fall equinox. Its always bittersweet to prepare for fall and winter when summer sun is still on high.

Where I live at 1200 ft. my honey is never near done enough to be capped in July like many folks who live closer to Eugene at lower elevations. Still, I have found in order to have good overwinter rates I have to pull ALL supers and begin mite treatment by the 3rd week of August. Timing is everything and it's during fall that we really become aware of this. The big event is when our queens lay the fat bees! These bees will be overwintering your hive and living much longer than the summer bees. We need this special generation of bees being reared in late summer/early fall to be under the least amount of mite and viral pressure with the most resources available. We're here to help, as you prepare and plan!

This month we have a presentation in the main hall by longtime member Judy Scher as she shares her tips for fall management based on her extensive experience beekeeping locally. For our early meeting I and other board members will be doing Q & A about fall management so bring your questions! As always our website has a ton of resources as well as links to online varroa management tools. Join us at our next meeting for more!

Setting sun brood pattern on top box.

GENERAL MEETING
August 15, 2023
In-Person Meeting
Come early to socialize and share your Questions with experienced beekeepers.
Social 7:00pm-7:30pm

Early Session
Doors open at 6:00pm
Session Starts at 6:15pm
Topic: Q & A Session - Fall Management
Bring your Questions
Fireside Room

General Meeting
Topic: Late Summer, Fall & Winter Management
Speaker: Judy Scher

Program begins at 7:30pm

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

Inside this Issue:

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Aug 25th - Sept 4th: Oregon State Fair
Location: Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center, Salem https://oregonstatefair.org/

Sept 29th – Oct 1: WAS International Conference Location: Grey Eagle Resort & Casino Calgary, Canada
https://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/2023conference

Oct 27th-29th: OSBA Fall Conference
Location: Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center, Bend, OR
https://orsba.org/

Beauty of the Bee Photo Contest –Enter your photos. Helps raise awareness of the plight of bees.
Deadline: Aug 17, 2023
2023 Beauty of the Bee Photo Contest - Beyond Toxics

Honey Donations

If you have any extra honey this year after extracting and would like to share with LCBA please contact Katharine Hunt. Proceeds benefit the Honey Bee Research at OSU and other educational programs.

Katharine keehhunt@gmail.com

Volunteers Still Needed for OSBA Booth at the Oregon State Fair

Date: **Aug 25-Sept 4**

Location: Oregon State Fair & Expo Center, Salem, OR

Booth Volunteers: 3 hosts per shift, 3 shifts per day (4 hrs. each). Sign up here:
2023 State Fair OSBA Volunteer Sign-Up - Google Sheets

Honey Entries: For all the info on entering your honey: Farm & (oregonstatefair.org)

Volunteering is a great opportunity to help enlighten the general public, promote the importance of beekeeping and pollinator health, while doing what most of us do best, chatting about bees!

Volunteers get a free pass to the fair for the day and free parking very close to the building.

For more information or questions contact: Bonnie King bonjking@gmail. com or text/call 503-864-2100.

Welcome New Members

Jo & Paul Reside	Veneta
Lisa Lindell-Olsen	Creswell
Tina White	Eugene

Upcoming Tentative Meeting Topics

General Meeting		Early Session
Sept 19	TBD	Winterization Q&A, Polly Habliston
Oct 17	Native Bees, August Jackson	Bee Stings & Allergies, Dr. Jason Friesen, MD
Nov 21	Honey Tasting	No early meeting

Officers & Directors for 2024

Want to learn more about LCBA? Would you like to get to know your board members? Get to know your fellow members? Think about being on the LCBA board for the 2024 year. Or if you would like to help out on a committee, let us know. We want to hear your ideas and what you would like see for future educational opportunities!

Contact one of our Nominating Committee members for more information or if you have any questions.

Katherine Hunt	541-607-0106	keehunt@gmail.com
Nancy Ograin	541-935-7065	nancy.ograin@gmail.com
Paula Sablosky	541-206-7173	mygarden122@gmail.com

POLLINATION PODCAST
Andony Melathopoulos

View previous podcasts and/or subscribe at PolliNation Podcast | OSU Extension Service (oregonstate.edu)

LCBA at the Lane County Fair

Thanks to all who entered their honey products in the Lane Count Fair this year! We did not have a lot of entries, but our display in the Wheeler Pavillion with all the the grange displays looked really nice. Our association receives $200 for participating and for helping with security each year. Our volunteer security hosts this year were Katharine Hunt and Pam and Les Leavitt. They answered questions, helped with security and encouraged attendees to vote for their favorite grange display. This is a great way to get the word out about protecting our bees!

We wouldn't be able to participate without all the help from our members who helped with hosting and set up and take down of our display, which is not an easy task!

Congratulations to our honey winners! Judy Scher not only won 1st place in light honey and also "Best in Show"! All first place winners will also receive prize monies of $10 donated by LCBA. There are rewards for entering!

	Light Honey	Medium Honey	Dark Honey	Wax
1st Place	Judy Scher	Roger & Cindy Ray	Nancy Ograin	Nancy Ograin
2nd Place	Nancy Ograin	Nancy Ograin	Ken Ograin	Ken Ograin
3rd Place				Judy Scher

	Cut Comb Honey	Chunk Honey
1st Place	Dean Mogstad	Dean Mogstad
2nd Place	Bonnie Mogstad	Bonnie Mogstad

Judy's 1st Place light honey also won "Best in Show"! Way to Judy!

Dean Mogstad's 1st place chunk & cut comb honey.

Roger & Cindy Ray—1st Place medium honey

Thank You Katharine Hunt, Paula Sablowsky, Nancy Ograin, Dennis Groff and Richard smith (not shown) for hauling the booth to and from storage and for setting up and taking it down the booth!

Nancy & Katharine

High Temperatures & Smoke from Forest Fires
by Judy Scher

It is very common now for our Lane County bees to experience high temperatures in the summer and smoke from forest fires. Help your bees during these stressful times as follows:
High temperature management: Place water close by the hive in the shade. Bees will place droplets in the hive and fan in order to evaporate the water and cool the hive. You can use a ventilation box on top under the cover instead of an inner cover. It's just like a winter insulation box, but without the insulation. Heavy congregation (bearding) on the outside of the hive is normal. The bees are fanning and creating a flow of air to cool the hive.

When there is smoke from forest fires: Bees are stressed by heavy smoke. They reduce foraging because there is not polarized light and the bees cannot orient to locate flowers. They stay in the hive and consume the stores of honey they made for winter.

Management: Feed heavy syrup (2:1 sugar water). DO NOT inspect hives while smoke is prevalent. Place water close to the hive (or in a Boardman Feeder).

The Oregon Extension had an article on heat and bees you can review. It's posted on our website or just click on link:

How to support bees in a heatwave | OSU Extension Service (oregonstate.edu)

Smoker Safety
by Ken Ograin

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.

With the fire risk at high right now 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.

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 to the right. Have a metal pail with lid to place 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.

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 hives 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 hives. 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. Some of the mite treatments will take care of tracheal mites as well as varroa.
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. 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.

Mural on Oak St building between 38th& 29th

"LCBA at the Oregon Country Fair", by Fonta Molyneaux

LCBA goes to the country fair! It was extremely exciting to bee welcomed back to the Oregon Country Fair inside Community Village in the wildly popular "Wild Edibles Booth" They welcomed us with extra special fanfare, as this year's fair theme was "Bee Love" and Bees were the center of the magic throughout the spectacular event! From the fair poster picturing pollinators in route to the fair carrying baskets of goodies to hexagonal art that lit up the night.

The fair was very bee centered. There were pollinator parades, lots! Some on stilts, some marching bands but all bringing sweetness to the event! On arrival guests were treated to 'A Bee Welcome Crew' which consisted of the entire admissions crew of ticket takers all wearing bee costumes! What a kick to check in as the Lane County Beekeepers, we received quite the buzz on arrival!

Inside Wild Edibles we added to the extensive botany collection on display featuring over 100 species of edible and medicinal plants found and picked in the Pacific Northwest in the two days before fair. We were able to contribute 23 species to the extensive collection displayed in long rows of vases and labeled with the scientific and common names. We also created a special bee trivia game and botany coloring contest which was distributed amongst the 50 booths inside the community village of the fair! The winner won a jar of Wild Everlasting Honey!

We were in good company as there are two endcaps in the Wild Edibles booth one long held by the Cascade Mycological Society and facilitated by fellow beekeeper and longtime LCBA member Lee Yamada. And the other we reclaimed this year and were able to curate on behalf of the LCBA. We put on quite the presentation with a huge vase featuring over five species of flowering pollinator plants in full bloom towering over the display. We also had a real skep, a Warre' hive with natural comb, Langstroth frames with comb and pollen and bees in specimen containers with magnify glassed so folks could view the materials up close! We also had the Native bees of Oregon poster and a ton of resources to hand out for the whole family! It was incredibly popular, and I literally spoke to about 1000 or more people a day about bees and the work we do at LCBA! People of all ages were just enthralled by our offerings and I was even asked to give a talk on Saturday during the busiest time of fair where I spoke on pollinator plants!

My favorite moment of the whole fair was on Saturday morning when clearly by then word had went out on the coconut wireless to all the native bees that we had blossoms. As it warmed up we became bombarded with every native bee within a mile who were all coming to check out our array of blossoms throughout the booth. I was able to take more than a dozen people on a 'Bee ID' jaunt with my guide book in hand! In our booth that was roughly 20x20 we identified over seven species of bees including a relentless group of honey bees who were really interested in the Warre' hive! I worried we might inadvertently catch a swarm! It was a moment, and folks were enchanted as was I. Every morning I would wake up early to spruce up the booth before the crowds came in and I'd find thank you notes, drawings of bees and gifts set on our table! A testament to the level of engagement we had there!

It was so wonderful to share the work our organization is devoted to, with so many people who were so receptive, interested and engaged from every age group! While I barely got to step away from the from the booth the entire 3 days, I was so grateful that so many members visited us there! It was fun for folks to see LCBA represented in an event so dear to Lane County locals and people from all over! There were 45,000 people in attendance at the 2023 Oregon Country Fair and I'm so glad we were among them!

Bee Trivia Game

1. What is the food fed to the baby queen bee?
2. How does a worker bee tell the others when she has found a good source of food?
3. How many times can a single worker bee sting a mammal?
4. What is the only "work" of the drone?
5. How many sides does an individual honeycomb cell have?
6. How many eyes does a bee have?
7. What are the three types of bees in a hive?
8. What is the main source of PNW nectar?
9. How many days does it take a honey bee egg to hatch?
10. What is the Latin name for the Honey bee?
11. What is Propolis?
12. What is beebread?
13. Name three other PNW pollinators?

July General Meeting Highlights, *by Matt Stouder, LCBA Secretary*

"Unsung Brood Diseases" by Andony Melathopoulos
Brood Diseases 101- Practical Diagnosis & Management

Andony Melathopulos

Andony Melathopoulos, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Horticulture, OSU described the major brood diseases of honeybees. To understand brood diseases, it is important to understand what normal brood looks like. The queen lays eggs, which become larva. Each larva goes through five molts and develops into a pupa after the cell is capped. Healthy larva are pearly white and in a "C" shape in the cell. Shortly after the larva is capped, the larva does a flip and then lays flat in its cell. The brood pattern should be tight, however there will be an occasional cell that the queen misses laying an egg in.

To inspect a frame properly, hold the frame away from you. Shake bees off the frame to expose the brood. You want to evaluate the brood pattern. Specifically, you should look for a spotty brood pattern. It is important to distinguish between signs of brood emergence and a spotty brood pattern. Brood emergence will not look spotty

American Foulbrood (AFB) is one of the worst brood diseases. You may notice some of the brood cells have been picked away and/or are sunken. The larva cell will be brown in color like coffee with some coffee mate mixed in. A classic sign of AFB is scale at the bottom of the cell. This scale becomes hard and brittle and is adhered to the bottom of the cell. It won't dislodge. You have to orient the frame correctly to see the scale, which is at the bottom of the cell.

AFB enters a colony by dispersal of spores. The spores, which can last for 100 years, are spread through contaminated comb or equipment. Nurse bees can spread the spores through feeding. The larva is only infected by AFB during the larval stage. An infected larva will die and produce new spores that will be picked up by other bees when cleaning and nursing. Death of the larva occurs very close to emergence at three to four weeks and occurs underneath the cappings.

AFB can be diagnosed through a ropey test. The brood will be viscous and goopy. You can still send a sample to the USCA in Beltsville, MD for diagnosis. AFB test kits are also available. You definitely want to move the hive out to another yard and most likely terminate the colony. Do not share any AFB frames with any other colonies. As a preventative measure when purchasing nucs or use equipment, inspect all used comb carefully.

European Foulbrood (EFB) is a challenging brood disease that nobody understands fully. EFB has multiple pathways for infection. A hallmark sign of EFB is that the larva twirls and ends up in a corkscrew position when it dies. The larva essentially starves before secondary bacteria moves in. Infected brood may lay sideways, be crooked, their trachea may be visible, and they may appear yellow in color.

EFB has become a major problem with bees that pollinate blueberries. It appears that EFB builds up as the main nectar flow comes on and goes away after nectar flow is over. Death of the bee happens during the larval stage. EFB sometimes develops scale, but they are easy to remove. You may see EFB symptoms when larva are underfed.

In 1971, **Chalkbrood** was first found in the US. Chalkbrood appear chalky white and have a spongy consistency. It kills larva when they are lying flat. Dead larva don't sink into the cell, but rather fill the whole cell. Chalkbrood can be found everywhere; even colonies that have no symptoms of chalkbrood have chalkbrood. Chalkbrood occurs when brood is chilled before or after sealing; it can easily occur during splits when not enough bees are provided in the colony to keep the brood warm.

Sacbrood looks like AFB, the brood dies at the same stage and lays flat like AFB. The color of the dead larva is white not brown. You might not see this disease; the bees are really good at finding infected larva and removing them. If you do find a Sacbrood larva and do a ropey test, it will not rope because it is just a sack full of water.

Andony finished his presentation with seven "fix-all" techniques to manage these brood problems:

1. Always control Varroa mites; Varroa vector many viruses and cause stress in colony
2. Change your queen; a lot of genetic aspects are associated with these diseases and changing a queen changes the genetic aspects in the colony. It also provides a brood break.
3. Wait a little while. Many brood diseases (Chalkbrood, Sacbrood) will appear and then disappear at various points in season.

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4. Renew your comb. The easiest way to spread disease is by moving comb around. You want to make sure to get dark comb out of the colony. Be diligent when going through your deadouts.
5. Only use irradiated pollen. Many brood diseases spread through contaminated pollen sources.
6. Maintain big strong colonies. Consider not dividing your big colonies
7. Weed out weak colonies

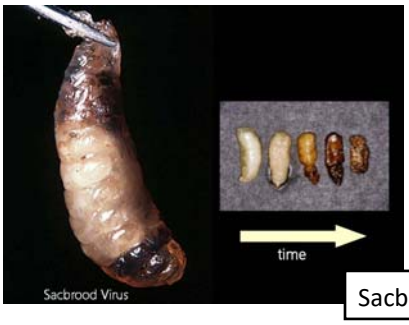
Thank you Andony for taking your time to educate us on brood diseases!

If you would like to view the YouTube presentation contact Nancy at nancy.ograin@gmail.com and she will send you the link.

American Foulbrood - jagged cell edges, larva lays flat and larva melts to bottom of cell and adheres.

Chalkbrood

European Foulbrood



Sacbrood-twisted shape

July Early Session: "Oxalic Acid Vaporization/Methods"

by Fonta Molyneaux & Brian Jackson

Fonta & Brain

Fonta and Brian led the early discussion on oxalic acid, which is found naturally in potassium and calcium salt and in the sap of plants such as chard and sorrels. It is important because it is one of only two organic methods listed for treating varroa mites. Oxalic acid can be thought of as the plant version of bee venom. Oxalic acid has been used by beekeepers to treat varroa for several years, and is currently under petition by the US EPA for expansion of use to a higher dosage and for use with the honey supers are on.

At present, the current legal label application is 1 gram of oxalic acid per brood box. Beekeepers need to remember that the label is the law. The present label does not allow for oxalic acid to be used with the supers on and requires Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn during application. Appropriate PPE includes an organic vapor certified respirator, safety eyewear and gloves. It is important to know that oxalic acid does not contaminate water, food or feed by disposal.

The current legal label doesn't state the length of use for application, and therefore, beekeepers have developed their own plan for effective treatment. Oxalic acid does not penetrate the brood caps where mites reproduce, and therefore repeat treatments are needed to when there is brood in the colony to make this an effective treatment.

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Based on a 21 day brood cycle common treatments include:

3 single treatments 5 days apart

4 single treatment 7 days apart

4 single treatments 5 days apart

A full treatment regimen requires more than 1 single application in most instances (to kill mites that are continually emerging from the capped brood). A single application can be effective during a broodless period, such as when installing a package, after capturing a swarm, or during the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas because all mites in the colony are phoretic.

The advantages of using oxalic acid vapor are many. First, there is no head index concern for use in late summer when mite pressure is the worst. Other treatment methods are very temperature sensitive and can't be used during warm temperatures. Oxalic acid can be used anytime the temperature is above 36 degrees. It is also considered an organic treatment.

Application of oxalic acid vapor includes using a gun or a wand. A wand is an effective, cheaper alternative, but takes much longer to administer the treatment and can be difficult if you have multiple hives. Application via a wand also requires the use of a shim under the bottom box to reduce the risk of wax catching on fire. A gun is a much quicker option, vaporizing the effective dose in under a minute, presents less fire danger, and doesn't need time to reheat when moving between hives. A gun costs significantly more than a wand, although many beekeepers are happy to pay the additional cost for the time savings.

There is much continuing research on the efficacy and dosage for oxalic acid vapor to determine the optimal treatment. Ramesh Sagili and the OSU Honeybee Lab have been researching this topic recently. While the research is showing that higher doses of oxalic acid are more effective, it is still important to remember that you still have to follow the label recommendation.

Whatever method you choose, it is important to treat for mites in a timely manner during late August and September. This is the time when the queen is laying fat winter bees that will have a lifecycle of 6-7 months. You definitely don't want those bees to be damaged by varroa/viruses because they will bring your hive through winter.

Thanks Fonta & Brian!

Link to video on "How to "Use an Oxalic Acid Vaporizer", OSU Honey Bee Lab
Oxalic acid vaporizer - OSU MediaSpace (oregonstate.edu)

Yellow Jackets Update: Yellow jacket nests are producing workers in large numbers. The queens are staying in their nests now. Nests can build up to several thousand workers by late August or September and it's at this time that the colony will produce males and queens. Queens will then mate and find a place to hibernate till next season.

If you have started seeing workers, put out the Rescue Disposal Yellow Jacket Traps. Be sure to check the water level in your trap periodically and fill if needed throughout the summer. If you put out the early queen traps you can just leave them out. No need to put in new bait as the dead queens will attract the workers also. I have found that the W.H.Y. traps for wasps, hornets and yellow jackets also caught honey bees, so I do not recommend this type.

If you need to destroy a ground nest use a foaming spray. It shoots out like the liquid sprays, but the foam spray seems to work best as it kills the yellow jackets when they try to go through it to get out of the nest. If you do not want to use chemicals there are products available that are essential oils that work.

Ken Ograin

"Robbing" "

by Dewey M. Caron

Robber bees are foraging honey bees gone bad! Robbing bees take the fast track to riches – they invade another colony to steal insufficiently protected stored honey reserves or sugar water being fed to a colony. Honey bees are compulsive hoarders. Robber bees aren't trying to destroy another colony, rather they seek to save their own colony from starvation. Rare in natural nests, robbing is all too common in our modern apiaries with colonies in close proximity.

Robbing behavior is not subtle. Robber bees can be identified by their attempts at gaining access to the hive. Clues to robbing include:

- Increased levels of activity, almost frantic in nature, at the front of a hive
- Robbers seek alternative means to gain hive access such as under the colony top, beneath the bottom screen and at "seams" between the boxes.
- Fighting bees may tumble and roll in the air and on the hive entrance
- Dead bees, some shiny from loss of body hairs, on the ground in front of the hive.

Robbers search for weakened colonies that they can steal honey from. If the robber bees get inside the hive, they will rip open capped honey cells. As robber bees leave the hive, laden down with honey, they often need to crawl up the side of the box to gain some elevation. You may observe them dip towards the ground once they take off.

Once the robber bees have invaded the interior, the colony is weakened even further and the chances of this hive surviving without help decrease dramatically. While a strong hive might be able to defend itself against robbers, colonies that are weaker can be overwhelmed by robbers from neighboring colonies. The stronger colonies may pick up mites as they rob if the colony weakness is due to high mite numbers.

Robbing can happen any time, but it's most commonly seen in late summer to early fall, especially during a nectar dearth. Colonies without a queen or those replacing their queen are also vulnerable to probing foragers looking to rob. Another condition that has been described as potentially leading to robbing is dwindling of colonies due to increasingly elevated populations of varroa mites. While guard bees normally intercept around 5% of bees entering their colony, guarding becomes more intense under dearth and poorer foraging conditions. Still only about two-thirds of bees entering a hive are inspected by guards.

Preventative measures are the key to protecting your colony against robbing. Rule 1 is don't let robbing start. Rule 2 is to stop it immediately if you suspect robbing. Rule 3 is, see rule 1 and 2. Opening a hive, scraping burr comb and dropping it on the ground, strong and weak colonies in same apiary, multiple colony entry/exits, sudden nectar dearth, no robbing screens or entrance reducers in use are among those conditions that might start robbing.

If you suspect robbing act fast. Err on the side of caution. You might suddenly see a weaker colony such as an earlier split or colony that replaced their queen recently, 'come to life' with entrance activity. You might see bees fighting at the entrance or on ground in front of a colony, some appearing shiny without body hairs. Maybe you see bees investigating seams and cracks, seeking to get into a hive at non-existent "openings". If you don't intervene, the robbed colony is likely to lose most of its adults and/or lack enough stores to survive the winter.

Immediately reduce the main opening and tape/close all other entrances. Lean a piece of wood or plastic at 45°-60° angle over the entry area. If bees are gathered on colony, cover the entire hive with an old sheet or bedspread that you have thoroughly wetted for rest of day, rewetting if it dries out. If you have one, replace covers with screen top covers. Shut down flight in/out as fast as you can. An alternative to covering the hive is to position a heavy water sprinkler directed at the entrance/front of the hive. If an option, relocate a weak colony before it is killed.

For more tips see Robber bees – how to deal with them: https://carolinahoneybees.com/honey-bee-robbing-behavior/

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David Peck, now at Betterbee, examined robbing as a factor in transmission of varroa mites with Tom Seeley while at Cornell. The study of inter-colony mite transmission, positioned six black-colored bees, nearly mite-free, around a cluster of three heavily mite-laden colonies of yellow-colored bees. The experiment was able to demonstrate the colonies with the dark colored bees picked up high mite numbers as the yellow-bee colonies collapsed. They suggested "robber lures" was a better descriptive term than "mite bombs" for colonies succumbing to high mite loads before winter.

Peck, David & Tom Seeley. 2019. Mite bombs or robber lures? The roles of drifting and robbing in *Varroa destructor* transmission from collapsing honey bee colonies to their neighbors.
https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0218392

Tips to Prevent Robbing in Your Apiary

- Don't be messy in the bee yard. Don't spill sugar water when refilling feeders. Any pieces of wax or burr comb should be collected and taken away from the hive area
- Use entrance reducers and keep the opening small (especially) for weak colonies
- If your colonies are starving due to a dearth, feed them
- Equalize colony strength by moving frames of (mostly capped) bee brood between colonies. Be careful not to move the queens! Spray the moved frames with a light mist of sugar water to reduce fighting
- Hive inspections can create robbing situations. During times of dearth,

Extractor Information

The club has five, three frame extractors with hot knives for use by its current members. These are on a reserved use basis. Please limit your use to no more than three days, and always clean the extractor before returning. 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. These units are easy to use and transport.

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

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

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

Creswell - Amy Sierzega 541-505-4033

Elmira - Ken Ograin 541-935-7065

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

Refractometer

LCBA has three refractometers to check the moisture content in your honey. Remember honey is not honey unless the moisture content is 18.2% or below. We will have it available at our monthly meetings to test your honey. If unable to attend call or email one of our members to schedule a time to check out your honey.

Eugene - Judy Scher, 541-344-2144, judyscher@gmail.com

Elmira - Ken Ograin 541-935-7065, woodrt@pacinfo.com

Cottage Grove - Francis Rothauge 541-520-8391 (no email)

2023 Officers and Directors

President: Fonta Molyneaux	541-592-9332	wildeverlastingfarm@gmail.com
Vice-President: Paula Sablosky	541-206-7173	mygarden122@gmail.com
Treasurer: Polly Habliston	541-461-0339	polly@uoregon.edu
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Dennis Groff	541-225-8876	degroff02@gmail.com
Past-President: Brian McGinley	541-232-1610	56magoo@gmail.com
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Bee School - Pam Leavitt	541-344-4228	pamseaver2000@yahoo.com
Website / Swarm List - Judy Scher	541-344-2114	judyscher@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor - Nancy Ograin	541-935-7065	nancy.ograin@gmail.com
LCBA Scholarships - Katharine Hunt	541-607-0106	keehhunt@gmail.com
Oregon Master Beekeeper Education Assistant-Rita Ostrofsky	541-685-2875	ostrofsky@pacinfo.com
OMB Regional Representative - Rick Olson	541-997-3792	rolson2@attglobal.net
Best Practices Liaisons for Lane County - Mike France	541-232-1610	michaelj62@gmail.com

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. 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

Complete 10 frame one story hive $260.00

- **Deep** frames
- New locally raised queen
- New equipment

Complete 10 frame one story hive $240.00

- **Western** frames
- New locally raised queen
- New equipment

Contact Morris Ostrofsky
541-510-1167 ostrofsky@pacinfo.com

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

Support Dr. Sagili's OSU Bee Lab

Oregon State Beekeepers Association has set up a fund-raiser to help raise monies for Dr. Sagili's research and students. You can make a difference by donating today and help in raising research funds. Every little bit helps! Thank You!

Donate Here

Fundraiser by Rebecca Fain : Help Us Save The Honey Bees (gofundme.com)

"Bee Funny" T-Shirts

100% of the proceeds to the OSU Bee Research Lab, Ramesh Sagili.

Support Bee Research!

https://www.beetanical-apiary.com/

NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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Editor: Nancy Ograin 541-935-7065 nancy.ograin@gmail.com

2023 LCBA New/Renewal Memberships

$25 per year per calendar year (Jan-Dec 2022)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.

Links

http://www.lcbaor.org/

https://orsba.org/

https://
extension.oregonstate.edu/mb

Friday in the Apiary
https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mb/friday-apiary

Bee Informed Partnership
https://beeinformed.org/

Honey Bee Lab
Pollinator Health
Oregon Bee Project
PolliNation Podcast
Bee Diagnostics

Honey Bee Health Coalition

Tools for Varroa Management & Supporting Videos
https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/varroa-management/

Best Management Practices for Bee Health
https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/hive-health-best-management-practices/

Varroa Management Decision Tool
https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroatool/

https://www.honey.com/

Honey Bee Health
Resources, Research and Beekeeping videos
https://bee-health.extension.org/

Beltsville Bee Lab
How To Send A Sample To Beltsville, MD for Diagnosis
The go to for American foulbrood.

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