



## LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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# February 2016 NEWSLETTER



## President's Message

**Pam Leavitt, LCBA President**

I hope you were able to attend the January meeting where we had great sandwiches, snacks and a presentation by Judy Scher on Unappreciated Products of the Hive. Thank you to those members who brought food to share.

Our meeting topic this month will be "Spring Management", presented by Jonathon Loftin. Spring is a crucial time to begin active hive management. Jonathon will share important aspects of management strategies based on the goals of the beekeeper. In addition we will have a 6:00 pm early session presentation by Morris Ostrofsky, Master Beekeeper, on varroa, "Mite-keeping 101". There is a publication from the Honey Bee Coalition titled "Tools for Varroa Management" on our website. This article was suggested by Morris as a valuable resource on treatment options for varroa infestation. **See page 4 for more information on the early class.**

Last year our early education sessions were very well received. We are continuing to offer those this year. In addition to Morris' talk this month, we will be offering Yellow Jacket Threat in March, Swarms in April, Extracting in July and a yet to be titled presentation in October. Watch the newsletter for additional information.

On March 5, we will be hosting our 32nd Annual Bee School. The class fills up quickly so please get your registrations in as soon as possible. LCBA has scholarships available. This is a full day of information on Langstroth equipment and the first year of beekeeping. We like to provide snacks to keep our attendees fed during the day, so please let Anita Jones know if you are able to donate some goodies. Her email is [ninaretired@gmail.com](mailto:ninaretired@gmail.com).

We have ordered new tee shirts and hats! The shirts will be available at this month's meeting. We are in hopes the hat order will be complete by Feb. 16 also. Check the inventory at the side table with Mike Harrington and I think you may find a great shirt to add to your collection (and they advertise our great club).

I hope you found your bees survived the winter and are beginning to bring pollen in on nice days. This is a good sign that your queen has begun to lay eggs to build up the population for the coming season.

## NEXT MEETING:

**February 16, 2016**

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

### Early Educational Class!

#### "Mitekeeping 101"

(See Page 4 more information)

Door opens at 6:00 pm

Presentation starts at 6:15 Pm

"Fireside Room"

### General Meeting

Hall opens at 7:00 pm

Program 7:30 pm

## Topic: Spring Management

**Speaker: Jonathan Loftin**

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

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## January Meeting Highlights

by Pam Leavitt, President

### Announcements:

- President Pam Leavitt introduced the 2016 board members who were in attendance at the meeting.
- The upcoming bee school for beginning beekeepers, was announced. The club offers scholarships to bee school and the forms were made available at the information table.
- Treasurer Polly Habliston gave a report on the club's finances. The club gave free registrations to the OSBA annual conference to four members, three bee school scholarships, three Oregon Master Beekeepers Apprentice Program scholarships and donated \$1,000 to the OSU Bee Research Lab, of which \$500 was matched by the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Additional donations were given to Tree Hive Bees and the Biology Department at the University of Oregon where a dissection lab was held for our club. Education is an important goal for LCBA.

**Presentation:** Judy Scher gave a presentation on "Under Appreciated Products of the Hive". She described propolis, the #1 defense against pathogens in the hive. She shared methods of harvesting propolis and uses for it in moisturizers and used in conjunction with oil for woodenware used in cooking and eating. Propolis is used in toothpaste, as a tincture for sore throats, as a wound dressing and as an additive to chewing gum. She suggested going on the internet to find these products for sale. In addition, she shared how to prepare a hive for chunk comb honey for harvesting.

The membership enjoyed the sandwiches and snacks provided by the club, a January meeting tradition.

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## Upcoming Events & Announcements

**March 5th - LCBA Bee School**, Trinity United Methodist Church

### March 12th - BEEvent Pollinator Conference

Sponsored by Linn County Master Gardeners  
Holiday Inn & Suites, Albany, OR 9:00 am-3:00pm  
Flyer on page 6.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn/beeevent>

### April 8th-9th - Glory Bee Weekend

<http://glorybee.com/content/bee-weekend-2016>

### April 23rd - Save the Bee 5K Run/Walk

Time: 9am –12pm

Location: Fern Ridge Reservoir, Richardson Park

### May 21st—Field Day at OSU Bee Apiary

LCBA will be joining the Linn Benton Beekeepers Association for field day.

### August 20th - Oregon Honey Festival

Location: Ashland, OR

Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm

### Ohio State University Bee Lab Webinars

The 2016 webinars will be available in March. The 2015 webinars are posted on their website.

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

**Kelly's Beekeeping Website: "Lane County Hive-ways"** Follow Kelly as she does her inspections, observations, and other beekeeping activities.

<http://lanecountyhiveways.com/>

**Florence Garden Club** - visit their face book page at

### Bee School Snacks

If you can help with snacks for bee school please contact Anita Jones. There will be a sign up sheet at the January meeting or if you are unable to attend just let her know. Our members always come through with yummy goodies. We are needing finger foods - deserts, muffins, vege's, cheese & crackers, etc.

Anita Jones [anita\\_ninaretired@gmail.com](mailto:anita_ninaretired@gmail.com) or

## 2016 LCBA Bee School & LCBA Scholarships

### Bee School

**Date:** March 5, 2016

**Time:** 8:45 am - 5:00 pm

**Location:** Trinity United Methodist Church, Eugene, OR

**Cost:** Individual \$40 (includes class book)  
Couple (2) \$60 (includes 1 class book)

If you or someone you know would like to attend Bee School please let us know. We are taking registrations now for bee school. Space is limited and we always fill up quickly so get your registrations in. Pre-registration is required.

Bee School is a full day of learning. Classes & workshops will cover the first year of keeping honey bees using Langstroth equipment. This is a great class for beginning beekeepers and those wanting to learn what is involved before becoming a beekeeper.

Note: Warre & Top Bar Hives and Treatment Free Beekeeping are not covered.

Contact Pam Leavitt for registration form at [pamseaver2000@yahoo.com](mailto:pamseaver2000@yahoo.com) or by phone 541-344-4228

### Scholarships

As part of our associations ongoing effort to encourage and support the continuing education of its members, the Lane County Beekeepers Association is once again offering scholarships for the LCBA 2016 Bee School.

It is not necessary to own a colony of bees or to have the necessary equipment to apply for this scholarship. Bee School is as an opportunity to learn what is involved prior to investing in beekeeping.

Application forms will be available at our January meeting and can also be requested by email or US mail.

If you have any questions or would like to request a form contact please contact:

Katharine Hunt 541-607-0106 [keehunt@gmail.com](mailto:keehunt@gmail.com)

**Deadline Date: February 23rd, 2016**

### Welcome New Members

Devin Gray & Tamara Andreas	Eugene
Jack Doss	Carpinteria, CA
Sharon Kaplan	Eugene
Ted Steed	Westfir



## February Beekeeping Tips

by Chuck Hunt, LCBA Member

1. Spring for beekeepers means checking for brood and queen, checking for foulbrood, and doing mite checks if you use a screen bottom board. You must make a decision whether to medicate for mites and then decide what medication to use. Also, it is time to check on the hive's honey stores to avoid late winter and early spring starvation. Medications should be placed in the hives sometime at the end of February or the first week in March. In order to do all this begin by picking a warm afternoon when the temperature exceeds 55 degrees F and there is no wind or rain.
2. Tracheal mite medication consists of grease patties. These should be placed just above the brood cluster. The formula for this medication is: 1/3 Crisco, 2/3 granulated sugar (this applies whether you make grease paddies for one or one thousand hives). Mix these ingredients together thoroughly. An ice cream scoop is about the correct quantity to make a grease patty for a single hive. Excess patties may be frozen. It is no longer standard practice to include terramycin in these grease patties.
3. Attention to Varroa mite population is absolutely essential for the survival of your hive. There are a number of medications that may be used if you decide that your mite fall requires medication. There are too many medications to list the proper dosage and use in this column but three recommendations may be made. First, always follow the directions for use carefully particularly in regard to safe handling and disposal. Second, talk to other beekeepers who have used the mite control measures you plan to use. Finally, you may want to alternate mite medications from one year to the next, or even from spring to fall, in order to avoid mite resistance to the measures you have decided to use. You should be aware whether mites will develop resistance to the particular measure you have adopted.
4. It is no longer recommended that terramycin be introduced in your hives for foulbrood prevention. It is recommended that you treat your hives with tylosin, a new antibiotic that is effective against foulbrood. Treatment with tylosin is begun when foulbrood is detected. Thus, all beekeepers must be able to recognize American or European foulbrood and look for this disease in their first, and subsequent, spring hive inspections. If foulbrood is detected, treatment with tylosin may be commenced. Otherwise, every hive inspection should also include an inspection for foulbrood.
5. Check hives in late February or early march for honey stores. Hives that are strong can be lost in March due to dwindling honey stores and the increased need for honey due to increased brood rearing. Lift the hive gently from the back in order to estimate how heavy the hive is. As an alternative, open the hive on a warm spring day and check for adequate honey stores. The hive should have no less than 15lbs of honey (about three-four deep frames of honey or about five western frames) as a minimum. More honey is much safer. If the hive is light, feeding is essential for survival. A good early spring feed for bees is fondant. The recipe for this can be found in our January 2016 newsletter. Some people use candy canes instead of fondant.
6. When checking for stores, or on any warm spring day when the temperature is over 55 degrees F and it is not windy or raining, check your hives for queens. At this time the queen should be laying eggs in large numbers in order to build up the population. Check the brood nest carefully for the presence of these eggs. Do not expose the frames of brood too long to the sun or cool air. If the queen has a good pattern and the hive is building up, go home and have a small glass of mead and celebrate the successful wintering of your hive. If there are no eggs, the hive is weak, or is not building up well, or you see disease.... Skip the mead, medicate, and think about re-queening or combining weak hives.

### Early Educational Class "Mitekeeping 101"

"Mitekeeping 101" Includes the most up to date information on varroa mite biology, the consequences of not addressing varroa, indicators of varroa, measuring population and strategies for management over the course of the year; i.e. what are the best options and when. It includes the newest management tool, Oxalic acid. The treatment options are taken from the publication *Tools for Varroa Management* by the Honey Bee Health Coalition. This publication is posted on our website for your use on the "Resource" tab. Click on link below to access.

[http://www.lcbaor.org/Supportfiles/varroa\\_honey\\_bee\\_health\\_coalition.pdf](http://www.lcbaor.org/Supportfiles/varroa_honey_bee_health_coalition.pdf)



## Yellow Jackets are Coming!

By Ken Ograin, LCBA Member

It's not too early to be watching for those yellow jacket queens coming out of hibernation. My neighbor's Red Bud Quince already has buds on it and last year it was not till the end of February before it showed any color.

If you see those big queens flying around the eaves of your buildings they are looking for food and most likely have already started a nest. I use a butterfly net and a spray bottle of soapy water to take care of them.

This is also a good indicator that it is time to put out your traps with the queen attractant. Look for the "Rescue 10 Week" attractant; it comes in a yellow package. Place traps up off the ground. I hang mine under the eaves.

Queens have to do all the work for the first four to five weeks; build comb, feed larva until there is enough for her offspring to take on those duties. Once there is enough workers she will stay in the nest and just lay eggs.

As you can see from the pictures yellow jacket queens are easy to spot, they are close to 1 inch long.



## Swarm List

By Judy Scher, LCBA Webmaster

It is time to update the LCBA swarm list that is published on our website. This list is intended for members only that will collect swarms. It is **not** for those wanting swarms. If you were on the list last year and are current with your dues we will continue to list you. Click on link to check the list: <http://www.lcbaor.org/SwarmList.htm>

If the information is correct and your dues are current you need to do nothing, we will continue to list your information. If you are a new member and would like to be listed, I will need your contact information and the city or cities that you will respond to. You must have experience in removing swarms to be on the list.

Tall trees and building removals are listed separately on the swarm list. If you have the tools and ability to do these removals make note of this in your response.

To insure the information gets added correctly please contact Judy Scher at [judyscher@gmail.com](mailto:judyscher@gmail.com) or 541-344-2114.

If you want to give me info or updates at a meeting please bring it in writing and give to me or to one of the board members. We will be updating the website monthly.

Thank You.

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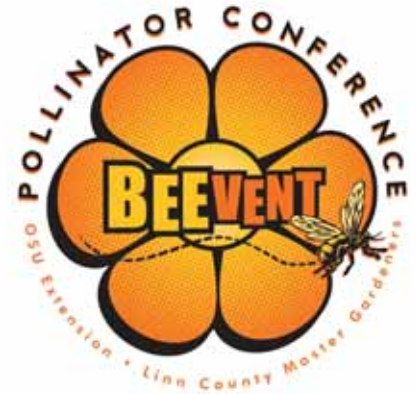
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# The BEEvent Pollinator Conference



*Saturday March 12, 2016*

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Albany, OR**

*Checkout our great seminar line up!*

Dr. Sujaya Rao, Oregon State University: *Increasing Pollinators in Gardens*

Beth Young, Beth Young Garden by Design: *Naturescaping for Pollinators*

Rich Hatfield, Xerces Society: *Conserving Bumble Bees*

Rich Little, Entomologist & MG: *Rearing and Caring for Mason Bees*

Cost to attend is \$30.00. For registration info & additional details visit

**[extension.oregonstate.edu/linn/beeevent](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn/beeevent)**

Or call the OSU Linn County Extension office at 541-967-3871

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## Good Earth Home, Garden & Living Show



Each year LCBA has a booth at the Good Earth Home & Garden show. This is always a fun event as people are so interested in bees and ask lots of questions. Many of our members volunteered to help out at the booth. We also put the word out about our upcoming LCBA Bee School.

### Thank You Home Show Volunteers!

Polly & Doug Habliston, Morris & Rita Ostrofsky, Pam & Les Leavitt, Katharine Hunt, Lynn Royce, Ray Krass, Larry Larson, Frank Feuille, Arthur Jones, Mike France, and Ken Ograin



Katharine & Chuck Hunt with granddaughters.



Pam & Les Leavitt talking to several attendees.

### LCBA Members Donate Honey

A number of members of the club donated honey for our annual booth at the Good Earth, Home, Garden and Living Show.

#### THANK YOU.

Your contribution makes it possible for us to host our information booth. Also, we have built up a reputation over the years for our club honey and we are usually sell out before noon on Sunday! This year over 70 lbs of honey was donated by club members. All of it was sold!

If you intended to donate some honey but forgot - it is **not too late!** The club is asked to host information booths throughout the year and is it always nice to be able to have some honey on hand to sell.

Please bring your honey to the next club meeting or contact Katharine Hunt at 541-607-0106 or [keehunt@gmail.com](mailto:keehunt@gmail.com).



## “Beyond Almonds”

by Dr. Dewey M. Caron

Where do the pollinating bees go following almond bloom? Almonds bloom from early February to mid-March and the majority of Oregon bees (~50,000 colonies) are now on pollination locations in California’s Central Valley. Like much in beekeeping, where they next go next has no simple answer.

At least half of the Pacific NW bees return to their home yards as it is less than a day’s trip. Some come right back so they can be readied for their next task. Some will be used to make up nucs. The strong colonies will be split, given a queen (most likely from Hawaii ) and will be ready to leave the beekeepers yard in less than a month. Many of the nucs will be sold. Others will be used by the beekeeper to strengthen his/her colonies and to make up overwintering losses.

Other beekeepers will split their almond pollinating colonies in California and adult bees will be shaken into large screened boxes to be sold (by the pound) as bulk bees. The capped brood will be removed from colonies and the entire frame sold as brood. Principle buyers will be the central and northern Central Valley queen producers, who by the end of the almond bloom are ready to start grafting and raising queens. They need bees for the cell builder colonies, and later when they have capped cells, for their mating nucs.

Many of the colonies, currently pollinating almonds, will go on to another pollinating event. Plum and pear will soon bloom, sweet cherry and apple will also soon follow in bloom and blueberry will not be far behind. Many beekeepers will use this opportunity to work and reorganize their colonies following almonds before the fruit bloom needs their attention. Some will apply the first of several mite control treatments.

We hear this year of yet another example of a novel beekeeping enterprise. Colonies overwintered in Florida or along the east coast, transported to California for almond bloom, will not be returned home. They are being offered for sale following almond bloom. West coast beekeepers can take advantage of this as a means of making up overwintering losses. The queen breeders can take advantage of such colony availability. Unfortunately some of the eastern colonies will come with a “bonus”, small hive beetle infestations.

California beekeepers, owning an estimated 500,000 colonies, have a different challenge. Some will move bees into the Pacific NW, to be used for later season pollinations such as fruit, blueberries and onion/carrot seed pollination east of the Cascades. An estimated one-half the colonies used around Madras in seed pollination are owned by California beekeepers, but the vast majority will remain in California to do later season pollination of fruit, blueberry, alfalfa, and melons. Some will immediately go to citrus orchards for honey production. Unfortunately the citrus is diminishing, due largely to housing demands and water shortage issues. Also, a large number will go to another California crop that requires bees for pollination – avocado.

Avocado culture in the US is concentrated along the lower California coast. Avocado trees bloom after almonds so many California beekeeper colonies that leave almond orchards are transported directly to an estimated 57,000 acres of avocado, raised by some 6,000 growers, virtually all within five miles of the Pacific Ocean from San Luis Obispo to San Diego.

Avocado is enjoying a worldwide boom in popularity. California supplies 90% of U.S. avocado consumption, a market value worth over 1/3 of a billion dollars annually. Intense housing pressure (many people desire to live along the southern California coast) severely limits expansion of avocado. The fruiting process is not tolerant of freezing conditions, a limiting factor as to where avocado can be grown.

This world of almond pollination beekeeping is a far cry from backyard beekeeping. Pollination bees are mobile, often used more than once again during the season following almond bloom, are heavily manipulated, divided and split, almost continually treated for mites, requeened (at least once during the year) and heavily fed as they need go where natural forage is limited. It is no easy task to build a strong colony (suitable for pollination or for honey production), especially on the scale needed.



*"Beyond Almonds" continued*

This season as you manage your backyard bees, you might think of doing the same task(s) hundreds of times over as the larger-scale beekeepers must do. Think of having to manage your hive(s) in several different apiary sites before winter. It won't make your task any easier but when finished with backyard colony chores, relax with thoughts of a good job well done and relish not having to do it to hundreds more colonies in several different apiaries.

**Classified Ads**

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

**2016 LCBA Renewals**

If you have not renewed your membership yet and wish to continue receiving the LCBA newsletter please remit to our Treasurer, Polly Habliston. If you are not sure if you have paid or not contact Nancy Ograin at 541-935-7065 or [nancy.ograin@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.ograin@gmail.com).

**For Sale Swarms**

I will have swarms for sale, \$35, usually the beginning in April. Swarms in March would be early this year.

Call to get your name on the waiting list; first come first serve basis.

Julie  
Message phone [541-937-2577](tel:541-937-2577)

**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)

**2016 LCBA New Memberships**

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

LCBA Treasurer  
Polly Habliston  
1258 Dalton Dr.  
Eugene, OR 97404  
[polly@uoregon.edu](mailto:polly@uoregon.edu)

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

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

**NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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