



LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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Ross Mills 541-510-3394

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January 2016 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Pam Leavitt, LCBA President

Welcome to the New Year. This January is much colder than the beginning of last year, 55 degrees when I wrote my January message in 2015 and it is 38 degrees this morning. Last January we had bees leaving the hive and bringing in pollen, but they are staying in the cluster this morning.

Elections were held at our November meeting. All the 2015 officers were re-elected along with two new board members for our association. Ross Mills and Wayne Lemler have joined the board for 2016, increasing our Board of Directors from 3 members to 5. The board directory is included in the newsletter on page 6, which includes everyone's emails and phone numbers. The goal of the officers and board are to represent the members, therefore please contact any of them with your thoughts on what could enhance your membership in the club. Our first board meeting was held on January 12. We worked on our budget for 2016 and creating our list of meeting topics for this year. Our first general meeting on January 19, will be our social time with sandwiches provided by the club and our speaker will be Judy Scher presenting "Under Appreciated Products of the Hive".

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association had the first board meeting of 2016 on Saturday, January 9. I attended this meeting with Katharine Hunt and Judy Scher. The annual conference will be held on October 28th-30th this year. It will again be at the Oregon Garden Resort. The list of speakers and topics is in the developmental stages but they are bringing in some well respected experts in the field.

January 22-24 will be the Good Earth Home, Garden and Living Show at the Eugene Fairgrounds. Our booth will give attendees an opportunity to talk with beekeepers, get information on our bee school and buy local honey. Ken Ograin will be one of the featured speakers during this event. Watch for the advertising in the local paper for time/date of his presentation.

Please continue to send in your information for the "Busy Bee-Giving Back to the Hive" column where we feature stories of members who volunteer in the community promoting bees and bee health.

The club was able to donate \$1,000 to Bee Research at Oregon State University. We received a note of appreciation for our unwavering support of

continued on page 2

NEXT MEETING:

January 19, 2016

Program: 7:30

Be sure to attend the first Meeting of 2016. The club is providing delicious sandwiches and snacks. Members are encouraged to bring their favorite honey dessert or dishes to share!

Come early, 7:00 pm, to socialize & take part in our feast.

Speaker: Judy Scher

Topic: "Under Appreciated Products of the Hive"

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

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president's message continued the Bee Lab and Ramesh Sagili. The ongoing studies done in our state are very important to these important pollinators and our club appreciates the support we receive from OSU and their programs.

I look forward to this new year and working with great people on our board. I am very appreciative of their commitment and volunteering their time to make our club successful.



November Meeting Highlights by Jodi Wiktorowski, LCBA Secretary

Announcements:

Max Kuhn won first place for honey at the annual Oregon State Beekeepers Conference.

Meeting Recap:

The membership voted on and approved the new proposed LCBA bylaws. They will take effect January 1, 2016.

The membership elected the new 2016 Officers and Board of Directors Elections.

President: Pam Leavitt

Vice President: Max Kuhn

Secretary: Jodi Wiktorowski

Treasurer: Polly Habliston

Board of Directors: Kelly Goodwin, Ross Mills , Francis Rothauge, Larry Scoville and Wayne Lemler

Speaker:

Ken Ograin gave a short presentation on Honey Tasting. There is a certification program for judging honey. To become a licensed Welsh Honey Judge, there are 4 required steps. These steps include beginning training, stewarding honey shows, assembly and presentation of judging kits, and an oral examination. Trevor Riches, our local expert, has gone through the first level of training to become a licensed judge. Honey judging is very serious. It begins with the cleanliness of the container. Fingerprints, dust, smudges or stains are disqualifications! If the container passes inspection, then the honey is examined. A strong light is used to look for clarity in the honey. Crystallization or any other impurities are not acceptable. The aroma is judged to check for overheating or fermentation. The underside of the lid is also examined when it is first lifted off. Any honey on the lid disqualifies that sample! There can be no bubbles or foam on the top of the honey. The honey is tested for moisture content and must be below 18%. Only after all of this scrutiny is the honey even tasted. There are other types of honey competitions also. There are "Black jar" competitions. In these competitions, it is solely the taste of the honey that is judged.

There were lots of member honey samples to taste! We had several samples of light, dark and amber honey. The flavors varied tremendously!!! Good work little bees!!!



Francis Rothauge & Kelly Goodwin checking our member's honey moisture content with the refractometer.



Welcome New Members

Ron & Connie Dersham	Creswell
Joe Honochick	Eugene

2016 Bee Season Starts Now

By Ken Ograin, LCBA Member

Last fall you made sure your bees had enough stores and got the varroa mites under control. Your hive produced the winter bees that assure they will make it through the several months of weather that does not allow them to fly every day. On the days when temperatures were high enough, there was little to no food out there. I saw a couple days in December where the bees were flying and bringing in red, yellow and tan pollen. I was able to identify the re-orange pollen as coming from Dandelions.

Now that winter solstice has passed, the brood rearing will be increasing daily. It will still be sometime before you can go into hives and pull frames.

You need to keep your entrance reducers in, but do check that the opening is clear of dead bees. Heft your hives weekly and if light add a solid type food. (Judy's fondant recipe is on page 5 in the newsletter.) Do not switch to liquid feed until we get daytime temperatures above 50°F consistently and then only use a top feeder or in hive frame type feeder.

If you use your sample board, you will also be able to determine brood rearing by debris patterns, while you are looking keep track of Varroa. Hoping all our bees make it through till Spring.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Jan 21st-23th - Good Earth Home & Garden Show, Lane County Fairgrounds

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

April 8th-9th Glory BeeBee Weekend

Ohio State University Bee Lab Webinars

The 2016 webinars will be available in March. The 2016 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 www.facebook.com/FGCOR.

2016 LCBA Bee School & 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 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

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 or 541-937-2244

Oregon State Beekeepers Conference Reports

The Oregon State Beekeepers Conference was held last November at the Oregon Gardens in Silverton. As part of LCBA's Education program we were able to provide conference registrations to three of our members; Barbara Elliott, Walter Bucher and Becky Lemler. Below are Barbara's and Walter's reports. Becky's report was published in November's newsletter. Also, Brian McGinley won the free registration provided by OSBA.

Barbara Elliott Conference Report:

First I would like to thank LCBA for the opportunity to go to the OSBS Conference. We had a great group of speakers and I took a lot of notes. Some of the speakers made it real, because they have had disasters, but they pulled through it. They were really funny and there were also a lot of stories. The auction was great and raised a lot of money for the Oregon State University Bee Lab for Ramesh Sagili.

Thank You, Barbara May Elliott

Walter Bucher Conference Report:

First of all I would like to express my gratitude to LCBA for the opportunity to attend the OSBA Conference in November. It was a very memorable and positive experience for a first-time attendee. Here are a few highlights from my experience:

- *"The Changes in Landscape Impacting Honeybee Forage and Nutrition" by Peter Berthelsen got me thinking about how to enhance the vegetation and flowers in my own personal lawn and garden. Berthelsen emphasized that bee nutrition is the first line of defense against mites because it strengthens the immunity of bees. So it is vital to become familiar with honeybee-friendly plants and sources of pollen protein available in the immediate area and the possibilities of introducing new plants.*
- *Randy Oliver's presentation on oxalic acid for treating Varroa mites was very good. Oxalic acid is more toxic to mites than bees and is safe for humans. Best times for treating bees with oxalic acid is March through April and October through November.*
- *Jay Miller, 2J Honey Farms, shared his mistakes and successes in "Beekeeping Mistakes, Lessons Learned." It is always helpful to learn from others when it comes to beekeeping.*

What I took away from the conference is a deeper appreciation for bees and how important our roles as beekeepers are, whether one is a hobbyist or a commercial beekeeper.

Thank you again for a rewarding experience! Walter Bucher

Honey Donations

LCBA is collecting honey to sell at the Good Earth Home, Garden & Living Show on January 22-24, 2016. Honey sales at the LCBA booth will help pay for it. We are still accepting donations of a quart or larger container. Please contact Katharine Hunt at 541-607-0106 or email keehhunt@gmail.com if you would like to arrange to donate some honey or you can bring it to the January meeting. .

Thank you, Katharine Hunt



Becky Lemler, Brian McGinley, Walter Bucher, Barbara Elliott

Bee Fondant Recipe

By Judy Scher, LCBA Webmaster

One of the most important winter chores is to lift the hive body to check if it's light in weight. If so, it is low in honey stores. In the winter and early spring your bees will starve if they consume all of their honey reserves or they move to the edge of the hive where they no longer contact honey frames. If I have a light hive when the bees are too cold to fly, I feed a solid source of pure carbohydrate in the form of fondant candy. It is very easy to apply on one of those 50 degree days where you can quickly lift the hive cover and place the candy directly on the frames or inner cover. My bees love fondant more than anything else I provide at this time of year. It's soft and, if they decide to store it, they don't have to spend energy evaporating water from it. It's fun to make – just be sure you don't eat it before you get it to your hives!

BEE FONDANT

(Note: **Make small batches.** 4 cups sugar to 1 cup water is a good amount)

1 part water: 4 parts sugar

(by volume or weight - I find that it doesn't matter which, in this case.)

1/4 teaspoon vinegar per cup of sugar

(If using 4 cups sugar, use 1 tsp vinegar.)

Put in pan and heat and stir until it comes to a boil.

Don't let sugar burn! If it turns brown or dark tan, it will make the bees sick.

Boil for 3 minutes with cover on pan.

Boil uncovered until soft ball stage* (starts at 234 degrees F, ends at 243 degrees F).

Turn off heat and cool to 200 degrees F.

Whip with a whisk until white (give it 5 – 10 minutes).

Pour onto waxed paper on cookie sheets.

Cool undisturbed.

Cut up into squares, separate with waxed paper, store in plastic bag in freezer.

When feeding bees, warm fondant to room temp and put on top of frames or around hole in inner cover. Do not expose bees to cold for more than several seconds.

* The "soft ball" sugar stage is described in wonderful web site, "The Science of Candy". It describes the sugar stages with videos: <http://www.exploratorium.edu/cooking/candy/sugar-stages.html>

Volunteers Needed

The 2016 Good Earth Home & Garden Show is January 22th - 24th. We are still in need of help on Saturday, Jan 23rd from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm

If you can spend a few hours talking about bees to the public and what the Lane County Beekeepers Association does please contact Ken Ograin at:

woodrt@pacinfo.com or 541-935-7065



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2016 LCBA Officers & Directors

President:	Pam Leavitt	541-344-4228	pamseaver2000@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Max Kuhn	541-999-0744	tmaxkuhn@gmail.com
Secretary:	Jodi Wiktorowski	541-685-2875	yodi10@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Polly Habliston	541-461-0339	polly@uoregon.edu
Directors:	Kelly Goodwin	541-925-3028	kgoodwinus@yahoo.com
	Francis Rothauge	541-520-8391	urbanhoney99@gmail.com
	Larry Scoville	541-228-0973	larryljs@live.com
	Ross Mills	541-510-3394	electuarian@gmail.com
	Wayne Lemler	541-935-9527	wmlimler@gmail.com
Past President	Katharine Hunt	541-607-0106	keehhunt@gmail.com

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Bee School - Ken Ograin	541-935-7065	woodrt@pacinfo.com
Website - Judy Scher	541-344-2114	judyscher@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor - Nancy Ograin	541-935-7065	nancy.ograin@gmail.com
Master Beekeeper Coordinator - Rita Ostrofsky	541-685-2875	ostrofsky@pacinfo.com
Facilities Coordinator - Jim Rundall	541-688-1925	fjrundall@comcast.net

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Busy Bee - "Giving Back to the Hive"

Jeanette Bailor gave a presentation last November to Creswell High School. Below is her report

I gave a presentation on November 13 to about 25 Creswell High Students. They were mostly freshmen and sophomores, in a Nature and Literature elective class. They were a great group of interested kids with lots of good questions regarding the life cycle of bees, decline in bee population and what sorts of flowers/plants bees are attracted to. I was glad I brought along handouts of pollinator plants for everyone in the class as this was of great interest, especially as they are planting a garden for the class this spring and will use this for ideas for the flowering plants. We talked about neonicotinoids and common products that contain them.

We have some wonderful kids in our community, engaged in what is happening in the world of bees! Jeanette Bailor

LCBA encourages community outreach to talk about bees and if you present to a group or volunteer at an event, please be sure to let me know . pamseaver2000@yahoo.com

Thank you so much, Jeanette! I really appreciate you taking your time to come talk to us. I enjoyed the handouts you gave us. I didn't know bees were needed as much as they are. Personally I always thought all insects with stripes that fly are bees. It's nice to know that honey bees are nice in certain seasons. The strange thing was how many bees live in a hive in the summer. That's a huge number. The queen bee is cool because she is always laying babies. Again thank you so much!

-Claire

Dear Mrs. Jeanette,

Thank you for coming and talking about the bees. I was kind of aware that the bees may end up going extinct soon, and so I was thinking about planting flowers for them, but I really appreciated, how you gave us more of an insight on the topic and what colors of flowers we should plant for bees, I really hope bees don't go extinct!

Sincerely, Mark (aka Shadrach)

Janette received thank you notes from all the students.



“The Winter Cluster”

by Dr. Dewey M. Caron

What will this winter bring? Will it continue cold and wet or will we be blessed with an early spring like last year? Whatever it will be, the honey bee, with the relatively simple behavior of clustering, is able to generate and conserve enough heat in their hives to survive. The compact, spherically-shaped brood area and clustering behavior assists bees in maintaining a basic minimum hive temperature in the 59°F range, regardless of outside temperature. The process is termed thermoregulation.

Bee clusters have a definite structure. The outer portion is an insulating shell of tightly clustered bees, varying from one to three inches (2.5 to 7.5 cm) thick. For warmth and to form the shell, the bees fill the spaces between the parallel combs and occupy empty cells in the comb. Within the center of the cluster, the bees are warmer and less crowded. They move about taking care of any brood and their queen, as well as performing routine comb maintenance. Heat generated by adult bee movement, wing muscle activity and the brood metabolism provides the heat that keeps the bees warm. It will not be the cold that kills a colony – it will be the weather fluctuations and inability to vent excess hive moisture.

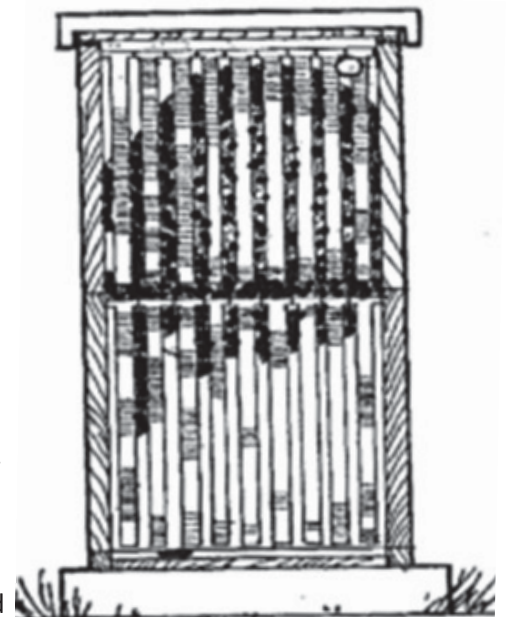
The best place for a cluster of bees in the fall is at the bottom of the brood chamber. The colony initially should have had bee bread stores and honey, and a vigorous queen, able to restart brood production sometime in January. The colony should have had low mite and low virus loads and free of disease. As the overwintering bees consume the stores of food, they move up into the upper hive body where more honey is stored. Their heat warms and humidifies the honey above the brood nest.

Since bees use winter stores most efficiently at 57°F, the amount of honey stores they initially need to consume to maintain a winter cluster is small. The lowest temperature which a colony can survive depends on food availability and the number of bees. When they are broodless, the temperature in the center of the cluster is around 70°F. The manageable temperature range is approximately 54 to 94°F. When brood is present, the temperature will be nearer the upper limit.

During moderate winter temperatures, the bees move honey from storage cells at the exterior closer to the cluster. During colder spells, the cluster becomes more compact from the simple behavior of individual bees moving inward from the outside as their body temperature becomes colder, to exchange position with warmer bees,. As winter progresses, the cluster moves upward in the hive, seeking to maintain constant contact with stored honey. [Illustration from BEEKEEPERS HANDBOOK shows typical cluster of a populous colony (covering 6 frames) in February].

There is a practical limit to which bees can contract their cluster. A portion of the cluster must be in contact with honey stores at all times since this is the fuel needed to run the muscles which generate the heat. Heat loss is proportional to the number of bees in the cluster. Smaller clusters are less likely to survive compared to larger clusters. In a study in Scotland, a bee colony of 18,000 bees lost 35% of it's population while a colony of 4,500 lost fully 85% of the adults during the winter.

Most colonies instinctively position and work to reposition stores to where they need the food. The smart beekeeper recognizes this and lets them do their work. Weak and sick colonies are less able to do this and should have been combined with a strong colony or, if diseased or heavily mite-infested, killed with a spray of soapy water. Good bee stewardship is attempting to overwinter hives with good healthy populations that have adequate honey stores. Pretty soon it will be time to see how your bees, and you as their keeper, did preparing for and surviving the overwintering period.



Winter Cluster

Classified Ads

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

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

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

Contact Editor to advertise here for the 2016 year.

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Bill Wood

~ (541) 687-8211 ~
beeologique@gmail.com

2016 LCBA Dues - Renewals

The membership dues are now due for the 2016 year. Dues for the year are \$25. Please remit to our Treasurer, Polly Habliston by February 1st if you would like to continue your membership. You may also pay at our January meeting.

Polly Habliston
1258 Dalton St.
Eugene, OR 97404

If you are not sure if you owe dues for 2016 contact Nancy Ograin at 541-935-7065 or nancy.ograin@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

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

NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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