



## LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

130 HANSEN LANE, EUGENE, OR 97404

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President: Max Kuhn 541-999-0744

Vice-President: Deb Elder 541-854-5336

Treasurer: Polly Habliston 541-461-0339

Secretary: Tamara Andreas 541-968-4106

Past President: Pam Leavitt 541-344-4228

Board Members: Francis Rothauge 541-520-8391

Jim Rundall 541-688-1925

Kelly Goodwin 541-925-3028

Larry Scoville 541-228-0973

Mike France 541-232-1610

# January 2017 NEWSLETTER



## President's Message

Max Kuhn, LCBA President

Welcome Club Members to 2017!

We are fortunate to have Dr. Ramesh Sagili as our speaker at our first meeting of this year. Be sure to join us for this informative talk and bring a dish or snack to share with everyone.

At our November meeting, elections were held for our 2017 officers and directors. They are here to represent the members so please feel free to contact any one of them. The new officer directory is on page 4.

The Good Earth Home, Garden and Living Show is Jan. 20-22. We will again have a booth there to give attendees an opportunity to talk with beekeepers, promote our bee school and buy local honey. Ken Ograin will be one of the featured speakers during this event. If you can help out contact Ken.

Hopefully all of you experienced a tolerable or better beekeeping year in 2016. For myself, the year fell closer to tolerable than to better. So I am looking forward to 2017 with lots of hope for a "better" year. In an effort to make 2017 "better", I will be making a New Year's resolution. "I resolve to give Varroa Destructor the attention it deserves." As the number one problem facing beekeepers of the U.S. today, the Varroa mite is underrated by too many beekeepers. This year forward, I plan to be consistent and frequent in my mite counts. These counts will utilize the more accurate *alcohol wash* or *sugar shake* methods. I further resolve to reduce my mite counts to an acceptable level whenever they rise above established treatment thresholds. I hope all club members will join me in this effort. Remember you can reduce your Varroa levels with or without miticides. If you have questions regarding anything concerning Varroa mites seek out experienced beekeepers, books, classes, or videos. But do **something** to control Varroa. Good Luck, I wish you the very best in beekeeping during 2017.

### Reminder:

New in 2016 was a regulation for all beekeepers in Oregon with more than five (5) colonies. This new regulation requires a registration fee of \$10 per

## NEXT MEETING:

January 17, 2017

Be sure to attend the first meeting of 2017. 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, for yummy food and to socialize.

**Speaker: Dr. Ramesh Sagili, OSU Honey Bee Lab**  
**Topic: "What Goes on in the Hive During the Winter"**

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*

Apiary and \$.50 (50 cents) per hive be paid to the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture. The money collected from these fees is only to be used for honey bee research. So by registering your hives, you stay legal and support honey bee research at OSU. For registration forms or information use the following link.

[Apps.oregon.gov/SOS/LicenseDetail/606](https://apps.oregon.gov/SOS/LicenseDetail/606).

## 2017 Bee Season Starts Now

**By Ken Ograin, LCBA Member**

Last fall we saw warm days into late November which caused my hives to consume a lot of their winter stores and I had to make large amounts of fondant.

Due to the lack of a large population of winter bees caused me to lose two of my hives during the 5 days of freezing weather we had in mid-December. What are winter bees? They also called fat bees. Fat bees are what get our hives through those tough times. Honey Bee Suite just published a great article about winter bees, <https://honeybeesuite.com/what-are-winter-bees-and-what-do-they-do/>. I would recommend all beekeepers read this.

If one of your hives died out during one of these cold snaps checkout the article on the main page of our club website. [Why Did My Bees Die This Winter?](#) Use this as a learning experience.

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, but you can use the sample board to keep track of what is going on inside your hive.

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. 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.

You can find Judy's Fondant recipe on the club website under "[Recipes](#)", Morris no-cook candy board is also on the same page.

## 2017 LCBA Bee School & Scholarships

### Bee School

**Date:** March 4, 2017

**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 2017 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)

## November Meeting Highlights

By Judy Scher

**Announcements:** Elections took place for the 2017 Officers and Directors. Congratulations new officers and Directors.

President: MaxKuhn                      Vice-President: Deb Elder  
Secretary: Tamara Andreas        Treasurer: Polly Hablston

Directors: Mike France, Kelly Goodwin, Jim Rundall,  
Larry Scoville, Frances Rothauge

### Meeting:

Our November meeting was dedicated to sampling the work of our hard working bees. LCBA members - from Blachly, to North Eugene, to Springfield, to Cottage Grove - shared honey obtained in 2016. Even though most samples were from areas around Eugene they varied greatly in color, taste and floral source. In past years we placed our honey samples on tables according to color, but this year, we decided it would be interesting to place our samples according to location. Polly Hablston donated a map of Lane County so we could tag our location.

I still meet people who think that honey is, well, honey, and all honey tastes the same. But it is fascinating that honey collected by bees in the same area can taste so different and vary from water white to dark brown. The taste and color of honey depend on what flowers are in bloom when the nectar is collected by the bees. In fact, my own big leaf maple honey tastes different this year when compared to last because of whatever else was in bloom in the neighborhood. Have a look at the different honey colors on the West-of-Downtown, Eugene table.



## Upcoming Events & Announcements

### Jan 18th - Linn Benton Beekeeping Assoc. Meeting

**Location:** Corvallis Waldorf School, 6:30-8:30 pm  
**Speaker:** Karessa Torgerson, "Thinking About Becoming a Beekeeper?" Visit their website for more information:  
<http://www.lbba.us>

**Jan 20th—22nd** - Good Earth Home, Garden and Living Show, Lane County Fairgrounds

### Jan 25th - Central Coast Beekeepers Assoc. Meeting

**Location:** Newport Library, 6:30 pm  
**Topic:** Honey Tasting presentation by club members Stan Scotton and Rick Olson.  
<http://www.ccbaor.org/>

### Feb 12th & 19- UofO Craft Center Workshop "Bee Box"

**Instructor:** Brian Dykstra, **Cost:** \$68  
Build a habitat for a variety of native solitary (not hive) bees.  
Work with a local expert to learn the nesting habits of

multiple pollinator species. To register click on link:  
<https://craftcenter.uoregon.edu/workshops/term-specials-woodworking/1300>

**March 4th** - LCBA Bee School, Trinity United Methodist Church

**April 7th-8th** Glory Bee Weekend

### Ohio State University Bee Lab Webinars

The 2017 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 Hiveways"

Follow Kelly as she does her inspections, observations, and other beekeeping activities.  
<http://lanecountyhiveways.com/>

**Florence Garden Club** - visit their face book page at  
[www.facebook.com/FGCOR](http://www.facebook.com/FGCOR).

## 2017 LCBA Officers & Directors

President:	Max Kuhn	541-999-0744	<a href="mailto:t.maxkuhn@gmail.com">t.maxkuhn@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President:	Deb Elder	541-854-5336	<a href="mailto:dgdeb.elder@gmail.com">dgdeb.elder@gmail.com</a>
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	Kelly Goodwin	541-925-3028	<a href="mailto:kgoodwinus@yahoo.com">kgoodwinus@yahoo.com</a>
(Best to contact by phone)	Francis Rothauge	541-520-8391	<a href="mailto:urbanhoney99@gmail.com">urbanhoney99@gmail.com</a>
	Jim Rundall	541-688-1925	<a href="mailto:fjrundall@comcast.net">fjrundall@comcast.net</a>
	Larry Scoville	541-228-0973	<a href="mailto:larryljs@live.com">larryljs@live.com</a>
Past-President:	Pam Leavitt	541-344-4228	<a href="mailto:pamseaver2000@yahoo.com">pamseaver2000@yahoo.com</a>

## Committee Members

Library - Anita & Arthur Jones	541-937-2244	<a href="mailto:beesherenow@gmail.com">beesherenow@gmail.com</a>
LCBA Sales - Mike Harrington	541-913-6059	<a href="mailto:beekeeper@comcast.net">beekeeper@comcast.net</a>
Bee School - Ken Ograin	541-935-7065	<a href="mailto:woodrt@pacinfo.com">woodrt@pacinfo.com</a>
Website - Judy Scher	541-344-2114	<a href="mailto:judyscher@gmail.com">judyscher@gmail.com</a>
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LCBA Scholarships - Katharine Hunt	541-607-0106	<a href="mailto:keehhunt@gmail.com">keehhunt@gmail.com</a>
Master Beekeeper Coordinator & Oregon State Beekeepers Assoc. Regional Rep - Rita Ostrofsky	541-685-2875	<a href="mailto:ostrofsky@pacinfo.com">ostrofsky@pacinfo.com</a>
Oregon Master Beekeepers Lane County Regional Representative - Rick Olson	541-997-3792	<a href="mailto:rolson2@attglobal.net">rolson2@attglobal.net</a>

Save for your Records



## “Bees of War”

by Rick Olson, OMB Lane County Regional Representative & LCBA Member

I was looking into "honey madness" and ran across some interesting stories--bees as weapons. From the Roman Empire through the middle ages to our own time bees have been credited with being the decisive stroke in more than one battle. Concerning honey madness, Xenophon, Aristotle, Strabo, Pliny the Elder and Columella all wrote about the effects of "madding honey". The toxin, grayanotoxin, comes from the pollen and nectar of *Rhododendron luteum* and *Rhododendron ponticum*, which are found around the Black Sea. Some of our rhodys on the Oregon coast contain this toxin but honeybees in this country do not have a tolerance for it--they die before they can store the toxic nectar.

For centuries our innocent honeybees have been used for chemical warfare. Pliny and Strabo, document the use of contaminated honey against the armies of Xenophon in 401 BCE and Pompey in 69 BCE. In the first century BCE the Turks of Heptakometes deliberately left honeycombs out for the invading Roman troops to find. They were easily defeated after becoming sick on the toxic honey.

Hives have also been used as "cluster bombs". In the eleventh century Duke Geiselbert of Lorraine's attack of Emperor Henry I's troops was repulsed by a barrage of beehives. In the twelfth century King Richard used catapulted beehives on the Saracens during the Third Crusade. In 1289, Austrian Duke Albert was repulsed with a fusillade of bees thrown from the battlements of the Hungarian city of Gussing. In 1513, the Moors were known to have thrown hives down from the citadels of Tauris in Xantiane onto the invading Portuguese troops, saving the city. And not an epipen in sight!

Another use was fortification. In the 18th century, during the battle of Alba Graexa, the inhabitants set up barricades of beehives preventing the Turks from entering the city. From the Middle Ages to Vietnam there are reports of trip wires being used on hives to surprise and repulse invaders as well.

And bees are being recruited to fight our modern wars as well. The Stealthy Insect Sensor Project has been able to train bees to detect explosives like dynamite, C-4, nuclear and chemical weapon materials. Bees can detect chemicals in concentrations as low as a few parts per trillion. Finally in the drug war, researchers have trained bees to detect illegal drugs such as methamphetamine and cocaine.

## Busy Bee

By Pam Leavitt

Pam Leavitt presented “Pollinators in My Garden” to the Junction City Garden Club on January 3, 2017. There was a good turnout, especially considering the icy weather.

The ladies were an attentive audience and asked good questions about pollinators.

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](mailto:pamseaver2000@yahoo.com) .

### Good Earth Home, Garden & Living Show

**Date:** January 20-22, 2017

**Location:** Lane County Fairgrounds

Looking for volunteers to help out at the LCBA booth. If you can help out please contact:

Ken Ograin [woodrt@pacinfo.com](mailto:woodrt@pacinfo.com)  
541-935-7065

### Honey Donations

Thanks to everyone who donated honey for the Good Earth Home , Garden & Living Show this month. 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 if you would like to arrange to donate some honey or you can bring it to the January meeting. We will have a drawing after the home show for a gift certificate for those that donated.

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

## Video: Mite Leaps from Flower to Honey Bee

Scientists suspected that mites could attach themselves to bees when they visit flowers, but the idea hadn't been confirmed. A field study was done by David Peck, graduate student in the lab of Thomas Seeley, a biology professor at Cornell University. He wanted to test whether mites could travel from flowers to bees.



The researchers took colonies of honey bees to the Adirondack mountains in upstate New York, where there are very few wildflowers, so the bees' foraging could be controlled. They set up feeders of sugar water and potted flowers. To maintain forager interest in the focal feeders and flowers, bees were offered sucrose solutions scented with anise extract. Sucrose droplets were pipetted onto the center of all focal flowers, roughly at the position of the flowers' own natural nectaries. Mites were planted on the flowers. They observed that the mites detect bees and deftly navigate their way onto the bees' backs.

The findings offer evidence of another mode of transmission of mites to bees, which is important for better understanding the disease risks Varroa mites present and for preventing colony deaths. The next steps for this research will be to better understand mite behaviors on flowers, such as how often and under what circumstances they end up on flowers.

To view the video click on link below. The research is published on [PLOS ONE](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0132651). Go to [PLOS ONE](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0132651), scroll down to "Methods" to read about the field study.

<http://www.futurity.org/varroa-mite-bee-video-1326512-2/>

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## “Varroa Mite Guide Now Includes IPM Videos”

by Dr. Dewey M. Caron

The Honey Bee Health Coalition has released a series of videos to help beekeepers promote colony health and combat costly and destructive Varroa mite infestations. The videos provide detailed step-by-step instructions on how to monitor hives for Varroa and safely treat when levels get too high. The videos complement the Coalition’s wildly popular “Tools for Varroa Management Guide”: <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa> . Dewey Caron, Western Apiculture Society representative to the Coalition, is principle author of the Tools and co-wrote and directed the video scripts, filmed at Foothills apiary in Colton, Oregon.

“The Honey Bee Health Coalition’s Tools for Varroa Management Guide has provided beekeepers in the US and Canada with invaluable tools and techniques to confront destructive Varroa mite infestations,” said Mark Dykes, Apiary Inspectors of America. “These videos will show beekeepers real world application techniques to help correctly apply treatments.” Mark was on-camera in the video taping. Website to watch the videos:

<http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa/#videos>

The videos provide helpful visual aids and step-by-step directions on how beekeepers can monitor and control Varroa mites through an Integrated Pest Management strategy. Both the videos and Tools Guide cover a range of strategies and tools, including the uses of Oxalic acid, formic acid, essential oils, other synthetic miticides and non-chemical treatment options.

“Healthy bees support our world’s food supply and farmers everywhere. A single untreated colony can transmit Varroa mites to other nearby hives and threaten honey bee health across large geographic regions,” said Danielle Downey, Project Apis m, the second on-camera individual on the videos. “Beekeeping is becoming very popular, and often keeping the bees healthy is a mysterious learning curve. These important 'how to' videos bring the Coalition’s Tools for Varroa Management Guide to life — and will amplify its impact in the United States, Canada, and around the globe.”

The Coalition’s Tools for Varroa Management has given beekeepers the tools they need to measure Varroa mite infestations in their hives and select appropriate control methods. The guide, which has been downloaded more than 5,500 times since its release, is the newly released 5<sup>th</sup> edition. The videos are embedded within the guide for easy download. There is also a new spreadsheet for easy record keeping of your varroa management included. Spreadsheet <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/> can be separately downloaded.

### FDA Rule Takes Effect

Effective January 1, 2017 you can no longer buy some antibiotics over the counter without a prescription from a veterinarian for animal feed. New rules by the FDA will categorize honey bees as food animals, just like cattle and poultry, in an effort to eliminate the use of antibiotics for purposes other than fighting infections. The rules are still being worked out and it may be sometime before we know which drugs this will effect, but it is mainly the water soluble ones, like Tlyson .

Beekeepers will soon need to establish a veterinarian-client-patient-relationship in order to obtain certain medications.

Ken Ograin

## 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

82 Dadant # M00250, 4 1/8 x 4 1/8 plastic cut comb boxes, pg. 98 in their catalog, plus #M00937 stainless steel comb cutter, pg. 24.

Approximately \$95 value. Will sell for \$25.

Contact Dean Burkhart, 541 744-1919.

### 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)

### 2017 Membership Renewal

If you wish to continue your membership in LCBA please remit the 2017 dues at our January meeting or mail to:

Polly Habliston  
LCBA Treasurer  
1258 Dalton Dr.  
Eugene, OR 97404

Dues are \$25 per year per household, with membership renewal in January.

Contact Nancy Ograin if you are not sure if your membership is expiring.

[nancy.ograin@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.ograin@gmail.com)  
541-935-7065

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

Contact Editor to  
advertise here for  
the 2017 year.

### 2017 LCBA New 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

The LCBA newsletter is published eleven times a year by the Lane County Beekeepers Association, 130 Hansen Lane, Eugene, OR 97404. Sample copies may be requested from the editor. Copyright resides with individual contributors. If you would like to reprint anything you see here, please contact the editor. Permission is normally granted freely for non-profit use. For advertisements, please contact the editor or the association treasurer by the first of the month.

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