LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
130 HANSEN LANE, EUGENE, OR 97404
Website: www.lcbaor.org
Email: lcbaor@pacinfo.com
President: Brian McGinley 541-521-7523
Vice President: Nancy Ograin 541-935-7065
Treasurer: Polly Habliston 541-461-0339
Secretary: Paula Sablosky 541-206-7173
Board Members: Fonta Molyneaux 541-592-9332
*Matt Stouder 541-619-5582 * Pam Leavitt 541-344-4228*
*Lynn Hellwege 541-513-2074 * Brian Jackson 541-513-3716*
Past President: Mike France 541-232-1610

JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

President's Message by Brian McGinley

Summer is here, yea! Thankfully it arrived more subtly than in 2021, when the heat wave stifled the blackberry bloom in the valley. This year the blackberry bloom was hearty and many of us should have a good honey harvest by early August. I have always found harvest time a little puzzling because it occurs in the middle of summer and it invokes strong opinions from beekeepers about when to pull honey supers. Regardless, honey harvest is a delightful time for me on several fronts. First, it's clearly a measure of your success as a beekeeper with a tangible reward. Some of us will even place that reward on display at our upcoming Lane County Fair this month. It also offers beekeepers a great conversation topic to share with others. Second, it offers me a great day to work with a group of beekeepers during extraction.

I have a friend with a radial extractor and generally four of us come together to share the burden of processing honey frames for everyone. Once we decide whose supers get worked on first, it's surprisingly an organized event. It takes most of a day to complete which leaves lots of time to chat about bees, family, fishing, hunting but thankfully not politics. I am grateful to my friend Drew who annually offers to host this harvest event, given the mess we create in his garage. So cheers to everyone's harvest success and to having friends to share in the success.

Side note: I wanted to close on last month's exploits with bears in the bear yard. You may recall that one of my hives was pushed over by bears but not destroyed thanks to ratchet straps. Sadly, that hive has since died out or absconded after the trauma. Hard to know which. My remaining hive at this site is still thriving.

GENERAL MEETING
July 19, 2022

Come early to socialize and share your Questions with experience beekeepers.

NO Early Meeting

Doors open 7:00 pm.

General Meeting
Topic: "Preparing Your Bees for Winter in Summer"

Speaker: Morris Ostrofsky

Program begins at 7:30 pm
Presentation is in-person only

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

Inside this Issue:

Upcoming Events

July 20th-24th - Lane County Fair
Honey and wax entry drop off date, July 16th noon – 7:00pm at the Wheeler Pavilion. Click here for entry form. Attending the fair - stop by the pavilion and check out our LCBA booth.

Aug 20th - National Honey Bee Day

Aug 26th - Sept 5th - Oregon State Fair
Location: Salem, OR

October 28–30 - OSBA 2022 Fall Conference
Location: Florence, OR

Upcoming Webinar

July 26th – At Home Beekeeping Series

Topic: Beekeeping in the Extreme: Safely Dealing with Mother Nature, Katherine Parys, USDA ARS

Time: 4:30pm-5:30pm PST

Join via Zoom at: https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838
Join via Facebook Live at: https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/
(If you use facebook, after logging in, click on more, then events.)

The presentation will be recorded and posted on their Facebook page for 2 weeks.

OSBA at the Oregon State Fair Volunteers Needed

Each year the Oregon State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) has a great presence at the state fair. They are asking all the regional bee clubs to help out at their bee booth from August 25th to September 5th**.**

This 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.

If you would like to volunteer contact Bonnie King bonjking@gmail.com and she will send you the scheduling link.

LCBA July 19th Meeting Info

NO Early Educational Meeting:

7:00 pm Social Time - Share your questions with experienced beekeepers.

7:30 pm General Meeting:
TOPIC: "Preparing Your Bees for Winter in Summer" presented by Morris Ostrofsky

Meeting Info: What's happening post nectar flow with your bees? What are varroa mites are doing at this time? What's the impact of varroa on how the bees overwinter? Additional topics covered include protein and carbohydrate feeding and transitioning to fall: what happened to my sweet bees, yellow jackets, assessing colony strength.

National Pollinator Week

In celebration of Pollinator Week 2022, Pam Leavitt gave a presentation on "Pollinators in My Garden" at the downtown Eugene Public Library. Brian McGinley and Nancy Ograin also attended to talk about Mason Bees, help with questions. We had lots of information available on plants, bees and free flower seeds.

Even though there were only five individuals attended the talk, they gave us positive feed back on the information we provided.

The library is just beginning to offer these in-house presentation, post COVID, and are hoping the interest and attendance will grow as people are more comfortable with coming into public spaces. We hope to be able to help out the library again next year.

Welcome New Members

Maureen Bowman	Cottage Grove
Debra Dersham	Creswell
Sue McHugh	Springfield
Lisa Linnell	Creswell
Amy Vance	Cottage Grove
Gary & Barbara Westfall	Eugene

LCBA Field Day Update

LCBA's first field day in two year's at Fonta Molyneaux's Wildeverlasting Farm in Dorena. Our event was well attended with about 30 attendees. Even though the morning was terribly rainy, the sun came out just at the right time for us to go into the hives in the early afternoon. In the morning, under cover, Polly gave her presentation on winterizing your hives, moisture boxes, insulation options, her use of grow mats and talked about why westerns are your friends for flexibility in hive manipulations.

Fonta's presentation on "Phenology & Beekeeping" was about how to understand how nature effects your bees and how your manipulations need to coincide with what's going on in nature. She also talked about the phenology wheel and why and how it works.

Our hive demonstrators, Fonta, Judy Scher and Rick Olson took us through the hives. We all learned so much and had a great day just talking bees!

Thanks Fonta for hosting LCBA's Field Day!

Polly's demo

Fonta's presentations in her classroom - note her phenology wheel!

Rick Olson

Judy Scher

Fonta

Fonta's 14 year old daughter, Lylah, took us through her horizontal hive. She helps Fonta with her hives and manages her own 3 hives that she caught from swarms. She started beekeeping at 9 years old.

Judy explaining how to check a frame and what to look for

Lylah showing us one of the frames from her hive

Rick checking out the bottom brood box

Fonta showing how to work a hive

Avoid Heat Exhaustion While Working Your Bees

by Judy Scher, LCBA Member

With these hot summer days coming, it's time for a reminder about avoiding heat exhaustion. Here are things every beekeeper needs to know and have on hand in the hot weather:

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

1/2 - 1 gallon water,

Electrolyte tablets (you can purchase these at REI or at a drug store)

Ice in a container

Cell phone

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

Cheap and easy recipe for "sports" drink

1 quart water
2 tablespoons honey
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp baking soda
-fruit juice to taste if desired

Rendering Wax

After extracting what do you do with the wax? How to you process it? LCBA has received questions about how to render wax. Ken Ograin gave a talk a few years ago on extracting and this topic was included. You can view his slide show on our website posted under "Talks". It is pretty self explanatory, but if you have any questions contact nancy.ograin@gmail.com.

Link to slide show: Rendering Wax

Drying wax after rinsing

July Beekeeping Tips
by Chuck Hunt, LCBA Member

1. Make sure that the bees have a supply of water nearby for the hot weather days when they need to cool their hives. Bees transport a considerable amount of water to cool their hives and it needs to be clean and from a nearby source.
2. Also, the hives need some ventilation in order to cope with hot weather. Small openings, even as small as a toothpick under the hive lid and perhaps a crack or two between boxes will help the bees keep their hive cool and productive. As long as a honey flow is on and there are not too many yellow jackets around, small ventilation openings in the hive are helpful, not harmful, during warm weather.
3. It is time to begin to prepare for honey extraction. Get your extractor clean and uncapping knife ready. Honey that is mostly capped and at least below 18.2% moisture level is ready to extract. Most early honey is easily within this range now even if it is not capped over. Make sure that all of your super removal is done before you need to put on medications.
4. Pick out a method of pulling the honey off your hives that is appropriate for the number of hives you keep. Smoking and brushing bees off combs works for beekeepers with one to five hives. If you choose this method, work slowly and be gentle with the bees. They will usually react well, especially if you brush them off in front of the hive.
5. If you have more than five hives, you may want to think about escape boards or fume boards as a removal method. Make sure that, whatever method you use, the equipment needed is in good shape and ready when you need it. Use caution when removing honey. Cover honey supers that have been removed to avoid robbing.
6. Honey supers may become the object of attention from wax moths. Be careful about storing supers for over a few days in the warm weather of late summer. This weather will allow wax moths to attack your combs. Combs can be placed in a freezer to kill wax moth eggs and eliminate the danger.
7. Taking honey off the hives and extracting is hard work. Make sure to take care when lifting boxes of honey that you do not injure your back. Also, watch yourself for signs of overheating and dehydration when you take honey off the hives. Drink lots of water and give yourself time to cool off.
8. Be cautious about fire. Keep an eye on your smoker. Things are very dry and it is easy to lose lives to fire.

Drying Extracted Honey

If you have high moisture content in your honey you will need to dry it to 18.2%. All partially capped frames need to be extracted separately and checked for moisture. LCBA has a refractometer that will be available at our club meetings. Bring a jar of your honey and we'll check it out for you.

Here is Ken Ograin's experiment using a heat lamp to dry out his honey.

I had a 5 gal bucket that had approximately 50 lbs of honey with about 20% moisture. That super (empty) was needed, so I extracted early and that was why the moisture was so high. I took my heat lamp that is used for baby chicks and put it about 6" above the level of the honey in the bucket. This was about an inch above the top of the bucket. I stirred the honey about every 12 hours and in a little over 24 hours the moisture dropped to just under 18%. The honey was nice and warm so it poured out great into my jars! This was done in my garage with nothing fancy; just a couple of saw horses and a heat lamp. This was kind of jerry-rigged, but it worked in a pinch.

Ken Ograin

Excerpt from Oregon State Beekeepers July 2022 Newsletter

OSU Honey Bee Research and Extension Program Updates - Ramesh Sagili

Hope you all are doing well, staying safe and still waiting for more sun. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide a quick update on (a) some field observations this spring and (b) an overview of our current and upcoming research projects.

Observations from the Field

Brood diseases: European foulbrood (EFB) and Chalkbrood are relatively common brood diseases that are prevalent during spring. We have noticed an uptick in prevalence of EFB and Chalkbrood this year. For many new beekeepers, it is a bit challenging to differentiate between brood diseases. Beekeepers can use the diagnostic kits (Vita Bee Health) to identify EFB and AFB (American foulbrood). These diagnostic kits have been shown to be quite reliable (89% accuracy). If you need assistance with identification of brood diseases, then please feel free to contact us at the OSU Honey Bee Lab. Over the past three years, our team has been assisting our regional beekeeper groups with brood disease identification. Further, as you all are aware about the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) that came in to effect on January 1, 2017, now beekeepers must obtain a prescription or VFD from a licensed veterinarian to purchase the antibiotic medications, i.e., Tylosin (Tylan), Oxytetracycline (Terramycin), and Lincomycin (Lincomix) for controlling American foulbrood (AFB) and European foulbrood (EFB) diseases in their colonies. Beekeepers can no longer purchase these medications over-the-counter. Many beekeepers have expressed difficulty finding an interested veterinarian willing to provide a prescription. To mitigate this problem, we are training interested veterinarians in Oregon in honey bee brood disease identification (in collaboration with Dr. Michelle Kutzler, a veterinary colleague here at OSU).

Queen problems: Due to inclement weather (mostly cloudy and rainy weather) in the valley during April and May, it appears that a large proportion of virgin queens that were produced during the swarming process were unable to mate, hence resulting in significant number of drone bound or queen-less colonies.

Ongoing and Upcoming Research Projects

Developing Pollen Nutrition Composition Database (USDA AFRI Funded Project): Overall goal of this project is to improve bee nutrition by building a first-of-its-kind database of the pollen nutritional compositions. We have initiated the pollen collection process for this project. Pollen from several target plant species is being collected both manually (with a hand held vacuum device) and from honey bee pollen foragers (collecting pollen foragers). Many interested citizen scientists from across the country are volunteering to assist with pollen collection pertaining to this project. Please visit the following link to learn more about this project: orsba.org/bees-in-the-news. If you are interested, you can still sign up for assisting us with pollen collection. Please send me an e-mail at: ramesh. sagili@oregonstate.edu.

European Foulbrood Study: In this study, we are investigating potential factors contributing to high prevalence of EFB in commercial honey bee colonies pollinating blueberries and other early season crops. We are testing several factors, including poor nutrition, fungicide exposure, and potentially skewed larvae to nurse bee ratio in the colonies.

Damien Tupinier Oxalic Acid Vaporization Study: In 2021 summer, we tested the efficacy of different doses of oxalic acid (vaporization) for controlling Varroa. The following doses were included in the study: 1 g, 2 g and, 4 g per brood chamber. Results from that study indicated that 4 g dose was providing adequate Varroa control when used three times at weekly intervals. Unfortunately, 4 g dose of oxalic acid appears to cause some brood damage. Hence, we plan to include another lower dose of 3 g in our study this summer with the goal of obtaining similar Varroa control effectiveness as 4 g, but with a lower brood mortality.

I would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all for your continued and unwavering support for the past twelve years. It has been a pleasure and great joy to serve you all through our research and extension program. We will provide research updates at the upcoming OSBA conference, so please stay tuned. We wish you and your bees a fabulous rest of the year.

OSU Updates continued

The Impacts of Multiple Stressors on Honey Bees

Priyadarshini Chakrabarti Basu

Figure 2: Hand collecting blueberry pollen.

There are multiple stressors impacting bee pollinators such as pesticides, poor nutrition, Varroa mites, etc. It is important to not only investigate each of these stressors individually but also examine their synergistic impacts. I will briefly discuss three such recent experiments to investigate the impacts of multiple stressors.

Impacts of Pesticides on Different Age Cohorts of Honey Bees

Current EPA regulations for assessing toxicity to bee pollinators are spread across three tiers: I, II, and III. Tier I is a lab study that is done on two-day-old honey bees, Tier II is a semi-field study usually conducted in flight cages, and Tier III involves large-scale field experiments. As adult honey bees of all ages can be exposed to pesticides, we wanted to investigate how three different age cohorts of adult honey bees (newly emerged, nurses, and foragers) respond to the same dose of pesticide (thiamethoxam) in a laboratory cage study (Figure 1) conducted for ten days. The pesticide was administered through sugar syrup. We found that foragers were most affected as evident by increased oxidative stress and reduced longevity. The newly emerged honey bees were the least affected. The nurse honey bees showed response patterns in between the other two age cohorts. Thus, we find that there are significant changes in response to pesticides across different age cohorts and further studies are required to understand such impacts across different age groups.

Impacts of Fungicides on Pollen Phytosterol Quality: This study is recently funded by the USDA AFRI program. One of the objectives is to understand the impacts of a specific group of fungicides, called the sterol biosynthesis inhibitory fungicides (SBI fungicides), on blueberry plant pollen phytosterol quality. These fungicides are designed to inhibit ergosterol biosynthesis in fungal pathogens of plants, and recent studies are showing evidence of nontarget impacts on honey bees and bumble bees as well as plants. We tested two different fungicides and sprayed them at field application rates on two varieties of highbush blueberries (Duke and Elliott) at the OSU research farm. We then hand-collected pollen from thousands of flowers (Figure 2) to test the phytosterol profiles of the plant pollens and compared the results between the treatment and the control groups. We are seeing some changes in the phytosterol profiles. This is a three-year study, and we can provide more information once all data are analyzed.

Figure 1: The Laboratory cage set up at OSU Honey Bee Lab.

The Role of Pollen Nutrition and Commercial Probiotic on Mitigating Pesticide Stress:

We wanted to investigate how an added commercial probiotic can improve overall bee health and affect the gut microbiome composition. We also additionally wanted to test the impacts of supplementing multifloral pollen patties to counteract such stress. Newly emerged honey bees were held in laboratory cages and treatments included the presence or absence of: multi-floral pollen (Figure 3), a commercial probiotic, and exposure to a lambdacyhalothrin for two weeks. As based on our preliminary data, we find the highest survival in experimental groups that are supplemented with both probiotics and pollen, as compared to experimental groups that were exposed to pesticides and not supplemented with either pollen or probiotics. This is currently an ongoing experiment, and we are still analyzing the molecular datasets.

Figure 3: Providing multi-floral pollen patties to the experimental groups.

Note: Priya is currently Assistant Professor, Mississippi State University and Courtesy Faculty, Oregon State University. She presented "Multiple-Pronged Approach to Protecting Bee Health" during our 2021 Fall Conference

June General Meeting Highlights, by Paula Sablosky, LCBA Secretary

Honey Extraction, by Mike France & Lynn Hellwege

The presentation focused on how to remove bees from your hive, uncapping, extracting and storage.

How to get the bees out of honey super frames: There are different methods you can use: bee brush, bee escape, fume board or bee blower. The bee brush is the simplest to use for one or two hives. You can take a frame, shake the bees off or brush them off into the hive or onto a bedsheet that has been placed on the ground in front of the hive. When the bees land on the sheet, they will walk back into the hive.

There are several types of bee escape boards; triangle, porter and cone. The triangle and cone work well. The porter version has a drawback, no ventilation, and could kill bees if it's really hot. Install late in the day and take it out in the morning if it's really hot. The triangle and cone allow the bees to go down and not come back up. Both require 24 hours to allow 95% of the bees to escape. Mike commented that you will not be able to get all the drones out. The fume board has a solar top that heats up the frames below. Spray the inside bottom side of the fume board with Bee-Quick, Bee-Dun, Begone or Honey Bandit. Then place the fume board on top of the honey supers. The smell drives most of the bees down into the brood boxes within 10 -15 minutes. The remaining bees can then be removed with a bee brush. Place a damp towel over the frames that you have removed to keep the bees from returning to the frames. A bee blower is not really recommended as it creates a huge crowd of bees flying everywhere.

Extracting: It is best to extract honey on the same day you remove the supers, but if you cannot, store them in a bee tight container in a warm area or in a freezer due to wax moths. If you store in a cool area and then try to extract later, it will take a long time to spin out.

An extractor is the best way to extract liquid honey and it saves the comb for next season. The extractor does require some space and a bee tight room. Equipment needed to help with extracting are a hot knife or scratcher, buckets with a pour gate at the bottom, different sized filters, frame drip tank (uncapping tank), tank or pail for cappings, wet cloth, bucket of water (to clean equipment as you process) and tarp to cover the floor.

Uncap both sides of the frame with a knife (hot or serrated). The hot knife will remove more wax than a scratcher. Have a pail or tank with a filter to catch the wax. Extract full frames or mostly capped frames first. When using a tangential extractor spin the first side slowly, then reverse, and you can begin to speed it up. Then spin out the first side again. Spinning too fast on the first spin may cause the wax foundation to break. Partially capped frames should be spun separately then check the moisture content with a refractometer. If it's above 18.2 % water, you will need to dry the honey (see page 6). If you have frames of uncapped cells they should be stored in a freezer until you can feed it back to the bees. You can also extract the nectar and feed it to the bees using a hive top feeder. Do not store uncapped frames with nectar as it will ferment and become toxic to the bees.

Have a five-gallon pail with a sieve on top ready when you open the honey gate. You can also strain the honey by using bucket strainers; 600, 400 and 200 microns with spacers between them, under your sieve. Mike suggests leaving the honey gate open due to the time that it might take for the honey to filter through the sieves.

Do not put your frames out in the open for the bees to clean up after extracting. This will attract yellow jackets and encourage robbing. Just put the frames back on the hive above the inner cover and put the top on. Leave on only for two or three days.

Storing Frames: Store honey frames in tubs, plastic or honey boxes. If you use tubs be sure to plug the holes in the handle areas. Freeze the frames for two days to kill wax moth eggs or use para-moth. If para-moth is used, be sure to air out the frames for a couple of days before putting them back in use. If you freeze the frames, allow them to warm up to room temperature before storing in bags or plastic tubs as the frames will sweat. If you want to just store the honey boxes, stack them and put layers of newspaper on top and bottom of the stack. If there are gaps between boxes, tape those gaps shut.

Sunlight will kill wax moth larvae so the boxes can be stacked zigzagged next to a window. Clean honey boxes before storing. Scape top and bottom edges, frame rest and any comb on inside box walls. Wash boxes with a bleach solution and allow to air dry. Store in dry bee tight area.

***NOTE: Slide show posted on our website:** http://www.lcbaor.org/Supportfiles/LCBA_talks/Honey_Extraction_June2022.pdf **View the 2021 extracting video on YouTube:** https://youtu.be/pIFVDhRnec0

highlights continued

June's Early Meeting

Honey Properties & Preparing Honey Entries for the Fair
by Judy Scher

Judy started off talking about with how bees make honey, honey properties and bee facts. Bees collect nectar and put it in their honey stomach. They return to the hive and feed it to the house bees where they store it in the cells constantly fanning it until it becomes honey. Honey is mostly water and the bees need to evaporate the water before capping the cell. Nectar isn't honey until the water is 18.2%. Bees visit 50-100 flowers to fill their honey stomach. It takes 2 million visits to make one pound of honey.

Honey never spoils and crystalized honey is safe to eat. You can de-crystalize honey in warm tap water. Honey is basically sugar, glucose and fructose with trace amounts of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and enzymes. Honey can help soothe a cough and MAY possibly help with allergies, but this is not proven. Honey can aid in wound healing.

Despite its associated health benefits, honey still raises blood glucose levels and must be accounted for when considering total carbohydrate intake. If on a low-sugar or low-carbohydrate eating plan for medical reasons, you should limit your intake of honey. The American Academy of Pediatrics also advises parents to never give honey to babies during the first year of life. It is a potential source of botulism, causing spores which can lead to severe illness in young babies.

Judy then talked about entering products of the hive for the Lane County Fair. She encouraged members to enter their honey in the fair as we want to show that we beekeepers take our beekeeping seriously. There are awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place from the fair ($5, $4, $3) and LCBA will also be awarding the first place winners $10. For those of you who want to enter honey products for the Oregon State Fair, the requirements are different and the judging is a lot stricter.

Honey categories are Class 01 to 08. Class 01 honey in comb (ross rounds) and is difficult to do. You have to have a really strong hive and honey flow to make ross rounds.

Class 02 - 05 strained honey, is what most members will enter. Water White, Class 02, we don't see much of it as it mostly comes from Fireweed. Class 03 to 05 is light, medium, and dark honey strained in one pound or pint jars. The jar can be either plastic or glass. Honey cannot be filtered, only strained. Submit two jars. You don't want to have any crystals or air bubbles. Jars need to be clean and filled up to the fill line. Warm up the honey and pour through a nylon and cheese cloth. Put cheese cloth on top of the nylon cloth as you don't want lint in your honey. Use a flash light to look for debris. Pollen does needs to be present in the honey. If it isn't, it's disqualified because that means the honey was filtered, not strained.

Bees wax is Class 06, one pound, any shape. You do not want any bubbles or debris in the wax. Filter the wax really well and use silk or nylon to make it shinny.

Honey in capped frame is Class 07. You want the frame to be solid from corner to corner, no gaps, no open cells or pollen cells. The edges of the frame need to be clean.

Cut comb honey is Class 08 and is comb cut in squares out of a capped frame. Submit one container. The judges are looking for neatness, cleanliness and uniformity in appearance. There should be an absence of liquid honey, pollen, propolis, open cells, crushed wax and travel stains. Freeze your frame for 48 hours before you cut out your comb then use a really sharp knife to cut and drain the comb for 24 hours. Warm the bottom of the jar in hot water, put in chuck comb and it will stick on the bottom of the jar. The comb "shamrocks" need to face upwards. Then add warmed honey slowly to the rim.

Hope to see lots of entries at the fair!

Lane County Fair Entry Information:

Entry Drop Off: Monday, July 19, noon to 7:00pm, Wheeler Pavilion. You can also register when you drop off your entry.

Entry form and more information: http://atthefair.com/creatives-exhibits

Click on 'Creatives Fair Book' for all the information. For those who do not have internet service you can contact the fair at 541-682-4292.

***NOTE: Judy's slide show presentation is posted on our website.**
http://www.lcbaor.org/Supportfiles/LCBA_talks/Honey_Properties_and_Honey_Show_Prep.pdf

LCBA Overwintering Losses Report
by Dewey Caron

I have prepared a report for Lane County beekeepers from the most recent Pacific Northwest Honey Bee Survey. Good news: Overwintering losses of LCBA respondents = 19 %, an improvement of nine percentage points from the 28% average Oregon losses and a 13% improvement over last years LCBA losses. Loss level was 12% lower than the 13 year average losses for Lane beekeepers. BAD News: the report includes survey returns of only 19 individuals, half of the previous and most recent years, so numbers on managements are likely less representative for the entire club.

Percent losses, determined by hive types were 33% for Langstroth eight frames hives (only 6 total in the fall) and 18% for Langstroth ten frames hives (104 fall colonies). There were a few other hives types represented. One nuc survived, three top bar hives (one of the three did not) and three Warré hives did survive. Over a several year period the overwintering loss of eight frame Langstroth hives statewide has been lower. Only 36% of them survived the last 8 years versus 40% average loss of Langstroth ten frame hives. The heavier loss reported this past winter for LCBA eight frame hive is likely due to the small number in the sample.

The survey also asked for hive loss by hive origination. LCBA members reported a loss of 50% of their packages and 60% of nucs. Swarms and splits fared better. These losses closely resemble the statewide numbers over the last eight years. Overwintered colony losses are half those of nucs and packages (which average around 50%) and are better than swarm losses (which are lower than packages and nucs). Losses of splits average only a bit higher than overwintered colonies.

In the LCBA report I discuss the results of management styles during the season. Feeding: Statewide for the last six years, individuals doing no feeding had 6% higher losses compared to average loss rate of 39% over the six year period. For LCBA, the 2 individuals of 19 who did no feeding had zero loss. Again, these smaller numbers skew the results. Individuals statewide that fed sugar syrup also had a six percentage point lower loss level (average for the six years). Those feeding honey in frames or liquid had lower loss only during two of the past five years. LCBA members had lower losses when they fed sugar syrup or liquid honey, but not when fed honey in frames.

Other graphs report on winterizing practices; sanitary practices, screen bottom board use and monitoring efforts. The numbers are all over the place for these practices and are not similar to previous years or statewide averages in the last few years. As in past years non-chemical efforts at mite control did not seem adequate to reduce losses. The two LCBA members doing done brood removal had no loss as did the one individual using small cell. The statewide measures that have proven to be the most helpful over the last several years are brood breaks and reducing drifting. These did not make a difference for LCBA members this past year. Two individuals doing the brood cycle interruption had a 50% colony loss of their four colonies and the six individuals practicing reduced drifting management had 19% loss level, same as the club average.

The one LCBA individual doing no chemical control had 100% loss. With the small numbers of LCBA respondents, the graph of chemical controls does not mirror the results of statewide for the past six years. Consistently the last six years four different chemicals have helped Oregon beekeepers improve survival; Apiguard, Apivar, oxalic acid vaporization and ApiLifeVar. Overall loss level has been 39.2% the last six years statewide. Formic Pro has steadily increased in use and looks very promising. For LCBA members oxalic acid vaporization used by 11 individuals had a 55% loss level and Mite Away Quick Strips used by six individuals had a 58% loss level. Formic Pro did better with only a 14% loss level. .

The entire report is posted at https://pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/survey-results/. Look under the individual club reports.

United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service

Winter Honey Bees Show Resistance to a Common Insecticide

June 21, 2022

Winter honey bees, compared to newly emerged summer bees, have a better ability to withstand the harmful effects of a widely-used insecticide in pest management, according to a recent study published in Apidologie.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) researchers from the Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, found winter honey bees' consumption of a nearly lethal, imidacloprid-laced syrup did not affect their survival during the study.

Imidacloprid is an insecticide made to mimic nicotine and is toxic to insects. This powerful insecticide is widely used in agriculture for pest management control. Honey bees are likely to encounter imidacloprid while foraging in the field or through contaminated hive products.

"Although imidacloprid toxicity to honey bees is an important concern for beekeepers, our results provide good news," said Miguel Corona and Mohamed Alburaki, researchers at the ARS Bee Research Laboratory. "Our research shows that winter honey bees have unrecognized physiological mechanisms to counteract the effects of insecticides."

The study assessed differences in diet behaviors for summer and winter honey bees in a controlled laboratory setting. Researchers provided sublethal doses of the imidacloprid-laced syrup to bees as necessary. Winter bees showed a preference to consuming imidacloprid-laced syrup over untreated sugar syrup while summer honey bees made the safe choice and avoided consuming the laced syrup each time.

According to Corona, it is important to study the differences of summer and winter honey bees' diets. Honey bee colonies survive extreme seasonal differences in temperature and forage by producing two seasonal phenotypes of workers: summer and winter bees. These seasonal phenotypes differ significantly in their psychological characteristics as well as their susceptibility to disease and ability to handle poisonous substances.

"Winter bees and summer bees undergo physiological changes to cope with drastic seasonal changes in temperature and the availability of nutritional resources," said Corona and Alburaki. "Our results suggest that long-lived winter bees are especially well-adapted to tolerate higher levels of chemical stressors."

Corona said that although the study's results show that winter bees could tolerate more intoxication by imidacloprid, they are still susceptible to higher concentrations of this insecticide in field settings.

Honey bees feed on imidacloprid during a cage experiment. (Photo by Mohamed Alburaki, ARS)

The Agricultural Research Service is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency. Daily, ARS focuses on solutions to agricultural problems affecting America. Each dollar invested in agricultural research results in $17 of economic impact.

Extractor Information

The club has five extractors with hot knives for use by its 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 or passing along to the next member. Extractors clean very easily if cleaned with warm soapy water and flushed out with a garden hose after you finish for the day. If you wait until the next day cleaning is more difficult. These manual three space frame units are the easy to use and transport.

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

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

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

Elmira - Ken Ograin 541-935-7065

Creswell - Amy Sierzega 541-505-4033

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

***NOTE:** Currently we do not have an extractor in Springfield.

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.

Honey Donations

If you get 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.

keehhunt@gmail.com

2022 Officers and Directors

President: Brian McGinley	541-521-7523	56magoo@gmail.com
Vice-President: Nancy Ograin	541-935-7065	nancy.ograin@gmail.com
Treasurer: Polly Habliston	541-461-0339	polly@uoregon.edu
Secretary: Paula Sablosky	541-206-7173	mygarden122@gmail.com
Directors:		
Matt Stouder	541-619-5582	stoudermatt@gmail.com
Fonta Molyneaux	541-592-9332	wildeverlastingfarm@gmail.com
Pam Leavitt	541-344-4228	pamseaver2000@yahoo.com
Lynn Hellwege	541-513-2074	lwege4@comcast.net
Brian Jackson	541-513-3716	brian.honeypaddle@gmail.com
Past-President: Mike France	541-232-1610	michaelj62@gmail.com
Committees:		
Library - Anita & Arthur Jones	541-937-2244	beesherenow@gmail.com
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
Facilities Coordinator - Jim Rundall	541-688-1925	fjrundall@comcast.net
LCBA Scholarships - Katharine Hunt	541-607-0106	keehhunt@gmail.com
Oregon Master Beekeeper Coordinator - 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

Introducing Save the Bee's new Executive Director!

July 8, 2022

Dear friends at LCBA,

SAVE the BEE began as a social responsibility initiative of GloryBee ten years ago, and to date we have raised and contributed over $850,000 to research, education, advocacy, pesticide reform, and creation of pollinator habitat. As we gear up to propel SAVE the BEE into the national spotlight as an independent nonprofit, we have hired our first Executive Director!

The stars aligned when our job posting caught the eye and imagination of Catie Coman, who brings 20 plus years of experience in managing national nonprofits to SAVE the BEE. Catie has worked in development, raising over $20 million in her career to date. She's been a VP of Marketing and Communications and has extensive experience in digital media platforms and brand strategy. And she's been an Executive Director, mastering organizational and board development. While the nonprofits she has worked for have served the arts, social services, international development, and health … Catie has also been a beekeeper for ten years, and the thought of shifting her professional talents to bees brings her much delight. Catie and I have had three weeks of overlap to ensure a smooth transition.

Today is my last day at GloryBee. And while it is a tad bittersweet to be leaving just as SAVE the BEE takes off, another chapter of my life is calling. I am grateful for my time at the helm of SAVE the BEE, and it has been thoroughly enjoyable working with Oregon State Beekeepers Association.

We are excited for the prospects of the next decade, and we hope you are too.

Thank you for your support!

With warm regards,
Lynne Fessenden
Save the Bee and Environmental Stewardship Manager

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.

Morris Ostrofsky has Nucs, Hives & Queens for Sale

5 Frame Nucs: In corrugated or wood box, Western or deep frames. New locally raised queen minimum 4 frames of bees. Available the end of June (to allow queen to be laying longer).

$170 Corrugated box or $205 wood box

Complete one story 10 frame hive $260
Wood box, Western frames, New locally raised, laying queen, New equipment (boxes, bottom board, cover).

No worries – you know the source

Available June 15th (approximate pick up date depending on weather).

Locally raised, marked queen $40
Laying, available near the end of June.

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

For Sale Starter Colonies

Includes telescoping top, inner cover, ventilation box, 2-3 boxes (1 deep and a western or 3 westerns), bottom boards & misc. management equipment plus an established colony ready to grow. **$325**.

Questions welcomed! If interested, **please contact** Kelly Goodwin at kgoodwinus@yahoo.com or 541-925-3028.

FOR SALE Bee Packages, Nucs, Vaporizer Locally Raised Queens

3lb. packages with 2022 queen*	**$160**
4lb. Packages with 2022 queen*	**$200**
Nucs (Deeps) - 3 frames of brood and 2 frames pollen and honey with 2022 queen*	**$175**
Pro vap 110 oxalic acid vaporizer	**$400**

*Queens are Carniolan/hybrid mix

Contact: Brian (541)520-6566

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

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

2022 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.

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. Copy-right resides with individual contributors. If you would like to re-print 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.

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

Links

http://www.lcbaor.org/

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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/varroa/

Best Management Practices for Bee Health
https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/hivehealthbmps

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