



LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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June 2019 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Mike France, LCBA President

Sheep, swarms and a skunk. It has been quite an eventful year in my apiary. First the sheep knocked over my hives in February, leaving me just one active hive going into the 2019 beekeeping season. Next my hive swarmed despite the additional roominess of the honey supers I had put on in case my bees could cross highway 99 and access the meadow foam fields so close by. Then I noticed some trampled grass in front of the hive recently and GloryBee owner Dick Turanski said it was a skunk!

It has been one of those years when nothing seems to be going right in the apiary. But I persist because I enjoy the happiness that the bees bring. If all goes well my hive could bring in some clover and blackberry nectar nearby to make me happy. Or they could just make enough honey to overwinter next year. Either way I enjoy watching the bees come and go, bringing in the colorful pollen and the unseen nectar.

Our club is as busy as the bees this summer. Many thanks to the LCBA members who set up our booth at the Bee City USA event on Jun 9th. Having been on the Bee City Eugene organizing committee I realize what an amazing coalition of partners we have in Eugene and Lane County who care deeply about honey bees and other pollinators.

Our upcoming LCBA Field Day will be an event to plan to attend. On June 23rd we will be at the OSU apiary learning from some amazing teachers and mentors.

Another learning opportunity that is coming up is the Western Apicultural Society Conference in Ashland, Oregon on July 12th-14th. As part of our educational program for members, LCBA will be helping with expenses. There will be a drawing at our June meeting. More information on page 10 in the newsletter.

If you are proud of the "girls" of your hive and have plenty of honey please consider submitting an entry in the Lane County and/or Oregon State Fair's. Since not many people enter you could fulfill a childhood dream of winning a ribbon at the fair!

GENERAL MEETING:

June 18, 2019

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

Early Educational Class

Topic: Extracting Honey

Speaker: Ken Ograin

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: Pests & Diseases

Speaker: Judy Scher

Trinity United

Methodist Church

440 Maxwell Road

Turn West off River Road
in Eugene (South of Beltline)

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Upcoming Events & Announcements

Linn Benton Beekeeping Assoc. Meeting

No June Meeting

Location: Corvallis Waldorf School, 3855 NE Hwy 20

<http://www.lbba.us>

June 21st - Pollinator Week Event

Location: River Road Parks Eugene

LCBA will be participating. Check out page 3.

June 23rd - LBBA/LCBA Field Day

Location: OSU Bee Apiary, Corvallis

Information on page 9.

June 26th - Central Coast Beekeepers Assoc.

Speaker: TBD

Location: Newport Library, 35 NW Nye St. Newport

<http://www.ccbaor.org/>

June 28th - Friday in the Apiary at OSU Bee Apiary

Time: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Topic: "General Inspections & Colony Management During Honey Season"

Sign up to get notices at: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mb/friday-apiary>

July 12th-14th— Western Apicultural Society Annual Conference

Location: Ashland, OR

www.westernapiculturalsociety.org

See flyer on page 10.

July 12th-14th - Oregon County Fair

July 24th-28th - Lane County Fair

Location: Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene

Enter your products of the hive. See page 3.

October 25th-27th - Oregon State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference

Location: Florence Event Center, Florence, OR

Save this date! See page 10.

Nov 12th-14th—State of California Beekeepers Annual Convention

Location: Pechanga Resort & Casino, Temecula, CA

<https://www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/FlorenceGardenClub/>

LCBA Upcoming Meeting Topics

Below is a tentative schedule of our upcoming meetings.

July 17th - General Meeting: Fall & Winter Management
Early Educational Class: Pollination

August 20th - Basic Queen Rearing

September 24th - The Oregon Bee Project

October 15th - Winter Check List/Bolivia Project

November 19th - Honey Tasting/Elections

December - No meeting

Volunteer Needed

LCBA is looking for a non board member who has some bookkeeping experience to review our financial reports for 2018. This is part of our association's requirements.

If you can help out please contact Polly Hablison at polly@uoregon.edu or 541-461-0339

Volunteers Needed for the Oregon State Fair OSBA Booth

Bonnie King is heading up the Oregon State Beekeeper Association booth this year at the state fair. The state fair's theme is "Find Your Fun" and OSBA will focus on the fun of beekeeping in their booth this year.

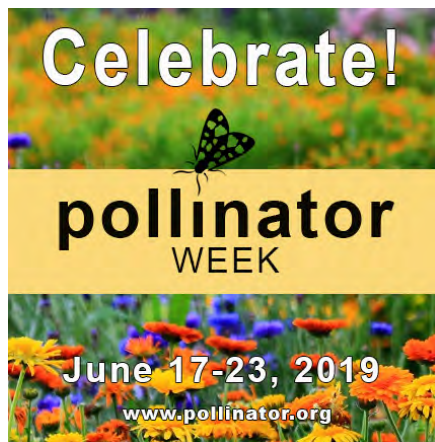
Please sign up to be a host in the booth! The shifts will be four hours this year, with up to four hosts in the booth per shift. **Hosts receive entry tickets and parking passes.**

Please contact Bonnie King at bonjking@gmail.com, 503-864-2100 for information or to sign up for the fair!

Bonnie is also looking for help setting up and with the observations hives. Please let her know if you are able to take a shift or help out.

"Volunteers from the beekeeping associations and the state association are the core of this long-lasting tradition at the fair. Every single day, probably every hour, fairgoers mention how many years they've been coming to our booth. We believe in tradition, and we want to make our booth as memorable as can be."

Bonnie King



NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK - LCBA EVENT

The 2019 National Pollinator Week is June 17th-23rd. Lane County Beekeepers is celebrating pollinator week by attending the "Schools Out Carnival" at Emerald Park from 2pm to 5pm on Friday, June 21st. The location is 1400 Lake Drive, in the River Road area.

The French Marigold is known to be pollinator friendly and we will be handing out plant starts to the children attending the event. We want to encourage the children to plant them and watch for the varying species of bees and butterflies. We will also be giving the children facts about pollinators and information on how they can provide habitat and diverse resources to attract bees and butterflies.

Stop by and visit us if you are in the neighborhood!

Lane County Fair

The Lane County Fair is July 24th - 28th. Anything harvested after July 23rd of last year can be entered. Let's take advantage of this opportunity to advertise our products of this year with a great turn out of honey and wax entries!

Honey is Division 1125 in the Land Products Division. Honey must be strained in one-pound jars for Class 02, 03, 04, & 05. Submit two jars for these four categories.

Class 01 - Honey in comb (one container) (Ross Rounds)

Class 02 - Water White Honey

Class 03 - Light honey

Class 04 - Medium honey

Class 05 - Dark honey

Class 06 - Beeswax, approx. 1 lb. blocks

Class 07 - Honey in Frame Capped

Class 08 - Cut Comb Honey (comb cut in squares out of a capped frame)

Class 09 - Chunk Honey

Deadline for On-Line & Paper: Entry form must be submitted by July 2nd.

Entry Drop Off: You may drop off your entry with form on July 22nd, noon to 7:00pm at the Wheeler Pavilion, Lane County Fairgrounds.

For more information, entry form and online registration click on link: <http://atthefair.com/exhibits-creatives>. Then click on 'Creatives Fair Book' for complete information.

For those who do not have internet service you can contact the fair at 541-682-4292.

LCBA will have queen line jars available at our June and July meetings for those who are entering honey.

Do you want to know how to prepare your entries for the Lane County and State Fairs? See Judy's article on page 7.

Lane County Fair 1st Place Fair Entry Award

To encourage members to enter their honey in the Lane County Fair, LCBA will be awarding the first place winners a premium of \$10 for each category except Class 01 and 08 will be combined.

Volunteers Needed Lane County Fair Set Up/Take Down

For the last 19 years Ken Ograin has been setting up and taking down the booth at the Lane County Fair. LCBA participates in this event to promote bee stewardship in the community. We also receive a nice stipend for participating.

This is Ken's last year and LCBA is asking for two members to take this over. Ken will show the "how to" set up day on Saturday, July 20th at the Wheeler Pavilion at the fair grounds.

If you have questions or can help contact Ken at woodrt@pacinfo.com or 541-935-7065.

Welcome New Members

Tom Auld	Eugene
Dean Bishop	Eugene
John Christiansen	Eugene
Glenn James	Springfield
Jordan Kanewa	Cheshire
Terry Willis	Eugene



May Meeting Highlights

By Pam Leavitt, Past President

Educational Meeting: Hive Evaluation & Reading Frames, Morris Ostrofsky



Morris started off talking about when and how to perform a hive evaluation. Chose a time when the majority of foragers are out of the hive. This generally would be on a sunny or at least warm day, with little or no wind. You need to think through the entire process beforehand. Be prepared and set a goal for what you want to accomplish. Morris suggested making a list of what you need to do and take it with you. It is easy to become distracted and realize after you have closed up the hive that there was something else you meant to check. It is especially important for a new beekeeper to be as unhurried and relaxed as possible.

One of the first things to do is gather all the tools needed prior to the inspection. Morris keeps them all together in a convenient, open topped carrier so all are in easy reach and he reminded the group to be sure to put them all back when you have completed your evaluation. His list included the hive tool, smoker, bee brush, frame rest and log book. The log book is where the beekeeper makes notations about each hive every time an inspection is done. This is the best method to keep records of hive activity and health. The Residential Beekeeping, Best Practice Guidelines, established by OSU, stresses the need to provide documentation of having followed the best practices guidelines. It is important to have a cell phone with you for any emergency that could arise. Wearing protective gear, especially for new beekeepers, is recommended when opening the hive.

Morris showed a picture of a row of defensive bees lined up between the top bars and asked what to do if you see this behavior. The answer was to carefully close up the hive and leave them alone. This is a warning sign that the colony is on the alert for an intruder.

Next Morris reviewed what you can learn when first entering the apiary before opening the hive. Using your sense of smell to determine if the hive smells sweet or foul. The odor of bananas indicates an angry hive and it is best to leave it alone. Look at the apiary. Does everything look normal? Are there any signs of ants or yellow jackets bothering the hive? Honey bees can "cook" a yellow jacket by balling up around it. They have this ability when the colony is strong and the population is large. Are the hive boxes showing any signs of being scratched on the front? This is a sign that a skunk may have visited the apiary. Are the bees hanging all over the front of the hive boxes in the early morning prior to the day warming up? This is a sign they are going to swarm. A large cluster of bees on the front of the hive on a very hot day is an indication that the hive is crowded and overly warm. Providing late afternoon shade is a benefit to the colony.

Your eyes can also watch for activity into and out of the hive. Compare the activity with another hives in the apiary, are they similar? Note the temperament of each hive; one may be more protective than another. Is there pollen coming into the hive and what colors of pollen? The bees need the diversity of pollen for a healthy diet to feed the brood. Have the "undertaker" bees brought out dead bees overnight and left them on the landing board? This is normal housekeeping in a healthy hive. Your ears can help you listen for the pitch coming from the colony. Is there piping heard?

Now you are ready to begin the inspection. Standing to the rear of the hive is best, or if necessary, stand to one side. **Do not** stand in front of the entrance as you will be interrupting their flight pattern into and out of the hive. Open the cover and remove the inner cover, looking at the number of bees covering the tops of the frames. If 70% of the frames have bees on the top bars, it is time to add another brood box. If the frames with bees are all to one side of the hive box, center the bees by removing the empty frames on one side, sliding the remaining frames to the middle and insert the empty frames back into the hive on the other side.

The 70% rule applies to adding additional brood boxes as well as indicating when to add honey supers. In our area, two deeps or three westerns is adequate for a brood chamber. When the top box has 70% of its frames covered with bees, it is time for the honey supers to be placed atop the brood boxes.

Morris suggests dating all the frames in the brood boxes. The dates remind the beekeeper when the frame was first introduced into the hive and to know when it has been in the hive five years and needs to be removed and replaced. The bee space is 3/8 inch and if the frames are closer together than that, the bees will put propolis to seal the space. If the frames are more than 3/8 inch apart, the bees will build comb to fill the space.

Looking down on the tops of the frames in a ten-frame brood box, numbers #1 and #10 will be where the bees will store honey. Frames #2 and #9 will have stored pollen and frames #3 through #8 will be where the queen will lay eggs and the

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highlights continued the colony will raise brood. Morris suggests only having the hive open for 10-15 minutes maximum.

In a brand-new hive, frames #1 and #10 will have only foundation and #2 and #9 will have pollen, but some will be dull in color and some shiny. The bees add honey to the pollen to cause it to ferment and become shiny. The #3 and #8 frames reflect the condition of the colony with brood in the center, with a crescent shaped layer of pollen, followed by a crescent shaped layer of honey to fill out the frame. The #4 and #5 frames should have more brood than #3 and #8, but less honey.

Begin your evaluation with a gentle smoking. Remove #1 or #10 and place this frame on a frame rest. Do the same with frame #2 and #3, gently sliding them into the cavity where #1 was prior to lifting them out of the box. This prevents rolling any bees, especially the queen. When you are ready to look for brood, do this over the box in the event the queen should be on the frame and fall, as she then will fall into the box, not on the ground. The hive will be “queen right” if you see eggs and or larva. It is not necessary to visualize the queen herself. The presence of the eggs and larva indicate a queen is present. Check the brood pattern for evenness and stores of pollen and honey.

Reading frames also includes knowing what certain signs indicate. White wax on the top of the frames is an indication of a nectar flow. Looking at a frame with bee “butts” sticking out of the cells is an indication of starvation. A beekeeper needs to be aware of the test for American Foul Brood. Morris showed the signs of varroa infestation with the guanine or varroa “poop” in the cells on one side.

Lastly, Morris shared the history of the Langstroth hive bodies and the design from Reverend Langstroth in the 1850’s. This enables today’s beekeepers to inspect hives and harvest honey without a major disruption of the comb. The use of moveable frames and a practical top opening is a design that is still used today, after 170 years, attesting to its practicality.



General Meeting: Botany for Beekeepers, Speaker Fonta Molyneux

(Notes taken by Nancy Ograin)

Fonta is a Master Herbalist and has a farm called Wild Everlasting Farm on the Row River in Dorena. Her farm is a flagship farm with the Oregon Bee Project. She said this talk combines her two passions, bees and plants. As beekeepers we love to plant gardens and we might think of gardening as a hobby, but actually is less of a hobby and more of a kinship that is evolutionary and has developed us into who we are.

She started her talk off about how important bee relationships really are. We think of ourselves at the top of a pyramid, but it’s more of a web and we are super dependent on every aspect of that web. Plants in reality are calling the shots. One of the main driving forces that allowed plants to flourish and diversify were bees. The first insect was a pollinating wasp which allowed plants to be pollinated. So without this sweet little bug we would not be here today.

Plant pollinator relationships created a lot of aspects of the ecosystem. One of the most important was speciation. This is the diversification of species thru the wide distribution of pollen across the ecosystem. If this alliance had not occurred there would be no genetic variations. This speciation was a huge evolutionary jump for the planet which allowed different habits to develop.

The honey bee offers a supreme example of cooperative evolution because it is a “super organism”. A super organism has many co-operative specialized skills to create an overall being. Honey bees with skills to make honey, bees wax, and ability to pollinate drove the global naturalization. Honey bees are everywhere except in Antarctica.

Floral fidelity, bees visiting one species at a time gathering nectar and pollen until that resource is its exhausted before moving on, is what allows pollination to occur. If they were to just “bumbled” around to different plants, pollination would not be nearly as effective. It is much more efficient for the bees to go to one plant and focus on that one plant. It also increases the ecological specialization. So the bees are not only working with plants in general to gather pollen, but it also allows them to evolve certain mouth parts with certain plants to benefit their pollination and wide spread specialization. As plants become pollinated to a higher degree you will see a broader diversity in within that ecosystem.

We hear a lot about how honey bees create competition for the native bees, that they take away the forage from native bees. The problem isn’t the honey bees, it the lack of forage. It takes away the biodiversity and creates habitat loss. Monoculture also destroys the biodiversity of plants, causes bee deserts, can reduce the vitality and life expectancy in pollinators and ecosystems. Bees need plant diversity to balance their nutritional deficiencies and to fight disease and parasites.

Fonta then talked about taking us away from centering ourselves around honey production and wanting us to look at a

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Botany continued

“Bee Centered” level of beekeeping. If bees can detect the medicinal value of forage then they can also then forage according to their nutritional needs and heal themselves and by doing so increase the floral diversity. Bees need the natural floral nectars found in plants.

After plant and bees Fonta talked about when our ancestors evolved so did the criteria for natural selection. Plants and Pollinators began to evolve toward our needs for food, fiber and fancy. This strategy plays on our needs and desires. Again who is calling the shots some would say the plants. Our diets were sustained by fruits. Fruits not only created support for us, but for pollinators and critters.

Our relation with plants can be also seen in our anatomy Fonta showed a slide that made a comparison between our brain and the plants anatomy. There are many similarities. There is no way to separate beekeeping from botany. They are married and we have to remember where our place is in it all. We are just as important. It’s not a pyramid, it’s a web.

Next Fonta talked about the different plants on her farm and her favorite plants.

“Bee Centered” Native Plants – They are plants that contain natural “floral nectar” (iridoid glycosides). One of Fonta’s favorite is the Oregon Grape Root which has shown to have medicinal qualities which can reduce disease and parasites. Bees need access to these plants to heal themselves. Dr. Priya Basu with the OSU Honey Bee Lab is studying all types of natural plant pollen which contain plant sterols. Sterols are necessary for pupating bees to metamorphosis and it is a main contributor for fat winter bees. These steroids cannot be replicated in the lab. Another favorite plant is the Ceanothus, California Lilac and bees love it.

“Bee Centered” Naturalized Wild Plants - are English Ivy, Blackberry, Pigweed, Sunflower, Asters. These plants may not be native, but bees love them.

“Bee Centered” Medicinal Herbs - Herbs provide mutual benefit for people, plants and pollinators. They provide medicine for plants and for us. Holy Tulsi Basil, the queen of all the plants in India, makes the most relaxing tea. It’s a profuse bloomer. When it starts to fade, cut it to get another flush. Bees prefer purple and most of the medicinal herbs are purple. Some of the medicinal herbs are Lavender, Oregano, Thyme, and Borage. Also, dried herbs make good smoker fuel.

Cover Crops - Crimson Clover, Buckwheat, and Yellow Mustard. Let them bloom and when about three fourths of them die back mow them over. You can flush out another boom, sometimes several. Planting cover crops that bloom during dearth’s can enhance bee vitality along with succession planting and mowing.

Planting fruit trees and flowering shrubs - They provide more forage per square foot than any other plant source and meet the bees needs along with our own. You want to have a diversity of fruit trees. Fonta recommend the heritage trees.

Other comments:

- Think about floral fidelity when planting.
- Plant large four foot swaths.
- It’s helpful to make note on what’s blooming when you go into your hive.
- Remember to plant not only for the bees but for yourself.
- Invasive species; we need to relook at them. They are invasive because something is missing in the environment. We do not help the bees when we take out a primary species.
- The reality is when we work with the art and science of beekeeping and the art and science of nature we will then see these effects in our beekeeping practices.

Fonta coined this phase “Regenerative Kinship Ethic”. It means anything we are doing in the garden is not just for ourselves, but it has to work for pollinators and plants.

“Fonta’s summary: When we live in kinship with our co-evolutionary partners we see the fruits of our labors in not only our beekeeping, but in all areas of our lives. The beekeeper is in a unique role to observe and respond accordingly. The childlike wonderment of nature may be our only hope to regenerate our ecosystem.”

“For bees , the flower is the fountain of life. For flowers, the bee is the messenger of love.. Khalil Gibran”

Fonta brought seeds and plants for our members to share and swap. There were handouts on the different types of plants and she also had one for making teas and salves. Handouts on our website at: www.lcbaor/Reference.htm.

Thanks Fonta for all the great information!



June Beekeeping Tips by Chuck Hunt, LCBA Member

1. The first blackberry blossom this year (in Eugene) was in May 31st. This winter and spring were cloudy and cool. This slowed hive development as well as foliage. The honey flow will occur mostly in June although the temperatures will determine how late it continues.
2. Make sure to put supers on your hives as June progresses. Look into the hives to see if there is whitening on the top bars of the frames.
3. It does not harm the hive to super a little ahead during the early part of the honey flow. In other words, you can put on two supers instead of just one even though you think that one super might do for the time being. Get your equipment ready for extracting.
4. Watch for outbreaks of foulbrood. Make sure that you know the difference between American Foulbrood (the most dangerous) and European Foulbrood. American Foulbrood can be diagnosed using the "ropiness" test. Outbreaks of American Foulbrood require treatment immediately.
5. Mites can be observed in the drone pupa cells that are revealed when you break the two brood chambers apart. Look for varroa mites on the white drone pupa where they are readily visible at this time. If you see varroa, be aware that the hive is in trouble. Use a sticky board and other monitoring devices to assess the varroa infestation. In serious cases, honey supers may have to be removed and treatment started in order to save the hive.



Tips for Preparing your Honey for Competition by Judy Scher, LCBA Webmaster

Here are some good tips from Virginia Webb, who spoke at the OSBA Conference two years ago.

READ THE RULES. The rules are different for all honey competitions and there is no standard.

Strained Honey

Select your best honey and after extraction store in quart jars. Let foreign particles rise to the top and scrape off, then strain through nylon hosiery (cheese cloth introduces fibers in the honey). From the quart jars, fill honey jars to the rim and use a teaspoon to even out the level. The level should not be seen when the cap is on. Use a flashlight to see if the levels are exact and to find bubbles. You can avoid bubbles by pouring honey into the jar which is sitting in two inches of hot water. Tip the jar and pour down the side. Before pouring, the jars must be washed with soap and hot water, rinsed and thoroughly air dried. Use a plain or a micro-filter cloth to polish the jar before submitting to the show steward.

Beeswax

Use only capping wax for show. Use a double boiler to melt the wax. Do not microwave. Do not stir while melting. Strain into container. From the container, pour into mold all at once, not in layers. Be sure the mold is level, leave overnight.

Candles

The wick must be ½ inch long. Polish candles with nylon or silk and finish the bottom so it is flat.

Virginia Webb has several informative YouTube videos on preparation for honey shows:

Strained Honey <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bg2H2weZeto>

Beeswax <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bg2H2weZeto>

Comb and Chunk Honey <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SEFcUjiKtA>

Extractor Information

The club has seven extractors with hot knives for use by its members. Six are manual and one is electric. 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. The manual, three-frame units are the easiest to use and to transport.

****July 1st-31st - Contact Brian McGinley - 541-521-7523 for use of the Eugene, Cal Young Area Extractor**

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

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

Springfield - Justin Boe 541-214-2614

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

Elmira - Ken Ograin 541-935-7065

Creswell - Amy Sierzega 541-505-4033

The only electric unit is located in Springfield and is a four frame. It is heavy and you will need a truck to transport it. Call Kaylene Stewart 541-743-3925.

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



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2019 LBBA/LCBA Field Day

Lane County & Linn Benton Beekeeper Associations joined together this year for field day at the OSU Bee Apiary. Space is limited so sign up early. In the morning there will be three presentations followed by a lunch break. Then we will split into groups and go into the hives with an experienced beekeeper. For those experienced beekeepers that will be attending they will be getting into hives that are having issues. The three presentations are varroa biology, varroa medication and judging frames of wax.

For more information and to register for field day sign up on the LBBA website at:

<http://www.lbba.us/2019-lbba-lcba-field-day/>

Date: Sunday, June 23, 2019

Check-in: Starts at 9:00 am

Time: 10:00 am to 2:30 pm

Location: OSU Apiary located at the Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture. The address is 844 SW 35th St in Corvallis. Follow the signs for parking across the street from the apiary.

Bring: A veil, jacket, or suit, gloves, and lawn chair.

You will also need to sign a waiver form from OSU. Please bring it the day of the event.

You may bring your own lunch or purchase a boxed lunch. Lunch includes sandwich, fruit, brownie and drink. Cost is \$12.

If you wish to attend field day and are unable to sign up on-line contact Nancy Ograin and she will get you signed up.

Nancy 541-935-7065 or nancy.ograin@gmail.com



Oregon Master Beekeeper Apprenticeship Scholarships



The Oregon Master Beekeeper Program is preparing for the 2020 apprentice class which will begin in January. This is a great program and many of our members have participated. LCBA will again offer scholarships. If you are interested be sure to put your name on the waiting list. Scholarship monies will be awarded upon certification. The date a person's name is placed on this list helps determine whether or not they are accepted into the program. Even if you are just thinking about it get your name on the list. There is no obligation to do the program. Program recipients will be selected on **July 31st**.

Click on link below to learn more about the program and get on the waiting.

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mb/apprentice-beekeeper-level>

To be considered for a scholarship, your name must be on the waiting list and a scholarship form needs to be completed. Application forms will be available at our June meeting.

Busy Bee

Pam Leavitt did a presentation to students at the Riverfront School in May. She talked about honeybees to a biology class of about 12 students, ages 15 and older. Pam said she enjoyed sharing the fascination of bees and their amazing abilities and skills to maintain their populations.

Pam also participated in the Science Center's "Farm Food Festival" event on May 25th. She talked to the kids about honeybees and used LCBA's bee study prints that have great bee pictures.

Eugene Bee City Celebration

It was a beautiful, sunny, (pre) summer afternoon at Alton Baker Park, Sunday June 9th for Eugene's inaugural 'Bee City Celebration'! Last year Eugene was the 71st city in America to get the honor from the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. Eugene qualified as it has banned the use of neonicotinoids on public property, invested in native pollinator habitat, adopted a non-chemical pesticide use and pesticide-free parks. Eugene agreed as part of this designation, to hold an annual celebration to showcase its commitment to pollinator health and habitat. The celebration in the park was preceded by a bee survey and native plant tour and included vendors, live music, food trucks, educational activities and a presentation by the mayor. LCBA members Katharine Hunt, Brian McGinley and myself talked about bees and beekeeping and provided club information to a fairly steady stream of attendees who stopped at our booth. GloryBee kindly provided us with a canopy and we were happy to share our booth with Lynn Royce Ph.D. who provided information on Tree Hive Bees with many great photos, a sample hive and even a huge bald face hornet nest! This was a great event and very timely to precede National Pollinator Week, June 17-23!

Submitted by Janine Piercey



Left to right: Lynn Royce, Janine Piercey, Katharine Hunt, Brian McGinley

LCBA encourages community outreach to talk about bees. We have all kinds of bee information and posters available for your use if you get asked to give a presentation.

Please let us know if you do present to a group or volunteer at an event.

Contact Pam Leavitt at:

pamseaver2000@yahoo.com.

Member Request for Help at the Oregon County Fair

Jen Hornaday is looking for volunteers to help at the OCF in Community Village with her observation hive. She is sharing a booth with the Master Gardeners and another group and help is needed to cover bee questions/education from 10:40 am - 6pm daily, Friday July 12 thru Sunday July 14. Three hour shifts would be most helpful, two hour shifts with a 2-3 hour break in between. She is working on being able to offer a few day passes, but they're not confirmed yet and is asking if anyone has any extra day passes, that would be extremely helpful.

Please contact Honey Bee Jen with Healthy Bees= Healthy Gardens at 541-914-2225 or email healthy-beeshealthygardens@gmail.com

Western Apicultural Society Annual Conference July 12th-14th

WAS has an education conference each year and several of our members have attended this conference and have really enjoyed it. The conference is a great learning experience. This year it is in Ashland, Oregon which is great opportunity for beekeepers in our area. Visit the WAS website for conference agenda and complete information.

LCBA supports educational opportunities for it's members and will help with expenses for four of our members. If you plan on attending or have already registered and would like to participate enter your name into the drawing. One entry per household. Must be present to win. Four names will be drawn and each member will receive \$50 upon submitting a article for the newsletter on the conference.

Good luck and congratulations to those who are selected!



2019 Western Apicultural Society Conference
Ashland Hills Hotel & Convention Center
July 12-14th Ashland, Oregon

Keynote Speakers & Workshop Leaders include: Dr. Judy Wu-Smart, University of Nebraska-Lincoln | Katrina Klett, Elevated Honey Co. | Hilary Kearney, Girl Next Door Honey | Dr. Meghan Milbrath, Michigan State University | Anna Gieselman, Bee Amour Jewelry | Sarah Red-Laird, Bee Girl | the native bee team from the Logan, Utah, USDA-ARS Pollinating Insects Research Unit | streamed opening welcome by Dr. Marla Spivak | and more. **Swarm in for Networking Opportunities and Activities:** Not only will you learn from the best and brightest, you'll have a whole host of opportunities to personally connect with other beekeepers, as well as the speakers and workshop leaders, to share your stories, projects, ideas, products, and interests. **Plan to arrive July 11th for some pre-conference fun:** Raft the Rogue River and take in a show at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival with your fellow beekeepers.

Registration & Information at
www.westernapiculturalsociety.org



Calling Volunteers for the 2019 WAS Conference
Ashland, Oregon July 12-14

We are looking for volunteers to help with a variety of jobs and shifts throughout the conference!

If you are interested please contact Phylicia Chandler at (541) 708-1127 or phylicia@beegirl.org for available opportunities.

For the agenda, speaker info, and conference highlights visit www.westernapiculturalsociety.org

If interested contact Phylicia Chandler
541-708-1127 or phylicia@beegirl.org.

Oregon State Beekeepers Association 2019 FALL CONFERENCE

Tom Cinquini, *Sowers Apiaries*
Jay Evans, *USDA-Beltsville*
George Hansen, *Foothills Honey Company*
Brandon Hopkins, *Washington State University*
Melanie Kirby, *Washington State University*
Andony Melathopoulos, *Oregon State University*
Garth Mulkey, *GS3 Quality Seeds Inc*
Morris Ostrofsky, *Master Beekeeper-Washington*
Mike Palmer, *French Hill Apiaries*
Ramesh Sagili, *Oregon State University*
Steve Sheppard, *Washington State University*
and More . . . !

October 25-27, 2019
Florence Convention Center

Florence, Oregon
SAVE THE DATE!

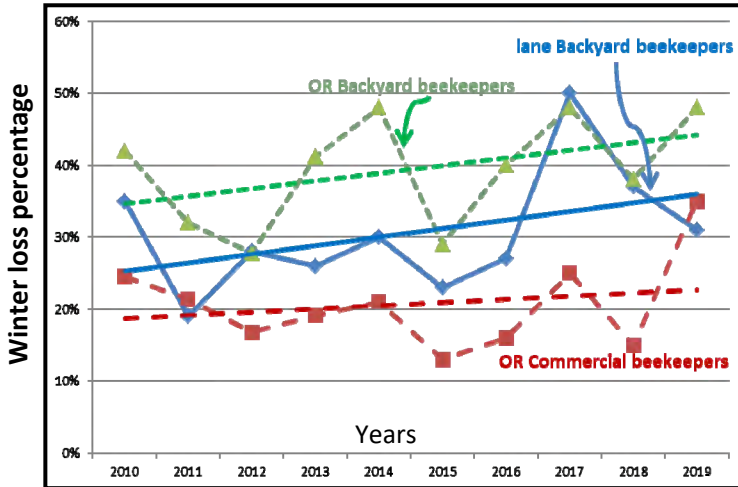
Save the Date
OSBA Fall Conference
Oct 25th-27th, Florence, OR
Let's have a great turnout
from LCBA!



Lane County is Exception to Heavy Overwinter Colony Losses

by Dr. Dewey M. Caron

The backyard and commercial colony losses of Oregon and Washington beekeepers over this past winter were the heaviest witnessed in the past 10 years. Backyard losses for 416 Oregon beekeepers with 1 to 38 colonies was 48% www.pnwhoneybeesurvey.com. For commercial Oregon beekeepers, representing about 1/3rd of the estimated colony number, overwintering loss was 37%. From the Bee Informed national survey, 40.7% overwinter losses were the heaviest of record in the past 13 survey years.



Graph illustrates the 10 year record of average winter losses from the Pacific NW survey for Oregon backyard and Lane County respondents. The trend lines of Oregon and Lane backyarders are similar with about a 10% lower loss level for Lane compared to statewide. Commercial losses vary from 15% to 20% which is below the Oregon backyarders.

Solid line represents the average trend of Lane County backyard beekeepers. The other blue line represents the actual losses.

Why losses were so heavy and why LCBA members have consistently had lower overwinter loss is not immediately evident from survey results. In the Backyarder survey, management responses are compared with losses for individuals doing a particular management. Details for most recent overwinter period (2018-19) and the record of last three to five years are on the www.honeybeesurvey.com website under survey results for both the state respondents and for LCBA.

The survey questions on feeding management ask about use of sugar syrup, honey, dry sugars and supplemental protein feeding. LCBA individuals feeding pollen patties had better survival and did those feeding non-liquid sugar. Statewide over the last three years, feeding sugar syrup has shown a slight improvement in survival as has feeding frames of honey, but this year for LCBA the syrup feeders did not show improvement over the overall.

Over the past three years no single winterizing management improved survival each of the survey years. However five management practices have improved survival in the two of the three years. Those managements are equalizing colonies in the fall, use of a moisture box or Vivaldi board to trap moisture at the top of the colony, upper entrance and wrapping colonies for wind/weather protection.

Under Sanitation options, providing hives with distinctive “address” by spreading or use of hive colors has improved survival two to three years., but in two of the years individuals saying they did none of the managements also had better survival. For Lane those nine individuals checking none had the best survival over the other options. Screen bottom boards do not measurably improve winter survival – a 3% advantage. However individuals that close (partially or fully) the screen during winter do show a 10% improvement over those who leave screen bottoms open over the winter.



Vivaldi Board

Three of the non-chemical alternatives have demonstrated reduced losses over past three years; reducing drifting such as spreading colonies and painting colonies different colors, brood cycle interruption, and drone brood removal was a minor advantage. For LCBA members drone removal and reducing drifting provided better survival this past year. Four chemical control options show the greatest potential for better survival in the past 4 seasons; essential oils Apiguard and ApiLife-Var, Apivar, and Oxalic acid vaporization (the past three years).

The survey reports correlations of what some beekeepers do and the loss level related only to that single factor. If you do or adopt one or more of these options will not guarantee you will reduce overwintering losses.

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.

Queens for Sale

When you hear "buy local" it really applies to Queen Bees. Your source for Queens produced in the Willamette Valley.

These queens were grafted from specially selected queens, and have been allowed to lay in Queen Nucs for a minimum of 21 days, guaranteeing they will be easily accepted by your colony and very productive.

Queens:

Mite Biter \$42.00

Italian \$32.00

Carniolan \$32.00

More information available at www.starrfarms.net

Starr Farms Queens, Honey and Pollination

Swarms for Sale

Will have honeybee swarms for sale, \$40. Call and get on my waiting list, if you would like one.

Julie-541-937-2577. (land phone/no text)

"Free Assistance for New Beekeepers"

If you need help or advice in the construction of your wooden ware, LCBA member Lee Yamada is offering his wood-working knowledge free of charge.

Contact Info: **LEE YAMADA**
lkyboletes@gmail.com,
541-844-1206

**"Bee Funny"
T-Shirts**

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

Support Bee Research!

<https://www.beetanical-apiary.com/bee-funny-shop>



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

2019 LCBA New/Renewal 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

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

NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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