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May 2023 NEWSLETTER

President's Message
by Fonta Molyneaux

"Spring has finally sprung 17 miles east of Cottage Grove where I live, but it's been incredibly wet. Our unique microclimate puts us almost two weeks behind my bee friends who live closer to town, if the bud burst and brood nests were any indicator! My Oregon Grape Root and cherry trees are just now blooming and just this morning I noticed the quintessential indicator of spring, the Lilac finally opening!

As beekeepers we have a front row seat to the show! We see the increasing forage take shape within our hives as they expand and contract with the sun. It never gets old for me. Each year I look forward to the awe and delight of learning more about honeybees and how to work with them!

This year I did a comparative project propagating queens through grafting, and the frame-based methods I shared at my last presentation! It wasn't the best year to have tried new methods. My last experience grafting was in an educational setting which was much easier as all the moving parts were set up for me! Still, I produced about 25 cells after two rounds of grafting into a cell raiser and finisher. My tried and true method of frame-based grafting produced 15 cells in one round, but as luck would have it they were not grouped well for splicing off the comb. So I only got tne cells.

I'm sure my lack of experience with grafting weighed in, but the weather sure didn't help. Still none of this experiment would have been possible for me without members Ariel Schulze and her husband Hamm who gave me five frames of capped brood in a nuc to set up my cell raiser! I'm so grateful! I just had too much open brood when I needed the capped resources to give the cell builder the 'umph' to feed the grafted queen cells in quantity.

Overall the methods I used produced a good amount of queen cells and their nucs! And I requeened some older hives! I can't wait to see in two weeks when I check their progress and observe their laying patterns! So far the weather looks incredible for their upcoming mating flights! I love challenging myself to try something new each season!

continued on page 2

GENERAL MEETING
May 16, 2023
In-Person Meeting
Come early to socialize and share your Questions with experienced beekeepers.
Social 7:00pm-7:30pm

Early Session
Doors open at 6:00pm
Session Starts at 6:15pm
Topic: "All things Beeswax and Comb"
Speakers: Matt Stouder
Bring your Questions
Fireside Room

General Meeting
Topic: Brood Nest Dynamics
Speaker: Fonta Molyneaux
Program begins at 7:30pm

Trinity United Methodist Church
440 Maxwell Road, Eugene

Inside this Issue:

president's message continued

May Meeting

This month, I'll be presenting "Brood Nest Dynamics" at our meeting. This class offers a bird's eye perspective into the heart of the hive, demystifying the blueprint of arrangement and seasonal expansion and contraction, and our interaction with this vulnerable space as beekeepers! Fellow board member Matt Stouder will be presenting at the early meeting on "All things Beeswax and Comb", so bring your questions! This is another foundational topic as one of our most important assets in the craft. Please join us!

Upcoming Events & Announcements

May 20th - World Bee Day
World Bee Day | United Nations

May 21st - Wildflower Festival
Location: Mt Pisgah, Eugene
LCBA will have a booth.

June 19th -25th - Pollinator Week
LCBA will be having a presentation at the Eugene downtown library on the 20th.

June 25th - LBBA/LCBA Field Day
Location: OSU Bee Apiary, Corvallis

June 30-July 1 - Oregon Honey Festival
Location: Talent Oregon

July 7th-9th - Oregon Country Fair
Location: Veneta, OR

July 20th-24th - Lane County Fair
LCBA will have a display booth.

Volunteers Needed

Event: Wildflower Festival
Date: Sunday, May 21th 10:00am-5:00pm
Location: Mt Pisgah, Eugene

Volunteers are needed for 3 and 4 hour shifts.

Contact Ariel Schulze if you are able to help out.
arielnesika@gmail.com 541-517-2694

Apiary Registration

Every person who owns, or is in charge of, five or more colonies of bees located within the state or Oregon, must register their hives with the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

If you currently own less than five hives you are not required to register your bees at this time. The current cost of apiary registration is $10 with an additional charge of $0.50 per colony for five or more hives.

After July 1, the registration fee will increase to $20. The fee per hive remains at $0.50 per colony for five or more. Click below to view Oregon's apiary registration rules and regulations and registration form.

State of Oregon: Insects - Bees and Apiaries
Registration Form: ApiaryRegistration.pdf
Fact Sheet: FAQs Apiary Registration FAQs

Pollinator Week June 19-25, 2023

What LCBA is doing:
We will have two short programs, one on "Mason Bees" by Polly Habliston and "Pollinators in My Garden" by Pam Leavitt. We'll have information on the Oregon Bee Project and planting for bees.

Date: June 20th, 11:00 am
Location: Eugene Downtown Library

Pollinator Week is an annual celebration in support of pollinator health to raise awareness and spread the word on how to protect them.

Upcoming Tentative Meeting Topics

	General Meeting	Early Session
Jun 20	Varroa Mites, Pam Leavitt	Honey Extracting, Mike France & Lynn Helwege
Jul 18	Unsung Bee Diseases, Andony Melathopoulos (EFB, Chalkbrood, Nosema and Sacbrood)	Treatment Options - Fonta Molyneaux & Brian Jackson
Aug 15	Early Fall Preparation, TBD	Prep for Fall Q&A Discussion
Sept 19	Pheromones, Judy Scher	Winterization Q&A, Polly Habliston
Oct 17	Native Bees, August Jackson	Bee Stings & Allergies, Dr. Jason Friesen, MD
Nov 21	Honey Tasting	No early meeting

Busy Bee

Earth Day Celebrations

Nancy Ograin & Pam Leavitt

LCBA participated in the Earth Day Celebration at Veneta Elementary School on April 20th. Several vendors participated in the event. Kindergarten through 5th grade classes learned about recycling, composting, plants, trees and bees. Smokey Bear was also there. The kids really enjoyed looking at our pictures and the poster of native bees.

Norm Jarvis, an LCBA member, was also there with the OSU Master Gardner Extension Service teaching about worm composting.

Pam Leavitt received a call from a Buena Vista Elementary School 5th grader, Sofie. She was raising money for the World Wildlife fund and is a part of their "Save the Bees Team" and asked for information on pollination and bees for her Earth Day event. Pam provided her with a poster about pollination of Oregon crops by managed bees. Sofie loved the poster and was proud to say it was from LCBA!

Norm Jarvis

Sofie holding LCBA poster

LCBA Saves the Day at the Post Office!

On April 26, in the early evening, I received a call from the Gateway United States Post Office asking for help because bees got out of the package they were shipped in, and the post office staff wanted someone to come get them.

This was a first for me!! I knew George Lehman lived within a reasonable distance to the post office, so I called him. He agreed to go check and apparently was able to "repackage" them so they could be sent to the purchaser!

Pam Leavitt

George's story - When George arrived at the post office the bees were flying all over the place. Workers were swatting them, getting stung and also trying to vacuum them up. George told them to leave them alone and let them settle down. Two styrofoam nucs were damaged and he put both of the nucs in a big cardboard box. Ventilation was needed for the bees so an old safety vest was found and the mesh made a great screen for the cardboard box. George scooped up some of the bees that had settled on a shelf and put them on top of the nucs. He left for dinner and told the workers he would be back and get the rest of the bees back in the box. When he returned the bees were all sitting on top of the nucs. So they just closed up the box and got them shipped out!

George had no idea how many were lost due to vacuuming, but he was able to save the bees and get them shipped out. Might be quite a surprise when they get delivered!

Thanks George for your public service and saving the bees!

"LESSON LEARNED FROM THIS SPRING", by Dewey M. Caron

Spring – the busiest bee season! Like the other four seasons (swarming, supering, harvesting, fall), spring comes with varying activities for beekeepers depending on weather conditions and our beekeeping objectives. Beekeeping is a continuous learning experience. In spring, bee colonies need to grow their colony population and rebuild their stocks of honey. Our "reluctant" March and April 2023 spring offered some lessons we might incorporate into spring beekeeping.

Spring colonies benefit from some sheltering

Hopefully your colonies were able to survive winter. The Pacific NW HoneyBee Survey preliminary numbers show Oegon backyarders lost about one third of their stock. In February colonies looked in decent shape, but the "reluctant" spring weather did in weak colonies that might otherwise have survived. I do not have LCBA numbers yet but will work them up and post to the Pacific NW HoneyBee survey website as soon as I can.

Cold winds and excessive moisture are problematic for the bees. Hives sheltered from the wind and entrances facing the sun help colonies to better able get through winter and emerge strong in spring. Colonies facing the sun out of direct wind might be able to forage under marginal weather and temperatures. That was especially important with our cool rainy spring.

Feeding the bees

Towards the end of winter, honey bees can exhaust most of their honey reserves. Since weather often prevents their leaving the hive to forage, feeding can ensure they remain alive. A strong honey bee colony in spring gives you the possibility of a higher honey yield.

Quickly opening the top of the beehive and checking honey stores should still be done. If there is none or very little stores, feed sugar. Each colony should have the equivalent of two full frames. Now that the weather has improved we can switch from sugar cubes to liquid sugar at a 1:1 mixture (one part sugar to one part water). Some beekeepers like to add a protein patty. Several commercial products include pollen - Global patties and now the Mann Lake Ultra Bee Plus patty have some natural pollen included to attract bees. Feeding should be continuous until bees can consistently forage flowers.

Although winter losses were not as severe as in past years, many start new honey bee colonies in spring. Nucs were generally late in delivery and splitting colonies was not possible as early as in past seasons. Few beekeepers made splits in April this season, but now swarm season is upon us. Beekeepers with strong bee colonies that have gone through winter should be checking for developing queen cells. For beekeepers who wish to replace lost colonies, having empty beehives ready for swarm catching or to house splits is important. You can use them to make up losses or sell them. For overwintered colonies and even for some nucs, we should plan to add a super in May.

It takes approximately six weeks for bees to transition from a freshly laid egg to an adult forager. Timing brood production enables beekeepers to have a large number of forager bees during nectar-flow. Building up large colonies of honey bees gives the colony better foraging power. Keep in mind that a spring beehive requires about 15,000 bees to tend to the queen, perform hive duties and nurse the brood. Prepare the honey bee colony population build up before nectar-flow, not during nectar-flow.

Treat beehives for diseases, pests and parasites

We have some pest and disease issues to attend to in spring. Colonies plagued by diseases in the spring drastically slows down their development and their ability to collect food resources. The proactive beekeeper plans to do a disease inspection each spring. Look at both open and sealed brood for abnormalities. Inspections should be made quickly when temperatures are in the 60s or low 70s. Bee brood exposed to too much cold die, which sets the colony back.

New findings about mites

A PhD student Zac Lamas of the University of Maryland has made a couple of significant findings relative to varroa mites. He has data to illustrate that the mites are not randomly distributed (at least in spring). This is significant because a

continued on page 5

a sampling protocol is based on the premise that what you are sampling is randomly distributed. If it is not, you need a special analysis to verify the numbers you find are representative of the total population.

More importantly he has found that varroa mites are not on nurse bees nor are they in worker brood in early spring – they are on drone adults and primarily are reproducing in the drone brood. This makes sense since the female mite can produce more mature daughters on drone brood than they can on worker brood. What is now being investigated is an improved protocol for how to estimate mite population buildup during spring. In the meantime we need to think of flattening mite growth by using our tools to flatten varroa buildup without sampling first. Drone brood removal looks like a powerful tool to help reduce mite buildup in the spring since it attacks the mites during spring where they live.

Finally with your spring planting think of the bees. When there are adequate numbers of flowering plants and trees you can stop feeding the bees. They prefer to leave the hive and forage flowers for nectar and pollen. Planting bee-friendly flowers is a great way to get your bees ready for the nectar flow. Planting near your apiary will reduce the distance bees need travel for nectar and pollen.

Preparing for the Honey Flow

The two important things you need to know to have a chance at collecting honey is to prevent swarming and to have healthy bees. You need to have your hives near it's peak population as the nectar flow begins. Swarms will cause a decrease in the hive population by half or more. Following a swarm, there will be a four to five week break in the brood cycle before the population will starts increasing. Be vigilant with swarm control if you hope to collect honey.

The Himalayan Blackberries are the major nectar flow in our area. They bloom June through August depending on whre you live. Most years June 1st is the start of the major nectar flow. The native Trailing Backberries will be blooming soon. The honey flow represents a rapid increase in bees space needed in the hive. At a rate of several pounds of new honey per day, a hive with limited space can quickly lead to a colony thinking of swarming.

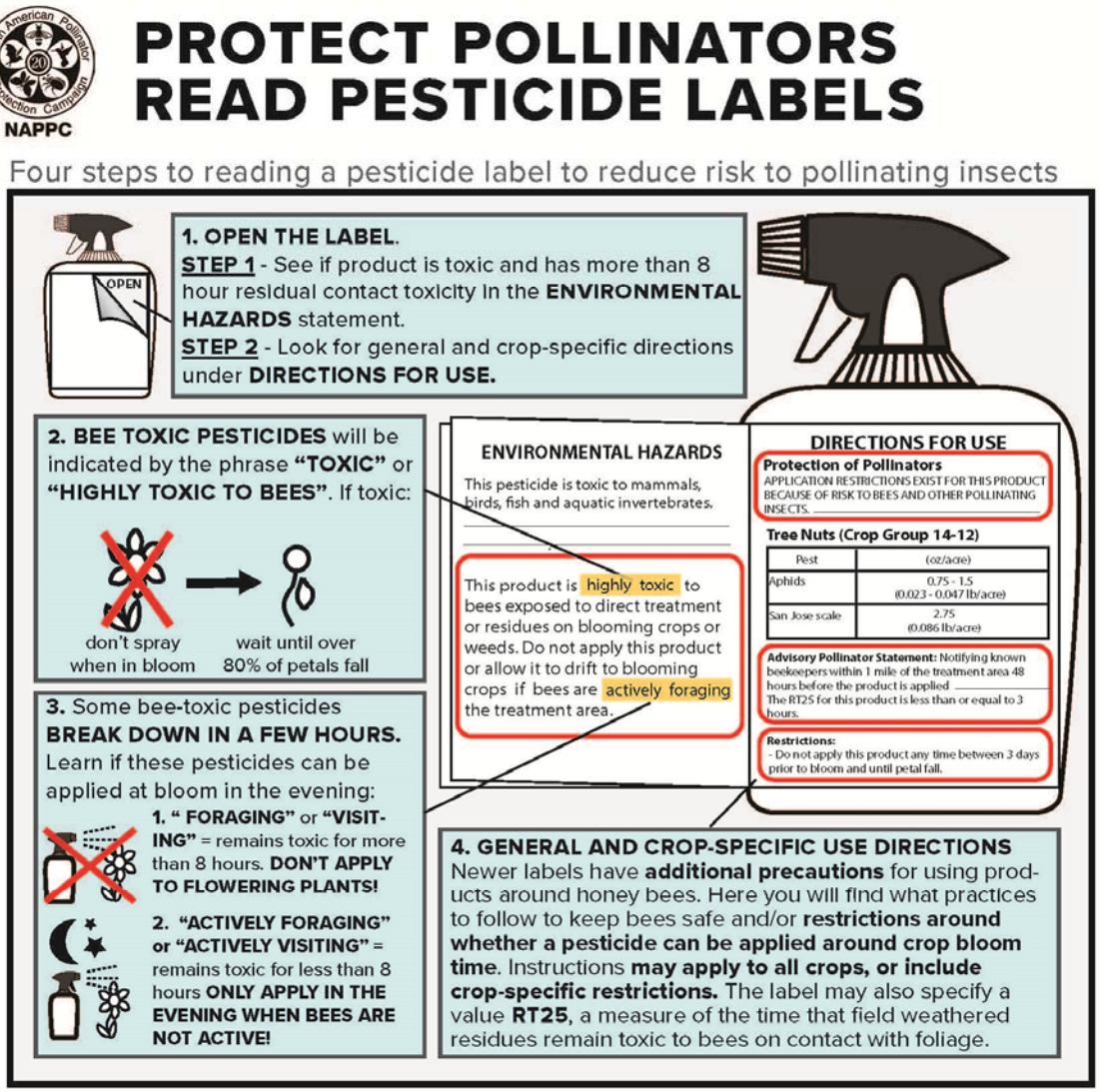
An alert beekeeper is aware at all times of the space available in the hive. Offer the bees more space for the extra nectar being brought in by adding honey supers, and you will reduce the chances of swarming.

Himalayan Blackberry

Trailing Blackberry

Welcome New Members

Cindi & Rick Nipper	Eugene
Steven Braun	Springfield
Jacob Helton	Toledo
Heather Kent	Elmira
Patty Reid	Junction City
Daniel Smith	Springfield



www.pollinator.org/pesticide-education

Graphic by Iris Kormann and Andony Melathopoulos - Oregon State University; Rose Kachadoorian and Gilbert Uribe

How to Read a Pesticide Label To Protect Bees

by Andony Melathopoulos, Pollinator Health Extension Specialist, Oregon State University

Excerpt from The Bee Line, May 2021, Oregon State Beekeepers Association Newsletter

Understanding pesticide label information on the hazard and risks of bees is an important first step to protecting bees. You also need to take the following extra steps to ensure protection of bees and other pollinating insects.

1. **Avoid sprays during bloom**. Bees face the highest exposure to pesticides when they are applied to the bloom of bee-attractive crops and weeds. When possible, use clean-up sprays before bloom to knock pests and diseases down to reduce the need for bloom treatments.

2. **If you must treat during bloom, choose products carefully and apply in the evening**. Choose insecticides that are not labeled as 'Toxic' or 'Highly Toxic' to bees (step 2). Avoid insecticides with residual acute toxicity to bees (step 3). Treat in the evening or not more than 2 hours before sunset.

3. **Communicate with beekeepers**. Contact beekeepers at least 48 hours prior to applying insecticides or fungicides to blooming bee-attractive crops. Communicate with local beekeepers during the off-season to help reduce conflict during the busy season. Your state may have a program that maps bee colonies; contact your state Department of Agriculture to learn how to access it.

continued on page 7

4. **Maintain a buffer around bee colonies and into bee habitat**. Avoid placing bees in a crop; set them outside the spray drift zone (20–100 feet, depending on sprayer technology). Avoid pesticide drift onto bee habitat bordering the crop. Reduce drift by using coarser droplet sizes, a drift-reducing agent, or intelligent sprayer technology.

5. **Mow blooming weeds**. If there are bee-attractive blooming weeds (e.g., mustard, clover, dandelion), mow them before spraying.

6. **Review State Pollinator Protection Plans and use IPM**. Many states provide information on how to protect bees and other pollinators. Contact your Department of Agriculture to obtain this plan. Integrated Pest Management can also help reduce bee pesticide exposure. Integrated Pest Management starts with proactive pest or disease management: Scout the crop for pest levels; plant disease-resistant cultivars; when damage occurs, determine the cause and decide if you can accept low levels of damage; consider all the control measures and choose the best-suited tool for the pest or disease.

Under the Environmental Hazards section of the label, look for the key words associated with acute toxicity of the pesticides to honey bees, namely the words “toxic to bees” or “highly toxic to bees” (step 2). If you don’t see either key word on the label, this suggests the product is relatively non-toxic to bees. Pesticides labeled as “toxic” or “highly toxic” to bees should not be applied to a bee-attractive crop during bloom, but either applied before bloom or after petal drop.

Of course, the world is never perfect, and you may experience insect pest pressure during bloom and not have a relatively non-toxic alternative to turn to. Fortunately, the acute toxicity of some products dissipates quickly, such that you can apply them after bees return to their nests in the evening, and the product will become relatively non-toxic by the next morning. Products that dissipate overnight will be accompanied with the following phrase (step 3): “Do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops/weeds when bees are actively foraging on the treated area.” In contrast, products that remain toxic into the next day will have the same phrase, except the word “actively” will not appear, so: “Do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops/weeds when bees are foraging on the treated area.” A subtle difference, but there you go.

Now, while all labels will have warning in the Environmental Hazards Section, many of the labels of newer products will have additional instructions under parts of the label, titled General Use Directions or Specific Use Directions. This will come in the form of a specific pollinator section marked with a bee in a red diamond (step 4) or specific restrictions stated in association with the specific crop you are using the pesticide on (step 5).

Friday in the Apiary is Back!

Friday in the Apiary is an opportunity to gather, visit, and learn more about beekeeping at OSU's apiary at the Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture. Every third Friday of each month you are invited to come and discuss hive management strategies for the month and get to know other beekeepers in the Oregon Master Beekeeper program.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn. LCBA member, Jeff Warren, attended the first one this year which took place on April 28th. Our own Morris Ostrofsky was one of the presenters.

To sign up and received notices: [Friday in the Apiary | OSU Extension Service (oregonstate.edu)]

Morris Ostrofsky

Pictures courtesy of Jeff Warren

Save the Date!
LCBA/LBBA Field Day
Registration Open Soon

Date: Sunday, June 25, 2023
Time: TBD (approx. 10am-2pm)
Location: Oak Creek Apiary at Oregon State University
Registration: Should be posted by May 17th

Linn Benton Beekeepers and Lane County Beekeepers have joined together this year for field day. Field Day is a great hands-on learning experience especially for new beekeepers. You will go through a hive with an experienced beekeeper and there will also be some educational presentations.

Members will receive an email as soon as the registration is posted on the LBBA website. **Must be a member to attend as space is limited**. You may bring a lunch or purchase on the registration website. If you do not have internet access please let Nancy Ograin, 541-935-7065 know and she will get you registered.

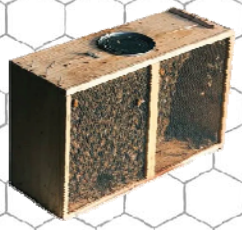
Last year's field day at Fonta's Wild Everlasting Farm

FOR SALE

Five frame NUCS

Deep frames w/ three frames brood locally raised 2023 Queen* $200**

3lb. Packages with 2023 Queen* $170**



*Queens are Carniolan/hybrid mix

** Package deposit included

Contact: Brian (541)520-6566

April General Meeting Highlights, *by Matt Stouder, LCBA Secretary*

SWARMS, BY Mandy Shaw

Mandy Shaw, past president of the Portland Urban Beekeepers, runs the Beekeeper Confidential Podcast, and is passionate about collecting swarms. She can be reached at beekeeperconfidential@gmail.com.

Mandy discussed that swarming is one of the most miraculous and sophisticated acts a colony will engage in. It is an important part of a colony's reproductive process and contributes to their overall health. However, swarming can impact the size of the honey crop produced and is not ideal in most urban areas.

During the spring buildup phase, the colony increases brood production, begins to forage on early nectar flows, and draws white wax on the tops of the combs. The colony will begin to rear drones, construct swarm cells, and finally swarm after the swarm cells are capped. Swarming alleviates crowding in the colony, can provide a brood break and spreads colony genetics.

Splitting the colony is a common activity that simulates swarming and will provide the bees with a brood break. Mandy prefers the walk away split but recommends that each beekeeper find a method of splitting that works for them. You need to work with the weather and know your bee math.

Brood breaks matter because varroa mites exist in the colony year-round. Mite numbers are at their lowest during winter and early spring. A break in the honeybee brood cycle disrupts the varroa reproduction cycle, which is especially important when the colony is raising drones. Reducing mite numbers in spring via a brood break will pay dividends later in the year.

There are two types of swarms. A prime swarm is the first and largest swarm from the colony and contains the mated queen. A secondary, or cast swarm, is smaller and will have a virgin queen.

Prior to a prime swarm, the colony begins to raise multiple new queens. Once the queen cells are capped, the mother queen leaves with about half of her daughters to find a new home. The remaining queens will hatch and call out for each other by piping/tooting/quacking. The hive may cast additional swarms, or the queens may fight to the death and the surviving queen will be the mother of the colony.

How do swarms communicate? Bees use their Nasonov gland to help attract other bees to the location of the settled swarm. Queens produce Queen Mandibular Pheromone (QMP), which tells the colony where the queen is. In a swarm, the bees will follow both the Nasonov scent and QMP.

Why catch swarms? Catching swarms provides an important service to the community. It is also an opportunity to educate the public about honeybees. Catching a swarm is a thrilling adventure, allows you to learn more about honeybee behavior, and affords the opportunity to add local feral genetics to your apiary.

How do you find swarms? A great way is to get on a local swarm call lists through LCBA or the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. You can advertise on places like Craigslist or NextDoor app. You can also consider passing out flyers in your neighborhood and hang bait hives.

Before going out on a swarm call, Mandy recommends things you try to know. If possible, ask the person reporting the swarm if they have any photos of it. Ask about the swarm size and location. Is it easily accessible or in a more hard to reach place? Is the person reporting the swarm the property owner, or able to give permission to access the property? Confirm the person reporting the swarm has not also asked other beekeepers to come. Ask how long the bees have been there and remember that a swarm call in August or September is very likely to be yellow jackets.

When catching a swarm, Mandy recommends several tools. A transport box is a must. A nuc box or deep box works well. Mandy uses a 5-gallon bucket with a hole cut in it for an entrance. An old drawn comb placed in the transport box is very handy. A bee scooper (milk jug cut in half) helps to scoop bees into the transport box, and a sheet or drop cloth placed below the swarm is recommended. If you spot the queen, you can cage her and put her in the transport box, which will attract the rest of the swarm into your box.

continued on page 10

Consider placing bait hives to catch swarms. Use a box about the size of a standard Langstroth deep. Add a frame of drawn comb if you have it and add a drop of lemongrass oil or Swarm Commander. When looking for places to put up bait hives, consider asking friends and family if you can put them up in their yards. If you have caught swarms at a previous location, ask the property owner if you can place a hive there during swarm season.

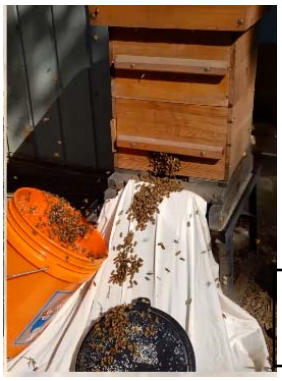
Once you have caught a swarm, it is recommended to bring the bees home after dusk or early the next morning so that scout bees are included with the colony and not left behind. Hive the swarm at your desired location. Mandy likes to pour the bees onto a ramp outside the hive and let them walk into their new home. A few days after hiving, consider treating for varroa mites. Oxalic acid vapor is a good choice. Remember, when a colony has no capped brood, all mites are susceptible to miticides.

Happy swarm hunting!

Editors Note: LCBA was unable to record the meeting, but Mandy gave the same talk to the Columbia Beekeepers Association and shared her link https://media.oregonstate.edu/media/t/1_hkf6zp5r.
Mandy's video channel: Beekeeper Confidential - YouTube

Prime swarm

Mandy's transport bucket



Using a sheet for a ramp

March Early Session: Bee Math, Using Numbers to Better Understand Your Bees
by Morris Ostrofsky

LCBA's very own Morris Ostrofsky entertained a large crowd at the early meeting with a conversation on bee math. Understanding bee math can help you answer many different questions that arise on a regular basis. Some of the questions and answers are provided below:

Question: "If you capture a swarm and hive it with one drawn frame, what is the minimum number of days you need to wait to see if you have a mated queen?

Answer: Four days - It typically takes four days after a swarm for the queen to settle down and start laying. In four additional days you may see the first larva. By day 15 you may see capped brood. If you don't see eggs on day four, you have likely caught a swarm with a virgin queen. In that case you could expect to see eggs on day 11.

Question: "How many (what percentage) of backyard colonies died last year in Oregon?

Answer: **28%**

Question: Varroa mites can be found in how many life cycle stages?

Answer: T**wo days** - Varroa are found in both adults and in the brood stage. Mites live on the adults during the phoretic stage and behind capped brood during the reproductive stage.

Question: Why doesn't an oxalic acid treatment of once per week work to eliminate varroa mites?

Answer: Because oxalic acid only kills phoretic mites, not mites behind the capped brood. As Varroa mites emerge from behind capped brood each day, they can enter a new cell 4.5 days later to reproduce. A weekly treatment (every 7 days) misses many mites.

Question: If Varroa can double in population every month and you have a colony with 100 mites in March, what would the mite population be in the colony without any treatment in September?

Answer: 6400!

Question: If you notice a capped queen cell, when is the earliest you could you expect to see eggs?

Answer: 11 days (approx) **-** The queen needs to emerge, her exoskeleton needs to harden, and she needs to take mating flights before laying. The weather could contribute to this time frame taking longer.

Question: What percentage of varroa mites are found in the capped brood?

Answer: About two-thirds

Question: If you catch a swarm and treat it with a miticide, what percentage of Varroa mites are susceptible to the treatment?

Answer: 100% -Because swarms don't have any mites protected by capped brood, all the mites are phoretic and vulnerable to the miticide. This is a win-win because there is no danger of killing brood and you can give your colony a fresh start.

Question: What is the average volume of a tree cavity that honeybees prefer?

Answer: 40 quarts, or about the size of a standard deep box.

Question: What are the dimensions of bee space?

Answer: Between 1/4 and 3/8 inch. Any space narrower than this will be filled with propolis, and any space greater will be filled with wax.

Question: How do you estimate varroa infestation in a colony?

Answer: Collect 300 bees (about ½ cup) from the brood area. Perform an alcohol wash or sugar shake. Count the mites. The percent of infestation is calculated by number of mites divided by the number of bees. For example, if you have nine mites, then nine mites divided by 300 bees equals 3% infestation.

Morris' slide show is posted on our website, Math without the anxiety (lcbaor.org). To view the YouTube presentation contact Nancy, nancy.ograin@gmail.com , for the link.

May Beekeeping Tips
by Chuck Hunt, LCBA Member

1. May is swarm month and the swarming tendency continues into June. Check your hives for swarm cells; remember, swarm cells are constructed at the edges of the frames and between boxes (the bees try to tell us this way that they want to go). From reading Richard Taylor: "try putting some foundation in the brood box". The desire to produce wax may be one of the reasons for swarming and Taylor contends that the bees will draw out the foundation and have less tendency to swarm.
2. Provide room for your bees to avoid the swarming tendency. Add boxes to the hive and reverse hive bodies when the bees have moved out of the lower box. Make sure all entrances are open and all reducers are removed.
3. If you see swarm cells (not just cell cups) the bees have definitely decided to swarm. There are a number of ways to deal with this situation but cutting out swarm cells is usually not successful by itself. Bees will not swarm, if they a) haven't got a queen; b) haven't got their sealed brood; or c) haven't got their field force. Most successful swarm control techniques focus on one or the other of these factors.
4. Control swarming by removing the queen and some brood to another location and another hive body; in other words, split the hive. This can be done by just taking one of the upper boxes and putting it on a new hive stand. Then, in three or four days, check to see which of the two resulting hives has a queen and re-queen the hive that has no queen. Usually the upper hive body (which you removed) will have the queen but this is not always the case. Check to make sure before re-queening.
5. All sealed brood can be placed above a queen excluder, giving the queen empty frames in which to lay eggs. Make sure that the queen stays below the excluder. The brood above the excluder will hatch out and the hive should increase in strength but not swarm.
6. Move the strong hive that wants to swarm to another location and replace it with a weak hive. The weak hive will be bolstered by the field force from the strong hive. The strong hive won't swarm because it has lost its field force, and the result should be good for both hives.
7. Remember that frames that have queen cells are your chance to raise new queens. Put them in a western or nuc box (with two or three cells in a box), put in some brood and bees, and in a couple of weeks you are likely to have a new queen, bred and laying eggs!
8. Remember that swarming will take place. Don't let it discourage you but do try to keep it to a minimum!
9. Keep grass and weeds away from your hive and especially clear of the entrance so that the bees have a relatively clear landing approach. If you use a weed eater to do this, remember that it will antagonize the bees and it might be best just to clear the grass and weeds using a hand method.
10. Make sure that your hives have sufficient honey stores to get through the month. About 15 pounds of honey is necessary at all times (about five western or two deep frames of honey).

Helpful Information for New Beekeepers

Helpful OSU Honey Bee Lab Videos

Lighting a Smoker
Early Spring Inspection
American Foulbrood
Swarms
Finding the Queen
How to Mark a Queen
Chalkbrood

In the Bees with the OSU Honey Bee Lab

Honey Bee Suite

A good website for all kinds of information. Want to know how to do something or what something means visit their website.

Honey Bee Suite

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2023 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.

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

"Bee Funny" T-Shirts

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

Support Bee Research!

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

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. 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

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.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

10 Frame equipment: Western, semi-deep and deep boxes with good comb. Few with plastic foundation. Also, the same variety of empty boxes, some with assembled frames.

Honey extraction equipment: Excluders, tops and bottoms. Other miscellaneous equipment.
All in good condition.

All priced to sell. Call for pricing.
Visit to see the inventory (location just North of Junction City)

Contact Shepard: 541-231-3225

BEE HIVE with BEES For Sale

Bee hive has survived two winters and was going gang-busters last summer.

Last time harvested was of 2021. Includes a deep brood box and four (4) western honey supers. It is so heavy that I cannot lift it.

$400 as it

Contact Don Martin, 541.510.9700

donald.k.martin@comcast.net

FOR SALE
Custom Built Top Bar Hive

Reduced Price $25 or best offer

Needs some cleanup

Location between Vida & Walterville

Contact
Dale Beam
541-896-3857

BEE YARD SET UP FOR SALE - SPACE TO OVERWINTER HIVES

I have 14 hives with bottom, deep brood box, two (2) western honey supers and top. I created the bee yard in the middle of a hawthorn thicket on private property with the blessing of the owner. I would like to sell the whole setup as a package to someone that wants a bee yard. The only annual cost is four quarts of honey to the land owner. Since it is in a powerline right of way, there are no neighbors to be bothered. There is a creek approximately 100 feet away for water. The bee yard may be driven to off of Laurel Hill Road. There is someone who acts as security living in a camper (with a permit) within sight of the bee yard. The hives contain a mixture of wood/plastic frames, plastic frames, and wood/wax foundation. Two of the hives have survivor colonies of bees. I got rid of all the other bees last summer in anticipation of moving out of state. The space could be used to overwinter hives.

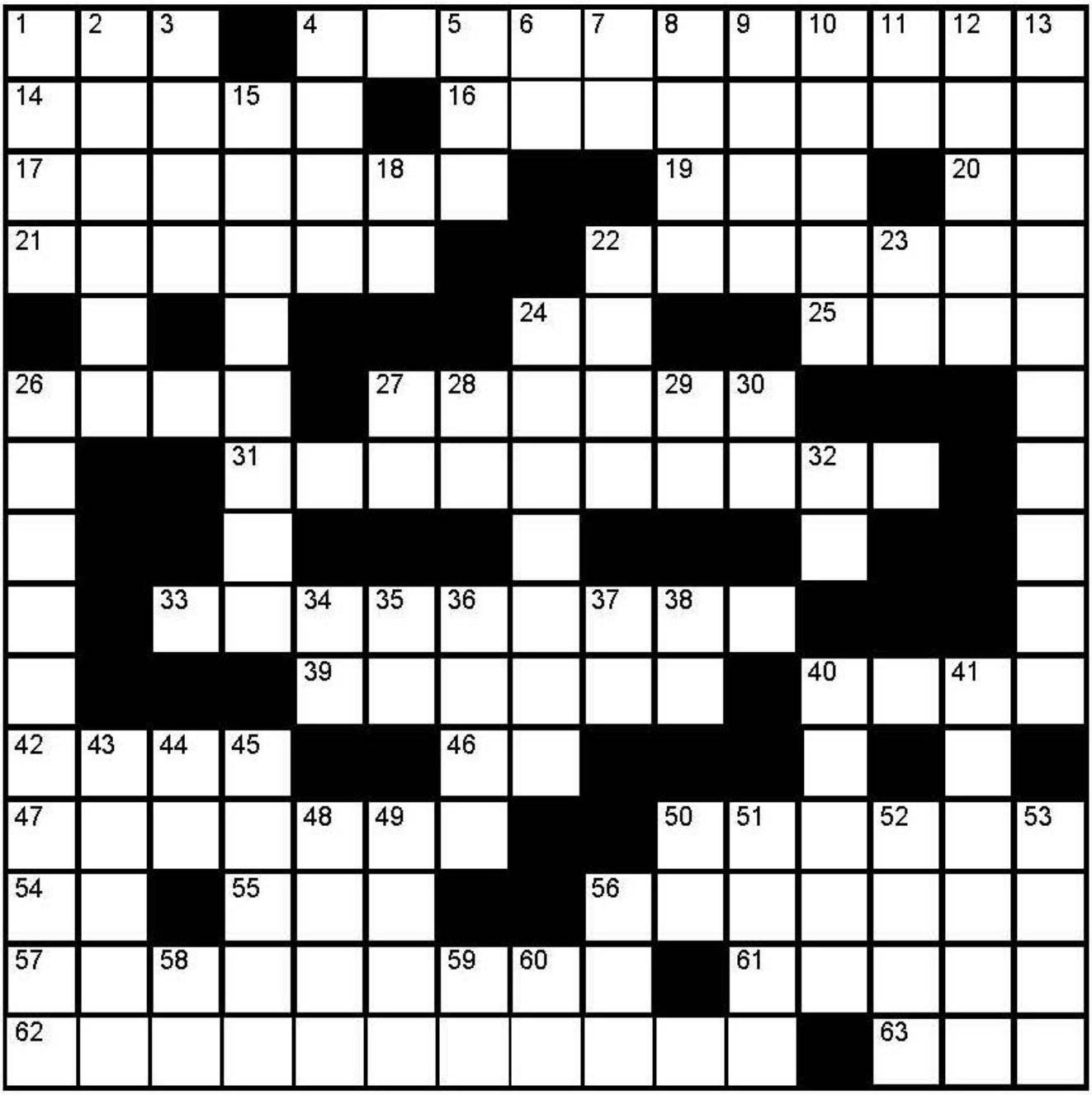
One price for the hives and access to the bee yard:
Reduced Price $1500 or OBO

Contact Don Martin, 541.510.9700, donald.k.martin@comcast.net

Attached please find photos of the bee yard setup at this DropBox link:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/li2vtlsd7v7rvxn/AAB9jtvBsmbMcur8vN8A-lfAa?dl=0

Bee Cross Word Puzzle

Created by Anne McGinley



Answers will be published in June's LCBA newsletter and are currently posted on our website.
Click on link below for solution.
http://lcbaor.org/Supportfiles/crossword_solution.pdf

Across

1. Female salmon
4. What Ramesh Sagili's lab does
14. Male honeybee
16. Bumblebee is one
17. Bother
19. Yellowfin tuna
20. Atop
21. Cause of parasitic mite syndrome
22. Female graduates
24. Dept. that checks for uniformity
25. Gross
26. They've got hives, with 27 and 31 Across
27. See 26 Across
31. See 26 Across
33. High school punishment
39. Carefree
40. Precious
42. Defrost
46. Ave
47. Spun
50. Sarcastic caricature
54. "__ the other hand..."
55. Ath. event sched. in Stade de France Sept. 2023
56. Replace an egglayer
57. Domain
61. Called strikes, say
62. Apis order
63. Draft org.

Down

1. High-resolution set, briefly
2. Typos
3. Jordan's Queen ___
4. Social networking site that relaunched in 2021
5. 180° from WNW
6. Russian website ending
7. It's shorter than an LP
8. Navy commando
9. Chinese musical instrument
10. Vegan substitute for 19-Across
11. As to
12. Expire
13. Medium box
15. Larvae tender
18. NCAA Bruins city
22. Teen spots?
23. 12th state
24. Sought (after)
26. Alternative to 45 Down
27. Secular equivalent of AD
28. It's north of TX
29. In Australia, one sq. is a poo ticket
30. Town cryer: "Hear __!"
32. In Monopoly, one is between Income Tax and Oriental Avenue
34. Consumption, for short
35. Hospital critical care dept.
36. Geek
37. Israel Kamakawiwoʻole's nickname
38. Yiddish exclamation
40. Information bit
41. Concurs
43. It's found in 26 and 45 Down
44. @
45. See 26 Down
48. Romulus or Remus
49. Start to plasm and morph
50. *Apis koschevnikovi E.* is from this part of Asia
51. Pool shade
52. Educ. supports for students with disabilities
53. Concludes
56. Deli request
58. Lodging res.
59. Planned mil. action
60. __ Rev. (church title)

Links

http://www.lcbaor.org/

https://orsba.org/

https://
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/resources/varroa-management/

Best Management Practices for Bee Health
https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/hive-health-best-management-practices/

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