



LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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November 2016 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Pam Leavitt, LCBA President

I am all abuzz! I just returned from attending the Oregon State Beekeeping Association annual meeting at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton. I can say the time spent was very educational. It was great to see so many of our LCBA members in attendance.

Our own Morris Ostrofsky spoke on "Mite Keeping 101". His message was "when you keep honeybees, you also keep mites". He reminded those in the audience to be diligent in monitoring for Varroa mites and it is our social responsibility to treat our bees to protect all our hives in the apiary as well as our neighbors hives from this vicious predator.

Dr. Tom Seeley, a biologist and professor at Cornell University, gave two exciting presentations. One talk was on "Following the Wild Bees", where he demonstrated the equipment he uses to locate wild colonies of honeybees. He shared his experience of finding bee trees in a remote wooded area as well as in an urban setting in Boston, Massachusetts. His enthusiasm for this "game" is inviting and I talked with people who want to try this themselves.

Dr. Seeley's second talk was on the "Bee Colony as a Honey Factory". He explained how the colony becomes more efficient when the nectar flow increases; how communication between foragers and house bees maximizes those gathering and those accepting the incoming nectar. He shared videos of the waggle dance, the shaking signal, the tremble dance and the stop signal. If anyone in the audience didn't appreciate the workings of a honeybee hive prior to hearing this talk, they were given photographic proof of what happens inside the hive! I wish all in our club could have seen this presentation.

I hope each of you will bring some honey to the tasting for our November meeting. If each of us brought one jar, and donated it to the club following the tasting, we could use the donation to sell at the Great Earth Home Show in January.

Our club elections for our officers and board of directors is your chance to help decide who will lead us in the coming year. Please read what each candidate wrote and come to the November meeting prepared to vote.

I have enjoyed being the President these last two years. The best part of LCBA is the focus on educating our members. I am very proud of the knowledge of

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NEXT MEETING:

November 15, 2016

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

General Meeting

Hall opens at 7:00 pm

Program 7:30 pm

Topic: "Honey Tasting"

Bring your honey for tasting. Any size jar is acceptable. Label your jar with the general location of your hive, season you extracted and floral source only if known.

We will have a map where our honey comes from.

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

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President's message continued

our members and their willingness to share with others. We are all always learning and the importance of keeping updated on this fascinating pastime was evident at the annual conference, where commercial beekeepers sat beside backyard beekeepers and we all were adding to our knowledge about these fascinating insects.

October Meeting Highlights**Announcements:**

- At next month's meeting is honey tasting. All honey tastes different depending on the floral source and it's fun to taste all the different honeys.
- If you have extra honey to donate please bring to the November meeting. LCBA sells honey at the Good Earth Home show in January to help pay for the booth. The home show allows us to educate the public about bees.
- Judy Scher wanted to make sure everyone knows that a hive beetle has been found in our area. Be sure to read her article in the October newsletter.
- Reminder that now is the time to put on your moisture boxes.
- Pam announced that several University of Oregon journalism students were in attendance at the meeting. They are interested in learning about bees and were able to meet with our members to help them with their projects. Pam thanked them for coming.
- Pam quoted from Ross Conrad's column in *Bee Culture* magazine "successful beekeepers are passionate about bees and are always learning" and she thanked our members for attending our meetings as they are here to learn.
- Nancy Ograin announced the tentative slate of officers .

Speaker: Harry Vanderpool, "Favorite Beekeeping Tips & Tricks You Don't Find in the Books"

Harry Vanderpool is a single operator commercial beekeeper in Salem and has 450 hives. He is also the current president of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Harry said that previously to being president of OSBA he was president of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association. Harry said there is little difference between commercial and backyard beekeepers. Regardless of how many hives we have, there are only 24 hours in a day. Harry gave us his most valuable tips which he said he learned mostly from Kenny Williams. Harry also introduced Jason Rowan, Vice-President of OSBA and LCBA member.

Harry's first tip was on finding the queen. He said that he constantly hears the phrase "I can't find her" (meaning the queen) and he wants us to stop saying that because you are discouraging yourself and everyone around you. He always tells himself "I will find the queen in 15 seconds or less". This is how he does it. First you separate the boxes. Turn the box sideways and take the top off and put the box on the lid with the sun shining into it. Pull out the first frame, don't look at it, but keep it in your hand. Then look into the box at the face of the next frame to see if the queen is on the front of that frame. The queen is easy to spot on the face of the frame if she is there. Then you look at the one in your hand, both sides. Put back the frame in your hand, then pull out the 2nd frame, then look at the face of the next frame in the box. Then look at the other side of the frame in your hand. Work your way thru the hive until you find the queen. The most important part is to tell yourself you can do it. Try this out the next time you need to find the queen. When you find the queen in the top box almost for sure the queen will be in the top in the rest of your boxes. If you find the queen in the bottom box then mostly likely the queen will be in the bottom in all of your hives. Harry didn't know why, but it just seems to be that way. Always check the bottom box first, as it is most likely she is there. This still works even if there is no sun.

Harry talked about why we need to find the queen. If you have a poor brood pattern you want to find the queen and take a look at her. The queen cannot lay a good pattern with a broken leg or with bad wings as she uses her wings to back down into cell to lay her egg. Even if she doesn't overcrowding you will need to find her. You want to split your hive before the blackberry flow in June as a nectar flow can trigger a swarming have these problems you will want to re-queen if the brood pattern is poor. Also, if you are splitting the hive due to instinct.

Harry said he uses a nuc hive to keep the queen safe. When you find the queen on the frame you can immediately put that frame in a nuc box and put the lid on. This keeps your queen safe if you need to inspect the other frames or boxes. Be sure to put that frame back in the same position it was originally in. If you are splitting the hive, a nuc is a good way to start your new hive.

Harry then talked about introducing a queen into a new or queenless hive. One question he gets often is "should I poke a

Oct meeting highlights continued hole in the candy plug”? His answer is “why do you want to do that”? The candy is a time released mechanism. You want to give the queen time in the cage to release her pheromones. Rarely does she not get released. However, if you use one of the big three hole cages you will want to probe the candy to see how hard it is. If it’s hard you may have to poke it.

Harry did a show and tell on his queen bank frame holder. He raises his own queens and makes his own holders for his queens. He always takes them with him when going into his various yards. He said he has 98% success ratio most years. The 2% failure he blames on himself. He said he does not go into a requeened hive for ten days. The nurse bees will take care of the queen and feed her.

There are many benefits of overwintering with nucs. Harry said beekeepers can minimize lost colonies by establishing nucs. He helped write a publication with Ramesh Sagili on “**Overwintered Honey Bee Nucleus Colonies: Big Solutions in Small Packages**”. This publication talks about the benefits, creating nucs, correcting weak colonies, and caring for the nucs and more. This publication is on the OSU extension website. The link to the publication is: https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/pnw682_2.pdf. Be sure to read this if you are interested in making nucs.

We enjoyed Harry’s talk and thank him for speaking at our LCBA meeting.

Busy Bee

LCBA received a request from Spencer Butte Middle School’s robotics club to come and talk about bees to the club members.

Heidi Dixon, robotics teacher, meets with this group on Sundays to work on robotics. They are studying mans interaction with animals and wanted to learn about honeybees. They were attentive from 1:30 to 3:40, asking great questions! I was amazed and told them how lucky they were to have a teacher who gives up part of her weekend to work with them! Pam Leavitt

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

Upcoming Events & Announcements

November 16th - Linn Benton Beekeeping Assoc. Meeting

Location: Corvallis Waldorf School, 6:30-8:30 pm
Speaker: Mike Rodia, “Single-Size Box Beekeeping & the Rose-Hive Method”

Visit their website for more information:

<http://ww.lbba.us>

November 23rd - Central Coast Beekeepers Assoc. Meeting

Location: Newport Library, 6:30 pm
Topic: Honey Tasting presentation by club members Stan Scotton and Rick Olson.

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

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 - www.facebook.com/FGCOR.

Ohio State University Bee Lab Webinars are over with for this year. They will begin again in May 2017.

You can still review the previous classes.

<https://u.osu.edu/beelab/courses/>

Trinity United Methodist Church Charitable Activities

Trinity United is collecting items for those in need this holiday season. If you would like to participate please bring items to our November meeting. .

- Collecting new pajamas for children and teens for Cornerstone Community Housing. All sizes are needed.
- New gloves, hats, socks, blankets and rain gear for the Eugene Mission.
- Giving tree in our fellowship hall that will contain tags for the Oregon State Mental Hospital.
- FISH Food Pantry is always in need of canned goods and non-perishable food items.

This is just a few ways you can get involved in helping out this holiday season.

Thank You,
 Jennifer Williams
 Trinity United Secretary



Central Coast Beekeepers

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

It's been just over a year since Max Kuhn, Anne Schatz, Nancy McDowell, Stan Scotton, Dan Speers, Rebecca Fain and myself met at The Deep End Cafe in Newport to form The Coast Beekeepers Association. A lot has happened since then.

Our aim is to offer activities and educational opportunities for local beekeepers and those interested in beekeeping with special focus on the unique environmental and weather conditions on the Oregon coast.

We manned booths at both the Master Gardener Plant Sale and Garden Fair and the Lincoln County Fair in Newport, where we signed up a dozen new members. Our membership now numbers close to 50.

Most of our club board members are in the Oregon Master Beekeeping Program working towards their Journey certification except for Max who has already moved to the next level! During our meetings guests and board members gave classes on seasonal management, swarms, forage plants and planting to cover dearth periods, the Master Beekeeper Program, mite treatments, treatment free beekeeping, hive products, making splits, catching swarms, making hive components, and the specifics of coastal beekeeping.

Our guest speakers this year: Morris Ostrofsky (DSI - Evaluating Hive Diseases), Rita Ostrofsky talked about the OSBA Master Beekeeper Program and Dewey Caron on overwinter survival.

Four of our members are mentors in the OSBA Master Beekeeper Program. They taught and mentored eight new apprentices this year. We have an additional two members joining us as mentors for the 2017 season.

We've got a Facebook and web page set up, have established a small library and have a club extractor. We plan to offer scholarships for the 2017 Master Beekeeper Program as well.

We meet at 6:30 pm on the 4th Wednesday of every month (except December) in the large basement meeting room of the Newport Library at 35 NW Nye St., Newport, OR 97365. Everyone is welcome.

November Elections - Slate of Officers

The following is the Slate of Officers for the 2016 year that we will be voting on at our November meeting.

President:	Max Kuhn
Vice President: (vote for 1)	Deb Elder Diana Scoville Wayne Lemler
Secretary:	Tamara Andreas
Treasurer:	Polly Habliston
Board of Directors : (vote for 5)	Francis Rothauge Kelly Goodwin Larry Scoville Mike France

Nominations from the floor will accepted and then voting will take place.



Candidate for President Max Kuhn

After nearly 12 years of enjoying the benefits of education and camaraderie which membership in LCBA offers, I have decided to run for the office of club president. My only interest in making this effort stems from a feeling of obligation to the club and a desire to pay back for the many enlightening and enjoyable years. If elected, I intend to focus my efforts on continuing the direction and goals currently held by the club. Primarily, offering the club as a place of beekeeping education and camaraderie for the club membership and the community. Further, I encourage any other member feeling an obligation to the club as I do, to step up and toss your hat in the ring for this, or any other position on the board. Member involvement is what keeps the club moving forward.

Thank you,
Max Kuhn



**Candidate for Vice-President
Wayne Lemler**

My name is Wayne Lemler and I am running for Vice-President LCBA.

My interest in bee keeping stemmed from my interest in gardening. My wife and I, Becky, who has been accepted into the O.S.U. beekeeper ap-

prentice program for 2017, became by necessity interested in pollinators. Like so many people, several years ago I went and bought a box of bees and tried to keep them. Guess what, they died the first winter. So I thought, gee I'm supposed to be smart (MBA in Health Care Administration), what happened? What happened was I didn't know hoot about bee management! So Becky and I found the LCBA website and went to our first meeting three years ago. Need I say it, "WOW"! What I didn't know was staggering.

I have been a director on the LCBA board for two years and desire to contribute to the club in any way that I can. I want to continue to promote LCBA to the public and also insure that we continue to provide the amazing educational speakers and resources that LCBA has been so successful doing.

I have served as a board member/officer in several other organizations and have experience in proper meeting protocol as well as by-law creation and management. It is my hope that as the LCBA Vice President I can contribute to and insure the excellent legacy that is LCBA.

Thank You, Wayne Lemler



**Candidate for Vice-President
Diana Scoville**

My name is Diana Scoville and I am running for the Vice-President position for LCBA. I am a resident of Lane County, living in Mapleton.

My first interest in bees began as I was teaching a science unit called, 'Buzzing the Hive'. As news of bees were dwindling, I told my husband I thought that we should do our part to help. So in 2012 we started the process of being backyard beekeepers. We really knew nothing. Being the people we are, we started learning as much as we could through the internet and other beekeepers. After my husband decided to begin the Oregon Master Beekeeper (OMB) Apprentice program, I continued to learn and help with the hives more and more.

These are some of the activities that I attended to develop my goal:

- 2016 OMB Apprenticeship program
- Two Oregon State Beekeepers Conferences
- 2015 Lane County Bee School & Workshops
- Tuesday Night LCBA Meetings
- 2015 Summer Field Day in Creswell
- Educational Bee Booth at the Rodeo Grounds
- Glory Bee's Bee Day 2016
- Volunteered at the Oregon State Fair Bee Booth
- Taught a Bee Unit in April 2016 at Mapleton Elementary K-6th grade

I was very appreciative of the apprentice scholarship I received from LCBA and I am finishing the program at this time. I would enjoy being able to give back by participating in the LCBC Board to assist in decision making and gaining new experience in another aspect of BEE business.

Thank you, Diana Scoville



**Candidate for Vice-President
Deb Elder**

I've suffered with Lyme disease and struggled with treatment options, many of which fail. I erroneously got classified as 'Fibromyalgia' for 30 years prior to my Lyme diagnosis. Once I understood the cause of my illness, I realized killing the pathogens inside me was paramount. This led me to Bee Venom Therapy (BVT), one of the only highly effective treatments. I shared my healing journey with my on-line friends, many which tried it too. Thus far, I've aided nearly 3,000 folks worldwide learn BV.

Venom is amazing medicine; I feel it's the most valuable product of the hive. About a year ago I decided to make teaching BVT my life's work and I formed my non-profit *The Flippin Lyme Foundation*.

LCBA has made me feel welcome & treated me extremely well from day one. My first year in the club, I attended the Bee School and had a wonderful day as I was surrounded with the deep knowledge of the club's members. This year I've been working on my year of the Master Beekeeping course where I've learned a great deal about how bees live and how to best care for them. This fall I began grafting my own queens and ended up with two new hives, I'll do more next spring. I have a goal of making my patient group of beekeepers so that they can *grow their own medicine*.

Deb Elder continued I've volunteered for several LCBA events at booths where I got to meet with the public. Last winter I built a new long hive, named *The Flippin Bee Machine* where I grow bees for local BVT patients. All of it has been so fun! No matter what, I intend to give back to LCBA as a member and hopefully as your VP in the many years to come. I'm deeply grateful for the opportunities, knowledge and a sense of friendship I've gained from our wonderful club.

Please vote yes for DiveGirl Deb, as your VP.



Candidate for Secretary Tamara Andreas

I'm a new beekeeper and member to the LCBA, and I greatly appreciate and enjoy the knowledge I have gained in coming to meetings. I've gained mentorship and great friends, not to mention of course becoming a better beekeeper. My partner, Devlin, and I learned a ton as new members in the 2016 LCBA Bee School, and it is fantastic to have so many knowledgeable people to help answer our questions as we get more experienced in taking care of our bees. I'm excited to give back as the Secretary to help continue the great work that LCBA does for our community.



Candidate for Board Kelly Goodwin

I would be pleased to be considered to serve another term as an LCBA board member.

Officers and members of the board work together to solve problems and improve the way the club works. Being part of decisions that ultimately give beekeepers more access to educational opportunities, allocate funds to further research, or bring better understanding of honey bees to the public brings me great satisfaction. That being said, new members to the board bring diversity and new perspectives; I highly encourage any member of the club to think about seeking a board or officer position. It's a fabulous way to both give and receive in your beekeeping community!

Thanks You, Kelly Goodwin



Candidate for Board Larry Scoville

My name is Larry Scoville and I live in the big town of Mapleton. I have been on the board for the past two years. I would like to serve on the board for another year. Currently I am working on my Journey level of the Master Beekeeping Program. I believe the Lane County Beekeepers is a very worthwhile organization to all beekeepers of all levels and would like to continue to be a board member.

Thank You, Larry Scoville



Candidate for Treasurer Polly Habliston

I have really enjoyed being a part of the Board and serving as Treasurer the past three years. My husband, Doug, and I have been LCBA members since 2007 and have been keeping bees for eight years. I completed the Master Beekeeper Apprenticeship program in 2013, but realize our success as beekeepers is largely due to the tremendous support provided by the club. LCBA works tirelessly to educate and keep the membership up to date on all aspects of beekeeping. This is especially important as we battle mites and yellow jackets and, perhaps even hive beetles. I'm happy to give back a little, as treasurer, in thanks for the camaraderie and wealth of experience LCBA continues to provide.

Thank You, Polly Habliston



Candidate for Board Francis Rothauge

I have had the pleasure of serving for the past two years as a director of the Lane County Beekeepers Association and would appreciate your support to serve another term in that capacity. As a director I enjoy promoting beekeeping while helping to solve problems for honeybees, beekeepers and those who encounter honey bees in unfavorable places and conditions, primarily in South Lane and Northern Douglas counties.

I believe that LCBA is a vital asset to the people of Lane County and the State of Oregon. It must continue to work educating children and adults as to the importance of honey bees and how humans must promote practices favorable to honeybee and other pollinators' good health and continued survival as they insure our own survival in sustaining pollinator assistance. I take pride in the association the work it does. May I serve your further?

Thank You,
Francis Rothauge



Candidate for Board Mike France

Learning about honeybees and beekeeping over the past couple of years has given me a great appreciation for the members of LCBA.

We have one of the best beekeeping clubs in the US right here in Eugene.

I am fortunate enough to talk to and interact with beekeepers locally and all over the US on a daily basis and rely upon the information that I learn through the LCBA.

Keeping my two hives alive is a valuable learning experience. The bees are doing most of the work I'm just there to help out when needed.

I would like to offer my time and growing knowledge to help the club continue to provide an excellent service to our community. I am running for a position on the board and would appreciate your support.

Regards, Mike France

Conference Summaries

I want to thank the LCBA for the OSBA free admission to the conference that I won at the September meeting. My wife and I had a wonderful weekend and opted to stay at The Oregon Garden on Friday and Saturday night. Since we were able to get away early on Friday and the weather was nice, we arrived just after noon and toured the grounds which were quite striking with all of the fall color.

The actual conference was extremely interesting and informative. All of the presenters and vendors were very knowledgeable and we met so many people that were passionate about beekeeping. We learned a great deal about beekeeping over the two day period. We will definitely come back next year.

With much gratitude, Dan and Bonita Newell



2016 Oregon State Beekeeper Fall Conference

The Oregon State Beekeepers Fall Conference was held on October 28th-30th at the Oregon Garden & Resort in Silverton. There was a great turnout with 350 beekeepers in attendance of which over 25 were from LCBA. There were many great speakers and topics covered. Our members who received a free conference registrations wrote a summary of their experiences.

Each year an auction is held at the Saturday night banquet to raise funds for Dr. Ramesh Sagili for the OSU Bee Lab. Over \$14,000 was raised and these monies will be donated next year to OSU. This year OSBA donated \$20,000 to the bee lab from last years fundraising. Glory Bee Foods also donated \$10,000 this year and the OSBA affiliate associations donated monies of which OSBA matched up to \$500.

At the OSBA General Membership meeting the new officers were elected for the 2017 year. They are:

President: Harry Vanderpool
Vice-President: Jason Rowan
Secretary: Mary Edwards
Treasurer: Joe Hansen

The new Regional Representative for South Willamette Valley is our own LCBA member Rita Ostrofsky. Rita is also the Oregon Master Beekeeper program coordinator. If you have any questions or comments be sure to contact her. I think everyone enjoyed the conference and the comradely of all us beekeepers. It is truly a great group.

Nancy Ograin



Dan & Bonita Newell
with Ken Ograin

conference summaries continued



As a recipient of one of the Lane County Beekeepers Association scholarships to attend the Oregon State Beekeepers conference I have been asked to write something of my observations and what I may have learned. This is my third year attending these association conference. Just as in

attending years of LCBA monthly meeting,

I heard a share of repetition from previous meetings plus updates. By attending every presentation including those scheduled at lunch time and the Saturday night banquet, I was reminded that we beekeepers still have a multitude of unsolved problems. Backyard beekeepers, with a hive or a few and commercial operators with thousands of hives share the same concerns. They have to take the same actions from equipment acquisition and upkeep to bringing our bees through the winter, to avoiding the devastation of various infections or attack of yellow jackets, nosema, or any of the various troublesome viruses. Across the nation we all have the same concerns in finding adequate forage for our bees and readying to capitalize on nectar flows while avoiding misplaced or inadvisable pesticide applications within the range of our bees.

In summary, having the privilege of hearing speakers from Oregon State University, Washington State University, Cornell University, University of Tennessee, University of California-Davis and others with many years experience as pollinator researches and beekeepers from Oregon to Florida, I regret that all members of LCBA do not have the ability or opportunity to attend these conferences.

My most important take-away and the underlying message throughout, is that survival of our honeybees and hundreds of the other pollinators (generally somewhat less conspicuous) lies in our abilities to educate ourselves and our willingness and abilities to expand that awareness and educations to children and adults across our communities and political subdivision, even to national and international levels.

Francis Rothauge



Four lucky members of LCBA had names drawn for free registration for the OSBA 2016 Fall Conference, held October 28-30, 2016, at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton, Oregon, and I was one of them! This was the first state conference I have attended, but now I'm hooked. The program is geared toward backyard beekeepers, commercial beekeepers, as well as anyone just wanting to help our pollinators. I had a fantastic time, learned from every speaker, and can't wait to go again next year.

The fun started with a wine and cheese social on Friday night. If you pack a room with beekeepers, you can bet you'll learn something! We sat next to a beekeeper from McMinnville who related that one of her hives had swarmed this past year, and she was able to capture it, remove the queen, and "newspaper-reintroduce" them back to their original hive—and they stayed! That encounter set the tone for a whole weekend of new information and appreciation for bees and their amazing intricacies.



I want to heartily thank LCBA (and that means YOU!) for the gift of an Oregon State Beekeepers Association conference registration. OSBA consistently presents speakers from around the country that share cutting-edge research, offer up years of personal experience, and challenge our perspectives about something we all care for passionately—BEES!

Top researchers and educators like Tom Seeley, Elina Niño, John Skinner, Steve Sheppard, and Oregon's own Ramesh Sagili alternated with experienced and insightful beekeepers such as Morris Ostrofsky, Ellen Topitzhofer, and Florida's David Miksa, to name a few. In addition, the event brought together interested (and interesting!) folks from all over the Pacific Northwest and beyond to collaborate, socialize, and rub elbows with some very knowledgeable vendors and organization representatives. Whether beginning beekeepers or those with a lifetime spent in the craft, all attendees came away with thought-provoking information and plenty of new ideas.

One really amazing feature of the OSBA conference is that it brings in phenomenal speakers and makes them available *at no cost* to Oregon Master Beekeeper journey-level participants. Those attending this year's Friday afternoon Journey Institute were treated to fascinating talks by Tom Seeley (feral honey bee ecology) and Elina Niño (queen pheromones). The discussions that followed invited journey participants to tap into the curiosity and deep knowledge of two warm, personable, and extremely well-respected experts in the field. It's an ongoing delight to me to realize that the people who drive research in this field are so approachable and willing to share.

So thank-you again LCBA, for the gift of a truly inspiring conference!

Kelly Goodwin

Polly's summary continued Every speaker, including our own Morris Ostrofsky, brought something to the group - information, ideas, a new way of looking at things. We heard excellent ideas on mite management, about pheromones in the hive, bee genetics, and queen rearing. Particularly fun were the talks by Dr. Tom Seeley, from Cornell University. He had us spellbound when he spoke of finding wild bees in Maine. He used a simple capture box, painted his captives before letting them feast on sugar syrup-laden honey comb, and then tracked their "bee-line" as they returned to their hive. He gauged the distance to their tree by the time it took them to return to his box, moved his operation half-way, and repeated the process until he found *the* tree. What a great outdoor-school project for kids! Not to mention, some of us were thinking of adapting the process to find yellow jacket nests!

Besides the talks, the Conference features silent and oral auctions, with all monies going toward research, and netted \$14,000. It was a win-win event for all things pollinator related. Thanks so much to LCBA for generously providing the funds to encourage us to attend!

Polly Habliston

Conference Attendees

We had over 25 LCBA members attend the conference. Way to go LCBA!



Back row: Polly Habliston, Max Kuhn, Les Leavitt, Jason Rowan, Rita Ostrofsky, Nancy Ograin, Doug Habliston, Chuck Hunt
Middle row: Rebecca Fain, Pam Leavitt, Judy Scher, Kelly Goodwin, Morris Ostrofsky
Front row: Patty Johnson, Katharine Hunt, Francis Rothauge



Janine & Bob Piercey



Jean Thompson & Ada McClory



Ray Krass



Steve Gabel



Colette & Terry Spritz
 Members from Williams, OR



Jeanette & Rick Bailor

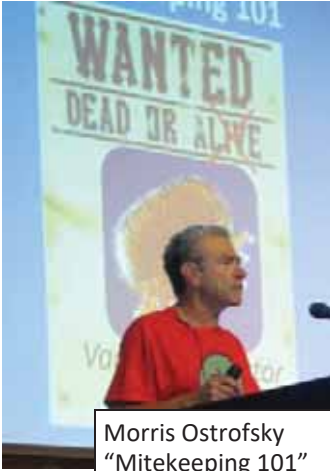


Pavel Goleta



Rick Olson

Conference Speakers



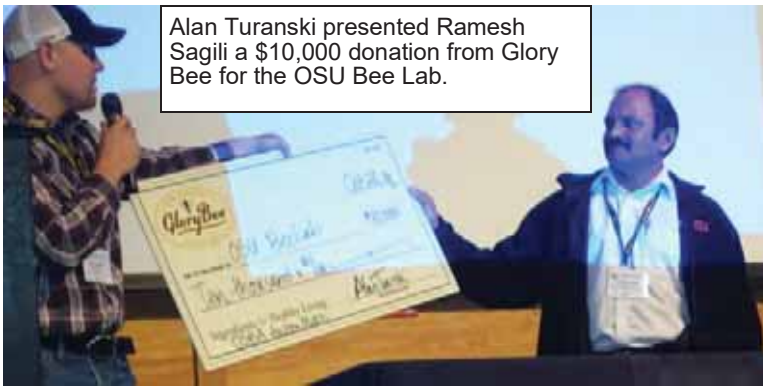
Morris Ostrofsky
"Mitekeeping 101"



Dr. Tom Seeley, Cornell University



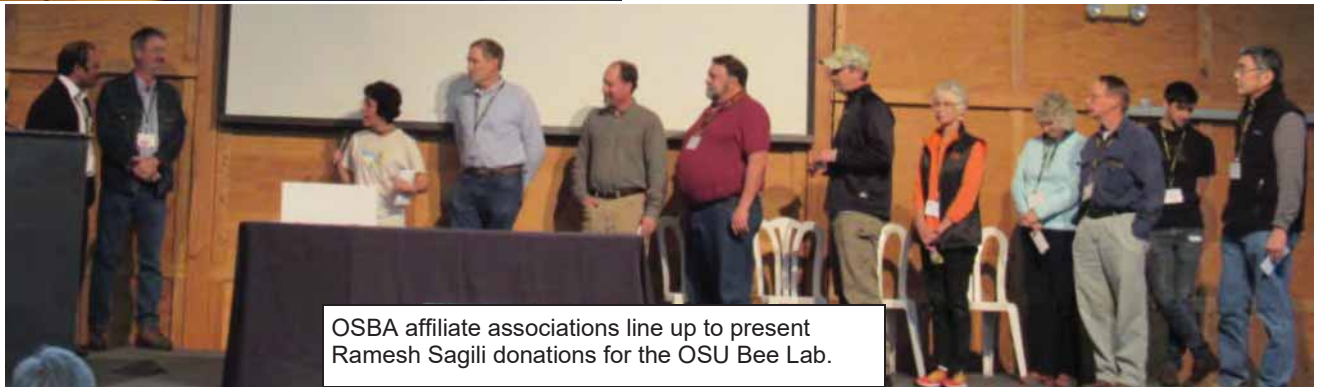
Dr. John Skinner, University of Tennessee,
with Elizabeth & Jason Rowan



Alan Turanski presented Ramesh Sagili a \$10,000 donation from Glory Bee for the OSU Bee Lab.



Carolyn Breece & Dr. Ramesh Sagili



OSBA affiliate associations line up to present Ramesh Sagili donations for the OSU Bee Lab.

Dr. Ramesh Sagili presented the "Friends of Extension" Award to Jan Lohman, Past President of OSBA, Oregon Master Beekeeper program originator and commercial beekeeper.



Harry Vanderpool,
OSBA President



November Beekeeping Tips by Chuck Hunt

1. The bees are quiet now, with flight only occurring during warm periods of the day, perhaps when there is a break in the clouds and some sunshine hits the hives. Make sure that your hives are secure from debris from windstorms and other weather and that no animals (such as skunks or raccoons) are disturbing the bees. Visually check your hives and also make sure that hives are very slightly tipped forward in order to properly shed rain and
2. Make sure that your supers are safely stored and not being damaged by mice or other predators. Watch for wax moths if supers are stored where it is warm. In general, the weather has cooled enough that supers stored at outside temperatures will not be attacked by wax moths.
3. Take the cool winter days and evenings to assemble equipment for next year. Make sure that you put equipment together carefully with glue and nails sufficient for the stresses and strains of beekeeping. Frames especially need side nails in order to properly secure the top bar to the side bars.
4. Read, study and plan for next year's beekeeping season which will begin in January or February.



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November, December & January Bee Care

by Dr. Dewey M. Caron

Last month I listed 10 things to do NOW. By November, most of us have suspended bee care, especially with the heavier-than-normal October rains. Here are a few things we can still do in November, December, and January with bee colonies if so inclined.

Trickling or fumigation – During the next couple of months colonies will have relatively little brood so varroa mites will be phoretic (i.e. riding about on adult bees). Oxalic acid is our newest registered weapon designed to kill phoretic mites (Hopguard II is another such tool). Oxalic can be applied either as a dribble (mixed in sugar syrup) or the oxalic crystals can be heated to release a vapor (variously termed fumigation/vaporization/sublimation). Both of these tools can help ensure healthy colonies next spring.

Oxalic acid is very corrosive and should be handled with care. When mixing the crystals (which resemble a powder) into syrup (35g of oxalic dehydrate into a liter of 1:1 sugar syrup) and subsequently applying it to clustering bees, use acid-protective gloves, long sleeves and pants and goggles; a respirator is recommended. When heating the crystals, use one of the several applicator wands available on the market; long sleeve and pant protective clothing, acid resistant gloves, goggles and a respirator are absolutely necessary.

Dribbling is the safest application method for the beekeeper but might be less effective in killing mites. A maximum of 50ml of the solution is dribbled between frames onto the adult bees. If temperatures are below 45 degrees and the bees are in a tight cluster, some of the mixture will rinse off the outside of the cluster resulting in less effective distribution and reduced mite kill. Dribbling should ideally be done when the bees will be moving about inside the hive during application. Since the colony needs be opened, stings might result and the liquid contribute to increased moisture stress.

The vaporization of oxalic gives the best mite control. However it is the most dangerous application for the beekeeper. Absolutely avoid breathing the fumes when using the applicator. You need to close any upper entrances and temporarily close the bottom, where the applicator wand is placed, for ten minutes following the actual fumigation. Actual vapor release occurs in 1-3 minutes depending upon the applicator utilized. Follow use directions of the applicator manufacturer.

Although sampling is recommended before any control is used and we recommend taking a follow-up sample following control itself, to check efficacy of the treatment, collecting the sample can be more harmful than oxalic control itself. It is best to wait until the spring before checking on efficacy of oxalic.

Tools videos - I have recently revised the Honey Bee Health Coalition Tools for Varroa Management (see www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa) and produced a series of how-to-do-it videos showing proper timing and application of Oxalic, Hopguard II and other chemical and non-chemical varroa controls to accompany the Tools Guide. There is also an introductory video on IPM and another on sampling; we recommend and show how to utilize powdered sugaring and alcohol wash for reliable mite population sampling. I encourage any feedback you care to share on Tools Guide or the videos.

Winter checks - It is OK to go check on your bee hives during the winter. You don't want to be removing frames, exposing brood (if any) or bees to colder temperatures or breaking up the adult winter cluster if really cold. Looking usually is nothing more than removal of covers (and moisture box if used) and looking down between the frames to see where and how large the cluster is. If little is visible (or you have added protective wrapping on the colony), rapping sharply on the hive and listening for their answering buzz can be comforting that all is OK.

Hefting – You should get in the practice of hive hefting and winter is a good time to use it. Heft the hive from the back lower hand hold periodically to confirm the colony still has ample wintering stores. The pivot point of the hive still in contact with the hive stand and other variables come into play in hefting; it is only a gross estimation of weight loss during winter. Weight loss should be gradual until brood rearing starts in earnest when the honey stores will be used more rapidly. Of course the “modern” method is to have one or more hives on a hive scale to check weight loss, or gain, during the year.

Holiday gifting your colony - If you don't eat all those decorative peppermint Christmas candy canes, grind them up and feed them to your bees on the inner cover. Change the moisture trap insulating material if very wet. Celebrate the winter solstice with your bees.

Wind - Periodically check that your wintering colonies; winter winds which can be drying as well as cold. Visit after winter storms or a period of blustery winds and be sure covers stay in place.

Bee Care continued **Mice** - Field mice and other small mammals (moles and shrews) like to move into a wintering bee colony for protection. Mice use the space to raise offspring, dragging in nesting materials and chewing comb, gnawing on wooden frame parts to gain sufficient nest space. Keep 'em out by reducing the entrance and check periodically to be sure it is still in place.

Clear the entrance - You want good hive ventilation during winter. Dead bee bodies or capping debris may clog an entrance; you should remove this blockage. If we get a snow storm some beekeepers wish to remove the snow at the entrance – if this is you, do so gently. You do not want to be disturbing the clustered bees inside. The bees will not suffocate - they are much more efficient than we are at taking oxygen out of the air and returning waste carbon dioxide. Besides, think of the snow as an additional free insulation, courtesy of Mother Nature.

Dysentery – Once considered a sign of Nosema, dysentery now is often associated with poor honey stores. Some bees have to get out to void wastes throughout the winter so seeing some dead or dying bees outside the entrance is normal, especially after a period of colder temperatures/winter storms. When dysentery strikes, bees have more waste to void and they are not capable of flying away to release their poop so waste stains show around entrances and on sides of boxes. Consider adding cane sugar, dry, in sugar cakes (depending upon when the staining shows up); dysentery disappears with improved forage opportunities for the colony.

Moving your hive – Are the bees on the “wrong” side of the garden or in the way? The three feet or three mile rule is suspended during winter when few foragers are present. Re-position colonies during winter. Be sure you and “volunteer” help are adequately protected from Murphy Law moving “accidents.” Avoid, as much as possible, disruption to or breaking up of the winter cluster.

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