



September 2023 NEWSLETTER

LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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As I write this we are just 10 days away from the fall equinox. A time of the year that is incredibly pertinent to beekeepers because it heralds the end of our beekeeping season. We will still have warm days through October where bees will be flying, but our nighttime temperatures show us that our

bees will need to cluster and modulate their warmth and resources very soon!

During this time of year my goal is to make sure my bees have low mite and virus pressure, 70 to 80 lbs of honey in the top brood box and lid insulation to cut condensation for good over-winter success. If I have a hive that doesn't have all they need I can even out resources between hives, but I only do that if the queen is in her first or second year. I've learned that you can throw endless resources at older/ poor producing queens and they will just be wasted. I will combine small colonies that don't show signs of disease into other colonies to send them into winter with a fighting chance.

Over the years I've learned to account heavily for the age of my queens so I can determine their probability of overwintering. A good apiary should always keep succession in mind. I have 40 hives but my goal is usually that half are 2nd year queens in their production year and the other half are the 1st year queens who will become my 2nd year product queens the following season. I don't let the 3rd year queens go into winter; they get requeened before summer solstice. I've learned that those third year queens mostly run out of eggs after solstice and I will have issue after issue. It took me longer than it should have to realize I didn't have issues with my management... my queens were just aging out.

Now I always pull the 3rd year queens and put them into resource nucs in early spring to utilize their three months of egg laying prowess to create frames of capped brood to use in the apiary. This way I'm not betting the farm i.e. all my resources on an old queen. But I'm also not wasting the last of her ability. It also lets me see what lines have the most grit and tenacity over time! Good information to have!

continued on page 3

GENERAL MEETING

September 19, 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: Winterization
and Q&A Session**

Speaker: Polly Habliston

Bring your Questions

Fireside Room

General Meeting

Topic: Mellifera Mythbusters

Speaker: Morris Ostrofsky

Program begins at 7:30pm

Trinity United Methodist Church

440 Maxwell Road, Eugene

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This month we have one of our LCBA members, Morris Ostrofsky, presenting his classic "Mellifera Mythbusters." This class demystifies some of the beekeeping hearsay you may have heard and gives you the facts over the fiction. Morris is an incredible educator who has been published in many beekeeping periodicals and has contributed greatly to the beekeeping community not only in Oregon and Lane County, but the entire Country! A quick google search will provide plenty of resources Morris has developed for clubs all over the country! We are so lucky to call him ours!

Please Join us at our September meeting!



Hive with insulated lid



Upcoming Events & Announcements

Sept 24th - Save the Bee Run/Walk

Location: Richardson Park, Fern Ridge Reservoir

<https://www.savethebee.org/run-for-the-bees/>

Sept 29th – Oct 1: WAS International Conference Location:

Grey Eagle Resort & Casino Calgary, Canada

<https://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/2023conference>.

Oct 27th-29th: OSBA Fall Conference

Location: Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center, Bend, OR

<https://orsba.org/events/osba-2023-fall-conference/>

Oct 29th - Mushroom Festival

Location: Mount Pisgah Arboretum, Eugene, OR

LCBA will have an information booth.

<https://mountpisgaharboretum.org/festivals-events/mushroom-festival/>

September Meeting Information

Early Meeting: Polly Habliston's early talk will be on how to use dehydrator boxes and/or pink foam to help your bees get through winter without excessive moisture. There will be a Q&A session also, so be sure to bring our questions.

General Meeting: Morris Ostrofsky's presentation "Mellifera Mythbusters" is based on the popular Discovery program "Mythbusters" where through science and experimentation, they declare the myth "busted", "confirmed" or "plausible". This presentation explores a variety of myths about bees and beekeeping and declared busted, confirmed or plausible and why. This is both educational and entertaining presentation.



Save the Bee 5K Run/Walk

Sept. 24, 2023 at Richardson Park for the 7th annual Save the Bee 5k! This family-friendly event brings together bee enthusiasts to raise awareness and funds to protect Oregon's pollinators.

Why we run for bees (not from them)?

Bees play a critical role in our ecosystem, food supply, and health, but their populations are under threat. All proceeds from the Save the Bee 5k go to support our work protecting bees and beekeepers to keep our food supply safe, improve the environment, and sustain human health.

For more information and to register [click here](#).

Volunteers Needed

Event: Mushroom Festival

Date: Sunday, October 29th 10:00am-5:00pm

Location: Mt Pisgah Arboretum

Volunteers are needed for 3 hour shifts and to help with set up and take down.

Contact Ariel Schulze if you are able to help out.

arielnesika@gmail.com 541-517-2694



Oregon State Beekeepers Association 2023 Fall Conference

Date: October 27-29, 2023

Location: Riverhouse Convention Center, Bend, OR

Attend in person or On-line via Zoom

Tentative Agenda & Speakers: They will be sharing current research, updates, and perspectives they've gained on some the daunting issues we all face. See page 14.

Conference Activities: Honey show, Silent and oral auction and raffles. There are two raffles, an encaustic painting by George Hansen and raffle for a chance to win a new Oregon Pollinator license plate. Tickets are \$5 each for one of the first license plates (a plate between 0000 and 0020) and \$10 each for the beautiful painting. Tickets will be available at the conference, but if you are not attending in person you can still purchase tickets by contacting Becca Fain, rfain18@gmail.com or 602-770-7390.



Anyone can purchase raffle tickets and also participate in the auctions on-line even if not registered for the conference. More info regarding placing bids on-line in our next month's newsletter.

You can help OSBA make the conference a huge success to raise funds for Oregon State University Bee Research by participating and donating items. They are looking for items that will stimulate bidders, such as vacation packages, special experiences (fishing trips, flights, etc.), gift items, and beekeeping experiences (hands-on queen rearing, a day in the life of a commercial beekeeper, etc.). Maybe you have a member with a vacation home or a fishing boat who would be willing to donate to the auction. Please let Becca know by September 29th what your donation will be. Thank you for your help!

On-line Registration Form: Sign up on-line or by US mail. Deadline for preregistration at a reduced rate is Sept. 27th and mail-in forms must be post-marked by Sept. 27th also. See form on page 15. Increased rates after that. Please consider registering as early as possible! Please note that there are no refunds after **October 13, 2023**. Following the conference, recordings will be made available to all registrants until **December 31, 2023**.

Updates will continue to be entered in the site pages as they become available, <https://orsba.org/events/osba-2023-fall-conference/>

Donations Needed to "Stuff the Tool Box"

LCBA donation to the OSBA Fall Conference this year is a nuc tool box filled with products of the hive! Please help us "Stuff the Tool Box" by donating a jar of your honey or candles, wax, salves, mead or any bee related items. It will be fun to have all kinds of different items in our tool box. Please help us by bringing an item to the September and October meetings. If you are unable to attend, contact Polly Habliston to make arrangements for getting your donation to her.

Also, if you have any items you would like to donate to the conference auctions let Polly know. Let's help make this conference a huge success!

polly@uoregon.edu 541-461-0339



Thank you Les Leavitt for sprucing up the tool box!!

September Food Stores by Ken Ograin

Food sources will soon be getting harder for your bees to find in many parts of the state. Keep an eye on your hive entrance and if you see a lack of activity or no pollen coming in, it may be necessary to supply them sugar syrup and protein patties (real pollen is the best protein). Feed one part sugar to one part water and add real pollen to your protein patties.

If your hive has a scale, it is easy to see when there is no nectar coming in as the bees will be consuming their honey stores. I doubt we will see temperature getting down into the 50s, but, if we do, keep in mind that bees will not be taking up sugar syrup. You will then need to feed sugar cakes. Keep checking your hives weight by hefting the back of hive. There should be time to build up hive food stores before consistent cold temperatures arrive. If you have screen bottoms, you can use the sample board to confirm they are consuming food stores. There will be yellow wax bits on your sample board.



Upcoming Tentative Meeting Topics

Oct 17 General Meeting: Native Bees, August Jackson
Early Session: Bee Stings & Allergies, Dr. Jason Friesen

Nov 21 General Meeting: Honey Tasting (no early meeting)

Bring a small jar of honey to taste.

It's a lot of fun tasting all the different varieties!

Welcome New Members

Bobby Fitzgerald	Eugene
Brad Litchfield	Eugene
Jennifer Mitchell	Elmira
Sam & Mary Stotts	Creswell
Denny Pederson	Albany

Be a Part of the LCBA Leadership!

Elections for the 2024 LCBA Officers and Directors will take place at our November meeting. This is an opportunity for you to take a leadership role in your club. Participating as an officer or board member gives you a chance to help ensure that our club has great educational meetings, and continues to grow and educate the public on the importance of bees.

The board meets approximately four times per year or as needed. Please consider running for a position. This is a great way to become more involved in our association and to get to know our members. It can also be a lot of fun!

We want new faces, fresh ideas, and new perspectives. Contact one of the members below if you would like more information or are interested in running for an office.

Paula Sablosky	mygarden122@gmail.com	541-206-7173
Katharine Hunt	keehhunt@gmail.com	541-607-0106
Nancy Ograin	nancy.ograin@gmail.com	541-935-7065

Duties of the Officers & Directors

President: The president shall be the principal executive officer of the association and shall preside at all the meetings of the members and of the board of directors.

Vice-President: In the absent of the president, the vice-president shall perform the duties of the president and also any other duties as may be assigned by the president or the board of directors. Maintain the inventory of property belonging to the association.

Secretary: The secretary shall keep the minutes of the general meetings of the members and the board of directors and also perform any other duties as may be assigned by the president or by the board of directors.

Treasurer: The treasurer shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds of the association, make payments for debts incurred by the association, and produce an annual budget to be approved by the board. Also perform any other duties as may be as assigned by the president or by the board of directors.

Directors: Directors shall attend board meetings and act on behalf of the membership in all matters before the board. There are 5 board member positions.

Busy Bee: Oregon State Fair

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) bee exhibit at the state fair last month was a big success. All the OSBA clubs volunteered to help out at the booth and several of our members volunteered their time.

The exhibit is a popular stop, with colorful displays, extensive literature on bees, beekeeping and pollination and an observation hive. There was also a display of the winning entries for honey and wax products.

The observation hive was very popular with attendees trying to find the queen. Many were also very interested looking at the display cases that showed the large variety of the different types of bees, wasps and the ones that that looked like bees and wasps, but were neither.

Thanks to our members who helped out and to all those who submitted their products of the hive for the honey show!

Congratulations to our LCBA Winners! (there were several 1st places in each category)

- 1st Place Lynn Hellwege for White Honey
- 1st Place Amy Sierzega for White Honey, Light Amber honey and Amber
- 1st Place Denny Pederson for Light Amber honey
- 3rd place Amy Sierzega for Frame with Capped Honey Comb



1st Place White Honey
Lynn Hellwege



Amy Sierzega & Bonnie King (OSBA fair co-ordinator)



Matt Stouder & Lynn Hellwege



Jeff Warren & Barbara Elliott



Matt & Lynn having fun!



Christine Miles & Dougley
McAllister

Other Volunteers

Paula Sablosky
Rebecca Fain
Rick Olson
Max Kuhn

Thank You!



September Beekeeping Tips by Chuck Hunt, LCBA Member

1. All honey should be removed and mite treatments in hives. Make sure to do a mite count after the mite treatments are completed. I usually like to use a 72 hour mite count as I think the extra time gives a better count.
2. You might want to look into the various alternative treatments for mites. There are numerous treatments available. Make sure to monitor mite counts with any treatment you use and carefully observe its effect upon brood, bees and queen.
3. Check all hives for adequate winter stores. In the Willamette Valley bees require at least 35 lbs. of honey to properly survive the winter. This is about one western super of honey on top of the hive. If your hive has less than this, there is still plenty of time for feed in September. Feed sugar syrup, two parts sugar and one part water if you are trying to build up winter stores. The bees do not have to evaporate this mixture much in order to store it and it does not cause as much brood rearing stimulation as less concentrated solutions of sugar.*
4. If you use entrance reducers, these should be placed on the hives sometime in September. Place them on the hives after the weather has cooled as then there will be no need for the bees to cool their hives by fanning. This usually means that the daytime temperatures will not get much over 70 degrees. Try to put screen mouse guards on your entrance reducers.

5. Yellow jackets are a grave threat to your bees. Yellow jacket control is very important at this time and going into October. Traps that are based upon pheromone research and are specific to yellow jackets are readily available at garden and home or hardware stores. They are safe for bees and deadly for yellow jackets. Use them to eliminate attacks by yellow jackets on your wintering hives.
6. Make sure that your hives tip forward very slightly so that rain and moisture run out of the hive during the coming winter. This tilt need not be very much (one quarter inch higher in the back than the front is fine) but a forward tilt will greatly assist winter survival. The bottom boards should also be off the ground and on a hive stand for the winter. A brick or stone on the top cover helps to ensure that winter winds do not blow the top of your hive off causing a total hive loss. By early October, let the bees use propolis to seal the cover down and close any cracks in the hive. Don't disturb the hive again until early spring so that this propolis is not broken.

**Editor's Note: As we approach October you will want to start feeding your bees one part sugar to one part water to assist in brood rearing to produce those fat winter bees.*

Upcoming Webinar Interested in Learning about Pollen?

This should be a very good webinar. Jamie Ellis is an excellent speaker.

September 26th – At Home Beekeeping Series
Topic: The Science of Using Pollen Substitutes,
Jamie Ellis, University of Florida

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

Join via Zoom at:

Zoom: <https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838>

Join via Facebook Live at: **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/>

(If you use Facebook, after logging in, click on more, then events.) The presentation will be recorded and posted on their Facebook page for 2 weeks.

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

“Late Summer, Fall & Winter Management” by Judy Scher



Judy Scher

LCBA’s Judy Scher presented on Late Summer through Winter Management. July 1st represents fall for the bees and beekeepers west of the cascades and is the starting point for next year’s beekeeping success! Judy outlined her presentation to include three management stages for late summer through winter management: July to august, September to November, and Thanksgiving through February.

July through August: This is the time that supers should be coming off. It is the time to treat colonies for varroa mites, and the beekeeper needs to be thinking about managing for yellow jackets and robber bees. During times of intense heat, place water close to bees in shade (if possible), and located 20-30 feet away from the hives. The bees forage for water and place droplets throughout the hive, fanning the water to evaporate it and cool the hive.

Bearding on outside of hive is normal during this time of year. You can use a ventilation box on top of the hive. It is very important to remember personal safety. Avoid head exhaustion and stay hydrated. During times of heavy smoke, the bees reduce foraging activity. There is no polarized light and therefore the bees can’t orient. During these times, they may consume some or all of their winter stores. It is best not to manage colonies during times of intense smoke. You can feed heavy 2:1 sugar syrup if the hive is light.

It is very important to perform mite counts regularly. During the population decrease phase, the threshold is <2% for an alcohol wash (6 mites/ 300 bees). Medication must be on as soon as the threshold is met. Acceptable products to use during this time period include thymol products (Apiguard, Api Life Var) or Oxalic Acid or Formic Pro. Many of these products are temperature dependent. Judy recommends reviewing the [Tools for Varroa Management](#) guide from the Honeybee Health Coalition for additional information.

The consequences of not treating colonies can be dire. Viruses will be vectored by varroa and the hive will quickly diminish in population. Deformed Wing Virus is the most common vectored virus by varroa. Bees with virus can’t raise “fat” bees for winter. Winter bees make and store protein, fat, and carbs, and produce Vitellogenin in their fat bodies. Vitellogenin allows for longer life. Winter bees live up to six months and produce the vitellogenin needed for feeding spring brood without fresh pollen.

Yellow jackets and robber bees: Signs of yellow jackets and robber bees include cells that are ragged and have been ripped open. Management includes using entrances or using robbing screens. These allow the guard bees to fight off robbers. Yellow jacket traps can be used as well. It is best to trap the yellow jacket queens earlier in the year.

September through October: This is when you want to ensure hives are strong and have good queens. The bees tell you fall is here when they start kicking out the drones. Drones take resources in the winter and are thus evicted. Check the strength of the colony after varroa treatments are off. Ensure the queen is present and that the colony is strong, with at least six to eight frames of bees.

Take your losses in the fall is a beekeepers motto. It is best to combine weak colonies in the fall. Combine a weak colony with a strong colony if the weak colony is healthy and free of disease. Use newspaper between the boxes of hives for 36-48 hours. You will need to kill the queen in the weak hive before combining. After 48 hours the combined colonies are happy.

Fall is a good time to requeen if necessary. You should requeen if a colony is queen-less or if the brood pattern is spotty. If you notice a late supersedure, there is a high possibility of the resulting queen being poorly mated due to a low population of drones. Do not assume that late supersedure is going to emerge, get mated and that all is well.

In fall, bees need good pollen stores in order to raise “fat” bees for the winter. A pollen sub can be provided if there’s not stored pollen in the hive. Pollen should be next to the brood. If the hive is light, feed 2:1 sugar water.

The last inspection of the year generally occurs around the end of September to Mid-October. In the Willamette Valley,

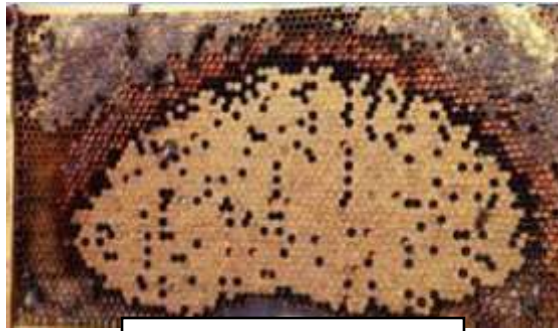
continued on page

highlights continued moisture kills bees not the cold. Wrapping hives isn't needed. Provide a moisture box and use screened bottom boards or tip the hive up one inch in the back so moisture will run down and out of the hive.

Thanks Judy for your informative presentation. If you would like to view the YouTube presentation contact Nancy, nancy.ograin@gmail.com.



This is a strong hive



Decent brood pattern for fall



[Drone Eviction - YouTube](#)
Video

August Early Session: Q & A on Fall Management

LCBA President Fonta Molyneaux led a question-and-answer discussion during the early session. She started by recapping brood nest dynamics. A good understanding of the brood nest is critical. In our region, the brood nest typically consists of two deeps or three westerns. In the early spring, overwintered bees and the brood cluster will be in the upper portion of the hive. Spring is the time to reverse the boxes to have the brood nest in the lower box. Then, during the increase phase, the bees will fill both/all the boxes in the brood chamber with brood. During the decrease phase, the bees will shrink the brood nest back down and the cluster should be in the bottom box by fall equinox. During winter, the bees will work their way up in the boxes and end back up in the upper boxes by early spring.

We are currently wrapping up the honey harvest. It is critical to remove honey supers by the first part of August because if the supers aren't removed the bees will move up and leave the lower box empty. If they do this, and the beekeeper harvests the honey late, they may not have enough honey to make it through winter. Always remember that you should only give the bees supers above the brood boxes that you intend to take back. At this point in the year, any naked frames should come out of the hive now and be replaced with drawn comb.

After discussing the brood nest dynamics and honey harvesting, Fonta fielded questions from the audience.

Question: When do supers go on?

Answer: They go on prior to the nectar flow, and they are placed on the hive one at a time. As the bees begin to fill the box, put another super on once 7 out of 10 frames have bees on them. Once the summer solstice is past, don't put additional supers on.

Question: How should you overwinter in a single deep?

Answer: Place the brood nest on one side of the box and the honey on the other. This ensures that the cluster can move together in one direction to eat honey.

Question: The colony has moved into top box after pulling off the supers; they aren't in the lower box. What should I do?

Answer: You can reverse the boxes so that the bees can fill the top box. You may need to feed the colony in September to get the top box full of honey so they can have ample resources for winter.

Question: With the excessive heat, what can I do?

Answer: Make sure to have a water station setup. The station should be 10 to 15 feet away from the colonies. You can also set up an EZ pop-up tent/awning over the hives to provide shade if they are in full sun.

Question: What do I do with honey frames after harvesting?

Answer: Put them back on hive for 24 hours above an inner cover to let the bees clean them up. Then take them off the hives and freeze them for 72 hours to kill any wax moths. They can be stored in sealed, plastic tubs after freezing or placed in the western boxes on their side so that sunlight can penetrate the frames and keep wax moths at bay.



New Honeybee Pest Discovered in US

by Dewey M. Caron

There is a new honey bee pest just reported as an invader of the U.S. The attention catching headline was “Discovery of Non-Native Yellow-Legged Hornet Confirmed in Georgia for the First Time”. A beekeeper near the port city of Savannah reported finding on August 9th two hornets and ID was confirmed on August 15th for *Vespa velutina* (Yellow-Legged Hornet). A nest was discovered and eliminated on August 25th. If allowed to establish in U.S., this hornet could potentially threaten honey bees and interfere with beekeeper honey production and pollination.

The Yellow-Legged hornet is a social wasp species that constructs typical hornet paper nests above ground, outside in vegetation or within tree hollows. Their nests can become large, housing an average of 6,000 workers. It is a voracious predator of bee colonies; adult wasps establish patrols in front of colony entrances preventing honey bee foragers from exiting, leading to reduced foraging and potential colony decline.

The Yellow-Legged hornet is native to tropical and subtropical areas of Southeast Asia. It has however been introduced into France and is spreading in Europe. A comprehensive review of their invasion of Europe (France, Portugal, northern Spain, southern England and spreading into Belgium and Italy) is in MDPI Journal Diversity - see:

<https://www.mdpi.com/1424-2818/12/1/5>

Key ID characteristics are size (2cm long= ¾ inch), yellow color on 4th abdominal segment and lower tarsal portions of legs (especially hind legs) distinctly yellow. For photo gallery see <https://bees.caes.uga.edu/bees-beekeeping-pollination/yellow-legged-hornet.html.html>

The USDA, APHIS, along with the Georgia Department of Agriculture has initiated a capture (trapping) program to see if there are additional nests of this hornet. The technology used in Washington State for Northern Giant hornet will be duplicated in this search – and if nests are found – the destroy effort.



Vespa velutina
Yellow Legged Hornet

Extractor Information

The club has five, three frame extractors with hot knives for use by its current members. These are on a reserved use basis. Please limit your use to no more than three days, and always clean the extractor before returning to the host. Extractors clean very easily if cleaned with warm soapy water and flushed out with a garden hose after you finish for the day. If you wait until the next day cleaning is more difficult. These units are easy to use and transport.

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

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

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

Creswell - Amy Sierzega 541-505-4033

Elmira - Ken Ograin 541-935-7065

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

Refractometer

LCBA has three refractometers to check the moisture content in your honey. Remember honey is not honey unless the moisture content is 18.2% or below. We will have it available at our monthly meetings to test your honey. If unable to attend call or email one of our members to schedule a time to check out your honey.

Eugene - Judy Scher, 541-344-2144,
judyscher@gmail.com

Elmira - Ken Ograin 541-935-7065,
woodrt@pacinfo.com

Cottage Grove - Francis Rothauge 541-520-8391
(no email)



NATIONAL HONEY MONTH

Have you heard the buzz? September is National Honey Month and year four of our Honey Saves Hives program! To help us celebrate, we've recruited our friends Top Chef Carla Hall and registered dietitian Samar Kullab to help us spread the buzz on how we can support honey bees all year long! Check out this year's partners and learn about the delicious ways YOU can celebrate!

This year the Honey Board is focusing on back to school education materials for kids to learn about bees, honey, and just how important they are to our planet. Covering everything from beehives and pollination to how honey is made and even bee sustainability. There are activity sheet available for download to print.

<https://honey.com/blog/back-to-school-buzz-educational-materials-for-all-learners>

[National Honey Board](#)

Honey Cough Syrup

Ingredients:

Zest of 2 lemons (approx. 1 1/2 T)
1/4 cup - ginger, peeled, sliced, or 1/2 tsp. of ground ginger
1 cup - water
1 cup - honey
1/2 cup - lemon juice



Directions:

In a small saucepan, combine lemon zest, sliced ginger and 1 cup of water. Bring mixture to a boil, simmer for 5 minutes, then strain through into a heat-proof measuring cup.

Rinse the saucepan out and pour in 1 cup of honey. On low heat, warm the honey, but do not allow it to boil. Add the strained lemon ginger water and the lemon juice. Stir the mixture until it combines to form a thick syrup.

Pour into a clean jar with a lid.

Note: This can be refrigerated for up to 2 months.

For children ages 1 to 5, use 1/2 to 1 tsp. every 2 hours.

For children ages 5 to 12, use 1 to 2 tsp. every 2 hours.

For children 12 and older and adults, use 1 to 2 T every 4 hours.*

***Remember, honey is recommended for children after the age of one.**



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Why Do Beekeepers Give Up?

Excerpt from *American Bee Journal*
September 11, 2023

By: Tina Sebestyen



The bottom line answer to the question, “Why do beekeepers give up?” is because their bees die, usually over and over. They discover how hard it is to keep bees alive. Someone in my beginning beekeeping class always pipes up to ask why I say that it is hard to keep bees alive, when they live just fine all alone, on their own, out in the woods. That is not the only misconception new beeks start out with. Unfortunately, bees do not live just fine on their own without human help. In fact, they are never on their own, they are sickened and harmed by *Varroa destructor* constantly and thus 97.5% of colonies cannot live long without human help to control this honey bee predator.

It follows that new beekeepers who think that bees live fine on their own also don’t have any idea how much time they are going to need to take care of their bees. They don’t spend enough time getting comfortable handling the bees, so they’re unable to see and recognize when there is a problem. They aren’t doing good inspections. One of the leading indicators of bee survival is beekeeper experience. Every new beekeeper starts out with no experience, but getting in that hive every week and exploring, observing and manipulating (mite counts, anyone?) are where one can gain that valuable experience.

Once a beekeeper gets over their romanticized idea of beekeeping, decides to get serious and puts on their big kid pants, they often go to the internet to learn how to keep bees. Don’t get me wrong, not everything on the internet is bad or wrong... *neither is it all good or right*, and new beekeepers have no way of knowing which is which. Even if all of the information found on YouTube was correct, so much of beekeeping is local. It is dictated by whether or not water falls from the sky (I hear that is called rain, we don’t know it here in Colorado), temperature swings, timing and bounty of forage, the presence of small hive beetles and so many other things.

One of the things new beekeepers are looking for online is a recipe for beekeeping. Something like: feed until May 15th, add boxes on June 12th, split on X date. Unfortunately, beekeeping is not like baking cookies. You need to be able to observe what is happening, extrapolate what is about to happen and come up with a plan to help the bees do what they want to do. It also is not like owning a puppy or kitten, which you can run to the vet if something mysterious happens to their health.

Beekeeping is a lot more like owning livestock, maybe a herd of cattle. As such, their health needs to be safe-guarded in advance of trouble. They need water, adequate and varied forage, and protection from wind and predators. After trouble comes, it is harder to rectify than it would be with a pet.

Happily, there are solutions to these situations. One of the best, most fun, and most fruitful is to join a local bee club. Here you will find beekeepers who know what works in your area, starting with what sub-species of bee is right for you. These seasoned beeks love to share what they’ve learned the hard way, if you can just be humble enough to take them seriously, instead of thinking you’ll be able to make what wouldn’t work for them be successful for you.

One reason people don’t take the advice they are given is because they don’t understand the bee biology and behavior that is the reason behind the management or the timing of the decision. Our best beekeepers are those who read a lot about beekeeping. And, there is a lot out there. It has been said that more has been written about beekeeping than anything else besides religion. Again, what you find on the internet may have been written by a (notoriously over-confident) third year beekeeper. Books that have been published on paper by a real publisher, rather than a vanity, do-it-yourself publisher, have gone through at least some kind of vetting process. Bee journals do great reviews of such books, to help you know what will be readable and what is worthwhile information. Those journals themselves are a great source of current, vetted, information.

New (and old) beekeepers need to learn bee math, bee biology and management. These topics sound like what you

continued on page

wanted to avoid in high school, but they are a lot more fun in the real world, with real application in beekeeping. Once you get started, you'll fall in love even more deeply with beekeeping. There is so much to discover and learn still!

And now to the brass tacks... beekeepers give up because bees die, and we need to learn about why they die and **help them manage their challenges in advance. Bees have trouble with the five Problems. Pests, Pathogens, Poor forage, Pesticides and Politics.** Every beekeeper has chosen one **P**, THE one that they think is THE problem, that if we just solved that one problem, everything would be great. Paying attention to one **Problem** without watching out for the others is another recipe for dead bees.

The most famous of the Pests is *Varroa destructor*, and undoubtedly, if we could solve that one, beekeeping would be a whole different proposition. But even without *varroa*, bees still need weeds which are in short supply in our world today, and varied sources of nectar and pollen throughout the collecting year. And, they still need a clean world to live in, one not poisoned by **Pesticides**. They need pro-active maintenance to be strong enough to overcome the **Pathogens**: viruses, bacteria and fungi. And they need us to have laws that are beneficial to their world and their keeping.

To sum it all up, if you want to continue to keep bees and have them live, so that you don't get so frustrated with them dying all the time that you quit, here is what you need to do.

- Join a bee club and attend meetings in person. Get a mentor if you can.
- Read a lot about beekeeping, about bee biology and behavior, from books and magazines.
- Do what your mentor or local bee club advises, even if you don't understand why right now.
- Learn to do an effective hive inspection.

Good luck, and happy beekeeping!



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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,

FOR SALE

**Complete 10 frame one story hive
\$260.00**

- **Deep** frames
- New locally raised queen
- New equipment

**Complete 10 frame one story hive
\$240.00**

- **Western** frames
- New locally raised queen
- New equipment

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

FOR SALE

**Bushy Mountain Pollinator Jacket
& Veil Size XL \$30**

**Big Ben Full Suit & Hat w/Veil Size XL
chest 45, inseam 51 Free**

Hat & Veil \$10
Gloves \$10
All have been washed.

Contact Lucy O'Neil
541-510-9655



Pollinator Jacket

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

Support Dr. Sagili's OSU Bee Lab

Oregon State Beekeepers Association has set up a fundraiser to help raise monies for Dr. Sagili's research and students. You can make a difference by donating today and help in raising research funds. Every little bit helps! Thank You!

[Donate Here](#)

Fundraiser by Rebecca Fain : [Help Us Save The Honey Bees \(gofundme.com\)](#)

Honey Donations

If you have any extra honey this year after extracting and would like to share with LCBA please contact Katharine Hunt. Proceeds benefit the Honey Bee Research at OSU and other educational programs.

Katharine keehhunt@gmail.com



NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

2023 LCBA New/Renewal Memberships

\$25 per year per calendar year (Jan to Dec) 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.

Oregon State Beekeepers Association

2023 Fall Conference Registration Form

Early registration discount ends
September 27, 2023!

October 27, 28 & 29, 2023

Online registration link: **REGISTRATION**
& at: orsba.org/2023-fall-conference/

Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center | Bend, Oregon

Please fill out clearly and completely!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Additional Family Members Attending: _____

Company: _____

*Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____ *email: _____

Attending in person: _____ Attending online: _____

*Conference programs will be mailed to online participants. Should we need to go virtual, they will be mailed to everyone. Email addresses are required for providing online access to conference proceedings, available to all registrants until December 31, 2023.

Event			Cost
Friday Night Hospitality Room			Complimentary
Conference ^{1,4}	Online Member Individual - \$100		
	Online Nonmember - \$140		
	In-Person Member Individual - \$150		\$
	In-Person Nonmember Individual - \$190		
	In-Person Member Family - \$180		
	In-Person Nonmember Family - \$220		
Encaustic Painting (Limit: 30) ²	\$20 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Beekeeping Basics (Limit: 40)	No Additional Cost	Number Attending: _____	\$
Saturday Luncheon	\$26 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Saturday Banquet	\$55 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Sunday Luncheon	\$26 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Note: Please indicate any special dietary needs, including vegetarian: _____			
Research Donation ³			\$
Annual OSBA Dues ⁴	\$40 per Person	Number: _____	\$
TOTAL ^{5, 6}			\$

1) Attendees qualify for preregistration rate if application form (with registration fee) is postmarked on or before September 27, 2023. No refunds after October 13, 2023. Late online registration and on-site registration rates are: Conference, \$190.00; Conference Family, \$220.00; Online, \$140.

2) Children attending the workshop must be accompanied by an adult.

3) The Oregon State Beekeepers Association is classified as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Research donations made out to the OSBA may be deductible; please consult your accountant.

4) Please include completed membership form(s). Nonmember conference price includes a complimentary OSBA membership for 2024.

5) Checks payable to OSBA; mail with completed registration form, **postmarked no later than October 14**, to: **Oregon State Beekeepers Association, 2023 Fall Conference, 89135 Spindrift Way, Florence OR 97439.**

6) Hotel reservations are not included. Special rates are available at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes. See: orsba.org.

OSBA Tentative Fall Conference Agenda

Friday, October 27

1:00–5:30 pm **Registration, Submit Auction Items, Submit Honey Show Entries, Submit Photo Entries, Submit Cookie Entries, Exhibitor Move-In** (Conference Center, Lobby)

1:30–4:15 pm **Beekeeping Basics**
Dewey Caron, University of Delaware, Emeritus (Location TBD)

2:00–4:00 pm **Oregon Master Beekeeper Institute** (Location TBD)

Breakout Session: **Oregon Master Beekeeper Program Students and Mentors**

Jen Larsen, Oregon Master Beekeeper Program Coordinator

1. **Book Reading:** The Music of Bees Eileen Garvin, Master Beekeeper Certified Apprentice

2. **Spotlight on Central Oregon Master Beekeeper Participants**

4:30–6:00 pm **OSBA Executive Committee Meeting** (Location TBD)

7:00–9:00 pm **Evening Social** (Deschutes North & South, inside hotel)

Saturday, October 28

7:00–8:20 am **Submit Honey Show Entries, Photo Entries, Cookie Entries**

7:00–10:00 am **Exhibitor Move-In**

7:00 am–5:00 pm **Registration, Submit Auction Items** (Conference Center, Lobby)

8:00–8:10 am **Welcome & Announcements** Joe Maresh & Jeremy Mitchell, OSBA (Location TBD)

8:15–9:15 am **Improving Honey Bee Health to Ensure Sustainable Blueberry Pollination**
Sarah Wood, University of Saskatchewan (Location TBD)

9:20–10:00 am **The BeeMD** Dewey Caron, University of Delaware (Location TBD)

10:00 am–6:00 pm **Exhibitor Tradeshow Open** (Conference Center, Lobby)

10:00–10:30 am **Group Break in Exhibitor Tradeshow** (Conference Center, Lobby)—Sponsored by: TBD

10:30–11:30 am **Ensuring Healthy Pollinators for Crop Production** Diana Cox-Foster, USDA ARS, Logan, Utah (Location TBD)

11:30 am **Donations to OSU Honey Bee Lab**

12:00–1:30 pm ***Luncheon The Biggest Bee Plant Network in the WORLD and Why It Matters to You** Andony Melathopoulos, Oregon Bee Project (Conference Center, Downstairs)

1:40–2:40 pm **Enhance Honey Sales Through Self-Education** Amina Harris, UC Davis Honey & Pollination Center

2:50–3:50 pm **Essentials for Wax Dipping of Bee Hive Wood-ware**—Tony Kadaï, Canada Wax Company

3:50–4:20 pm **Group Break in Exhibitor Tradeshow**
Sponsored by: TBD

4:20–4:35 pm **Oxalic Acid Vaporization Efficacy on Varroa**
Mustafa Bozkus, OSU Graduate Student (Location TBD)

4:40–4:55 pm **Is It Feasible to Create a Statewide Pesticide Monitoring Network?** Emily Carlson, OSU Graduate Student (Location TBD)

5:00–5:15 pm **Honey Bee Pollination of Day-Neutral Strawberries Grown in Tunnels** Joussey Hidrobo Chavez, OSU Graduate Student (Location TBD)

5:20–6:00 pm **General Membership Meeting** (Location TBD)

6:00–7:00 pm Social Hour

7:00 pm **Silent Auction and Online Auction End**

7:00–10:00 pm ***Banquet Dinner and Live Auction** (Conference Center, Downstairs)

7:15–7:45 pm **Project Apis m. Update**
George Hansen, Project Apis m.

7:55–8:25 pm **Promoting Honey Across the Nation: Tips and Tricks to Include in Your Promotion and a Recap of 2023 Promotions** Selena Rampolla, American Honey Queen

Sunday, October 29

7:00–8:00 am **Registration** (Conference Center, Lobby)

7:00 am–12:20 pm **Exhibitor Tradeshow Open** (Conference Center, Lobby)

8:00–8:10 am **Welcome & Announcements** Joe Maresh & Jeremy Mitchell, OSBA

8:15–9:15 am **Emergence and Control of Antimicrobial-Resistant Foulbrood Disease** Sarah Wood, University of Saskatchewan (Location TBD)

9:20–10:20 am **Native Bees in Agriculture and Natural Ecosystems** Diana Cox-Foster, USDA ARS, Logan, Utah (Location TBD)

10:20–10:50 am **Group Break in Exhibitor Tradeshow**, Submit Tradeshow Passport at Registration Desk (Conference Center, Lobby)—Sponsored by: TBD

10:50 am–12:20 pm **Breakout Sessions (Choose one):**

1. **Honey Tasting & The UC Davis Honey Aroma and Flavor Wheel** Amina Harris, UC Davis Honey and Pollination Center (Location TBD)

2. **All About Honey Bee Live-Removals, Cutouts, and Relocations** Adrian Perez, Gold Coast Bee Company (Location TBD)

3. **OSU Honey Bee Lab Brood Disease Workshop**
Carolyn Breece, OSU Honey Bee Lab

4. ***Encaustic Painting Workshop** George Hansen, Foothills Honey Company (Preregistration required, Location TBD)

12:20 pm **Exhibitor Move-Out**

12:30–2:00 pm ***Luncheon** (Conference Center, Downstairs)

12:45–1:30 pm **OSU Honey Bee Lab Services for Beekeepers and Overview of Current Research**
Ramesh Sagili, OSU Honey Bee Lab

1:40–2:10 pm **Honey Auction**

2:30 pm **Final Comments, Tradeshow Passport Prizes & Adjourn**

Joe Maresh & Jeremy Mitchell, OSBA

Links



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



Bee Informed
Partnership

<https://beeinformed.org/>



[https://
extension.oregonstate.edu/mb](https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mb)

Friday in the Apiary

[https://extension.oregonstate.edu/
mb/friday-apiary](https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mb/friday-apiary)



<https://orsba.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/](https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/varroa-management/)

Best Management Practices for Bee Health

[https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/
hive-health-best-management-practices/](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>