



CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

August 2017

ISSUE NUMBER 18

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rick Olson, Club President

Whew! It was over 90 degrees here on the coast for three days the first week of August. The blackberries blossoms are nearly gone. We waited for a cooler day and pulled our honey. Even with a couple of swarms we've done well this year. So far only one hive has started to show a mite increase. Be sure to do your mite checks and start your treatment regimen right after you've pulled your honey supers.

At our last meeting Max Kuhn and Jon Sumpter covered all aspects of honey extraction. Pat Wackford and Becca Fain donated a couple of frames of honey for the extraction demo. To save the library a sticky evening we took them home to extract. We raffled off the golden liquid to Michael Jakobsson and Eva Alcala.



As a reminder, **we are not having a meeting in August** due both to the eclipse (which will make traffic a bear) and because we are focusing our energy on the Lincoln County Fair where we anticipate attracting lots of new members. We will be manning a booth there, Aug 18th - 20th, and we are still looking for club members to help us man the booth. Kathy Cope is organizing this effort and especially needs help on Sunday, August 20th. If you are able to help, contact Kathy at beachwalkinlady@hotmail.com. Also, see Stan's notice about the Oregon State Fair, Aug 25th - Sep 4th, later in this newsletter for an opportunity to assist in manning the Oregon State Beekeeper's booth and getting free entrance and parking at the fair.

Speaking of the eclipse, a great project for beekeepers in the path would be to watch your bees during all the phases of the eclipse and share with us in September what you observed about your bees behavior. It could be very interesting to see if there was any change in behavior or if they just ignored the loss of light. Can't wait to hear what you observed!

The OSBA conference in Silverton, 10/27-29 will have many national honeybee lecturers including Judy Wu (neonicotinoid research), Virginia Web (honey judging), and Steve Sheppard (antiviral and fugal bee treatments). Dub Bellinger, our newest club member, won our raffle for a free conference registration courtesy of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. This is an excellent opportunity to hear nationally known bee gurus and get the latest on the evolving knowledge of beekeeping.

Don't forget the Oregon State Master Beekeepers program. Sign up dead line for the 2018 sessions is fast approaching so get signed up and consider taking advantage of the two full scholarships that CCBA is offering. Becca will have applications at the next meeting, September 27th. Hope to see you there.

NEXT MEETING –September 27th, 2017

6:30 pm at the Newport Library

PROGRAM

Lynn Royce, a PHD in Entomology, will be presenting on natural beekeeping and her tree hive project.

6:30pm – 8 pm

SMOKER SAFETY

By Ken Ograin

Smokers need to be respected, not only because if they burn too hot it is harmful to our bees, but also to us if you touch them. They may look safe as the fire or material being burned is inside a metal container, but if that container gets very hot and you set it down too close to combustible material it might cause a fire.

With the fire risk at Extreme Danger (as is the current condition) and if you are working in an area with dry grass, you must also be aware that your smoker will send out embers if it gets too hot. It only takes a small spark to start dry grass burning, add a little wind and you will find yourself in a field of fast moving flames. I was told of one beekeeper's experience of a perfect storm. While working several hives in a field of dry grass a loose ember landed in the dry grass and before he could do anything the fire grew to several acres and burned down a barn.

Keeping safety in mind, do not set or place your lit smoker on or near anything combustible. Use a plug to put out your smoker - this can be made out of a piece of wood dowel or an old broom handle as I did in the picture below. Have a metal pail with lid to empty your smoker into when you finish working your bees. Metal safety pails can be purchased at most hardware stores.

Smoker with nozzle plug.



Metal Safety Pail

After the Harvest

By Rick Olson

We're past the summer solstice, the blackberries have peaked and the queen is laying fewer eggs. Time to begin preparing for winter. Fat bees are starting to be raised from August thru

October that will live as long as six months. The hive needs ideal nutrition, pollen and nectar, to create high body fat content for these "winter bees".

There are four things to consider now 1. Are your hives strong with good queens, 2. Monitor for disease and pests especially Varroa mites and treat, 3. Nutritional management is critical--make sure you have a good store of food reserves in your hives and 4. Control moisture.

Honey supers should be off by August 1st on the coast. When harvesting honey, remember leave plenty in the hive for the bees to eat through the winter. A bit of golden liquid now is no recompense for a hive of dead starved bees in spring. You can buy a log of honey for the price of new bees!

As we move into the fall check your hives for weight by lifting from the back. In the dearth the bees will begin eating their honey stores. You should feed them a 2:1 sugar syrup during this period. Also, feed them protein substitute which is broken down into 10 or more essential amino acids, lipids, minerals, vitamins and sterols. This is essential for the production of strong, healthy fat bees for the winter.

Remove queen excluders. The cluster will move up as the bees devour their honey stores and the queen can get left behind under the excluder during this process. She will die if the cluster moves up and away from her.

A hive should have lots of bees, a good brood pattern, pollen and honey stores. All indicators of a healthy queen. If the brood pattern is spotty remember a queen will not get better. Right after the nectar flow is a good time to replace a failing queen. This will give time for her to build up the hive for winter. It also creates a brood break that thwarts Varroa mites.

There are several methods of monitoring for Varroa--sticky board, sugar shake or alcohol roll. A spotty brood pattern may also indicate high levels of Varroa. Look for frass in empty cells. Whether you treat or not you should check the mite level so in the event of winter die off you'll have a good idea of what the culprit was. Treatment should not be determined by the calendar but based on mite levels. Remember mites feed on bee fat bodies so winter bees have a shorter life span and this puts winter survival in peril. Treatment should begin right after the honey supers are removed.

Take your losses in the fall. Combine a weak hive with a strong hive using the paper separation method. Pinch the weak hive's queen first.

Make sure your hives have good ventilation as the fall rains begin. Screened bottom boards and moisture boxes are a good place to start. I use a western cut in half horizontally that I've stapled screen to. I fill it with old towels and change them every two weeks.

Don't get discouraged. You can do everything right and the hive may still not make it through the winter.

Attention Beekeepers! 2017 North American Mite-A-Thon

Mite-A-Thon is a national effort to collect mite infestation data and to visualize varroa infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a one week window. All beekeepers will be asked to participate, creating a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

Collect mites using either the alcohol wash or powder sugar roll one day during the time period. Submit your mite count to: www.mitecheck.com

Learn more at: www.pollinator.org/miteathon

2017 North American *Mite-A-Thon*

The Mite-A-Thon is a Citizen Science Project of NAPPC (North American Pollinator Protection Campaign) www.pollinator.org/miteathone with support of Honey Bee Health Coalition www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org. It is designed to educate beekeepers to the value of testing Honey Bee hives for levels of *varroa* mites across all of North America. It will take place:

Saturday, September 9 to Saturday, September 16, 2017

This is the first Mite-a-Thon. It is an opportunity to gather data on *varroa* mite infestations and to discuss management strategies. Commercial, sideliner, and hobbyist beekeepers are encouraged to participate through their respective clubs and associations to create a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. A common measurement protocol will be used, and data will be downloaded to the NAPPC independent database.

OBJECTIVE: To raise awareness about the level of *varroa* mites in bee hives of North American and to teach consistent and effective methods to measure mite load. As a secondary goal, treatment strategies will be made available for discussion utilizing partner developed information and outreach materials.

PARTICIPANTS: All beekeepers are welcome to participate.

COST: There is no cost. You can create your own test materials or kits can be purchased online. The U Minnesota has one such kit which Mann Lake also sells.

www.beelab.umn.edu/bee-squad/resources-beekeepers/varroa/mite-kit

DATA COLLECTION: Participants will test the level of mites present in their hives using one of two mite sampling protocols - either alcohol wash or powdered sugar roll. Then the count will be uploaded by location, total number of hives, number of hives tested and local habitat. This data will be collected by Bee Informed Partnership under mite check www.mitecheck.com and analyzed for publication to the participating beekeepers and organizations. The published information will not identify individual participants.

CONTACT: Miteathon@pollinator.org. 415 362-1137 www.pollinator.org/miteathon

TO DO: Determine your preferred method of testing for mites and commit to a day for testing, either individually or through beekeeping organizations.



OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM

The Oregon Master Beekeeper Program is preparing for the 2018 apprentice class which will begin in January. If you are interested be sure to put your name on the waiting list at www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org. The date a person's name is placed on this list helps determine whether or not they are accepted into the program.

CCBA is supportive of the program and will again offer two scholarships for the 2018 class, which can be used for either the apprentice or journey level. To learn more about the program visit their website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mb/>

[Applications for scholarships will be available at the sign in table at all club meetings.](#)

It's not too late to sign up to help for the Oregon State Fair

Once again the Oregon State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) is sponsoring a booth at the Oregon State Fair. The booth is manned by volunteers from the various members of OSBA and its Regional Chapters including Tillamook Beekeepers and Central Coast Beekeepers. OSBA is looking for volunteers to fill positions between 10 am and 10pm, except for Friday and Saturday nights until 11pm. The fair starts August 25 and ends the evening of September 4th. Volunteers work four hour shifts and would like three and preferably four volunteers per shift.

Volunteers receive free admission to the fair, free parking, and if you are in the Master Beekeeper Program Public Service Points. Anyone associated with OSBA or a regional chapter is eligible to volunteer. Friends of club members or spouses can also volunteer.

If you aren't an expert, have no fear; an experienced beekeeper will be on hand at every shift to answer any questions that have you stumped.

Here are a few more reasons it's important that we represent our beekeeping interests at the State Fair:

Educate the Public. Many of our members are urban beekeepers. Right now, jurisdictions are defining their policies on bees in cities. When the general public sees bees as productive and necessary instead of as flying stinging machines, they are more likely to support codes that support beekeeping.

Educate Lawmakers. The State Fair is in Salem, which is the hub of legislative activity in the state. When lawmakers understand the importance of pollinator health, they are more likely to support initiatives that protect pollinators.

Support Colony Health. Beekeepers are in partnership with their neighbors because what their neighbors plant (or don't plant) or spray (or don't spray) has a direct impact on colony health. This is a great way to reach a broad audience and increase your neighbor's support of bees in their own back yards.

Free admission, free parking, free t-shirt. Come help out, have fun with like-minded people and enjoy the other exhibits as well.

Here is the link: [Updated link to State Fair sign up sheet](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 16 - Ohio State University Bee Lab Webinar “Viruses in Honey Bees”

Click on link below to sign up or review previous classes.

These are free classes. You can join the seminar live or review at a later date. <https://u.osu.edu/beelab/courses/>

Aug 16th - Linn Benton Beekeeping Assoc. Meeting

Topic: “Is Your Comb Drawing You Down?” (Costs & benefits of comb replacement), Andony Melathopoulos, Assistant Professor, OSU Department of Horticulture.

Location: Corvallis Waldorf School, 6:30-8:30 pm

Visit their website for more information. <http://ww.lbba.us>

Aug 18th - Friday in the Apiary

Location: TBD, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

The August information will be posted soon on their website.

Sign up to receive notifications and to RSVP at:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mb/blog>.

Aug 18th – 20th – Lincoln County Fair

Location: Newport Fair Grounds

Aug 19th - 4th Annual Oregon Honey Festival

Location: Ashland, OR

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

Aug 25th – Sept 4th -Oregon State Fair

Location: Salem

**Sept 5th-8th -Western Apicultural Society
2017 40th Anniversary Conference, UC-Davis,
CA**<http://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/>

Oct 27th – 29th – Oregon State Beekeepers Conference

Location: Oregon Gardens in Silverton. Do not miss this excellent opportunity to hear nationally known speakers and connect with beekeepers from throughout the state. As soon as the agenda and registration materials are out we will forward them to you!

This is the official publication of the Central Coast Beekeepers Association (CCBA) for the purposes of informing and educating its membership. Any use of the materials included in this newsletter for other reasons must be approved by the board of CCBA. The information and opinions expressed by the authors in this newsletter are for informational purposes only and are not necessarily endorsed by the Central Coast Beekeepers Association.

To arrange for publication or distribution of this material, please contact the organization through their e-mail account at: www.centralcoastbeekeepers@gmail.com

Rebecca Fain – Newsletter Editor

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