



CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

February 2017

ISSUE NUMBER 11

NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 22ND, 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Rick Olson, President

Greetings Central Coast Beekeepers--

A week of clear slightly warm weather has brought the bees out. My bees were flying when the temps were in the mid-forties--they're as anxious as I am to get out. Our local crop of Acacia trees are beginning to bloom and the bees are already bringing in pollen. Even so it's been my experience that the next couple of months are going to be the hardest so be sure to check your hive for weight and feed fondant if necessary. Queens should be starting to lay eggs and they'll need nourishment. My mite counts were horrendous last year but seem to be under control. No matter what method you use be vigilant in monitoring and treating--you want your bees to be strong and healthy going into the spring build up. Make sure hives have adequate ventilation and are dry--moisture can be a killer.

We had a full house for our January meeting. Stan took in orders for more bees than ever--we're off to a great bee season this year.

Dr. Andony Melathopoulos, Assistant Professor of Pollinator Health Extension in the Dept. of Horticulture at OSU, gave his talk "Doing the Multiplication: Expanding your apiary the old

school and the Next Generation way". His enthusiasm for bees is contagious, with his beekeeping experience and education, he brings a lot to the table.

Don't miss our very own Anne Schatz giving her talk "Strategies for Augmenting Honey Bee Forage" at our February meeting. Anne is an Oregon Master Gardener and knows more about plants than the bees do! She'll be giving advanced strategies for enticing bees into a nourishing environment of your own design.

Our board this year is packed with a fantastic group of motivated volunteers. We hope to offer lots of outreach and education opportunities for new beekeepers as well as old timers. We'll be offering a newbie class, a field day and a bee day this year. Other outreach activities will include local booths at fairs and garden shows. Stay tuned for times and dates. For those of you in the Oregon Master Beekeepers program it's a great way to earn points.

We're also putting together a socko line up of speakers this year as well. Besides Anne, Max Kuhn, journey beekeeper with a dozen years of experience, will be giving a talk on spring management at our March 22 meeting. In April, Dr. Ramesh Sagili, assistant professor of apiculture from OSU, will be speaking on honey bee nutrition and in May, Carolyn Breece, faculty research assistant and OMBA board member, will be speaking on integrated pest management. In June, Ken Ograin from the Lane County Beekeepers Association will be giving his talk on "Reading Frames". Lynn Royce is coming out in August to talk about her research findings on wild bees and how it applies to keeping our domestics bees alive. These speakers all bring invaluable information and experience for getting strong healthy hives ready for the honey flow so be sure to check them out at our monthly meetings.

We are always looking for photos and stories to include in our newsletter. So, now that the weather is getting better and better and you are out and about with your bees, take a camera and share your winter successes and disappointments for the betterment of our coastal beekeepers.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE – February 22nd, 2017

6:30 pm at the Newport Library

PROGRAM

Anne Schatz, club vice president and Master Gardener will be giving a talk entitled
"Strategies for Augmenting Honey Bee Forage"

6:30pm – 8 pm

deformed wing virus (DWV). Other signs of trouble may be hive robbing, yellow jackets or other varmints like mice or raccoons.

It is time to renew memberships for 2017. Regular memberships are \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family. You can find membership and renewal forms on our web page and we will have forms available at our February meeting.

EpiPen Alternatives

Several Club members have asked us to repeat the information that was shared at last month's club meeting regarding EpiPen alternatives. It is important to remember that though Benadryl has been mentioned as an acceptable alternative, it only is effective on local skin reactions to bee stings and will not help in the case of toxic anaphylactic shock where swelling of the throat and restricted breathing result if an individual is allergic. Should someone go into toxic shock, in addition to Benadryl to treat the initial swelling and discomfort an EpiPen or its equivalent may give immediate short term relief to breathing and throat restriction issues, but the individual must still be immediately transferred to a hospital for further medical support and assistance.

Below is the information about the 2 alternatives that are currently or about to be available. More may be introduced to the market and we will inform you when these are available.

Auvi-Q by Kaleo Pharma

- *Regular price will be \$360 as opposed to \$600 for EpiPen

- *With insurance it will be free

- *It will be free to families without insurance if their income < \$100,000

CVS Pharmacies has a generic version – Adrenaclick which will be available for \$110/2 pack

The Dog Days of Winter

BY RICK OLSON

The next few months are going to be hard on the bees. Rains with a few days of sun and repeat. Bees are getting mixed signals--when the sun shines they want to start getting ready for the hive build up bringing in pollen and nectar to create and feed larva. My bees were bringing in pollen a week ago. Then with the rain they hunker down for another week or so.

My mentee, Adam Greene, and I inspected a hive last week that had died and found that they had starved even though there was nectar and fondant right above the cluster. This was a classic case of dwindling--the equilibrium of the cluster can't keep up with the predations of mites, virus's and the need for nourishment during the cold snaps that we've been having. Adam's keen young eyes spotted the dead queen right in the middle of what was left of the cluster. A good reference on [Why Did My Honey Bees Die?](#) can be found on the BeelInformed web site.

This is an extremely tough time for bees--the winter solstice has passed and brood will be increasing as well as the Varroa mite population. During the winter I use sticky boards to keep track of mites. On the Oregon coast it's too wet and cold to open the hives after October--sliding a sticky board under the hive is unobtrusive and won't disturb the cluster. It's not as accurate as other methods but it does seem to give an indication of mite population trends.

Don't be paralyzed with hope. If your mite counts are high than treatment is essential. There are some excellent videos on Varroa on the [Honey Bee Health Coalition](#) web page. No matter what treatment you decide upon make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for usage. And use an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) regimen so that mite resistance doesn't develop.

Keep entrance restrictors in place but make sure dead bees do not build up behind and block the entrances. I use a yard stick to scrape dead bees off the bottom board every couple of days. You will get a feel for the death rate for each hive which will give you an indication of how well they are doing. You will get some mortality as the fat bees begin to fail. If you see a jump in bee death it may indicate a starvation situation and require emergency fondant feeding.

Check your moisture boxes and change the absorbent material if necessary--we still have a couple of months of wind and rain. Secure your hives against wind as well. We have a strong storm blowing in tonight so I made an extra trip out to the apiary and placed cinder blocks on all my hives--bees cost too much these days to let a mere wind storm knock them out.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, February 14th – Tillamook Beekeepers at the Fresh Cafe, 9120 5th St, Bay City, Oregon from 7 pm to 9 pm. Glen Andresen is our speaker at our next meeting on February 14th. He's been a beekeeper for 22 years and is an excellent speaker and teacher and person. You can read more about him here (written by Dewey). <http://www.beeculture.com/beekeeper-gardener-teacher-meet-portlands-glen-andresen/>

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 – Linn Benton Beekeepers at the Corvallis Waldorf School, 3855 NE Hwy 20, Corvallis. 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Speaker: Richard Farrier. Topic: "Sprint Time in Your Apiary". Discussion will include what needs to be done on the first inspection of the year. To feed or not to feed? What needs to be evaluated during the first inspection?

Thursday, February 16th – Willamette Valley Beekeepers Bee School at Chemeketa Community College, Bldg 8, Room 201, 4000 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem. Initial class 7 pm to 9 pm. Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association (WVBA) invites you to attend a bee school for a reasonable fee of \$45.00 which includes a year's membership to WVBA, the class materials, and a great book "The Beekeeper's Handbook." The class dates are February 16, 21, and 23, 2017. There will also be a Bee Day on a Saturday in April, TBA. Our regular meeting is then on February 27, 2017. We have a great speaker that you don't want to miss. Sign up for Bee School by attending the first night. Each date has different subjects. WVBA's goal is to have you be comfortable about owning and working your own bees.

Friday in the Apiary: February 17, 2017 3-5pm, OSU Apiary, Corvallis, Oregon.

Colony autopsies!

Let's glove up and dissect the remains of dead out colonies to determine the cause of death. We'll discuss common reasons for winter colony mortality and how we can prevent them in the future. Did you lose a hive this winter? Bring a frame or two and we can puzzle over them together. If we have time, let's get cooking and make some fondant! Your honey bees are at the greatest risk of starvation in late winter/early spring (NOW!). Fondant, or sugar candy, is an effective way to feed in emergency situations. Due to classroom space, we must limit the group to 25 people. Please RSVP and I'll send a map and directions. Go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mb/> to register for notifications to Friday at the Apiary and then follow the information to rsvp for this event.

Tuesday, February 21, 2017 – Lane County Beekeepers at Trinity Methodist Church 440 Maxwell Rd, Eugene, OR 97404. The Early talk will be at 6:15 PM

in small conference room down the hall from main meeting room Topic: Yellow Jacket Threat. Speaker: Ken Ograin. Regular Meeting 7:30 PM Topic: Spring Management. Speaker: Kenny Williams.

Wednesday, February 22 – Central Coast Beekeepers at Newport Library from 6:30 pm to 8pm. Anne Schatz club VP and Master Gardener will present “Strategies for Augmenting Honey Bee Forage”

Monday, February 27th – Willamette Valley Beekeepers at Chemeketa Community College, Bldg 8, Room 201, 4000 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem. From 7 pm to 9 pm. Ross Conrad is going to be our guest speaker discussing Natural Beekeeping.

Saturday, March 4th, 2017 – Lane County Beekeepers Bee Day 8:45 am to 5 pm in Eugene. \$40 per person or \$60 per couple. Must RSVP to 541-344-4228 to Pam Levitt for location and directions

Wednesday, March 15 – Linn Benton Beekeepers at the Corvallis Waldorf School, 3855 NE Hwy 20, Corvallis. 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Speaker: Kenny Williams. Topic: He will be speaking on re-queening a hive for the backyard beekeeper.

Wednesday, March 22 - Central Coast Beekeepers at Newport Library from 6:30 pm to 8pm. Club member and Journey Beekeeper in the Oregon Master Beekeepers program will present on “ Spring Management”

Saturday, April 1st – Tillamook Beekeepers Bee Day with Dewey Caron. \$15 per person. Please contact club Treasurer, Stan Scotton at centralcoastbeekeepers@gmail.com for more information and tickets.

Wednesday, April 19th – Linn Benton Beekeepers at the Corvallis Waldorf School, 3855 NE Hwy 20, Corvallis. 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Speaker: Morris Ostrofsky from Eugene. Topic: Swarms are coming – Are your bait boxes ready?

Wednesday, April 26 - Central Coast Beekeepers at Newport Library from 6:30 pm to 8pm. Dr. Ramesh Sagili, Assistant Professor of Apiculture at OSU will present on “ Honey Bee Nutrition”.

Wednesday, May 24 - Central Coast Beekeepers at Newport Library from 6:30 pm to 8pm. Carolyn Breece, faculty research assistant at OSU and Program Director of the Oregon Master Beekeepers Association, will present on “ Integrated Pest Management”

Wednesday, June 28 - Central Coast Beekeepers at Newport Library from 6:30 pm to 8pm. Ken Ograin, long time beekeeper and Board member of the Oregon Master Beekeepers will join us to discuss “ Reading Frames”.

Wednesday, August 23 - Central Coast Beekeepers at Newport Library from 6:30 pm to 8pm. Lynne Royce, insect identification specialist with the Oregon State University Extension Service, will present on her research on wild bees and how it applies to keeping our domestic bees alive.

Ohio State University Bee Lab Webinars

The 2017 webinars will be available in March. The 2016 webinars are posted on their website.

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

Kelly's Beekeeping Website: "Lane County Hiveways"

Follow Kelly as she does her inspections, observations, and other beekeeping activities.

<http://lanecountyhiveways.com/>

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

Rebecca Fain – Newsletter Editor

Board members of the organization, identified below, can also be reached at this address

President – Rick Olson

Co- Vice President – Anne Schatz

Co -Vice President - Kathy Cope

Past President – Nancy McDowell

Treasurer – Stan Scotton

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