



CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

July 2017

ISSUE NUMBER 17

NEXT MEETING JULY 26TH, 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rick Olson, Club President

Greetings Central Coast Beekeepers--

July is finally bringing in our glorious summer weather here on the coast. Hopefully the late rain hasn't altered the quality of the blackberry nectar like it did last year. I've seen a few honeybees foraging with the bumble bees. We might get another two or three weeks of blackberry forage at this rate.

I hope you caught Ken Ograin's talk on reading frames at our June meeting--valuable info for the beginner as well as the experienced beekeeper. Main points: keep the colony healthy, the population strong and make sure you have a strong healthy queen. For swarms you can checker board the brood with bare foundation, do a hard split by moving frames with swarm cells to a Nuc or let them swarm and you'll have a 4-5 week brood break.

Other tips that Ken mentioned:

Stop a laying worker by adding frames of brood. Brood pheromone stops laying workers.

Varroa mites are attracted to drone brood because of their unique pheromones.

A strong hive can handle chalk brood. A weak hive may not so requeen.

There is lots of honeydew on Maples.

To fight both strains of Nosema (cerrana/Apis) have a strong hive, good nutrition and strong queen.

Combs that have been robbed out will look ragged.

PMS (parasitic mite syndrome) is a brood disease caused by Varroa. It may look like sac brood and there will be dark larva that dries up and shrinks to almost nothing. And there will be indications of DWV (deformed wing virus). If you have DWV or tracheal mites you probably won't have any honey produced. K-wing may indicate Tracheal mites or Nosema



Ken analyzed several club member's frames during his talk. We all got a deeper understanding of how to analyze what's going on inside the hive.

At our next meeting we'll be demonstrating honey extraction. Max Kuhn and Jon Sumpter will be covering all aspects of retrieving liquid gold from our hives. We need several frames of honey for the extractor demonstration so please let us know if you can bring a frame or two. Respond to the email delivering this newsletter so we'll know if we have enough honey frames to operate both extractors at the meeting.

We'll also have a refractometer available for measuring the water content of the honey we extract.

Our outreach this year has been phenomenal. We had a booth at the Connie Hanson Garden Festival in Lincoln City. Three of our club members, Kathy Cope, Patty Johnson and Jon Sumpter gave a beginner bee class at the Newport Library. Max Kuhn and I gave a talk at the Summer Youth Program for the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribes. We saw a lot of excitement around the demo hive--new pupal beekeepers! We will be manning a booth at the

Lincoln Co Fair, Aug 18th - 20th and we will be looking for club members to help us man the booth. Also, see Stan's notice about the Oregon State Fair 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.

Reports from the Willamette Valley indicate that there are few swarms this year. Here on the coast our bees have been swarming like crazy. I've had two swarms that I know of and Max has had several as well. I failed as a swarm catcher, however. Of my six bait hives I only had action on one of them though I wouldn't call it success:



Becca and I attended the Oregon State Beekeepers Board meeting on Saturday, 7/16. Board member Mike Rodia is developing guidelines for cities regarding swarming, hostile bees, robbing and other honeybee issues that could crop up while raising bees within city limits. 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).

We will once again be receiving a scholarship from OSBA to cover the cost of attending the Silverton conference--just the registration. Accommodations and meals, other than lunches, will be the responsibility of the scholarship recipient. If you are a paid club member please let us know if you are interested in being placed in a drawing for the scholarship. The drawing will be held at the July club meeting.

As you can see we get a lot for our buck in being members of the OSBA.

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.

We got to participate in Stan and Pat's mentoring session a few weeks ago. Pat, though a long time beekeeper, is going through the OMBA apprentice program to sharpen her skills and become a mentor for future beekeepers.



Jon Sumpter shared a letter his wife had received from Senator Jeff Merkley about a bill he was drafting for presentation to Congress. The Bill is titled the Pollinator Recovery Act and I would encourage you to read it and, if so inclined to send your thoughts to Senator Merkley. You can find the bill at <https://www.merkley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Pollinator%20Bill.pdf>

NEXT MEETING –July 26th, 2017

6:30 pm at the Newport Library

PROGRAM

Max Kuhn and Jon Sumpter will demonstrate how to extract honey using an electric and hand cranked extractor as well as talk about how to prepare for extracting your honey

6:30pm – 8 pm

And the Survey Says ...Monitoring/ Control of Mites

by Dr. Dewey M. Caron

All Oregon bee hives have or will have varroa mites. It is important to know how many mites are present beginning by July (NOW) continuing until the end of October. The number of mites provides an estimate of approximate risk of mites reducing winter survival. Mites are not the only pest/predator/pathogen than can seriously weaken or kill colonies but studies point to their being the most significant.

To know how many mites, beekeepers need to monitor/sample hives for mites. The Pacific Northwest Honeybee 2016-2017 Survey asked if hives were monitored for mites during the 2016-17 overwinter, whether sampling was pre or posttreatment or both and, of the 5 possible mite sampling methods, what method was used. Statewide 63% monitored their hives and had 43% loss. Those that did not monitor, 22%, had 48% loss and those that only monitored some of their hives had a 60% loss.

The two monitoring techniques that seemed to be the most effective for mite monitoring were the alcohol wash and the powdered sugar method.

There were a total of 37 different chemicals used by the survey respondents and the most common was MAQS (formic acid). It is clearly evident that use of several chemical mite control materials reduced overwinter losses and improved survival. The non-chemical techniques may help reduce losses but to a lesser extent. As for using more than one, and which ones to use during a season, there appears to be NO one best combination but I need to dig further and analyze the combinations.

Control choices should be driven by monitoring, seasonal considerations and an estimation of size of mite population.

NOTE: Check out the Central Coast individual club survey results report attached to the e-mail that delivered your copy of the Newsletter. We had a lower rate of overwinter loss than the average, which was very interesting. Not too many club members participated this past year but, given the value of the data, we are hoping that we will get more surveys submitted next year.



Oregon Master Beekeeper Program

The Oregon Master Beekeeper Program has a new coordinator! Her name is Jen Holt. She has worked as a beekeeping educator for many years, including through the OMB program. We are thrilled to have her on board as she comes with fresh ideas, impeccable organizational skills, an energetic passion for honey bees, and loads of experience working with the public and volunteers in all things related to bees. Part of Jen's position is to support the Pollinator Health Program at OSU, led by Dr. Andony Melathopoulos. In addition to working on extension programs related to native bees, honey bees, and other pollinators, she will help create avenues of participation for OMB volunteers in these programs (*Citizen Science!*). We are delighted to have her on board, so please join me in welcoming Jen! You can reach her at jen.holt@oregonstate.edu.

Keeping Bees In July

Karessa Torgerson

In most parts of Oregon, July brings the end of the nectar flow and the beginning of dearth. A few timely actions taken by a proactive beekeeper can do wonders to relieve colony stress and increase a colony's likelihood of surviving the winter.

The end of the nectar flow means bees will not be drawing out wax or bringing in loads of wet nectar to cure. If you haven't already started consolidating frames, do so now by rearranging honey supers where possible. Remove empty and nearly empty frames so that the remaining boxes are filled with full ones.

By the end of July you should be ready to harvest honey. If this seems early, keep in mind that most colonies don't gain much harvestable weight after the end of this month.

More importantly, your bees will fare much better in the seasons to come if you can get any needed Varroa mite treatments done before mid-August. If you can knock the mite levels down at the beginning of the beekeeping new year (August 1), your current bee population can foster a generation of well-nourished bees that have not been compromised by mite infestations and mite treatments. The workers will have longer lifespans and should be more resilient to the stresses of winter, the winter brood will be healthier, and even the spring bees will benefit from lower mite numbers at the start of brood-rearing season.

Before treating for mites, it is important to do a mite count. A powdered sugar shake or alcohol wash can both give accurate results. You can also use the sticky board method. There is an excellent video on how to sample mites posted on the Oregon State University Extension Service YouTube page.

A colony going into winter with high mite numbers is unlikely to survive. Many beekeepers are opting to treat for mites in fall when they count 3-6 mites per 300 bees, or a 1-2% rate of infestation. Colonies with counts even a little higher than that often appear to collapse from thriving hive to deadout in just a few weeks come August, September, or October.

Before choosing your treatment, consider factors such as: temperature, time available to treat, and the use of previous treatments. Formic acid, while effective and safe to use with honey supers on, can sometimes cause queen loss and other problems in high temperatures. Other treatments, such as synthetics and essential oil formulations, require that honey supers be removed before use. If your colony is missing brood due to a queen issue or swarm, it is advisable to do an oxalic acid treatment during the broodless period. See the documents section of the Oregon Master Beekeeper website for a handy breakdown of the pros and cons of the most common Varroa mite treatments. It is important to always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using any treatment. Failure to do so could harm your bees, compromise your health, or, in some cases, risk an increase in mite resistance to the treatment method.

More Tips for July:

The end of the nectar flow signals the beginning of robbing season. Vulnerable colonies can be plundered in a matter of days, and robbing also transmits Varroa and disease. To prevent problems, don't spill honey or nectar near your colonies nor keep them open any longer than you absolutely must. Cover open boxes and frames to prevent easy access. Reduce entrances on weak colonies and keep a robbing screen handy, just in case. Speaking of weak colonies, consider combining them with stronger hives if you can determine they aren't afflicted with Varroa or disease. Whenever possible, you want to "take your losses" in late summer and early fall instead of in the winter.

Continue supplying water for your bees if there isn't a dependable source available. This will keep your colonies from drawing the ire of birdbath watchers and swimming pool owners. A Honey Bee Biology article written by Dr. Wyatt Mangum and published to the *American Bee Journal* explains that keeping a nearby water source can also make a big difference for the hive; if a honey bee must fly a long distance to the water source she is able to carry less water. For water carriers making an average of 50 round trips a day, this small difference can really add up over the course of the season.

Ensure your colonies are queen-right while queens are still available. Don't forget to leave plenty of honey for the bees when you're removing honey supers.

Colonies in many parts of Oregon will need 80-100 pounds of honey to get through the winter.

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.](#)



USDA Resumes Honey Bee Diagnostic Services

(excerpt from the Bee Informed Partnership website)

A joint collaboration between the Bee Informed Partnership, the USDA-ARS Bee Research Laboratory and USDA-APHIS has been established in the short term to primarily provide for the diagnostics of honey bee brood for American foulbrood (and other brood) disease. We will also offer other pest and disease diagnostics for a nominal fee. Please see below for additional details including cost and shipping. As before, diagnostic reports will be transmitted to the individual submitting the samples and to the appropriate apiary inspectors.

Thank you for your patience and we are very happy to provide this service while we await full staffing of the USDA-ARS Disease Diagnostic Service.

Current Services & Costs: American Foulbrood (N/C), Nosema (\$10), Varroa (\$10), Tracheal Mites (\$32/16 bees)

Click link below for complete information and shipping costs.

<https://beeinformed.org/diagnostics/>

It is time 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. Look for future information on how to sign up. Stan Scotton will be the point of contact for volunteers wishing to participate.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 19 - Ohio State University Bee Lab Webinar “Bees in Your Backyard; Intro to Bee Diversity in the US”

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/>

July 19th - Linn Benton Beekeeping Assoc. Meeting

Topic: “Varroa Mites”, Carolyn Breece

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

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

July 21st - Friday in the Apiary

Location: OSU Apiary, Corvallis, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

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

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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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