



CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

November 2017

ISSUE NUMBER 20

NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 29TH, 2017

NEXT MEETING –November 29th, 2017

6:30 pm at the Newport Library

PROGRAM

Annual Club Christmas Party

Stan Scotton will be coordinating our honey tasting which will be a change from last year's honey competition. This year we are focusing on learning more about the various tastes of honey depending on where your bees found forage. So...if you extracted any honey we would love for you to bring a sample to help educate our palates. If you have more than one honey pull, a sample of each would be appreciated. If you did not get a copy of the form we are asking folks to complete to indicate a bit about their honey, we will have plenty at the meeting. Also will be holding our annual Christmas raffle and everyone will be going home with a bee or beekeeping related gift. If you would like to bring some items for the raffle or some Christmas goodies to share, please feel free to do so. Hope to see you there!

6:30pm – 8 pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY Rick Olson

Well, the bees should be cuddled up tight for the winter but the beekeeper has to continue to monitor and manage their livestock. Keep monitoring for honey stores and Varroa mites. Winter hive losses are typically the result of starvation or mites. Check out Morris Ostrofsky's article later in this newsletter for more detailed winter management ideas.

What an exciting beekeeper year we've had. We delivered dozens of nucs and packages to our members last spring. Nothing brings a bigger smile to a beekeeper than new bees! We hope to be offering the same great prices and delivery service next year.

Our volunteers did a tremendous job of working booths at the Lincoln Co Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale, the Oregon State Fair in Salem, the Florence Garden Club Plant Sale, the Lincoln Co Fair, the Lane Co Master Gardener Plant Sale and the Connie Hanson Garden Festival. Thanks to all our volunteers who made these events possible--Kathy, Anne, Stan, Max, Neill, Patti, Jon, Adam, Marion, Becca, Pat and Gaelyn. And thanks again to Kathy Cope, Patti Johnson and Jon Sumpter for their "To Bee or Not to Bee Class".

And who could forget the lineup of speakers we had this year. We're so lucky to be so close to OSU. We get access to a variety of experts in honeybee research. And don't forget Friday in the Apiary--hands on beekeeping experience at no charge!

We were also well represented at the Oregon State Beekeepers conference in Silverton this year where we had ten attendees from the club. Max won the blue ribbon for best "white" honey.





Next year's conference will be at the Salem convention Center--a little closer to the coast. It's a great way to hear speakers who are tops in their field. Our knowledge of honeybees and beekeeping is evolving so fast these days--the conference is a great way stay on top of this fascinating field.

This is our last newsletter for 2017 so see you next year--may all your holidays be jolly and all your hives survive the winter.

It's Flu Season

By Dr. Dewey M. Caron

The CDC estimates 40 - 50,000 thousand humans will die of the flu in the U.S. this winter with compromised immune systems and health complications like diabetes, COPD, and high blood pressure. Individuals in group settings (travelers, commuters, hospitals, and nursing homes), individuals in families that have school-age children, and individuals that fail to get their flu shots are most at risk.

This is also true with our pets and livestock. Flu, i.e. virus infections will sicken our animals and some that we value will not be able to fight off one more "bug" as weather becomes colder and wetter which is so typical of fall, winter and spring. Virus infections can be devastating to individual honey bees and entire bee colonies in a manner that makes their chances for survival until the better weather and food conditions arrive next spring very limited. On average over 40% of colonies of backyard beekeepers and 28% of commercial colonies might be expected to not survive, based on the past 11 years of Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) survey data. Last season 48% of Oregon backyard colonies did not survive winter.

We know honey bees have a large variety of viruses. Some may reach epidemic proportions and affect numbers of colonies in an apiary or region of the country. Other viruses are of lesser significance and only result in death of individuals in a colony. We lack a flu immunity shot for bees. As bee colony stewards, we need to consider control of the varroa mite, vector and enhancer of several serious viral infections that our bees might be exposed to if we wish to improve overwintering success.

The most serious virus of bees is Deformed Wing Virus (DWV). When pupae are infected, often as a consequence of being fed on by reproducing varroa mites confined within a developing pupa in capped brood cells, they may emerge with deformed wings. If we see adult bees with deformed wings it potentially means there is an epidemic of this virus in the colony. We are seeing only the "tip of the iceberg".

This virus of honey bees is not deadly enough to kill immediately. Deformed adults do not immediately die upon emergence from their capped cells, but are cared for and thus serve as a source of infection for their adult caregivers. Adults that get DWV lack symptoms (their wings are normal), but before they die (which is dependent upon how much virus they have in their bodies and how compromised their immune system might already be), they in turn infect other healthy adults, who, when they feed their larvae, serve to infect them in turn. More and more individuals get sick and there is the equivalent of a flu epidemic. If weather permits, sick adults exit their colony and, primarily via drifting, take their sickness to other colonies in the apiary and to surrounding apiaries and the epidemic spreads in the area.

As with the Asian flu in humans, there are strains of DWV virus in bees. One strain considered more "virulent" is the DWV B strain. Another strain is relatively avirulent. DWV is found in 90% of samples analyzed by the BIP (Bee Informed Partnership). Recent sample analysis has found 64% of all samples are VDV-1 virus (Varroa destructor virus) which is also considered highly virulent for bees. This virus was found in only two samples stored in freezers from 2010 indicating it has recently become more common. VDV-1 is an RNA virus under the genus iflavirus. Other iflaviruses include Sacbrood virus, Slow Bee Paralysis virus and Deformed Wing virus.

I trust your bees are prepared for whatever flu epidemic occurs and we don't have a repeat of the heavy winter losses of last winter.

KEEPING BEES IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Morris Orlofsky

As we approach November/December there are a number of management tasks we should consider. By this time you have done your fall inspection and the bees are settling in for the winter. It is usually a waste of resources to try to keep weak colonies going through fall and winter. Combining weak hives into one hive gives the bees more of a chance to survive the winter. My suggestion is to use the newspaper method to do this. Make sure that the uppermost box is provided with a ventilation opening when you do this.

If you have not done so already, remove queen excluders and add mouse guards.

While counterintuitive, it is not the cold but moisture that should concern us. As Rusty Burlew of *Honey Bee Suite* (honeybeesuite.com) says, there is a big difference experiencing a cold day with wet versus dry gloves. Wet gloves can lead to frost bite while dry gloves keep you comfortable. The temperature is the same but the moisture is the difference.

With that being said, think about this as you prepare your hives for winter. There are various ways to vent excess moisture from the hive. I have found the use of an insulated box containing burlap or other absorbent material, such as old towels, to be very effective. The insulated box serves a dual purpose; it keeps the bees dry as well as warm.

Start with a box that has the same footprint as a standard box. Then add some half-inch screened ventilation holes on the sides, and cover the holes and bottom with one-eighth-inch hardware cloth to keep the absorbent materials in place. Position the box just under the outer cover. Check the absorbent materials once or twice over the winter and replace the absorbent material as needed. It is fun to see what you find in the insulation box in spring. I have found mushrooms, worms, and even a frog once. Early spring is when I remove the insulation box.

Adding an upper entrance can also assist the venting of excess moisture. Additionally the sticky board can be used for additional moisture control. The objective is to provide ventilation while at the same time helping to block cold winter winds. Push it in roughly halfway under the screened bottom board. This position is similar to what would be done for a mite count except it is pushed in half way.

By November the bees should have stored approximately 80 pounds of honey. Less than this amount signals that continued feeding is necessary. According to Ann Harman, a frequent contributor to *Bee Culture*, when day time temperatures are consistently lower than 57 degrees F, we should switch from a liquid feed to a solid feed. With temperatures lower than 50 degrees F, the bees have a more-difficult time metabolizing sugar water and evaporating off excess moisture in the syrup. This is the time for fondant or candy.

Fondant is usually associated with spending time over a hot stove. An alternative is no-cook candy. Rusty's *Honey Bee Suite* site has a recipe for no-cook candy. I find it a simple and effective way to feed the bees during winter.

Leftover candy canes make a sweet, life-saving holiday gift for your bees. (Right after Christmas is a good time to buy them, usually at half price.) A frame of honey from a KNOWN, healthy hive is also an excellent source of food during this time. Continue to check stores periodically.

During fall/winter the temperature occasionally reaches 50 degrees F or more. You should see your bees out doing cleansing flights. With weeks between cleaning flights, what a relief it must be for the bees! On these days, if you notice that a hive is inactive, it bears closer examination. Lightly tap the side of hive and listen for a response. If you find this hive is a dead out, examine the combs for scales of American Foulbrood. If you have any doubts, send a sample to the bee lab in Beltsville, Maryland, for confirmation.

Entrances should be reduced to prevent robbing and yellow jacket harassment. The entrance should also be periodically checked to make sure it is not plugged with dead bees. The undertaker bees don't carry bodies out very far when it is cold; they can pile up at the entrance.

November and December provide a late-season window of opportunity to deal with the dreaded Varroa mite. After Thanksgiving the colony should be broodless. If your mite counts are still above one percent, this is when you can use oxalic acid because there is no brood that it can harm. For the last two years, I have used oxalic acid in the fall resulting in mite counts at almost zero percent the following spring. This is my newest beekeeping best friend. Please keep in mind that while oxalic acid is a great tool, it must be used at the appropriate time of year and safety. With that in mind, I highly recommend the dribble method versus vaporizing. Although vaporizing is slightly more effective, I do not think it is worth the risk it poses to the beekeeper.

Once the bees are tucked in for the winter, it is a good time to attend scheduled conferences and to evaluate what you learned this year and make plans for next. Winter is also the time to build bee equipment and gizmos/gadgets. It is also a great time to read about bees and beekeeping. I have found *BEEkeeping: Your First Three Years*, a newer publication from A.I. Root, to include valuable information even for someone like me with 49 years of beekeeping experience

DISCOUNTS FOR CLUB MEMBERS !!!!

Need A Few more Items To Prepare For Next Year's Bee Season?

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm is offering a 10% discount to Bee Club members that can be used online, over the phone or in their retail store in Wilsonville. To receive the necessary promo code, they require that we send them your first and last name and your e-mail address. If you are interested in being on their list, respond back to the club's e-mail address by December 1st and they will send the discount code to you by e-mail.

An Upcoming Beekeeping Educational Event **WITH** Discount for Club Members !!! An awesome [Trifecta Beekeeping Event](#), sponsored by **Brushy Mountain Bee Farm** and **BG Bees**, will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at the Best Western PLUS Hood River Inn in the Columbia Gorge, Hood River. Guest speakers include:

- **Thomas D. Seeley** presenting
 - *Darwinian Beekeeping*
 - *The bee colony as a honey factory*
 - Dr. Seeley is a biologist and writer and a professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University. He teaches courses on animal behavior and does research on the behavior, social life, and ecology of honey bees. He is an avid beekeeper and began keeping bees while a high school student, when he shook a swarm into a box and brought it home. His scientific work is summarized in four excellent books: *Honeybee Ecology* (1985), *The Wisdom of the Hive* (1995), *Honeybee Democracy* (2010), and *Following the Wild Bees* (2016). You will remember Dr. Seeley's engaging and informative presentations from last year's OSBA conference if you were able to attend.

- **Andony Melathopoulos** presenting
 - *Where is the Value of Valuing the Pollination Services of Bees to Agriculture?*
 - *Doing the Multiplication: Expanding your apiary the old school and "the Next Generation" way*
 - Dr. Melathopoulos is an Assistant Professor of Pollinator Health Extension in the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University. His work at OSU comes out of a mandate from the Oregon Legislature to create a state-wide pollinator safety and outreach program. Prior to coming to OSU, he was a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Biology at the University of Calgary working with Shelley Hoover and Ralph Cartar on canola pollination. He holds an Interdisciplinary PhD from Dalhousie University (2015) and a Master of Pest Management from Simon Fraser University (1999). Formerly he worked as the chief technician in Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Apiculture Research program (2000-2012).

- **Alison McAfee** presenting
 - *Honey bee necromones: finding the brood cues that stimulate hygienic behavior*
 - *Why are scientists making transgenic honey bees?*
 - Dr. McAfee is a Ph.D. working in Dr. Leonard Foster's Laboratory studying the mechanisms of hygienic behavior in honey bees.

In an effort to **partner with bee clubs**, we have been offered the opportunity to reduce the registration fee for our members by a special discount of \$10.00. Advance reservations are offered at a \$10 discount off the Early Bird pricing (\$85.69 - \$10.00 = \$75.69) but the tickets must be purchased in a block and ordered before January 15th, 2018. Hotel rooms are available at a group discount which includes a breakfast in the hotel's restaurant by specifying **BG Bees** at time of reservation directly with the hotel (855) 214-4563:

Room Type	Fri/Sat	Sun-Thurs
Non-View Single Queen	\$134.00	\$125.00
Non-View Double Queen	\$152.00	\$143.00
Riverview Single King	\$179.00	\$170.00
Riverview Double Queen	\$188.00	\$179.00
Executive Level Non-View King	\$170.00	\$161.00
Executive Level Riverview King	\$197.00	\$188.00

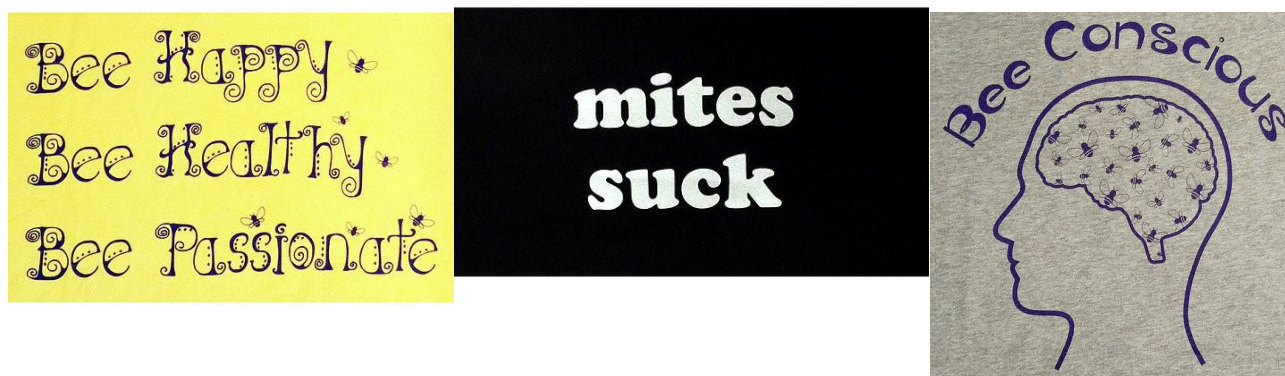
Additionally, there is a “pre-event” on Saturday, May 19th, where our Guest Speakers will be conducting “in hive” presentations for a smaller group at an additional cost of \$49.37.

Both events pricing includes a catered lunch.

This will be an excellent event for anyone interested in expanding their knowledge of honey bees, their behavior and how we can better support their health in our hives. If you are interested in attending, please send a check for either the Saturday or Sunday event or both to Becca Fain, 89135 Spindrift Way, Florence, OR 97439 so that it arrives by January 10th to insure that our block can get the \$10 discount. If you are interested in attending but cannot meet this deadline, you can go online at Brushy Mountain and reserve a place for \$85.69 from 1/15/18 – 3/31/18 or \$95.88 from 4/1/18 to 5/15/18 if there are still places available as only a limited number of tickets will be available.

Hello to all you Oregon beekeepers!

Bee Funny T-Shirts from The Beetanical Apiary are Now in Stock! These cheeky Bee Funny t-shirts were born out of their love of puns and a desire to give a little something extra to our amazing honey bee re-searchers at OSU. 100% of the profit goes right to Dr. Ramesh Sagili and his awesome team! Whether the shirt you buy has a famous quote or a clever inside joke for beekeepers, people in general will be curious and enjoy a little bee education/conversation. Follow this link to purchase: <https://www.beetanical-apiary.com/bee-funny-shop>.



(Sample Designs)

PolliNation

Andony Melathopoulos

It is hard to keep on top of all the initiatives associated with keeping pollinators healthy. These days, if you turn away for a busy summer of beekeeping you can be sure when you reemerge there will be a crop of interesting new programs, books, laws, science, and more. We are living through a truly dynamic moment in the history of bees and people, but to keep on top of it all is necessarily a full-time occupation.

Pollination is a podcast about people making bold strides to improve the health of pollinators. Launched by Oregon State University in May 2017, it is designed to get a handle on what is new and interesting in the world of pollinator health. Each week we host a guest for a 30-45 minute conversation on the fascinating work they are doing on some corner of the pollinator health puzzle.

Over the past 30 episodes, we have talked to beekeepers, book authors, conservationists, landscapers, and scientists, as well people who are a little more off the beaten track (e.g., a sociologist, an artist, and a golf course superintendent). Listeners have told me the episodes pass the time as they drive, garden, or wash the dishes. The podcast is ecumenical, so while honey bees are frequently featured, there is also information on native bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Our favorite honey bee-only podcast is *kiwimana Buzz Beekeeping*.

There are two ways to listen to *Pollination*:

The easiest way is to subscribe to episodes directly on your phone using iTunes or an equivalent Android app (e.g., Pocket Casts, Google Play Music, Stitcher, Spotify). To subscribe, just type "Pollination" into the search bar and hit subscribe. Once subscribed to the podcast, you will get a free new episode downloaded to your phone each Monday morning, allowing you to download while in WiFi range and listen while you are out of range without using data .

You can also go directly to the website [<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/pollinationpodcast/>], where you are able to stream whichever episode you like.

My takeaway from Dr. Susan Colby's presentation at the OSBA

Conference

By - Stan Scotton. A hobby beekeeper in Lincoln City with five colonies. He has been a beekeeper for seven of eight years.

Dr Susan Colby is at Washington State University and a member of their WSU Bee team. Her presentations focused on her work of enhancing the honey bee stock and improvement of colony health through breeding. At WSU she runs the Honey Bee Insemination Service. Her project involves collection and incorporation of germplasm (semen) from superior stock around the world into domestic breeding programs. The New World Carniolan program is hers. I first heard of her when she was at the University of California-Davis with the New World Carniolan Project. Her queens are part of the queen stock of many of the west coast queen breeders including John Jacobs in Rogue River and many of the queens we get from California like Parks and Olivares.

The main highlight I got from her first presentation was reinforcement of three conditions we have on the coast that make queen rearing difficult.

Lack of colonies (including feral)

Lack of a diverse drone population

Poor mating conditions (the weather)

In her second presentation she talked about their most recent trip collecting germplasm (semen). This year they went to Italy, Slovenia, Georgia, and Kazakhstan.

Italy for *A. Mellifera Ligustica* (commonly called Italian Honey Bee), Slovenia for *A. Mellifera Carnica* (Carniolan Honey Bee), Georgia for *Apis Mellifera Caucasica* (Caucasin Honey Bee) and Kazakhstan for *A. Mellifera Pomonella* (new sub species from the mountains of Central Asia: the apple pollinator)

At her third presentation she talked about the issues inherent in the decline of honey bee genetic diversity in the US. The 1922 Honey Bee Act restricted importations of bees into the US which basically eliminated new genetic strains. This lack of genetic diversity contributes to colony health issues as greater diversity allows for selection of important traits (productivity and resistance to pests and diseases. It was distressing to hear that in 1993-94 most of the bees in the US descended from 603 mother queens. That number dwindled to 473 in 2004-05. That is a loss of 130 in just about ten years.

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

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

President – Rick Olson

Past President – Nancy McDowell

Co- Vice President – Anne Schatz

Co- Vice President – Kathy Cope

Treasurer – Stan Scotton

Secretary – Rebecca Fain

At Large – Patti Johnson

At Large – Jon Sumpter

At Large – Neill Crawford

