



CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

October 2017

ISSUE NUMBER 20

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 25TH, 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rick Olson, Club President

My bees have devoured lots of protein and syrup this fall. They should have a full stock of nutrition and a good population of fat bees for the winter. Except for adding fondant and a late treatment of oxalic acid in December I'll leave them alone. Just a check now and then to make sure they haven't depleted their honey stores. Remember to remove queen excluders and start thinking about putting moisture boxes on as the rainy season begins. Then keep your fingers crossed.

The scholarship for registration for the Oregon State Beekeepers conference at the Oregon Gardens in Silverton was awarded to Gaelyn Mathews. We are very excited that so many of you will be joining us in Silverton later this month for this exceptional opportunity to hear nationally known beekeepers and researchers to learn more about how to successfully raise our bees.

Hope you caught Lynn Royce's talk at our last meeting--tree hive bees. We are sure lucky to have such a great pool of speakers in Oregon. Don't miss our next meeting--Becca, Mark and Stan will be giving talks and demos on products of the hive. You'll get to make and keep lip balm and soap products.

Just a reminder that November's meeting will be held on the fifth Wednesday of the month, November 29th, as opposed to our regular 4th Wednesday due to Thanksgiving. This will be our annual Christmas party with gifts for all, goodies to eat and our annual honey tasting.

NEXT MEETING –October 25th, 2017

6:30 pm at the Newport Library

PROGRAM

Products of the Hive

Stan Scotton will be discussing honey, pollen, propolis and royal jelly; Mark Aiassa will be sharing information on collecting and processing wax; and Becca Fain will be demonstrating honey soap and wax lip balm making and everyone will get a sample to take home.

6:30pm – 8 pm

Good News About Honey Bees

by Dr. Dewey Caron

Good news on colony losses in 2017. “Fat Bees” are important for overwintering survival and good weather is extremely important for rearing FAT bees in the fall and early spring because it will mean plentiful pollen which is important for fat bees. In studying data from the 2017 state reports, it is noted that colony losses were down this spring due to our early spring weather.

The Rusty Patched bumble bee was officially listed as an endangered species on March 21, 2017 and this is a *Good News*.

The *Good News* on mite controls is that both chemical and non-chemical controls work, but require smart beekeepers and timely use of the controls. The best source for information on controls is from the Honey Bee Health Coalition, *Tools for Varroa Management*. There are videos on sampling and how to use the various controls. (*Tools* is posted on the CCBA website and also at www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/). *Tools for Varroa Management* recommends an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) approach that begins with the use of non-chemical methods, and if numbers become elevated, then use chemicals to knock the numbers back. This would be a consistent with working toward treatment free mite control. Responsible

beekeeping advocates and teaches Langstroth hive beekeeping and pro-active mite control because if left unchecked mites will eventually destroy ALL (or nearly all) colonies. Most individuals would never consider purchase of an animal (pet; livestock) and then leave it alone to fend for itself – animals (including honey bees) in our care need some minimal care of feeding/shelter/water/human assistance. It then stands to reason that we SHOULD NOT consider becoming a beekeeper unless we are willing to provide “reasonable” care –stewardship is much more than just putting them in a box (hive) and then not feeding or using mite control (If mite numbers get out of hand). Responsible beekeeping is not allowing the bee colonies to be infested with mites and die just because we can replace them relatively inexpensively with a new nuc or package next spring. Those mite infested colonies will share their mites with other colonies so we must be responsible to our neighboring beekeepers. Unfortunately that is what is happening, and is one of the reasons for winter losses. For good health we need to control the mites to avoid virus epidemics in colonies. Among the most serious virus is DWV, deformed wing virus. This virus doesn't kill the larvae, but when they emerge as adults they display the deformed wing symptom and live long enough to pass on the virus to their sisters and also to other colonies. They do not live as long as healthy bees and do not perform at peak levels. Colonies with high numbers of virus-infected bees collapse in the fall from the condition termed PMS - Parasitic Mite Syndrome.

The Good News information on our battling of bee viruses comes from various sources. See this interesting YouTube video on Ron Hoskins. The video explains how his bees are holding their own by using survivor stock and by not treating.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?=youtube+video+of+ron+hoskins&view=detail&mid=953849625550414175C7953849625550414175C7&FORM=VIRE>

There is a new bee disease, Ss1, which is a bacteria transmitted by varroa mites. It has been found in sick bees in hives in Wisconsin and Minnesota and in 50% of the mites. This may play a role in winter die-off. The *Good News* is that we are finding bees better able to help themselves fight mites and therefore viruses by using hygienic stock.

The Good News is that there is no one correct way to keep bees. It depends upon your objective, the season and also on mite numbers. If you are hands off (treatment-free) you accept responsibility to continue to purchase new bees as the mites eliminate all your susceptible stock or you can choose to use *mite controls for lower winter losses*.

Good News from Api 137 is a possible new antibiotic for humans from bees.

<http://www.ajpb.com/news/honeybeecompound-shows-promise-in-antibiotic-development> and <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/09/170906170622.htm>

Is there is a bee crises? I suggest that you read an article in Reason.com by Shaun Regan:

<http://reason.com/archives/2017/07/19/how-capitalism-saved-the-bees/1>. The problem, some

say, is with backyard or novice beekeepers. Michael Scott, a Pennsylvania beekeeper provides such argument to Jason Levan for his article "Novices Pose Biggest Threat to Honey Bees, Local Keepers Say". https://www.indianagazette.com/news/novices-pose-biggest-threat-to-honeybees-local-keepers-say/article_21791338-6459-11e7-9fe2-eb4a5a3f012d.html

However, for a completely different opinion see "Can Hobby Beekeepers and 'Bee Evangelists' Save the Ecosystem" by John Russo of a lavender farm in CA, Sierra Mag September. <http://sierraclub.org/sierra/green-life/can-hobby-beekeepers-and-bee-evangelists-save-ecosystem>

Bad News - Most of the honey in use in U.S. is imported and some of it is adulterated and/or ultra-filtered. Bee Culture Magazine editor Kim Flottum does an annual honey report. Information from his summary of 2016: <http://www.beeculture.com/u-s-honey-industry-report-2016/>. The **Good News** is that Local honey sells for a decent price, is sought after and is unique. Local artisan, locally sourced, specialty honey examples (many offered on internet) were Bee Local, <https://www.beelocal.com/>, in Portland Oregon, Glory Bee in Eugene and many more.

Pesticides: It was difficult to find **Good News** about pesticides and bees. Pesticides are useful for beekeepers to combat mites and for growers to produce high quality, inexpensive crops and food. Pesticides are not going away, but we still need to do better to protect bees when we use pesticides. The 'poster child' of misuse was the Wilsonville Bumble Bee kill of June 2013. For details see my Bee Culture article <http://www.beeculture.com/pesticide-causes-massive-bumble-beemassacre/> or information from Xerces www.xerces.org in Portland. The **Good News** from the Wilsonville kill incident was the public outcry and energizing of environmentalists, banning of the two neonicotinoids involved in Oregon and fining of the applicator plus an Oregon Legislative Task Force that has resulted in passage of three new bee health initiatives and hiring of a new Extension Bee Health specialist Andony Melathopoulos, Assistant Professor of Pollinator Health Extension, Oregon State University.

We also hear a good deal about use of seed coatings (neonicotinoids on corn for example) which have apparently caused serious problems for some beekeepers. For more information: <http://www.agriculture.com/news/crops/purdue-study-corn-seed-treatment-insecticides-pose-risks-to-honey-bees-yieldbenefits> and <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/widely-used-pesticide-is-a-buzzkill-for-honeybees/>.

Good News: Efforts continue to seek legislation on recommendations for pesticide use, planting flowers and providing habitat for bees. More information is available on the following links. Oregon Pollinator Protection Act 2017 SB 929: www.beyondtoxics.org/work/save-oregons-bees/ Ten pointers to help save the bees: <http://buzzaboutbees.net/save-the-bees.html> Xerces Society Wildflower Seed Mixes: <https://xerces.org/pollinator-seed/> Bee City USA: www.beecityusa.org/

Million Pollinator Gardens: <http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/>

I close with the *BEST NEWS* of all; there is more good information, more collaborations, more funding, more mentors and classes to learn beekeeping and more interest in the general public. Inquiring minds want to know how to start Beekeeping.

BUZZ FROM THE FIELD



In preparation for putting her bees to bed for the winter, Patti Johnson recently had Gaelyn Matthews and Pat Wackford over to demonstrate a sugar shake for mites. Remember to check for your hives mite counts before the weather gets too cold to open the hives to insure that they are strong enough to over winter.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. Log on to the conference website for the agenda and to register.

<https://orsba.org/12407-2/>

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