



CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

August 2018

ISSUE NUMBER 29

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2018

President's Message By Patti Johnson

It seems fall has snuck up on us. Cool mornings, hot afternoons and the leaves already changing color. Drones are being kicked out of the hive and bees are working extra hard to bring in water, nectar and pollen. Many of us have pulled supers and are extracting.

Now is the time to make sure the bees have good food reserves and if not, start feeding. While talking with a "third generation" beekeeper, he reminded me to think about pollen patties to help start making those "fat bees" for winter. It's also the time we need to be reviewing mite counts and treating. It is a busy time, for sure!

Those of us who enjoyed the club's picnic and field day last Saturday at Pat Wackford's had a wonderful time hearing how everyone's bees were progressing, how extraction was going, getting a peak at one of Pat's hives and finding the queen and having time to catch up with folks. So often in the monthly meetings, I am busy getting ready for speakers and answering questions and haven't had the quality time I would like, to get to know each of you better. This was a great opportunity to connect with folks and I would encourage you to come to the meetings at 6 pm for the hour of social time before we start to connect with your fellow beekeepers and to get the opportunity to ask your specific questions.

Special thanks to Pat Wackford for hosting us on Saturday and for being the chef behind the delicious hamburgers, hot dogs and brats! Here are some photos of our day.



We are starting to develop the club's Board for 2019 and are looking for interested club members to assist us in planning our meetings and addressing policy issues when they arise. You need not be an experienced beekeeper as it is important for us to have a variety of levels of expertise to ensure that we are addressing the needs of all our members at meetings. Please consider joining the Board and connect with Patti at the next meeting (or respond to this email) so we answer any questions and add you to the list of 2019 Board members.

Our September meeting is Wednesday September 26th at 6 pm at the **Newport Library**. We will be hearing from long time beekeepers, Max Kuhn and Rick Olson, on All things honey – including extraction and bottling, how honey is judged (what they are looking for) and why you should consider entering your honey in competitions, proper labeling, if you plan to sell any of your honey how to price it, etc. Some of you have had excellent honey harvests this year and it might be time to think about entering your honey at the State Fair or County Fair next year, so there is no time like the present to begin planning!

A Talk on Bees and Beekeeping

Sam Comfort worked for several years in commercial beekeeping across the country before starting Anarchy Apiaries in 2005. Through breeding queens from hardy survivor stock and experimenting with methods and hive designs, Anarchy Apiaries' mission is to 1) make more beehives than there are televisions, and 2) have a good time, all the time (with bees).

Anarchy Apiaries has about 600 hives and 300 mating nucs on the permaculture principal of minimal input; no treatments, minimal feeding, and do-it-

yourself hive boxes in New York and Florida. Anarchy Apiaries provides cold-hardy, survivor stock queen bee raised in both Florida and New York. They bring northern, mite and disease resistant alternative genetics to beekeepers any time of year.

Sam is the biggest topbar beekeeper in the Northeastern United States. He has a very large and entertaining store of beekeeping experience. Through teaching self-contained, self-reliant beekeeping, he hopes to make it more affordable, approachable, and enjoyable, as well as bring the means of production back to the beekeeper. We have been able to read of Mr. Comfort's beekeeping in *Bee Culture Magazine*, *The American Bee Journal*, and various state and local journals. Come hear and meet Sam in person. Sam will be visiting Eugene for a few days and he will speak at the Eugene Backyard Farmer at 2:00 PM, Saturday, September 22. The topics will include Treatment-Free but Not Stupid Beekeeping and Queen Raising in the Backyard. The Eugene Backyard Farmer is located at 501 Washington St, Eugene. Bill Wood, (541) 687-8211, www.beeologique.com



Mite-A- Thon

by Dr. Dewey M. Caron

Mite Check is an online platform that allows beekeepers to enter their sampling counts of *Varroa destructor* mites after monitoring using the powdered sugar roll test or alcohol wash. Participating in this online platform will provide critical information about the health of bees enabling us to see seasonal and geographic trends in mite populations across the country. This information might help develop effective mite management strategies and understand the risk of mites coming into colonies from other colonies in your area.

Beekeepers need know HOW MANY mites are in colonies under their stewardship. This can only be determined by sampling colonies for mites. It is recommended that Beekeepers sample bees in July, August, September and October as a minimum. If mite numbers exceed 2% to 3% in any colony, it is suggested that mite control follow. High mite numbers mean risk of poor overwintering of the colony, colony loss overwinter (to BEE PMS) or the chance of a "mite bomb" in which a colony with excessively high numbers of mites, spreads their mites to other healthier colonies.

The Mite-A-Thon is a Citizen Science Project of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC),

<http://www.pollinator.org/miteathon>, with support of Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC) <http://www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org> and the BeelInformedProject <https://beeinformed.org/>. This will be the second season of a coordinated mite counting effort to provide a "snapshot" of mite numbers in September.

The Mite-A-Thon goals are:

- 1) To raise awareness about honey bee colony varroa infestations in North America
- 2) Teach testing protocols and provide resources for possible management strategies.

See website www.pollinator.org/miteathon. The website to share sampling is www.mitecheck.com.

Saturday, September 8 to Sunday, September 16, 2017

Participation is easy and free. Test the level of mites present in your hive using either alcohol wash or powdered sugar roll. For detailed information on how to do sugar or alcohol mite sampling, view the Honey Bee Health Coalition *Tools for Varroa Mite Management* Guide (download free from <http://www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa> with accompanying videos). You can easily make your own mite test materials or if you prefer to purchase a mite sampling kit online from the University of Minnesota (www.beelab.umn.edu/bee-squad/resources-beekeepers/varroa/mite-kit) or purchase a commercial mite sampling device from one of the bee supply companies.

After entering count data, you can see results from sampling in August on the website. Data for highest county mite count is coded as:

- 0 - 3: Relatively low mite level, keep monitoring and managing (splitting, drone trapping, brood breaks, screened bottom boards) mite populations.
- 4 - 5: Intervention suggested (use of a miticide) to increase chances of colony survival.
- 6 - 10: Colony loss or damage likely so intervention is critical to prevent colony loss from mite infestation.
- 11+: Loss of colony likely. Intervention is essential to decrease the threat of horizontal transmission (spread) of mites to neighboring colonies, although colony at this mite level may not be salvageable.

Need further information CONTACT: <http://www.Miteathon@pollinator.org>,
or www.pollinator.org/miteathon
or Dewey Caron dmcaron@udel.edu

Thursday in the Apiary - Corvallis, August 16, 2018

We had a great turn out for Friday in the Apiary at the OSU Oak Creek Apiary that had been moved up to Thursday. We got to do hive evaluations and mite checks--essential at this time of year to ensure colonies make it through the winter. Ellen and Carolyn took us through check outs of colonies and how to prepare colonies for winter--treat for Varroa using MAQ pro strips and ensure hives have enough food stores for nurturing fat bees and get the colony through the coming winter.

There is a dearth going right now so it is imperative that hives be fed both sugar syrup (carbohydrates) and pollen substitutes (protein). We first checked a hive for mites using a sugar shake and found 26 mites/300 bees = 13%. This is extremely high and must be treated with no guarantee of survival. We then washed these bees in alcohol and found another 4 mites indicating that alcohol is more efficient at removing mites and thus more accurate than the sugar method. Carolyn recommended two MAQ strips to give the colony a stronger blast of formic acid than using two doses -one strip spaced one week apart.

We got to look at a ceramic pot hive as well. Basically, it's a small top bar hive. Hard to treat and evaluate for mites. You also must use a crush and strain method to extract honey. It's an interesting experiment in hiving bees but probably not too useful for the backyard beekeeper. Over-wintering is doubtful. It will be interesting to check it out at future Friday In the Apiary meetings.

The big surprise was getting to work with a flow hive. They've been watching it closely all summer and we were there for the first harvest. We tipped the hive back to get a good flow to the spigot. Charlie Vanderhueval who has experience with flow hives cranked the frames open and we waited with anticipation. Then, ever so slowly the golden liquid oozed out, through the plastic tube into our half gallon jar. For everyone, including those doubters amongst us, we all became believers. We all got a jar of honey to take home as proof.

Once again, we all got firsthand experience with many interesting and pertinent seasonal honey bee topics. As Pat Wackford said, "I sure like going to Friday in the Apiary. I always see something new and learn a lot more." If you haven't gone to one of these very educational opportunities, you may want to schedule one in the future. The next Friday in the Apiary is currently scheduled for September 21st but check before going as the date will sometimes change.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

August 24-September 3rd – Oregon State Fair – OSBA still needs a few volunteers to assist in manning their bee booth at the State Fair. If you volunteer, you get a free parking pass and free entry into the fair. To volunteer, please contact Bonnie King – bonjking@gmail.com. Working the booth can be great fun. Just ask Max Kuhn, Rick Olson and Becca Fain who covered the booth on the first day of the fair and got to chat with folks, help them find the queen in Max's observation hive and give out honey sticks. Even if you are unable to volunteer, but plan to go to the fair – don't forget to check out the bee booth!



Sept 15th - Tom Seeley Event Location: TBD somewhere in the Portland area Cost: Early Bird by Aug. 15th \$40, after the 15th \$50 Sponsored by: Portland Urban Beekeepers Assoc. For more information: <https://portlandurbanbeekeepers.org/seeley2018/>

Sept 22nd – Sam Comfort Location: Eugene Backyard Farmer – 501 Washington St., Eugene at 2 pm – Treatment Free but not Stupid Beekeeping and Queen Raising in the Backyard

October 26th – 28th Oregon State Beekeepers Association annual conference at the Salem convention center.

For more information visit the Oregon State Beekeepers Association webpage and click on “2018 Conference” <http://orsba.org>

APIMONDIA 2019 congress which will take place in Montréal from September 8 to 12, 2019 www.apimondia2019.com.

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Rebecca Fain – Newsletter Editor

Board members of the organization, identified below, can also be reached at www.centralcoastbeekeepers@gmail.com

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Past President – Rick Olson

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