



CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

November 2018

ISSUE NUMBER 32

NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 28TH, 2018

President's Message By Patti Johnson

As I write this article, there are less than 50 days left before the New Year. My prep work for winter is done. The hives are heavy with stores, the bees had mite treatments twice in the last three months, the moisture boxes are on, and every everything is strapped in place for unexpected gusts of wind. But I must admit, I still have some uneasiness. It's mid-November, and bees are still bringing in large quantities of pollen and taking advantage of the warm sunny afternoons. That's good, right? But it does make me wonder, will all my work to make "fat bees", have been premature? And with mite counts still higher than then recommended, will it be too cold/wet for Oxalic acid dribble treatments in December, or too late for one in the early spring? Wow. I thought I was ready for winter, apparently not.

With that said, those questions most likely can be answered by someone in the club. Last month the meeting was dedicated to answering questions, and did it ever help some of us! But remember, there is a trove of experienced beekeepers that can help mitigate some of the worry by just visiting with them. This month we will have a holiday gathering and a chance to have refreshments, receive a beekeeping gift, bring our honey for others to taste and comment on its unique characteristics, but best of all, time to visit and share with one another... and perhaps have some of those lingering questions answered.

This will be the last club meeting for 2018, and we will take time to vote on new, incoming board positions. And, this will be my last club meeting as the President. So, I will take a moment to thank all of you that have attended, volunteered, and served on the board. You have helped to make the Central Coast Beekeeper's Association the respected organization that it is. See you at the party!

I hope to see you at the meeting!

Patti

As a reminder, it is time to begin thinking about starting a club membership or renewing your current membership, particularly if you want to order bees through us in 2019 as our suppliers require that all orders come from active club members. We will be prepared to accept dues at our meetings through the end of the year – remember that we do not meet in December – and as membership runs on a calendar year, your membership will run through the end of 2019.

Our November meeting is Wednesday November 28th at 6 pm at the **Newport Library**. We will be taking some time to celebrate the season with refreshments and a gift exchange. If you have any excess bee related equipment/supplies, please bring them to place into the gift exchange as something that you no longer need might be just what one of the other club member's needs!

Varroa: Werewolves or Vampires

by Rick Olson

What a weekend at the 2018 OSBA conference in Salem. The conference always offers cutting edge views of honey bee research and this year was no exception. We got an in-depth look at the latest findings on a wide range of topics. Of course, Varroa was the number one topic--there is good news and bad news.

Colony losses in the US between 2006 and 2013 averaged about 33% most all related to the four "P's": pathogens, poor nutrition (habitat loss and mono crops), parasites and pesticides. Many of these stressors weakened hives and allow Varroa to invade easier--they make bees less guardy and more robbly leading to higher infestation of weakened hives. Mites don't kill the bees, but they weaken them and pass a wide array of viruses. Pathogens and viruses reinforce each other especially in weak hives.

It was mentioned that Dr. Samuel Ramsey's research on Varroa has found that Varroa mites feed on the fat bodies of honey bees rather than the blood or hemolymph. So Varroa mites are werewolves rather than vampires! These fat bodies store nutrients, detoxifies pesticides, regulates hormone levels and produce the honey bee's primary immune response to microbial invaders. Easy to see that attacking the fat bodies weakens the entire colony especially the "fat" bees that are needed to sustain the hive through the winter.

Characteristics of Varroa mites include virulence, transmission (to a new host) and reproduction (within the host larva). So eventually we'd like to see an equilibrium develop between the honey bee and the Varroa population. Smaller, swarmy feral bees seemed to have reached this state with Varroa though these colonies usually are spaced approximately 1 km apart in the wild--not too practical for back yard beekeepers!

More bad news. A new virus, Varroa Destructor Virus or VDV, has been found to be a variant of DWV and has been renamed DWV-B. Some early indications are that it might be responsible for large winter losses in Europe. Control of Varroa through treatments and nutrition becomes more and more vital to ensure overwinter success of your bees!

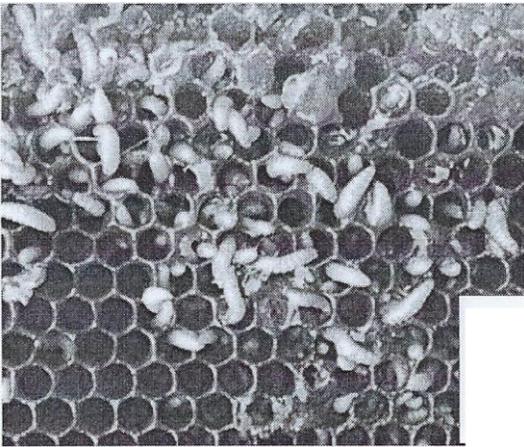
We also got lots of new and better ways of using oxalic acid. Research indicates that three treatments a week apart do not work when capped brood is present. Also, the shop towel method using glycerin does not seem to work at least in the south per Jenifer Berry's research. This may be due to the hot humid climate there where she does her research. It was recommended that sublimation be used on newly installed packages rather than the spray method that was all the rage last year. Oxalic acid dripped or sprayed directly on honey bees damages their exoskeleton whereas oxalic vapor is less harmful. For this reason, it's also recommended that the dribble method be used only once per year when there is no capped

brood. Do not use the calendar for your treatments. Go by the Varroa population. Treat all colonies at the same time due to drift and robbing issues.

Some good news is a new molecule is being worked on that combines oxalic acid and formic acid. It's good for 14 days and doesn't off gas.

Attention !!!!!

Small Hive Beetles have recently been discovered in the Eugene area. See article below from the Lane County Beekeepers newsletter:



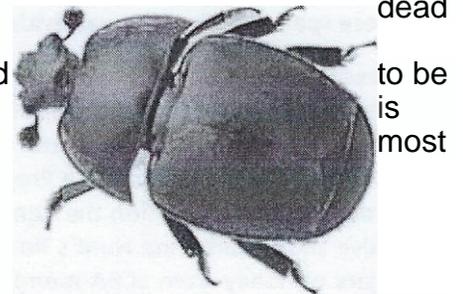
BEWARE of this Beetle!

by Ken Ograin

Another small hive beetle has been found in southwest Eugene and confirmed by the OSU Bee Lab, the second one this year. Back in July one was found in downtown Eugene.

So far only the beetles have been found and no larva. The one thing you can do is to not leave outs in the field or stored honey frames not protected. We all need

aware and do everything we can to not let these get established here. It said that a beetle can smell a hive from several mile away. These are likely coming from a commercial apiary that has been in California doing pollination services of the almond crop and has hitched a ride back to Oregon.



If you find a beetle looking anything like the picture, capture it and send the OSU Bee Lab for identification.

Small Hive Beetle will appear dark brown to black in color. The pom-poms on the ends of their antennas are very evident. Approx 3mm across and 10 mm in length.

Larva look similar to the lesser waxmoth, but unlike waxmoth they will be found in the honey and not brood comb.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, OPPORTUNITIES and ADs

FOR SALE

Health is forcing Mark Aiassa to sell his beekeeping equipment. He has all manner of wooded ware – boxes, frames, bottom boards and tops – available and may have just what you want in addition to this list if you ask. For additional information, call him at 541-563-6051.

FOR SALE

Hand painted English Garden bee hive with extra parts, a brand-new inner cover and a box of 14 western frames - \$250. Contact Marion Warfield at maemoon13@hotmail.com.

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Rebecca Fain – Newsletter Editor

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