



# CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

## October 2018

ISSUE NUMBER 31

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 24TH, 2018

## President's Message By Patti Johnson

I don't know about you, but I have struggled to control mites this fall. In talking to other beekeepers, the same holds true for them. Even the apiary at OSU has had issues with the high counts. So, if you haven't, it would probably be a good idea to do another mite check. Even after treating a few weeks ago, my bees have high mite counts and need another round. This makes me wonder about a few things that I might do differently.

Thank goodness our next meeting will be a question and answer session, and hopefully, some of those questions, answered. For others of you, your questions may pertain to feeding, different options to control mites, or maybe a discussion pertaining to an "I wonder if" kind of scenario.

Our club is fortunate to have some very knowledgeable beekeepers and in the upcoming meeting, they have agreed to try and answer as many of our individual questions as time will allow. To make this easier, and ensure folks have a chance to ask their specific questions, we will be working in smaller groups. So bring those questions that have been nagging you. It should be a good and informative meeting, and hopefully you will come away with your question answered.

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.

I hope to see you at the meeting!

Patti

**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 October meeting is Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the **Newport Library**. We will be breaking up into 3 groups – led by Max Kuhn, Rick Olson and Stan Scotton – to give you a chance to ask questions primarily about preparing for winter and helping our hives survive the upcoming winter. They will also be willing to respond to burning questions that you may have about any aspect of beekeeping. We rotate every 30 minutes so that you have the chance to ask questions of each of them as we know that there are not always right answers but what works best for an individual beekeeper.

## KEEPING BEES IN OCTOBER

*Harry Vanderpool*

October in Oregon is often time to make "last chance" decisions that can make the difference in our hives. However, many new houses have been painted in November in certain years due to sunny weather! Although every year is different, we should use our time wisely in October to give our bees, and ourselves, every chance for success.

October often presents the last opportunity to feed our hives. If we have done our job as beekeepers very well through the year but do not ensure adequate stores to make it through winter, all is lost.

Conducting final hive inspections in October gives us a chance to remove debris such as mite strips, queen cages, or ...?

Mark the hives that feel light and give them a few more shots of syrup if weather permits. Feeding syrup too late in the season when temperatures are below 40°F can result in fermented honey in the feeders and frames. Dysentery often follows. Frames of honey added to light hives should be placed in a position that respects the profile of the brood nest. We want to avoid dividing the brood nest.

Queenless hives can be combined or have nucleus hives installed. But special care must be taken to maintain the tight, consolidated brood nest and area above with stores.

Late-season sampling for mite levels, post treatment, gives very good information on the efficacy of treatments used. Many beekeepers like to perform an oxalic acid dribble, or a "fall clean-up" later in the year when the brood is at its lowest level. Sampling in October can help in the decision-making for such measures.

Mouse guards installed in the entrance are highly recommended to save your valuable comb through winter. Some prefer entrance reducers, which can exclude mice and protect the hive from cold, windy conditions. Mouse-damaged comb will often be drawn as drone comb in the next year. We want to avoid excessive drone comb as it will become a Varroa-breeding disaster in our hives.

Hive lids should be secured from gusty winds in some manner. Hives should be moved to high ground if flooding is an issue. What is the condition of your lids? Do they have cracks that will allow rain to trickle into the hive?

While insulation of hives is generally considered unnecessary in Oregon, many beekeepers cover pallets of hives with roofing felt or other materials in order to shed rain and snow. This really helps with moisture control as well as helps preserve hive

materials.

Once you have done all that you can do for your bees, how about doing something for the beekeeper? Sign up for the Oregon State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference. Do it now! A lot of very valuable information will be presented there that you just cannot afford to miss! Please remember, the OSBA Fall Conference is greatly improved by YOUR presence and fellowship there!

## OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY HONEY BEE LAB

*Jan Lohman*

What is the OSU Honey Bee Lab doing with our generous support? The OSBA received a thank you this month from OSU Foundation for our continued support of honey bee research, extension, and education to the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University.

In their thank you letter, they shared many of the things that the OSU Honey Bee Lab is doing with the funds that are donated to the Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education. I thought that our members would like to know where their donations go and encourage all of you to look ahead to the future of beekeeping and continue your generosity by continuing to support our hard-working Honey Bee Lab.

During the 2017-2018 year, expendable funds from this fund supported honey bee health-related projects by examining colony-level prevalence and intensity of *Nosema ceranae*. They tested Varroa mite treatments, investigated effects of pesticides and fungicides on colony health, and studied colony health in commercial beekeeper colonies pollinating crops on the West Coast. They also helped to formulate appropriate best management practices for beekeepers and growers to promote honey bee health in Oregon. Their efforts have led to significant changes in behavior among beekeepers and growers, and this, in turn, has led to improved honey bee health.

In the wake of deteriorating honey bee health and the absence of evidence to implicate a single factor, bee nutrition has attained greater importance than ever before. Their projects address a large gap in knowledge regarding effects of nutrition on honey bee physiology, health, and colony growth. In their survey, Oregon beekeepers who followed the nutrition management recommendations based on studies at OSU reported about 15 percent decrease in colony loss.

In collaboration with the OSBA, the OSU Honey Bee Lab initiated the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. This program has received overwhelming response from stakeholders, with a current enrollment of over 1,500 participants during its existence.

The funds have also provided training opportunities for several undergraduate students and research assistants.

This is just a small portion of what the collaborative efforts of the OSBA and OSU Honey Bee Lab can accomplish in the future, but of course it takes support from all of us. Please consider a donation to the Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education so that we are supporting our honey bees.

**Note:** To contribute to the fund, make check out to The OSU Foundation with Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education written on the memo line and a cover letter explaining the donation and repeating Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education.  
Mail to: The OSU Foundation, 850 SW 35th St, Corvallis OR 97333.

## Pollination - Myth or Fact? by Dr. Dewey M. Caron



Beekeepers are aware that the statement "If the bee disappeared off the face of the Earth, man would only have four years left to live" has been attributed to famous physicist Albert Einstein, responsible for the theory of general relativity. The phrase is a myth and Einstein never said it. The statement and attribution apparently first appeared in a 1941 Canadian Bee Journal.

Another statement also sometimes attributed to Einstein is: "Remove the bee from the earth and at the same stroke you remove at least one hundred thousand plants that will not survive." This too is myth that Einstein never said. It can be attributed to Maurice Maeterlinck, 1911 noble laureate. He is known to beekeepers for his *The Life of the Bee* (1901), a fanciful account of bees being critical to human civilization (and having human attributes).

But what about the statement that bee pollination is responsible for roughly 1/3 of the human diet? Is it fact not myth, although some of the variations are not entirely accurate. How have you heard the 1/3rd statement?

One-third of the foods we eat comes from bee pollination.  
Pollination is responsible for one of every three bites of food we eat.  
One of three mouthfuls are foods courtesy of bee pollination.

In my book, HONEYBEE BIOLOGY & BEEKEEPING (page 293), "Insect pollination", I write "[Insect pollination] represents about one-third of the total diet in the U.S.; about 10% worldwide". In talks I often have stated that pollination provides the color and variety in our diet, BUT 1/3'd is being a bit generous.

Support for 1/3rd includes estimates that 60% of global food production comes from crops that do not depend on animal pollination (corn, wheat, rice, etc) while 35% of crop production does rely to some extent on pollination. Operative part is "to some extent." Another estimate is without pollination, 3%-8% of the total global food production would be lost. The 12 major crops that worldwide furnish some 90% of human food - rice, wheat, maize (corn), sorghums, millets, rye, and barley, and potatoes, sweet potatoes, cassavas or maniocs, bananas and coconuts - are wind pollinated, self-pollinated or are propagated asexually or develop without the need for fertilization.

The source of the 1/3rd statement might have been the 1976 USDA Pollination Handbook. Sam (Mac) MacGregor wrote in summary, "one-third of our total diet is dependent, directly or indirectly, upon insect-pollinated plants." You can find this resource on the USDA Tucson website <https://www.ars.usda.gov/ARSUserFiles/20220500/OnlinePollinationHandbook.pdf>

Of course not all Americans eat the same diet. A CDC study revealed that only a little more than 12% of Americans consume the recommended daily amounts of fruits and 9% consume the recommended daily amount of vegetables. Percentages for individuals living in poverty and individuals between 18-30 years old are among the lowest. The two most commonly consumed fruit/vegetables - bananas and potato - do not need pollination.

Our diet ideally should be 1/3 of pollinated foods - the majority of which will remain courtesy of

honey bees. We have a ways to go to realize that fact, not myth, of the importance of pollination to our diet.

NOTE: I used <http://quoteinvestigator.com/2013/08/27/einstein-bees/> for Einstein myth. For 1/3rd information Buzzword article Fall 2018 American Entomologist <https://academic.oup.com/ae/article-abstract/64/3/134/5098349> and Genetic Literacy Project <https://geneticliteracyproject.org/2015/08/12/pollinator-myth-bees-responsible-one-third-global-food-heightening-crisis-like-7/>.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**October 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.apimondia2019.com).**

### 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.

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