



CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

October 2019

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NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 23RD, 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jon Sumpter

Central Coast Beekeepers' Association October Meeting

October 23, 2019, Newport Public Library 6PM meet and greet, about 6:30 meeting until about 8PM. Board meeting at 5 PM.

This month is nominations and voting for the board members and president. Please come, we need your input, suggestions and criticisms.

I thought winter was coming to the Oregon coast and our bees. I guess we get to have our usual late summer. I fogged my hives couple days ago and got a few mites. How was your fall mite control? Don't skip it. Your hives' winter survival depends on your actions this time of the year. (See article below.)

Oregon State Beekeepers' Association's fall convention is coming up and this time it's close by in Florence, Oct 25, 26 and 27th at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St, Florence, OR. Buck Bowlings received this year's attendance scholarship to the convention.

Oregon Master Beekeepers holds a Master Beekeeper Institute that Friday Oct 25th. It's free and we get to see what the OMB Master students are doing. We get to see what beekeepers like us are studying and their results.

If you have the time, come to “Friday at the Apiary” at Honey Bee Lab along Oak Creek in Corvallis, Oregon. Carolyn Breece and her staff do a great job relating the things that happen inside and outside of our bee colonies in preparation for winter. Decisions need to be made in a timely manner and Carolyn and friends help the new and experienced beekeeper to make decisions easier, why and when.



Tips from the Experts

At our September meeting, we had a question and answer session with two of our bee experts, Jon Sumpter and Max Kuhn (above), with the attendees also giving some great advice.

Q: Will bees be available through the CCBA this year?

A: Yes, the club is planning on it, probably taking orders around January.

Q: Are queens available for exchange or purchase?

A: It depends upon the time of year. Right now, queens are available from suppliers in Hawaii, which sells them all year. Florida also has queens available. Look for suppliers in the American Bee Journal or other reputable sources. Also, if you have a hive with no queen, you can move the bees into an existing hive that could benefit from more bees. Separate the new bees from the bees in the existing hive with newspaper. By the time they get through the newspaper, they will be familiar with each other.

Q: In an effort to get more organized, which frames should I keep or destroy?

A: You can use old brood frames for honey frames if they are free of chemicals. You can also keep using your frames if light passes through them. Dump any that block the light. A rule of thumb is to rotate out approximately 20% of your frames each year. Another tip is that you can remove the wax from the old frames and clean it by filtering out the black residue by pouring it through felt. Just don't squeeze the debris out of the felt!

Q: What do you wish you knew when you were starting out but that you learned the hard way?

A: Always have lots of supplies. If you have 2 hives, have enough equipment for 4, because if when you need more supplies, as in the case of a swarm, you won't have the luxury of waiting for it coming in the mail or enough time to go out and purchase it at a brick and mortar store.

Another tip is that frames can be very heavy, so instead of the 10 frame boxes, go for something smaller and more manageable.

Q: How can I get on a swarm list?

A: You can contact Neil Crawford who manages the CCBA's website. Master Gardeners and pest exterminators may also have swarm lists.

If you are called out to remove a swarm, make sure that the homeowner knows exactly what you are going to do. Proceed with caution especially if the removal involves any destruction of built structures such as walls. There also may be lead and asbestos so don't take on such a project unless you are a certified and licensed contractor.

Q: Has anyone noticed that the bees seem to be more aggressive this year?

A: Bees tend to be more aggressive in the fall. At this time of year, it is best to disturb your bees as little as possible. Make sure you're not wearing black (you may look like a bear to your bees). One beekeeper swears by putting vinegar on her face and hair to discourage aggressive bees.

Q: When should we put on mouse guards?

A: Now is a good time. If you have an opening of ½ of an inch or more a mouse can get into your hive. It is much easier to keep them out than to deal with them once they are in.

Q: How do you get rid of wax moths?

A: You can freeze your frames, leave them in light 24/7, or treat them with Para-moth. You can wrap the frames in Saran Wrap prior to freezing, or freeze them, then make sure they are completely dry after you take them out of the freezer and then wrap them. You can store them after freezing the inexpensive plastic boxes sold at Bi-Mart.

Q: My hives were loaded with propolis this year. Has anyone else noticed this?

A: Yes. If you can tolerate it, leave as much propolis in your hive as possible. You may need to remove some of it to enable you to work in the hive or for the safety of the bees. Hold off removing it until the spring, if you can.

Q: Any tips for winter weather protection?

A: If your hive is not full of bees, reduce the physical size of your hive. It is better to have a crowded hive. Take your losses in the fall and combine small hives, being careful not to include the queen.

Other comments included the bee bed in Slovakia – see the article below.

Are you ready to experience the healing power of bees?

Apihouse in Bratislava's Kačín offers bee therapy.



bee therapy house Apidomček (Source: Courtesy of Bratislava City Council)

Kačín is a popular recreational locality in Bratislava that now offers the Apidomček healing powers of bees. It was built by the municipal forest company Mestské Lesy v Bratislave for €5,000.

In the bee therapy house there are four bee hives, housing about 120,000 bees. The hives fill the house with healthy bee air suitable for therapy. The house's visitors do not come in a direct contact with the bees at any point during the therapy session.



“During therapy, the visitor lies on the bee hives, which form a bed, and inhales the warm air produced by bees,” said Zuzana Onufer, spokesperson of the Bratislava City Council.

The air in the house has high humidity, contains etheric oils, liquid wax particles, aerosol from flavonoids and propolis, enzymes, choline, and herbal hormones produced by bees. It is usually about 36 Celsius degrees in the house. The bee therapy cures a weak immunity system, problems with high blood pressure, allergies, asthma, eczema and in particular, diseases caused by stress.

The recommended time of relaxation is 20-30 minutes. It costs €15 per 30 minutes per person while large groups can get a discount. To schedule this therapy, contact info@balesy.sk.



The bee farm at Kačín with the bee therapy house Apidomček. (Source: Courtesy of Bratislava City Council)

The municipal forest company has been breeding bees since 2015. It has two bee farms – in the garden of the gamekeeper's house in Krasňany and at Kačín (on the road towards Lamač). It was inspired to build the bee therapy house by a secondary school in Banská Bystrica.

7. Aug 2018 at 20:20 | [COMPILED BY SPECTATOR STAFF](#)

And the Winner is...

Buck Bowling was the lucky winner of a 3-day pass to the Oregon State Beekeepers Association 2019 Conference in Florence. The pass has a value of \$150. It pays to attend the monthly meetings. Great advice, great people and lots of benefits!

More from Max Khun:

Brood Breaks – Another Tool in the Fight Against Varroa

When a break in the honey bee brood cycle happens in your colonies, whether natural, accidental, or a deliberate act orchestrated entirely by the beekeeper, an opportunity to treat with all varroa mites exposed (phoretic) is presented. In each of the three scenarios mentioned above, no brood will exist in the hive for a period of time. During this time, all varroa mites in these hives will be totally exposed, unprotected and vulnerable to whatever treatment you choose. Any product you might choose can be used. Remember, oxalic acid vapor can be used in any weather condition.

In the case of the first and second scenarios, close monitoring of your hives is necessary. Watching for signs of pending swarms and determining if and when the swarm occurs will help you determine when the colony is without brood. In the case of the accidental occurrence, close monitoring of your hives and being alert to changes of bee behavior is necessary and may alert you to an emergency queen replacement or a supercedure which may be taking place. When you find this situation watch the brood until the bees in all capped cells emerge. Then all mites will be exposed. Again, an opportunity is presented to you. Take advantage of it. Treat.

In the third scenario mentioned above, a beekeeper can decide to force a break in the brood cycle. This can be accomplished by preventing the queen from laying eggs or controlling when and where she lays those eggs. This useful tool is sometimes used when the beekeeper wishes to reduce the number of varroa in the colony without the use of chemicals. And indeed, a break in the brood cycle will slow the growth in population of varroa because the varroa mite is totally dependent on the brood of the Honey Bee for reproduction. If we limit the amount of honey bee brood, we also limit the varroa mite's reproduction. If a beekeeper chooses to use chemical treatments during this period without brood, while all mites are exposed, I believe the mite population in this hive can be reduced to a point near zero. This of course is a very desirable situation.

In the past if a beekeeper chose to create a break in the brood cycle, s/he would need to remove the queen from that hive or confine her in a cage where she could not, or would not, lay eggs. This creates problems with either the queen or the population due to the lack of queen pheromones, and/or brood pheromones. In either case, the colony was disrupted and unpredictable, but we now have another tool in our tool box that can prevent these problems. Now we have a "Queen Confinement System" which allows the beekeeper to confine the queen to a single frame of drawn comb. She still has the freedom to move about on both sides of the frame and continue with her egg laying and all

other queen functions. All hive activities can continue as usual because the queen remains in the colony. She remains in the colony until day 24 after her confinement. On this day all brood in the colony has emerged except for the brood found on the frame inside the confinement cage. Also on this day that confinement cage can be removed leaving no brood in the colony and leaving all varroa in the colony exposed and unprotected.

A brood break gives you the perfect time to treat your colonies with a varroa control product.

New Address

Please note that the club has a new address:

Central Coast Beekeepers Association, CCBA, P.O. Box 396, Seal Rock, Oregon, 97376.

Help us clean up the database

If you are getting more than one copy of this newsletter, or if you would like to stop receiving it altogether, please reply to this email and it will be handled. Thank you!