



CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

November 2019

ISSUE NUMBER 41

NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 20TH, 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jon Sumpter

Don't miss our end of the year celebration as our November meeting is our last for 2019. The meeting will be on Wednesday, NOVEMBER 20th (a week early due to Thanksgiving) from 6 pm to 9 pm at a new location -the Visual Arts Center in Newport, Oregon, 777 NW Beach Dr. (this is a one time only change of venue, we will be back at the Newport Library next January)

Directions: From 101, turn on NW 3rd towards the beach (west) and go to the end of the road (parking lot). It will seem you are going to drive onto the beach- the second parking lot is to the right. Our room is on that level.

We will have finger food/ appetizers (feel free to bring something to share), our annual Christmas raffle where no one goes home without something for their bees or for themselves (if you have anything that you want to include in the raffle, please bring it), a chance to taste honey from last year's harvest and brag a bit about yours (please bring a smallish container of your honey to share) and a special chance to hear our own Max Kuhn, who, as part of his masters level certification in the Oregon Master Beekeepers Program, has developed a queen caging system for mite control which he will demonstrate.

Oregon State Beekeepers Association (OSBA)

Kathy Cope
OSBA North Coast Regional Rep

Some of our members recently spent some worthwhile time in Florence at the Oregon State Beekeepers Conference, reconnecting with old friends, sharing stories and experiences and listening to some really good speakers. So I thought it would be a good time to say a little something about OSBA because although I'm sure everyone has heard of OSBA, I'm guessing not too many of our members know very much about the organization. And while I'm at it, I'm going to make a little plug for all of you to become members.

OSBA is directed by a board of directors made up of the officers as well as the regional representatives and club presidents. In this way, when they have their quarterly meetings, they are able to get direct input from beekeepers around the state. So why would you want to shell out \$40/year to become an OSBA member?

1. Well, the fall conference is a good start, a place where you can meet and listen to noted speakers like Tom Seeley, Alison McAfee, Michael Palmer, Elina Nino and many others you would normally only see on YouTube videos, as well as having a chance to compare beekeeping notes with other beekeepers all over the state.
2. The Beeline, a monthly publication with topical discussions by experts in the field as well as reports from other clubs around the state.
3. They maintain a statewide swarm call listing on their website.
4. Membership entitles you to four free online classified ads per year. What better way to get your ad out to beekeepers all over the state?
5. Clubs that have at least five current OSBA members are eligible for coverage by OSBA's insurance policy for approved club events, something the club might never need, but if it did, could mean the difference between the life or death of the club.
6. OSBA is the principal supporter of the OSU Bee Lab as well as several other projects around the state. In addition to their own contribution, they will match any club contribution up to \$500 each year.
7. Becoming a member is a way of supporting an organization that, whether you realize it or not, fights for you. They are the ones who appear before state and local legislators to lobby for more responsible pesticide laws and before city councils to change ordinances that ban beekeeping in city limits. Mike Rodia, who came to one of our meetings to talk about the Best Practices publication that he helped develop, Harry Vanderpool and others have gone to bat for countless beekeepers who have run afoul of outdated regulations and misunderstandings on the part of city planners regarding beekeeping. Mike has never lost a case. While you may never need this service, it's good to know it's there for you. I really urge you to support OSBA with your membership so that it can continue supporting you.

Supersedure vs. Swarm: How to Identify Queen Cells

Article from Dadant

One of the most frequent questions new beekeepers ask is how to tell supersedure cells from swarm cells. While at first it may seem difficult to tell these two types of queen cells apart, with a little help you'll find you can identify which one is which.

What is a Cell?

To understand the difference between a supersedure cell and a swarm cell, it is helpful to understand the terms and the function these cells serve in the hive. In its most general form, the term "cell" is used to describe any type of closed space created from wax by bees. Using this basic definition, a comb is simply a series of interconnected cells that are used to store honey and pollen and to protect developing brood.

Why Do Bees Make Queen Cells?

However, when beekeepers talk about cells, they are typically referring to queen cells. As the name implies, queen cells are where larva develop and mature into new queens. They are typically around one inch long, have rough surface texture, and are shaped like a peanut shell. Colonies usually produce new queens for one of two distinct reasons.

In the first case, the existing queen is not producing enough brood to keep the colony viable. This can happen when the queen is aging or ill, has run out of genetic material needed to fertilize her eggs, or has died. To keep up the colony numbers, the bees produce a new queen to take over the responsibility of laying eggs.

In the second case, the bees have determined that the colony is too large for their current hive. In this situation, a portion of the bees will prepare to leave the hive with the existing queen. Together, they search for a new location in a migration known as swarming.



Supersedure queen cells

What is a Supersedure Cell?

When a colony is raising a new queen to replace the aging, ill or missing queen, they produce supersedure cells. The new queen that emerges from the cell will take over from, or supersede, the old queen. To boost the odds of producing a healthy new queen, the colony creates several supersedure cells at the same time. In most cases, the first one to emerge will become the new queen.

Beekeepers usually find supersedure cells on the comb face, extending out from the surface and hanging downwards. With most varieties of honey bees, the colony will produce between one and three supersedure cells at one time.



Swarm queen cells

What is a Swarm Cell?

By contrast, swarm cells produce a new queen to take the place of the one preparing to leave the hive. Typically, the bees produce many swarm cells and the strongest of these new queens take over the production of new brood for the colony.

Most beekeepers report seeing three or more swarm cells of variable age in their hives. Unlike supersedure cells, bees typically create swarm cells along the margins of the comb when the colony is preparing to swarm.

To recap, a swarm cell is when there is an overabundance of bees in the hive and they need to swarm to create more room. The old queen leaves with part of the hive to find a new home. The new queen from the swarm cell stays to look over the rest of the hive. A supersedure cell is where the current queen is not doing her part in the hive and therefore the hive creates a new queen to take, or supersede, her place.

Don't be surprised if you see more than one queen cell in a hive. For all queen cell types, bees can make up to ten to ensure a healthy queen is born.

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!

