



# CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

April 2020

ISSUE NUMBER 48

NEXT MEETING APRIL 29, 2020

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Becca Fain

### HAPPY SPRING!!

**Hope that you all have been able to get out and assess your bees during this run of beautiful weather.** Sheltering at home has definitely been a bit of a challenge but let's hope the spring weather chases away the remnants of the coronavirus soon and we can all get back to business as usual.

Club members recently got new bees when we picked up and delivered nucs and packages last week. As you can see below, we practiced safety with gloves and masks even though my mask was lowered for a quick breath of fresh air!

With all the flowers in bloom, this year is shaping up to be a good honey year and the girls are out and about gathering beautifully colored pollen while the sun shines.



**Don't forget to sign up for our first virtual club meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>.** You must have a zoom account, which you can get for free at [zoom.us](https://zoom.us), to join and you also must sign up at the following link so that you will receive the login information to join Dr. Priya Chakrabarti Basu, Research Associate at the OSU Bee Lab. Priya will be talking about research findings regarding bee nutritional needs and what we need to be doing to assure that our girls get their needs met.

**You are invited to a Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: Central Coast Beekeepers Meeting**

**Time: Apr 29, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**Register in advance for this meeting:**

<https://oregonstate.zoom.us/meeting/register/vpcvd-GorzkvbYmQo3304HX64jnaEyQ1qg>

We will arrange a question and answer session with Max Kuhn, who was going to do our early session on feeding for the April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, at a later date as we will attempt to keep our virtual meetings to an hour. If you have any questions for Max, send them to the club email account: [centralcoastbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:centralcoastbeekeepers@gmail.com).

Our May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting will also be virtual at this point and a decision regarding how we handle future meetings from that point on will be made as more information becomes available regarding the coronavirus as well as what we hear from the Newport Library about their reopening.

Don't forget to participate in both the Bee Informed Partnership and the Pacific Northwest Honeybee surveys regarding bee health and survival as the data gathered has a significant impact on our management practices and the survival of our bees.

[www.pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/survey](http://www.pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/survey)

<https://beeinformed.org/take-survey/>

Also, Max Kuhn has donated 15 of his Queen Confinement cages to the club to use as a fundraiser. These cages are available for \$15. If you are interested in getting some, please contact Max at [t.maxkuhn@gmail.com](mailto:t.maxkuhn@gmail.com).





## Queens in our Spring Colonies

by Dr. Dewey M. Caron

It can be argued that the most important of the thousands of members of your bee colony is the queen. She is not a ruler and the workers are not her slaves (as the Greek and Roman writers of bees thought). She is the key to reproduction – both in laying eggs to populate her own family (colony) and in reproducing new colonies (via swarming). She has the total genetic library of her family and for reproduction of the colony – i.e. her eggs and the sperm she has stored (in the spermathecal) from her mating with several drones.

So in our spring management what should be our queen management? Short Answer: Every time we enter our colony, we should check on her. Here are some of the basics of that attention to the queen for the early bee season.

1. **March** First colony inspection for most of us. Important to know queen is present. We need to be looking for eggs and at the brood pattern of the colony.

**If NONE (Queenless)?** Combine colony with another that is queenright (if you have another hive). You can use the newspaper method.

2. **April - early:** If we didn't do it in March we will need to check this month that colony has normal functioning mature queen. Colony should be rapidly expanding.

**If NONE?** Combine colony with another that is queenright. Another option, if you have an overwintered colony that has eight or more frames of bees, is to transfer two frames of brood (one capped, one with eggs) to the queenless hive. Be sure to watch the weather three weeks later to confirm adequate making weather. Check three weeks later for "normal" egg laying.

3. **April - late:** You will have strong colonies and weak colonies. Strong colonies may need to be weakened to prevent swarming, especially if queen cells are present. Consider requeening weaker colonies if you do not need lots of honey.

**IF NONE (OR WEAK)?** Transfer one or more frames of mixed brood, the same as in #2 above so that the colony can rear their own queen as they are getting ready to swarm.

4. **May- early:** If you still have weak colonies that have not doubled initial size and now occupy most of the two boxes consider requeening. Reduce size of large colonies that are rearing queens.

**IF NONE?** Colony may be queenless due to swarm emergence - if only capped brood present wait one more week then recheck for eggs. Then, if no eggs, requeen with purchased queen. You can also try to transfer queen cell from colony that is rearing queens or provide frame of open brood so that the colony can rear a new queen.

5. **May – late:** If nectar flow starts or you expect it to start put on your honey supers.

6. **June:** Once the honey flow is finished, it is a great time to make splits – think about using all those worker bees to advantage rather than their eating honey. Use caged queens, queen cells or allow splits to raise queens. Splits can be overwintered or combined if not strong enough in August.

#### **Rule of Thumb:**

Requeen with new caged queen – look for eggs in 1 week

Requeen with capped queen cells - look for eggs in 2-3 weeks

Requeen with open brood – look for eggs after month





## Mite-A-Thon Monday

Resources for Beekeepers

The 2020 North American Mite-A-Thon will run on May 2nd-17th, and August 15th-30th. We will be sending out beekeeping resources every Monday leading up to the start of the Mite-A-Thon on May 2nd. Help us reach as many beekeepers as possible across North America by sharing these hive monitoring methods with fellow beekeepers!

<https://www.pollinator.org/miteathon>

### Step 1) Learn how to do the Powdered Sugar Roll Test

Today we are featuring Varroa Mite Resources from the University of Minnesota, demonstrating the non-destructive powdered sugar roll test for your honey bee hives. Check out the brochure below to learn how to do the powdered sugar roll test in 8 easy steps.

**POWDERED SUGAR ROLL TEST**  
For Monitoring Varroa Mites on Honey Bees

**VARROA MITE TESTING KIT**  
For Honey Bee Health



To keep your honey bees healthy, it is important to monitor the varroa mite infestation level in each colony.

This test kit allows you to accurately estimate the number of varroa mites present in a colony—without harming the bees. Follow the instructions to take a sample of adult bees and use powdered sugar to dislodge and count the mites.

Proceeds from mite testing kit sales will go towards MiteCheck, a citizen science project.

For more information visit us online  
[z.umn.edu/mitecheck](http://z.umn.edu/mitecheck)





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[https://www.beelab.umn.edu/sites/beelab.umn.edu/files/varroa\\_brochure\\_final\\_print\\_2.23.17.pdf](https://www.beelab.umn.edu/sites/beelab.umn.edu/files/varroa_brochure_final_print_2.23.17.pdf)

## Step 2) Watch the Powdered Sugar Roll Demonstration

Watch Jenny from the University of Minnesota's Bee Squad demonstrate how to perform a powdered sugar roll test, and how to monitor Varroa levels in your honey bee colony.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UTseN3Em8>