CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

March 2023

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NEXT MEETING March 22, 2023

Speaker from OSU at our March 22nd Meeting

Join us on Wednesday, March 22, from 1:30-3:30PM at the Newport Public Library.

Emily Carlson, PhD Horticulture-Entomology from the OSU Bee Lab, will be the featured speaker at this month's meeting. She will talk about her research on pesticide hazards in pollen. Read more about Emily below.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Pat Wackford

I'm sure everyone is looking forward to warmer days to be able to check your hives. Here in Toledo, there was 7 inches of snow on top of my hives.

Temperatures have not gotten into the 50's yet but I'm anxious to take at least a quick peek. A full inspection should not be made until temperatures are in the 60's. Some things to think about at this time are checking your stored equipment and making sure it is in good shape for the new bees you may have purchased. If you use Para-Moth treatment for wax moths, you should air the frames out several weeks before using them. New bees like foundation with drawn comb which gives them a faster start. You should have already purchased the mite treatment you are going to use. Do a mite check as soon as there is brood. Pick up a couple hornet traps, the one that attracts queens, as well as workers, are preferred. If you are going to be catching swarms, think about what equipment you are going to use.

I received an email from OSBA, and they are ready to put together their Swarm List. Contact osba.newsletter@gmail.com . You will need to provide your name, phone #, and indicate if it is ok to text you. Also, provide the geographical areas that you can respond to and if you charge a fee to catch a swarm.

I received a call from Barbara Fisher at Crestview Elementary School in Waldport. She would like to have someone from our club come and talk to students about Honeybees. There would be about 19 students aged 6 to 10 years. Dates she has available are March 21st or 23rd between 3 and 4:30 PM. Please contact me at 541 272 0281 or pwacky@charter.net if you can do a presentation and I will pass the information on to Ms. Fisher.

This will be my last meeting as President of the club. I will remain on the Board as past President. Please be thinking of becoming President. I will help provide information as need. Thank you.

(And Thank You Pat for your leadership! – Ed.)

Emily Carson, PhD

I chose to pursue my PhD in Horticulture with a focus in Entomology because I find insects infinitely fascinating and because I value their impact on food production. Although I work directly with bees, I love all things creepy-crawly. Insects are all around us, all the time. On any city walk or an afternoon in your garden, you can find dozens of insect species without even trying! I am inspired to work with an animal group which always gives us more to discover.

Insects are the most diverse animal taxa ever in existence; by counts of number of individuals, number of species, and biomass…this earth really belongs to them. The sheer diversity of their life histories, ecology, and evolution is staggering. Yet, we

hardly ever spare a thought for them unless they are in our way. Understanding insect agroecology is exciting to me because it is a multifaceted issue.

Sadly, insects are also under threat from a myriad of pressures: Habitat loss, pollution (including pesticides), disease, and global climate change threaten to destabilize these organisms which are the foundation of nearly every terrestrial food web. I chose to major in entomology because I want to be part of the solution, balancing natural ecosystems and cultivated systems to conserve beneficial insects.

What she'll be speaking about:

Pesticide Exposure and Hazard Quotients: Understanding where pesticide hazard comes from in the landscape

Understanding where pesticide exposure happens in the landscape is critical to implementing the best management practices that will protect bees from unintended pesticide contact. But how do we even measure pesticide risk? What models are scientists using to understand how bees are exposed to pesticides and how does that impact real world management practices? In this talk, we will explore the finer points of pesticide exposure, hazard, and risk. Finally, we will discuss how research at Oregon State focuses on understanding the pesticide exposure associated with on and off crop forage. In 2020 and 2021, we collected over 300 pollen samples to understand how pesticide hazard changes to bees throughout a pollination circuit in sweet cherry, meadowfoam, clover, and carrot seed. This presentation will examine what pesticides are found in these environments and alternative forage within these systems.

The annual survey by Dewey Caron is now live

By PNW Survey Team

https://pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/2023/03/

The PNW Honey Bee Survey for the 2022-23 bee year is live and ready for your input! Please participate before May 1st @ https://pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/survey/ If you want a quicker survey experience please print the  note sheet @ https://pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/notesheet/ which is a great tool just to have in your bee yard as a reminder for all that can be done, not to mention for ease of tracking for next year's survey. #KeepCalmAndBEEon! follow us at https://www.facebook.com/PNW.Honey.Bee.Survey

Six signs of queenlessness inside the hive

From honeybeesuite.com

If you are lucky, you will recognize the outside signs of queenlessness early. But regardless of the timing, the next thing to do is open your colony for further inspection. As you search for your queen, be on the lookout for the following signs of queenlessness.

1. A progressive loss of brood

Once a queen goes missing or becomes incapable of laying eggs, the brood nest gets progressively smaller. After three days, all the queen's eggs have hatched. After another six days, you will see no more larvae because it all has been capped. And by the end of three weeks, all the queen's brood has emerged. That means the brood nest alone can give you an idea of how long the colony has been queenless.

2. Supersedure cells

Supersedure cells appear fairly soon after a queen is lost or disabled. A colony can usually tell the queen is missing within about 15 minutes, so a sudden flush of supersedure cells may be a clue to trouble.

However, some colonies build queen cups (the foundation of queen cells) regularly, so don't be fooled by these. Look for cells that the bees are building around existing larvae. Queen cups built around empty cells may be nothing to worry about.

3. Food stored in the brood nest

As the brood nest goes empty, a lot of the nurse bees have little to do. Many of them may begin to forage, and because the brood nest isn't being used for brood, the workers may store pollen and nectar there.

Be aware that backfilling the brood nest before swarming is not the same thing. Because some things in a hive can be confusing, it's best to look for several signs of queenlessness before you decide to re-queen.

4. Signs of laying workers

You may see signs of laying workers inside a queenless hive. Laying workers occur when queen pheromone and open brood pheromone disappear. These pheromones normally suppress the development of worker ovaries, but when they are no longer present, the workers' ovaries mature and the bees begin to lay eggs. The eggs of laying working are often not centered in the cells or they may occur on the rims or walls of cells. In addition, you may see many eggs per cell. A large proportion of the workers may lay, perhaps up to 20 percent.

Look at the brood carefully. Workers only lay drone brood, but they often lay it in worker-sized cells. In addition, workers don't lay eggs in a tight pattern the way a queen does. Instead, they lay randomly throughout the combs.

5. Fewer workers, more drones

As the queen's offspring dies off and the remaining laying workers produce more and more drone brood, the ratio of worker bees to drone bees changes drastically. After a while, you will notice the proportions changing until nearly the entire colony is composed of drones.

6. Listless and confused bees

The queen's pheromones guide a colony of bees and keep it cohesive. After several weeks without guidance, the remaining bees become listless, lethargic, and lazy. You may see them doing nothing or simply walking slowly inside the hive or outside on the landing board or nearby foliage.

The queen's health requires constant attention

The take-home message is that the character of a queenless hive changes over time. At first, things may look fairly normal, but the bees are headed for a downhill spiral unless they can raise a queen quickly or you can provide one.

If you can train yourself to notice—or at least suspect—a queenless hive from the outside, you will be able to re-queen before it's too late. Try to be alert for the outside signals of trouble, so you can do a thorough inside check.

Remember, always look for multiple signs of queenlessness, but do it early. For many reasons, queens don't live as long as they used to, so queen monitoring should be high on your list of priorities.

Rusty

Like Father Like Son

From The Guardian

It's fair to say Alasdair Friend didn't always picture himself as a beekeeper. But when a diagnosis of motor neuron disease meant his father was no longer able to tend to his hives, Friend resolved to carry on his passion. He was not without doubts at first: "I remember driving back with this actively buzzing box of 40,000 bees and thinking, what have I signed up for?"

Now the proud owner of no fewer than 10 beehives, Friend, 57, who is a teacher in Edinburgh, still has the descendants of the bees he brought home two years ago. "Although they are pretty feisty at times and cause me moments of panic, I love carrying on with his traditions," Friend says. "Each year I take the hives to the Cairngorms to collect heather honey to exactly the same place he brought his hives."

How we spend our free time matters: research suggests that having hobbies can enhance mental and physical wellbeing and offer greater life satisfaction. From team sports to crafts classes, they can also be a means to meaningfully connect with others. And for some, having an interest in common offers a way to feel close to a loved one, whether or not they still practice it together.

Friend says his father seems "really pleased" that he has carried on with his hobby. "He's still very interested – there's an element of him doing it through me. I've met some great people and I've had a lot of fun, as well as moments of extreme discomfort when I've been stung and moments of terror when they start swarming."

"It's great to feel he's passed on this bee baton to me, and I've run with it. There are lots of things I've shared with my dad – he taught me how to love the hills and climbing mountains. Keeping bees is another thing later in life [through which] I've been able to have a connection with him."

Wanted: Bees (not dead or alive, just dead!)

I know that die-offs happen for one reason or another. I could use several hundred dead bees for some art projects I'm working on. I am happy to come pick them up. So, as sad as it is, your bees could be immortalized in art. Please give me a call if you have any for me.
Thank you in advance,

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Club Info

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