# CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

October 2023

NEXT Meeting October 25th, 2023

## Monthly Meeting Wednesday October 25th at 1:30

## News and Reviews!

**This month's meeting on Wednesday will feature Becca Fain and Rick Olson who will fill us in on their attendance of the Western Apiculture Society's annual meeting that was held in Canada this year. We will also have a review of Dr. Samuel Ramsey's webinar on a new potential health threat and pest of the North American honeybee.**

**The meeting is on Wednesday October 25th** at 1:30 at the Newport Library.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## By Max Kuhn

This month we will be "Learning from Far & Near"!

Two of our members were able to travel to Calgary Alberta Canada recently to attend the "WAS" (Western Apiculture Society) annual conference. The conference, which is held each year in a different participating state, is usually a very interesting, entertaining, and informative gathering of beekeepers. I'm sure this year was no exception. Rick Olson and Becca Fain were there and will be sharing some of their experiences and information gained with the club at the October meeting.

At this meeting we will also have a short review of a webinar presentation by Dr. Samuel Ramsey, PhD. of the University of Colorado at Boulder. Dr. Ramsey discussed some of what is known so far on the next new, but likely, health threat and pest of the Honey Bee in North America.

All this should make for an interesting meeting. Hope to see you on the 25th at 1:30PM at the Newport Public Library.

# Message From the Newsletter Editor

As you may remember from last month, we are looking for a new newsletter editor starting with the January 2024 edition. What have we heard so far? Nothing but crickets! If you're up for a fun experience where you get to know your bee club members better and to learn a lot about beekeeping along the way, please step forward.

**If you are interested in becoming the next editor, please send an email to our account.** I will be happy to share my knowledge on the production and distribution of our monthly news. It doesn't take a lot of time and a working knowledge of Word is helpful. -Judi

# Monthly Beekeeping Tips

by Todd Balsiger - Oregon State Beekeepers Association

## Month of October

October is a transition month from fall to winter in our weather. Generally, the weather is relatively benign for the first two or three weeks, and then winter arrives in earnest by Halloween, or so. This is our last opportunity to feed syrup and finalize winter preparation before dormancy.

• Continue to check for light hives. Heft hives (lift one side up). They should be notably heavy. If not, feed a saturated sugar solution (60% sugar; balance water by weight). Feed early enough to allow syrup to ripen.

• Place a barrier between the bottom of the hive and the ground. Pallets are ideal for this.

• Keep hives exposed to the sun with entrances facing away from prevailing winds.

• Tilt hives so water drains away from the entrance. Ensure proper ventilation and that lids do not leak.

• Add entrance reducers/mouse guards.

• All superfluous items within the hive, e.g., Varroa treatments, queen excluders, and extra rims, should be removed by now.

• Find and remove dead outs. Place all unused equipment in storage.

• Protect frames. Moth crystals (paradichlorobenzene) are typically used for this purpose. Stack supers (or brood boxes) and put crystals on a piece of paper on top of every 5th super, or so. Then place a lid on top. Vapors kill moths and larvae, but not eggs. Freezing is an option and will kill eggs. Also, wax moth activity is suppressed if supers (and the frames within) are left open and exposed to light.

• If hives are opened/lids lifted late in the active season (or past), the propolis seals have been broken. Take care to secure the lids to keep them from being blown off during winter winds.

## 7 winter-blooming plants to nourish bees

By Kym Pokorny, kym.pokorny@oregonstate.edu

Source: Andony Melathopoulos, melathoa@oregonstate.edu

CORVALLIS, Ore. – During the bleak days of winter, bees and other pollinators look to gardeners for the nourishment that keeps them going until the more abundant seasons of the year arrive.

“Black-tailed bumblebees are out as early as January,” said Andony Melathopoulos, Oregon State University Extension Service pollinator specialist and assistant professor in the College of Agricultural Sciences. “Native bees are just starting and will be seen more often later in February when the wild willow starts blooming.”

Though there are winter-flowering plants growing in the wild, many pollinators don't live near them. That makes using cultivated winter bloomers an important consideration when planning a garden.

"Even a small amount of habitat will sustain bees, even rare species," Melathopoulos said. "These are tiny creatures. Well-thought-out landscapes can provide all the food they need in winter. Gardeners can really help with that."

Granted, many plants don't flower in winter, but those that do add much-needed brightness to the garden and sustenance for pollinators. Melathopoulos suggested the following winter-blooming plants. He also suggests checking out the Extension publication Trees and Shrubs for Fall and Winter Bloom.

**Hazelnut (Corylus):** Members of the Corylus genus – including the popular contorted and weeping hazelnuts – are one of earliest sources of pollen for bees.

**Oregon grape (Mahonia):** No garden – or bee – should be without one of these evergreen shrubs, especially since it's designated Oregon's state flower. But an even better reason are the insanely yellow flowers that last for weeks.

**Heath and heather (Erica and Calluna):** Bees zoom in to heaths and heathers like they're approaching a runway. In shades from purple to copper to gold, these low-growing plants make a mat of color throughout the year, including winter.

**Winter jasmine (Jasminum nudiflora):** Though it doesn't have the fragrance of other jasmines, this vining shrub has bright yellow flowers that are a welcome sight in winter.

**Witch hazel (Hamamelis):** Bees get fired up over witch hazel with its crepe paper-like flowers in orange, red and, most famously, yellow.

**Rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis):** The periwinkle-colored flowers of rosemary will pop out all winter but really provide a spectacular spread of

nectar and pollen in late winter when many bees and hummingbirds are gearing up.

**Manzanita (Archtostaphylos spp.):** These evergreen shrubs explode with white flowers that bumblebees and hummingbirds flock to. Manzanitas are native to the western United States and come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, from large, treelike shrubs to ground covers.

**Chaparral currant (Ribes malvaceum):** Bees go gaga over this California native, which blooms after Christmas and keeps on blooming through the end of winter.

# Ghost Stories About Bees

Nothing spooks people more than ghost stories and supernatural tales. This Halloween season, why not dive into the mysterious world of ghost stories about bees?

Bees are intriguing creatures, they play an important role in our ecosystem and many cultures have stories related to them.

# The History and Symbolism of Bees in Folklore and Mythology

Throughout history, bees have served as an intriguing subject in various cultures and traditions around the world. Their significance goes beyond their vital role as pollinators, as bees have captivated the human imagination and have been deeply woven into the fabric of folklore and mythology.

## Bees in Different Cultures and Traditions

Bees have held immense importance in many societies throughout time. From ancient civilizations to modern-day communities, their presence has been recognized and revered. Let's explore some examples of how bees have been significant in different cultures:

- Ancient Egypt: In the fertile lands of the Nile, Egyptians worshipped the goddess Neith, often depicted with the bee as her symbol, representing fertility and motherhood. Additionally, the bee was associated with royalty, as pharaohs used it as an emblem on their regalia.
- Mesoamerica: The Mayans and Aztecs regarded the bee as a sacred creature. They believed bees were a connection to the spiritual realm and associated them with communication, wisdom, and the divine. Furthermore, honey was highly valued as a sweetener and medicinal substance.
- Ancient Greece: Bees played various roles in Greek mythology. Associated with the goddess Artemis, bees symbolized purity and virginity. They were also linked to Apollo, the god of music and poetry, signifying the harmony and creativity found in their honey-making process.

- Norse mythology: In Norse folklore, bees were believed to possess knowledge of the past, present, and future. The mead of poetry, made from the honey of wise bees, bestowed inspiration and wisdom upon those who consumed it.

To read more: https://beekeepinginformation.com/2023/10/05/ghost-stories-about-bees/

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## Club Info

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