



CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

July 2016

ISSUE NUMBER 5

NEXT MEETING JULY 27, 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Co-Presidents Nancy McDowell and Anne Schatz

The blackberries are winding down, or completely finished, depending on where you live, and we're entering the mid-summer nectar slump. This is the time many people start to harvest their sweet bounty. If you are one of them, consider saving a few jars to donate to the club. We are planning to pool donations into a club-branded blend to sell as a fundraiser. Do you have some artistic talent that would lend itself to label design?

Speaking of harvesting, did you know that club has an extractor to loan out? If you want to borrow it, talk to Rick Olson, and check out the books we have, while you're at it!

The July meeting was initially planned as a field day/ potluck, but that has been cancelled for this year. We will instead have demonstrations of both methods of honey extraction – extractor and crush and strain – as many of you are getting ready to harvest honey this year. This will be followed by general questions and answers as it is the last meeting we have to dedicate to answering the many questions that have arisen, and thought it would be better spent toward that end. We'd also love to hear how the Flow Hives are working out, in case anyone has an update. It would be great to hear how everyone's honey stocks are looking.

In August, we'll have Kenny Williams speaking to us about honey and harvesting. In September, we'll have Morris Ostrofsky talking about diagnosing hive problems, and in October, Dewey Caron will speak to us about seasonal preparations and results of the spring surveys. The

November meeting will be Board Elections and the....(drum roll, please)...honey tasting! Mark your calendars. The November meeting will be on the 31st, to avoid conflicts with the Thanksgiving holiday.

We have decided to not participate in the Lincoln County Fair, which is coming up 19-21 August, this year though we had a very successful booth last year. The amount of time necessary to put the booth together and to assure that it is manned in the midst of getting all our legal work completed to get 501c3 status for the club was overwhelming without the second Vice-President position on the board who would be responsible for putting together such events. We are still looking for a club member willing to take on this role on the board and encourage anyone who is interested to connect with either of us. Even though we will not have a booth, it is still a great opportunity to enter honey, pictures and other hive products.

Great things are in store for the rest of the year! See you on the 27th!

Nancy and Anne

NEXT MEETING – July 27, 2016

6:30 pm at the Newport Library

PROGRAM

The first part of the meeting will focus on demonstrations of honey extraction – using both an extractor and the crush and strain method. The remainder of the meeting will be devoted to updates on experiences with the flow hives and general questions/answers and demo's of any items you would like to share!

6:30pm – 8 pm

AS THE NECTAR FLOW ENDS.....What next?

By Becca Fain

Fewer and fewer blackberry blooms are evident now with lush green berries taking their place. This means that the honey flow is almost at an end and that the dearth is beginning. Given the

extremely early nectar flow this year and the fact that the dearth is always a very challenging time for colonies, your actions and care at this time can have a significant impact on the success and survivability of your colonies.

It is time to begin assessing your hives to determine the amount of honey they have stored and the degree to which you will be able to extract honey this year. Several coastal beekeepers have reported lower than usual honey stores which are very critical to over wintering survivability for the bees. Each hive needs a **minimum** of 3-4 deep frames per deep hive body or 5 western frames per western hive body full of honey to feed on during the winter. As the bees will begin consuming honey stores during the dearth if no other food source is present – either natural flower sources or feeding of sugar syrup by beekeeper- they can easily consume a lot of their stores prior to the beginning of winter or rob other hives of their stores if you are not vigilant. If honey stores are low, it will be better in the long run to forgo extracting honey this year as opposed to leaving the hive short. Begin feeding fall sugar syrup if you see a decrease in pollen and nectar stores coming into the hive to help support your hives.

Now is also the time to begin assessing mite loads in your hives. Your bees will fare much better in the coming months if you are able to get the mite count down to a level that will insure greater survivability. Whether you choose to go completely treatment free, plan to utilize natural treatment methods or are going with some of the newly approved options – it is important to be aware of the mite level and to understand its significance. A colony going into winter with a high mite count is unlikely to survive; so many beekeepers are choosing to treat for mites in the fall when they count 3-6 mites per 300 bees or a 1-2% infestation rate. Colonies with counts even a little higher and that appear to be thriving can quickly collapse in just a few weeks come the fall.

As the dearth signals the potential of robbing, you also want to check to determine the strength of your hives and to determine if any are at risk of being plundered by bees looking for easy sources of honey and nectar to ease the sudden shortage. You may want to consider combining weaker hives with stronger ones before the fall begins so that they have time to consolidate. There may also be a need to reduce entrances on weaker hives to give soldier bees a smaller entrance to defend and to utilize robbing screens if necessary. Remember that robbing can also transmit Varroa and other diseases.

Last, but not least, this is the time to determine if your hives are queen-right. If they are not, you need to replace any queens who are underperforming. Most queen breeders only have queens available to sell until early September and some may have already promised all the queens that they are rearing for the year. It is important to determine if you need additional queens now and install them into hives as soon as possible to insure that the hive will be strong enough to last the winter. If you replace them too late, you may not only lose the hive but also a possibly good queen who did not have enough time to right the hive before winter.

For those of you who determine that your hive(s) has produced enough honey to allow extraction and who wish to borrow the club extractor this year – contact the club by e-mail (centralcoastbeekeepers@gmail.com) ASAP so we can get you on the list to borrow it.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE APIARY

Varroa Horribilis by Rick Olson

The summer solstice has come and gone and the bees will soon begin their preparation for winter. Usually we pull all supers off by August 15th but this year it will be earlier. Here in Florence the blackberries are just about gone and extraction is imminent. Once the supers have been removed mite monitoring should begin if you haven't already been watching for Varroa. I had a huge mite infestation last year so I monitor my hives every week--I've been called obsessive but I prefer the term "rigorous monitoring". I use sticky boards as they are less disruptive to the bees and easy for me to use. More accurate counts can be gotten with a sugar shake or alcohol/ether/low sudsing soap rinse with 300 bees, about half a cup.

Though my mite count has been under control for the last eight months I had one hive jump from 3 mites/day to 160/day. Yikes! The Lane County threshold is 24 mites/day. If you reach this number you need to treat right away so you'll have healthy bees going into winter.

The bee population is going to peak soon and begin to decline while the mite count is going to continue to increase and peak in September. Whatever method you use the mite count should be below 3-5%. A spotty brood pattern as well as mite frass or feces may indicate Varroa. Look for irregular white deposit near the top of cells. Irregular holes in cappings may be present as well. You might also see mites on drone brood. Remove some drone brood cappings and gently remove the larva. If you see mites then you have a heavy infestation.

Varroa mites weaken the bees and transmit up to 20 different virus. One of the most dramatic indicators is deformed wing virus (DWV). You'll see bees with shriveled wings wandering aimlessly in front of the hive. They've been thrown out of the hive. Unable to fly they die a sad lonely death. Another symptom of Varroa is parasitic mite syndrome (PMS) marked by spotty brood pattern, dark brood and hairless bees.

There are several methods of combating Varroa. Screened bottom boards, drone brood foundation, requeening with hygienic queens. When the mites begin to overwhelm a hive more proactive methods such as chemicals or essential oils need to be applied. Remember to follow

the instructions from the manufacturer exactly. A new method is being investigated where predatory mite that preys on Varroa is used. When it comes to chemical treatments an integrated pest management (IPM) regimen should be used so that mites don't build up a tolerance for the different chemicals used.

Whatever treatment you use take another mite count three days or so after the treatment to see what effect it has on the mites. Also, note any effect it has on the brood, bees and queen. Some of these chemicals are pretty harsh and there are indications that the fertility of the queen and drones is being affected as well. You should monitor mites at least one more time before overwintering. If they are still high an oxalic acid treatment is advised when there is little or no brood in the hive--usually in November.

For a more detailed discussion of Varroa management strategies see the Honey Bee Health Coalition's recent publication, [Tools for Varroa Management](#).

North Coast Representative Report

What a great time of year to be a beekeeper on the North and Central Oregon Coast. There are bees in the air and the hives are humming. Tillamook and Central Coast Bee Clubs have been active and it is time to prepare for County Fairs.

Central Coast Beekeepers had a June presentation from Rita Ostrofsky and Rick Olson on the Master Beekeeper Program. I was lucky enough to have participated in the original group of apprentices and am amazed at how quickly the program has grown and adopted to the numbers of participants in this its fifth year. Thanks to you Rita and Rick for the presentation. The rest of the meeting was sharing and question and answer. Central Coast has great mixture of experienced, returning and new beekeepers so there are few questions not being asked and no lack of answers.

The Tillamook Beekeepers had several new people attend their last meeting. We had updates on how the flow hives were working, swarm collections, bait hives, queens and much more. The Tillamook County Fair is August 10 – 13 and vice President Rick Stelzig has taken the lead in organizing the Tillamook Beekeepers booth.

The one thing I am always reminded of when I attend both bee club meetings is how different it is beekeeping on the coast as opposed to the valley and even up some of our river valleys. One

person may have already pulled and extracted while other of us have two or maybe even three honey supers of wet nectar waiting for it to dry out and be capped.

Both Tillamook and Central Coast Bee Club meetings are open to all beekeepers. If you are in either area and would like to visit a meeting please do. My contact information is in the Bee Line and the OSBA directory. We always enjoy visitors.

Stan Scotton, OSBA North Coast Representative

July 13, 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 19th – Lane County Beekeepers – Trinity United Methodist Church, 440 Maxwell Rd, Eugene

Early session – 6:15 pm-7pm – Ken Ograin demonstrating extraction

Regular session – 7:30pm – 8:30 pm – Judy Scher on Fall Management

July 20th – Linn/Benton Beekeepers – Corvallis Waldorf School

Kenny Williams – Honey Extraction

July 27th – Ohio State University Bee Lab Webinar

“ Some Thoughts on Keeping Your Bees Alive” – Jim Tew, Alabama Cooperative Extension

<https://u.osu.edu/beelab/courses/>

August 9th – Tillamook Beekeepers – Fresh Café, 9120 5th St, Bay City, OR – 7 pm

August 17th – Linn/Benton Beekeepers – Corvallis Waldorf School

Dr. Sujaya Rao – Bumble Bees

August 19th – 21st – Lincoln County Fair – Fairgrounds in Newport

We will have a booth at the fair to promote beekeeping and hope several of you will be willing to assist us in manning the booth.

August 20th – Oregon Honey Festival – Ashland, Oregon

There will be all types of honey delights as well as a major honey judging –
<http://www.oregonhoneyfestival.com/ourpresenters.html>

September 21st – Linn/Benton Beekeepers – Corvallis Waldorf School

Harry Vanderpool – Winter Prep

October 19th – Linn/Benton Beekeepers – Corvallis Waldorf School

Ramesh Sagili, Ph.D. – *Nosema cermae* phenology

October 22nd and 26th -Linn County Extension Office – 33630 McFarland Rd, Tangent

Mason Bee Harvest and Clean Workshop – 10am-noon on the 22nd, 9 to 11 and a second workshop from noon to 2 pm on the 26th

October 28th – 30th – Oregon State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference

The Oregon Gardens, Silverton, Oregon

This is a wonderful event where there are exhibitors from around the state, great speakers and a chance to connect with some of the leading names in beekeeping. This year some of the speakers include: Ramesh Sagili from OSU; Tom Seeley from Cornell; Elina Nino from UC Davis; Judy Wu-Smart from the University of Minnesota and David Miska from Miska Honey Farms.

Rooms fill up fast at the Oregon Gardens for this event so if you want to stay at the conference rate watch for the announcement of the opening of registration for this conference in the newsletter and sign up ASAP!

November 16th – Linn/Benton Beekeepers – Corvallis Waldorf School

Mike Rodia – Rose Hives – Beekeeping in one size box

This is the official publication of the Central Coast Beekeepers Association (CCBA) for the purposes of informing and educating its membership. Any use of the materials included in this newsletter for other reasons must be approved by the board of CCBA. The information and opinions expressed by the authors in this newsletter are for informational purposes only and are not necessarily endorsed by the Central Coast Beekeepers Association.

To arrange for publication or distribution of this material, please contact the organization through their e-mail account at: www.centralcoastbeekeepers@gmail.com

Rebecca Fain – Newsletter Editor

Board members of the organization, identified below, can also be reached at this address

Co-President – Nancy McDowell

Co- President – Anne Schatz

Vice President – Rick Olson

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