



CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

November 2016

ISSUE NUMBER 9

NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 30TH, 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Co-Presidents Nancy McDowell and Anne Schatz

We're down to the last meeting of the flagship year. Whew! It's time to reflect, prepare, and celebrate. Our next and final meeting of the year is coming up on the 30th of November – changed from our regular 4th Wednesday of the month meeting time because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The meeting will include the honey tasting, the board members election (if necessary), a survey, pictures and.....**DOOR PRIZES!**

Stan (the expert honey tasting director) will be conducting the tasting for us. Please bring small (4 oz. or so) unmarked samples. If they're marked, don't worry. Stan will cover any labels to keep them anonymous. Rick will also be there with a refractometer to test anyone's honey for moisture content – even if you don't want your honey in the tasting. He will also share a copy of a honey wheel developed by the University of California's Davis campus bee lab to help you determine which pollen source your honey predominantly came from.

We'll elect our new Board of Directors. Because the Board can have up to eleven members, we'll only have to hold elections if we get more candidates than that (currently we don't). It isn't too late to run for the board so please let us know if you are interested by sending an e-mail to the clubs gmail account – central_coast_beekeepers@gmail.com.

Next we'll reflect on the past year and prepare for the next with a survey to find out what went well, what could be improved, and what you'd like to see from your club next year. Ponder now so we can have your most spectacular suggestions! Also in the area of preparation, get out your

calendars because the dates for next year's meetings are: 25 Jan, 22 Feb, 22 Mar, 26 Apr, 24 May, 28 Jun, 26 Jul, 23 Aug, 27 Sep, 25 Oct, and 29 November.

Finally, we've got door prizes! What better way to celebrate than to take home a useful treasure. Mary Ellen Townsend was gracious enough to donate much of her beekeeping gear (she had to give up beekeeping) to start the treasure trove. Please bring any unneeded items you might like to rehome. The more we have, the more cheer we spread. Oh, and there will be a group photo in there, so wear your beekeeping and/or holiday best!

Just a quick reminder, it is time to renew your membership for 2017 if you have not yet done so. A copy of the membership/renewal form is included in the newsletter and we will have copies at the November meeting for those who wish to take care of their renewal there.

This is our last President's Message to you so, in closing, we'd both like to thank all of you for making our year as Co-Presidents so special and for your patience and understanding while we were still working things out. The club has transformed itself this year and grown as an organization with a newsletter, website and Facebook page (thank you Becca, Rick and Neill!); we've learned a lot about beekeeping from each other and the great speakers we had; but most importantly, we have tightened our bonds of friendship. And we had fun! Let's do it again next year.

See you on the 30th!

Nancy and Anne

NEXT and LAST MEETING of the YEAR – November 30th, 2016

6:30 pm at the Newport Library

PROGRAM

Stan Scotton will be our judge for a honey tasting – so don't forget to bring some honey to share with the group. Also, Rick Olson will have a refractometer to test the moisture content of anyone's honey and will also share a honey wheel to help you determine the source of the pollen that makes up your honey.

6:30pm – 8 pm

2016 OSBA Conference

By Anne Schatz

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) 2016 Fall Conference, held 28-30 October, at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton was an amazing experience. Nine members from the Central Coast Beekeepers attended the conference with an additional seven members at the Oregon Master Beekeeper (OMB) Program training, joining the 350 total conference attendees.



Central Coast Beekeepers pose with Dr. Thomas Seeley. (L-R) Max Kuhn, Rick Olson, Becca Fain, Tom Seeley, Anne Schatz, Stan Scotton, Patti Johnson, Pat Wackford, Dan Speers, and Jim Parish.

Friday, 28 October was the OMB training session for Journey and Master level members and the OSBA quarterly Board Meeting, ending in a wine and (really good) food social. If you're in the OMB Program, make sure to attend the training the Friday before the conference. It's an incredible opportunity to learn from some of the most distinguished conference speakers in a smaller setting, facilitating discussion. Saturday and Sunday were jam-packed with fascinating presentations on a wide range of beekeeping topics. On Saturday, concurrent with the presentations, was a bee school conducted in another area. The banquet, with key-note speaker, and oral auction took place Saturday evening. Presentations of funds for honey bee research raised by the OSBA and beekeeping clubs throughout the state were made to Dr. Sagili on Sunday. Concurrent with the speakers, Sunday also offered a full-day mead-making workshop in another area. Throughout the weekend, there was a honey competition, silent auction, door prizes (Pat and Patti each won!), and a vendor area with really interesting items.

There were 20 different presentations in addition to the key-note speaker at the banquet. Some of the speakers were:

Carolyn Breece - research assistant at the OSU Honey Bee Lab and the face of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program.

Dr. Brandon Hopkins- manages the apiary and germplasm cryopreservation project at Washington State University.

Dr. Andony Melathopoulos- Assistant Professor in Pollination Health Extension at OSU. He's just arrived at OSU and someone I plan to get to know!

Dr. Elina L. Nino- honey bee and beekeeping researcher from UC Davis with interests in pesticide effects on bees.

Dr. Ramesh Sagili- heads the OSU Honey Bee Lab and focuses his research on honey bee health, nutrition, and pollination. He initiated the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program in 2010 and chaired the Governor's Task Force on Pollinator Health in 2014.

Dr. Thomas D. Seeley- Professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University. He is a biologist and writer who teaches courses on animal behavior and does research on the behavior, social life, and ecology of honey bees. He is an avid long-time beekeeper and his scientific work is summarized in four books: Honeybee Ecology (1985), The Wisdom of the Hive (1995), Honeybee Democracy (2010), and Following the Wild Bees (2016). In recognition of his scientific contributions, he has been honored with an Alexander von Humboldt Distinguished U.S. Scientist Award, awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, and elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. And he's an unbelievably nice guy!

Dr. Steve Sheppard- Professor of Apiculture and Chair of the Department of Entomology at Washington State University. He's done some fascinating research on honey bees and mushrooms. Check out the club website (www.ccbaor.org) for a video related to how bees use mushrooms.

This list gives you an idea of the caliber of information and ideas discussed. I'll have my conference program at the November meeting, in case you'd like to see the topics covered. There was so much to learn that it will take some time and repeated reviews of my notes to fully absorb just a small portion. It was also a great time to reconnect with people I've met previously, meet a variety of new people and spend time with members of our own club. I can't say enough about how much I think this was time and money well spent.

If you missed the conference this year, seriously consider making time for it next year. I'd like to stress that you don't have to be an OSBA member to attend. The 2017 conference dates and location are the same as 2016. Plan ahead for lodging and talk to those who attended this year. The Oregon Garden Resort fills up fast, but there are many other lodging options in the surrounding area. There are hotels, motels, vacation rentals, an RV park, and Air BnB's so with a little ingenuity, you can likely find something within your price range. Talk with the people who attended this year for suggestions. Shared accommodations will cut your costs and make things more fun. I stayed in Silverton and the commute was around 5-7 minutes. If you have dietary restrictions, don't let that stop you. I had no trouble at all bringing all my own meals.

I hope this brief overview encourages you to take advantage of this great time and awesome learning opportunity next year!

OSBA gives a free scholarship to each member club each year to support attendance at the annual conference. Our club scholarship was won by club member Pat Wackford. See what Pat had to say about her experience below!

MY FIRST OREGON STATE BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE

I attended my first OSBA conference on Oct. 28 - 30th. What an amazing experience! There were speakers from all over the U.S. and OSU as well. Some speakers went into great detail about their research and honey bee biology. I discovered that there is still a lot yet to be learned about that box of bees in my yard.

A number of our Central Coast Club members attended, and I met and talked to many other beekeepers from around the state. Everyone was so friendly.

There were many vendors present to visit with, and as I knew I would, I bought a book and a T-shirt!

Thank you again to OSBA for their donations to pay for my registration. I am planning to attend the conference next year.

Pat Wackford

GOT a YELLOWJACKET, WASP or HORNET PROBLEM?

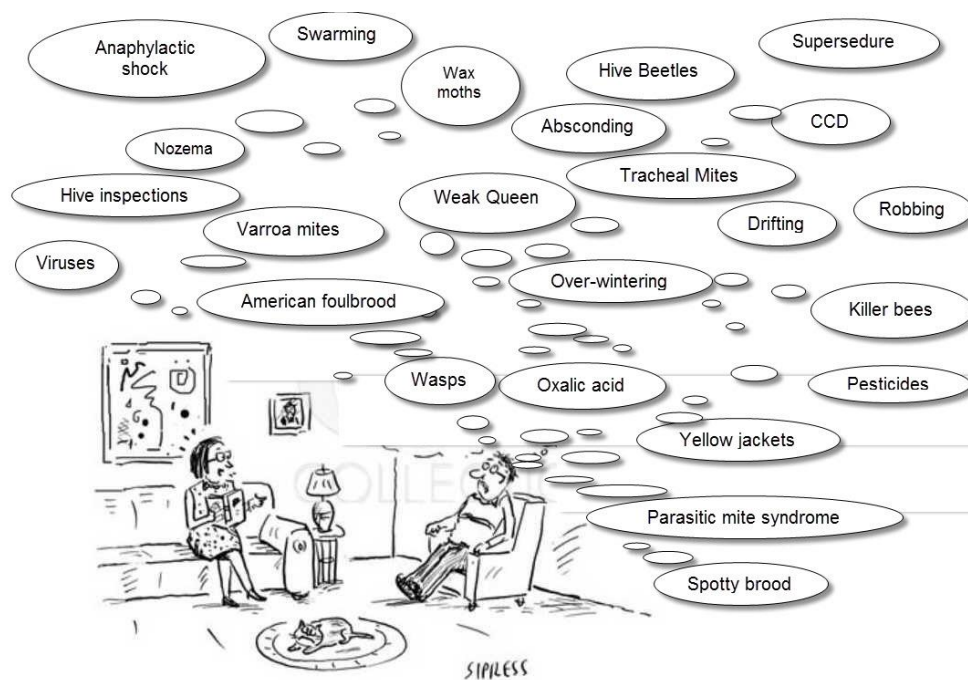
Club member Stan Scotton passed on the following information to assist those of you who live and/or raise your bees in the Newport area who are having yellowjacket, wasp and hornet problems:

“There is a gentleman in Corvallis who may be interested in collecting yellow jackets, wasp, and hornets in the Newport area. His name is Dan Scollard his telephone number is 541 753-6861. His web site is oregonwasp.com and his email is oregonwasp@gmail.com. He is particularly interested in yellow hornets and bald faced hornets, but contact him directly and let him sort out what you have and if he is interested in collecting them.”

Winter Preparation

By Rick Olson

As if we don't have enough to worry about!



"A penny for your thoughts, sweetheart?"

We still have a few borage plants in blossom and the English ivy is still going strong--if only it would quit raining long enough for the bees to forage. As our first strong storm approaches now is the most critical time for our bees--preparing them for the deep of winter.

Make it a practice to check your bees for weight loss by lifting hives from the back. If they are getting light, head to the kitchen and brew up a batch of fondant--it's getting too cold for the bees to metabolize syrup and evaporate off excess moisture.

The basic recipe is four parts of sugar to one part of water. Add a quarter teaspoon of vinegar (distilled white or apple cider vinegar) per pound of sugar. This acts as a catalyst to foster inversion of sucrose to fructose and glucose--easier for the bees to digest. Mix all ingredients together and heat with the lid off, stirring occasionally, to a boiling temp of 238-242 degrees F. Place lid on and boil for 15 more minutes stirring occasionally. Let cool to 180-195 degrees F. Whip with a whisk or electric beater until white. Pour out onto wax paper sheets or molds. I make 7-9" pan cake sized wafers that I can slip into the hive.

Continue Varroa mite sampling. If you use a sticky board make sure the screened bottom board is clean so you don't get a false negative. We had an extra-long bee season this year resulting in a longer brood cycle. More brood gives the pesky mites an opportunity to breed and increase their population. A preferred winter treatment is oxalic acid when there is no capped brood in

the hive. It has recently been approved by the EPA and is available at Brushy Mountain Bee Farm. Now is a critical time to treat. If you don't get control of the mites your hives may collapse completely. If they survive they will begin the next season with a higher damaging mite load. These weakened or collapsed hives may be responsible for spreading mites to your healthy hive through robbing and drifting. Be sure to get a mite count before and after treating.

Consider moisture reduction by putting moisture absorbing material above the hive in an insulation box. Remember it's not the cold that kills the bees but the moisture. Disease organisms, fungi, and molds thrive in moist environments and in cold weather, water droplets can drip down on the bees and chill the brood. Use wood shavings, old towels, burlap, etc. in a screened wood frame with ventilation to the outside. Also, if you're using solid bottom boards tilt the hive forward slightly to keep moisture from collecting under the hive.

Finally restrict hive entrances, install mouse guards. Be sure to check periodically to make sure they are not plugged with dead bees--there will be a small die off of bees even in a strong hive. Get hives up off of the ground, and secure with bricks for wind protection. Make sure queen excluders have been removed.

Many Central Coast club members successfully participated in the Master Beekeepers Program this past year, completed the apprentice level and are moving on to the Journey level !

Special thanks to club members Stan Scotton, Dan Speers, Max Kuhn and Rick Olson who mentored apprentices this year and taught apprentice classes this past fall in Newport. Their participation and support has strengthened our beekeeping community and surfaced additional leadership from our club.

Stan shared : Central Coast Beekeepers Association (CCBA) members Anna Russo, Sarah and Randy Walker, and Cathy Cope all completed their apprentice level worksheets this last bee year. Anna used bees at my apiary, Sarah and Randy had colonies of their own and inherited two colonies from Mary Ellen Townsend, and Cathy had two colonies of her own.

Cathy Cope, who completed her Apprentice level this summer, has agreed to become a mentor and completed the training, and has started the Journey level program. Apprentice is the first of three levels in the Oregon Master Beekeeper (OMB) program.

Club member Pat Wackford has just joined the program and will be mentored by me during this coming bee year.

Congratulations to all four and continued success as you develop your beekeeping skills.

Rick mentored Club members Brian Greene and Diana Scoville who completed their apprentice level worksheets this last bee year. Brian started 2 colonies of bees on his property in Siletz – one in an Langstroth and one in a flow hive and Diana shares hives with her husband Larry, also a club member.

Brian's son, Adam, the youngest person to be admitted into the Master Beekeepers program at 12 years of age, will be mentored by me during the coming bee year.

Max worked with club member Patti Johnson this past year and Patti has completed her apprentice level, is in the journey level program and has been trained as a mentor and will begin mentoring this next bee year.

Dan worked with club member Samantha Smith this past bee year.

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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

Past President – Dan Speers

Treasurer – Stan Scotton

Secretary – Rebecca Fain

At Large – Max Kuhn

At Large – Neill Crawford