



# CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

October 2016

ISSUE NUMBER 8

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 26TH, 2016

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Co-Presidents Nancy McDowell and Anne Schatz

First of all, congratulations to Pat Wackford who is our club's recipient of the free Oregon State Beekeeper's Association (OSBA) conference attendance scholarship after Anna Russo – the original winner -was unable to go. Yay, Pat!

Do you plan to attend the conference and the banquets? If so, drop a note to the club email account so we know who to look out for.

As promised, the speaker at last month's meeting was wonderful! In case you missed Morris' talk, he'll also be speaking on Varroa mites on Saturday of the OSBA conference. At the October meeting, the speaker will be Dr. Dewey Caron speaking about (among other things) the results of the annual winter survival surveys and sharing which management practices seem to have the greatest impact on over wintering survival of colonies. He'll have results based on our own input so we can see how the experiences of beekeepers in our club compare to other beekeepers around the state and Pacific Northwest. It's fascinating to see how the survey results we submit contribute to the bigger beekeeping picture, which is why it's so important to participate in the surveys. Dr. Caron is a distinguished expert in the beekeeping field and author of the textbook used in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program and OSU's beekeeping classes. We're very fortunate to have a speaker of his caliber come to our club. When you get a chance, take a moment to thank Becca Fain for arranging the appearance of these two stellar presenters.

The October meeting will also be when we announce those wishing to run for positions on next year's Board of Directors. To be considered, nominees have to sign the job description form. We passed out versions at the last meeting, you've all received a copy via email, and there are copies on the website. We'll also have copies at the October and November meetings. There can be up to eleven people on the Board, so don't hesitate to apply if you're interested!

Stan Scotton has volunteered to run our November honey tasting. He does a great job with the Tillamook Beekeepers honey tasting, so ours is sure to be a delight. Thanks Stan! Also, Rick Olson will be there with a refractometer for anyone wishing to have their honey tested to determine its water content, a key factor in insuring that your honey won't ferment. Don't forget that the date for the November meeting is the 30th, because of Thanksgiving, and will be our last meeting of the year.

Exciting events coming up for the next two meetings, so be sure to get the dates on your calendar and join us. Hope to see everyone there!

Also, a quick reminder for those of you who haven't yet paid your dues for 2017, we will have membership renewal forms available at both the October and November meetings so feel free to bring a check made out to **CCBA** or cash and we can handle your renewal there.

*Nancy and Anne*

**NEXT MEETING – October 26, 2016**

**6:30 pm at the Newport Library**

**PROGRAM**

**Dr. Dewey Caron, well known author and bee survival researcher, will be speaking. He will be presenting the results of last winter's bee survival survey and will be sharing information on which bee management practices are most likely to insure that when we open our hives next spring that we will find healthy and strong colonies.**

**6:30pm – 8 pm**

## **CCBA Scholarship for the Master Beekeeper Program**

The Central Coast Beekeepers Association is pleased to announce that we will be sponsoring scholarships for the 2017 Oregon Master Beekeeper Program (OMBP). New apprentice and

journey level beekeepers may apply even if you have already registered for the program and paid for the 2017 season. For those of you who thought that registration for the program was already closed for 2017, the OMBP has agreed to extend the application period specifically for the central coast to the end of the year since we currently only have a smaller pool of new students. This is a great opportunity for any club members who have not yet been a part of this program to expand your knowledge of beekeeping and improve your results.

## **NOTICE!! Small Hive Beetle found in Eugene, Oregon**

**By Judy Scher from Lane County Beekeepers Association**

On Friday, Sept. 30, I discovered a small hive beetle ( SHB ) in wax capping's from a honey extraction. It was confirmed by the OSU honey bee lab. The beetle could have possibly flown in to the box of wax capping's from another area (up to 10 miles away), or found its way to the frames before I extracted. I saw no evidence of SHB in the hives.

Be on the lookout, extract your honey immediately after removing the supers, and store your extracted frames properly. The small hive beetle is dark, 3/16 inch in length, 1/8 inch in width. If SHB has entered your hive you will see worm like larvae on the honey frames and dark feces like slime. If you suspect that you have this beetle in your bee yard please capture it and freeze it in a jar. Send it directly to the honey bee lab at OSU !

## **Food Stores November – Early Spring**

One of the most important winter chores is to heft the hive from the back bottom to check if it's light in weight. If so, it is low in honey stores. In the winter and early spring your bees will starve if they consume all of their honey reserves or they move to the edge of the hive where they no longer contact honey frames. If you have a light hive when the bees are too cold to fly, feed a solid source of pure carbohydrate in the form of fondant candy. It is very easy to apply on one of those 50 degree days where you can quickly lift the hive cover and place the candy directly on the frames or inner cover. Bees love fondant more than any other candy in winter months. It's soft and, if they decide to store it, they don't have to spend energy evaporating water from it. Its fun to make – just be sure you don't eat it before you get it to your hives!

## BEE FONDANT

*(Note: When doing this for the first time, **make small batches**. 4 cups sugar to 1 cup water is a good amount)*

1 part water: 4 parts sugar

(by volume or weight - I find that it doesn't matter which, in this case).

1/4 teaspoon vinegar per cup of sugar

(if using 4 cups sugar, use 1 tsp vinegar)

Put in pan and heat and stir until it comes to a boil.

*Don't let sugar burn! If it turns brown or dark tan, it will make the bees sick.*

Boil for 3 minutes with cover on pan.

Boil uncovered until soft ball stage\* (starts at 234 degrees F, ends at 243 degrees F)

Turn off heat and cool to 200 degrees F

Whip with a whisk until white (give it 5 – 10 minutes)

Pour onto waxed paper on cookie sheets

Cool undisturbed.

Cut up into squares, separate with waxed paper, store in plastic bag in freezer.

*When feeding bees, warm fondant to room temp and put on top of frames or around hole in inner cover. Do not expose bees to cold for more than several seconds.*

\* The “soft ball” sugar stage is described in wonderful web site,

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgRvA9Lk\\_N8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgRvA9Lk_N8)

The different stages are compared at around 4:29 minutes on this video.

Another note:

Don't worry if you mess up and the fondant is too soft or too hard - the bees will appreciate it anyway!

## Canadian Bee Expert Joins OSU

Oregon State University has hired an expert on bee pollinators to fill a new extension position focused on improving the health of honey bees and other pollinating insects. Andony Melathopoulos comes to OSU from a post-doctoral position in pollination ecology at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. Before earning his doctorate at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Melathopoulos spent 13 years in Alberta, working on honey bee pests and diseases for Canada's national honey bee research center.

Melathopoulos is working with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to roll out a statewide pollinator education and safety plan in the next few months. He is also forging ties with Oregon's commercial beekeepers, farmers, pesticide applicators, urban parks departments and others who play a role in keeping pollinators healthy.

“We want to give people the tools to keep Oregon pollinator-friendly,” Melathopoulos said. “If we do our job right, protecting pollinators will merge seamlessly with people’s daily life and work.”

He joins two other bee health experts recently hired at OSU’s College of Agricultural Sciences: Hannah Lucas and Jared Jorgensen. Lucas, who started her job last November, studies bee parasites and diseases and is assisting with the expansion of OSU Honey Bee Lab’s diagnostic services for beekeepers. Jorgensen, who started in March, also helps with bee health diagnostics and conducts field studies in partnership with commercial beekeepers. The three positions were made possible by a \$14 million investment in OSU research and Extension by the 2015 Oregon Legislature.

## Ten Things TO DO NOW To Help Your Bees Survive Winter, by Dr. Dewey M. Caron

- 1. KNOW MITE NUMBERS** Test your bees to know their mite level as they hunker down for the winter. You still have some time to treat them (unless you have a non-treatment philosophy). Queens are winding down their egg laying as colonies prepare to over-winter, so hive adults, when mite population loads are high, can get overwhelmed. Essential oils or formic acid MAQS treatment can still reduce mite numbers; Oxalic acid drip or HopGuard, once the brood is further reduced, are other treatment options.
- 2. WINTER STORES** Evaluate honey and pollen stores for winter. You should look in the top hive box to confirm the bees have strategically positioned capped honey above a compact brood area between boxes or within the lower box. As the bees move up through winter they consume these stores. For brood boxes, seek frames of honey outside, some stored bee bread then brood.
- 3. FEED** Feed bees sugar syrup now if they are light on stores. Feed one or more gallons of heavy sugar syrup (2 parts sugar to 1 part water) to hives that need it while bees are still foraging. You may not need to feed all the colonies. If colonies are still light on stores and weather becomes cooler, switch to feeding dry sugar or sugar candy or fondant candy IF BEES NEED the stores. If you have fed syrup and they have some stores, hold off on dry sugar feeding until February or early March next spring.
- 4. TAKE LOSSES IN FALL** If you have very weak colonies, combine to stronger colony (if no disease (especially PMS evident) or move honey filled frames to colonies light on stores or put honey in freezer for spring feed.
- 5. WEATHER PROTECTION** Protect hives from the wind and rain. Some beekeepers move colonies under shelter; others opt to use covers (like recycled political signs, corrugated tin or

plywood) that overhang the hive top by a foot or more all around. This helps keep moisture out of the hives and also provides bees with a space for cleansing flights in rainy weather.

**6. MOISTURE CONTROL** Consider placing moisture control above the hive boxes to act like a sponge to draw moisture off the colony. A ventilated rim filled with moisture absorbent material (wood shavings, absorbent fabric, insulation materials) with ample ventilation to the outside, extra deep hive covers, or insulation material directly on top of the frames are ways to wick-off excess moisture.

**7. VENTILATION** Insure good hive ventilation with space for moisture to rise and exit the colony by moving outside frames slightly off the edge of the box. Consider leaving the bottom screen open with a dead air space beneath the hive; if you close the bottom, tilt the hives slightly forward so moisture does not accumulate at the bottom.

**8. REDUCE ENTRANCES** If you have not already done so, add an entrance reducer to protect the colony from mice, which sometimes seek shelter in a nice warm hive for winter. Mice can do a lot of damage to comb, as well as urinate inside the colony.

**9. SECURE HIVE COVERS** Anchor hive covers with a stone or brick. If hives are directly exposed, consider providing a winter wind break (wooden barrier, hay bales, fencing etc.)

**10. GET OFF THE GROUND** Get hives up off the ground to help combat moisture problems. Place hives up on palettes, cinder blocks, etc., if you do not already use a hive stand. Create dead air space below.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> – Oregon State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference

The Oregon Gardens, Silverton, Oregon

November 15<sup>th</sup> – Lane County Beekeepers - Trinity United Methodist Church  
440 Maxwell Rd in Eugene

November 16<sup>th</sup> – Linn/Benton Beekeepers – Corvallis Waldorf School

Mike Rodia – Rose Hives – Beekeeping in one size box

November 30<sup>th</sup> – **OUR NEXT MEETING – honey tasting**

You may also like to look at the following website for incites from a fellow western Oregon beekeeper:

**Kelly’s Beekeeping Website: “Lane County Hiveways”**

Follow Kelly as she does her inspections, observations, and other beekeeping activities.

<http://lanecountyhiveways.com/>

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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](mailto:www.centralcoastbeekeepers@gmail.com)

Rebecca Fain – Newsletter Editor

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

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Co- President – Anne Schatz

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