



LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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Mike Harrington (541-689-8705)

Jared Pruch (541-359-8987)

April 2011 NEWSLETTER

<http://www.lcbaor.org>

LCBA MENTORS for 2011

The list below are members that have offered to be of assistance to those who have questions. You can contact them by phone. Try contacting the same person every time you have a question. Each beekeeper has his or her own style and this will help you with getting constant answers.

Some have e-mail addresses listed. You can send your questions and high-def pictures to them also.

Remember that the only stupid or dumb questions are those not asked.

| Mentor | Area | Contact Info |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Ken Anthony | Corvallis, Albany | 541-754-0455 |
| Jason Rowan | Cottage Grove | 541-942-6479 |
| Barbara Bajec | Cottage Grove | 541-767-9086 |
| Julie Pierzina | Dexter, Lowell, Pleasant Hill | 541-937-2577 |
| Ken Ograin | Elmira, Fern Ridge | 541-935-7065 / woodrt@pacinfo.com |
| Judy Scher | Eugene - Downtown | 541-344-2114 |
| Ione Hass | Eugene - South River Rd | 541-688-6983 |
| Brian McGinley | Eugene - North | 541-521-7523 |
| Morris Ostrofsky | Eugene - Southwest | 541-685-2875 / ostrofsky@pacinfo.com |
| Toni Goldenberg | Eugene - Pine Grove Area | 541-683-3503 |
| Arthur & Anita Jones | Fall Creek | 541-937-2244 |
| Max Kuhn | Florence | 541-999-0744 |

For information on the Club purchase of Mite Away Quick Strips see Ken Ograin's article on page 4.

NEXT MEETING:

April 19th, program at
7:30PM

Come early to socialize and
share your questions with
experienced beekeepers.
Hall opens at 7:00PM

Packages — Ken Ograin
Queen Introduction —
Morris Ostrofsky

Learn to start your next hive
from a package, or add a queen
to an existing hive.

**Trinity United
Methodist Church**
440 Maxwell Road
Turn West off River Road
in Eugene (South of Beltline)

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MARCH Meeting**Highlights**

Barbara Bajec, LCBA Secretary

**Announcements:**

Judy Scher reported Bee School was a great success and welcomed new LCBA members.

She also reminded everyone "Ask A Beekeeper" was a good way to get beekeeping questions answered. The mentor system was accidentally left out of the bee school presentation; however information about mentors was included on one of the discs in the school packet. New members were encouraged to select a mentor in their area.

Judy also announced the upcoming Western Apicultural Society (WAS) conference in Hawaii, Sept 12-15, 2011. March 31, 2011 is the deadline for accommodations. Wings to Wine Festival will need volunteers - a signup sheet will be available at the next meeting. LCBA field day is Saturday, June 18, 2011.

Katharine Hunt announced jars left over from November 2010 honey tasting were available for member pickup in the back of the room.

Ken Ograin passed around the "swarm signup list" for new and old members if interested in getting swarms. Ken requested members remove their names if no longer interested. He also mentioned it is a good idea to indicate an "end date" on your availability for getting swarms. Ken explained the list is intended for relatively easy to reach swarms not requiring a tall ladder. There is another section for hive and swarm removal in buildings; it is ok to charge a fee for these services.

The evening presentation:

Chuck Hunt was the featured speaker; swarms and how to control those natural urges was the topic. Chuck started out saying swarms just don't get much coverage any more since mites have taken over beekeepers' attention. But swarms do cause a lot of excitement! When bees swarm they are at their most gentle disposition. There are

several reasons why it is important to control swarms:

1. Swarms can decrease honey production,
2. Swarms can make a hive queenless
3. Swarms can cause alarm with neighbors and require more equipment if captured.

Chuck exclaimed "it's a sinking feeling when it's your hive flying off." Swarms are bees' natural way to reproduce. Older queens promote swarms due to decreased pheromone production. Overcrowding or not enough space for the queen to raise brood will often produce a swarm. Spring is also a swarm trigger with on and off honey flows. Seasonally, April and May are the swarm months. A reasonably good honey flow is necessary as the bees need to fill their honey stomachs before they take off. As the saying goes, "a swarm in May is worth a bale of hay; a swarm in July is not worth a fly". Chuck when on to say, "if you keep bees long enough, you will have a swarm."

It is very important to know the timing of queen cell production when considering swarm control. The queen is an egg for 3 days, 3-8.5 days in larva stage, 7.5 days capped over (this is when the old queen leaves with swarm) in pupa stage day 8 until she emerges 15.5-17 days later, and her nuptial flight takes place 20-24 days. She may start laying eggs by day 23.

Queen cups are normal to see in the hive. They can be seen throughout the hive and will not necessarily lead to swarms. Supercedure queen cells are usually seen in the center of the hive. They are used to make another queen. This can be due to death of the existing queen, or if the bees feel the current queen is unable to sustain the hive. Swarm queen cells, however, are most often seen on the edges of the hive frames.

How to control swarms? The worst thing you can do is cut out swarm cells. If you miss just one, they will swarm anyway. You need to look at every frame closely as it can be hard to find them all. They

may have already swarmed, now you make them queenless after cutting out queen cells. This is lots of work - needs to be done weekly and often weather is prohibitive.

What are the alternatives? There are three basic ways to prevent swarming.

1. Reduce the field force
2. Take away their queen
3. Take away their brood

Take away the field force, referred to as "paginating" means switching locations of hives. Switch a strong hive with a weak one, the strong field force goes into the weak hive and the weak field force into the strong - works only during a good honey flow to keep the bees from killing the foreign queen. Be careful with this method.

The Demaree method removes all the brood (sealed and larvae) and places it above the queen with an excluder between them. Put the queen on open drawn frames. This method reduces congestion without making two different hives and typically the top will hatch out be honey stores. A modified form: use three or four westerns for space, bang the queen down from the top, put Ross rounds on top of queen and then honey supers above. The queen rarely will cross a Ross round section.

Take away the queen is the third option, putting her in a nuc. But the best way is to make a split. Divide the hive with a screen and in a few days see who has eggs - that's where the queen is. You can purchase a new queen for the queenless half or let them make their own providing they have young larvae. The problem with the split method is you get more hives and need more equipment. BUT, in the fall you can reunite the hives with the newspaper method and let the queens duke it out.

Some other methods to control swarming in the spring include reversing hive boxes. Usually the bottom box will be empty as the bees have moved up during the winter. Place it on top to provide more space. This can be done

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BEEKEEPING TIPS

April 2011

Chuck Hunt, LCBA Member



1. April is the month for heavy build-up of bees. Look out for swarms and avoid them by giving the bees plenty of room: an extra super may be in order. Other swarm control measures, including splitting hives, may be important at this time. Keep a look out for swarm cells that are positioned at the edges or bottoms of the frames. Make sure that entrance reducers are removed so that bees can fly freely and not have congestion at the entrance to the hive.
2. Monitor mites in your hives using screen bottom boards and sticky boards to see if mite treatment is necessary. Those who put on their strips early this year may be able to take them off early. This means

that some of the early honey flow may be extracted if there is sufficient time between removal and the spring flow.

3. Keep an eye on the honey stores of your hive. Bees can starve in bad weather in April and May. Make sure that your bees always have at least 15 pounds of honey (three western or two deep frames of honey). Feed your hives if they are light either using sugar syrup, fondant candy or honey.
4. Check your queens at least once every ten days or two weeks to make sure your hive is queen right. Make sure your hives have eggs in some cells. Also, pollen



coming in the front door is a good indication that your hive is queen right. The heavy demands of spring buildup can cause the queen to fail. Re-queen if necessary.

5. A practice that is helpful to every beekeeper is to keep a diary or notebook. Record the condition of the hive, any special observations that you made as well as any manipulations you used. You might want to include in the diary the weather, including temperature, and the development of the bloom and honey flows. It is sometimes interesting also to note the color of incoming pollen. Keep such a notebook every year and you will not only learn more about beekeeping but also learn a great deal about your local plant life (and the variations from year to year).

GloryBee® Beekeeping

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The GloryBee Factory Store is truly a unique destination. Our products are great for first-timers and seasoned beekeepers. We have all the beekeeping essentials such as woodenware, foundation, clothing and nutrition.

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President's Message

Judy Scher, LCBA President

In theory, spring is here. In my neighborhood all the big leaf maples are in bloom and this means there's a big nectar flow on for the bees. That is, when the weather permits. In any case, the bees were storing wet nectar when I checked yesterday and back filling open cells. No matter what the weather, backfilling brood cells with nectar may indicate swarm preparation. I have very good intentions of splitting hives to counter this natural event and hopefully, the temperature will allow me to do this before they mean business by drawing out those little cups into actual queen cells. Because it's been such a cold year, the queens in California may not be ready when I am, and I'm going to be on hands and knees begging for a couple of swarm calls. Thus begins The Beekeeper's Dance of Spring.

As you probably already know, NOD Apiary's Mite-Away Quick Strips has just been released to those states which approve their use. I am really eager to hear everyone's experience with them. I was able to treat three of my hives with high mite counts with (MAQS) last week. My results:

Hive 1: a small hive of two western boxes (18 frames of bees) showed high bee mortality over the first three days. After 8 days, I checked and saw that the hive had spotty brood (probably because emerging bees died) but was making a huge recovery with lots of eggs and young larva.

Hive 2 and 3: each with 3 western boxes of brood, didn't show high mortality on the first days of treatment like the small hive. After 8 days, there was spotty brood (previously very compact) but the hives were making a strong recovery.

The MAQS didn't kill as many mites, as I wished. The largest hive still had a high mite count (4 mites/300 bees) so I dusted it with powdered sugar. The other 2 hive showed zero mites/300 bees in a sugar roll test, but still show too many mites on the collection board.

A success? I won't say it's a success until next week when I do a 48-hour count on the collection boards.

Stay Tuned.

Ken Ograin's Notes and IPM Update

Ken Ograin, LCBA Member



IPM Update: Looks like another year I will not be getting Spring Honey, so many trees in bloom and the maples are close to being in full bloom out here in the country. For those that live in town they are already in bloom. With no warm weather in sight and hives are slow to buildup, reports I am getting from around the state seem mixed, ether little to no brood or some so much that swarming is a concern. It is going to be hectic if and when we get a day where temperatures get to 70 degrees.

Many of you have been wondering about the Mite Away Quick Strips that were talked about back at the February meeting being the cat's meow. Well, it was the day after that meeting that some additional information came to light. This product may not be that great. There are a few things that were

not talked about or are not covered in the instructions. First off, the instructions do point out that you must have a full $\frac{3}{4}$ " opening at the hive entrance, but there is no mention of blocking off screen bottoms as the original Mite Away Pads did. So I had contacted the manufacture of this product (NOD Apiary) and they did reply with "No, you do not have to block off the screen but that for the formic acid to penetrate the cappings in ordered to kill mites in capped brood cells that they would recommend blocking the screen".

Next, there is no mention of the need for using a respirator. Well I can tell you that this needs to be used, I was handling some packages which contain two strips sealed in a plastic bag, one bag must not of been sealed properly because I got a blast of formic acid which closes your throat in reflex to the fumes. For this reason, I am recommending you have a respirator with a pesticide or paint fume rating.

My last concern is that the requirement of 6 frames of bees in the brood area, this needs to be in larger print. This as it turns out is critical, in the first three days of the treatment the fumes need to be circulated within the hive. Without enough bees, the fumes can cause much more mortality than would normally be expected. Some of the known conditions are some emerging bees will be killed and some mortality of uncapped larva.

Several members had agreed to use the product and report their findings but, due to weather being cold and hives with low populations, only one member has reported their finding. Of the strong hive with more than 6 frames of bees they saw no abnormal conditions, but with a hive that was not as strong lots of dead bees were seen outside the hive.

The good thing was that it did a great job of killing mites.

Two things you should do if you would

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Bee Book Reviews

Kate MacQueen, LCBA Member

The Backyard Beekeeper, an absolute beginner's guide to keeping bees in your yard and garden, by Kim Flottum, editor of Bee Culture magazine, is packed with information. Practical information, however, is swamped by an abundance of reportage, all in tiny print. The book does cover everything, and more, that the novice beekeeper would need to know, from bee anatomy to how to process and use the products of your hive and is richly illustrated with clear, beautiful photographs. This 2010 edition is part of the Backyard Series, updated and revised from the 2005 edition. Quayside Publishing, \$24.99.

Another updated series book is *Storey's Guide to Keeping Honeybees*, by Malcolm T. Stanford, based in large part on Richard E. Bonney's *Hive Management, 1990 and Beekeeping: A Practical guide*, 1994. Written for the novice beekeeper, providing introductory vocabulary and beginning concepts, with bits of information cropping up through out the book, this is a good all around reference book. It includes personal anecdotes from U.S. beekeepers and boxed highlights of interesting facts. Did you know, for instance, that honeybees can detect unique chemical molecules and may be trained to detect land mines as well as diseases in humans? There is a whole chapter of the most current information on the diseases and pests of the honeybee. An interesting read cover to cover and worth dipping into for entertainment as

well as edification. Part of Storey's animal raising series, Storey Publishing, 2010, \$29.95.

If you are interested in the use of honey as a healing agent, you might like to look at *The Honey Prescription*, by Nathaniel Altman. Though marginally well educated about bee culture, the author has done a thorough job of gathering together research about the medicinal properties of honey. The book includes historical references to the keeping of bees and the use of honey for curing a variety of maladies. There is a section on modern clinical trials and chapters devoted to how honey can be used to treat both internal and external diseases. A practical guide and recipes for using honey as part of the home first aid kit is included at the end of the book. Healing Arts Press, 2010, \$16.95.

E-Mail to the Editor

lcbnewslettereditor@hotmail.com

Dear Beekeeper,

The Bee Informed Partnership, a joint project among numerous universities and laboratories, needs your help and is asking you to please participate in two surveys. Both surveys are open only from 1 April through 18 April 2011. You can learn more about the Bee Informed Partnership at <http://beeinformed.org/>. Thank you for your participation.

Please take 20 minutes out of your busy day to complete these two surveys.

1) Winter Loss Survey <http://is-nri.com/take/?i=166637&h=vZbUWfMhA1z9sEg54S0HCw>

This should take less than 5 minutes.

2) Past Year Management Survey <http://is-nri.com/take/?i=166638&h=wCvJELAvCqbkk3aIowhTMQ>

This should take less than 15 minutes.

The purpose of the Bee Informed Partnership is to use beekeepers' real world experiences to help solve beekeepers' real world problems. We will use the data generated from these two surveys to help you decide which management practices are best for beekeepers like you, who live where you do and have operations similar to yours. For this to work, we need as many participants as possible...so please take the time to fill out the questionnaire and SEND THIS EMAIL TO ALL THE BEEKEEPERS YOU KNOW asking them to fill out these questionnaires too.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at

askbeeinformed@gmail.com or call us at 443.296.2470. You can learn more about the Bee Informed Partnership at <http://beeinformed.org>.

BE INVOLVED, BE INCLUDED, BEE INFORMED.

Thank you,

The Bee Informed Partnership Team

Editor's Apology

Last month's issue forgot to fully acknowledge the following contributors to the highly successful Bee School:

Max Kuhn, Brandt Weaver, and Willard & Mary Wisegarver

C.
E.

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March Highlights

(Continued from page 2)

more than once in the spring. Equalizing hives can also help, whereby you take 20% of brood from a strong hive and put in weak hive (usually sealed brood) - this helps to slow down the strong hive.

Things to remember: queen cells are fragile; handle carefully and don't chill or shake. Only use bare foundation with a good honey flow or you can inadvertently cause a swarm. Swarms are very industrious and eager to construct honey comb. Swarm traps (bait hives) can work but the bees are selective on location from original hive as well as the opening of the bait hive. Lemongrass oil or old brood frames have been used with some success in bait hives.

In the end, a young queen, ample space and providing early honey supers may be among the best plans to ward off swarms.

LCBA

Calendar-at-a-Glance

April 19th — 7:30PM-8:30PM

LCBA Monthly Meeting

Trinity United Methodist Church
Packages — Ken Ograin
Queen Introduction —
Morris Ostrofsky

April 22nd — 29th 8:00PM

Queen of the Sun

Bijou Art Cinemas
492 East 13th Avenue, Eugene

May 17th, 2011 — 7:30PM-8:30PM

LCBA Monthly Meeting

Trinity United Methodist Church
Diseases — Morris Ostrofsky

June 18th

LCBA Field Trip

IPM Update

(Continued from page 4)

still want to use this product, contact me before the meeting. We do have a number of treatments at a cost of \$3.75 per, and the other is to watch the video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nb6pjlAv7K0>.

For those that wanted to use the HopGuard treatment, we do have a limited number of those at \$1.50 per treatment, this product can be used for quick knockdown of mites as it is only effective for 3 days, maximum treatments of three per season. Once again, contact me if you are interested.

You can watch a video to learn the proper use of this product. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2y4rndPhlo>

Several members had seen a recent posting about entombed pollen and have asked questions about this, there was a study done in connection with CCD back in 2009 by Penn St.

If you would like to read the full report go to the link below. Basically, what I got from it is that in addition to elevated pesticide levels, a fungicide chlorothalonil was found in entombed pollen. http://ento.psu.edu/directory/duv2/vanEngelsdorp_etal_2009_entombedpollen.pdf

Let's hope you have been able to do some hive inspections and your hives are in good shape. If you took part in last year's OSU honeybee study and your study hive came through winter in good condition please let me know. I can be contacted at 541-935-7065 or by e-mail at woodrt@pacinfo.com.

I have updated my photo to reflect my additional gray.

Welcome New LCBA Members

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Catherine Fullbright | Eugene |
| Marie Laper | Corvallis |
| Randy Roth | Foster |
| Virgil & Georgia Sabourin | Mapleton |
| Ken & Sylvia Phillips | Springfield |
| Ellen & Sandra Huffstutter | Roseburg |

Three Events Needing Volunteers for LCBA booth

Shows and festivals are always fun events for volunteers. There are three fun festivals, which want the presence of the Lane County Beekeepers: The Wine and Wings Festival near Veneta, The Wildflower at Mt Pisgah, and The KLCC Garden Tour in Eugene.

For each event we need a coordinator and 6 volunteers to be present at the booth for around 2-3 hours. All you have to do is talk about bees to people who come by. We also have lots of honey to sell. Even if you are brand new to beekeeping, you can help by selling honey, setting up/taking down the booth, setting up the display, and giving out info on LCBA. There will be at least one veteran beekeeper in the booth with you and you'll be talking "bees" by the end of your shift with confidence. We will pass around sign up sheets at the April meeting.

Wings and Wine Festival

Domaine Meriwether Winery

Saturday, May 14th, 10AM-5PM

<http://www.wingsandwinefestival.com/>

Booth set up:

Friday, 4:30PM-7:00PM

Saturday, 7AM-9AM

Mt Pisgah Wildflower Festival

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Sunday, May 15th, 10AM-5PM

<http://mountpisgaharboretum.org/wildflower-festival-2011>

Booth set up:

Saturday evening

Sunday, 7AM-9AM

KLCC Garden Tour

Whiteaker neighborhood of Eugene

Sunday, June 26th, 9AM-5PM

More exact info in May



CLASSIFIED ADS

Bee-related classified ads cost \$5.00 for non-members, and are free to members.

Classified ads run for three issues and may be renewed by contacting the editor. Business ads cost \$35 a year.

To place an ad, contact the editor by the 1st of the month via e-mail (lcbnewslettereditor@hotmail.com) or phone: (541) 767-0761.

T-shirts and Hats!

LCBA t-shirts are available in a variety of sizes and colors. There are also two spiffy designs now! New style shirts are \$20, and the familiar club logo t-shirts are a bargain at \$12.

We also have caps with the club logo. Club shirts (and hats) are a great way to start conversations about bees and beekeeping. Show your club spirit!

LCBA MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Lane County Beekeepers Association now costs \$15.00 yearly.

Dues are pro-rated after March for new members ONLY!

Bring your dues to the meeting or remit to LCBA Treasurer Nancy Ograin (address below).

FOR SALE:

Ross Rounds Comb Honey Supers
The best way to make comb honey, 40 Ross Round supers with 8 frames each. Super with eight frames are \$45 each. Call (541) 607-0106 evenings or weekends.

FOR SALE:

Frame feeders \$2,
Full size pollen traps \$10,
Brood Builder (not Bee-Pro) for dry or patties feeding \$1 for 2lbs (with instructions).
Contact Jerry Carter at (541) 689-3320

FOR SALE:

4-gallon buckets \$5
Some 3½-gallon buckets also.
2-Gallon buckets \$4
All with lids and are FOOD APPROVED.
See me at the meeting or call.
Fred Cockerline, (541) 747-8822

WANTED:

Looking for 8 frame westerns in good shape.
Contact Jared Pruch at j_pruch@yahoo.com or (541) 359-8987



Bijou Art Cinemas: Week Long Run (Earth Day Celebration)

April 22nd, 2011 at 8:00pm

Bijou Art Cinemas
492 East 13th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401-4268

Screening Times TBA

NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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