



LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

130 HANSEN LANE, EUGENE, OR 97404

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Jared Pruch (541-359-8987)

JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

<http://www.lcbaor.org>

NEXT MEETING:

June 15, program at 7:30 PM

Come early to socialize and share your questions with experienced beekeepers.

Hall opens at 7:00

Pests and Diseases

Morris Ostrofsky

Sooner or later we all have to deal with them. Our presentation will have the facts, the symptoms and the best management practices for prevention and treatment.

Trinity United

Methodist Church

440 Maxwell Road

Turn West off River Road

in Eugene, (South of Beltline)

May Meeting Highlights:

Beekeepers' Q & A

Lane Hillendahl, LCBA Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Judy Scher. Our meeting was being filmed by a UO journalism student. Field day is scheduled at Lynn Royce's for June 19th. [map elsewhere in this newsletter] Lynn would like to give a class on queen rearing. If you would be interested, please let Judy or another officer know.

Club member Pony Gilbert was in an accident. He was run over by his own truck. Pony has 5 kids and they are looking for donations. It is a miracle that he did not break any bones and has no permanent damage, just lots of muscle damage. Raptor Center is making and asking for donations. Make the checks payable to Pony Gilbert. Gift cards are also welcome.

It's time to start thinking about the Lane County Fair. We need to give Ken and Nancy some competition. Bring beeswax and honey items. Please watch the newsletter for information on the fair entry process!

Don McCloud is looking for volunteers for Oregon Country Fair. Volunteers will receive a reduced entrance fee of \$10.00.

QUESTION AND ANSWERS

What to do with a small swarm?

Give it to someone who has a queenless hive.

What is the optimal temperature for a hive?

93-94 degrees

Why are bees flying around the top of the hive?

For an orientation flight. They are getting their bearings, or they may be thinking about swarming!

How do I know if I have a viable queen?

Watch the entrance and make sure they are bringing in pollen. If 6 of 10 have pollen, almost guarantees you have a queen.

What to do if you are going to shift a brood pattern?

Just take out an empty outside frame and slide the rest over. Go the

Forum at beesource.com. If you push them and it gets cold, they can have a hard time. Use drawn comb only.

There is a delicate balance between opening the hive too often and not opening at all. Remember that we don't want to open it before it is 50 degrees outside.

The screen bottom board has been used since 1905: increases ventilation, but also increased honey production. If you read the bottom board, you can see where brood is being capped, brood is being fed, etc.

Heike will give us a talk in September about reading the bottom board.

If the bees have a tendency to swarm, we need to be in there every 10 days to cut out queen cells.

How do we get the hive to accept a new queen?

Put the queen in the queen cage and wait two days then see what the worker bees are doing. Are they tending her? It is better to leave the queen in the cage too long then let her get out to soon.

What if we are queenless?

Put in a frame with eggs and let them make queen cells. You can rear your own queen although it will set the hive back.

A brood break (3 weeks) reduces Varroa mites because they cannot hide in cells.

If you want to raise your own queen: how many queen cells to leave: 2 largest cells only applies where the hive has been queenless.

Swarm cells are made when a good flow is on. Likely to get a good queen out of that. To separate the hive take out most of the brood and 2 fat swarm cells and place them in new hive.

Put 2 queen cells each in nuc when raising your own queens. Let them grow and then kill the extra ones and put them all together and you will have a great honey crop.

Skunks will scratch at the hive and the bees will come out to protect themselves and the skunk will eat them by the handful and spit out the bodies. You can put chicken wire around or stick nails through a board to keep the skunks away.

Bears are after the brood. Keep dogs to protect the hive and extreme hot wire. Hornets and yellow jackets will attack later in the season. Be sure to hang traps.

Bald faced hornets attack bees in flight. Yellow jackets invade the hive internally.

There is also a bald face hornet trap too at Jerry's.

Small swarms may be secondary swarms.

Door prizes were given out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

President's Notes

Judy Scher, LCBA President

On May 16, LCBA made its first presence at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Wildflower Festival. Thanks to Jared Pruch, who arranged this with the staff at the arboretum, we set up a booth with Ken Ograin's hive demo, the triptych of native bees on local flowers, and the remaining jars of club honey. Many future backyard beekeepers came by for information on how to start their first hive as well as information on the LCBA meetings. We sold all the club honey! Thank you to Chip Kiger and Jared Pruch, who helped staff the booth.

June holds two events for our club. First is the annual field day at Dr. Lynn Royce's farm, Saturday, June 19. For a great hands-on experience and to observe how experts go through hives, this cannot be missed. Kenny and Heike Williams will be joining us again for the hands-on hive work. There is a map with driving directions to Lynn's in this newsletter. Please bring a side dish of salad or dessert or fruit for the lunch following the instruction and don't forget to bring a folding chair!

The second event in June will be the KLCC Garden Tour on Sunday, June 27. LCBA will have a booth at Oakhill School garden plot. We have volunteers signed up to staff the booth, but could use at least one other member to help out between 3 and 5 PM.

Judy Scher, President LCBA

Welcome New LCBA Members	
Luke Carroll	Eugene
Richard Hardt	Eugene
Norajean Lemar	Sweet
Home	
Ada McClory	Mapleton
Karessa Torgerson	Corvallis
Jane Olson	Philomath

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Ken Ograin's Notes and IPM Update



IPM Update: This has been and continues to be a strange year. The warm weather in January and February were good for the bees and plants. Then came March with its freezing temperatures which killed many plants in my yard. April brought rain then May and now June more rain. This has been very hard on the honey bees. Warm weather early, and now months of cold rain have caused many of us to feed, feed then feed some more. I have polled many longtime beekeepers and all say "This has truly been a unique year."

Two alarming things that have been reported to me by several members, first that a high number of new bee package hives swarming with only a few frames drawn. The other is a high number of mites and the presence of bees with DFV (deformed wing virus). This is just too early to be seeing these conditions. I just have a feeling that the bees know something we don't.

If the weather does not improve soon we will miss the second major honey flow. (Blackberry) It was wet and lousy during the earlier honey flow. (Maple)

All this means we may have to continue feeding into fall. You may also want to think about protein patties as well. UFL Extension has released a new video to its series "A Video Field Guide to Beekeeping" American & European Foulbrood; you can view it at <http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/honeybee/extension/index.shtml>.

There will be a number of these available for loan in our DVD library soon.

Let's not forget that even package bees can come with mites, so don't think that sampling is not important.

Ken Ograin

Bees in Laurel: At last month's meeting there was a question that was asked and not fully answered.

In other words no one on the panel had a good answer. Question "Why is there so many bees in my laurel when there are no flowers?"

The answer was unclear or not very positive "Honeydew from aphids". Well thanks to two of our new members Brian Cory and Richard Hardt who did not settle for the not-so-positive answer, their research found the answer to why you may find many bees in certain plants when there are no flowers. As it turns out many plants have a defense strategy when they are being attacked by a pest.

This strategy is called "Extrafloral Nectar" which is a high sugar content nectar produced by glands on the underside of the leaves or stems. This then attracts ants and wasps to feed on the sugar and the pests. Thanks to Brian and Richard for their efforts.



GMO Seeds: There have been many theories on the cause of CCD, according to the Universities that have been studying CCD, GMO crops were disregarded as a cause. This was not to say that GMO crops are safe for honeybees but just that they were not the cause of CCD. Several members have brought to my attention a new report that has been circulating the web. A report out of Australia by Peter Olson points to BT (Bacillus Thuringiensis) modified seed as a cause of CCD.

Peter does give the science and several references.

<http://www.energygrid.com/ecology/2010/03po-colonycollapse.html> read down to page three for the science. If you would like a pdf copy of peter's article send me an e-mail at woodrt@pacinfo.com.

Beekeeping Tips—June

Chuck Hunt, LCBA member

1. It has been a remarkable "Spring", very cool and damp. The season is late. Within the city limits, where the blackberries usually bloom first in this area, the bloom has not yet begun at this writing. The major honey flow is going to be delayed this year. Make sure your bees don't starve at this critical time and feed them if necessary.
2. As the honey flow begins, probably towards the later part of June, add supers to your hives. Look into the hive from above and if you see capped honey or see whitening on the top bars of the frames in the super, add at least one more box to your hive.
3. It does not harm the hive to super a little ahead during the early part of the honey flow. In other words, you can put on two supers instead of just one even though you think that one super might do for the time being.
4. Get your equipment ready for extracting.
5. Watch for outbreaks of foulbrood now that all medications have been removed from the hives. Make sure that you know the difference between American Foulbrood (the most dangerous) and European Foulbrood. American Foulbrood can be diagnosed using the "ropiness" test.
6. Mites can be observed in the drone pupa cells that are revealed when you break the two brood chambers apart. Look for Varroa mites on the white pupa where they are readily visible at this time. If you see Varroa, be aware that the hive is in trouble. Use a sticky board and other monitoring devices to assess the Varroa infestation. In serious cases, honey supers may have to be removed and treatment started in order to save the hive.
7. Swarming can still occur in June, especially early June. Watch out for swarming and take countermeasures.

WAS Update Dewey Caron
carond@hortoregonstate.edu

Thanks to the Lane County Beekeepers Association for the co-sponsorship donation to WAS 2010. This support is gratefully appreciated. The funds will go to help support the appearance of Kim Flottum, editor of *Bee Culture Magazine*. He will present an afternoon talk on Wednesday Sept 1 on the Life and Legacy of L.L. Langstroth ; this year marks his 200th birthday. (trivia - what other bee person also celebrates his birthday on Dec 25?) Kim will also give a public (no registration fee) talk in the evening on Producing Varietal and Artisan Honey. Wednesday is a busy day at WAS 2010. Dr Larry Connor will give a Small Scale Beekeeping workshop in the morning. Those wishing not to take the course will instead be able to tour of OSU bee research projects and Dirk Olsen's honey farm before picnic and a Carousel ride in Salem's waterfront park. The afternoon program features, in addition to Kim, Harry Vanderpool (on nucs), Eric Mussen, UC Davis, last year's WAS President (Hints for Successful Backyard Beekeeping) and Ann Harman, prolific author and lecturer (Value-added Beekeeping). There is a slightly higher daily fee to take in Larry's short course and the Wednesday afternoon program. For full details on the program, speakers, registration etc see the WAS website (google Western apiculture or to go directly to website use this address: <http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/>) Before we meet again I will be doing a week-long beekeeping short course instruction of Coffee cooperative members in Nicaragua. GloryBee donated veils for our participants - and they will be the Thursday sponsor of WAS 2010. OH and lest I forget - We have added one of Lane County's very best - Morris Ostrofsky--to our excellent WAS speaker roster. He will be on our Thursday afternoon program at WAS this year. Be sure to check out his bio photo - taken at Corvallis 9 years ago at last WAS held in Oregon. (Give up on the trivia question? I too was a Christmas "baby" some 132 years after LL!)

The Buzz In and About the Laurel Hedge

Judy Scher

During the honey dearth last month, I observed a great many honey bees being attracted to the underside of the leaves of an English laurel bush. After doing a little research online, I found out that these leaves are host to a type of soft brown scale. This parasitic insect produces a tiny drop of honeydew as it sucks nutrients from the leaf. Indeed, the little droplets are sweet. I took some macro photos of a droplet of honeydew on a leaf, a bee collecting the honeydew and the actual scale insect on the stem. Apparently, in some European and Asian countries, the dark, strong honey made from honeydew is valued for medicinal properties.



A very happy bee finding some honeydew



Underside of laurel leaf with honeydew droplet



Honeydew droplet in middle of leaf damaged by scale



Resulting leaf scar



The brown soft scale on stem nearby leaf

2010 FIELD DAY AND PICNIC

11am-3pm Saturday June
19, 2010

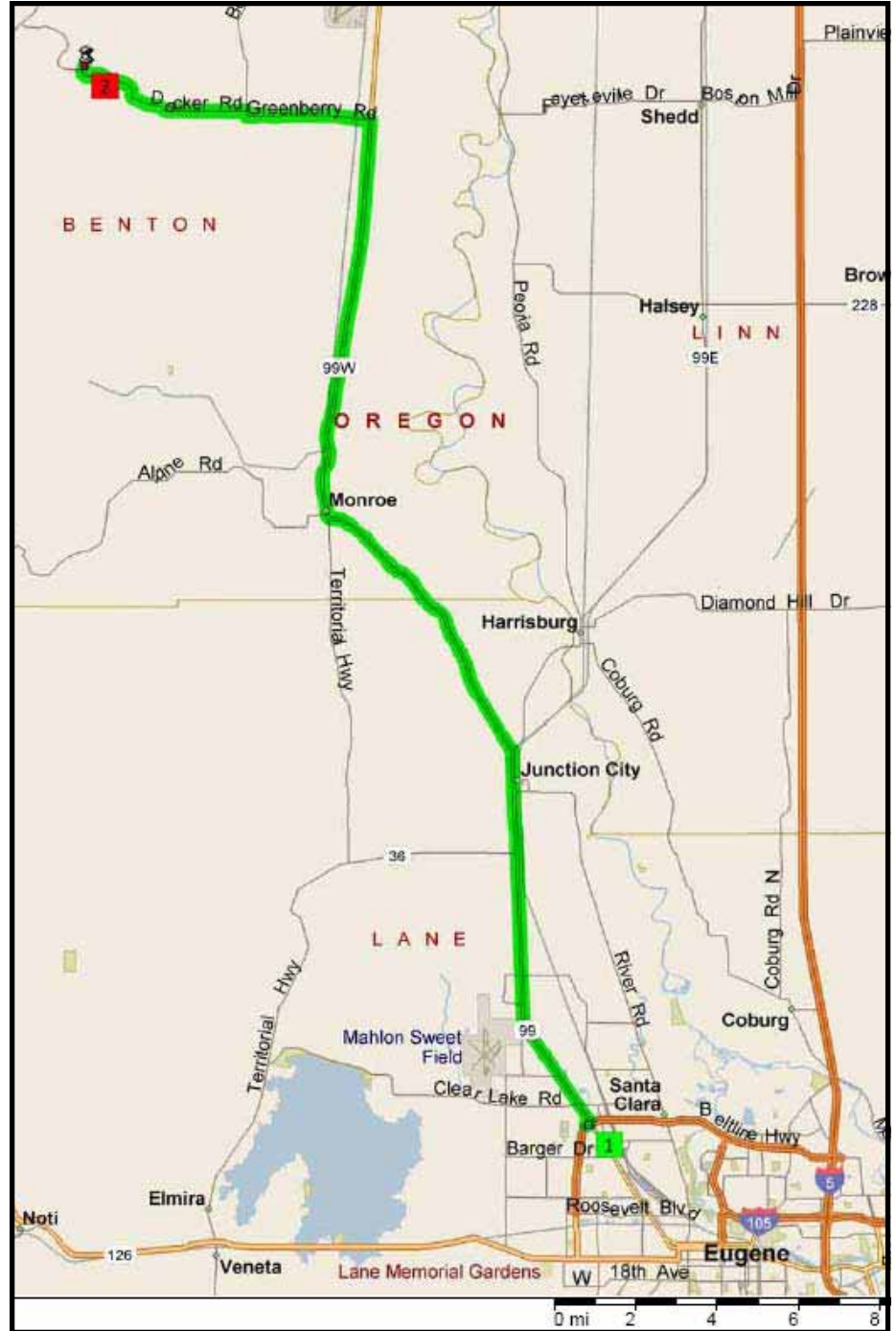
We'll be meeting at Dr. Lynn Royce's apiary near Corvallis. Field Day has been held at Lynn's for the past few years and they are always a lot of fun and a great opportunity to learn and share knowledge. Talking to your bee club friends about beekeeping practices is one thing...working a hive with them is quite another! For the field day activities, **don't forget bring your bee suit and/or veil and gloves**, because we will be doing hands-on.

Dr. Lynn Royce before retiring was an entomologist at OSU and is a beekeeper. She has a beautiful place and deep reserves of knowledge she is happy to share. Field Day is a great learning opportunity so bring your family, a side dish and **lawn chair**. The LCBA will be providing Subway sandwiches and bottled water.

The address is 30807 SW Decker Ridge Road, Corvallis (actually between Corvallis and Monroe). It's a beautiful drive from the Eugene/Springfield area. See map for directions. Lynn's phone is 541-929-5337 in case you get lost.

If you plan on attending please RSVP so we know how much food to order: Nancy Ograin at woodrt@pacinfo.com

Map to Field Day from Jerry's in Eugene



9:00 AM 0.0 mi 1 Depart Jerry's Eugene
 9:00 AM 0.2 mi Turn LEFT (North) onto SR-99 for 9.7 mi
 9:11 AM 9.9 mi Turn LEFT (North-West) onto SR-99W [Pacific Hwy W] for 17.6 mi
 9:33 AM 27.5 mi Turn LEFT (West) onto Greenberry Rd for 3.1 mi
 9:38 AM 30.5 mi Turn RIGHT (North) onto Bellfountain Rd for 0.1 mi
 9:39 AM 30.6 mi Turn LEFT (West) onto Decker Rd for 4.5 mi
 9:46 AM 35.2 mi Turn RIGHT onto SW Decker Ridge Rd for 0.2 mi
 9:47 AM 35.3 mi 2 Arrive 30807 SW Decker Ridge Rd, Corvallis, OR 97333

Turn at Banks Rd for additional parking

WAS

A reminder: Western Apiculture Society meets this summer Aug 29-Sept 2 at Red Lion Inn SALEM, OREGON. To read about this big bee event check out the February 2010 issue of the Western Apicultural Society Journal posted on website <http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/>, click on "WAS Journal" and then on the Feb 2010 issue. You can access this without charge. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW and PLAN TO ATTEND** - we promise you will not BEE disappointed.

-Dewey Caron

LCBA MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Lane County Beekeepers Association now costs \$15.00 yearly. Dues are prorated after March for new members ONLY! Bring your dues to the meeting or remit to LCBA Treasurer Nancy Ograin, (address in box at bottom of p 7).



LCBA Calendar-at-a-Glance

June 15—Pests & Disease—
Morris Ostrofsky

June 19—**LCBA FIELD DAY**

July 20—Honey Extrac-
tion—Ken Ograin

August 17—Fall Manage-
ment—Judy Scher

Sept 21—Sticky Boards for
Mite Monitoring—Heike
Williams

October 19—Candles and
Wax

November 16—Honey Tast-
ing and Elections

January 18 2011—Supper
Meeting—Topic TBA

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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.(541-736-1870) or e-mail lcbanewslettereditor@hotmail.com.

Honeybee packages for sale: Italian/Carniolian mix from Northern California. Projected date of arrival April 1-3. 50% deposit due by March 15th. 3#'s \$78 4#'s \$88; \$5 deposit on cages, refunded if returned undamaged.

Country Rubes screened bottoms:No. 1's (bottom grid for mite count) \$35—No. 2's \$32 **Locally made screen bottoms** from cedar \$22 **Pierco plastic inserts** coated with excellent local wax: 9 5/8 \$1.25 each; 6 5/8 \$1.20 each. Unwaxed Pierco's substract \$.30 each. **Used deep, medium and shallow boxes** \$7-\$14.

Soon will have **wax foundations from local wax**, and **pollen traps** for sale. **CALL FOR QUESTIONS:** Joe 541-683-4281

FOR SALE : Complete extracting line for mid-size producer: 50-900 hives

Cowen uncapper and 60 frame rack, Electric Steam generator, Cappings tank, Above-ground Kelly Sump, One stainless 60 frame dadant radial spinner with speed control, One stainless 32 frame Dadant radial spinner with speed control, 250 gallon double walled dairy settling/storage tank. (Entire line well maintained and in good condition)

PLEASE CALL KAREN FINLEY CORVALLIS OREGON
541-760-6528

Or contact finleykk@yahoo.com \$ 12,000

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!

FOR SALE: Established beehive. Western supers. Call for details.

Dadant hand crank 4 frame extractor. \$350
(541) 726-2180

NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION

This newsletter is published eleven times a year by the Lane County Beekeepers Association, 130 Hansen Lane, Eugene OR 97404. Sample copies may be requested from the editor. Copyright resides with individual contributors. If you would like to reprint anything you see here, please contact the editor. Permission is normally granted freely for non-profit use. For advertisements, please contact the editor or the association treasurer by the first of the month.

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