



## LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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# November 2010 NEWSLETTER

<http://www.lcbaor.org>

### NEXT MEETING:

Nov 16, program at 7:30 PM

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

Hall opens at 7:00

### Annual HONEY TASTE-OFF!

Let's face it—your honey tastes AWESOME. But just how awesome? How would you like to have it evaluated by a panel of beekeepers? Our November meeting will be a giant honey tasting contest. Bring your best, sample the rest, and be there when the club's choice for best overall is crowned! There's prizes at stake for the top honeys, lots of fun, unbelievable variety, and

**WE HAVEN'T HAD A BAD JAR YET!**

### **Trinity United Methodist Church**

440 Maxwell Road

Turn West off River Road  
in Eugene, (South of  
Beltline)

### SWEETEN THE POT SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

Bee... generous and donate your excess honey for the LCBA booth at the Good Earth Garden Show January 21-23rd.



Money raised will help the club continue to promote beekeeping in Lane County.

Katharine Hunt will be available to collect donations of honey at the November and January meetings. Also you may call her at 541-607-0106 to make other arrangements. For every quart you donate your name will be entered into a special drawing.

**SEPTEMBER Meeting Highlights:****Reading sticky boards with Heike Williams**

Meeting of Lane County Beekeepers came to order at 7:31 pm

Tonight's Program is "Sticky Boards". Ken and Heike Williams are commercial beekeepers from west of Corvallis. We are lucky to have them as members and to have Heike sharing her experience with sticky boards.

Heike spoke about materials for used to make sticky boards. She uses aluminum litho plates from old newspaper presses. Newspapers were giving them away. Heike scratches a grid in them for easily keeping track of her mite count. Multi-craft white plastic sheets can be purchased for \$2 a sheet at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Madison. Also a white plastic cafeteria tray will work. Mostly everyone uses grids of some sort to count mites. Mann Lake sells a black and white checkerboard sticky board for \$2.75. Count the white squares and multiply. You can get plexiglass from Bring and paint the back side or just 1/8 hardware cloth over lathe boards with butcher paper on the back, as well.

To make the boards sticky Heike uses a combination of Vaseline and oil... thin enough to use a brush but still viscous enough for the mites to stick. Some folks use Pam but then the mites can crawl out. Sticky board should be under the screen bottom and be sure the bees can't get to the substance because they will stick and die.

The best answer to the mite problem is hygienic bees. It would take nature up to 20 years to correct the problem. Apigard has to be in contact with the brood. Know your mite count before you treat and check after. Fall: critical mite count is about 30 a day and Spring is about 12. Use a natural drop to check the number of mites.

Heike recommends keeping a sticky board on for 2 or 3 days then divide by the # of days. If you keep it on more than 3 days at a time the sticky board has a tendency to pick up blown in debris etc. Mites came from Asian bees which have developed as to handle the mites but our honeybees can't. If you treat them, do a one day mite count to be sure your treatment is effective.

University of Washington, Steve Shepard says the threshold is as high as 46 or 9 to 14 from a jar of bees, shaken out with sugar. Treatment drop should be at least 6 times higher and opinions vary on that. Some say as high as 10 times higher.

Sugar Shake: scoop 3 or 4 ounces of bees into a mason jar with a screen lid. Coat them with powdered sugar and shake out the mites and count them.

Keep records of the natural drop, treated drop etc. Keep records for years and see who survives. Be consistent, and you will develop a sense of what works and what doesn't.

At this point we looked at the various sticky board samples and gave out door prizes. Meeting adjourned.

**OCTOBER Meeting Highlights:****Wax and Candles with Ken, Judy, and Katharine**

Meeting came to order at 7:32pm

President Judy Scher presiding, reminded us that at this time of the year the syrup is a 2 part sugar to 1 part water mixture otherwise the 1/1 mixture replicates a nectar flow. She also apologized for inventing "CNN disease" in last newsletter. Next meeting is the honey taste-off, please bring your honey in "Queen-Line" jar for uniformity.

We need honey donations to sell and raise money for the club. Please see Katharine Hunt.

**Ken O'Grain: Rendering Wax:**

Cappings are easy to do. You can do them in an oven at 200 degrees, put cappings in a paint bag in a large pot ¼ full of water for 2 hours.. take them out and squeeze them and do it again...the whole process takes about 7 hours.

Solar Oven: Line a cardboard box with closed-cell insulation and put a piece of glass on top.

Use bridal veil type of material or Remay over your pot.. don't tie it with a rubber band because they break when hot.

Put your wax on top of the bridal material and water in the bottom of the pot... makes nice little wax beads.

There are lots of plans on the internet, and Brushy Mountain has plans too. Prices range from \$85 plus \$35 shipping to \$400. You can build it for \$5-50 if you go to Bring Recycle. Cleans frames well too, but not plastic frames! Use a silicone bread pan with some water in it for catchment. Wax floats, debris sinks to the bottom.

If it is 65 degrees outside, solar oven can get to 240 degrees in ½ hour. You don't really want it more than 185 degrees. Lift the glass to adjust temperature. Strain the wax through several layers of Cheesecloth.

**Judy and Katharine: Candle Making:**

Melt wax to between 145 and 160 degrees. Use Wick for dip candles... about 20 dips. Judy rolls the first dipped wick on a smooth surface to straighten it out, then if the candles get funny looking she, again, rolls them on a smooth surface. After she gets so low on wax that she can't dip anymore then she makes mold candles. She puts the Mold in a PVC pipe so they stand up while she pours the wax. As it cools the wax shrinks a little and makes an indentation. She pours and cools until there is no more indentation.

Katharine's wax is strained two or three times. She cures her mold candles in the freezer. They usually need a little touch up on the bottom. They are cured on a Silicone mat. If you use plastic molds you may want to spray them with a little silicone spray to keep them from sticking. You can get the "bloom" off with an old pair of nylons or a hairdryer.

No one has had much success with metal molds except for votives and sometimes not even those. There is a good book by Judy Oppenheimer titled: Candle Makers Companion. Door prizes were handed out and we adjourned 8:45pm.

## President's Notes

Judy Scher, LCBA President

I hope everyone can be present at the November meeting to taste, compare and judge everybee's 2010 honey. There is info in this issue (p. 6) on how to prepare and bring your sample for this wonderful LCBA Honey Tasting Event.

Last week I attended the combined WSBA and OSBA beekeeping conference in Hood River. I will write up a more detailed report for the January newsletter.

In a nutshell, this year's focus was on honeybee nutrition, and how it is compromised by deleterious effects of antibiotics and pesticides used on crops. Researchers are studying the many beneficial microbes living on and inside the honeybee, and how these microbes are affected by pesticides. Also, the sub-lethal effect of pesticides residing in beeswax comb is being studied. Malnutrition from monocrop pollination is of great concern. Bees need to be taken off these crops before they are seriously weakened by malnutrition (a good example is watermelon).

Another topic was developing disease-resistant bees, while still enhancing honeybee diversity. Diversity may come from crossbreeding our bees with old world honeybee subspecies.

A new Varroa mite control, Hop Guard, derived from hops, has been developed and tested with positive results. It was reported that Hop Guard is safe in that it doesn't affect honey and has a non-significant effect on bee mortality after 7 days of treatment. WA, OR and ID have submitted a section 18 for approval.

Next year Oregon is hosting this convention in Seaside, OR. If anyone is interested in becoming a serious beekeeper, you should consider attending this. It's fun and informative and you get to talk about beekeeping for 2 days straight!

### Other Notes:

Starting in January, there will be a place for anyone to submit questions, which will be collected by our secretary and distributed to experienced beekeepers to answer. Questions and Answers will be printed in the newsletter. There is no question too small and I know many questions go unanswered at the meetings due to time constraints.

Once again, the club needs honey donations to sell at the January Good Earth Home Show and other fairs in 2011. Honey donations can be given to Katharine Hunt at the club meeting. We promise to return your container in clean condition.

The Oregon State Beekeepers had their board and general membership meeting at the Hood River conference. The first 2 items are directed 'to whom it concern':

- 1) Oregon Department of Agriculture is cracking down on Amitraz to treat Varroa mites. This product, found in flea collars, has never been approved for honeybees.
- 2) If you take your bees to California for pollination, you are responsible for paying California taxes. If you don't pay CA tax, the grower is obligated to take 7% of your profits. However, you can fill out Form 589NR to reduce this percent to a much smaller amount. You need talk to your tax advisor about this.
- 3) The OSBA publication, The Beeline, contains a question/answer section for Dr. Ramesh Sigili and Dr. Dewey Caron. All beekeepers are urged to submit questions, and no question is insignificant.

## Ken Ograin's Notes and IPM Update



**IPM Update:** Check your hive weight! If your hives are light you will need to feed fondant, pro-patties or hard candy at this time of year. It is very important that you know your hives have honey stores. This past week I was asked to help a fellow beekeeper better understand how to do this. They had noted that the hive was very active on warm days and knew the hive had lots of bees and brood about 6 weeks back which was the last time they had opened the hive. My first clue was the "heft test" which revealed little to no weight even through this was a 3 box hive. So without opening it, one can determine that this hive had been robbed or had no honey stores, this would also be an indicator that the activity that was seen was a free for all by neighbors.

Next step would be to open this hive to see if the colony is still viable. Upon opening it was obvious that signs of robbing were easy to see, (jagged and torn comb) after inspecting each frame in each box there was no sign of any bees other than the few robbers that were looking for any scraps of honey. The good news was that no major wax moth damage had occurred. Other than a very few capped brood cells which had chilled; this is what occurs when there are not enough heater bees to keep brood at 90° or above. As for the colony they must have abandoned the hive. This assumption was based on the fact that there was no pile of dead bees on the bottom screen. The frames were in good condition and will be put in the freezer for a couple of days; boxes, bottom and lid will get cleaned and stored in a dry place, they will be ready for spring.

Bears came to visit with a few beekeepers again this year. Bears are becoming more of a problem in many populated areas around the county. You need to be aware of what is happening in your neighborhoods. It is not just those that live out in the country that need to be on guard. Electric fences are very effective against bears when they have not found your hives but if you get a visit from one of these an electric fence may not prevent them from returning. Moving your hives out of the area will be your best choice. Bears will usually warn you that they like what you are offering. A bears first visit will be just knocking over the hive only to find that the bees are not happy with the visit. The bees may repulse this first visit but the bear will return and not be diverted from its dinner of protein-rich brood. This will usually mean the end of that hive or hives and destruction of your equipment.

Keep sampling and keep records! Do this every couple of weeks until spring to check on hive activity.

*Ken Ograin*

**Cause of CCD found?** Many have been influenced by many web reports of the connection between Dr Bromenshenk and the Bayer Corporation. There is a connection but that does not mean this is not good science, before you discount this look at the full report and you will see that there are many other scientists from around the world that were involved. I am not saying that Bayer has not influenced many in the industry which I am sure they have, you do not have to look any further than what they were able to do with CheckMite labeling (see October newsletter). [If you have not followed this controversy you can find one of the main articles questioning the Bayer-Bromenshenk connection at [http://money.cnn.com/2010/10/08/news/honey\\_bees\\_ny\\_times.fortune/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2010/10/08/news/honey_bees_ny_times.fortune/index.htm) Thanks to Bill Wood for this link—editor.]

**OSU Hive Health Study:** Thanks to Carolyn up at OSU the new [OSU Honey Bee Lab](http://honeybeelab.oregonstate.edu) website is up and running. <http://honeybeelab.oregonstate.edu> Check it out and watch it grow. Samples are being processed and will be added as they are completed, so be patient --they have more than 500 to do.

If you were one of the many members that had returned samples keep checking the results page you're your number. Unlike last year, sample numbers will not be listed until they have been completed, go to the results page and follow the instructions at the top of the page. If you have lost your number let me know and I will provide it to you.

You will see results for mites, protein and nosema spore counts. At this time nosema type is not easily identified. Spore counts above 1.5 million are cause for concern. As for the protein number, more is better but what this number really reveals is yet to be determined. Our study will produce some good data to compare the commercial and backyard beehive once this data is compiled along with some control testing that Dr. Sagili will be conducting next year.

## Beekeeping Tips—Oct 2010

Chuck Hunt, LCBA member



1. The bees are quiet now, with flight only occurring during warm periods of the day, perhaps when there is a break in the clouds and some sunshine hits the hives. Make sure that your hives are secure from debris from windstorms and other weather and that no animals (such as skunks or raccoons) are disturbing the bees. Visually check your hives and also make sure that hives are very slightly tipped forward in order to properly shed rain and moisture.
2. Make sure that your supers are safely stored and not being damaged by mice or other predators. Watch for wax moths if supers are stored where it is warm. In general, the weather has cooled enough that supers stored at outside temperatures will not be attacked by wax moths.
3. Take the cool winter days and evenings to assemble equipment for next year. Make sure that you put equipment together carefully with glue and nails sufficient for the stresses and strains of beekeeping. Frames especially need side nails in order to properly secure the top bar to the side bars.
4. Read, study and plan for next year's beekeeping season which will begin in January or February.

### Slate of Officers 2011 Nominations

President - Judy Scher  
 Vice-President - Rita Ostrofsky  
 Secretary - Barbara Bajaec  
 Treasurer - Nancy Ograin  
 Board of Directors - Jared Pruch, Morris Ostrofsky, Mike Harrington

At our November Meeting we will be voting on our Officers for the 2011 Year. We will be asking for nominations from the floor, so it is not too late to run for an office or board position. Please contact Nancy Ograin (541-935-7065) or Katharine Hunt (541-607-0106) if you are interested.

Thank You.,  
 Katharine Hunt, Nancy Ograin

### Welcome New LCBA Members

#### Welcome New LCBA Members

Dexter Crabtree	Corvallis
Rebecca Fisher	Eugene

C.F.

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## NOVEMBER HONEY TASTING AT LCBA

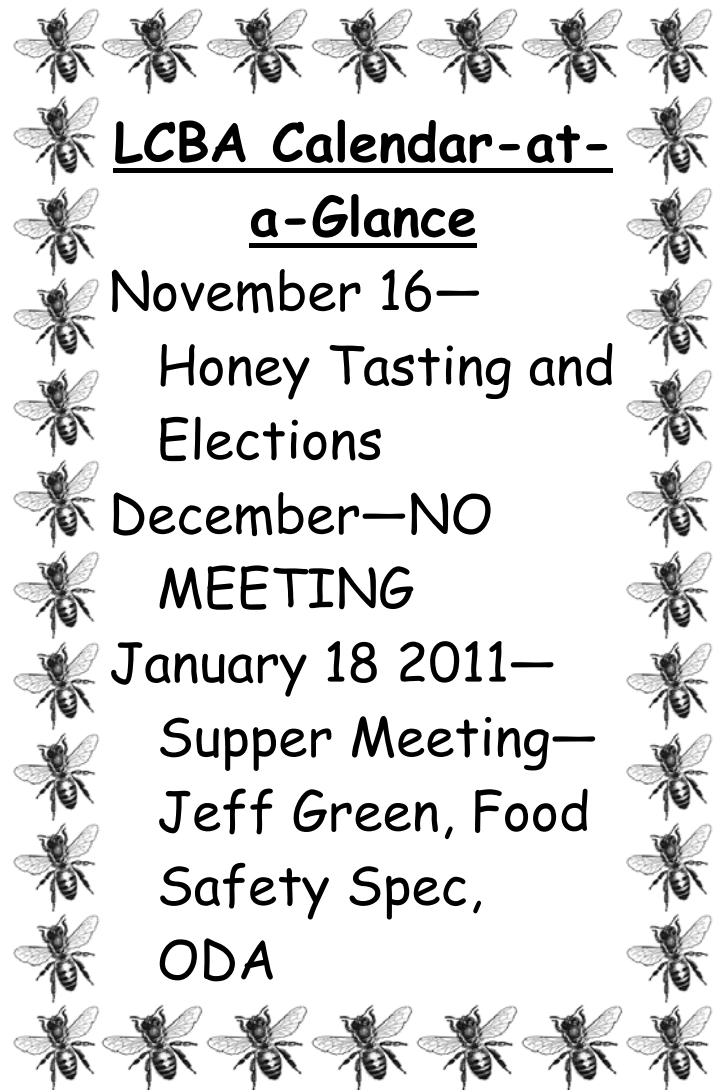
The November meeting will be devoted to tasting, comparing and judging honey produced by all of our hard working bees. This fun filled and educational evening can't be missed! Set aside at least one jar of your 2010 honey for the annual LCBA "Honey Tasting Contest". If you have different batches of honey (e.g. honey from maple trees and honey from blackberries) set aside a jar from each to bring. It's amazing to see how many different flavors and varieties our bees produce. Please use a plastic queenline jar for anonymity during judging. We will all vote on our favorite honey in each category (light, medium, dark). Of course, all our honey is great-tasting but there will still be prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> "best" tasting honey.

1<sup>st</sup> place: Glorybee gift certificate 50.00

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Glorybee gift certificate 20.00

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Glorybee gift certificate 10.00

-Judy Scher, LCBA Vice-President



**LCBA Calendar-at-**  
**a-Glance**  
 November 16—  
 Honey Tasting and  
 Elections  
 December—NO  
 MEETING  
 January 18 2011—  
 Supper Meeting—  
 Jeff Green, Food  
 Safety Spec,  
 ODA



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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](mailto:lcbanewslettereditor@hotmail.com).

### 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](mailto:finleykk@yahoo.com) \$ 12,000

### 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).

#### 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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### 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:** Reconditioned bee escapes (cone type) for sale. \$10.00 each

New (6) commercial bottom boards \$7 each.

Contact Jerry Carter at 541 689-3320 or 541 968-4047

**WANTED TO BUY:** radial extractor for 6-12 Western frames. Electric or hand-crank OK. Please call Sterling Biggar 541-998-8047.



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