



LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

130 HANSEN LANE, EUGENE, OR 97404

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October 2009 NEWSLETTER

<http://www.lcbaor.org>

NEXT MEETING:

October 20 7:30 PM

(room opens at 7:00 for early bees)

WAS meetings and Items of Interest
Dr. Dewey Caron

**Come hear Dr Caron's take on the West-
ern Apicultural Society meetings...and
other matters of note!**

HEY!

**We are NOT meeting at
EWEB any more!**

This month's location is:

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

Sept Meeting Highlights:

Nancy Ograin, fill-in-secretary

LCBA President Katharine Hunt opened the meeting with the following announcements:

Northwest Beekeeping Conference is Nov 19th - 21st in Seaside, Oregon. Registration forms are available at the Oregon State Beekeepers Association web site at orsba.org. Registration is due Oct 15th to get a \$25 savings.

John Eichhorn invited Dan Quackenbush to attend our meeting. He is making westerns and deeps and donated two of them for door prizes. Thank you Dan!

Dewey Caron will be repeating the club survey that we did a few years back on varroa mites and mite treatments. He is asking us to participate and will share the survey results with everyone, and possibly publish the results. Having data that shows how our club is adapting our mite treatments is very exciting! You will find the survey enclosed in this newsletter. Your responses are confidential, and we are very interested in them! Please take a moment to fill out the survey. You can mail it to the newsletter editor, or bring it to the next meeting. If you are a cyber-subscriber, print out the survey OR email your responses to lcbanewslettereditor@hotmail.com.

Our topic for the month was "Gizmos, Gadgets & Bloopers of the Season" and a bee discussion. Members brought in their gadgets to share.

Barbara Bajec showed us her easy-to-make syrup feeder. Materials needed are 1/2" plywood, ordinary mason quart jar and a plastic bucket for the cover. Take 1/2 inch plywood, cut slightly larger than hive top, paint top side for weatherizing. Rout out hole in center of plywood sheet to fit a

mason jar lid. Punch little pin holes in jar lid, fill jar with syrup and invert over hole in plywood, cover jar with paper sack (can use empty sugar sack) and plastic bucket (rock on top to keep in place). Remove hive cover and replace with this plywood board. There is no need for additional empty super surround, it's easy to refill mason jars, no leaking and bees take syrup easily through little holes. This is especially nice for feeding Fumagillin in fall and spring in quart amounts.

Morris showed us how to make a simple swarm retriever for swarms that are high up in a tree utilizing a 5 gallon bucket, fishing line, and paint roller handle. The paint roller is taped to the bucket and by using an extension pole you raise up the bucket to catch the swarm. The fishing line is used to pull the lid closed after you knocked the bees into the bucket. Very clever and innovative. Jim Rundall pulled out an extension pole that belonged to the church, screwed it on and showed we'd have had no problem reaching a swarm up in the rafters!

Toni Goldenberg showed us a device she made to weigh a hive using an ordinary bathroom scale. You make a solid base make with a drawer that has mirrors in it which acts as a periscope. It's hard to describe so check out the instructions in the April 2009 Bee Culture magazine.

Ken Ograin showed us a moving screen that was used at one time by commercial beekeepers for ventilation. If you want more ventilation in your hive just put in under the top lid. It's just four piece of scrap lumber and a screen. Ken also showed us his simple honey warmer to dry out honey that has more than 19% moisture in it. Materials are a 5 gallon bucket and a brood lamp (used for baby chicks) with a 90 watt bulb. Cut a hole in the bucket lid a little smaller than the lamp and set the lamp upside down over it. It will take 2 to 2 weeks to reduce the moisture. *[IMPORTANT! Do NOT use a regular infrared bulb as you would with baby chicks—you will melt your bucket, ruin your honey, and risk a fire—ed.]*

Next were the bloopers. Several members told us their stories of various mistakes they make and what happened. They might not have been so funny at the time, but very funny when you look back on it. We've all been there.

Bee questions came next. Some where:

Why do I need to take off the extra honey on my hive?

Answers: Fall honey can have a strong, funky flavor and may not be of good quality. Honey can also ferment. The bees also need to fill in the brood area with food.

Why do I see worker bees (not drones) being kicked out the hive?

Answer: They are probably robbers. You need to place an entrance reducer.

What can you do with fall swarms?

Answer: You can combine with another hive or use a double screen to put above another existing hive.

Why aren't the bees taking in the grease patties quickly?

Answer: Adding some mineral salt to the grease patty may help.

Thank you members for sharing your "Gizmos, Gadgets & Bloopers" at our meeting!



Jim Rundall helps Morris show off what his swarm catcher can really do! If there had been a swarm in the rafters, they'd have hived it!

CLUB BASKET for MASTER FOOD PRESERVERS

The Master Food Preserver "Tasting Buffet" is a fund raiser for our program, which is part of OSU Extension Service, Lane County. Last year your organization gave us a very nice basket for our silent auction. We are in hopes that you can support us again this year with a similar donation. The Extension Service itself is at risk because of State and County budget cuts and we are striving to keep our services available to the public.

Laura Hinrichs, Master Food Preserver

Please bring your donations for the Master Food Preserver's Basket to the October meeting! We'd love to make a nice basket with candles, bee-related items and of course honey! See Nancy or Katharine.

President's Notes



Katharine Hunt, LCBA President

The beautiful fall colors and cool mornings are upon us. Activity around the hive is slowing down as the bees complete their winterizing. It is time for us to relax and perhaps read the latest research about bees. I just received a notice about an interesting documentary now being viewed in the UK, "Vanishing of the Bees". To see a trailer of the film go to http://vanishingbees.co.uk/take_action/support_the_filmakers/. Apparently the filmmakers followed a group of U.S. beekeepers hit by Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). They suggest that there is a link to insecticide use.

We will have the opportunity at our October meeting to hear from Dr. Dewey Caron, LCBA member as well as 2nd Vice President of Western Apicultural Society. He will discuss "WAS in Oregon & Bees in the Americas". Also Dewey will inform us about what he is doing with Sustainable Harvest NGO in Portland. He was recently on the program "Lets Talk Coffee" in Central America (Nicaragua) discussing development work with bees (hands-on field training & Spanish language training materials) in the coffee-growing regions of Mexico and Central America.

It is nearly time for our club to enjoy the fruits of the labors of the bees. Remember to bring a sample to share with club members at our November meeting! Look for Vice President Judy Scher's article outlining the details for our annual honey tasting contest. Also if you have extra please consider donating to the club for our booth at the Good Earth Home and Garden show which will be held in January. We NEED YOUR HONEY! Judy Scher and Barbara Bajec brought two large containers of honey to the September meeting for this endeavor. Thank you!! I am hoping to gather more honey at future meetings this fall! If you are unable to make a meeting but would like to donate honey please contact me at 607-0106. Be sure to label your container if you would like it returned.

Don't forget that it will soon be time to elect the 2010 Executive and Board of Directors (November). Now is the time to volunteer your services or nominate someone else to be a member of the Board. Please talk with Board members at the October meeting about this important opportunity. The duties are not overwhelming!

See you at the October meeting on the 20th!

Katharine Hunt- LCBA President

2010 Election of Officers & Board Members

At our October meeting we will present our "Slate of Officers", members who have volunteered to run for a position. It is not too late to put your name in the hat. We want those fresh ideas and it's a great way to get to know other club members and have a say in what our club accomplishes.

Please contact one of the committee members below if you are interested or by e-mail at lcbaor@pacinfo.com.

Thank You,
Treasurer, Nancy Ograin 935-7065
President, Katharine Hunt 607-0106

Duties of the Officers:

President: The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Association and shall preside at all the meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors.

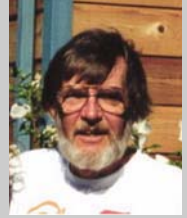
Vice-President: In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President and also any other duties that may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors. Maintain the inventory of property belonging to the association.

Secretary: The secretary shall keep the minutes of the meeting of the Members and of the Board of Directors and also perform any other duties as may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds of the Association, make payments for debts incurred by the Association, and produce an annual budget to be approved by the Board. Also perform any other duties that may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Directors (3): Directors shall attend board meetings and act on behalf of the membership in all matters before the Board.

Ken Ograin's Notes and IPM Update



IPM Update: There is not much you can do inside your hive now until spring. What you can do is watch the outside of your hives. You should be checking hive weight, although there is not much you can do at this time as syrup is difficult for the bees to take up with the cooler temperatures. There is a lot of talk on the web about using protein patties in the fall to provide winter food that is balanced.

Robbing by neighbors can be a problem for those hives that may be weak, some signs of this to look for are abnormal flight activity in front of your hive, seeing lots of yellow jackets and the sure sign is lots of wax debris just inside the entrance.

Hives that have been robbed were weak and unable to protect their stores. Robbing takes a heavy toll on hives and they will usually fail in a short time. The next thing to happen will be wax moth damage to comb and frames. It is best to get these hives out of apiary and cleaned up and made ready for spring. I inspect all frames and only save frames that have good looking comb. I recycle any misshapen or old comb frames. Any frames I plan to reuse are placed in a freezer for 2 days minimum.

Remember you should have your entrance cut down to 3/8" by 2-3". Keep those mice out!
So keep sampling and keep records, and if you get high numbers do a second test.

Do You Brand? Those of you that do not get my e-mails do not know about the call I got from the BLM.

Someone had dumped a bee hive on a forest road off of McGowen Creek west of Marcola. Also they said to use caution as there were lots of bees in the area. So Dave Creasey and I loaded up our bee suits and headed out for McGowen Creek then up BLM road 16-2-29. After getting to the end of that road and not seeing any bees or hives we turned around and headed back down checking any area where there was room to pull off the road. At the last spot on the road we saw several black plastic bags. After a closer look, there they were, 5 what appeared to be honey supers. No bees but it was evident that what had been reported were robbers. These looked to be new or newly painted, 4 had what looked to be first-year plastic frames.

I would think that these were stolen from someone, so take a look at the photo and if you have seen this brand before let me know.



Wood products reviewed: At the September meeting we had a guest attend, Dan Quackenbush. Dan is hoping to get a business started making wooden beekeeping equipment. He brought a sample of his deep and western boxes which he makes using a corner joint that you might find in a cabinet shop. And the best thing is he does the assembly using glue and screws. I was contacted by several members wondering how strong that corner joint would be, it is my opinion that this corner joint in the backyard hobbyist setting would be just fine, my only concern would be in a commercial setting where hives would be moved and trucked many times during the year. Maybe Dan could work with one of our pollinators to test them in that environment. Dan also talked about his interest in expanding to make other woodenware items.

Beekeeping Tips— September 2009

Chuck Hunt, LCBA member



1. All mite strips should be removed some time in October, depending on which type of mite strip was used and when it was placed in the hive. Grease patties will help control tracheal mites over the winter and can be kept on your hive all the time.
2. Entrance reducers, if used, should be on the hives and all hives should be tipped forward slightly to shed rain over the winter. Hives should be placed off the ground and wind shelter should be provided.
3. Late feeding can sometimes continue until mid or late October. Feed light hives a mixture of 1:1 sugar and water. Bees should have 35 to 40 pounds of honey for the winter.
4. Successful wintering depends on a good hive population with good health, a good and productive queen, and adequate stores of honey for the winter. Make sure your hive has these requirements and next spring you can watch the bees burst from the hive ready for the new season.

Oregon Country Fair and LCBA

The LCBA had a presence at the Oregon Country Faire, July 9th-12th. Over three days hundreds of people stopped at the Wild Edibles booth and visited with club members. If enthusiasm is contagious, there will be an outbreak of new beekeepers!

During two nice sunny days and one very rainy day, questions and comments ranged from the stereotypical to the thoughtful. Being located in the Community Village gave people the time and opportunity to carry on a conversation. The display of a frame of bees was important in starting many conversations that ended with information about the bee school and the club. Other conversations ended with 'I wish we had a bee club where I live'. The opportunity to smell the frame, feel the bee feet through the wire mesh, and watch the bees scurrying about, entranced children and adults alike.

About a dozen questions could not be answered at the curb. I consulted with Morris and emailed more thoughtful responses.

Thanks to everyone that participated. A big thank you goes to Glenna Edwards who was not able to take part in the booth but was the organizer behind the scenes attending Community Village meetings and lining up people to take shifts. Thanks also to the club for sponsoring our presence.

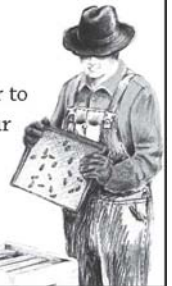
--Don McCloud

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LCBA Calendar-at-a-Glance

Oct 20—WAS meetings and items of interest—Dr. Dewey Caron

Nov 17—Honey Tasting

December—NO MEETING
(shhh! bees are sleeping)

January 19th - Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers. Guest Speaker, Ramesh Sagili, Assistant Professor-Apiculture, OSU

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 is a fun filled and educational evening that can't be missed! So, please remember to set aside at least one jar of your 2008 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. For example, I bring a light honey and a medium honey, both containing blackberry nectar and anything else blooming in my W. Eugene neighborhood.

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 1st, 2nd and 3rd "best" tasting honey.

1st place: Glorybee gift certificate 50.00 and a trophy (the old smoker!) to be kept for one year

2nd place: Glorybee gift certificate 20.00

3rd place: Glorybee gift certificate 10.00

Judy Scher, LCBA Vice-President

Welcome New LCBA Members!

Jim Luzzi

Eugene

Tom Mains

Junction City

Tom Scott

Eugene



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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.

Country Rubes COMBO SCREEN BOTTOM BOARDS

Local distributor.

\$39.50 will save on shipping

Toni (LCBA Member) 541-683-3503

Preview them at www.countryrubes.com

LCBA MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Lane County Beekeepers Association costs \$12.00 yearly. Dues are prorated after March for new members ONLY! Remit to LCBA Treasurer Nancy Ograin, (address in box at right).

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 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!

Extra Large Club T-Shirts: There have been several requests for XXL t-shirts as well as specific colors.

Now is your chance to make a special request, as we will be putting in a new order soon for club logo t-shirts.

There will be a \$2-3 extra charge for 2XL and 3XL. Please keep in mind that different ink colors add a \$10 cleanup fee, this would only apply when more than one color ink for the whole order. All black ink no fee, all yellow no fee.

If you are interested in getting something special let me know 541-935-7065

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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Discounted Publications Subscriptions American Bee Journal & Bee Culture

See Nancy Ograin, Treasurer, to get a 25% discount form. Forms are needed for new subscriptions and renewals.



BEE SURVEY 2009

Last year 27 Club members completed a survey regarding their varroa Mite treatments. We would like to duplicate that survey this year. Would you PLEASE take a few moments to complete this questionnaire. Return as below:

1. How many years have you been a beekeeper? _____

2. Number of colonies you currently manage (Fall 2009)? _____

3. Do you treat for Varroa mites? ___YES, ___No

4. Do you monitor for mite levels before you treat? ___YES, ___NO;

How do you Monitor? _____

5. How much money did you spend on Mite treatments this year? \$ _____

6. Did you use something (item, chemical, etc) to control mites? ___YES, ___NO

7. Did you use the same treatment for mites this year as you used last year? ___YES, ___NO

Did you use the same treatment on all hives? ___YES ___NO (IF NO please explain)

8. DID you use any of these treatments this year?

Apistan ___YES, ___NO

Coumaphos ___YES, ___NO

Formic Acid ___YES, ___NO

other Acid ___YES, ___NO

ApiGuard ___ YES, ___NO

ApiLife Var ___YES, ___NO

Honey B Healthy ___ YES, ___NO

PLEASE TURN OVER & COMPLETE BACK

Did you treat for mites by putting something in smoker? ___YES, ___NO

What did you use? _____

Did you powder sugar your bees for mite control? ___YES, ___NO

Did you try drone brood removal? ___YES, ___NO

Do you use a screened bottom board? ___YES, ___NO

Did you purchase & introduce a queen with mite resistance? ___YES, ___NO

Did you practice brood interruption for mite control? ___YES, ___NO

9. DID you use anything else not included in the list above? ___YES, ___NO

What did you use? _____

10. If asked by another Lane Co Beekeeper what would you recommend for their season long mite control management?

11. What do you think should NOT be used by any beekeeper for mite control?

12. What thoughts (anonymous) would you like to share with Lane Co Beekeepers about varroa mite control?

THANK YOU

RETURN TO Lane Co Newsletter editor Jonathan Loftin, 40031 Booth Kelly Rd, Springfield OR 97478

Email lcbanewslettereditor@hotmail.com