



## LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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# September 2010 NEWSLETTER

<http://www.lcbaor.org>

### NEXT MEETING:

Sept 21, program at 7:30 PM

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

Hall opens at 7:00

### Get the Stickyness out of Sticky Boards with Heike Williams

Instead of lectures, facts, diagrams, and figures—let's go through some actual drop boards with Heike! Bring your sticky boards, your questions, and your knowledge for this hands-on demo with someone who really knows her mite boards!

### Trinity United Methodist Church

440 Maxwell Road

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

### August Meeting Highlights:

**Honey Bee Health with Ramesh Sagilli**

**and**

**Fall Management with Judy Scher**

#### Honey Bee Health with Ramesh Sagilli

Ramesh's project looks at bee nutrition through the hypopharyngeal gland; dissect the gland and check the protein level. Nutrition is the first line of defense against, and the key to dealing with, major problems like Varroa etc.

Pollen is the source of protein, lipids, sterols, vitamins and minerals. Vitellogenin is the nutrient providing storage for protein. The higher the vitellogenin, the greater the longevity.

To send samples to Ramesh's project for Bee Testing: Using the Sample Kits, take the big jar and scoop up 250 bees or so from the brood area so the jar is 2/3 to 3/4 full. Be sure not to get your Queen! Tighten the lid and the bees will die within a few minutes then submerge them. Be sure to include a small piece of comb if you want the comb tested for pesticides.

Put 15 to 20 bees in the small sample jar. Sampling procedures are included with the kit and each kit has a # so put that # on the hive sampled.

The results of the testing can be found at <http://entomology.oregonstate.edu>. Thus far the results are 85% of hives are contaminated with Varroa mites. 39% Tracheal mites and 48% Nozema. Pink sheet comes back with the samples.

#### Fall Management with Judy Scher

August 15<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of fall for bees and the beginning of a successful start for next year's bees.

*Good Management: Managing parasites and Pests. Good Food Source. Manage Moisture levels.*

Repeat treatment for wax moths- take them seriously. If you use Para-moth, put it in a yogurt lid and stack them every three boxes. Poison, however resides in the wax.

Varroa mite threshold is 28 per day. Mites are now highly resistant to Coumaphos. Follow label instructions to restrict Apistan use to 42-56 days or they will become resistant to that too.

Use Apigard is every 7-10 days for two or three treatments.

Formic Acid (Mite-away2) may harm brood and is dangerous. There are rumors that there is another Formic Acid treatment but it was turned down for 'emergency' approval this year.

Tracheal Mites: are best treated with a patty of 1 part Crisco and 1 part sugar. Don't use with Apigard.

Nosema cerranae: Late summer- no symptoms- use fumigillin 2 parts to 1 of sugar water.

American Foul Brood: in many cases is now resistant to Terramycin. Tylan may be used but the best alternative is to BURN THE HIVE and be sure to clean tools and suits with bleach.

Yellow Jackets: use apple juice in traps at this time of the year. Use an entrance reducer and be sure to have a screened bottom board for ventilation.

Provide water, they like it dirty and add some nettles it will attract them.

Winter: the bees will cluster around the queen keeping them at 90 degrees.

Take your losses in the fall—combine weak hives with the newspaper method. Re-queen any hive that looks weak. You need a strong queen going thru the winter so watch out for any supercedure cells.

Don't wrap hives—use a screen bottom board and a spacer top with hardware cloth (8 holes per inch) and fill with straw, dishrags or burlap to keep the moisture wicked away.

For winter stores, your hive will need all capped honey on top and some honey on sides of brood. Sugar water will be stored in the capped cells.

Candy canes are great for winter feeding and so is Fondant but we don't get the recipe until the next newsletter.

You can use Bee Pro protein patties to supplement pollen stores.

Keep the mice out! Bees will sting the mouse and kill it then propolize it and in the spring you find the ucky mess. Use a mouse guard which is just an entrance reducer.

Feed light colonies all thru the winter.

Door prizes (bee brush, scraper, hive tool and bellows duster) were given out and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

**Welcome New LCBA Members!!**

**Mike Bedacht**

**Sarah Bastida**

**Joe Quesada**

**Junction City**

**Eugene**

**Springfield**

C.F.

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## Ken Ograin's Notes and IPM Update



**IPM Update:** Moisture control & tar paper have been two of the top questions asked recently.

On the topic of "Tar paper wraps" this is of little value here in the Willamette Valley and in some cases it can be more of a disadvantage. If you have ever tried this method to start your tomatoes you may already know why, the black tar paper will overheat your hive if we get those sunny days in winter, if you are concerned when temperature get down then just give your hive a old blanket but do not leave it on if it rains.

This brings us to the real problem of keeping bees here in the Willamette Valley and that is moisture.

Do not be concerned about leaving the bottom of screen bottoms open, this helps drain that moisture buildup. If your hive is exposed to wind then protect the back side from that. You can make a simple moisture trap from any hive body by stapling window screen or 1/8" hardware cloth over the bottom, place this on the top of your hive without any inner cover and fill it with old clean rags or straw, then place your lid on top of this box. If you use rags you will need to change them out periodically as they get soaked, the straw seems to last for the season.

Next month look for my article about "Why winter bees live longer".

So keep sampling and keep records. Do this every couple of weeks and look for more than mites.

If you get high numbers do a follow-up sample to confirm.

*Ken Ograin*

**LC Fair 2010:** This year's fair was shortened to 5 days. Attendance at the Expo Hall was up over last year but entries not just in the honey category but in all farm products were down again this year. The Spencer Grange won the People's Choice award. We did get almost 300 votes for our display.

**Extractors are Available:** All 5 extractors with hot knives for use by members are still available for those last minute extractions; 4 are manual and 1 electric. These are on a reserved use basis. Please limit your use to no more than 3 days, and always clean the extractor before returning. Extractors clean very easily if cleaned with warm soapy water and flushed out with a garden hose after use, or just take it to the shower. Waiting until the next day makes cleaning more difficult.

The four 3 frame units are the easiest to transport. One is in Eugene (Bryan & Leaf 541-485-8677) one in east Springfield (Mark Hogle 541-746-7353) one in Cottage Grove (Kev & Kelle 541-767-0761) and the fourth out in Elmira (Ken Ograin 541-935-7065). The only electric unit is located in Springfield and is a 4 frame. It is heavy. You will need a truck to transport it. (Kaylene Stewart 541-726-2019).

Remember--return it on time, and return it clean!

**OSU Hive Health Study:** Bring your samples to the meeting if you have not already sent or dropped off to me.

Carolyn up at OSU is having problems getting the webpage online but is hopeful to get it set up by the first of October; I will notify all when it is operating.

### **LANE COUNTY FAIR RESULTS:**

(First, second, and third place for each category)

**WAX:** Nancy Ograin, Kelly Goodwin, Ken Ograin

**Water White:** Kelly Goodwin

**Light:** Jonathan Loftin, Kelly Goodwin, Bryan Ribelin

**Medium:** Dean Burkhart (this entry was also Best in Show), Ken Ograin, Nancy Ograin

**Dark:** Nancy Ograin, Ken Ograin

**Chunk Honey:** John Dodge

**Full Frame:** John Dodge, John Dodge, Dave Kintigh, Honorable Mention to Karen Kintigh

## Beekeeping Tips—September

Chuck Hunt, LCBA member

All honey should be removed and mite treatments in hives. In fact, be very careful to remove strips on time. Remember that the Coumaphos strip requires less time in the hive than Apistan. If you placed strips in the hive in mid-August, they should be removed in late September or the first week in October. Use gloves when removing them and dispose of these strips in the manner recommended by the manufacturer (wrapped in newspaper in a sanitary landfill). Make sure and do a mite count after mite treatments, whatever you may use for treatment. I usually like to use a 72 hour mite count as I think the extra time gives better count.

Check all hives for adequate winter stores. In the Willamette Valley bees require at least 35 lbs. of honey to properly survive the winter. This is about one western super of honey on top of the hive. If your hive(s) has less than this, there is still plenty of time for feed in Sept. (and usually early Oct.). Feed sugar syrup which is as close to one part sugar and one part water (by volume) as you can. The bees do not have to evaporate this mixture much in order to store it and it does not cause as much brood rearing stimulation as less concentrated solutions of sugar.

If you use entrance reducers, these should be placed on the hive(s) sometime in September. Place them on the hive(s) after the weather has cooled and there will be no need for the bees to cool their hives by fanning. This usually means that the daytime temperatures will not get much over 70 degrees. Try to put screen mouse guards on your entrance reducers.

Make sure that your hive(s) tips forward very slightly so that rain and moisture run out of the hive during the coming winter. This tilt need not be very much (one quarter inch higher in the back than the front is fine) but a forward tilt will greatly assist winter survival. The bottom boards should also be off the ground and on a hive stand for the winter. A brick or stone on the top cover helps to ensure that winter winds do not blow the top of your hive off causing a total hive loss. By early October, let the bees use propolis to seal the cover down and close any cracks in the hive. Don't disturb the hive again until early spring so that this propolis is not broken.

## Photos from WAS!!!



WAS 2nd VP Antonie Botes (r) introducing Morris Ostrofsky at the 2010 WAS Convention on September 2.  
—Judy Scher photo



Morris received his WAS certificate from Antonie Botes. Notice Reverend L. L. Langstroth on the screen with his 200<sup>th</sup> birthday cake.  
—Judy Scher photo

## President's Notes

Judy Scher, LCBA President

This coming meeting Heike Williams will be demonstrating how to do Varroa counts on a sticky board. She will give a hands-on demonstration of this and you are welcome to bring in your own sticky boards with a 48 hour mite drop. If you haven't been able to identify Varroa mites or are confused about how to count mites on the sticky board, you will definitely be able to do so before you leave the September meeting.

The 2010 Northwest Corner Beekeeping Conference will be held in Hood River, OR. This is the yearly joint conference of the Oregon and Washington beekeeping associations. The theme will be "Honeybee Losses, How to Keep Our Bees Alive". This three day conference has always been extremely informative and fun. There are expert beekeepers and entomologists from all over the country, who are on the cutting edge of beekeeping. There will be brochures available at the September meeting for those wishing to attend.

Preparing your hives for winter and getting them through to March is so important now. Hopefully your bees are settling down for the fall with enough honey and pollen to get them through the winter. I have just combined 2 weak hives so the population is strong enough at the beginning of winter. I'm encouraging them with protein patties to be sure they have enough nutrition, even though they have pollen reserves. It's hard to lose a hive and if I can get my combined one through to spring I'll feel like a better beekeeper, having applied all my effort. Then I look at my strong hives and everything becomes right with the world!

### 2010 WAS Meeting

I attended part of the Western Apiculture Society meeting on Sept. 1-2 and it was great. Much emphasis was placed on the problems commercial beekeepers are facing, but an entire day was devoted to backyard beekeeping, which is of great interest to so many new beekeepers in North America. LCBA Vice President Barb Bajec has a write-up about this in this newsletter. On Thursday, Morris Ostrofsky presented "Don't Bug Us". This was well received by both beginner and veteran beekeepers. He emphasized how to manage your bees by not having to open the hive. Looking at behavior at the hive entrance, around the hive, and examining debris on sticky boards can tell you much about the state of your bees. Morris did talk about when it is appropriate to open the hive, for example when there are signs of foulbrood. I am including a couple of photos. Next year the WAS will be held in Hawaii. Aloha!

### 2010 WAS now history! By Dewey M. Caron

WAS planned for 125 registrants and ended up with 186 – thankfully the Red Lion in Salem could handle our large crowd. The hard work of Ramesh Sagili (program chair), Vice President Harry Vanderpool, and Herb Brasington (publicity and then registrar/treasurer) helped make it all happen. Several Lane County Beekeepers attended to listen and participate to our program, which featured 10 Oregon speakers. We heard many compliments on the information and quality of talks at this WAS meeting. The November WAS Journal -- [groups.ucanr.org/WAS/](http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/) -- will have talk summaries.

At the banquet Harry Vanderpool was recognized for OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO BEEKEEPING for his many ORSBA, WVBA and WAS activities and Kenny and Heike Williams, LCBA members, (Heike is September program speaker) took home an Oregon-shaped plaque as recipients of the Thurber AWARD FOR BEEKEEPING INVENTIVENESS. The awards will also be described in the next WAS Journal, which you can access without being a member. I also had the pleasure to recognize Glenn Peters, developer and distributor of Honey Stix and the Peters family at the banquet for their service to beekeeping (and for Honey Stix donations for our WAS meeting bring "extras" to next meeting).

Dirk Olsen hosted the beekeepers at his North Albany honey house and explained fall and mite management within his 6000 colony 8 frame operation. The 60 beekeepers also visited OSU to see the honey bee research and hive health monitoring programs of Ramesh, visited the pear germplasm collection and enjoyed the details of growing Ranier cherries in plastic tunnels (using Ramesh's bees) by Horticulture Department Chair Anita Azarenko.

Lynn and Ken from Leapin' Lizards, Corvallis beekeepers and LCBA members, printed the T-shirts and tote bags featuring the special design by beekeeper Kelle DeForrest (LCBA member from Cottage Grove). If you would like a shirt, showing bees foraging on blackberry with Oregon grape in the background, a few are still left (\$15) – contact Leapin' Lizards [leapinlizardspro@netscape.net](mailto:leapinlizardspro@netscape.net) directly.

If you missed it, WAS 2010 was a great meeting! Better complete your fall management to "fire up" the bees to insure some profits next year -- 2011 WAS will be in Hawaii next August.



## Western Apicultural Society -- URBAN day highlights! By Barbara Bajec

**Larry Connor**, PhD owner of Wicwas Press and beekeeper/educator, gave a short course for backyard beekeepers which included small scale beekeeping, chemical free beekeeping and population management areas of focus. He described small scale beekeeping as a "mental state" as it differs greatly from commercial. Small beekeepers often "think outside the box." Small scale can command a premium price for quality honey, promote varietal honey, and produce many hive byproducts for the consumer. Pollination can also be part of small scale beekeeping but don't forget the contract and be aware of limited pollen sources - often leaving hives in a pollination yard is best task to avoid lots of lifting and transportation. He encouraged everyone to try their hand at queen rearing. He also encouraged fewer packages and more nucs for increasing hive numbers. Larry went on to say that small scale beekeepers are the driving force behind education and training of new beekeepers. Larry said a way to avoid "CRAP" beekeeping (considerable regret after purchase) - was to always maintain standard equipment!

Larry is also a big proponent of reducing chemicals in the apiary. He encourages proactive sampling of mite counts. He uses powdered sugar treatments - powdered sugar twice a week for one month and then decides on an appropriate treatment plan. He also recommends purchasing from "tolerant breeders" - hygienic and other mechanisms to promote healthy bees. His method of "live and let die" refers to no varroa, no nosema, and no chalk brood allowed in his apiary. He promotes drone saturation -- select, stimulate with feed, flood area and select again for the best results. Consider producing drone holding colonies (DHC), which also removes many mites from the original colonies (see recent *Bee Culture* story). Overall, look for vigorous hives; diagnostic is a secondary thought.

Larry mentioned some novel ideas in this population management discussion including buying and selling drones, selling virgin queens, charging a premium for locally produced queens, club field days with cell swaps to increase genetic diversity in a community, and selling brood by the pound.

**Harry Vanderpool**, a small commercial beekeeper and WAS Vice President, gave numerous reasons for producing and keeping nucs available all year long. He provided nuc recipes for early season and later season production. He focused on nuc use in his pollination business. Harry remedies a weak hive with a nuc to boost the colony back into production.

**Eric Mussen**, of UD Davis, gave a lively talk on hints for successful backyard beekeeping. He reviewed the basics but stressed colony temperament is the most important consideration. He encouraged everyone to requeen as needed, look for a quality queen, obtain diversity with various drones, and mark your queens. Use quality equipment, stick with one manufacturer to keep variances the same and keep equipment in good condition. Replace brood frames every three years - a German protocol.

Handle those bees carefully! Provide adequate water for hydration, dilution, air conditioning - in hot dry climates bees need about a gallon per day. If it is above 100° F, all nectar/pollen foraging stops and bees act as water carriers. Give them a water source before they find it in your neighbor's yard. Bees have been known to *protect* their watering holes - think about your neighbor's swimming pool! Each colony needs one acre of bloom per day. Always be aware of stored food in hives and feed as needed.

Eric went on to say that quality management means healthy bees and best relations with neighbors. Reduce defensive bee behaviors. He suggested trying no gloves, use a smoker or artificial smoke (Wright's mesquite smoke), only open the hive under good conditions, watch out for robbing (try robber screens), and put a flag in front of the hive to desensitize bees to movement.

**Kim Flottum**, editor of *Bee Culture*, presented a wonderful talk on the life and accomplishments of L.L.Langstroth. We still celebrate Langstroth's contributions - especially his discovery of the importance of the "bee space".

**Ann Harman**, beekeeper, gardener and contributor to *Bee culture*, talked about value-added beekeeping. She reviewed old and new ideas for beekeepers. Besides honey, wax, propolis and pollen, she encouraged people to get active with writing honey bee stories for newsletters and using digital cameras to produce great photo stock. No honey this year, no worries as there are lots of other ideas surrounding beekeeping and honey bees to provide value.

## Beekeeping in Spain

While in Spain this summer we were fortunate to meet with a local beekeeper in the mountain village Aras de los Olmos near Valencia. After exploring ancient beekeeping in a small museum, Mario gave us a tour of his operation and shared some beekeeping experiences in rural Spain.

Mario Sanchez Herrero comes from a family of beekeepers that goes back several generations in Spain. He runs about 600 hives presently. He extracts honey from indigenous floral sources including rosemary and thyme. He also sells orange blossom honey -- think Valencia oranges. Mario told us his operation is mostly automated using 60 frame extractors and heavy duty trucks with lifts but the bottling process is still done by hand using 500 ml and 1 liter glass jars. His wife does the bottling and labeling - this can be several thousand gallons in a year!

During the tour, Mario showed us some of the old style cork cylinders which are still used to catch bees. He also showed us his style of brood boxes which have hinges and latches on the top covers. He uses nucs for queen production and two nuc frames can be combined to make the larger deep frames used in brood boxes. He said most beekeepers have switched over to uniform size boxes which closely resemble our western sizes. Hives will have a narrow strip of metal mesh on the bottom for ventilation but no screened bottom boards. For mite control, Mario said the Spanish Beekeeping Federation only approves "Check mite" at this time as so many beekeepers were using homemade recipes that lacked control. Mario treats his bees for mites once a year in their winter season. He said this was a poor production year due to heavy rains into early summer (similar to our NW experience). Mario told us his bees are a pure strain called *Apis mellifera mellifera*, a very dark brown European bee. He said they can be quite defensive. One of our traveling companions experienced a sting within a few minutes of approaching a swarm hive on top of a new pallet of frames. Mario avoids queen excluders - he felt the more brood, the more honey production. He gave us a jar of honey as a gift - he was very happy to meet with another beekeeper from the US. --- Barbara Bajec



**Ancient Spanish press used to separate honey from comb**  
—Barbara Bajec photo



**These cork cylinders were once used as hives. Now they are employed to collect swarms.**  
—B. Bajec photo



MYSTERY PHOTO—

Who could this bee? With a bee vac in a tree?


  
**LCBA Calendar-at-a-Glance**
  
 Sept 21—Sticky Boards for Mite Monitoring—Heike Williams
   
 October 19—Candles and Wax
   
 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

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Or contact [finleykk@yahoo.com](mailto: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:** 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

### 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

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