

SO*BA Bee Buzz

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association Newsletter

In this issue:

- Meeting Dates and Locations
- Election of Club Officers
- Western Apicultural Society Conference in Boulder
- Oregon State Beekeepers Association Conference
- Local Honey for Sale
- Feeding Fall Colonies
- Bee Girl Internship
- Education & Outreach
- Events
- Member's Corner

Archived copies of the

Meeting Dates and Locations

Our September meeting has **moved** to **September 14** due to the Labor Day Holiday.

The **October 5** meeting will be at the **Bear Hotel** in the Evergreen Bank, Grants Pass.

Election of Club Officers

We will elect the officers for the next year at our next meeting (**September 14**). The nominations so far are:

- President:** John Jacob
- Vice President:** Risa Halpin
- Treasurer:** Cheryl Housden
- Secretary:** Ellen Wright

Both Ron Padgett (VP) and Dana Rose (Secretary) have decided to take a break and relax this year.

Email nominations for any position to sobeekkeepers@gmail.com.

Western Apicultural Society Conference in Boulder

Dr. Marla Spivak, a MacArthur Fellow and world-renowned bee researcher at the University of Minnesota, will deliver a "Protecting Our Pollinators" keynote at this year's Healthy Bee, Bee Healthy conference, coming up on **October 1-3** in Boulder, Colorado and put on by the Western Apicultural Society and the Colorado State Beekeepers Association.

Also on tap: **Mark Winston**, award-winning author of "**Bee Time: Lessons From the Hive**" (with a book signing, of course!); an update on leading honeybee research at UC Davis; and a readout on the effects of pesticides, pathogens and mites on colony health from the Pesticide Research Institute's Susan Kegly.

Plus! A Bee Buzz Social on Wednesday evening; a Next Generation Beekeepers Summit, led by **Bee Girl Sarah Red Laird** on Thursday evening; the WAS Awards Banquet Friday evening; and Saturday night, a Farm-to-Table dinner (with a menu heavily influenced by local top chefs and honeybee products!) featuring Lauren Springer Ogden on "Creating a Habitat Garden."

You can sign up : <http://bit.ly/1OVv1xn> Note: You can get a discounted room at the conference hotel -- the Millennium Boulder -- until 8/31. Enter in code "WAS2015" for the discount.

Oregon State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference

Registration is open for the Oregon State Beekeepers Conference held in Silverton Oregon **November 6—8**.

Register here. Registrations received before October 24 are discounted.

Speakers include **Randy Oliver**, **Pat Heitkam** (Heitkam Bees), **George Hansen** (President of ABF), and many others listed [here](#).

Local Honey For Sale

If you are a current member of SOBA and would like to advertise honey, beeswax, or other hive products on the website, please [contact us](#) with your information. And a picture or logo.

Check out the current offerings on the website:
www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org/news-and-events/local-honey-for-sale

Feeding Fall Colonies

Contributed by Dr. Dewey Caron

Feeding bees in the fall was brought up by all the SOBA Fall bee course instructors and we got several questions about feeding. Feeding is unquestionably a way to make the difference in whether a colony survives overwinter or not. Feeding does have some potential negatives to also consider.

When colonies are light on food stores, feeding a heavy sugar syrup or leaving stored honey can improve winter survival. It is the best management option to insure the proper fall configuration and promote raising **FAT** fall bees. To raise **Fat** bees the colonies need to be **FAT** with honey.

Karessa, during the opening bee examinations, spoke about “profiling” colonies. It is important to ensure the brood nest is situated low in the colony before fall ends. Ideally, an ample ceiling of honey/syrup will be stored above the brood nest enabling the bees to eat their way up through the overhead stores as winter progresses. If your brood nest is still sitting high up in the colony, she recommend beginning supplemental feeding soon.



Feeding syrup in a Mason jar with tiny holes in the lid. (Barbara Jones)

As we heard at the Fall Bee Course, different individuals have different ways to feed and they feed different materials. Basically the BEST way to feed is the one you find useful. Morris prefers to feed syrup in a recycled jar that has a removable lid. He places feeders above the inner cover hole (with a piece of screen material) with an empty super or shell around the feeder. It is easy to check and refill/replace when the bees have taken down the contents. Karessa too feeds the same way.

John feeds his bees in a common feeder in the apiary (feed lot feeding). I like to drill a hole the size of a plastic jar in the lid and put the feeder jar outside the lid. I can remove it and replace it with a filled jar before the bees have a chance to occupy the space of the hole.

Does it make a difference what sugar is fed? Last year The Pacific NW Honey Survey (pnwhoneybeesurvey.com) data says that there was no difference in improvement in loss percentage whether frames of honey, sugar syrup, drivert or fondant is fed. So again personal preference and availability was our recommendation, but for latest fall feeding (and earliest spring) generally a clean, non-contaminated sugar is recommended. Generally fall feeding of protein does not make for a larger colony or improve survival. It does not pay for the cost involved when fed in the fall but it has a valuable role to stimulating colony development by and extending protein available from protein available in the spring

We do recommend that the syrup be mixed heavy in fall feedings. This is to stimulate storage of the material vs stimulating of brood rearing. If “junk” honey is used that is still in a frame, score the cappings to make a “mess” to stimulate the bees to move it into their storage pattern. If you have liquid honey to feed, dilute it and feed in a container feeder within the hive. Be careful when feeding during a drought (often our fall condition) that you do not promote robbing behavior. Reduce entrances and avoid spilling honey/syrup outside of colonies.

Should food stimulants (such as Honey-bee-Healthy, Amino Acid boosters, Pro-Biotics) be used when feeding in the fall? Although they can be good additions to entice the bees into quickly emptying feeders and stimulate healthy colonies, some advocate avoiding adding a food simulant in the fall. If you are debating the value of such additives I suggested you try splitting your colonies into two lots, feeding one and not the other and see if you see a difference. New additives seem to frequently come on the market, but most, adapted from feeding other livestock, have not been extensively or independently tested for effectiveness or potential harmful effects.

John adds vinegar or an acid to his syrup to bring the pH down to around 4.7. At one time, adding something to avoid sugar spoilage and mold growth in feeders was the standard recommendation. Those who feel it important to create a more acidic syrup, thought to better duplicate flower nectars (which have a wide pH range depending upon the flower and plant growing conditions) may help the bees intestinal function. Avoid toxic sugars (such as milk sugars lactose and galactose) and avoid salt, as a higher salt content quickly turns bees off.

Will feeding sugar in the fall make a difference? Those who didn't feed (PNW Honey Survey) lost more colonies than those who did feed. The best advice given at the fall bee school – try it, you might like the improvement in overwintering in your colonies.



Bee Girl Organization Internship

The **BeeGirl Organization** is looking for an intern for the 2015/16 academic year!

Benefits include: being part of the team of a busy and fast growing nonprofit, learning honey bee biology and beekeeping, learning apiary-based education, Master Beekeeping program certification, and fulfillment of internship requirement.

Graduate students with a focus on education, environmental/conservation issues, or nonprofit administration are preferred, but we are willing to be flexible for the right candidate.

Email sarah@beegirl.org for more information on opportunities, requirements, and interview dates.

Tracking Individual Bees



Researchers have developed extremely tiny sensors that can track an individual bee's movements. The sensors contain a battery that generates energy by vibration, and record a bee's time away from the hive and the distance each bee travels. They also record a bee's exposure

to pesticides, air pollution and water contamination, as well as taking note of the insect's diet and the weather.

The researchers hope to gain insight on the causes for bee die offs and to learn more about bee health and exposure to environmental stresses.

You can read the article in the BBC News here: www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-34048495

Education and Outreach

SOBA had a table at the Extension Center exhibit in the **Jackson County Fair** this year (July 22-26). The demo hive was again the star attraction for both kids and parents. Thank you to volunteers Marianne Heater, Barbara Jones, Bret Jensen, Bryan Coggins, and Kate Womack.



The **Josephine County Fair** was held August 19—22, and again SOBA had a table in the Extension Center exhibit. We were not able to bring the demonstration hive, so the activity at the table was a bit less exciting, but lots of folks stopped to talk bees. Thanks to Marianne Heater for organizing it all and staffing the table, and to volunteers Barb Jones, Cheryl,

er for organizing it all and staffing the table, and to volunteers Barb Jones, Cheryl,

Events

Ashland beekeepers get together at the Playwright Pub in Ashland at 7 PM on the second Thursday of each month, more or less. Next meetup is **September 17**.

If you are aware of any events that are bee or beekeeping related, please send an email to sobeekeepers@gmail.com and we will add it to the event calendar online

The **Southern Oregon Beekeeper Association** meets at 7:30 pm on the first Monday of each month at the Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center in Central Point. Come early to the meeting (6:30) and watch a hive inspection demonstration (March—September).

Email: sobeekeepers@gmail.com

Phone: (541) 862-1604

Website: www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org

Facebook Forum: www.facebook.com/groups/1418688815101076/



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