

## Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association Newsletter

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Archived newsletters are on the website [here](#).

**Spring Bee School** is **Saturday March 19** 9AM-4:30PM. Register [here!](#)

### March 7 Meeting - Swarms!

**Ron Padgett**, past president of SOBA and mentor in the Oregon Master Beekeeper program, will talk about catching and hiving swarms at our March 7 meeting.

If you are on the swarm list, we encourage you to attend and share your experience!! We will be reviewing the SOBA Swarm List protocol for handling swarms that are reported to the club.

### Donations for Bee School

One of the fun parts of bee school is the **door prizes!** We are looking for donations of bee equipment or hive products or fun bee-related stuff. Slightly used could be fine! Contact [sobeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:sobeekeepers@gmail.com)

## 10 Reasons You Should Attend Bee School

by Dewey Caron



1. Bee School is the "fast track" to learning about both the **Science** – bee biology - and the Art - applying the Basic Biology - to helping you accomplish your beekeeping goals ...AND bee school will help you better define your beekeeping expectations and objectives.

2. It will occur to you while driving home and in the re-telling of the school events to other family members that "I learned something" .... You will now know the answer to that nagging question why do bees do .....

3. You will be able to understand what 'Anticipation rather than Reaction' means in colony care.

4. Bee school will help you better understand the bee's seasonal cycle and how you can put such information to use within the next month in your colony seasonal management.

5. You will look in bee colonies with the practiced eye of a Master Beekeeper and realize how "easy" and "fun" beekeeping really is.

6. You will make friends and have opportunity to network among beekeepers and learn about good bee "deals"

7. You will learn more about your club SOBA – a very progressive bee group - that welcomes your questions about bees and which will provide additional learning opportunities in the months to come.

8. You will have opportunity to answer questions from family and friends about honey and other bee products.

9. You will find there may be reason why your bees "have gone away"

10. You will be a part of doing something positive for the bees and for yourself and perhaps even influence your husband/wife/child/brother-in-law because maybe they secretly also want to become a bee keeper.

### AG in the Schools Volunteers Needed

Russ Williamson is doing the Beekeeping Table at the annual AG in the Schools Day on **May 5 and 6**. He needs volunteers for 2 hour shifts to show enthusiastic 4th graders all about bees. Please contact Russ at [sandruss3500@msn.com](mailto:sandruss3500@msn.com) or SOBA at [sobeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:sobeekeepers@gmail.com) if you'd like to help. **This is a great way for our Oregon Master Beekeeper Apprentices to get volunteer hours!**

## Bee School Program Finalized

- *Equipment Intensive 101 for Beginners* – Sarah Red-Laird
  - *A Bee's Year /Brief History of Bees* – Morris Ostrofsky
  - *Reasonable Expectations with Bees* – Tom Chester
  - Lunch
  - *Hive Inspections weather permitting*
  - *Why I Make Nucs to Manage My Bees* – Tom Chester
  - *The Top 10 Mistakes New Beekeepers Make* – Sarah Red Laird
  - *Mellifera Mythbusters* -Morris Ostrofsky
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## Bee Hive Stands from Simply Bee

SOBA member Greg Fernandez is selling bee hive stands that his son has designed and built. The hive stands are made of 1/2" thick solid steel and will hold up under extra heavy loads.



- Hive stands keep your hives off of the ground away from moisture and pests. They help prevent back injuries by getting the heavy parts of the hive at a more comfortable level for lifting and accessing the colony.
- You can apply "Tanglefoot" (a sticky substance) to the legs to stop ants from invading your colony.
- They allow screened bottom boards to do their job of preventing mites from crawling back into the hive after dropping.
- The side bars act as handles to lift your hive and move it when necessary.

The hive stands are \$15 each unpainted, \$20 each painted black or white, and \$22 each for custom colors (minimum of 2).

Contact **Simply Bee** at [541 244 1967](tel:5412441967) or [honey@messagebox.biz](mailto:honey@messagebox.biz)

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## BeeGirl Beginning Beekeeping Class

This is the time to be thinking bees! BeeGirl (Sarah Red-Laird) is offering a Beginning Beekeeper Class in February. Get the details on her website: [www.beegirl.org/#!/learn/sitepage\\_3](http://www.beegirl.org/#!/learn/sitepage_3)

**Cost:** \$20

**Locations:**

**6-8pm, February 24th,**

Ashland Food Co-op Classroom, 300 N Pioneer St, Ashland

**6-8pm, February 25th,**

The Bear Hotel, 2101 NE Spauling Ave, Grants Pass

**Register:** [www.universe.com/users/bee-girl-TXH9CW](http://www.universe.com/users/bee-girl-TXH9CW), or by sending an email to [sarah@beegirl.org](mailto:sarah@beegirl.org) with the date/location you would like to attend.

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## Oregon Honey Festival Call for Vendors



**Free** display space for state, local or regional bee club members who RSVP by 3/1/16 - Please feel free to share as we want to support small and medium size bee-keeping operations who do quality work with their bees.

**Use the contact page on**  
[www.oregonhoneyfestival.com](http://www.oregonhoneyfestival.com)

## Let's Talk Bees

At our **February** meeting, Risa talked about what to do in the apiary until the nectar flows. February and March can be a time when colonies that have survived the winter starve before nectar flows. Bees can starve even if there is plenty of honey in the hive if the honey is too far away from the cluster. If the hive feels light when you heft it, you can feed drivert sugar on the inner cover. On a warm day when the bees are flying, you can replace empty frames with full frames of honey you have stored, or move full frames closer to the cluster. Do not use syrup until the daily temperature is above 55 degrees, and it is no longer below freezing at night. 1:1 sugar syrup will stimulate the bees since it mimics nectar. You can feed 2:1 syrup instead which is more like honey and may not serve to stimulate them as much.

Bees are flying now and bringing in lots of pollen. The queen started laying eggs shortly after winter solstice, and the bees working now are 'geriatric' overwintered bees. They need carbs to have the energy to get all that pollen. This warm weather and pollen can stimulate more egg production, but there's not much nectar for the bees to use. This is why it is so important to make sure the bees have adequate honey stores, or to feed drivert, until the nectar flows.

If you have a hive that you think has died (a 'DEADOUT), check it on a day warm enough that the bees should be flying. If it is truly a deadout, then you should break it down and do a post mortem. In our area, perhaps the most likely reason for the deadout is a high mite load in the fall that infects the overwintering bees with a virus, or starvation.

If you have a hive that looks almost dead – it could be a DINK. A dink as defined by Randy Oliver as a hive with 4 frames or less of bees. Dinks in the early spring need your help. Do NOT combine them with a healthy hive – you may import a serious problem into your healthy hive. If you have two dinks, they could be combined. Hobby beekeepers have the time to feed their dinks and see if they recover. Many will over time. See Randy's article on this here: <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/winter-colony-losses/>.

We split into 3 groups for questions and discussion. We learned that when we have so many people at the meeting (YAY!!), it can be hard to have small group discussions ...

## Events

**Ashland** beekeepers will get together at the Public House (formerly the Playwright's) in Ashland at 7 PM on **March 17**.

If you are aware of any events in southern Oregon that are bee or beekeeping related, please send an email to [sobeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:sobeekeepers@gmail.com) and we will add it to the event calendar online and the newsletter.

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](mailto:sobeekeepers@gmail.com)

**Phone:** (541) 862-1604

**Website:** [www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org](http://www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org)

**Facebook Forum:** [www.facebook.com/groups/1418688815101076/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1418688815101076/)



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