

SO*BA Bee Buzz

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association Newsletter

In this issue:

- Medford Beekeeping
- Oregon Cheese Festival
- Vice President Election
- Bee School
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Swarm Call List
- Are you Ready to Survey?"
- Behavioral Stress and Colony Collapse
- Shastina SHED SALE!
- NEW Extractor
- USDA's Disaster Declaration
- SOBA Member's Corner
- March in the Apiary
- USDA Disaster Declaration

March 26: Medford Beekeeping!

The Medford Planning Commission will hold the first hearing of the amendment to the Medford Ordinance to **allow urban beekeeping** on **Thursday, March 26, 2015** at **5:30 PM** at the Medford City Hall Council Chambers, 3rd Floor .

Attend if you can for solidarity in numbers, or come prepared with a two minute testimony. If you can't attend, **please submit comment** to the Council at :planning@ci.medford.or.us. Please include the file number (DCA-15-014) on all submissions to the Planning Department.

A copy of the proposed ordinance can be found here: <http://www.ci.medford.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=3415>

Many thanks to **Jesse Botens** for his very hard work and to **The Bee Girl** organization, along with many thoughtful bee loving community members and beekeepers who made this happen.

Oregon Cheese Festival March 14



The Oregon Cheese Festival 2015 will be held **SATURDAY** March 15 at the Rogue Creamery in Central Point. Come taste some amazing cheeses, wines, and beers.

SOBA Vice President Election April 6

We have two amazing candidates for the position of Vice President of SOBA - **Bret Jensen** and **Ron Padgett!** Ron is a former vice president of SOBA and a mentor for the OMB Apprentice program who keeps bees near Cave Junction. Bret has joined SOBA after moving here from southern California where he was active in the local beekeeper's club. He keeps bees near Rogue River.

We will be initiating the use of ballots for the election of officers at our April meeting.

SOBA Bee School April 18

Don't forget to register for Bee School!

We have a great speaker lineup, and multiple hives for the hands on demonstration section. You can register online, or send in a registration form to the address listed on the web page. The speakers and topics are listed on the [Bee School Registration Page](#).



Updated Constitution and Bylaws

As part of the process of becoming a Domestic Non-Profit and active Affiliate of OSBA, we are updating the SOBA Constitution and Bylaws. A draft version can be found on the website (www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org/constitution-and-bylaws) and will be emailed to all members. We welcome questions and comments at the April meeting, or via email to sobeekeepers@gmail.com.

We will be voting on adopting the Constitution and Bylaws at the May meeting. If you cannot attend, you can vote by sending an email stating "I approve the revised Constitution and Bylaws" or "I do not approve the revised Constitution and Bylaws".

Swarm Call List for 2015

SOBA Members can join our Swarm Call List to receive information about swarms in our region. A draft of a Swarm Etiquette Policy was sent to all Swarm Call List members for review recently. If you did not receive the draft, and wish to be added to the Swarm Call List, please email sobeekeepers@gmail.com

Are You Ready to Survey??

by Dewey M. Caron

This has been a mild, dry winter for our bees. Let's hope it continues [BUT we had a saying in Vermont, my birth state, 'When March comes in like a Lamb it goes out like a Lion!']. With this mild weather, I am sure most of you have already had a look to check on winter stores. How are your colonies doing? While some beekeepers might see normal survivorship/loss levels (from survey respondents 15% is considered an acceptable loss level), others are experiencing heavier losses.

Greater survivorship will be good news. Last year, I surveyed 302 backyard beekeepers, mostly Willamette Valley individuals, but including 7 SOBA individuals. Losses were very heavy, 48% of fall colonies, up from a 41.2% loss rate of the previous year (the 7 SOBA members had a 46% loss rate). I hope to include more SOBA beekeepers this year in the survey.

At the April Bee School, I will handout a paper survey but I encourage SOBA members to submit your loss/survivorship information on line. It will only take 10-15 minutes. This year I am asking for your losses by hive type and hive origination and for a bit more information on your management, including varroa mite control (if any) activities. Access the **online** survey between March 16 and May 9th at the **[Pacific NW Annual Loss Survey \(PNWals\) 2015](#)**. You can also download and complete a **[paper survey form](#)**.



Picture by Mike Andre of BeelInformed

And please don't neglect the **BeelInformed National Survey**. The Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) is a USDA/NIFA (U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture) funded project. We want you to BEE INFORMED. Greater beekeeper participation means a better data base for comparison of information; last year 222 Oregon beekeepers managing 50,691 colonies provided information. The 2014 BIP survey will be available the entire month of April (as it was last year). **IT IS VERY EASY AND WILL TAKE ONLY A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR TIME**. If you have not yet participated, go to our website, www.beeinformed.org, click on the "Sign Up, Participate" button and sign up with your email address. You will get a reminder to fill out a survey during the April survey period.

And be sure to visit BeelInformed often to see what beekeepers, besides yourself, are doing to help reduce losses.

Dr. Caron taught at the University of Delaware for 40+ years and now holds an Affiliate position (volunteer) with Horticulture Dept (the bee unit specifically) at Oregon State University. He is active in Eastern and Western Apiculture societies and national bee groups. He is the Vice President of the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association and served as President in 2010. He serves on the board of the Western Apiculture Society and is an honored speaker at SOBA programs whenever he is available..

Behavioral Stress and Colony Collapse

The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences published a paper called **[Rapid behavioral maturation accelerates failure of stressed honey bee colonies](#)** in the March 2015 edition. The study states: *"It is well known that individual bees react to nutritional and pathogen stresses by foraging precociously: our study explains how colony failure arises from the social responses of individual bees to stress."*

The study was referenced in an article in the International Business Times—**[Mystery of Bee Colony Collapse May Have Been Solved](#)**. The study explained how the early death of precocious foragers contributes to a complete breakdown in the colony.



877-789-7526

The Spring Sale

CASH ONLY EVENT

APRIL 18th, 19th

We will be open immediately following the SOBA new beekeeper school on Saturday 12 – 6pm and Sunday 10 – 2pm

LOCATED AT

Corner of Ave G and Agate Road – White City

8250 Agate Rd. White City OR 97503

541-324-7718 cell phone number (directions)

NEW SOBA Honey Extractor



SOBA has purchased a M00401 RANGER RADIAL EXTRACTOR POWER from Dadant for use by club members (the one on the right in the picture). It is designed for beekeepers using primarily 1/4" or shallow frames. We can purchase a separate basket if there is a real need to handle deep frames. This motorized extractor joins the two hand crank extractors owned by the club.

Many thanks to **Bret Jensen** for picking it up in Chico and saving the club the shipping fee!!

Events

Ashland beekeepers will get together at the **Standing Stone** in Ashland on Thursday April 16 at 7 PM.

Any Video Wizards Around?

We are thinking about video taping the Bee School presentations and making them available to members after the class. If you have experience in this area, or know of someone who might be interested, please contact sobeekeepers@gmail.com.

March in the Apiary

In good weather, the bees can begin to bring nectar and pollen to the hive from early blooms. Strong, successful hives may begin to think about swarming late in the month. Pick a nice sunny day to perform a thorough inspection for eggs, brood pattern, disease, and stores.



John Jacob talked about March tasks in the bee hive, and showed pictures of different brood patterns in his [Bees on the March](#) presentation at our March meeting.

Also be sure to check out the [Beekeeping Tips for February and March](#) on the ORSBA site.

USDA's New Disaster Declaration Includes Jackson and Josephine Counties

Contributed by Dewey Caron

The federal government has renewed disaster declarations for four counties in southern Oregon and all 58 California counties because of the lingering drought, which is entering its fourth year. In Oregon, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Lake counties were designated as disaster areas. The designation makes qualified farm operators eligible for low-interest emergency loans from the USDA's Farm Service Agency as well as a variety of other programs to help growers recover from adversity. Read the complete description [here](#).

Additional programs to help farmers and ranchers include the Emergency Conservation Program, the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, the Livestock Indemnity Program, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, [Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program](#), and the Tree Assistance Program.

SOBA Members' Corner

Melissa Duval (541-301-2794) would like **local wax foundation** for frames.

Debbie at Payntd@gmail.com would like to purchase **bulk wax**, filtered or unfiltered.

Kerry at (707) 889-2199 is looking for **wax cappings** for candlemaking.

If you are interested in helping a new beekeeper and SOBA member in Central Point install a NUC in a Langstroth box into a Top Bar Hive, please email sobeekkeepers@gmail.com.

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: sobeekkeepers@gmail.com

Phone: (541) 862-1604

Website: www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org



To remove your name from our mailing list, send an email to sobeekkeepers@gmail.com with "Unsubscribe" as the subject.