



# SO\*BA Bee Buzz

August 2014

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association

**Next Meeting: Monday October 6 at 7:30 PM** at the Bear Hotel 2101 NE Spaulding Ave, Grants Pass, OR ([map](#))

The speaker this month is **Dr. Louisa Hooven, of Oregon State University**. The topic will be "Pesticides and Bees, What is the Future"?

## In This Issue

SOBA Beekeepers in the News

September in the Apiary

Member Posts

SOBA Honey Extractors

Sub-Regional Bee Club News

## Sources for Local Bees

### Applegate Apiaries

Andrew Watson  
541-846-0404  
[borada-borada@gmail.com](mailto:borada-borada@gmail.com)

### Old Sol Apiaries

John Jacob  
541-582-2337  
[oldsolbees.com](http://oldsolbees.com)

### Julian Lewis

541-535-5817  
[lewis\\_adams\\_00@yahoo.com](mailto:lewis_adams_00@yahoo.com)

### David Aiassa

541-858-6824

If you would like to be listed here, email [sobeekkeepers@gmail.com](mailto:sobeekkeepers@gmail.com)

## SWARM CALL LIST

Members on the 2014 Swarm Call List have been contacted via email.

Current SOBA members who would like to be on the Swarm Call List, please email [sobeekkeepers@gmail.com](mailto:sobeekkeepers@gmail.com) with "Swarm Call List" as the subject.

## Newsletter Contributions

Do you have information that you would like to see in the newsletter? Send it to [sobeekkeepers@gmail.com](mailto:sobeekkeepers@gmail.com) with "Newsletter" as the subject.

## 2014 Oregon Beekeepers Conference Nov 6-8

**REGISTER NOW** on the [ORSBA website](http://ORSBA website) for the 2014 Oregon State Beekeepers Conference in Seaside Oregon November 6-8.

The program this year features a good mix of speaker experience and expertise. Bee losses, pollination, propolis, beekeeping in practice, pesticides, IPM and a bit of history will all be covered. Our featured speakers include **Dr. Marla Spivak**, University of Minnesota, **Dr Dennis vanEngelsdorp**, University of Maryland and head of the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) program and **Kim Flottum**, editor of Bee Culture Magazine.

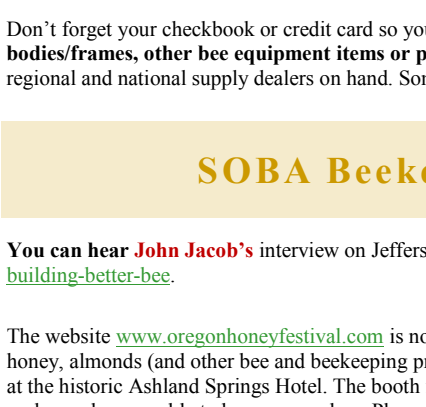
Our local beekeepers include **George Hansen**, Past President of American Beekeeping Federation, **Judy Seher**, Eugene backyarder, SOBA commercial bee queen rearer **John Jacobs** of Rogue River and another SOBA member, Bee Girl **Sarah Red Laird** of Ashland. **Dr Ramesh Sagili**, myself and **Paul Jepson** from OSU, **Steve Shepard** of WSU and students from both OR and WA will also be presenting their recent findings. See the complete up-to-date program (and check back for inevitable last minute changes) on the [ORSBA website](http://ORSBA website) and October BEE LINE.

The popular **all-day Bee school** will again be offered as an alternative on Friday for beginners and those with less experience. The Saturday program will again be a dual offering of topics.

Our Thursday evening Social features great food snacks (many make it a lite meal) and then Thursday night at the thours! This year we will show **MORE THAN HONEY**, the critically acclaimed movie from Austria that contrasts industrial apiculture (featuring John Miller of CA) with small-scale beekeeping.

**Meals:** Our two big meal events at the Annual Conference are a Friday noon Research Luncheon and the Friday evening Annual Banquet, preceded by a social hour (complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar). We encourage you to include these meals when you pre-register as there will be limited availability at the meeting since we must guarantee a number in advance. Following the banquet there is our popular annual auction to generate funds for OSU and WSU research programs.

**Lodging:** The **Best Western Ocean View Resort** (on the Boardwalk), **Rivertide Suites**, and the **Inn at Seaside** have room blocks with special OSBA discounts for Bee convention attendees. If you have another favorite place you like to stay, please mention the purpose of your visit as many businesses contribute to Convention Center upkeep, which helps keep our meeting costs reasonable and may also discount their regular rates.



The **OSU Honey Bee Lab** will once again set up the popular OSU Honey Bee Lab. This will be a chance to see bees close-up and to get help with bee mite and disease identification/diagnosis. You are welcome to bring a sample of your honey bees in a vial with alcohol (300 for a varroa mite count) for mite and Nosema analysis. If you have brood disease concerns, bring a piece of comb wrapped in paper (no plastics as mold will quickly take over) that includes one of more suspicious cells for analysis. The lab will also have samples for you bring them along.

We encourage members to bring unique and one-of-a-kind bee items to contribute to our **silent and banquet auctions**. Our silent auction items are displayed – you sign up with a bid with highest bid at close of the auction taking the item home. Bring your best bee products of the 2014 season and participate in our honey show for ribbons and prizes. Entries must be entered by 10AM on Friday with judging emphasis on those quality factors that beekeepers influence. The same entry categories and judging standards used for the state fair (see honey exhibitors handbook at [www.oregonstatefair.org](http://www.oregonstatefair.org)) will be used at Seaside.

Don't forget your checkbook or credit card so you can **purchase the latest gadget, bee memorabilia, hive bodies/frames, other bee equipment items or pick up the latest bee book**. We plan to have a mix of Oregon, regional and national supply dealers on hand. Some of the dealers may arrange to include your order on the

## SOBA Beekeepers In the News

**You can hear John Jacob's** interview on Jefferson Public Radio's Jefferson Exchange here: [jpr.org/post/building-better-bee](http://jpr.org/post/building-better-bee).

The website [www.oregonhoneyfestival.com](http://www.oregonhoneyfestival.com) is now up. This November 15, 2014 event is an opportunity to sell honey, almonds (and other bee and beekeeping products) and educate people about beekeeping. It will be held at the historic Ashland Springs Hotel. The booth fee can be adjusted to make sure that both small and larger scale vendors are able to become vendors. Please contact [541.951.5595](mailto:541.951.5595).

Ashland folks are getting together at the Playwright Pub (258 A St, Ashland) on **Thursday October 9 at 7 PM**. We are hoping to get a regular meet up on the second Thursday of the month.

The Fall Bee Class got a great write-up in the **Standing Stone Brewery** blog. Check it out: [3 Lessons We Learned at Bee School](http://3LessonsWeLearnedAtBeeSchool).

Next Tuesday has been declared **"World Honey Bee Day"** at St Martins Episcopal School in New Orleans! Bee Girl is joining the event to talk to the students all about bees, and how they are our greatest hope in the bee's survival! **You** can read about the remarkable (and adorable) first graders on [Idea Lab](http://Idea Lab).

## September in the Apiary

*Contributed by Dr. Dewey M. Caron*

Last month I provided information on sampling for varroa mites using sugar shake. So did you do it? YES – you did monitor for varroa mites! FANTASTIC !! I hope the numbers were low. NO – why not?

Either way, the mite numbers will peak in September. Hopefully mite load will be under 5% – meaning less than 5 adult bees of every 100 in your colony has a phoretic mite on their back! If they are heavier or you did not monitor so you do not know, you might be on lookout this month for a couple of other signs of varroa mites.

In September we want to check colonies and confirm that the bees are rearing the bees that will rear the [fat] bees to survive winter. The bees ought to be restricting queen egg laying and compacting the brood area (pushing the brood sphere downward) by middle of the month. Not all the bee stock we may have is yet aware of Oregon's long wet winter. We can force the pattern by feeding heavy sugar syrup – IF the bees elect to participate and take the syrup offering.

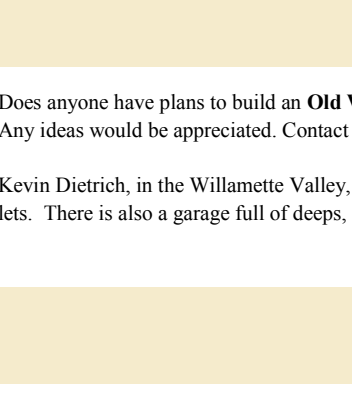


Photo 1 Varroa mite feces w/ mite in brood cell. USDA photo

If cells without cappings occur in a more random fashion, you are likely looking at your hygienic bees removal of cappings to expose female varroa mites. Some of the pupae will likely be partially eaten (by their sisters) as they attempt to get to the female mites to remove them from the cells. This is of course a good sign a sign your bees are attempting to keep a lid on their mite infestation.

*If you see lots of mite feces or pupal cells without their caps, it will be a sign of a heavy varroa mite infestation – there is still time to select a chemical and treat the colony before our wet weather closes down fall bee activity.*

When looking in the brood area two things you might be on lookout for (besides presence of some eggs and brood pattern) is evidence of mite load. Look in empty brood cells and see if you see mite feces. They will show as irregular white deposits, usually at back top of cell. Hold a frame up to the light with the sun at your back rotating the frame away from you so the deposits are easier to see. [They are mite feces if white and stringy-looking – as in photo - not larval bee feces which is dark and on bottom side of cell].

When looking at capped cells you might see some pupal cells that lack cappings – usually early in the capped stage when eye coloration has darkened in the pupae. This could either be bald brood or a sign of mite infestation. Bald brood, opened pupal cells in a linear fashion is a sign of wax moth infestation – the caterpillar has moved beneath the cappings from one cell to another – you might even be able to remove the cap of the next cell in the line and expose it!



Photo 2 Hygienic bees opening capped cells w/ varroa Tim Wessels photo

## Member Posts

Does anyone have plans to build an **Old World Swiss Bee House**? We have a member who can find images online but is at a standstill for real info. Any ideas would be appreciated. Contact Debra Black at [dblack808@gmail.com](mailto:dblack808@gmail.com).

Kevin Dietrich, in the Willamette Valley, wishes to **sell** his small pollination operation of around **125 hives**. The hives are 8 frame and on pallets. There is also a garage full of deeps, supers, an extractor and various other beekeeping stuff. Price is negotiable. [503-385-7960](tel:503-385-7960) (no Sundays)

## SOBA Honey Extractors

Current SOBA members may check out the club honey extractors. We have two manual extractors—one holds 3 supers or 3 deeps, and the other holds 6 supers or 3 deeps.

Contact Joe Jordahl at 541-621-5241 ([jjordahl@cyberpe.com](mailto:jjordahl@cyberpe.com)) to schedule a pick up.

## Sub-Regional Bee Club News

### Illinois Valley Bee Club

**When:** Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM

**Where:** Kerby Belt Building, Kerby

**Contact:** Ron Padgett - [padgett25@frontiernet.net](mailto:padgett25@frontiernet.net)

### Douglas County Bees—First Meeting

**When:** First Wednesday of each month at 7:00 to 8:30

**Where:** Douglas County Courthouse Room 311

**Contact:** for any questions [phillibeegu@gmail.com](mailto:phillibeegu@gmail.com)



**SOBA**  
Southern Oregon  
Beekeepers Association

The **Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association** meets at 7:30 pm on the first Monday of each month at the Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center, 569 Hanley Rd., Central Point. Meeting location changes will be noted in the newsletter. Come early to the meeting (6:30) and watch a hive inspection demonstration.

**Email:** [sobeekkeepers@gmail.com](mailto:sobeekkeepers@gmail.com)

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

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

**Officers:**



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**President:** John Jacob

**Secretary:** Dana Rose

**Vice President:** Ron Padgett

**Treasurer:** Cheryl Housden

**OSBA Regional Representative:** Sarah Red-Laird

**OSU Liaison:** Rick Hilton