Meeting Dates and Locations

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

On November 2 the SOBA meeting will return to the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center.

Election of Club Officers

Congratulations to our club officers for the next year:

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

Oregon Honey Festival - October 17

Come taste honey varieties at the 2015 Oregon Honey Festival! Live music, demonstrations, vendors, and speakers.

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.
At our September meeting, John discussed these important considerations for beekeeping in the month of September:

- Is your mite infestation rate 3% or less?
- Is there an adequate population of young nurse bees to rear the winter cluster bees?
- Are there at least 70-80 lbs of honey stores?
- Am I done feeding yet?
- Reduce the nest cavity to the minimum volume necessary to accommodate the cluster and stores.
- Bees move up over winter! Make sure there are plenty of stores directly above the cluster. Keep stores close to the cluster by any means necessary.
- Take your losses now.
- Reduce the nest cavity to the minimum volume necessary to accommodate the cluster and stores.
- Be conscientious of disease transfer when combining.
- As weather cools reduce entrance to an easily defensible size.
- Leaving the entrance reduced all year is advisable as long as the hive is ventilated with a screened bottom board and upper entrance or venting.
- Have a back up feeding option if things do not go as planned.
- Drivert sugar or fondant (sugar bricks) should be used after the temperature is below 60 degrees during the day and 45 degrees at night, not syrup, to avoid adding moisture to the hive.

As we move into winter in October,

- Make sure your hives are off of the ground—on a pallet or other structure—to prevent moisture from seeping into the hive and to provide ventilation. Having the hive about 18 inches off the ground can help deter skunks and other critters.
- Keep hives exposed to the sun with entrances faced away from prevailing winds.
- Tilt hives so water drains away from the entrance.
- Bees can deal with cold, but being wet will kill them. Ensure proper ventilation and that lids do not leak.
- Add a ‘quilt box’ or some absorbent material above the inner cover to soak up condensation that the bees create as they shiver to keep warm. This prevents the condensation from dripping back down and chilling the bees.
- All superfluous items within the hive, e.g., Varroa treatments, queen excluders, and extra rims, should be removed by now.
- As your mite infestation rate is 3% or less?
- Is there an adequate population of young nurse bees to rear the winter cluster bees?
- Are there at least 70-80 lbs of honey stores?
- Am I done feeding yet?
- Reduce the nest cavity to the minimum volume necessary to accommodate the cluster and stores.
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Fall is also a great time to plant perennials, trees, shrubs and lawn replacements for bee forage!! The bees are covering my Wall Germander this morning!

There is a list of bee forage plants on our website: www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org/gardening-for-bees/honey-bee-forage-plants-for-southern-oregon
You Can Lead a Bee to Water...

Why do my honey bees ignore the fresh water I provide, and instead fly over to my neighbor’s pond? The Classroom article in the September 2015 issue of the American Bee Journal had a great answer!

Just as with nectar, when bees locate a good source of water they bring it back to the hive to present to other foragers. The bees indicate the direction and distance of the water location with the ‘waggle’ dance. However, if the water has little taste or odor, the new foragers may not be able to figure out what to collect once they get there. The water in my neighbor’s pond has a definite taste and odor profile!

In the article, Jerry Hayes recommends adding a little vanilla extract or lemon flavoring or … (mint extract?) to the water you provide. Make sure the water supply is consistent in location and odor/taste and the bees will come. It is best to set up the water very early in the season so that the bees will ‘imprint’ on the location before deciding to run over to the neighbor’s.

Royal Jelly isn’t What Makes a Queen Bee a Queen Bee...

“For decades, scientists thought an excess of something special, a substance called royal jelly, elevated a regular honey bee larva to a queen. New research suggests we had it backward: It’s what future queens aren’t fed that matters.”

Queen larva are fed royal jelly exclusively, but worker and drone larvae are fed a mixture of beebread (a type of fermented pollen), and honey (and royal jelly only for the first 3 days). This research shows that plant chemicals in the honey and pollen “turn off” the genes that create a queen.

Read the complete article here: www.wired.com/2015/09/royal-jelly-isnt-makes-queen-bee-queen-bee/
(Thanks to Kent Knock for sending this article)

SOBA Member Market

If you are a current member of SOBA and would like to advertise bees, equipment, 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/soba-market

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 October 8.

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.