

# SO\*BA Bee Buzz

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association Newsletter

### In this issue:

- Meeting Dates and Locations
- Election of Officers
- Oregon Honey Festival
- Oregon State Beekeepers Conference
- September/October Beekeeping
- You Can Lead a Bee to Water...
- Royal Jelly Isn't What Makes a Queen Bee
- SOBA Member Market
- Events

### 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 varietals at the **2015 Oregon Honey Festival!** Live music , demonstrations, vendors, and speakers.



THE SECOND ANNUAL  
**Oregon Honey Festival**  
*Saturday, October 17, 2015*

Marie Simmons, Author | Dr. Ramesh Sagili, OSU Bee Lab  
 Dr. Susan Kegley, Pesticide Expert | John Jacob, Old Sol Bees  
 Dr. Lynn Royce, Tree Hive Bees | Karessa Torgerson, EAS Master Beekeeper  
 Eric McEwen, Diggin' Livin' Apiary | Laura Ferguson, College of the Melissae  
 Katherina Davitt, Beekeeper & Educator | Joe Jordahl, Beekeeper

Meet Local Beekeepers! Honey Tasting! Activities for kids!  
 Live music + drawings! Kids 8 and under FREE

**Ashland Springs Hotel 10-4:30PM**  
 \$15 at the door // \$12.50 at [EventBrite.com](http://EventBrite.com) or [OregonHoneyFestival.com](http://OregonHoneyFestival.com)

Sponsored by: Shastina Millworks | GloryBee Foods | Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians  
 Old Sol Bees | the Ashland Food Co-Op

## 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](#).

## September/ October Beekeeping

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.
  - Combine problem hives, dinks, and queenless hives to an “engine”. Loser + loser= big loser!
  - 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.



Winter configuration with ventilation feeder and quilt box

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.



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](http://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!

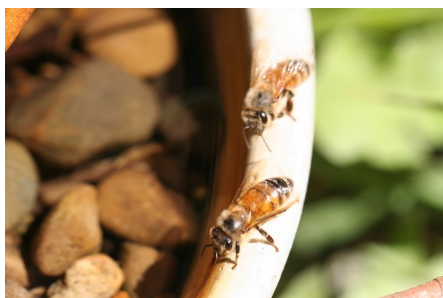


Photo: Dana Rose

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/](http://www.wired.com/2015/09/royal-jelly-isnt-makes-queen-bee-queen-bee/)

(Thanks to Kent Knock for sending this article)

---

## SOPA Member Market

If you are a current member of SOPA 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:sobeekeepers@gmail.com)

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

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

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



To remove your name from our mailing list, send an email to [sobeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:sobeekeepers@gmail.com) with "Unsubscribe" as the subject.