



# SO\*BA Bee Buzz

August 2014

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association

**Next Meeting: Monday September 7 at 7:30 PM (demonstration hive inspection at 6:30) at Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center, 569 Hanley Rd., Central Point. OR ([map](#))**

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## Intermediate Bee Class

SOBA is conducting an Intermediate Bee Class on **Saturday August 16** from 9AM until 4 PM at the Southern Oregon Research Extension Center John Jacob and Lincoln Mettler will be our presenters.

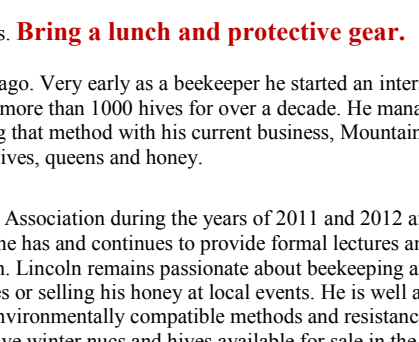
Beginning beekeepers are encouraged to attend. The topics covered will include but not be limited to:

### Over Wintering Bees

Colony Strength and Condition  
Mite and Disease Management  
Feeding Strategies  
Wind and Water Protection

### Creating a Self Sustaining Apiary

Propagating from Local Queen Stock  
Creating Nucs and Splitting Hives



The class will be \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members. **Bring a lunch and protective gear.**

**Lincoln Mettler** became a beekeeper more the 35 years ago. Very early as a beekeeper he started an interstate pollination business in Eastern Washington. Lincoln ran more than 1000 hives for over a decade. He managed these colonies based on double queening. He is still using that method with his current business, Mountain Rain Bee Products. His products include locally raised nucs, hives, queens and honey.

Lincoln was President of the Pierce County Bee Keepers Association during the years of 2011 and 2012 and continues as a board member. As part of the association he has and continues to provide formal lectures and regularly assists local beekeepers with ongoing education. Lincoln remains passionate about beekeeping and spends the majority of his free time working with his bees or selling his honey at local events. He is well aware of the importance of management of insect pests using environmentally compatible methods and resistance management. Lincoln also knows that the only way to have winter nucs and hives available for sale in the spring if they survive winter and that takes fall preparation that starts in August. This preparation has given him the surplus needed to replace others losses in the spring.

**John Jacob** is the current president of SOBA, an experienced beekeeper who is working to breed queens that are hygienic in their behavior towards varroa mites. He is committed to promoting healthy, sustainable agriculture in an effort to preserve biodiversity and quality of life for all generations in all regions by implementing and sharing healthy farming practices.

**REGISTER TODAY** on the website—we'd love to see you there!  
[www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org/news-and-events/soba-intermediate-beekeeper-class-august-16](http://www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org/news-and-events/soba-intermediate-beekeeper-class-august-16)

**Shastina Millworks** has donated a complete hive to the raffle! After class you can take advantage of the **Special Bee School Sale** at Shastina (see below). Shastina is our local beekeeping manufacturer and retailer and is a strong supporter of SOBA.

## Shastina Millworks Special Fall Bee School Sale

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR ONE DAY ONLY 5% OFF CASH ONLY SALES EVENT!

RECEIVE A "FREE" SHASTINA BEE GIRLS SILIPINT OR KEYCHAIN LANYARD WITH EVERY PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE.

ENTER YOUR NAME INTO OUR DRAWING FOR A FREE HONEY SUPER!

### AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup> AFTER THE FALL BEE SCHOOL

3 – 7 PM

2276 Ave H, White City, Or (corner of 15<sup>th</sup> and H)

541-830-8584

## SOBA Beekeepers In the News

**John Jacob** will be on Jefferson Public Radio's Jefferson Exchange on **Wednesday August 13 at 9 AM**. Don't miss this! [jpr.org/post/building-better-bee](http://jpr.org/post/building-better-bee)

Ashland folks are getting together at the Playwright Pub (258 A St, Ashland) on **Wednesday August 13 at 7 PM**.

## Newsletter Contributions

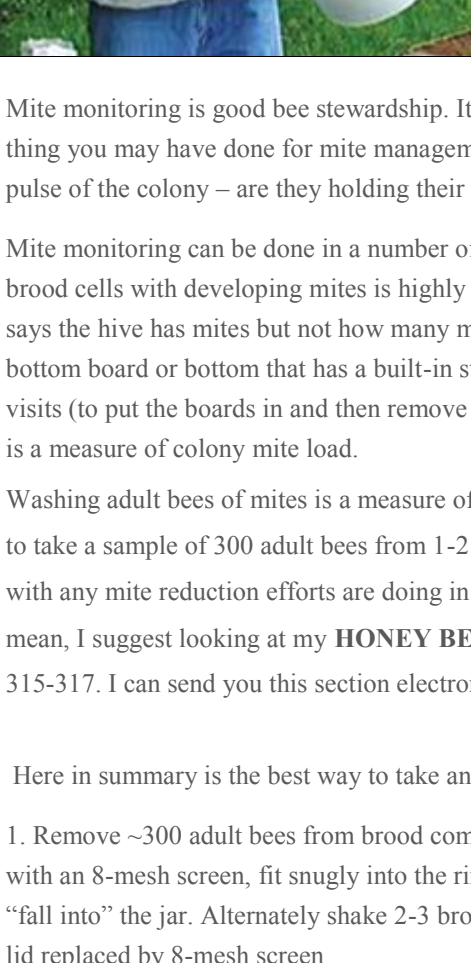
Do you have information that you would like to see in the newsletter? Send it to [sobeek-keepers@gmail.com](mailto:sobeek-keepers@gmail.com)

with "Newsletter" as the subject.

## TopBar Workshops

Les Crowder will be in our area this fall and is willing to offer workshops in topbar beekeeping. You can review his [workshop schedule](#) for this year to see what topics are available. Email [sobeekkeepers@gmail.com](mailto:sobeekkeepers@gmail.com) if you would be interested in attending.

## August in the Apiary



*Contributed by Dewey M. Caron*

August is not a month for much bee work. It is too hot and colonies can be a bit testy. Keep water nearby and give them some supplemental shade in the afternoon if you are concerned. August however is the month to determine how the bees are doing with keeping a lid on varroa mites. August is when we begin to raise the bees that will rear the bees that make up the winter cluster. These bees **MUST** be healthy. Varroa mites must be under control or the hive will not overwinter. The end of the bee's year is fast approaching, so re-queening, feeding, and disease management must be done ASAP. Healthy brood and ample nutrition are the keys. Hive conditions now will determine the odds of overwintering success.

Mite monitoring is good bee stewardship. It lets you know precisely how the bees are doing and how successful everything you may have done for mite management so far this season has helped the bees. Monitoring means taking the pulse of the colony – are they holding their own or are the mites getting to harmfully high levels?

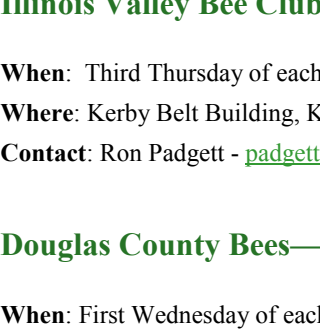
Mite monitoring can be done in a number of ways. Looking for phoretic mites on adult bodies or percent of drone brood cells with developing mites is highly intrusive as we have to open the hive but it also is not very accurate – it says the hive has mites but not how many mites? Using a sticky board is less disruptive, especially if you have a screen bottom board or bottom that has a built-in sticky board for monitoring, but is tedious in counting the mites, takes two visits (to put the boards in and then remove them) and, for some, difficult to count, especially with lots of hive debris. It is a measure of colony mite load.

Washing adult bees of mites is a measure of colony mite intensity. It does necessitate entering the colony as we prefer to take a sample of 300 adult bees from 1-2 brood frames. It is however the best measure of how your bees and you with any mite reduction efforts are doing in resisting/tolerating mites. [for a review of mite sampling and what numbers mean, I suggest looking at my **HONEY BEE BIOLOGY AND BEEKEEPING**, revised edition, Chapter 19, pages 315-317. I can send you this section electronically if you drop me an email request at [dmccaron@udel.edu](mailto:dmccaron@udel.edu)]

Here in summary is the best way to take an adult bee sample and determine colony mite intensity:

1. Remove ~300 adult bees from brood comb into a mason jar (to the 1/2 cup mark) in which you have replaced the lid with an 8-mesh screen, fit snugly into the ring closure. Do this by moving wide-mouthed jar down the comb so bees "fall into" the jar. Alternately shake 2-3 brood frames into a bucket and then scoop out 1/2 cup bees into a jar with solid lid replaced by 8-mesh screen
2. Place modified screen lid on jar; tap jar to settle bees on bottom.
3. Place 2 tablespoons of powdered sugar onto bees (through screening). Alternately, add rubbing alcohol through the screen top to kill the bees.
4. Close jar and shake/roll bees for 20–30 seconds. Set aside for 30 seconds so sugar ends up coating bees (you do not need to do this if you use alcohol). Re-shake vigorously another 20-30 seconds.
5. Invert and shake sugar and mites from jar onto white collecting paper or pan [if using alcohol pour liquid into a white pan]. Mist spray to dissolve sugar if you used sugar.
6. Count the number of mites and calculate the percent infestation of adult workers: (# mites/#bees divided by 100). If unsure you have a thorough count, repeat with more sugar/alcohol.
7. If infestation is over 2% (i.e more than 6 mites, assuming 300 adult bees) consider the hive at risk and if mite number is approaching or over 5% (10-15 mites) consider immediately using a mite reduction management chemical (ApiVar, Apiguard, ApiLife Var, Mags, Hopguard II) or dividing the colony into several smaller units [brood break]. Follow up with another sample at end of recommended treatment period. (ApiVar treatment takes 42-56 days).

## Bees and Buckwheat



Daniel Robison and Clare Sullivan at OSU recommend using buckwheat as a summer cover crop for gardens. **"The fast growth and dense canopy smothers annual weeds, protects the soil from erosion, and helps conserve soil moisture,"** Sullivan said. **"The abundance of blossoms attracts pollinators and beneficial insects, and in a pinch, buckwheat can be added to a bouquet."**

You can read the full article here [http://bit.ly/OSU\\_Gardening2358](http://bit.ly/OSU_Gardening2358)

Buckwheat provides bees with forage at a time when there may be few other flowering plants. Buckwheat honey is dark and has a distinctive flavor. According to the University of Missouri, **"An acre of buckwheat can support a hive of bees producing up to 150 pounds of honey, if prevailing weather conditions are suitable for good nectar production (reportedly, sunny days and cool nights are best)."** <http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G4306>

## SOBA Honey Extractors

Current SOBA members may check out the club honey extractors .  
Contact Joe Jordahl at [541-621-5241](tel:541-621-5241) ([jjordahl@cyberpc.com](mailto:jjordahl@cyberpc.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

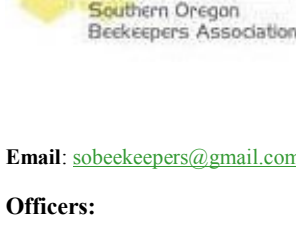
**Contact:** Ron Padgett - [padgett25@frontiernet.net](mailto:padgett25@frontiernet.net)

### Douglas County Bees—First Meeting

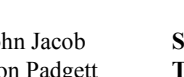
**When:** First Wednesday of each month at 7:00 to 8:30

**Where:** Douglas County Courthouse Room 311

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



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:

<b>President:</b>	John Jacob	<b>Secretary</b>	Dana Rose
<b>Vice President:</b>	Ron Padgett	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Cheryl Housden
<b>OSBA Regional Representative:</b> Sarah Red-Laird			
<b>OSU Liaison:</b> Rick Hilton			