

W.V.B.A. Newsletter February 2008

Willamette Valley  Beekeepers Association

Willamette Valley
Beekeeper

Secretary's Corner

Mike Rodia

I. GENERAL MINUTES -January 28, 2008



For those of you who missed it, the Bee Social was quite the affair. All together six hardy souls showed up at Chemeketa between 6:30PM and 7:45PM. Despite the snow earlier in the day, the announcements on radio and TV that Chemeketa was closed for the day and telephone calls by your officers to many members, those hardy souls came ready and willing. A few of the hardy souls stood around their vehicles (the buildings were really all locked-up) and commiserated a bit (at least until their touches froze); it was darn cold out there.

The officers gave some thought to rescheduling the soiree but decided against it because of scheduling conflicts, the upcoming bee school, difficulty in getting change notices distributed and additional commitments by the bee equipment suppliers.

So here's the problem, and remember, should snow, earthquake, tsunami, hurricane, typhoon and other acts of God or man close Chemeketa; if public schools shut down (not counting summer, holidays, etc.) Chemeketa will also close. It could also close for reasons (as enumerated above). If so, they notify the 4th estate (the press for you non-informed) of which KBZY, AM 1390 is the easiest

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to tune in to; or for you tech-heads, go to their web site. Despite a member roster that is seldom current (too many changes during the year), incorrect or non-existent phone numbers and a paucity of email addresses, it is not a fun task for

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- March:** Fruit tree bloom starts mid-March through April, although this can vary about two weeks
- Swarming season starts; be observant on each inspection. Queen cell construction on the frame bottom can be seen from congested brood area, hive confinement, low quality stores, predators or queen over a year old. Remove each queen cell found on the bottom of the frames. Queen cells in the brood area (sides of frames) indicate a failing queen. Requeen.
 - Dust your colonies three times at seven day intervals with a 2 Tablespoon portion of Terramycin (TM25) mixed with eight parts of powdered sugar. Sprinkle on top of the brood frames, towards the end bars, being sure not to douse the brood.
 - Don't let colony stores get below 3 full frames on honey. Feed light colonies sugar syrup (1 :1 ratio).
 - To equalize stores between the colonies, rob combs of honey from colonies with excessive stores. (Put the empty replacement frames back in the strong colony next to the brood nest, to expand egg laying). When equalizing brood, do not remove over 20% of the sealed brood per colony. .
 - Remove mouse guard screens.
 - Look for colonies with nosema/dysentery (fecal matter streaked on the hive). Treat with Fumidil B according to label instructions.
 - Clean existing bottom boards.
 - Check stored frames for wax moth infestation.
 - Clean existing bottom boards.

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officers to contact everyone. So even though we will continue to try to reach you, be advised that come nasty weather or other calamity, please check with the 4th estate before you drive 40 miles. After all, you could better use that time thinking about and/or preparing your bees and equipment for that Spring that will sooner or later reach the bees.

II. BEE FACT - Honey consists of about 38% Fructose, 31% Glucose, 1% Sucrose, 9% Other sugars, vitamins, minerals and many acids.

III. BEE SCHOOL - We have about 40 students (and a few old timers) who have either signed up or who've indicated they will attend. Harry has done a great job and assembled 40+ notebooks containing the book "First Lessons in Beekeeping," the Canadian booklet "Honeybee Diseases and Pests," and several in-depth handouts. We will have extras of the new edition of the "First Lessons in Beekeeping" for sale at cost of about \$7.00 for those not attending bee school or who might want an extra or the revised version.

The last day of Bee School will comprise the educational portion (last part) of our Monday, February 25 regular meeting. We will also have John from Ruhl Bee displaying and discussing equipment and supplies he has available. So if you want to order something be sure to call ahead so he can bring it down. The Bee School subjects will be "How to Get Started in Bees" and "Products of the Hive."

IV. ELECTIONS - NEW OFFICERS - As of this writing, the political scene has solidified with the slate featuring - Farrier for President, Vanderpool for Vice-resident, Rodia for Secretary, Kroemer for Treasurer and Strawn for Editor. Nominations from the floor will be accepted by Steve Coffman, Nomination Chairperson and then elections will be held. This should occur just before Bee School.

V. OBSERVATIONS FROM THE BEE YARD - Well, two of my three hives died; not for lack of feed (and love), they had plenty; but probably failing queens as it seems the number of bees just got fewer and fewer until the few left simply died in a small mass. The many, many dead bees in front of the hives were an indication of the die-outs. Remember the one hive that survived was the one I added to with a late swarm and queen. Otherwise the three were treaded equally with medications and feed.

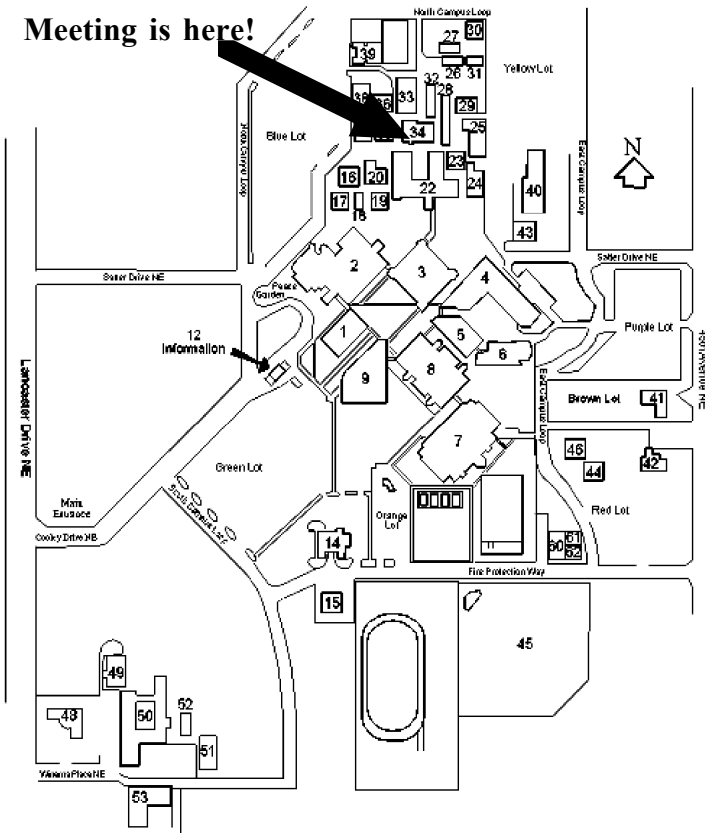
It is best to change Varroa medications between Spring and Fall. Since I used Api-Life Var* last fall I chose to use Checkmite* when I re-organized and medicated the surviving hive. I haven't used Checkmite* in at least two years so I don't expect to have resistant mites at this time. I re-organized by cleaning the bottom board, rotating my two western brood boxes and also reducing; by shifting frames; my two western supers to one. As always, I continue to use a slotted bottom spacer and a queen excluder. I intend to switch to screened bottom boards once I get them made. I also cleaned out and refilled my top tray feeder with 1:1 sugar syrup with Fumidil*. Of course I also added a couple sheets of Canola oil soaked blue shop towels on top of the brood boxes.

By the way, I did do a check and unfortunately the surviving hive does have some Varrora so the medication is needed.

I still haven't decided whether to order packages or wait for swarms. The problem is there is no guarantee that swarms will be available and/or that they will perform well. Packages are available earlier (in most cases) and in general, likely to do well.

APIS MELLIFERA CARNICA AND APIS MELLIFERA LIGUSTICA UBER ALLES DEM APIS
MELLIFERA SCUTELLATA!

Meeting is here!



W.V.B.A. Officers		
President	Rick Farrier	541-327-2673
Vice-President	Harry Vanderpool	503-399-3675
Treasurer	Susan Rauchfuss	503-391-5600
Secretary	Mike Rodia	503-364-3275
Bee School	Harry Vanderpool	503-399-3675
Hospitality	Various	
Librarian	Steve Collins	503-364-8995
Newsletter	Gordon Kroemer	503-538-2307
Equipment	Ken Kite	503-769-2941

Classifieds

Ads are free for members and will be posted for 2 months. Extensions will be on a monthly basis. editor

FOR SALE: Three-pound packages of bees with 2008 queen available in April 2008, \$67, \$5 of which is a refundable deposit on the cage. Please call early and before April 1 to reserve your order. For details please call Wild Harvest Honey in Blodgett, OR, at 541-456-2631.

FOR SALE: Stainless steel sump with baffle, to catch honey from extractor, measures 16" X 30" X 11" deep, with 2" outlet, holds about 23 gallons, \$75. Please call Kenny at 541-456-2631 (Blodgett, OR)

Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association

Official Dues Form for 2008

Membership in the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association is open to anyone who has an interest in honeybees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. W.V.B.A. annual membership is \$20.00* per person and includes a vote in W.V.B.A. elections, eleven issues of the *Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association Newsletter*, and discounts on other publications. Membership in the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association and Bee School tuition, including all materials, is \$25.00* per person.

Name: _____

Address: _____

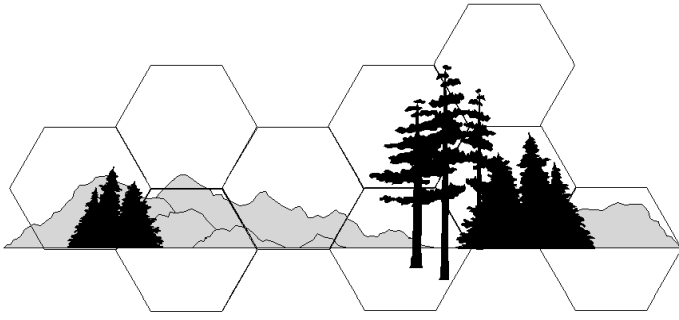
City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____

E-Mail: _____

Send a check payable to W.V.B.A. to Treasurer, Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association, P.O. Box 13245, Salem, Oregon 97301

or better yet, deliver your dues to the treasurer at the next monthly meeting.



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P.O. Box 13245
Salem, Oregon 97301



Last Newsletter without '08 membership!

The *W.V.B.A. Newsletter* is a publication of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association. Gordon Kroemer, Editor, solicits all members and interested parties for news, tidbits, recipes, artwork, ads, etc. He may be reached at: kroemer2@verizon.net or Gordon Kroemer 29950 NE Wilsonville Rd. Newberg OR 97132

- Upcoming**
- February 25 - Meeting / Bee School
 - March 24 - Splits / Swarm Control
 - April 26-27 - Ag Fest
 - April 28 - Organic Beekeeping & Profitability of Backyard Beekeeping

February Meeting Schedule

This month's meeting will be held on February 25th at 7 PM in Building 34.

Parking permits are required.

The topic is: Elections / Bee School

Presenter: Various

SEE YOU THERE!