

and educate the public and agricultural community about farming and the industry. As part of this activity the WVBA has staffed a booth providing information and guidance for beekeeping. Many kids attend Ag Fest and are particularly interested in honeybees. Richard Farrier will coordinate our participation this year. So if you are interested in working with kids for a few hours or longer, please contact him.

IV. BEE SCHOOL - WRAP-UP

Some 55-60 students/new WVA members attended the three days of Bee School. By far the largest number ever — at least in the last 12 years or so that I have been a member. On the first night our normally large room was divided into three smaller ones. After a delay to roll back the partitions and bring more tables and chairs from the other large classroom, Bee School began.

It should be noted that my original expectation was for maybe 30-35 attendees. Harry thought maybe 50 or so primarily because of the Statesman-Journals' article about beekeeping featuring our own memorial Susan Rauchfuss. When it became evident that students would outnumber our bee school packets, another 20 binders were quickly assembled. In consequence, since some of the information had been previously donated, all the packets were not identical. Some had the newer version of "First Lessons in Beekeeping" while others had the older version along with "Honey Bee Diseases and Pests." Additional handouts were provided on the second night to help even things out.

The topics for Bee School the first night were "History of Beekeeping" by Ken Kite, "Life Cycle of the Honeybee" by Dr. Lynn Royce (she can be funny) and "Beekeeping Equipment and Hive Construction" by Richard Farrier. It was evident that with such a large group, demonstrations in front of the room could not be seen by those in the back, let alone could the presenters' words be heard. Prophetically, the AV people had asked if we would need a microphone and I declined. I forgot once again that although I can be heard from one end of the room to the other in an armory, with 1,000 marching soldiers all yelling "hurah," most people (particularly ladies or Kenny Williams) would need some help. So we will endeavor to do more with Power-Point for visuals and either a megaphone or microphone for audio.

The second night covered "Working with Bees" by Farrier and "Honeybee Nutrition and Medications" by Rodia. "Beekeeping Safety" by Susan had been scheduled but was canceled due to a family emergency. In a way, the cancellation was somewhat fortuitous since so many questions and interruptions (by yours truly) took place during Farrier's presentation that Rodia didn't have time to complete his part on nutrition. The handouts are complete enough that a little study should enable the students to understand the need and importance of supplemental carbohydrates, protein, water and minerals.

The third night covered "How to Get Started in Bees" by Vice-President Vanderpool and "Products of the Hive" by Kroemer. Harry demonstrated how to hive a package and what to look for when opening a hive. Many questions centered on 10 frames vs. 8 frames vs. 9 frames and the why and when each may be used. Kroemer again evoked a "WOW" as he showed the slide comparing his healing and scarring, after surgery, and with treatment using honey and a doctor-prescribed antibiotic.

V. BEE DAY - APRIL 5, 9:00AM - NOON

Your officers have considered holding a Bee Day on and off for several years. The WVBA used to do this back in prehistoric days (1970's or 1980's). Because, in part, there is a Bee Day held yearly at George Hansen's place and our Bee School class often has fewer than 20 students it didn't seem worthwhile to hold our own. Nonetheless, the Bill Ruhl Memorial Bee Day (which is April 26 this year) often occurs after package bees have already been received. Considering this, combined with this year's bumper class, it was decided that we will hold our own Bee Day April 5th at Susan's house starting at 9:00AM.

There is no charge and no lunch and we expect to be done by noon. We might have complimentary coffee, tea and cookies.

If it rains we will have canopies and an opportunity to see Suzie's honey room/candle making barn and loft.

The primary objective of Bee Day is to provide new beekeepers with an actual (at least eyes-on) experience with the hiving of a package of bees, examination of established colonies, locating the queen, and identifying eggs, brood, honey, pollen stores and disease. To this end Vanderpool will bring a pallet (at least three hives) of bees for examination. In addition he will assemble a package of bees with a new queen and feed supply that he will install during Bee Day. A drawing will be held at the end of our Bee Day and the winner will receive a new hive and package of bees when they are ready (see below).

We don't expect a lot of flying bees, but if the weather is warm there can be. In any case this would be a good time to bring your protective gear, get some advice on how and when to use it and provide some protection if you want to get up close and personal with the bees.

We will also provide demonstrations on how to light/continue the burning of a smoker.

TO REACH SUSAN RAUCHFUSS' HOUSE from I-5, take exit 256 (Market St.) and go west on Market to the third stoplight. Turn right (North) on Park Ave. About 2/10 of a mile, there is a yellow two-story house on the left. The address is 1861 Park Ave. NE, Salem. Call 503-391-5600 (Susan) or 503-364-3275 (Rodia) if you need a little help with directions.

No sign-up is required but if you can give us some idea of whether you will attend at our March 24 meeting, it would be helpful. We had about 30 who indicated interest at the February 25 meeting.

VI. PACKAGE BEES - PAYMENTS, PICK-UP, ETC.

We will receive the packages of bees from Wild Harvest Honey probably sometime between April 12 and 26th and preferably toward the end of the week so the bees can be picked up on a Saturday morning. The pick-up will be at Susan's house (see directions above) after you have been notified by phone, so please be sure we have your current number.

The 18 available packages have been spoken for but we have a back up list since there are a few on the list who may change their minds. The cost is \$67.00 with \$5.00 rebated on return of the package box with a feeder. Checks need to be made out to Wild Harvest Honey and in my hands by the end of the March 24 meeting. If not paid for by then, the next day unclaimed packages will be assigned to those on the back-up list. Remember, please note on your check whether you want Italian or Carniolan bees.

Preparing packages of bees is dependent upon the availability of mated queens, strong hives as a source of workers and the weather. This year the weather is delaying the process by a week or so, but Williams is doing what he can to accommodate us, including waiting to package our bees toward the end of the week.

Although it is preferable to hive packages as soon as possible, a day or so delay, either waiting at Susan's house or your place should not harm them as long as they are not subjected to heat. Keep the packages in a cool area, not inside the house nor in direct sunlight.

Another recommendation is to install the package at dusk to minimize flying and loss of bees, however, installations can be made almost anytime if desired and consideration is given to limiting bee flights.

You will receive a handout when receiving your package(s) on how to install the package and care for it during the first month or so.

Note also that Ruhl Bee Supply will have packages available April 21 and a second batch during the first week in May. Contact John at Ruhl for more information.

VII. BEE FACT

A swarm is the aggregate of worker bees, drones and a queen (usually the mother queen) that leaves the mother colony to establish a new colony. Swarming is the natural method of propagation of the honey bee colony.

VIII. SWARM LIST

Each year the WVBA, through our telephone book listing and by referrals, receives numerous phone calls requesting assistance with "bees." Many of these calls concern yellow jackets or other wasps for which we only provide advice on how to control or destroy them. Many others are about honeybees that have swarmed and are perceived as a threat or concern. We even get some calls from people who know that a swarm offers the beekeeper a source of "free" bees to start a new colony, strengthen a weak colony or act to draw out comb so as to minimize the need for existing hives to do so.

To assist in responding, we maintain a listing of beekeepers who are interested in collecting swarms. Many limit their swarm collection activities to the immediate geographic area where they live or to those swarms easy to get (see Ken Kite.) Others will go almost anywhere, anytime and spend considerable time and effort in the pursuit (see Terry Adams and Buzz Hellet). It's not the money you save by getting a swarm of bees, instead of a package or nuc, but rather the challenge of the chase and capture and the gratitude (in most cases) of those who called.

The swarm list is now being assembled, as we can expect swarming to begin in April and last into June. If interested please contact me (Rodia) and decide when, where and what kinds (easy, medium or hard to get swarms) you want.

Contacts by me for swarm calls are made by phone going from the top of the list to the bottom, then repeated. If you do not answer I move onto the next listing. Often, time is of the essence, so I can't wait several hours to find out if you're interested.

For you newbies, if I am not otherwise committed, I will go with you on your first swarm catch, if desired.

As beams of sunlight finally awaken my sleeping hives, the bees begin to harken to the calls of spring pollen and nectar that await their arrivals.

Looking Forward

- March 24 - Next WVBA Meeting: Splits / Swarm Control **(Parking Permits are NOT required for this meeting.)**

- April 5 - Bee Day at Susan Rauchfuss' house

- April 26-27 - Ag Fest

- April 28 - Organic Beekeeping & Profitability of Backyard Beekeeping

From the Editor

This Newsletter is a publication of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association. All members and interested parties are free to submit news, tidbits, recipes, artwork, ads, etc.

You can email me at jim.strawn@gmail.com

or you can mail your correspondence to

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4989 Airport Rd
Sweet Home, OR 97386

Fine Print: Void where prohibited. Your mileage may vary. Past performance is not an indicator of future results. See store for details.

When Good Bees Go Mad

An 18-wheeler laden with bees overturned on Sunday, March 16th in California. No amount of netting could hold the 16 million passengers and their accompanying wooden- and wax-ware. Bee venom was had in generous amounts, but no serious injuries, allergy-related or otherwise, were reported. Failing to coral the unruly bunch, the California Highway Patrol called local beekeepers to help clean up the spill. Fortunately, the bees were full of almond nectar, making their poisonous encounters just a touch sweeter.

March 2008							April 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
24	25	26	27	28	29	1	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

WVBA Officers (elected and otherwise)

President	Rich Farrier	541-327-2673
Vice-President	Harry Vanderpool	503-399-3675
Treasurer	Gordon Kroemer	503-538-2307
Secretary	Mike Rodia	503-364-3275
Bee School	Harry Vanderpool	503-399-3675
Librarian	Susan Rauchfuss	503-391-5600
Equipment	Ken Kite	503-769-2941
Newsletter	Jim Strawn	541-409-4121
Hospitality	<i>Various</i>	