

W.V.B.A. Newsletter April 2007

Willamette Valley  Beekeepers Association

Willamette Valley
Beekeeper

Secretary's Corner

Mike Rodia



I. General Minutes - March 26, 2007

1. Richard opened the meeting at 7:05pm and welcomed Bee School attendees and members.
2. The previous meeting minutes as presented in the March newsletter were accepted.
3. Patricia gave an update on AgFest (April 28 & 29) and reminded us that both parking and admission is free to those who participate. Rodia said he would provide crystallized honey and popsicle sticks for tasting. Patricia advised additional honey and/or sticks might be needed. As a historical note, Farrier initiated our involvement with AgFest during his previous Presidency.
4. Beeswax candles as well as molded beeswax items can now be entered for judging at the State Fair. Photos of beekeeping may also be submitted for display. If there is enough interest photographs may be considered for judging in 2008. In a separate conversation Marv Rosette suggested:
 - a. Our display should include information on the cost of treatments and the steps and complexity of keeping bees,
 - b. Look into selling honey during the Fair. He has spoken to officials and it appears possible,

- c. Have more and visible information available about other beekeeping chapters,
- d. Get more state involvement in setting up and managing the booth and display,
- e. Provide handouts and information on how to sell honey and bee products and make a profit,

Secretary continued on pg. 2

Entrance	
View From the	
Classifieds.....	3
Leadership Roster.....	5
Secretary's Corner.....	1
W.V. Beekeeping.....	1

May - Crops in bloom producing nectar and/or pollen: Maple, clover, fruit trees, meadowfoam.

- Don't let colony stores get below 15 lbs. or three full frames of honey. Continue feeding as in April if foundation is being drawn or colonies are small.
- Supply water.
- Examine colonies every ten days. Lift off the supers, tilt up the second story and look for queen cells along the bottom of the brood comb. **IF you find** only eggs and larvae in the queen cells and the hive is crowded with bees, remove all cells --- top and bottom. Put the hive body containing mostly worker eggs or larvae on the bottom board, and the other containing mostly sealed brood on top. Add supers to provide 10-18 empty full-depth combs, or their equivalent. **IF you find** sealed or ripe queen cells, or possibly hatched ones, divide the colony. **NOTE:** queen mating is always dependent on decent mating weather and the supply of drones this time of year. **IF you find** eggs and no attempt to rear queens, and the hive is full of bees, examine the supers and add more to provide 10 to 18 empty combs or their equivalent.
- If the bees seem reluctant to work in the supers through a queen excluder, reverse the two hive bodies. This causes them to rearrange their stores and they will have to move through the excluder. Some colonies need training to go through the excluder.
- Continue to be on the lookout for American and European Foulbrood.
- Remove and extract the supers containing well ripened honey.

f. Provide more complete guidelines on what those who manage the booth and display should/should not do.

II. Bee School

1. A brief discussion of the answers to the Homework from the previous Bee School session were covered. It was noted that bees now need beekeeper's intervention to survive mites, hive beetles and other threats. If, however, the bees were left to their own devices resistance would probably develop in time. In the short term there would be massive bee losses, decreased agricultural production and bankrupt beekeepers.

2. As the final presentation for Bee School and this month's meeting topic, Richard covered the four different ways by which beekeepers may start colonies:

a. Swarms may be caught in almost any container and transferred to a bee box. The only cost for a swarm is gas and time. However, the swarm may need a new queen and may bring diseases into your apiary,

b. A package is basically a man-made swarm except that bees from several different colonies may have been combined. Packages costing upwards of \$70 need to be ordered now or sooner. It is important to feed packages upon installation and avoid disturbing for 5-7 days. A package or swarm gets a head start if drawn foundation is provided,

c. A nuc is basically a small hive with queen and workers established on 4 to 5 frames. These frames and attendant bees can be immediately placed in a hive box. A nuc will cost more than a package,

d. Complete hives including wooden-ware and bees are sometimes available. These may be quite reasonable in terms of cost but one must be alert. The queen could be failing, the bees mean, the wooden-ware worn out, the hive diseased or the equipment of an odd cut.

III. Oliver Petty

1. As a beekeeper since 1950, Oliver has seen and done about everything a beekeeper could.

2. Oliver provided a brief history of his beekeeping and advised this may be his last year as he can't life those boxes so high anymore.

3. He has lots of different types of equipment he might sell, some of it unique. He said he would deal.

IV Adjournment

The meeting ended at 9:10pm after drawings for wax foundation, wax ornaments, queen excluders and other prizes.

V. Of Interest

1. In the war against Varrora the miticide Checkmite* has renewed for use in Oregon and Hivestan* (a new product) has also been approved.

2. Swarm season has begun. John Sekevac was given the first call for a swarm in Turner. Two other callers were sent elsewhere because they were too far outside our area. Another call went to Teodor Damaskin for a swarm near the Vista Roth's market. I picked up a huge (basketball size) swarm at the State Penitentiary. My second swarm came from my yard within 30 feet of my hives. The bees likely from one of my hives landed on the side of a raspberry fencing post about 4 feet off the ground. A box with drawn frames was placed on a short ladder and pushed into the swarm. After an hour or so, most of the bees were in the box. The next morning was cool and wet; it had rained a lot the night before. The lid was closed on the box, the entrance covered with screen and the assembly moved to within 2 feet of my existing hives. A 2 foot by 2 foot section of plywood was leaned onto and within 6 inches of the hive front. After removing the screen, and as the day warmed, many bees took orientation flights. About fifty returned to and hovered around the fencing post. By the end of the day, however, no bees were on or near the post and the swarm had settled into their new home. So it seems you can relocate bees (or at least a swarm) only thirty or so feet from it's prior location and not have (at least the field bees) all return to that location.

And again, if you want to be on the swarm list, be sure to let me know. There is now a "shortage" of those who are interested in the Salem area.

Remember a swarm in hand, particularly if it's one from your own hives, is one less than you need to take out of a twelve foot high tree.

Classifieds

For Sale: 3 Three-pound packages of bees with 2007 queen, available mid-April, please call early and before April 1 for price and to reserve. Wild Harvest Honey Blodgett 541-456-2631

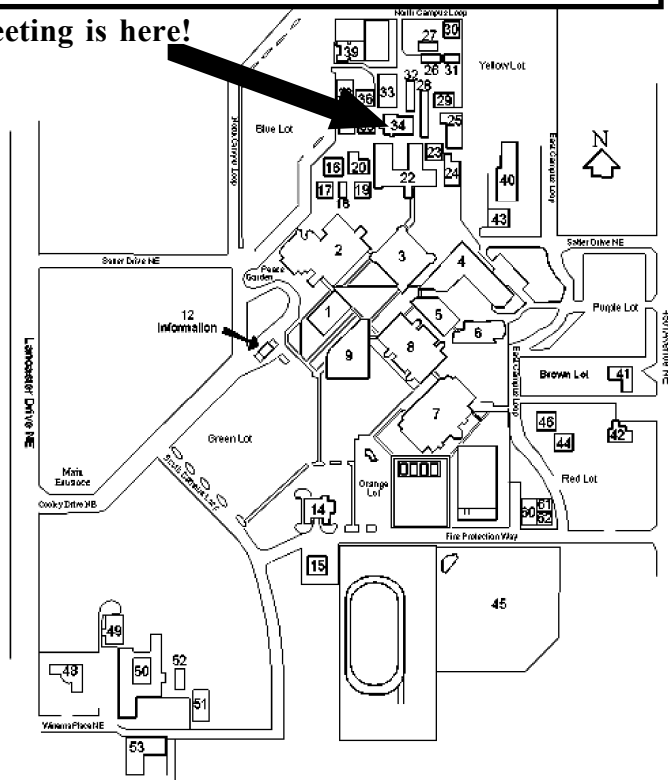
For Sale: 8' x 12', steel mesh flatbed trailer, \$600.00. See at 1825 Walker Rd. N. E., Salem, 503-581-2371

For Sale: Used bee boxes. Deeps with frames and drawn comb \$15. Semi-deeps with frames and drawn comb \$15. Hobbist ops and bottoms, some new \$5 Jefferson 541-327-2673

W.V.B.A. Officers

President	Rick Farrier	541-327-2673
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Hospitality	Jim Strawn	
Librarian	Steve Collins	503-364-8995
Newsletter	Gordon Kroemer	503-538-2307
Equipment	Ken Kite	503-769-2941

Meeting is here!



YOU'LL BE BUZZING OVER THIS ONE

A long time ago, there was a beehive in the middle of a forest. Every day, worker bees went to the fields, gathered pollen, and brought it back to make honey. The bees had a problem, though. Occasionally, an intruder came around, such as a bear who wanted the honey, or kids who threw rocks at the hive. Finally, the bees got tired of it. They built an alarm system for the hive. A bee could pull a lever, which triggered the alarm. The bees could come back to protect their home. One bee was exclusively assigned that job. He was named the "Lever Bee." He had to be constantly on the alert. And that's why people say, "I'm as ready as a Lever Bee."

approved for control of both/either Varroa mite and/or small hive beetle. You should be aware that this is different from the way Idaho's and Washington's Section 18s were approved; theirs list use against small hive beetle only. I'm not sure about California or other states in which Oregon beekeepers may do business.

Breaking News

Subject: Sec. 18 Coumaphos on Honey Bees APPROVED
 From: David Priebe <dpriebe@oda.state.or.us>
 Date: Fri, 30 Mar 2007 14:35:51 -0700

Greetings.

EPA has approved our request for Section 18 emergency use of coumaphos (CheckMite+ Bee Hive Pest Control Strips, manufactured by Bayer HealthCare LLC) to control Varroa mite and small hive beetle in honey bee colonies in Oregon in 2007. I attach a copy of the EPA approval letter, and a copy of the approved label. (Editor note: Not included here.) Use may begin immediately and continue through 01 February 2008 (although we hear that full registration may be coming soon, so the product may also become available under different labeling before this Section 18 label expires).

Two things to note:

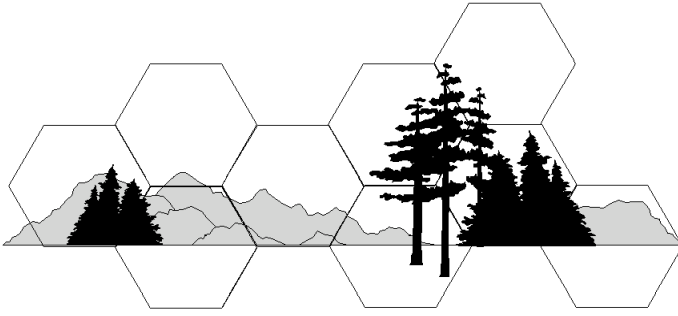
1. At the request of Oregon beekeepers, the use of CheckMite is

2. We have also received EPA approval for use of the new product Hivastan (active ingredient, fenpyroximate) for control of Varroa, so that should be kept in mind when bee pest control options are being considered. I don't have a final label at this time for Hivastan, but you can expect to receive it in another e-mailing soon, like early next week.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

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Upcoming

April 23 - Safety / Splits
April 28/29 - Ag Fest
May 21
June 25
July 22 - Picnic
August 28

April Meeting Schedule

This month's meeting will be held on April
23rd at 7 PM in Building 34.
Parking permits required.

The topic is: **Safety / Splits**

Presenters: Susan Rauchfuss / Rick
Farrier

SEE YOU THERE!