

**W.V.B.A.  
Newsletter  
August 2006**

Willamette Valley  Beekeepers Association

Willamette Valley  
Beekeeper

**Vice President's Corner** Mike Rodia



Three things we should be considering now. One is extraction, another medication and lastly but importantly the upcoming Oregon State Fair.

Unless you are trying to get that last bit of honey and you're willing to delay your medication, it is past time to remove your supers.

It is extraction time. The club has an extractor that any member can borrow - and if anyone needs help, that can also be arranged. You may be tempted to wait to extract in order for the bees to bring in that last bit of honey. Be aware, however, that this will delay your fall medication program. The delay could enable the mites to seriously infect your colonies and lead to poor winter-over and/or colony death next spring. Besides, in general, the bees don't bring in all that much honey in the last weeks of August and into September.

Bee Go can be used to quickly drive bees down into the lower levels

**View From the  
Entrance . . . . .**

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of the hive. A fume board or piece of cardboard squirted with Bee Go and laid on top of a super will clear it of bees in less than 10 minutes on a reasonable (70 degree +) day. A warning, do not put the Bee Go boards in the family car, the odor may linger for months.

Frames may also be pulled one by one and the bees shaken and/or brushed off. The full frames of honey can then be

**September-** Crops in bloom producing nectar and/or pollen: various herbs, white clover, peppermint, pumpkin, squash, gourds. Others: aster, borage, hollyhock, sagebrush, thistle.

- Provide water continuously.
- Don't tempt robber bees by exposing honey.
- Reduce entrances to a bee space on weak colonies after hot days are over, to reduce robbing.
- Install mouse guards on all hives. Use galvanized hardware cloth with 3/8 inch holes.
- Check your stored comb for possible wax moth infestation. • Feed if needed.
- Sign up to make school visitations this month, if possible, when most teachers make their requests. Join a partner if you want to be an assistant.

placed in an opened super sitting in a wheelbarrow or the bed of the pick-up truck. This avoids lifting and moving a full super and permits removal of frames as they fill.

A bee escape can also be used but a day or two must pass to allow the bees to exit the super before it can be removed.

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A problem arises if the weather turns warm because without the bees to fan and cool the super, the wax cappings and/or comb can melt.

Generally, if 90% or more of the cells are capped the honey is dry enough to remove. However, if removing the supers shortly before extraction somewhat fewer capped cells may be acceptable.

If, when the frames are tilted or shook, honey runs out it is not dry enough. If the honey has too much moisture it can ferment and if it is mixed with honey that had been capped, it could increase the overall moisture enough to cause the mixture also to ferment.

If one must remove wet honey, then stagger the supers over one another to allow air circulation and keep in a heated room until the moisture content is reduced. The wet honey could also be extracted, bottled and then dried without lids in an oven set at its lowest temperature.

Either a hot knife (electric or steam - some use a cold one), scratcher or Hackler Honey Punch (roller) can be used to remove cappings. Some refer to the Hackler because it is less messy and you don't have to deal with the cut-off cappings and attendant honey. Others prefer the knife because it's fast; they want to collect and sell the wax and only Rodia makes a mess using the knife. If a kitchen is used for extracting make sure you clean up well since honey and wax on floors and in the plumbing can cause problems.

Not everyone bottles their honey after it's extracted. Five-gallon buckets with gate valves are good storage containers for the hobbyist. Different honeys can be separated into their own containers and bottled as needed. A problem arises if the honey crystallizes so a warming box or other means is needed to heat the bucket. A warming plate or light bulbs in a properly sized plywood box with a door works well.

Honey should be filtered before bottling or storing to reduce the nuclei that causes crystallization. An initial coarse filtering through screening, a colander or stainless steel honey filter followed by passage through panty hose is usually sufficient. The panty hose can be stretched over an embroidery hoop set over a wood stand with a hole in its center. The panty hose is then knotted six to eight inches below the stand's top. The panty hose can be cleaned of honey and reused if it clots.

Seamless knee-high sheer hose with the feet cut off can be also used. The hose tops can be stretched over jar rings and assembly placed in a stand.

A final filtration can be done by allowing the bottled honey to stand undisturbed for several days then the small bits of wax and debris are skimmed off the top. This also removes bubbles.

We need to prepare the bees for the oncoming cool and wet weather. It is tempting with the air temperatures still in the 80's to want to leave the supers on a little longer to get that last bit of honey. To do so, however, could compromise the health of your colonies. If treatments for Varroa mites are not begun now, the mites might increase in the soon to be overwintering bees to such an extent that the hive might not survive. This occurs because during the summer the growth of the colony is such that although mites are present, there are sufficient replacement bees to offset the losses incurred from the mites. As fall approaches, however, your hive population decreases but not the number of mites. At some point the death of bees from mite infestation, and attendant diseases, outstrips the hives ability to maintain itself and the colony declines and fails.

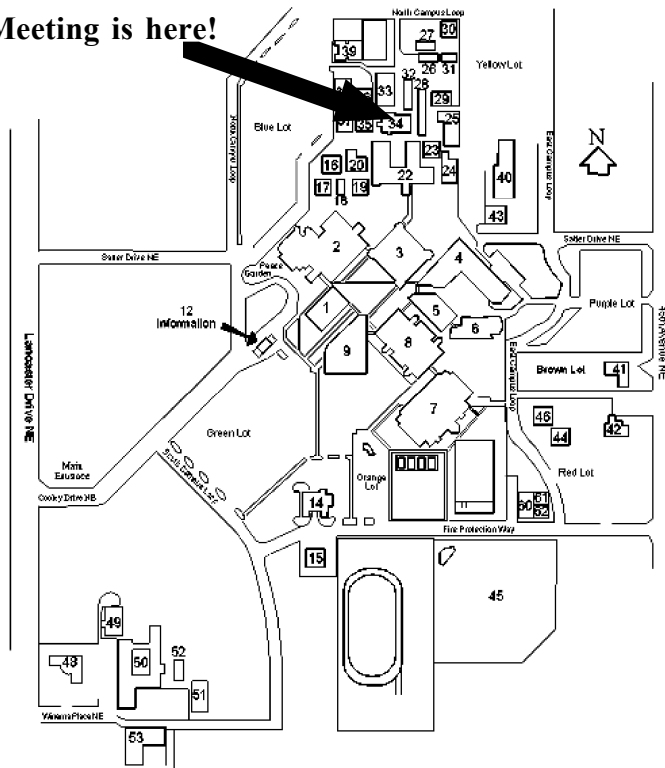
*VP continued on pg. 3*

# Classifieds

## Wanted:

For research. A frame with American Foulbrood.  
contact Gordon- gkroeme@linfield.edu

Meeting is here!



*VP continued from pg. 2*

Remove those supers and frames you intend to extract. Leave the bees about the equivalent of a super full of honey to carry them through the winter. Count frames in the brood box(es) when estimating this total.

After removing the supers you should endeavor to reduce your hives to a single brood box and super or if using only western boxes to two western brood boxes and a super. This reduction is necessary, since it is much easier for the bees to maintain temperature, humidity and sanitation in the smaller hive. If indicated, use sticky boards or other methods to determine if needed, treat your bees for Varrora and Tracheal mites, as well as foulbrood. Also feed with Fumidil\* syrup starting in a month or so. With respect to Varrora treatments, be aware that in addition to Apistan\* and Checkmite\*, for which significant resistance has developed, we also now have available Mite-Away II\* formic acid pads, Api-Life Var\* a Thymol based wafer and Sucroside, a polysaccharide product.

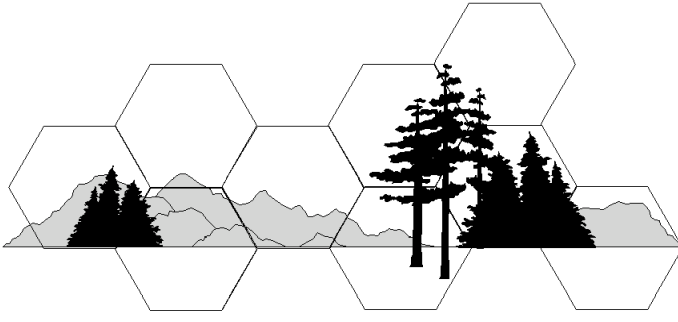
## W.V.B.A. Officers

|                |                     |              |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| President      | Fritz Skirvin       | 503-581-9372 |
| Vice-President | Mike Rodia          | 503-364-3275 |
| Treasurer      | Susan Rauchfuss     | 503-391-5600 |
| Secretary      | Evan Burroughs      | 503-585-5924 |
| Bee School     | Harry Vanderpool    | 503-399-3675 |
| Hospitality    | rotating volunteers |              |
| Librarian      | Evan Burroughs      | 503-585-5924 |
| Newsletter     | Gordon Kroemer      | 503-538-2307 |
| Equipment      | ????                |              |

With all of these now available, of which at least three are considered “natural” treatments, there is no excuse to use experimental or non-approved treatments. And there continues to be reports of hives with Russian or selected “survival” queens that have endured without, or at least minimal treatments.

The Oregon State Fair offers us once a year opportunity to display our wares, educate the public and possibly recruit a new beekeeper or two. Even though the fair’s bee booth actually is sponsored by the Oregon State Beekeepers Association it is the members of our local section who provide the bulk of the staffing and organization. This only makes sense since most of our members live much closer to the fair site. It might seem at times to be a burden but the benefits more than outweigh the negatives. What with free parking, free entry to the fair, and the chance to share with others it is time spent that passes quickly. Then depending on the shift you choose, you can tour the fair, eat tons of fair food and enjoy one or more entertainment shows.

Remember to attend our meeting Monday, August 21 to get your parking tickets and instructions for staffing the OSBA bee booth at the fair. If you haven’t already signed up for a spot, there is still time to do so. And if you sign up and for some reason can’t make it, be sure to let Fritz or myself know so we can fill the slot. The fair people get a bit testy if the booth is unstaffed, particularly when we have live bees present. Note: If we do not fill the sign up list, expect a call to pull your chain or rattle your hive.



Willamette Valley  Beekeepers Association

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Upcoming

August 21st - Fall Management  
 Aug. 25 ~ Sept. 4 - State Fair  
 September 25th - Candle Making / Secondary  
 Hive Products  
 October 23rd - Equipment Maintenance /  
 Repair  
 November 27th - Moving Bee/Pollination

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  
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 Newberg OR 97132

**August Meeting Schedule**

This month's meeting will be held on  
 August 21st at 7 PM in Building 34, Room  
 101.  
*Parking permits are required. (Map  
 inside.)*

The topic is: **Fall Management**

**SEE YOU THERE!**