

# W.V.B.A. Newsletter August 2007

## Willamette Valley Beekeeper

Willamette Valley  Beekeepers Association

### Secretary's Corner

Mike Rodia

#### I. GENERAL MINUTES - JULY 22, 2007



1. In lieu of the monthly Monday meeting we met at Susan's estate for our annual picnic. The weather was cooperative, comfortable with no rain, as was threatened, and besides there were canopies over nearly everything. There was plenty of food, "old-time" beekeeping equipment, give-aways and lots of door prizes along with a silent auction. Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves, some learned a thing or two, and others looked confused as the "experts" gave more than one answer to a question. But isn't that the nature of

beekeeping? Those who missed the picnic also missed a wonderful experience in sharing war stories, beekeeping expertise and friendship. You just might plan to attend next year. Remember the fourth Sunday in July will be the 27th in 2008.

2. After everyone had satiated themselves, we all sat back and listened to Chuck Sowers show-and-tell the process of making candles. There is a skill and art to the process that comes from experience and attention to just what is being done. For example, rather than cutting the wicks to length, use a single cord that is strung through the mold then it cut off after the candle has hardened; or add blue wax coloring to yellow wax to get green trees.

#### II. NEXT MEETING – AUGUST 20, 2007

1. An error was made in scheduling our next meeting. It will not be August 27 as previously listed in the newsletter. Since we meet before the Oregon State Fair, which starts on the 24th, our meeting will be on August 20th.

2. Our normal meeting room will be occupied so we will meet on Monday August 20th in Room 118 of Building 3. Building 3 is due south of our normal meeting place and on the other side of Building 22. Building 22 is just across the walkway and due south of our meeting room. Check the map that appears in the newsletter or if you can't find the map, just remember to walk across the walkway and through Building 22 to Building 3 and Room 118.

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#### III. OREGON STATE FAIR - AUGUST 24 to SEPTEMBER 3, 2007

1. The sign-up sheet to help staff the Oregon State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) booth was passed around at the picnic. Most time blocks are 4-5 hours which allows you to spend several hours before or after your shift at the fair. Remember entrance to the Fair and close-up parking is free to those who help. We always need additional staff so either call Harry, go to the [www.ORSBA.org](http://www.ORSBA.org) web site or show up at the meeting on Monday the 20th to sign-up. Those who show up will be able to pick up instructions

- 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.

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and parking passes. Otherwise advise Harry so he can arrange to send them or for you to pick them up at another time.

2. It's not too late to enter your bees, honey, beeswax and bee photos. The deadline is August 20th and the guidelines are at [Follow links to Competitions/Blue Ribbon Competitions/Farm and Garden/ Section B \(pages 14-15.\)](#) I think I'll try a photograph or two which must include the date, place and a paragraph describing the image.

Since entries have been down the last couple of years, it would be nice if some of you newer commercial beekeepers and/or hobbyists consider entering. Your chances of winning a ribbon are pretty good.

#### IV. OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION (OSBA) ANNUAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 1-3, 2007

1. You can simply drive out to Newport for the day or stay at the Agate Beach Inn (1-800-547-3310) for a night or two and have a mini-vacation with your significant other. In any case, the annual meeting is well worth attending. It is not just for commercial operators or hobbyists, but for every beekeeper. There is much to learn, see and observe. Some presentations are basic and some on the cutting edge of research, but all of it understandable and in many cases directly applicable.

2. Many of you work but if you have a vacation or personal leave day, not committed, you should consider attending on Friday, November 2 when the bulk of the presentations, a luncheon and a silent auction are held. Ask anyone who has attended and I think most would strongly recommend you also do so.

3. Oh, by the way, you don't have to be a member of the OSBA to attend. Anyone can and sometimes even reporters do. So you will have no excuses, I will have conference registration forms at the meeting on Monday.

#### V. OBSERVATIONS FROM THE BEE-YARD

1. Just about the time of our bee picnic the swarm calls stopped. Well, there was one more call that involved a small swarm in a tree about 5 feet above the ground. I picked it up and added it to one of my three hives that had lost their queen. Yep, besides the hive that had the laying workers, my other two permanent hives lost their queens.

2. Now for me this is unusual, the only time ever in ten years, for all three of my permanent hives to lose their queens. All three were from packages purchased at the same time. Co-incidence? Or is it something to do with the queens?

3. After adding swarms, from hives I had previously set-up, I again have three "permanent" hives. These now seem to be doing fine. However, due to the disruptions from losing queens and adding the swarms, my honey yield is way down. Only a third of so of normal; maybe a hundred pounds.

#### VI. SWARMS AND YELLOW JACKETS

1. The swarm season is over and I for one am glad and I think probably a few of you are also. No longer will I have to "beg" Terri Adams to get the swarm out of the pump house walls or Ken Kite to help the lady with bees in her chimney.

2. Now I am "lucky" and only have to explain to callers that the yellow and black "bees" are yellow jackets and not honey bees. And no, beekeepers do not come and get yellow jackets and yes they can leave them alone, call a pesticide applicator or dispatch the little beasties themselves using Wasp and Hornet sprays. That is, if they can reach them and if they are careful and lucky.

#### VII. MEDICATIONS

1. It is that time again. If you want your bees to survive the winter and next spring they must be strong and "mite-free" as the year draws to an end. I know that seems a ways off, but it is not. Treatments for Tracheal and Varrora mites, Nosema and Foulbrood need to commence now or preferably a week or two ago.

2. If you do not know what and how to use the medications, check information from the bee school, the medication instructions and come to the Monday meeting. There will be a discussion on Fall medications.

#### VIII EXTRACTIONS

1. It is extraction time. The club has a couple of extractors that any member can borrow – and if anyone needs help, that can also be arranged; contact Ken Kite at 503-769-2941. 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.

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# Classifieds

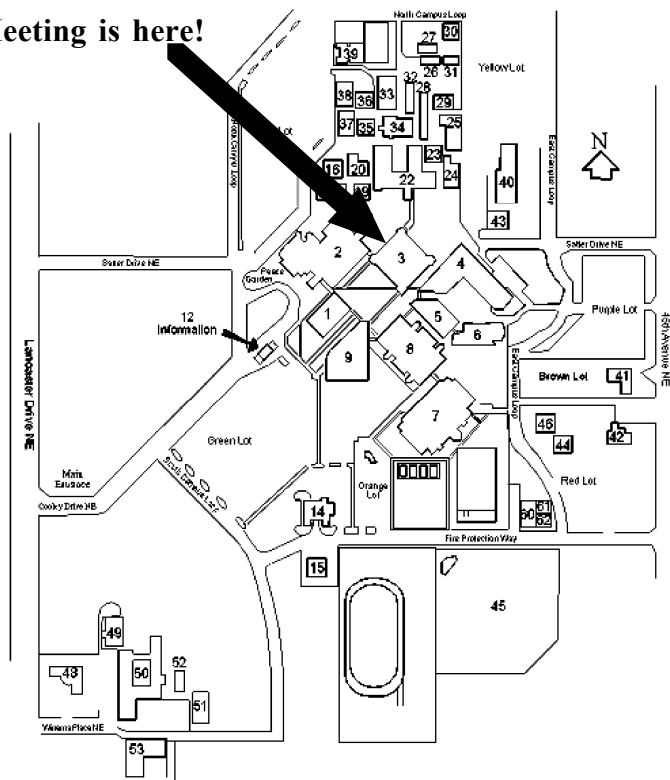
**For Sale:** 8' x 12', steel mesh flatbed trailer, \$600.00.  
See at 1825 Walker Rd. N. E., Salem, 503-581-2371

**For Sale:** 8 Semi-deep boxes with frames - \$15 each.  
Tops and bottoms - \$2 each. 2 cases of Dogg Comb  
Cassettes. 8 Shallow supers 4 3/4" - \$2 each.  
Jefferson 541-327-2673

## W.V.B.A. Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Rick Farrier</b>	<b>541-327-2673</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Harry Vanderpool</b>	<b>503-399-3675</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Susan Rauchfuss</b>	<b>503-391-5600</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mike Rodia</b>	<b>503-364-3275</b>
<b>Bee School</b>	<b>Harry Vanderpool</b>	<b>503-399-3675</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Jim Strawn</b>	
<b>Librarian</b>	<b>Steve Collins</b>	<b>503-364-8995</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Gordon Kroemer</b>	<b>503-538-2307</b>
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Ken Kite</b>	<b>503-769-2941</b>

Meeting is here!



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2. Bee Go can be used to quickly drive bees down into the lower levels 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. Note: 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 honey-full frames can then be placed in an open super sitting in a wheelbarrow or the bed of a pick-up truck. This avoids lifting and moving a honey 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. 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.

3. 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 it 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 in an oven set at its lowest temperature.

4. 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 prefer 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 capping wax and only Rodia makes a mess.

5. 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. (Gospel according to Mrs. Rodia)

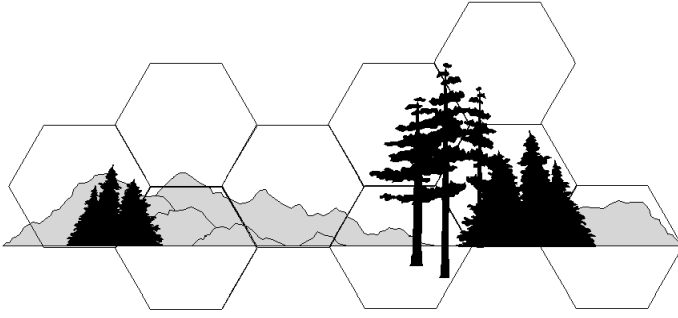
6. Not everyone bottles their honey after it's extracted. Five, or better yet three, gallon buckets with gate valves are good storage containers for the hobbyist. Different honeys can be separated into their own containers and bottled as needed. A problem arises if the honey crystallizes so a warming 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.

7. Honey should be filtered before bottling or storing to reduce the nuclei that will cause crystallization. An initial course 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 clogs.

Seamless knee-high sheer hose with the feet cut off can also be used. After tying off, 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 skimmed off the top. This also removes bubbles.

MAY THE BEES BE WITH YOU AND YOUR HONEY  
CORNUCOPIA OVERFLOW WITH GOLDEN AMBROSIA!



Willamette Valley  Beekeepers Association

P.O. Box 13245  
Salem, Oregon 97301



**SEE YOU THERE!**

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**

- August 27 - Sept. 3 - OR State Fair
- September 24
- October 22
- November 1, 2 & 3 - OSBA Conference
- November 26

**August Meeting Schedule**

**NOTE! NOTE! NOTE!**

This month's meeting will be held on August 20th at 7 PM in Building 3, Room 118.

*Parking permits not required.*

The topic is: State Fair

Presenters: ????????