

W.V.B.A. Newsletter September 2009

Willamette Valley
Beekeeper

Willamette Valley  Beekeepers Association

Secretary's Corner

Mike Rodia



I. GENERAL MINUTES - AUGUST 17, 2009

1) Attendance was down somewhat; maybe 35-40 members present. This may have been, in part, because of confusion over the meeting date. As in previous years the room was booked for the third Monday so as not to interfere with our participation in the State Fair on the fourth Monday. Although we decided, this year, not to participate in the Fair, it was too late to change our meeting date. Richard mailed out Parking Permits with the August 17th date and Julie sent e-mail to help alert members. But as some members reported later they never looked at the date on the permit, did not get the e-mail and/or read it too late to make the meeting. Next year this should not be a problem, as we will schedule for the fourth Monday in August.

2) Richard reminded everyone to fill out the Chemeketa slips so that we will continue to get use of the room and AV equipment for free. Remember your Social Security number is not needed but be sure to include your signature and birth date.

3) Our librarian, Donna, reported that several books and DVDs have been misplaced and/or checked out without entering the title(s) and borrower's names in the sign out book. If you have any library materials, whether books, DVDs, videos, magazines, etc., please contact Donna (971-404-5949) and make sure she has them recorded.

4) In the August 14th edition of the Capitol Press there was an article about Dr. Steve Shepherd of Washington State University and his efforts

to determine and quantify the various viruses, mites, bacteria and other organisms which are present in hives in the Northwest. This is part of the effort to learn what causes Collapsed Colony Disease and to improve the health of our colonies. Richard passed the article around to read.

5) Not many beekeepers use semi-deep (7 1/4 inch) boxes and frames, so when Richard announced he had quite a few semi-deep frames and foundation to give away, there was little reaction from the group. Finally, Anglebert Dingledorf agreed to take them. Subsequently Andy (as he likes to be called) gave part of the stash to another member.

6) Richard reported on a yearly problem in "downtown" Jefferson. Bees will "swarm" onto vehicles, buildings, etc. each year causing patrons at the town restaurant, service station and other businesses to become concerned.

October

- Remove miticide strips this month (when they have been on the correct number of days).
- Feed all light colonies with a saturated sugar solution (two parts sugar to one part water). Don't feed poor grades of honey.
- Tilt all hives, making them 1" higher in the back than in the front to drain condensation out of the entrance.
- Replace summer lids with metal telescoping covers and provide ventilation space under the inner cover.
- Raise hives onto stands, off the ground. The hives should be exposed to the sun and protected from winds.
- Some Northwest beekeepers do not reduce the size of hive entrances, but if you choose to do so, do so now.
- Continue precautions against robbing.
- Store comb in a cool, dry place and use Paradichlorobenzene.
- Repair and store equipment.
- Make plans for next year and start your equipment supply order list.

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Apparently, this problem results because one or more beekeepers are moving their bees during the day without ensuring the bees are contained. Stopping for food, gas or whatever allows bees not contained in hives to remain behind when the transporting vehicle leaves.

Some advice for moving bees:

- a) Do so only at night whenever possible,
 - b) Secure the bees with netting, canvas or by other means to minimize fly-off,
 - c) Minimize leaving bees at hive removal sites by picking up hives after nearly all the foragers have returned.
- 7) The yearly calendars featured recently in *Bee Culture* are available for \$20 or through Brushy Mountain Bee for \$18. As an association we probably could get them for \$10 each. If interested talk to Richard.
- 8) There was a short discussion concerning chalk brood. It is not common. It seems more prevalent under damp, cool conditions. Chalk brood will often "run its course" and the hive, if well maintained, usually survives. Harry reports that both acetic and formic acid seems to help control/eliminate this fungus.
- 9) Rodia reported on and passed around sales literature with samples of sticker seals and writing (ballpoint) pens with embossing recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the WVBA. Members were cool to the stickers but a few indicated interest in the pens. They are 99 cents each with a minimum purchase of 50. The consensus (from the few interested) was that burgundy colored pens with black ink were preferable. Rodia agreed to follow-up (order) on this, even though no one knows or even thinks it's our 50th Anniversary.
- 10) Julie Cressman has advised that because of work (travel) obligations she will not be able to continue as newsletter editor. Thank you Julie for all you've done! After much arm twisting (actually he volunteered) Gordon has agreed to once again be our editor. And get this, he even agreed to continue as Treasurer through the end of the year. Now that's dedication!
- Rodia also advised he might not run for Secretary or any other position next year. So any of you would be writers, here is your opportunity. As you know, you can pretty much, within reason, do whatever you want when writing your column.
- 11) A question and discussion arose concerning the observation by Richard that there was no brood or honey stores in one of his deep brood boxes (he uses only one per hive.) After several alternatives were offered it was revealed that somehow the queen (whether the original or a replacement) had gotten above the excluder. As such the brood was in the upper (normally a super) box.
- 12) The holidays are coming up and members should consider giving honey and other bee products as Christmas gifts. Richard and Gordon report that they have friends and family who look forward each year to the gifts. Gordon includes homemade jams, hazelnuts, and other items along with his gift packs of honey. Items such as candles and ornaments can also be included.
- Now that the U.S. Post Office has fixed postage priced boxes you fill with whatever you can, it is much cheaper to ship gift packs. Gordon has sent glass jars of honey without a problem (except once) in these boxes.

II. BEE FACT

Pollen cakes or patties are made of pollen supplements or substitutes such as brewers yeast, distillers solubles, soybean flour, natural pollen, sugar and other additives. The are fed to the bees in the early spring to stimulate brood rearing and in the early fall to promote "fat bees." A pollen supplement contains pollen and one or more additive whereas a substitute contains no pollen. Some very good substitutes are now available.

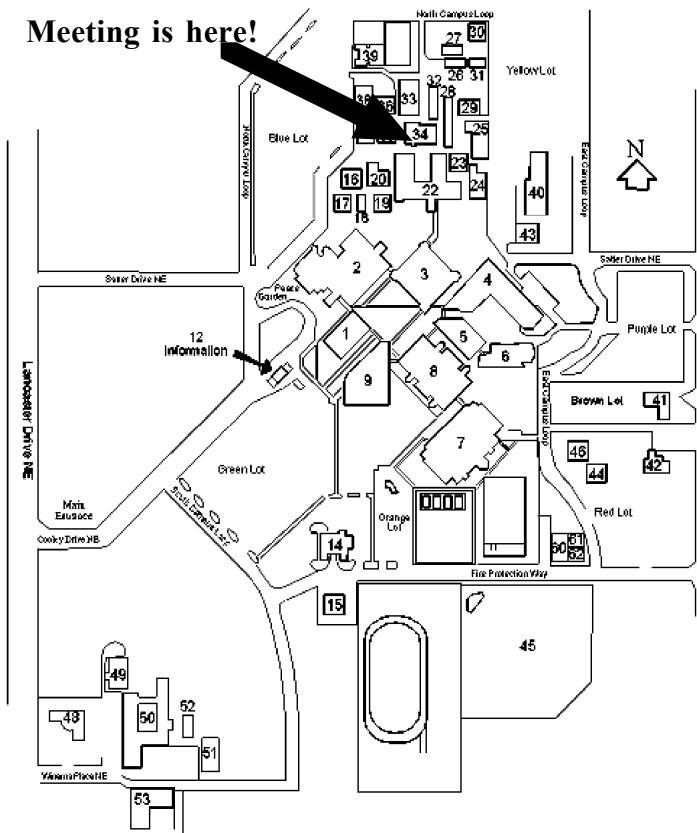
III. TOPIC OF THE MONTH - MEDICATIONS

Richard provided a hand-out listing and describing the various pests/diseases that beekeepers need to beware of and the treatments available. He briefly discussed these and offered some suggestions and observations (experiences):

- a) Viruses are in our hives and it is known that when combined with other threats such as Varrora mites they can severely damage the hive. There is no treatment currently available other than maintaining strong hives.
- b) Apistan strips have been reformulated to contain more of the active (isomer) ingredient. It is thought (hoped) that after a few years of not using Apistan the Varrora mites will lose their resistance and once again it will be useful. Richard tried Apistan last year and it did not work. He doesn't know, however, if it was (probably not) the new formulation.
- c) Hivastan is now available for treating Varrora mites but some beekeepers disagree with how much to use. Richard suggests more actual in-field testing is needed to clarify the issue.
- d) Tylan is now available to control Terramycin resistant fowlbrood. It, however, can remain in the hive a long time and should only be used in the fall when no honey supers are used.

Of course, as Harry and others advise, burning the contaminated hive and frames is about the only sure way of eliminating fowlbrood since most of us do not have access to ethylene oxide or radiation sterilization chambers.

- e) Since beekeeper's mis-use of treatments can lead to resistant pests and/or contaminated bee products we all are advised to read the labels carefully and follow them as directed.



W.V.B.A. Officers		
President	Rick 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
Hospitality	???	
Librarian	Donna Delikat	971-404-5949
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

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

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IV. OBSERVATIONS FROM THE BEE YARD

My three hives have been reduced to three boxes each; two westerns for brood, a queen excluder and a western super above. I was able to get only four honey supers filled this year. They are now being extracted and I will pick up the honey in 5-gallon buckets and the extracted frames and boxes in the next week (Sept 13-19) or so.

After letting my bees "clean" the extracted frames and boxes they will be stored for winter in plastic wrap and treated a couple times with paradichlorobenzene (PDB) moth balls. DO NOT USE naphthalene (old fashioned) moth balls.

The hives have been treated with Formic Acid (Mite-Away II), (for mites) and I will start feeding them 2:1 sugar water with Fumidil* to help increase honey stores and protect against Nosema.

Otherwise they are pretty much set for winter. Now I need to go through my wooden ware repairing or replacing worn/damaged boxes and removing old frames and dark/dirty drawn comb.

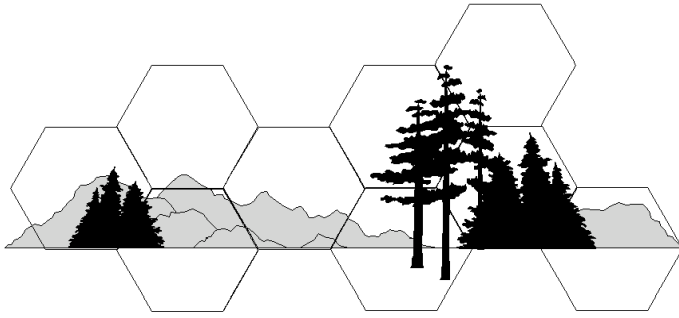
As our beekeeping year draws to an end so hope rises that the next year will be much better. Only if we apply what we should have learned will that be so!

September Meeting Schedule

This month's meeting will be held on September 28th at 7 PM in Building 34.

Parking permits are required.

SEE YOU THERE!



Willamette Valley  Beekeepers Association

P.O. Box 13245
Salem, Oregon 97301



Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association
Official Dues Form for 2010

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.