

W.V.B.A. Newsletter November 2006

Willamette Valley  Beekeepers Association

Willamette Valley
Beekeeper

Vice President's Corner Mike Rodia

December/January

- Lift your hives to check for light boxes. Feed as necessary.
- Disturb the bees as little as possible. Don't break the cluster.
- Order supplies for next year, verifying prices by phone before ordering.
- Check apiary occasionally for blowovers or vandalism.
- Continue the repair and/or assembly of next year's equipment.
- Tally costs for the past year: pounds of sugar used, equipment costs, medication, supplies, etc. Update information on syrup mix recipes and pollen supplement recipes.
- Record yields. Do book research on weak areas. Investigate areas of marketing interest: honey, pollen, propolis, venom, wax, royal jelly.
- Design and build better beekeeping equipment: pollen traps, hive tools, hive boxes, smokers, equipment caddies, etc.
- Mentor a young or inexperienced beekeeper. Donate equipment, scholarship money or expertise to the 4-H Beekeepers Club.

that if we must use chemicals in our hives, this product seems to be as safe and efficacious as they come.

OREGON/IDAHO BEEKEEPERS FALL CONFERENCE

Although some of you attended the conference in Newport, most did not. The presentations ranged in content from very basic research studies to, as covered above, very practical applications of new technologies. To summarize a few of interest:

1. Oregon State University in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, The Oregon
- VP continued on pg. 2*



NEXT YEAR

Our meeting (November 27) will be the last for the year. In January we will have our annual social and election of officers for 2007. With a new year, also beginning in our apiaries, we have the opportunity to maybe change directions and improve or modify our efforts both as beekeepers and members of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association. The incoming officers will be discussing and outlining what next year's meetings will cover. This is not an easy task since consideration must be given to the interests of newbees, old-time beekeepers,

hobbyists and commercial beekeepers. Should presentations cover basic research, practical applications, new developments, testimonies, outside speakers, show-and-tell, hands-on demonstrations, round-table discussions or something else?

It would help a lot if you, the members, would provide some feedback about what you would like to hear, see or talk about next year. Even if only one of you mentions an item you may be speaking for many more who are reluctant to say so or who just didn't think of it, even though they agree it would be of interest. So please think about this and whom you might want as officers next year.

NEXT MEETING TOPIC

One of the most interesting and practical presentations at the recent Oregon/Idaho Beekeepers Fall Conference was given by David VanderDussen of NOD Apiary Products. His company produces and distributes Mite-Away II, a formic acid-based pad for controlling mites. Not only is formic acid highly effective against Varroa and Tracheal mites it leaves no residue, when used as directed, to contaminate honey or wax in foundation. Much of the danger using formic acid has been eliminated. In addition, NOD has done extensive studies to determine if there are any side effects in the hive from use of their product. There are few and these can all but be eliminated if directions are followed. Two of the

chief advantages of this product are that only a single application over a 21 day period is necessary to achieve a dramatic decrease in mites and better yet, mite resistance to formic acid has not been found even after years of use.

NOD has provided a DVD, handout and sample pad (without formic acid) of their product. We will look these over at the meeting and discuss them. By the way, I'm not a shill for NOD. It just seems

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State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) and others will shortly issue the booklet "How to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Pesticides." OSBA members will be mailed a copy and it may be downloaded from the Internet.

2. According to Susan Cobey, Ohio State University, the ultimate control of mites will be through careful selection and breeding of honey bees. To this end she has focused on carnica bees which have many desirable traits.

3. There appears to be an increase in Nosema in honey bees when liquid rather than solid sugar feeds are used in commercial operations. Joe Traynor, Scientific Agricultural Company also advises that package bees from Australia suffer a numbers reduction for about three weeks prior to the build-up for almond pollination.

4. Dr. Steve Sheppard of Washington State University continues to select and breed queens for the Pacific Northwest and hopes that queen producers will also do this. His program cannot produce nearly enough queens to meet the need.

5. Geographic isolation in an ancient volcanic region of Ethiopia has fostered a race of honeybees different from those in the surrounding areas. Some of the differences are morphological but others are behavioral according to Dr. Marina Meixner, Washington State University.

6. Old Sol Enterprises and John Jacob in southern Oregon produce and sell PAC NW queens selected for mite resistance and other desirable traits. No varroa treatments have been used or were necessary the last few years after extensive losses initially in the natural selection breeding program. Mr. Jacobs also strongly recommends re-queening in the Fall when better mated queens are available and the hive will enter and exit the winter stronger.

7. To defeat one's enemy, in this case mites, one must know them. As yet we do not know how to produce mites independent of bees in a laboratory, what they might feed on, and what chemical(s) act as attractants. Dr. Diane Sumataro is looking at these and other issues for means to control Varroa mites. She is also looking at a sulfur compound, mite viruses and a combination of oxalic acid and Sucroside.

A HOUSE DIVIDED SUFFERS

Once again a conflict has arisen between beekeepers in Oregon and Washington. Because there is no Pacific NW Beekeepers Association there are separate organizations in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. Each has a group of officers and members, although some members may belong to more than one organization. The practice in Oregon has been to hold a conference once a year, in the fall, in Oregon. Some years it is, in essence, a Pacific NW conference. Other years it is primarily an Oregon conference with the participation of Idaho and some attendance from Washington and other states.

The Washington State beekeepers have a similar schedule of conferences. The problem arises when one of the other decides or feels that the joint (PAC NW) conference should be held in their state and the other party disagrees or has made other arrangements. This is the basis of the conflict that played out in Newport. It is my opinion that it has happened before and it will happen again and that the conflict exists not just with respect to conference settings but to the spending of research monies and other issues.

We are all Pacific NW beekeepers and have similar interests and needs. We should act like and be a single group not, at least, three separate groups periodically "fighting" one another. Our voices would be much more powerful united than separate.

To this end I offer for consideration the establishment of the Pacific Northwest Beekeepers Associations (PacNWBA) whose membership would consist of at least three divisions including the Washington, Oregon and Idaho Beekeepers Associations. The Board of the PacNWBA would be selected with representatives from each of the divisions. One of the primary responsibilities of the PacNWBA would be to hold a yearly PacNWBA conference that would rotate from year to year within the region. Profits, if any, from the conferences would be distributed proportionately according to those attending from each division's geographical area.

BEE YARD OBSERVATIONS

Pollen is still being brought in. It is white to cream colored and I don't know where it's coming from. Yellow jackets are still around and the guard bees are continuing to deny the few an entrance into the hive. If you stole too much honey from your hives, as apparently I did, you need to think about feeding carbohydrates in the form of liquid sugar (syrup), dry sugar, sugar patties or honey. It's easiest for me to make up a gallon or two of 2:1 sugar to water, add a little Fumidil* and put it in a top feeder. I typically use a one gallon bucket top feeder but decided to once again try the top tray feeder that Ruhl sells. I have used it before and didn't like how slow the syrup was taken and that bees would drown in the pools of syrup at the lower portions of the slanted ramps inside the syrup bins.

Well after some modifications I really like the feeder. Now no bees drown and 2 gallons of my feed is gone within 5 days or less. The simple change was to remove the ramps and substitute corrugated plastic floats. These floats leave about an eighth of inch gap between the float edges and the syrup holding bin sides. Now literally hundreds of bees can feed simultaneously on and around the edges of the floats and since the feeding openings are narrow bees do not get trapped and drown in the syrup.

The syrup gets taken so fast that I can put the feeder on a

About Honey Bees

Did you know...

- * Bees have 5 eyes
- * Bees fly about 20 mph
- * Bees are insects, so they have 6 legs
- * Male bees in the hive are called drones
- * Female bees in the hive (except the queen) are called worker bees
- * Losing its stinger will cause a bee to die
- * Bees carry pollen on their hind legs called a pollen basket or corbicula
- * An average beehive can hold around 50,000 bees
- * Foragers must collect nectar from about 2 million flowers to make 1 pound of honey.
- * The average forager makes about 1/12 th of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime.
- * Average per capita honey consumption in the US is 1.3 pounds.
- * Bees have 2 pairs of wings.
- * The principal form of communication among honey bees is through chemicals called pheromones.

Is honeybee one word or two?

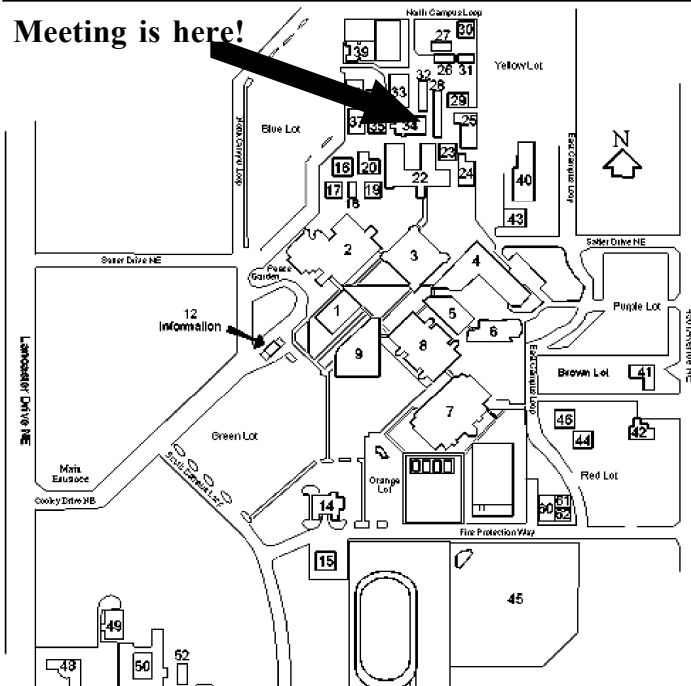
Many people notice that dictionaries list "honeybee" as one word. However, entomologists use the two-word naming convention "honey bee." Both are correct!

Classifieds

Needed:

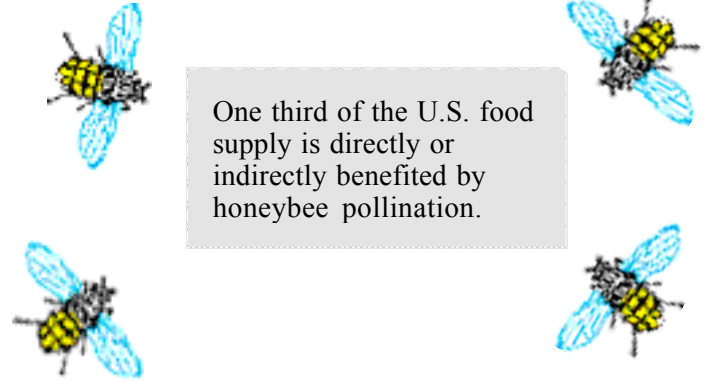
A location to place hives within 15 miles of Salem.
Thanks call 503-540-9815 after 5:00

Meeting is here!



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	
Librarian	Evan Burroughs	503-585-5924
Newsletter	Gordon Kroemer	503-538-2307
Equipment	Ken Kite	



One third of the U.S. food supply is directly or indirectly benefited by honeybee pollination.

Recipe Corner

Thanksgiving is here and here are two more recipes to try.

Orange Honey Ginger Turkey

- 1 can (6 ounces) orange juice concentrate
- 1 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1 can (12 ounces) Fresca or Squirt
- 5 to 6 pound turkey breast
- 1 cup honey
- 1 orange, thinly sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1/2 teaspoon tarragon
- 1/4 cup wild rice
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 3/4 cup long-grain rice
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- Fresh pea pods for garnish (optional)

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Put the 7-quart cast-iron Dutch oven in the oven to warm while the oven is preheating. In a bowl, mix the orange juice, Fresca, honey, paprika, tarragon, onion powder, ginger, and pepper. Reserve 1 cup of the mixture. Brush the turkey breast inside and out with the mixture. Place the orange slices under the turkey skin.

Place the turkey in the warm cast-iron Dutch oven. Add the remaining honey mixture, except for the reserve. Cover and cook at 325 degrees F for about 2 1/2 hours. Baste with the honey mixture several times while cooking. About 40 minutes before the turkey is finished, heat canola oil in a 10-inch cast-iron skillet. Sauté and stir both rices until toasted (about 7 minutes over medium heat). Stir in 3/4 cup water and 3/4 cup of the reserve honey mixture.

Cover and cook until the liquid disappears, and the rice is soft and flaky, about 25 to 30 minutes. Steam pea pods, if desired, on top of the rice for about 5 minutes.

About 10 minutes before the turkey is finished, remove the orange slices and the skin from the turkey. When the turkey is done, place it on bed of rice and garnish with pea pods.

Serves: 8

Carrots with Ginger and Honey

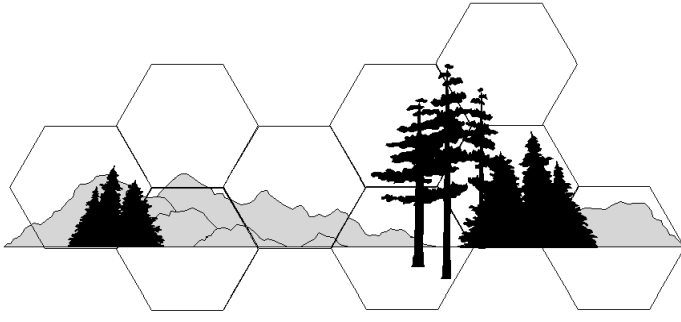
- * 2 pounds baby carrots, ends trimmed and halved lengthwise if thick (can be parboiled in advance)
- * salt to taste
- * 2 tbs. unsalted butter
- * Two 2-inch pieces fresh ginger root, peeled and cut into matchstick-size pieces
- * 3 tbs. honey

Directions

Bring a medium pot of water to a boil. Add the carrots and salt, reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer until the carrots are almost tender, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat and drain the carrots. Set aside.

In a large skillet over medium heat, melt the butter. Add the ginger and saute, stirring, until translucent, about 2 minutes. Add the drained carrots and honey and cook, stirring or shaking the pan occasionally, for 4 to 5 minutes, until the carrots are glazed. Serve immediately.

Serves: 6



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The *W.V.B.A. Newsletter* is a publication of the
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November 27th - Moving Bee/Pollination

Upcoming

November Meeting
Schedule

This month's meeting will be held on
November 27th at 7 PM in Building 34,
Room 101.

Parking permits required.

The topic is: **Moving Bees / Pollination**

SEE YOU THERE!