



## THE BEELINE

Olympia Beekeeper's Association Newsletter  
September 2010

**Next Meeting:**            **Roosevelt Elementary School 1417 San Francisco Ave. NE**  
                                  **Monday September 13, 2010**  
                                  **Apprenticeship Class at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00p.m.**

### **President's Notes** - Dear Oly Beekeepers,

Fear not the rainy weather, for although it may keep you away from your bees you can still mingle with your beekeeping friends. Our regular meetings resume again this coming Monday the 13th. The club officers met a few weeks ago to discuss a schedule of presentations and activities for the year, and we are looking forward to your participation. The topic for our September meeting will be treatments (conventional and organic) for bee diseases. Now is the time of year when many are starting to treat their hives, and we will draw on the knowledge of our experienced members to help demystify the subject. As though this isn't enough fun for one month, I have also been informed that our official OBA gear has arrived and will be available for pickup at the meeting. Get ready to replace your propolis-stained wardrobe with the new fall fashions. I hope to see you on Monday.

Si Thacker

**Honey Extraction Party!** - The club is planning a Honey Extraction Party! This event will be especially designed for club members who are either new to extraction or who have only one or two supers to extract. Normally, it hardly pays to extract a small number of frames, given the amount of clean-up involved plus the time it takes to pick up and return the equipment. Also, there are different styles of equipment for both de-capping and extraction. So, most people would appreciate a bit of instruction the first time they go through the process.

We are going to make it fun! Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> is the tentative date—the place and time to be determined. Six extractors will be on site with all the necessary equipment to get that golden liquid out of those tiny wax cells. Instruction will be provided. Honey testing (specific gravity) as well as tasting will be available. Bring up to 20 frames to extract, or just come to watch. **All club members are invited.** Come with containers in which to collect your honey and also some finger food, snacks or drinks to share. More specific information

about the event will be announced at the general meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>. You may put the date on your calendar now.

**OBA Merchandise Orders** – Your pre-ordered merchandise is available for pick-up at the Sep 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Healthy Hives and Medications** – Autumn is traditionally the time of year to medicate bees if you feel the need to do so. Attached at the end of the newsletter are copies of handouts that pertain to pests and diseases you may encounter as a beekeeper.

**Puyallup Fair** – Don't forget about the honey and beekeeping related entries at the upcoming Puyallup Fair! Make a point to visit the fair this year and visit the Pierce County Beekeeper Association exhibits. The Puyallup Fair runs from Sep 10 – 26, 2010. Here's a link to their website: <http://www.thefair.com/puyallup-fair/>

**Swap Meet** – Plans are in the works for a swap meet in the spring (March). If you have ideas or equipment/products available, or if you would like to be involved in planning, promoting, or the organization of this event, see any of the OBA officers or drop an email to [olympiabeekeepers@hotmail.com](mailto:olympiabeekeepers@hotmail.com) More information to follow in the coming months!

**Volunteers** - Our OBA volunteers are a vital piece to our success. The club is always looking for presenters, speakers, planners, writers, photographers, set-up, raffle donations, etc., etc., etc. Some future topics for meeting programs include queen rearing, preparing honey for exhibiting, using bee/honey products, non-honey bee products, and allergies, to name a few. Please consider volunteering your expertise, passion, and/or time to the continued success of our organization.

**OBA Annual Picnic Leftovers** – No, not food! However, Gail has a set of utensils rolled up in a placemat that was left behind at the picnic. Please see her at the next meeting if you think they belong to you.

### **Newsworthy Links –**

- Honey importation scandal from the BBC! <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/11169094>
- A honeybee haven to be dedicated in California - [http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/homegarden/2012743075\\_beehaven28.html?prmid=obinsite](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/homegarden/2012743075_beehaven28.html?prmid=obinsite)

**Newsletter Delivery-** If you do not receive your newsletter, please see Kim Knust at the meetings, or drop him a line at [olympiabeekeepers@hotmail.com](mailto:olympiabeekeepers@hotmail.com) for delivery options.

### **Community Opportunities –**

- Hello, I am interested in installing hives on 2 properties, one is on Johnson's Point at my nursery, fuchsias are the main crop, however there are tons of different bee-loved flowers such as monarda, echinacea, etc. for the bees to enjoy. We do not use harsh pesticides or chemicals, only fertilizers. Oh, and there is tons of clover too! I also take care of an estate on Cooper Point, there is a large naturalized field with forest behind, it is also a 5 acre property surrounded by other 5 acre properties. Please call me, I would like to know if I can have someone, or do it myself install hives.  
Mahalo,  
Jackie LaVerne 253-405-7121 - cell day phone or 360-438-8554 - home evenings

- On Thursday, September 23 at 7 PM there will be a special screening of "[Queen of the Sun](#)" at the Olympia Film Society's Capital Theater. The film-makers will be present, and have asked that the local bee community be invited to have a presence. Let's make plans at the next Olympia Beekeepers' meeting. OBA member John O'Brien has more information regarding this event!

Synopsis - In 1923, Rudolf Steiner, a scientist, philosopher & social innovator, predicted that in 80 to 100 years honeybees would collapse. His prediction has come true with Colony Collapse Disorder where bees are disappearing in mass numbers from their hives with no clear explanation. In an alarming inquiry into the insights behind Steiner's prediction, [Queen of The Sun](#) examines the global bee crisis through the eyes of biodynamic beekeepers, scientists, farmers, and philosophers. On a pilgrimage around the world, 10,000 years of beekeeping is unveiled, highlighting how our historic and sacred relationship with bees has been lost due to highly mechanized industrial practices. Featuring Michael Pollan, Vandana Shiva, Gunther Hauk and beekeepers around the world, [Queen of The Sun](#) weaves a dramatic story which uncovers the problems and solutions in renewing a culture in balance with nature.

- Harvest Party! See the attached flyer for information about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wendell Berry Community Garden Harvest Party on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**September Beekeeping Calendar** – Here are tips from the Utah State Beepers Association regarding bee and beekeeper activities for this month. These are generic activities. Check with your local OBA beekeepers for local comments!

#### **The Bees**

The population of the hive is beginning to decrease; older bees that die off are not replaced in the same numbers by the new brood. Drones are being removed in numbers from the hives by the workers to conserve winter stores. Nectar and pollen sources are becoming more scarce as the cooler weather moves in and plants begin to die off or go dormant.

The worker bees will begin to bring in large amounts of propolis to seal the hive against drafts for the winter and on cold nights they will begin to cluster inside the hive. There may be intense robbing activity if you have a weak hive in your apiary - take steps to equalize colonies or prevent robbing.

Remove all honey supers before the end of month (if not sooner) to allow the bees to fill the brood chambers with the winter honey/pollen stores.

#### **The Beekeeper**

You have a lot to do this month. First, you should be pulling off all honey supers and be either securely storing them or extracting them. This will prevent the bees from wasting nectar/energy filling supers/frames incompletely and allows them to build up their stores for winter survival.

Secondly, you should check your hive for honey stores; if the hive does not feel heavy or the bottom brood boxes are not (75- 80%) full of honey you will probably want to consider winter feeding to help them. Thirdly, treat for mites - both tracheal and varroa. This is the best time as the colony is going broodless and any mites present will be exposed to your removal method. Also treat for diseases such as foulbrood or nosema. Fourthly, ensure that your hive has adequate ventilation for the winter - a lack of ventilation can result in a buildup of moisture which can then condense on the inner cover and then turn cold and drop back onto the colony chilling and possibly killing them. Too much moisture can also result in mildew, mold and possibly spoil any uncapped honey stores. Lastly, protect the hive from the worst of wind and snow/rain to help the colony maintain temperature in the cluster.

**Table 12-1****Solutions to Common Pest Problems**

<i>Pest Problem</i>	<i>Solution(s)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Varroa mites	Apistan (fluvalinate) Chec-Mite II (coumaphos) Apiguard (Thymol) Honey B Healthy (essential oils)	Alternate your treatments to prevent the mites from building a resistance to the miticide  Apiguard and Honey B Healthy use natural (non harsh) ingredients
Tracheal mites	Grease patties Menthol Apiguard (Thymol) Honey B Healthy (essential Oils)	All of these options use natural (non harsh) ingredients
Small hive beetles	Chec-Mite II (coumaphos)	Harsh chemical
Wax moths	PDB crystals (para dichlorobenzene)	Applied only to empty supers and hive bodies
Ants	Cinnamon Oil moat	Reapply as needed after rain
Skunks	Elevated hive stand Bed of nails	Also easy on your back! Watch your step!
Raccoons	Heavy rock on outer cover	Avoid using entrance feeders as they attract unwanted visitors
Bears	Electric fence around your hives	Some states offer financial compensation for bear fence installations
Mice	Metal mouse guard placed at hive entrance	Install guards before the cold weather approaches



**Table 11-1****Honey Bee Health at a Glance**

<i>Situation/ Disease</i>	<i>What Causes It?</i>	<i>Appearance of Brood</i>	<i>Appearance of Cappings</i>	<i>Appearance of Dead Larvae</i>	<i>Color and Consistency of Larvae</i>	<i>How Does It Smell?</i>
Normal, healthy brood and bees	The result of terrific beekeeping!	Tight pattern of sealed and open brood cells	Light tan, brown color, slightly convex	No dead larvae	Plump, bright white, wet, pearly appearance	Fresh sweet smell (or no smell at all)
American foulbrood (AFB)	A bacterium (spore forming)	Scattered, spotty brood pattern	Sunken, perforated, discolored, greasy appearance	Flat and fluid-like on bottom of cell. Tongue extended up to the roof of the cell.	Brown, dull, sticky and ropy	Unpleasant, sharp, foul smell
Chalkbrood	A fungus	Scattered, spotty brood pattern	Sunken, perforated, discolored	Most often in sealed or perforated cells	White and moldy, later white, gray or black, hard and chalk-like	Normal
European foulbrood (early stages)	A bacterium	Scattered, spotty brood pattern	Some discolored, sunken, perforated	In unsealed cells, in twisted positions	Yellowish, tan or brown	Sour

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European foulbrood (advanced stage)	A bacterium	Scattered, spotty brood pattern	Discolored, sunken, perforated	In unsealed and sealed cells, in twisted positions	Brown, but not ropy or sticky	Sour
Sacbrood	A virus	Scattered brood pattern. Many unsealed cells	Often dark and sunken, many perforated	Most often with head raised	Grayish to black, skin has a watery, sack-like appearance	Sour or no smell
Stonebrood	A fungus	Affected brood are usually white, but can sometimes have a greenish, moldy appearance	Some cappings are perforated and covered with a greenish mold	In unsealed and sealed cells	Green-yellow, or white, hard and shrunken	Moldy



Please join the members of  
Sustainable South Sound's  
**Wendell Berry Community Garden**  
2nd Annual  
**Harvest Party**

~\*~  
Sunday, September 26, 1 ~ 4pm  
928 Wilson St NE  
(Between Yew and Pine Streets)

~\*~  
Garden Tours ~ Music

Bring your excess garden produce and  
home canned goodies to swap with others!  
Cider Press ~ Bring your own fruit and jugs.

~\*~  
Parking is limited, please bike or carpool if you can.  
No dogs please.

Kim Knust, Editor  
Olympia Beekeeper's Association

To submit contributions or ideas  
Email:  
OlympiaBeekeepers@hotmail.com  
Call 360-923-1284

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