



Beeing
Informed

Cowlitz Beekeepers Association Newsletter

Dedicated to Preserving the Honeybee through Community Action, Awareness and Education

September 2021

Issue 9

Next Meeting:

Where: Nearly any place Via Zoom

When: No meeting in September. Instead we will have a potluck / Barbecue on September 17th at Willow Grove Park.

Speaker:

Topic:

If you live in Cowlitz county or the surrounding area and find honeybees fascinating, then you should consider joining us. Reach us on Facebook by searching for Cowlitz Beekeepers Association or check

Annual Barbecue Potluck & Honey Tasting Contest
September 17, 2022, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Willow Grove Park at the Pavillion

Come one, come all to our annual barbecue potluck. Open to all members, their families and those who attend our meetings in person and via Zoom. Hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, beverages, plates, cups, tableware and condiments are provided. Bring your favorite side dish, dessert, or both and serving utensils. Don't forget to bring a sample of this year's honey harvest for our honey tasting contest!

Zenobia Scott

Association Officers and Board:

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Beekeeping tips for September:

September is a critical month for bees. Forage and weather where every beekeeper will vary. Robbing is a threat with nectar and pollen coming into the hive diminishing.

Some of the tasks a beekeeper should do in September include:

Ken Curtis

- Install entrance reducers and don't keep your hive(s) open too long.

- Monitor colony health. Colonies that are not performing should be inspected to be sure they are queenright and not diseased or infested with mites
- If supers are still on hives, they should be removed so the bees fill top deeps for winter stores as well as to eliminate space that could be invaded by wax moths. If a hive is weak beekeepers should consider combining them with stronger hives providing the weak hive is healthy.
- Check the hive weight. If the hive is too light, consider feeding with 2 to one sugar syrup for those that feed. For those that don't feed a plan to combine or collapse weak hives should be considered.
- Monitor for laying workers. Hives with laying workers will not survive the winter if not corrected. If you do not have access to a mated queen, combine or collapse the colony.
- If you are extracting honey, extract as soon as possible to avoid wax moths. Getting them extracted also allows them to be set up outside of the apiary as community feeders to let the bees build their stores as they clean combs for winter storage.
- As the weather cools do not forget about water, as the bees still need access to water.
- Position your hives in their winter configurations. Make sure they have the correct number of deeps (based on the number of bees, for most of us this will be two deeps) so the bees adjust and get those deeps filled with winter stores.
- For those who feed if hive bodies are light. Feed 2 to 1 sugar syrup as long as temperatures allow. Many beekeepers run candy boards when temperatures get too cold.
- Reduce entrances to small holes, especially for weaker hives.
- Get mouse guards ready. As temperatures cool mice begin to look for warm places to overwinter, and beehives are especially inviting.
- After doing mice checks to ensure mite counts fall below acceptable thresholds combine weak hives with strong hives. Do not combine hives with high mite counts or diseases with stronger hives.
- Now is the time to get windbreaks in place.
- Swap out equipment for repair. Winter is the perfect time to repair any equipment in need.

For those who treat for Varroa it is too late to do brood breaks, so your options are limited to mite treatments.

Treat if you are going to treat. After treating recheck for Varroa to ensure that treating was effective.

Come to a meeting and discuss it with others. The saddest thing is when a new beekeeper hears about how tough it is to keep bees, only to lose their bees over the winter, and loses interest the next year. As a beekeeper we strive to retain beekeepers as well as newbies interested in the hobby by helping them understand the lifecycle of mites as it relates to the lifecycle of the bees. This is nearly impossible to do in a single year.



Handmade Proud:

Looking to buy new woodenware at reasonable prices?

- Bottom Boards - Top Covers - Inner Covers - Hive Boxes and more...

Contact **Gerry Herren**

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Members Can Borrow the Club Extractor

Contact Kathy at 360-601-0393 to schedule.