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April 2017 LCBA Newsletter

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Questions? Suggestions? Resources you'd like to share, stories you'd like to tell?

Please contact LCBA Secretary Susanne Weil: secretary@lcba.community or call 360 880 8130.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Thursday, April 13: LCBA Monthly Meeting

Spring Management Strategies – Get Your Bees Ready for the Nectar Flow

Where: Centralia College, Washington Hall 103, 701 W. Walnut St., Centralia WA 98531

When: 6 – 6:30 p.m.: Social Time; 6:30 – 7:30, Speaker; 7:45 – 8:45, Business Meeting

Speakers: LCBA President Kevin Reichert & Mentorship Coordinator Dan Maughan will speak on spring management strategies & techniques. How are your bees doing coming out of winter, and what can you do to help them be ready for the nectar flow? For new beekeepers, they will offer tips on hiving package bees; mentor Cody Warren will discuss hiving bees in top bars.



Free Soil Assessment Workshop ~ Lewis County Extension

If you are gardening for your bees, this could be very helpful:

Know Your Soils: April 27, 1 to 3 pm, Mossyrock Community Center, 219 East State Street, Mossyrock 98564 (preregistration required; call 360 740 1216 to receive instructions in advance on how to prepare a soil sample to bring to the workshop).

“If you want to grow better plants, you first need to understand the texture of your soil. Collect and bring in a sample of your soil and learn how to test for pH, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, & Potassium.”



Saturday, May 6 & Sunday, May 7:

LCBA Exhibit, Spring Youth Fair, SW WA Fairgrounds, Exposition Hall

When: Sat May 6, 10 a.m. -10 p.m.; Sun May 7, 10 a.m. -5 p.m.

For the 4th straight year, LCBA will have an exhibit in the Exposition Hall to help introduce children to honey bees and beekeeping. We'll have our Observation Hive, a "make your own bee bracelet" stand, plenty of show & tell items - & on Sunday, we'll have a honey tasting challenge: can you tell which is the Carrot Blossom honey? Our Youth Scholarship students will be volunteers at the booth - & if LCBA members would like to participate, please contact Community Outreach Coordinator Bill Barr about times, tickets and parking passes: email community@lcba.community. For more info about the Spring Youth Fair, visit their website at www.springyouthfair.org



Thursday, May 11: LCBA Monthly Meeting

Evaluating Brood Pattern & Re-Queening: Speaker, Rev. Alan Woods

Where: Centralia College, Washington Hall 103, 701 W. Walnut St., Centralia WA 98531

When: 6 – 6:30 p.m.: Social Time; 6:30 – 7:30, Speaker; 7:45 – 8:45, Business Meeting

Speaker: Rev. Alan Woods of Woods Bees, Centralia, will share his local queen breeder's insights into evaluating brood pattern, understanding why a colony is making a queen, local queen rearing, maintaining a queen nuc, & more. Beekeeping Q&A and brief business meeting.



Saturday, May 13 & Sunday, May 14:

Lewis County Master Gardeners' Annual Plant Sale

When: Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Exposition Hall at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds

Want to plant a great garden to help feed your bees? The WSU Lewis County Master Gardeners are holding their annual Plant Sale May 13-14, 2017 at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds. Thousands of locally grown plants donated by Lewis County Master Gardeners will be for sale: annuals, perennials, berries, herbs, shrubs, native plants & more, plus garden accessories like bee blocks, planter boxes and more. Credit & debit cards accepted. For more information, visit http://lewis-mg-mrc.org/events_activities/plant_sale



Sunday, May 21: Ruhl Bee Workshop with Randy Oliver

When: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm; **Where:** Ruhl Bee Supply / Brushy Mountain Farms, 29600 SW Seely Ave. Suite B, Wilsonville, Oregon 97070

What: A full day of seminars and workshops led by guest speakers Randy Oliver & Carolyn Breece. Randy will speak on "Reading the Combs to Understand Colony Condition over the Season" & "Randy's Recent Research on Varroa Management, Including Oxalic Acid/Glycerin." Carol will speak on "7 Habits of Highly Effective Beekeepers." Lunch is provided.

Admission: \$60.00 per person; call 1-800-233-7929 to reserve a seat. For more info, visit: <http://www.ruhlbeesupply.com/RBS-Classes-and-Events.html> .

Thursday, June 8: LCBA Monthly Meeting, Topic TBA



Above, Shelter #2 at Lintott Alexander Park

Saturday, July 8: LCBA's 9th Annual Summer Potluck

When: 4 to 8 p.m.; Where: Lintott Alexander Park, Chehalis

Join us for good food, fun & fellowship, plus a drawing of fun beekeeping items to support our Youth Scholarship Program. More details closer to the time!

Some Longer-Term Upcoming Events ~ Mark Your Calendars!



Thursday, August 10: LCBA Monthly Meeting

Dr. Danny Najera: Mite-Busting!

Saturday, Aug 19: 4th Annual Oregon Honey Festival, Ashland, Oregon

If you would like to be an exhibitor/vendor, please get in touch with the festival managers at oregonhoneyfestival@outlook.com or visit their webpage: www.oregonhoneyfestival.com.

September 5 - 8: Western Apicultural Society of North America 2017

40th Anniversary Conference, UC-Davis, California; for info, visit: <http://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org>

PACKAGE & NUC BEE PICKUP INFORMATION

LCBA Bee Orders 2017 – Vendor, Beeline Apiaries



FYI, LCBA does not warrant and cannot guarantee the quality of bees ordered.

Bee Pickup Place: Beeline Apiaries, 19019 Moon Road SW, Rochester 98579 [off Hwy 12];

Delivery Date: April 19 is the projected date, but PLEASE prepare to be flexible – this date could change because of unpredictable weather in California. During the coming week and a half, please check your email regularly for possible updates. Bees must be picked up on the delivery date and hived promptly. If necessary, you can make arrangements for a family member or friend to pick up your bees; if you need to do this, please email secretary@lcba.community with the name of your designee.

Mentoring: LCBA will have a popup tent at Beeline on delivery day with mentors & info handouts to help new or nearly-new beekeepers; also mini marshmallows & sheet rock screws to aid in taking that cork out of the queen cage for queen hiving. For a detailed handout on how to hive your package bees, visit LCBA’s website:

http://lewiscountybeekeepers.org/mentorsworkshopsclasses/hiving_package_bees .



Above, mentor Gottfried helping out on 2016 bee pickup day (photos by Brian Mittge).

2016 Package Box Return & Refund: If you ordered package bees last year through LCBA and kept your package box (and it is in reasonably good shape), you can bring it back to Beeline for a modest refund (in the past it was about 3 or 4 dollars). This would be turned in to Harold at Beeline on bee pickup day, not to the LCBA “mentor tent.”

THURSDAY, MARCH 9 ~ LCBA Monthly Meeting Notes:

LCBA President Kevin Reichert opened the meeting by congratulating the first 3 students from our beginning beekeeping class to finish their tests: Mike Russell, Dan Libby, and Mark Erickson; Susanne passed out their certificates of completion to Dan and Mark, who were at this meeting. Other tests are coming in, and more diplomas will be available at our April meeting. Kevin commented that the new class went well, with enthusiastic students and teachers, and he commended Education Coordinator Peter Glover and Secretary Susanne Weil for writing the handbook and PowerPoint slideshows.

Over-Wintered Bees: Kevin noted that March and April can be tough months for over-wintered bees in our southwest Washington climate. A number of members reported have lost colonies. Kevin suggested that when it is warm enough (in the 50s) to pop the top and add hard candy, that is very helpful for the bees. As of this meeting, it was still too cold to start feeding syrup – the weather should be consistently in the 50s before starting with liquid.

Their First Year of Beekeeping: Bill Barr & Peggy Hammer Reflect



Above left, Peggy Hammer, seated, and Bill's wife Tracy Chilelli at LCBA's June 2016 supers removal workshop; right, Bill prepares to hive his nuc bees, April 2016.

Kevin introduced Peggy Hammer and Bill Barr, both of whom took LCBA's 2016 beginning beekeeping class and are entering their 2nd year with successfully over-wintered bees. "They will hammer you," Kevin quipped. Bill started out noting that when he was a child, his grandfather kept bees; then, he was afraid of them, but still, intrigued – and now, he is hooked. Why get started with bees? For Bill, it was about learning new things, making new friends, going to potlucks, getting a nicely pollinated garden; he didn't get honey last year – many new beekeepers do not, as colonies take time to build up – but he is hopeful for honey in 2017.

Peggy got intrigued while visiting some friends' farm; they showed her the products they make with wax from their bees, and gave her a jar of raw honey. Peggy felt that beekeeping would be do-able and would fit her lifestyle. She attended her first LCBA meeting in August 2015, about 8 months before she actually got bees, and was surprised to see how many beekeepers were at the meeting, as well as what a high level of commitment and respect for different points of view –

she was struck that no one said “you’re wrong” about any particular beekeeping question. Now she has two hives, and when she last checked, both colonies were still alive. Peggy noted that while beekeeping appeals to her creative side, the “linear side” of her still struggles with the ambiguity of beekeeping – when things seem to go awry with a colony, there can be many possible reasons.



Above left, Peggy’s apiary; right, Bill & Tracy’s apiary

What To Expect in Your First Year of Beekeeping: The Unexpected! Bill noted that even after taking a class and reading up on bees, the reality was still surprising and interesting. It was fascinating, he said, to see the bees build up wax and to spot the queen during inspections. Peggy recalled that her first time handling bees was in August 2015, wearing a borrowed suit at Dan Maughan’s apiary in 90-degree weather: it takes a while to believe that the suit will protect you, especially when bees are zooming at your face. She remembered pulling that first frame and being amazed to see so many bees literally vibrating in your hands – the sound and feel were intimidating, but now, she feels more confident. She still wears gear for inspections, but now feels more and more brave about changing a Boardman feeder without suiting up. Peggy has not yet been stung! She enjoys “mornings of zen” sipping coffee by her hives, watching the foragers come and go.

Endless Bee Gear Options – and Questions: Peggy was also amazed by the vast array of equipment, tools, and toys one can get to work one’s bees. She noted that Harold Weaver was very kind to her and her husband Don with their many questions. After assembling their gear, they looked forward to the arrival of their bees like waiting for the stork to bring babies. When they hived their bees, Peggy remembered how odd it was that the sticky board and entrance reducer wouldn’t go in. She called Harold, who gently inquired about the positioning of the screened bottom board: sure enough, it was upside down! So, back to the bee yard for some adjustments. . . . Bill, too, made this mistake at first and had to correct it.

What Could Go Wrong? Bill remembered feeling concerned when he saw many queen cells in one of his hives. Had the queen died? Would the bees die? He tried to find the queen and couldn’t; he called Dan Maughan, his mentor, and together they looked over the colony and decided to split it, let the bees raise new queens, and see what happened. The bees thrived, so evidently the young queens got well mated.

Is It Necessary To Find the Queen at Each Inspection? Terrie Phillips noted that in her first year, she always wanted to see the queen when inspecting. She learned not to worry if the queen

scurried down into the mass of bees, away from the light, so that she couldn't find her; instead, she learned to look for other clues, like eggs and larvae. She learned to work gently so as not to worry so much about "rolling the queen" if a frame got re-inserted too hard.

A Sudden Drop in the Bee Population: Peggy opted for one package of Carnis and one package of Italians: one hive did well, but then, suddenly, there were dramatically fewer bees in it – probably a swarm. Her mentors suggested to leave them alone, and sure enough, the hive took off – in two weeks, there was a new queen at work. She realized that if the new queen hadn't survived, she'd have had to look carefully to see that the hive truly was queenless, and then insert a new queen. From this, Peggy said, she learned the need to watch and inspect.



All that assembling! Above, Peggy's medium boxes after assembling, pre-painting.

Deep Boxes or Mediums? Peggy went with medium hive boxes, as was recommended in the beginning beekeeping class, and she was glad that she had – even the smaller mediums are heavy when they are full of bees, comb, brood, and honey. Asking for a show of hands, it seemed that many first year beekeepers this year are also opting for medium hive boxes. Vice President Bob Harris recalled that when he was in his 30s, hefting deep boxes was no problem, but now, his back thanks him for using mediums!

Terminology! Peggy reflected that at first, it seemed there were so many terms to learn – deeps, mediums, supers, Westerns, foundation, foundation-less – her head started to spin. Patricia Ermert noted that she had read that that classic size of cell stamping on plastic foundation was not the bees' natural size, so she tried to go foundationless – "what a god-awful mess that was!" Several beekeepers noted that it's best to wait to try foundationless till one has more experience working bees, since there's skill involved in stopping them from cross-combing.

Assembling Hive Boxes: Bill noted that he bought one hive set assembled, but then put the other together himself. He learned in assembling how important it is to keep the angles square, and that that's not easy if you're not used to doing it: "If you get them cockeyed, they don't un-cockeye."

Watering those bees: Peggy tried putting a dog waterer by her hives (see photo above) – and the bees turned up their noses at it. Walt Wilson noted that a natural running water source seems to be what bees favor. Susanne Weil noted that if you put stones in a poultry waterer, bees seem to like that – they can perch on the stones to drink, and minerals leach into the water, which bees also like.



Above, the bees found the sugar water that leaked into the dish below Peggy's hummingbird feeder!

Peggy put sugar water in her hummingbird feeder, and it leaked into a dish – first one bee found it, and then, “word got out” – and next thing she knew, there was a frenzy of bees on that dish – they sucked it dry. Even bumblebees came – and the bumblebees chased away the hummingbirds!

Hiving Bees For the First Time: Both Bill and Peggy noted that it wasn't hard. They had seen demonstrations pantomimed in the class and at the bee meeting. The bees remained pretty calm throughout for both of them. Bill noted that getting the bees off the queen cage so as to remove the cork and insert the marshmallow was a bit difficult – he would flick them off, and they'd come right back, but eventually, he got them off long enough to hive her. He also noted that spraying the bees with sugar water helped. Cody Warren pointed out that if the weather is cold when hiving time comes, it's best not to spray them with the sugar water because they could get chilled. Cody favors dusting them with powdered (pure cane) sugar: this knocks down phoretic Varroa mites, and the bees will settle down to grooming each other and eating the sugar, not caring at all what he was up to.



First time bee hiving – note the bees covering the queen cage, left.

Wearing the Bee Suit: Peggy said, “Don't be macho – wear the gear!” She felt much more confident with that layer of protection, and that helped her to be slow and gentle with her bees.

However, Peggy had one warning for new beekeepers: she stored her suit and gloves in her pump house, and mice ate off the tips of her gloves ☹️ Now, she keeps her gloves indoors.

Installing Bees from a Nuc Into a Langstroth Hive: Bill noted that if you have ordered a nuc, it's important to put the frames into their new hive box home in exactly the order and orientation that there were in in the nuc. There was still some space in the hive box when he put in the extra frames to make the full ten, so he noted that it's good to keep the extra space on the outside ends of the box. He also warned beekeepers that if you get a nuc, you must get deep hive boxes and frames, since the nucs only come in deeps. Steve Howard noted that once your bees have drawn comb, then, the next year, you can just put 9 frames in a super – they'll draw the cells out more and have honey stores that are easier to harvest.



Bill's "hiving the nuc" photo, above, shows what it looked like – an odd mix of plastic and wooden frames came with the nuc he ordered. About frames, Peggy noted that she got two green drone frames, but then wasn't sure what to do with all those drone cells. She used a pick to kill them. Cody noted that drone cells are ok; the bees will produce more honey in the larger drone comb cells for their winter stores in the late summer, after they kick the drones out. Others noted that if you do want to get concentrations of drones for Varroa control, it's important to take those frames out before the drones hatch – if they have significant Varroa infestations, letting them hatch is like bombing your colony with mites.

Top Hiving: Peggy found that if bees have space to do it, they will build comb down from the inner cover. She had to cut off the comb gently and pin it into an empty frame so as not to waste the bees' hard work. She noted that you shouldn't be upset if your bees' comb doesn't look just like the neat, regular comb in the books – bees will do this their own way.

Swarming: Peggy said that her bees didn't swarm, and that she was struck by how personally some beekeepers took it if their bees did swarm. Bill did have swarms – several. The first swarm was exciting – mentor Dan helped him capture and re-hive them, a fun adventure. But the second swarm . . . "by now, it wasn't that much fun anymore," Bill noted. In the case of that particular hive, the queen was evidently not well mated – they swarmed multiple times, and then the colony died out.

Yellowjackets: Bill pointed out that now is the time to put out traps, to catch the queen yellowjackets before they can lay many eggs. He had so many at one point that he was hitting them with shoes!



Above, left, one of Peggy's colonies started building comb down from the inner cover; right, Bill's first swarm.

Over-wintering: In the end of the season, Bill had 4 hives going into the winter. He displayed a photo taken with an infrared camera app showing that the bees were still alive. Now, he's looking forward to spring to see the bees foraging busily after the long winter.

Last Reflections: Peggy observed that bee teachers' philosophies are remarkably non-prescriptive. She recalled Dan saying in answer to her question about whether to get Carniolans or Italians, "Well, it just depends on what you want to do . . ." She enjoyed the "ping-pong" between Kevin and Bob in meetings, reminding her of the old saying, "Ask two beekeepers and you get five answers." Finally, she remembered Bob's advice to "let bees be bees" – in the end, the bees are in charge. Terrie noted that last year was her 6th year with bees, and that each year, something different comes up that you never had thought about. It's never dull!

Finally, Peggy reflected that she isn't sure if she'd have stayed with beekeeping if it hadn't been for LCBA – the group's support and community made her first year successful and fun. Bill agreed. Kevin thanked Bill and Peggy for their review of their first year and hoped it would help this year's newbees.

March Business Meeting Notes

Treasurer's Report: LCBA's current main account balance is \$9,044 (this does not reflect membership dues paid at this meeting, nor bee purchases passing through the account); the new Youth Scholarship balance is \$1,222.28, after the purchase of gear and package bees for the students: the debits were \$879.18 paid to Beeline Apiaries for the students' gear and \$322.12 for their 3 packages of bees.

Package & Nuc Bee Orders: The other major event at this meeting took place before its start – package & nuc bee orders. Those who missed bee orders can still get bees: Harold Weaver announced that Beeline would still be selling bees at their regular price. Dan Maughan noted that Mike Radford of Northwest Bee Supply is selling \$145 packages: call 907 360 8182. For other options, those interested can check our Announcements page later in this newsletter, or visit the Beekeeping Supplies link on our website and contact vendors listed there.

Pickup Date: So far, the tentative bee pickup date is April 19 for all packages and nucs; however, everyone should prepare to be flexible, as conditions in California can change. Pickup location: Beeline Apiaries in Rochester. Details will be emailed to members as soon as the board

has them. The board will have a mentoring tent, like last year, to take questions. Pickup time will go roughly from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Those who can't pick up their bees themselves should send a proxy and inform Susanne at secretary@lcba.community who will be picking them up.

Kevin thanked volunteers Phil Wilson, Bob Harris, Peter Glover, Jeanne Reichert, Susanne Weil, Dan Maughan, and, especially, Rick for their work coordinating the memberships and orders.

LCBA's Bulk Order – Details: Treasurer Rick Battin reported on the totals for the order. Rick wrote a check to Beeline for \$23,843.12; up to and at the March meeting, LCBA took in \$23,521 in orders, then added \$322.12 from our Youth Scholarship account to cover our three Youth Scholars' bees. Order totals: 34 three-pound Italian packages; 23 three-pound Carniolan packages; 31 four-pound Italian packages; 38 four-pound Carniolan packages; 15 extra Italian queens; 2 extra Carniolan queens; 27 Italian nucs; and 34 Carniolan nucs. Overall, many members did pay for Washington state hive registration to get the tax free price. Kevin noted that the check written to Beeline was a pass-through; LCBA imposed no markup on the sale and realized no profit.

Club Apiary: The board applied for the TCC Gives grant, but did not get it this first time. LCBA has been encouraged to re-apply in the next cycle, due May 12. Meanwhile, there is no actual update on the apiary because it has been too wet to break ground. Pamela Daudet asked what the apiary would cost; Kevin thought it would cost about \$500 per year, though the board is going to review this now that we did not get the grant. However, we have been offered 4 donated nucs and some donated equipment. Kevin noted that though the apiary probably won't be opened till midsummer, we will still have workshops; Dan has offered to host them.

Mentor Program: Dan Maughan reported that so far, 29 members have requested mentors (some are couples working together); we expect to have enough mentors to go around with 2 or 3 mentees assigned to each one. If any of our experienced beekeepers would like to volunteer as mentors, or if any new beekeepers would like a mentor, please contact Dan (ultramafic@netzero.net). Dan will be contacting mentors and mentees about their matches, which he is trying to make as close geographically as reasonable.

Education & Youth Scholarship Program: Peter noted that our three Youth Scholarship students, Adam Claridge, Emily Ecklund, and Rylea Powell, had done so well on the course tests so far that they only would have needed two out of 12 points on the final test to pass, but that they are motivated to do much better than that. Now the next step will be assembling their woodenware, choosing their hive sites, and setting up their apiaries with the help of their mentors, respectively Cody Warren, William Pittman, and Gottfried Fritz. VP Bob Harris has offered his shop for assembly.

Community Outreach: Community Outreach Coordinator Bill Barr announced that the Spring Youth Fair is coming May 6 and 7, and LCBA has a table reserved in the Exposition Hall again. He will have a sign-up for volunteers at our April 13 meeting. LCBA members who volunteer receive complimentary tickets and parking passes for the Fair. If anyone has ideas about our exhibit, please let Bill know (email community@lcba.community).

Back Issues of Bee Culture & American Bee Journal: VP Bob Harris will bring back issues of these two excellent bee magazines – free for you to pick up.



TWO HONEY BEE LOSS SURVEYS ARE LIVE THIS APRIL

PLEASE PARTICIPATE!

YOUR ANSWERS WILL HELP DR. DEWEY CARON SHOW WHERE LEWIS COUNTY FITS INTO THE REGIONAL & NATIONAL PICTURE AT HIS SEPTEMBER 14 LCBA MONTHLY MEETING TALK!

Both surveys have been simplified from last year for easier use. Each takes about 10 to 15 minutes. Please . . . do it for the bees, and do it for us.

The BeeInformed Partnership Survey:

<http://26.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=2017#>

Bee Informed Partnership has been hosting an annual management survey since 2008. The survey is data intensive and collects detailed information about many different aspects of beekeeping. The survey has reached tens of thousands of beekeepers over the past 5 years. Survey data and analysis have been shared with beekeepers – and now has been made accessible to everyone via a new app called the “National Management Survey Explorer.” To use the app, visit: <https://bip2.beeinformed.org/survey>. To view last year’s results, visit: <https://beeinformed.org/2017/03/27/national-management-survey-app/>

The PNW Annual Honey Bee Loss Survey:

<http://pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/survey/>

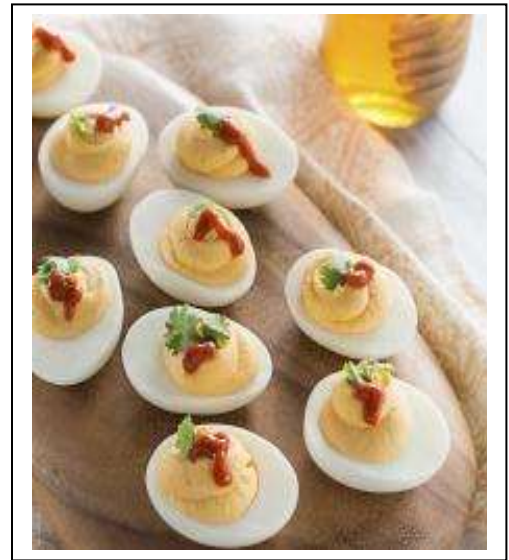
This survey looks at specific counties in the Pacific Northwest and measures both loss data and management practices in context of the region as a whole. Last year, LCBA had the highest response rate of any Washington bee club – let’s keep it going this year! We will hear the details at our September monthly meeting, so please participate – thank you!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH: From the National Honey Board

Deviled Eggs with Sriracha & Honey

Ingredients:

6 hard cooked eggs, peeled and halved
2 1/2 Tb mayonnaise
1 1/2 Tb honey
1 1/2 Tbs Sriracha, plus more to taste
1/2 tsp unseasoned rice vinegar
1 tsp grated onion, with juices
1/4 tsp coarse salt
fresh herb garnish: torn cilantro, basil or Italian parsley



Directions:

Carefully lift the yolks from the whites and place in a bowl. Arrange the whites, cut side up on a large plate.

Mash the yolks thoroughly with the back of a fork. Add mayonnaise, honey, Sriracha, vinegar, grated onion and salt. Beat with a wooden spoon until mixture is thoroughly blended. Taste and add more Sriracha, if needed.

With a teaspoon carefully fill each egg white, dividing evenly. Garnish with a torn leaf of the preferred herb. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Serve cold

Honey-Orange Glazed Ham

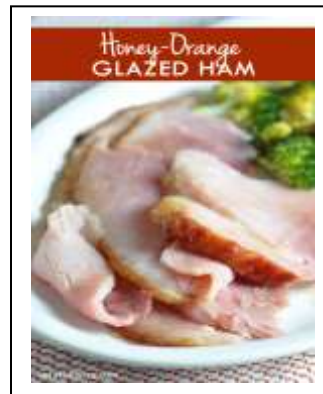
Ingredients:

1 (8 lbs.) - fully cooked boneless ham
1 - orange
1 cup - honey
1/4 teaspoon - ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon - ground cloves

Directions:

Carefully remove peel from orange in long strips.

Squeeze the orange, reserving juice. For glaze, in a small bowl, combine 2 tablespoons of the orange juice, honey, cinnamon and cloves, mix well. Place ham on rack in a shallow roasting pan. Insert meat thermometer in thickest part of ham. Bake, uncovered, in a 325°F oven for 1-1/2 to 2 hours or until meat thermometer registers 135-140°F, basting with honey glaze during last 45 minutes of baking. Garnish with orange peel, if desired.



BEES IN THE NEWS



"FDA alerts consumers of nationwide voluntary recall of EpiPen and EpiPen Jr": American Bee Journal, April 3, 2017)

Meridian Medical Technologies has issued a voluntary recall of 13 lots of Mylan's EpiPen and EpiPen Jr (epinephrine injection) that were sold between December 17, 2015, and July 1, 2016; other lots were not affected and do not need to be replaced. Beekeepers who keep these injectable pens for allergies will want to check the chart below to see whether their pen is affected. Why? The pens may have a defect that causes the pens not to activate when needed. Although few failures have been reported, because a pen failure could be life threatening, Mylan took the recall step. They recommend that "consumers should keep and use their current EpiPens if needed until they get a replacement.

To report any adverse reactions, contact the FDA's MedWatch program by:

- Completing and submitting the report online at www.fda.gov/medwatch/report.htm, or
- Downloading and completing the form, then submitting it via fax at 800-FDA-0178.

Questions? Contact Mylan at 800-796-9526 or customer.service@mylan.com.

Product/Dosage	NDC Number	Lot Number	Expiration Date
EpiPen Jr Auto-Injector, 0.15 mg	49502-501-02	5GN767	April 2017
EpiPen Jr Auto-Injector, 0.15 mg	49502-501-02	5GN773	April 2017
EpiPen Auto-Injector, 0.3 mg	49502-500-02	5GM631	April 2017
EpiPen Auto-Injector, 0.3 mg	49502-500-02	5GM640	May 2017
EpiPen Jr Auto-Injector, 0.15 mg	49502-501-02	6GN215	September 2017
EpiPen Auto-Injector, 0.3 mg	49502-500-02	6GM082	September 2017
EpiPen Auto-Injector, 0.3 mg	49502-500-02	6GM072	September 2017
EpiPen Auto-Injector, 0.3 mg	49502-500-02	6GM081	September 2017
EpiPen Auto-Injector, 0.3 mg	49502-500-02	6GM088	October 2017
EpiPen Auto-Injector, 0.3 mg	49502-500-02	6GM199	October 2017
EpiPen Auto-Injector, 0.3 mg	49502-500-02	6GM091	October 2017
EpiPen Auto-Injector, 0.3 mg	49502-500-02	6GM198	October 2017
EpiPen Auto-Injector, 0.3 mg	49502-500-02	6GM087	October 2017

For more information, visit: <http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5fd2b1aa990e63193af2a573d&id=5dc44ff09d&e=e9ff21e0bb>



[Closeup of honey bee face](#) (USGS Bee Inventory, Beltsville, Maryland; Flickr)

“Honey Bees Have Sharper Eyesight Than We Thought”: *American Bee Journal*, April 7, 2017

Australian researchers have found the bee vision is far sharper than entomologists had realized. Dr. Karl von Frisch discovered that bees could see colors back in 1914: this new study suggests that bee vision may even help in constructing robot vision! Each hexagonal facet of the honey bee’s compound eye has 8 photoreceptors; the eyes have thousands of facets. The scientists gave “eye tests” to honey bees. Instead of testing bee vision in darkness, as most previous studies did, the new study examined how bees see in dim v.s. bright lighting.

The researchers first asked, “what is the smallest well-defined object that a bee can see? (i.e., its object resolution); and second, how far away can a bee see an object, even if it can't see that object clearly? (i.e., maximum detectability limit).” They then recorded neural responses in individual photoreceptors, which detect light in the retina. The result: they discovered that “in the frontal part of the eye, where the resolution is maximized, honey bees can clearly see objects that are as small as 1.9° - that's approximately the width of your thumb when you stretch your arm out in front of you”: 30% sharper vision than had been recorded in honey bees before.

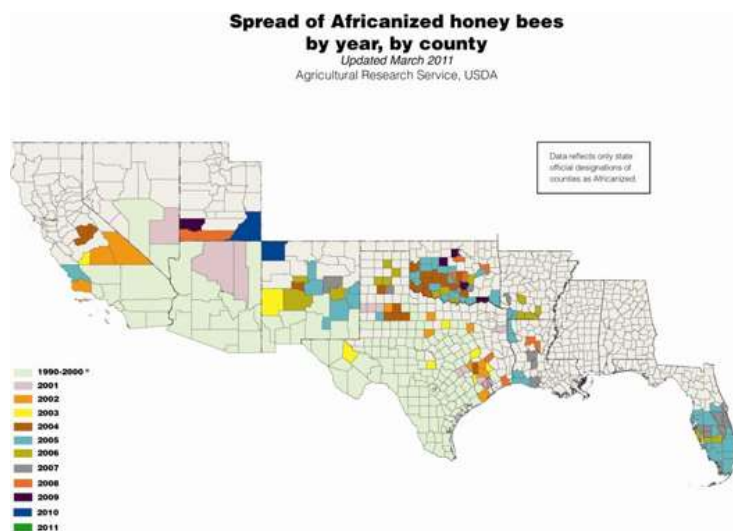
The new research indicates that bees may be able to see and escape from threats much earlier than had been thought, as well as identify landmarks much better. Further, as scientists work on “designing bio-inspired robotics and robot vision,” the anatomy of the bee’s eye may be a guide.

To read more, visit: <http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=5fd2b1aa990e63193af2a573d&id=9452540ec0&e=e9ff21e0bb>

“Genes Key to Africanized Honey Bee's Success”: *American Bee Journal*, April 6, 2017

Swedish researchers have sequenced the genomes of Africanized bees; as they traced the evolutionary history of the bees, they found genes that help explain their success in spreading to new habitats. Previous studies have shown that most of the Africanized bees’ genetics resemble their African forebears; the new study shows that one area of the genome more closely resembles European bees: the area governing both “ovary size and foraging strategy.” This may mean that

the “the European version of this part of the bee genome gave the Africanized bees a selective advantage.”



For an enlarged version of this map and to read more about this study of Africanized bees, visit:
<http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=5fd2b1aa990e63193af2a573d&id=768fe61fa6&e=e9ff21e0bb>)

2016 U.S. Honey Production Report: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

“United States Honey Production Up 3 Percent for Operations with Five or More Colonies in 2016: United States honey production in 2016 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 162 million pounds, up 3 percent from 2015. There were 2.78 million colonies from which honey was harvested in 2016, up 4 percent from 2015. Yield of honey harvested per colony averaged 58.3 pounds, down 1 percent from the 58.9 pounds in 2015. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced.” This study has a wealth of data and discussion about US honey production! To learn more, visit:
<http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=5fd2b1aa990e63193af2a573d&id=36ff7128a4&e=e9ff21e0bb> .

“American Bee Research Conference 2017. A Short Report”: Bee Culture, March 23, 2017

Those who are interested in the latest key work in honey bee research – particularly Varroa mites and progress in research and treatment - will want to check out Bee Culture’s summary of this joint meeting of the the American Beekeeping Federation, The American Honey Producers Association and the Canadian Honey Council, the American Association of Professional Apiculturists (AAPA), Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) and Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA). For more details, check the *Proceedings of the 2017 American Bee Research Conference. Bee World*. Volume 94, Issue 3; doi:10.1080/0005772X.2017.1294471. For Bee Culture’s summary, visit: http://www.beeculture.com/catch-buzz-american-bee-research-conference-2017-short-report/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=4070220fae-

[Catch_The_Buzz_4_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-4070220fae-256261065](http://www.beeculture.com/catch-buzz-4-29-2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-4070220fae-256261065) .

“Fungicides commonly used in almond orchards can be harmful to almond growers’ best friends – honey bees”: *Bee Culture*, March 29, 2017

Texas A&M University scientists have discovered that “the fungicide iprodione, when used alone or in combination with other common fungicides, leads to a significant reduction in the 10-day survival rate of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) when they are exposed at rates usually used on the almond crops.” Since these fungicides are used even when bees are pollinating almond orchards, “bees may face significant danger from chemical applications even when responsibly applied,” says Juliana Rangel, Texas A&M assistant professor of apiculture.”

The researchers hope that the study will lead to talks about changing spraying schedules and methods for application. To read more about how the study was done and about its results, visit:

http://www.beeculture.com/catch-buzz-fungicides-commonly-used-almond-orchards-can-harmful-almond-growers-best-friends-honey-bees/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=1968362daf-Catch_The_Buzz_4_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-1968362daf-256261065



Above, “Bees Are in the Stirling Lab” (Stirling Lab)

“Bees and Flowers Fit Together like Locks and Keys: Pollination Mystery Unlocked by Stirling Bee Researchers”: *American Bee Journal*

British entomologists have discovered that “bees latch on to similarly-sized nectarless flowers to unpick pollen - like keys fitting into locks.” The study “shows the right size of bee is needed to properly pollinate a flower. The insect fits tightly with the flower's anthers, to vibrate and unlock pollen sealed within.” Particularly for buzz pollination, bee size / bee flower fit is critical. Conversely, “Bees that are too small in relation to the distance between a flower's sexual organs behave as pollen thieves - removing pollen, but depositing very little.”

One surprising finding: “visits by smaller bees were associated with more seeds being produced, indicating that more pollen does not necessarily create more seeds. Seed production may also

depend on the quality of the pollen and different kinds of pollen grains competing to germinate. However, by identifying whether visiting bees and complex flowers match physically, we can predict whether these bees are likely to be effective pollen carriers or not."

The ecologists studied "a species of nightshade plant (*Solanum rostratum*), which was buzz-pollinated with captive bumblebees of varying sizes. They recorded the number of visits received, pollen deposition, and fruit and seed production. Varieties of nightshade include potatoes, tomatoes and peppers."

To see an animated video that summarizes this study's results, visit:

<https://www.eurekalert.org/multimedia/pub/136195.php>. To read the full article, visit:

<http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5fd2b1aa990e63193af2a573d&id=aa9ec018a3&e=e9ff21e0bb> .



Above, "[Bee collecting pollen at the Del Mar fairgrounds](#)," by Jon Sullivan, *Wikimedia Commons* (public domain)

"Hair Spacing Keeps Honey Bees Clean During Pollination: Researchers quantify the cleaning process": *American Bee Journal*, March 29 2017

Georgia Tech researchers have found that "a honey bee can carry up to 30 percent of its body weight in pollen because of the strategic spacing of its nearly three million hairs. The hairs cover the insect's eyes and entire body in various densities that allow efficient cleaning and transport."

Typically, the space between each of the bee's eye hairs "is approximately the same size as a grain of dandelion pollen, which is typically collected by bees. This keeps the pollen suspended above the eye and allows the forelegs to comb through and collect the particles. The legs are much hairier and the hair is very densely packed -- five times denser than the hair on the eyes. This helps the legs collect as much pollen as possible with each swipe. Once the forelegs are sufficiently scrubbed and cleaned by the other legs and the mouth, they return to the eyes and continue the process until the eyes are free of pollen."

The scientists filmed the bees' cleaning process with high speed cameras (see below for a URL for a video excerpt). The film showed that bees can "remove up to 15,000 particles from their bodies in three minutes."

Another clue to the hairs' importance was that when the scientists "created a robotic honey bee leg to swipe pollen-covered eyes [and] covered the leg with wax, the smooth, hairless leg gathered four times less pollen." Further, the bees have a set "cleaning routine": "Even if they're not very dirty in the first place, bees always swipe their eyes a dozen times, six times per leg. The first swipe is the most efficient, and they never have to brush the same area of the eye twice."

"The research also found that pollenkitt, the sticky, viscous fluid found on the surface of pollen grains, is essential. When the fluid was removed from pollen during experiments, bees accumulated half as much."

To read more, visit: <http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5fd2b1aa990e63193af2a573d&id=46a6349881&e=e9ff21e0bb>

Overuse of Antibiotics Brings Risks for Bees -- and For Us – ABJ Mar 14 2017

A new study from University of Texas-Austin has shown that honey bees treated with tetracycline "were half as likely to survive the week after treatment compared with a group of untreated bees." The antibiotics wiped out gut bacteria that benefit the bees – allowing "a harmful pathogen, which also occurs in humans, to get a foothold. The research is the latest discovery to indicate overuse of antibiotics can sometimes make living things, including people, sicker." The study raises the possibility that changing the "gut microbiome" of bees may play a role in colony collapse disorder. To read more, visit: <http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=5fd2b1aa990e63193af2a573d&id=1949822267&e=e9ff21e0bb> .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honey Bee Nucs for Sale: Pacific NW Bee in Castle Rock is selling nucs again this year. Details are on Craigslist Portland under "Honey Bee Nucs \$120." Mike, the proprietor, says, "I require No deposit for association members. These are always great bees for our area. We are a pollination company and use the same bees, as these are how we make new hives for our own use every year." To contact Mike directly, call (360) 747-3188.

Do You Sell Wax? If you are an LCBA member and would like to be listed on LCBA's Buy Local Honey page, please email secretary@lcba.community with your contact information, prices, and a photo if possible.

Western Apicultural Society Newsletters: http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/WAS_Journal. Click on the line in the paragraph on the right as directed. If you're still getting the old issue, click on "empty cache" in your browser or "refresh" or "reload" under VIEW in your menu bar.

WASBA Newsletter: Pick up your copy online at www.wasba.org: click on "Newsletters."

That's all for now ~ take care, & bee happy!

~~ Susanne Weil, LCBA Secretary (Secretary@lcba.community; 360 880 8130)