Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Thursday, Aug 2
Sunny
High --86 Low -- 57

Friday, Aug 3
Sunny
High --83 Low -- 57

Saturday, Aug 4
Sunny
High -- 83 Low -- 57

Sunday, Aug 5
Sunny
High -- 77 Low -- 57

Monday, Aug 6
Mostly Sunny
High -- 76 Low -- 57

Tuesday, Aug 7
Mostly Sunny
High -- 73 Low -- 56

Wednesday, Aug 8
Mostly Sunny
High -- 78 Low -- 56

Following are the high & low temperatures, and rainfall recorded at The End of the Road in O'Brien by Cheryl Johnson:

July	High	Low
20	88.0	57.0
21	89.1	51.0
22	96.6	46.2
23	99.9	56.6
24	101.7	57.6
25	104.7	55.4
26	102.5	54.4

July Rain: 0.00" YTD Rain: 58.76"

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Crawlies with Cri: by Christy Solo

Can you guess what the four bees pictured have in common? While they are three different types of bees - sweat, bumble and carpenter - they are all males and they are all sleeping. Yes, bees sleep. Most, if not all, arthropods do as well. They need sleep for the same reasons we do, not only to rest their bodies; foraging, nest building and caring for young are hard work. Like us they also process the information of the day, logging things learned into their long-term memories as they sleep.

We know more about why and how bees sleep than other arthropods because in 1983 researcher Walter Kaiser did a case study on sleeping honey bees. Since then several other scientists have done further research on various aspects of bee sleep; e.g. why do they need to sleep, how long do they sleep, where do they sleep and what happens if they get sleep deprived? Turns out, bees function about as well as people do without sleep; not well at all. They are groggy, forgetful and have a hard time finding their way back to their hive.

Let's back up a bit to our photo. How do we know those snoozing buzzers are asleep? Posture is the giveaway, because bees relax when they sleep just like all other creatures. The deeper their sleep, the more relaxed they are. Each of the bees were slightly woken as their photos were taken, which caused them only to raise one or both of their antennae. They don't wake up any faster than we do when we're out like a light. You can see their heads are drooped over and their legs relaxed. That posture says "sleeping bee."

When it comes to sleeping, time of day factors in, too. Older female and male bees sleep all night and are active all day. Young bees take daytime naps just like young mammals. How do we know these sleeping bees are males? If you aren't familiar enough with any given type of bee, you won't know at a glance if a bee is male or female. There are some tips though. First, most bees you find sleeping outside on plants and flowers at night are male. Only females get to sleep in the hives (if social bees) or nests (if solitary bees). For males, every night is a camp-out. Secondly, sometimes females will be out so late foraging for pollen and nectar they'll sleep outdoors too. You can spot females because they will have pollen packed on their legs or under their abdomens. Male bees don't collect pollen, so there are no concentrations of pollen on them.

What about long-term memory? Bees have a lot to learn in a day; where the best food source is, how to access the nectar and pollen in different types of flowers, where water and/or minerals are (bees cannot live on nectar alone) and for the males, where the females are. Bees use their sleep time to consolidate all the day's short-term memory input into their long-term memory banks, making them more efficient the next day.

One bee sleep mystery yet to be solved is - do bees dream? No one's been able to crack that case yet, but someday we may get a deeper glimpse into that secret life of sleeping bees.

Sleeping bees

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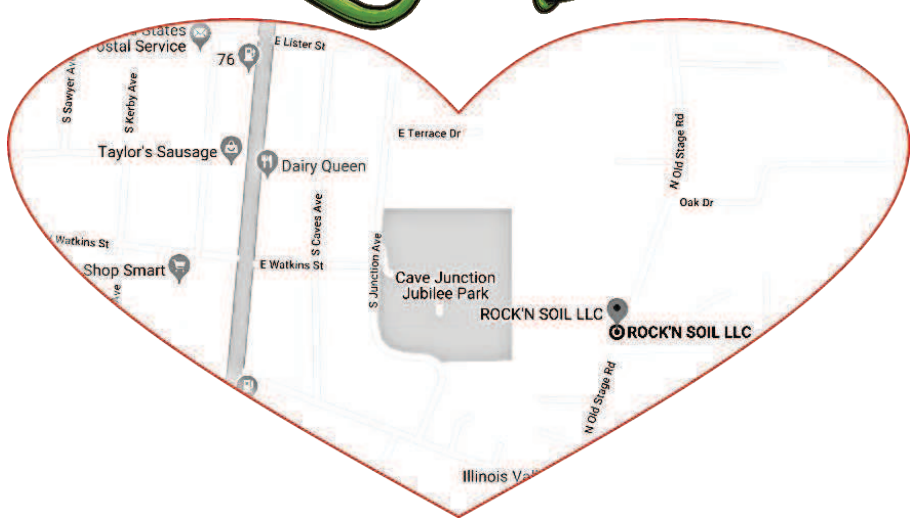

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