



The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 44

Number 1

January–February 2019

Message from the Incoming President

Happy New Year to all. It is a tremendous honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to serve our great community. I have so much gratitude toward our previous leadership and the excellent work they have done serving our needs and the needs of our bees. Thank you for all of your tireless efforts, great leadership, and service. You are all truly inspirational! I look forward carrying on these efforts and traditions. I hope that together we will continue to find ways to improve the plights of beekeepers and bees.

As highlighted in Harry’s recent Message from the President, we clearly face some very dire challenges, and yet I remain optimistic that together with our many stakeholders we can rise to the occasion. At heart, I truly am an optimist, as one would need to be in order to attempt to make a living shepherding such a fragile flock as bees with so many variables that remain out of our control. The old aphorism rings true that crisis equals opportunity, especially in our current situation. Also, the saying “it takes a village” comes to mind; however, in our particular circumstance, I feel that it will take much more than a village and more like a paradigm shift in how we think about mites, viruses, nutrition, and the environment we operate in.

There are some great opportunities on the horizon that have the possibility to be transformative for our trade. One such opportunity is the work being done on viruses. If we can lower viral loads in our colonies, it will surely reduce the pathogenicity of Varroa. This type of impressive research will help us to continue to develop a clearer understanding of mite biology. Sooner or later we will find a crack in these little red menace’s armor that will substantially advance our colony management. Also, as we heard from Danielle Downey at the conference, there is some very exciting work being done on breeding more mite-tolerant bees. These examples illustrate how it is more imperative than ever given our current situation that we continue to support and find new ways to support all the essential bee research and extension outreach going on. Will these solutions come in time? One cannot say for sure, but we must continue to enlist every stakeholder possible for our cause. This includes consumers, producers, and the public at large, because, at the end of the day, if one eats food, one is a stakeholder and a participant in agriculture and therefore vested in bees.

Another movement that I am very optimistic about is agrivoltaics. Simply put, this is the dual use of utility-scale solar energy production sites for other simultaneous agricultural production. This has the potential to have a profound impact for us, particularly when utility-scale solar sites are intensively planted for pollinator habitat. The project lifespan of a utility-scale solar installation is about 35 years. Consider the potential impact of large tracts of land dedicated to pollinator habitat and clean energy for generations. This could offset a significant portion of the continuous habitat loss that we are witnessing, and provide long-term opportunities for quality pollinator forage.



Todd Balsiger

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Image above: Honey bees carrying loads of pollen into a beehive on a bright sunny day are a beautiful sight. Yet, to see this in December? Here, in the Valley?

Over the last 22 years, I have observed many of my best bee yards decline in productivity as we continue to lose ground to development and heavily sprayed monocultures. Further, as beekeepers, on most farms we have grown accustomed to getting stuck with the leftovers—the fence lines, the ditches, meager hedgerows, or whatever that is not getting sprayed with Roundup or Dicamba. The opportunity to create vast tracts of pollinator habitat on reasonably prime ground through well-designed agrivoltaics is very exciting. The next generation of beekeepers will surely need access to good forage and clean energy even more than we currently do. Here is an article highlighting some of the solar dual use efforts around the county: <https://www.anl.gov/article/can-solar-energy-save-the-bees>.

In closing, we must be realistic and keep our eyes wide open to the myriad of challenges facing pollinators. As Harry’s last Message from the President made abundantly clear, we face some monumental hurdles. Many pollinators are disappearing, and the economics of commercial beekeeping are very challenging in the face of substantial annual colony losses.

As C.C. Miller said over 100 years ago:

“I should say that beekeeping is a good business

to let alone, for the same amount of brains and energy that will make you a living at beekeeping will make more than a living at almost any other business.”

The risk-to-reward equation is often out of balance in beekeeping in strict traditional economic terms. Perhaps for this to change, the price of bees and pollination may need to go up and a higher value may need to be placed on healthy forage sites. Brute-force economics will always prevail; however, many beekeepers are also motivated by the love of what we do. Clearly it is this love that we all share and keeps us going when things get tough.

We are fighting the good fight, and united together we can prevail. Like a colony of bees, little individual efforts aggregate into large meaningful results. Our industry has had, and always will have, its ups and downs; however, by working together through these tribulations, we will persist, and hopefully thrive.

Once again I thank you privilege and the honor to serve a great cause with such a wonderful community. May your mite counts be low, your hives be heavy, and your 2019 prosperous.

John Jacob

“Hive Mind for the Greater Good”
2019 Western Apicultural Society Conference
 Ashland Hills Hotel & Convention Center,
 July 12-14th Ashland, Oregon

Keynote Speakers & Workshop Leaders include: Dr. Judy Wu-Smart, University of Nebraska-Lincoln | Katrina Klett, Elevated Honey Co. | Hilary Kearney, Girl Next Door Honey | Dr. Meghan Milbrath, Michigan State University | Anna Gieselmann, Bee Amour Jewelry | Sarah Red-Laird, Bee Girl | the native bee team from the Logan, Utah, USDA-ARS Pollinating Insects Research Unit | streamed opening welcome by Dr. Marla Spivak | and more. **Swarm in for Networking Opportunities and Activities:** Not only will you learn from the best and brightest, you’ll have a whole host of opportunities to personally connect with other beekeepers, as well as the speakers and workshop leaders, to share your stories, projects, ideas, products, and interests. **Plan to arrive July 11th for some pre-conference fun:** Raft the Rouge River and take in a show at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival with your fellow beekeepers.

Registration & Info at www.westernapiculturalsociety.org

Incoming OSBA Officers & Regional Reps

With elections that took place at the 2018 General Membership Meeting come changes on the OSBA Executive Board. We are grateful to officers who have now taken leave for their years of service:

Harry Vanderpool, outgoing President

Jason Rowan, outgoing Vice President

Jan Lohman, outgoing Secretary

In addition, we thank outgoing Southwestern Oregon Regional Representative **Mysti Jacob** and outgoing South Central Oregon Regional Representative **Ray Rutler**.

Welcome to OSBA's incoming officers, introduced in the following along with **Joe Hansen**, who has extended his stay as treasurer. Also welcome to incoming Southwestern Oregon Regional Representative **Eric McEwen** and incoming South Central Oregon Regional Representative **Robert Clements**. Regional representatives continuing their commitment into 2019 are listed on page 16. As we all know, there's much to be done on behalf of the bees and those who keep them!

President

John Jacob founded Old Sol Enterprises in 1997 and served as president of the Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association from 2004 to 2018; he is now a lifetime honorary member of SOBA. Old Sol has specialized in bee breeding and finding innovative and sustainable agricultural solutions. John's educational background includes a BS in Biology, with minors in Chemistry and Economics. Old Sol's business endeavors include queens, nucs, commercial pollination, honey, and consulting. John operates Old Sol with his wife Mysti and two children, Makai and Maya, in the beautiful Rogue Valley of Southern Oregon.



Vice President



Joe Maresh was born and grew up in North Portland, Oregon. As a child, he did a lot of agricultural work and noticed that all of the farms that he worked on had bees. As a young adult, he held a lot of odd jobs, including cook and wildland fire fighter. At the ripe old age of 20, he went to work on tug boats and retired after 40 years. Joe started keeping bees in

1999, when he moved out of Portland to east of Canby. Starting with two hives, he harvested 140 pounds of honey the first year and was hooked. The second year, he joined the Portland Metro Beekeepers Association and expanded to five hives. In his third season, he split those five to ten, and that winter lost all but one. For several years, he kept between 10 and 20 hives so that he could sell honey and do small pollination jobs. When he retired in December 2013, he expanded to between 30 and 40 hives. Joe served as president of PMBA for three years, starting in 2014. He is "a hands-on type of guy" who enjoys working with others toward a common goal. As PMBA president, he started several group-buying ventures for nucs, sugar, and queens. He also pools his bees with others for almond pollination in California. Joe finds bees and the people who keep them fascinating and looks forward to serving the membership of OSBA.

Secretary

Karen Finley moved to Corvallis, Oregon, in 1989. She was schooled and involved in prairie restoration, sustainable agriculture, and migratory birds before slipping into her current 25-year affair with honey bees. She and husband Tad Buford run Queen Bee Apiaries, a middle-sized commercial bee farm in the southern half of the Willamette Valley. Her favorite things about beekeeping are chit-chatting with farmers, making splits, and growing queens. She hates the month of September and Varroa mites. Outside of work, Karen is interested in habitat enhancement for bees and wildlife. She aspires to be fluent in Spanish and to go hiking around the American West.



Treasurer



Joe Hansen is a second-generation commercial beekeeper and co-owner of Foothills Honey Company in Colton, Oregon, along with his brother, Matt, and his parents, George and Sue. Joe attended University of Oregon and spent some time as a newspaper writer before returning to the family bee business. He lives in Aurora, Oregon, with his wife, Alison, and their dog, Charlie.

May it be the finest 2019 imaginable for Everyone!

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Our Beekeeping family wishes all of you the best in 2019!



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KEEPING BEES IN JANUARY–FEBRUARY

Todd Balsiger

Amitraz is losing its efficacy, or maybe I should just say it's lost its efficacy (it still works in Canada). At the state meeting, it was reported that 10 percent of Varroa are now resistant to Amitraz here in Oregon. Harry Vanderpool, in his last presidential message, shared how talented beekeepers are struggling to keep mites under control. He thinks an industry-wide collapse is possible in a few years. Russell Heitkam, a California commercial beekeeper, ventured a guess that we might see a 50 percent loss this year (2018). It strikes me that things are significantly askew now. The “Varroa Paradox” (just coined that) which Michael Burgett referred to—how Varroa has actually been a boon for commercial beekeeping by dramatically increasing pollination demand—does not seem to hold true anymore for some beekeepers.

I don't see the future as quite so gloomy. I suspect many of us have already made significant changes in how we treat for Varroa. I'm even optimistic that some of our main tools—for example, oxalic acid—will remain viable long term. I know what you're thinking: Yeah, right! It is suggested that Varroa would have to fundamentally change to become resistant to oxalic acid, like grow thick foot pads, at which point it would no longer be the virulent pest that it is today. Bacteria have not yet evolved resistance to soap and bleach. They've had thousands of years. For bacteria to develop resistance to soap, they would need to develop a cell membrane of totally new material resistant to soap – something other than proteins and lipids. Just maybe Varroa will need to overcome oxalic acid similar to how bacteria need to overcome soap. Randy Oliver shared a study that supports this idea: Varroa populations continuously exposed to oxalic acid over time became even more susceptible to it than the oxalic-naïve populations.

Baseline of Beekeeping Today

I have always told people that if not for the almonds, there'd be half the number of hives in the United States. Pollination rates may approach \$230/hive for almonds this spring. Commercial beekeepers are incentivized to meet this demand but clearly at a cost. In many areas, carrying capacities are being exceeded, and mites and diseases are being spread between apiaries. Mite loads may vary significantly between locations.

Varroa mites are more lethal. The recommended threshold for treatment is now 1 percent or less. Multiple treatments are required throughout the year, and the brood-rearing season is lengthening.

It was reported that for some beekeepers mite counts spiked

in previously healthy, mite-free hives after August treatments. Significant losses have been attributed to this phenomenon. Data suggest mite loads are increasing dramatically in the fall in a short period of time, and that our current mite curves are flawed.

Queen breeders cannot meet demand, period.

Lastly, small hive beetles are becoming more ubiquitous—yes, here in Oregon.

Treating Varroa

Do you have bees that can survive without treating for Varroa? I don't. I've gotten by the last two years using formic and oxalic acid. I'm not knowledgeable about how to use thymol/Apiguard. Someone else can cover that. I will share my insights on how I use formic and oxalic acid. Mind you, I am no expert—just a sideline beekeeper who runs around 100 hives (104 healthy hives right now).

Formic acid: It kills Varroa under cap brood. I use the MAQS. I'm cautious when I use formic—and definitely more so later in the season. I typically place two pads on top of the brood nest. Last September for maybe 5 percent of my hives I followed the directions and placed two pads between the brood boxes—and I think every one of these hives died. Why? It wasn't too hot. They may have already been too compromised from Varroa, then getting knocked down even more predisposed them to robbing and yellowjackets. The other hives did just fine.

I think the bees can tolerate formic acid better in the middle of the summer during the honey flow. I'd experiment with different dosages at that time—maybe just one pad between brood boxes. I'd remove the queen excluders and allow the queen to escape upstairs if she wants. She may be honey bound upstairs, anyway.

Oxalic Acid: I use oxalic acid by far the most. Formerly I used the dribble method, but now I only vaporize it or use Randy Oliver's glycerin/oxalic acid shop towels.



Vaporizing: It is pretty darn simple, and fast. I use the ProVap 110 Vaporizer (aka *crack pipe* as Harry Vanderpool refers to it). I use an extension cord along with a small Honda generator. Some have questioned the delivery system of the ProVap, including Randy Oliver. I know Randy was given one, and I think he's using it. He hasn't said anything bad about it except that it is dangerous. FOR SAFETY REA-

Happy New Year!

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SONS, if you use the ProVap 110 Vaporizer, wear both a gas mask and eye protection. If the pip outlet is blocked, pressure will instantly build and forcibly pop the white cap off sending molten oxalic flying in the air. I've seen it happen.

Glycerin/Oxalic Shop Towels: Recently in *Bee Culture* Jennifer Berry resoundingly pooh-poohed Randy Oliver's glycerin/oxalic shop towels. I also remember when I was strongly critical of Randy's suggestion of putting a certain amount of Apiguard (thymol) between the brood boxes. It worked for Randy; for me, it was devastating to my hives. That was a lesson. I will not give up on the glycerin/oxalic shop towels. It's never been hard on my bees. I've seen it work, and NOT work. This is my opinion (Randy's the expert; he collects empirical data, bless his soul for the service he provides us!). The shop towels work when the bees make attempts to remove them, thereby spreading and disseminating the oxalic acid on the bees and within the hive. If they ignore the towels, have a Plan B. Some more-subtle observations: the bees are more likely to work the towels midsummer when they're expanding and building; in autumn, a higher percentage just propolize over or, worse, ignore them.

When to Treat?

I treat during windows when the mites are phoretic at historic treatment times (first of August), and sometimes randomly based on mite samples or even visual cues that mites have become a problem.

I treated in early December (vaporized oxalic), May (vaporized oxalic—all hives, including mating nucs), July (a few hives with glycerin/oxalic shop towels), August (glycerin/oxalic shop towels), September (formic acid), and October (right before the state meeting, vaporized oxalic again). This coming year, I'm either going to use glycerin/oxalic shop towels or formic acid most likely in June during the honey flow. And I will definitely keep an eye out for that mite push in late summer/fall.

Consider Raising Your Own Queens

I started the process in late April last year with mating flights in May. Yes, Alan Ehry, I finally raised my own queens! Alan's rolling in his grave. Do you remember the Life cereal commercial, "Mikey Likes It!"? The premise was, if Mikey liked it, then everyone would like it. A corollary to this is if I (Todd) can raise my own queens, then everybody else can raise their own queens. I literally just watched a few YouTube videos, purchased JZ-BZ queen cups, a Chinese grafting tool, and a specialized frame to hold the queen cell bars, and off I went. Making cell builders was easy; ditto, cell finishers. The lion share of work (95 percent) was making the nucs for the queen cells, and this is exactly

the same if you purchase queens. There are some definite positives to raising your own queens:

1. I felt like I was printing money. This was a unique feeling that you may want to experience. Queens cost about \$30 apiece, so it is financially rewarding.
2. You get to choose your breeder queens. I'm propagating from my very best hives.
3. All the mites will become phoretic in the mating nucs allowing for another highly effective oxalic treatment. (Incidentally, Varroa feed on the fat within the bee, not on the blood.)
4. You get to raise queens for when you want them. Sometimes it is hard to get queens, especially early in the season.

Small Hive Beetle

I see them every year now—just a few. They've yet to be a problem, but the potential is definitely there. I keep an eye out for them at locations where they could become a problem. Keep division board feeders clean; make sure the bees clean them out and that there is not a residue of heavy syrup at the bottom. Look at frames, especially those with bee bread, especially frames in mating nucs, weak hives, and in dead outs. Make sure there's no sign of small hive beetle larvae burrowing through the frame. Burrowing larvae leave little telltale signs of where they've been (analogous to looking for razor clam holes on the beach). I don't burn the frames. I put them in the freezer. When I take honey off, I extract immediately. It works out best this way anyway. I store supers dry.

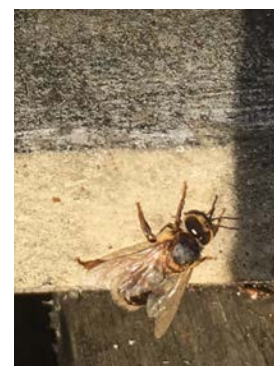
Tips for January and February

I can't think of a lot to do at this time of year except find those populous light hives and give them emergency feed. One of my best hives last year was a bunch of Italian girls that I saved from the absolute brink of starvation.

DRONE SIGHTINGS



November 11, 2018



December 13, 2018

Todd sent these along. Anyone else . . . ?



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BEE EVENTS

January 8–12. 2019 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. *Information:* www.abfnet.org/

January 9–12: American Honey Producers Association 50th Annual Convention & Trade Show. DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Phoenix. *Information:* www.AHPAnet.com.

January 9–12: The American Bee Research Conference. In conjunction with American Honey Producers Association.

February 9. 2019 Oregon Coast Honey Lovers Festival. Yachats, Oregon.

February 9: Washington State Beekeepers Conference. Eastern Washington University. *Information:* jenifer@wasba.org.

February 14–16: PNW Pollination Summit and Conference. Corvallis, Oregon. *Information:* www.oregonbeeproject.org/pnwpollinators2019.

May 18–19: Oregon Honey Festival. *Information:* www.oregonhoneyfestival.com.

July 12–14: The Western Apicultural Society Annual Conference. Ashland, Oregon.

July 17–20: 2019 International Conference on Pollinator Biology, Health and Policy. *Information:* <https://honey.ucdavis.edu/pollinatorconference2019>.

September 8–12: 46th Apimondia. Montreal. *Registration is now open:* www.apimondia2019.com.

October 25–27: Oregon State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference. Florence Event Center. Florence, Oregon.

REGIONAL NEWS

Note: All associations invite and welcome visitors to join them at meetings. See page 16 for meeting time, website, and/or contact information. Many regional associations also offer additional opportunities for learning, which are posted on their websites as well as on orsba.org, under *Events*.

Regional Representatives

North Coast

In spite of some typical showers and storms during the last month, the Coast is still enjoying an unusual number of dry, sunny days. In fact, it's likely that beekeepers in some areas are seeing their bees coming out for cleansing flights. Not, however, in my yard, which normally runs 5–10 degrees cooler than anywhere else in town. However, nights are getting down into the low 40s or even upper 30s, so we are keeping entrances small and checking moisture quilts regularly. Beekeepers are inventorying their hives and making decisions about ordering packages or nucs in the spring. Both associations have elected new officers

and are anticipating the changes the new leaders invariably bring with them. We wish everyone a happy holiday season and hope for a successful overwintering of your colonies.

Kathy Cope

South Coast

Oregon The longest stretch of fair weather in memory here on the South Coast ended dramatically on the morning of Thanksgiving with the violent winds, gusting to 75 mph or more (I don't know because it blew my weather station over the hill, along with my trampoline and my hauling trailer). The beehives were well anchored at the base of the hill with yard screw tie out stakes and ratchet straps. The driven rain was voluminous, too, but that is all water under the bridge now. And that, by the way, re-opens the mouth of at least two of the local rivers that sand over in the summer and swell into ponds. As the first big storm of the season, it was three weeks later than usual, often exactly on the 1st of November.

The storm was a moisture problem for some of the colonies, but so far no reports of fatalities from that. In the Oregon South Coast beekeepers' apiary, one of the colonies succumbed to attack by yellowjackets.

With temperatures into the 60s in early December, there are still wasp big queens and a few of the lower caste soloists out foraging. The huge "double ender" Bumble Bee Queens (reminiscent of the 2-prop helicopters) were very notably more plentiful than ever seen, or reported, here before. Dandelions dot the fields and coyote brush is covered in blossoms during the end-of-year holidays.

Oregon South Coast beekeepers celebrated Thanksgiving during the last meeting of the year and elected officers for 2019. President Jesse Fletcher is one of the founding members, along with his wife, Carla, overseer of the educational apiary. Vice President Maarten Van Otterloo is in his second year of the Master Beekeeper program and attended the annual OSBA conference this year. Secretary Shelley Pottmeyer is continuing to serve for another year, and Randy Loring volunteered to serve as treasurer.

The outgoing officers gave invaluable service. 2018 President Harvey Young brought in more expert sources to give educational presentation at meetings than ever before. Daniel Strom, exuberant teenage entrepreneur farmer, beekeeper and 4-Her, is vanguard for younger participants and has served well in managing some meetings. Treasurer Barbara Fitts has served as such ever since the original founding, and she and her husband are entering retirement adventuring.

I am especially pleased to be able to work with, as mentor, Coos County Beekeepers Association member Kelly Argenta, who is in her second year of beekeeping, is in the Oregon

Master Beekeeper Program, and is a working microbiologist. She has microscopes and knows how to use them! She is eager help with honey bee health diagnosis in her area.

Mureen Walker

Regional Associations

Central Coast Beekeepers

The Coast has had a bit of needed rain followed by several days of beautiful fall weather. The ivy nectar flow is up on us, and the bees are busily trying to gather what more they can for winter. In our last meeting, Carolyn Breece from OSU gave us tips to ensure that we had our hives ready for winter, followed by an overview of the current research the bee lab is working on.

For our upcoming meeting, three of our most experienced beekeepers will be answering questions related to the “Winter Season.” Members will rotate every 20 minutes and have a chance to speak with each of the three. Our hope is to give folks an opportunity to ask specific questions that they may have been hesitant to ask in the larger group, and to offer differing views from well-respected bee keepers. We will do this throughout next year’s various seasons.

Patti Johnson

Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

New Year comes with new vitality. The club ended the year with 59 members drawing from 40 miles in both directions along the Columbia River. Blessings come from the willingness of multiple speakers to travel from as far as a 3-hour drive away. There is no way to thank those talented speakers other than to say, “Thank You for your dedication to bee education.” An additional strength of our association is the willingness of members to step forward into leadership positions. Our Board welcomes two new members. Vitality comes from a broad-based support. Our line-up of speakers for 2019 is filled, but there is some anxiety to be weathered in the coming months. The Hood River Extension Service, where we meet and which houses two bee hives, may no

longer be funded by Hood River County. The research side is under the auspices of Oregon State University, but other functions like the Master Gardener and Master Beekeeper are not. We long for a solution to the monetary challenge. In the meantime, we hope to serve the Gorge region through offerings in honey bee education.

Jerry Frazier

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Klamath Basin beekeepers are hunkering down for the winter, feeding drivert sugar, setting up wind breaks, and cleaning gear for next year. We had our last meeting of the year on 27 October and Katharina Davitt, the education officer, had a class on honey tasting. She did a presentation on the different types of honey and how to taste and rate them; she then set up samples for the members to taste and grade.



The samples:



Left to right: Back “Row”—Ray Rutler, Carloyn Corbin, Vic Ford (hidden), Edgar Robert. Front “Row”—Cleve Cox, Cliff Warick, Lee Putman, Steve France with Paul Davitt facing opposite.

Our January meeting, we’ll start taking orders for new bee package and nucs, and will discuss upcoming elections.

Happy Holidays from the Klamath Basin. Paul Davitt

Lane County Beekeepers

The last meeting of the 2018 year was held on November 20. We began the evening with an early session on “Products of the Hive for Gift Giving and Everyday Use” by Judy Scher. Judy also gave a talk at the OSBA Fall Conference titled,

“Using Propolis and Beeswax in Making Lotions and other Products of the Hive.” Our association is appreciative of the expertise of many of our members who are willing to share their knowledge with others. Officers for 2019 were elected at the

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general meeting. Mike France will be the new president, Jim Rundall, the vice president; secretary will be Jodi Wiktorowski, and Polly Habliston, the Treasurer.

All association members were invited to share a small container of their honey, and we held a honey tasting. We emphasized that in Europe honey is respected, is a staple in European diets, and is held in esteem. Here in America we haven't culturally embraced honey in the same way, partly because we don't have a history with honey as in Europe. We hope all who sell their honey will teach their customers about its value as a healthy local product.

January 18–20, 2019, is the Good Earth Home Show at the Eugene Event Center, and LCBA will have a booth to share our love of the honey bee, sell association honey, and advertise our Bee School in March. Our booth always attracts a crowd. We will have a booth at the Oregon Coast Honey Lover's Festival in Yachats on February 9, 2019. We had a number of members who attended last year, which was the first time the Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center put on this exciting event, and we decided to be involved with an educational booth this year. We hope you can come and enjoy a day on the Central Coast.

Our Bee School will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church on March 9, 8:45 AM to 5:00 PM. For a registration form, log onto our website: lcbao.org. *Pam Leavitt*

Linn Benton Beekeepers

We hope that you and your family had an enjoyable holiday season and are ready to charge into the new year. At this time of year, you may notice your bees flying out of the hive for a cleansing flight when the temperature reaches over 50 degrees. The bees are also consuming their stored honey and raising a small amount of brood. It is important that your hive have adequate ventilation because the warm water vapor generated by the bees can rain down on them during cold nights, which can cause mortality for the cluster.

For the next two months, our program speakers will be presenting information designed for beginning beekeepers. In January, our guest speaker will be Amber Reese. She is currently in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program working towards her Master-level certification. Over last summer, she worked with Dr. Andony Melathopoulos at Oregon State University to develop a presentation for the Extension Service publication, *Residential Beekeeping*. The guidebook is "designed to supplement beekeeping education by making people aware of specific management practices that greatly reduce the risk of residential beekeeping turning into either a private or public nuisance." In February, our association will present information on spring management geared towards new beekeepers.

Bee Joke for the Month: "What are honey bees' favorite TV

channel?" Answer: The Bee Bee C.

Amber Reese

Portland Metro Beekeepers

With continuing summerlike weather, even though fall technically began, our bees were still enjoying the sunflowers and nasturtiums, and bringing in brilliant pollen through mid-November. Some even tested the "water" on rainy days; then, once the sun peeked out again, they were out the door, grateful for good flying weather! Ongoing chores before the weather cooled too much included: checking hive strength (well populated, good-looking queens, ample eggs, brood, etc.), sampling for mites and treating as necessary, checking resources for the upcoming winter, considering combining a weaker hive with a stronger one, and, finally, feed, feed, feed for fat, healthy bees.

Our last regular meeting was in October; Joe Maresh provided a detailed visual and verbal presentation to help each of us identify problems within our hives and various methodologies to combat the problems. This resulted in numerous questions and observations from both new and experienced beekeepers. Next meeting, our speaker will address pesticides in response to a number of questions and concerns expressed. The November meeting was postponed due to some troubles with the meeting hall. Elections for the executive board are planned for the December meeting, along with a dinner to celebrate Christmas. In addition to celebrating the holiday, the board has proposed two long-standing and dedicated members for lifetime membership, voting to take place at our next meeting. Planning for 2019 is also underway so that we are ready for education focused on beekeepers as well as the general public to better ensure healthy pollinators and honey producers.

Portland Metro Beekeepers Association was well represented at the conference in Salem the last weekend in October. Three lucky members enjoyed the conference because they held winning raffle tickets. The rest of us are waiting to hear about the event at the next meeting. We also took home a blue ribbon from the Clackamas County Fair for our booth. In addition, PMBA continued its tradition of donating to OSU for ongoing education and research.

We were saddened to learn that Ruhl's Bee Supply, which recently partnered with Brushy Mountain, has been closed. Ruhl's has been a great resource for beekeepers. Also delighted to read that Ruhl's plans to return. We plan to help make it a great regional success! *Nancy Winston*

Tillamook County Beekeepers

The Tillamook County beekeepers had their first ever Christmas gathering last year (2017), and it was such a success we decided to do it again. It was "potluck fingerfood." The assortment was delightful, complimented with hot mulled cider and Christmas music. After the

meal was story time, informal talks about how beekeeping changed our lives.

Although we don't usually have a "meeting" as a part of this gathering, the incoming president, Brad York, gave a presentation of the new website he developed with Margie Matthews of Site-to-be Seen. It was so well received! It was important to us that the website was not merely a way to advertise meetings and missions but more importantly an educational tool to share with one another all the fascinating information we are continually learning. It's still in its infancy, of course, but do check it out: www.tillamookbeekeepers.org.

Brad York and the new officers take over in January. We will be having a huge discussion on the upcoming nuc and package purchases. The January meeting will also involve brainstorming to help kick off the new team approach to the membership. So far, there are six teams for members to participate in: program planning, outreach, purchasing, publicity, education, and forage. It will be interesting to see where this adventure leads us.

Claire Moody

BEEKEEPERS' DEPRESSION

Charlie Vanden Heuvel

The time is rapidly approaching when beekeepers will be venturing into their hives in hopes the winter has sustained their colony. Listening to many, the words often are, "They froze." All too often we fail to appreciate the necessity for the hive to be fully prepared for the ultimate honey bee test—winter. From the moment the queen begins to lay eggs in January through the end of fall, the girls are arduously striving their preparations for winter.

The queen must lay enormous amounts of eggs to bring the troops to a high population in support of the nectar flow. But the nectar flow, although vital, is not the only task requiring bees to fill. Guarding, receiving, storing, nursing, and the list goes on. More bees—greater duties—greater numbers.


Reading the books, attending lectures, attending bee meetings all go a long way to illuminate our knowledge. Unfortunately, the dynamics of climate, environment, and hives is often harder to assess. Agri-plants devastated by a freeze or pests mitigates the nectar flow opportunity. Hive diseases and pests also aggravate the winter preparation as the population is struggling to survive rather than dutifully attending to the needs.

If you find your hive has not survived, rather than dropping to your knees in sobbing tears, look to diagnose the "how and why" of their demise. If you are not proficient in post mortems, find a beekeeping willing to assist. We cannot learn without an understanding of the issues.

Beverly Bees does a nice job of address hive post mortems: www.beverlybees.com/death-of-a-hive-post-mortem-analysis.

Dr. Dewey Caron has a great paper concerning "Dead Colony Forensics" with questions listed for the beekeeper to whittle down the issues to the most probable: wvbahive.org/garticles/dead-colony-forensics.

Did we overzealously remove too much honey? Did the



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bees not store enough? Did pests or disease weaken the hive to preclude their ability to provide homeostasis during the winter climate? Lots of questions, which when answered can bolster our ability to modify our hive management toward greater success in the coming years.

GUIDELINES FOR BEEKEEPING

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association has established the following set of guidelines that promote and support the beekeeping industry and the general public. It is hoped that members will take an interest in and adhere to these guidelines. Beekeepers should ensure that each of the following priorities are addressed in the order listed.

Safety Is First

Public and beekeeper safety is a top priority. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Care in hive transport and placement
- Keeping vehicles and machinery fit for use
- Ensuring employee safety management
- Focusing on product safety
- Maintaining the health of colonies
- Training for new beekeepers

Quality Is Second

Quality standards affect the public, beekeepers, and the industry. They include, but are not limited to:

- Attending to strength and suitability of hives for pollination
- Keeping hive products to standards consistent with local ordinance(s)
- Maintaining the health of colonies
- Training for new beekeepers
- Providing a quality work experience for employees
- Being thoughtful in interactions with and having consideration for fellow beekeepers
- Keeping conduct and behavior professional while operating as a beekeeper

Production Is Third

Once the safety and quality issues have been thoroughly addressed, beekeepers are in a good position for healthy and productive business.

Note: As we are reminded here, care for honey bees extends well beyond the bees, thus involving all who contribute to their management as well as the colonies belonging to other bees, their keepers, and the people in the path of the beeline and migrating colonies. The OSBA guidelines are a reminder of safety concerns, and consideration of guidelines prepared by others for beekeeping at different scales is also encouraged.

MUSINGS ON BEES FROM COFFEE CREEK

Meeting Our Bees

Meeting our bees for the first time was like nothing I could have imagined. To see the way they all encircled their queen, a queen they hadn't met yet but they were already protective of her and literally were ready to give their life was a wondrous thing to behold. A few times when I was with them, I forgot I was afraid of them. I had 75 of them on me and was in a state of bliss watching them move into their new home, starting their life with their new queen that they were already in love with. To be honest, I know how they feel. I am falling in love with their queen as well.

M. Williams

For me, going out to the bees takes me away from myself, away from prison drama, away from all my worries and fears, away from all my shame and blame. I put on my veil and enter into their world full of teamwork, protection, nursing, feeding, and reproduction. It has taught me to work with the other women on my team, to be gentle and caring, to be observant of the hive, the bees, the women, and myself. The bees for me are teaching me to be a new me! ☺

S. Frevno

Seeing the bees for the first time was amazing I didn't even have time to be scared, like I've been of them my entire life. I was just in awe of their efficiency and determination. Every single bee has a job, yet they all work as a whole which turns the hive into a living, breathing unit as one. It is truly breathtaking.

M. Heard

A poet once said
He'd never see
A sight
As lovely as
A tree

That may be so,
But
As for me,
I much prefer
The lovely bee

R. Clay



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A CONFERENCE THANK YOU!

The 2018 Fall Confernece would not have been possible without all who attended, all who made presentations, all the vendors, all the advertisers, the support staff at the Salem Convention Center, all who participated in the honey show, all who made donations to the silent and benefit auctions, all who bid on the items in both auctions, all who pitched in in so many ways.

In addition to the learning, the updating, and the sharing that occurred throughout the event, the silent and benefit auctions, respectively, raised \$1,550 and \$15,100—all of which goes to support research. Also, again this year GloryBee offered a generous match. There are not thanks enough! Some of those who made it all happen are noted here.

Preparing packets for attendees: Liz Vanderpool ❖ **Managing registration:** Rebecca Fain, Rick Olson ❖ **Acting as honey steward:** Susan Rauchfuss ❖ **Managing conference projects:** Carolyn Breece, Hannah Lucas, Ben Sallman, Ellen Toptzhofer, Tim Wydronek ❖ **Making special speaker intro:** Pat Heikam, James Tew, Alan Turanski ❖ **Managing Benefit Auction:** Mike's Honey, Naked Bee Hives, Noyes Apiaries, George Hansen, Renea Williams, Rameesh Sagili ❖ **Providing transportation:** George Hansen, Ellen Leinhaulpel, Ramesh Sagili ❖ **and All Not Mentioned**

Donating to silent auction: Stephanie Payne, Elizabeth Rowan, Judy Scher, Andrew Schwab, Sharon Streeter, Unnamed 1, Unnamed 2, Unnamed 3, Unnamed 4, Wild Everlasting Honey, Kenny Williams, Pam Leavitt, Jan Lohman, Paula Mance, Mann Lake, Mark ?, Rosanna Mattin, Pat Heikam, James Tew, Alan Turanski ❖ **Providing wine for the banquet:** George Hansen, Ryan Liewallen, Tony and Debbie Noyes, Vince Vazza ❖ **Next conference is October 25-27, 2019, at the Florence Event Center, Florence, Oregon. See you there!**

Matching auction donations: Ellen Leinhaulpel, Hannah Lucas, Nancy Ogden Topitzhofer ❖ **Donating to Benefit Auction:** Rain, Old Sol Apiaries, Oregon Bee Project, True Wood Products, Unnamed 1, Unnamed 2, Unnamed 3, Unnamed 4, Wild Everlasting Honey, Kenny Williams, Pam Leavitt, Jan Lohman, Paula Mance, Mann Lake, Mark ?, Rosanna Mattin, Pat Heikam, James Tew, Alan Turanski ❖ **Providing transportation:** George Hansen, Renea Williams, Rameesh Sagili ❖ **and All Not Mentioned**

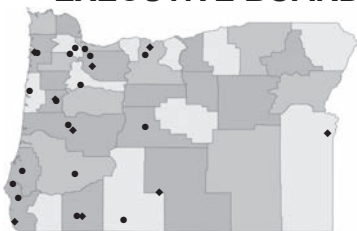
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Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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South Willamette Valley

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• REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Central Coast Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, fourth Wednesday, Newport
President: Jon Sumpter—jonsmptr@msn.com
Website: www.ccbaor.org

Central Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:00–7:30 PM, fourth Tuesday, Bend
President: Allen Engle—aengle@bendbroadband.com
Website: www.cobeekeeping.org

Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

Meets 6:15–8:15 PM, third Wednesday, Hood River
President: Jerry Frazier—president@gorgebeekeepers.org
Website: gorgebeekeepers.org

Coos County Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third Saturday, Myrtle Point
President: Randy Sturgill—randys@rfpco.com

Douglas County Bees

Meets 7:00–8:30 PM, first Wednesday, Roseburg
President: Ivory LosBanos—ivohart@gmail.com
Website: www.douglascountybees.org

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Meets 9:00 AM, last Saturday, Klamath Falls
President: Paul Davitt—president@klamathbeekeepers.org
Website: www.klamathbeekeepers.org

Lane County Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, third Tuesday, Eugene
President: Mike France—541.232.1610; michaelj62@gmail.com
Website: www.lcbaor.org

Linn Benton Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third Wednesday, Corvallis
President: Everett Kaser—everett@lbba.us
Website: www.lbba.us

Oregon Prison Beekeepers

Program Manager: Chad.E.Naugle@doc.state.or.us

Oregon South Coast Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 PM, third Tuesday, Gold Beach
President: Jesse Fletcher—jesse.l.fletcher@gmail.com

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, second Thursday, Gladstone
President: Rex McIntire—remcintire_5@msn.com
Website: portlandmetro.org

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Meets 7:00–9:00 PM, first Wednesday, Portland
President: Mandy Shaw—president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
Website: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:30–9:00 PM, first Monday, Central Point
President: John Jacob—oldsolbees@gmail.com
Website: southernoregonbeekeepers.org

Tillamook County Beekeepers

Meets 6:30–8:00 PM, second Tuesday, Tillamook
President: Brad York—dbradleyyork@gmail.com
Website: www.tillamookbeekeepers.org

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Meets 6:00–8:00 PM, last Tuesday, North Plains
President: Eddie Frie—ejfrie@frontier.com
Website: tvba.weebly.com

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, fourth Monday, Salem
President: Richard Farrier—rfarrierfarms@gmail.com
Website: wvbahive.org



Oregon State Beekeepers Association Membership Application

The **Oregon State Beekeepers Association** is a nonprofit organization representing and supporting all who have an interest in honey bees and beekeeping. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. Membership includes the ongoing work of the organization on behalf of the honey bee and beekeeping, a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on publications, placement on the swarm call list, three free ads on the website, and an annual directory and subscription to *The Bee Line*.

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Thank you!



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— If the date on the mailing label is January 2019 (or earlier), this is your friendly renewal notice. —

The Bee Line

The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Annual subscriptions to the newsletter are included with each membership in OSBA.

Please send news about your bees and your experiences in keeping them, as well as events, corrections, comments, questions, photographs and stories, interviews, recipes, points of view—and ads/advertising—to: Rosanna Mattingly, *The Bee Line*, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland OR 97206; e-mail: osba.newsletter@gmail.com. It's *your* newsletter—we want to hear from you!

The next issue to be printed will be the **March** issue, **2019**. The deadline for submitting copy is **February 10, 2019**. Please let me know if you find difficulties with the deadline so we can work out the space and timing for the material.

Thank you!

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