Northwest Corner Fall Conference Nov. 8-10 at the Best Western Inn, Hood River, OR
By Dave Graber, OSBA Vice President

The agenda for the Northwest Corner Fall Conference is ready for publication. This should be a “must attend” event for regional hobbyist, sideliner and commercial beekeepers.

Confirmed speakers include Dr. Bill Wilson (retired) from the ARS Lab, Dr. Gary Reuter from the University of Minnesota, Dr. Robert Currie from the University of Manitoba, Dr. Steve Sheppard from Washington State University, Dr. Michael Burgett from Oregon State University, George Hansen of Foothills Honey, and Cappy Tosetti. Two other tentative speakers are Richard Adee, a commercial beekeeper (50,000 colonies!), hygienic queen breeder and President of the Honey Producers Association, as well as Dr. Jerry Bromenshank from the University of Montana.

The National Honey Board will be hosting a free buffet Thursday night in lieu of our regular wine and cheese social hour. They will also be providing door prizes.

Topics include “Honey Bee Stock, Traits and Breeding,” “Marketing on a Shoestring,” “Economic Effects of Varroa on Honey Production,” “American Foulbrood Resistance to Terramycin,” “Honey Across America,” “Marketing is Everything,” and “ARS Lab Research and your Tax Dollars.” A marketing specialist will be on hand Friday for individual consultations, so bring your ideas, problems and concerns that day.

A registration form is enclosed. Reserve your place now by completing the form and sending it to Phyllis Shoemake by October 1st. Also, make your room reservations as soon as possible.

The Best Western Hood River Inn is beautifully located right on the banks of the Columbia River in Hood River. The single or double rooms facing the village are $52 per night plus tax. The rooms with spectacular river views are $62 per night plus tax. These accommodations carry the “It is a great deal!” quote from our previous attendees. Call the Hood River Inn for your reservations at 1-800-828-7873 or 541-386-2200.

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President’s Notes
by Ray Varner

The summer picnic at Silver Creek Falls drew a good turnout, mostly of Willamette Valley and Tualatin Valley club members. It was a beautiful day and there were lots of door prizes. I’m already looking for a host for next year’s event. Anyone interested?

The Fall Conference preparations are well under way. In this issue the Agenda and the Registration form have been printed as separate inserts, so you don’t have to tear your newsletter apart to use them. I’d like to remind you that auction items are an important part of the Conference. The items don’t have to be bee or honey themed. Last year some of the hottest sellers were fishing related! Since this is a joint Conference it would be great to see some new and maybe even exciting items donated for the auction. Both Oregon and Washington will benefit!

Thanks to those of you who have sent cards for our son Ric. He is back in the hospital now, quite ill with an infection that kept his fever at almost 105 degrees for a few days. They can’t seem to completely get rid of it. He’s on three antibiotics and a bit dehydrated. Diane is making a big pot of homemade chicken soup to try to get him to eat. He hasn’t eaten much in almost a week now, and that’s not helping. There are many more details, but I’ll just say that this is an uphill battle, and consumes most of our days and nights.

If anyone has articles, recipes, stories or other items to contribute to The BeeLine, Diane would be most appreciative. The newsletter will continue on a regular basis, but the time to search out stories is limited right now. Branch associations are especially encouraged to share what’s going on in your part of the state. Thanks in advance for all your help.

Hopefully, will see you at the Conference!
Northwest Beekeeping

September- Crops in bloom producing nectar and/or pollen: various herbs, white clover, peppermint, pumpkin, squash, gourds.
Others: aster, borage, hollyhock, sagebrush, thistle.

- Provide water continuously.
- Don’t tempt robber bees by exposing honey.
- Install mouse guards on all hives. Use galvanized hardware cloth with ½ inch holes.
- Check your stored comb for possible wax moth infestation.
- Pay your dues to your State and local beekeeper’s associations.
- Feed if needed.
- Sign up to make school visitations this month, if possible, when most teachers make their requests. Join a partner if you want to be an assistant.

Regional Notes

Lane County: Folks in the Lane County club were very active this summer. The Lane County Fair exhibit was very impressive and drew lots of positive comments from members and fair-goers alike. In July eleven members of the club helped in the Wild Edibles booth at the Oregon Country Fair, where they had the observation hive. They were able to give out information about the club and answered questions about bees. There was a great turnout of 38 members, family and guests at the summer picnic in Veneta. Story time started off slow but once it got started it folled with many family members joining in telling stories.

Southern: This busy club followed up on stories that the Post Office would no longer handle shipments of live bees. The response was as follows: “Shipment of live animals and honeybees will be processed in the same manner in which we have always offered. The Postal Service has four major commercial airlines it may use for the shipment of live animals. With regards to honeybees, as stated in our Domestic Mail Manual, Section CO22.37, bees are acceptable in the continental surface mail when shipped under federal and state regulations to ensure they are free of disease. Packages of honeybees must bear special handling postage, except those sent at a First-Class Mail rate. Only queen honeybees may be shipped via air transportation. Each queen honeybee shipped via air transportation may be accompanied by up to eight attendant honeybees.”
September is National Honey Month
From the National Honey Board

This year’s National Honey Month promotions focus on honey and the new online search engine – the Honey Locator. Beekeepers, newspapers and broadcast media can highlight local specialty honeys and beekeeping’s importance to agriculture.

There are many promotional activities planned for this September, including releases to newspaper food editors, radio food programs and editors of food web sites, and an ad will be placed in the International Association of Culinary Professional’s quarterly publication. National Honey Month kits will be distributed to interested beekeepers. Kits include the photos, camera-ready art slicks and fact sheets as well as a reprint of the new full-color newspaper page “Honey Sweet and Simple” to be used as posters or taken to local media. A public service announcement and tips and techniques for contacting media will also be included. To order the free kit, call 888-421-2977 and press #6.

Suggestions to heighten your honey month sales include inviting local newspaper reporters to visit your beeyard or honey house, and speaking at local garden clubs and schools, or be a sponsor at a garden tour.

In other news, the honey and energy research at the University of Memphis has prompted worldwide interest (see CBS Healthwatch at http://cbshealthwatch.medscape.com/cx/viewarticle/218056). Dr. Susan Kleiner PhD, RD (who works with the Seattle Supersonics) is quoted: “The name of the game is recovery. Honey is affordable and widely available. To know that it works for recovery is good news for everyone who is fitness minded.”

Mexico has published its final rule regarding labeling of all honey products traded throughout the country. See the full text of the rule at http://fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200105/95680539.pdf.
Beavers and Bees
Reprinted from Southcentral Alaska Beekeepers Association’s newsletter, written by Dick Allen (email dickallen@gci.net)

A fellow beekeeper, Susan Petersen, and I share the cost of four hives and split the honey at season’s end. Susan had a bee sting reaction three years ago and no longer actively manages the hives. She provides the property and buys the sugar. In return I look after the hives and extract the honey. Susan lives on property one block south of Tudor Road adjacent to Campbell Creek. On the edge of the creek is a beaver hut.

One July 5th Susan called to tell me that as she opened her door that morning, she saw one of our hives overturned and witnessed a beaver, estimated at over 60 pounds, carrying off one of the frames. I came by that afternoon and set the hive back up. Much of the brood and honey was gone along with better than half the bees. Rick Sinnott, Alaska State Game Biologist, was called. He was completely baffled. He pointed out that beavers are members of the rodent family but agreed their diet consists of tree bark and plants. We put a three-foot tall pest fence around the hives hoping to keep the beaver away from our hives.

The next day, Susan called to tell me the fence had been pulled over and the hive had again been overturned. This time most of the frames were torn up. Only about a softball size cluster of bees remained in one corner of a hive body. I examined the large handful of bees and was pleased to see the queen still there!

Behind the hives is a platform about seven feet high, which at one time was a treehouse that Susan’s kids, now grown, used to play on. So, we decided it would be best to move the hives up there. An empty hive body was left on the ground at the original location. The next day about a 3-4 pound cluster had gathered in the box, which was combined back into the remains of the “beaver hive.” The bees stopped returning to the original location after a couple more times of gathering and combining.

From July 11th to the 25th I was in Valdez. When I returned to Anchorage, there was a message on the answering machine from Susan. She told me the “beaver hive” was no more. Her dogs awakened her at about 4 AM one morning. After getting out of bed to see that the huge fuss was all about, she spotted a grizzly bear on its hind legs reaching the platform and stealing the remains of the “beaver hive.” This right in midtown Anchorage, mind you! She recorded it on video.

I think the original attacker was the bear, but there is a path from the beaver hut to the hives and Susan did see a very large beaver in broad daylight carrying off a hive frame. A beaver with a sweet tooth?!!