
THE BEE LINE

The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 27, Number 8

September 2002

OSBA Fall Conference Coming to Salem Oct. 31-Nov. 2

The Fall Conference Committee has been hard at work putting together an outstanding slate of speakers and ironing out details to make this Conference well worth attending. Scheduled for Thursday October 31 through Saturday November 2, the Conference will be held in Salem at the New Kings Inn Best Western.

Confirmed speakers include Dr. Diana Sammataro from the Tucson Bee Lab, Mr. Mark Feldlaufer from the Beltsville Bee Lab, Dr. Eric Mussen from the University of California at Davis, Dr. Steve Sheppard from Washington State University, Dr. Marion Ellis from the University of Nebraska, Dr. Michael Burgett from Oregon State University, Mr. Pat Heitkam from the American Bee Federation and Harry Vanderpool from the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association.

Topics include "Tracheal Mites," "Foulbrood and Foulbrood Resistance," "Nosema," "IPM and Essential Oils," "Varroa," "Grant Report on Varroa Extractor," and news from the American Bee Federation.

A registration form is enclosed. **Please note the deadline for early registration is October 1, 2002**, so fill it out and mail it as soon as possible.

Welcome, Clatsop County Beekeepers!

The Oregon State Beekeepers are delighted to welcome a new regional association – the Clatsop County Beekeepers. Thom Trusewicz is President of this enthusiastic new association, which has already produced two professional-grade newsletters, held meetings and hosted educational beekeeping events (including the County Fair) with their two-frame observation hive. Members have been asked to speak to a Service Club in Clatskanie this fall, and Thom and VP Michael Bunch were on a radio show promoting honeybees. Wow!

Thom and Michael got started in beekeeping with conversations, a visit to Bee Day in Colton, and the encouragement and support of the Tillamook County Beekeepers. They meet on the third Wednesday of every month at the Extension Service Office at 2001 Marine Drive, Astoria. Want an excuse to go to the beach and meet beekeepers? Plan a visit to Astoria! You can reach Thom and other CCBA members by phone at the numbers listed on page 10 in every issue of *The BeeLine*, or reach Thom by email at trusewicz@clatsop.cc.or.us.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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Oregon State Beekeepers Association

The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association and is published ten times a year. Subscriptions are included with OSBA membership.

To join the OSBA, complete the membership application in this issue and send with payment to: Phyllis Shoemake, 1702 Toucan Street NW, Salem, OR 97304

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Advertising Rates

Business Ads, per issue:

Business card size	\$10.00
Quarter page	25.00
Half page	50.00
Full page	100.00

Copy, art and payment must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Contact the editor for any special requirements and mechanical information.

Classified Ads, 30 words, per issue:

OSBA members	\$ 3.00
Non-members	\$ 5.00

the Conference together and doing a fine job. I hope you plan to attend. The deadline for early registration is Oct. 1st so mail in your registration form early. Salem is a good central location for many folks, and just an hour away from the beach.

I am looking for a Nominating Committee to put together a slate of nominees for officers and representatives at the Conference. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Regional Representatives are all going to need to be filled. Please give me a call if you are interested in being on this Committee or in running for one of the openings.

I thought I could more quickly get back into the swing of things after our son's death but find that I need some "down" time to spend with family. This is not something one bounces back from in a short period of time. I have appreciated the support and prayers from so many of you and I hope you don't feel that I am letting you down by not continuing as President.

I hope you all had a successful honey harvest, and hope to see you at the Fall Conference in Salem.

Beekeeping in Western Oregon

By Harry Vanderpool

September: Crops in bloom producing nectar and/or pollen: various herbs, white clover, peppermint, pumpkin, squash, gourds.

Others: aster, borage, hollyhock, sagebrush, thistle.

President's Message

By Ray Varner

Suddenly summer is almost over and the Fall Conference is getting very close. For the first time that I know of, a committee is putting the details of

- Provide water continuously. Summer isn't over yet.
- Don't tempt robber bees by exposing honey, cappings or wet comb.
- Install mouse guards on all hives. Use galvanized hardware cloth with ½ inch holes.
- As humidity increases, make sure hives have ventilation or some route of air flow. This will reduce the onset of fungal problems later on when the rains start.
- Yellow jackets are living the high life this month. Be a party-poopier! Set out traps baited with ham or turkey slices. Three traps properly managed will protect one acre of ground in an average year.
- Check your stored comb for possible wax moth infestation.
- Stored supers with frames of comb should be protected by placing paradichlorobenzene (PDB) crystals on a small piece of paper on every fifth super in the stack, which should then be covered. PDB kills adult and immature wax moths, but not eggs. The continuous presence of crystals within the stack not only repels moths and prohibits egg laying, but also kills any young larvae that hatch after the combs are placed in storage. Untreated combs should be inspected regularly for signs of infestation, especially if temperatures rise above 60 degrees F and permit wax moth activity. Naphthalene, or old-fashioned moth balls should not be used!
- Check colonies for stores and feed light ones heavy syrup if needed. Each gallon of heavy syrup will increase hive weight by seven pounds. Hives should have at least 50 lbs of feed at Thanksgiving time as a general rule.
- Consider medicating your bees with Fumidil-B® to control nosema disease especially if your bees were stressed in late summer. Add 100 mg to 2:1 heavy syrup. 2 gallons of this medicated syrup is recommended per hive. (Note to cheapskates: Yes it is expensive, but hives with nosema will go nowhere next year. Do the math.)
- As the temperature drops slightly, order menthol for fall tracheal-mite fumigation. Your favorite supply house will advise you on temperatures ideal for shipping.
- Hive parts treated with copper naphthenate should be treated in September at the latest and

set out to cure as long as possible. Follow the instructions on the container label for application. Make sure to have good air circulation, and always wear gloves when applying this stuff.

- Think for a minute; what part of beekeeping do you enjoy the most? What ideas or methods have you developed that are you are confident in? Contact your regional association's officers and schedule a segment in an upcoming meeting to present your thoughts.

Conference Business Notice: Constitution Amendment

In accordance to Article VIII – Amendments of the Constitution, notice is hereby given that the following amendment will be submitted to members for approval at the Fall Conference Business Meeting:

Article VIII – Dissolution

Section 1. The Oregon State Beekeepers Association is formed to unite the beekeepers of Oregon in an effort to improve beekeeping in the state and is organized exclusively for charitable, education and/or scientific purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Upon the dissolution of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association, assets will be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the Federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

The original Article VIII – Amendments would become Article IX – Amendments, with no change in language. It would read:

Article IX – Amendments

The Constitution of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association may be altered or amended only at an annual convention by a three-fourths vote of the total membership present, providing notice of the proposed changes be sent to members at least one month (30 days) before said meeting.

The change is required by the IRS to maintain our non-profit tax status.

Web Resources for Beekeepers

Courtesy Clatsop County Beekeepers Assn.

BeeSource.com is the place to get plans for building bee equipment. There are detailed plans for observation hives, solar wax melters, screened bottom boards and much more. If you like building your own beekeeping equipment, this is the site for you. www.beesource.com/plans/index.htm

Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium has an excellent site for finding articles and photos about beekeeping. Click on a topic and you can view several slides by hitting the "next" button. This site is perfect for those wishing to see good photographs of different bee diseases. You must see this site to believe it. www.maarec.cas.psu.edu/pest&disease/pppdIndex.html.

Puget Sound Beekeepers have a wonderful web site with all sorts of resources available for beekeepers of every level of experience. Find their site at: www.pugetsoundbees.org

George Imirie is an EAS Master Beekeeper who puts out a monthly beekeeping newsletter on the net. He's in his late 90's and has been a beekeeper for 66 years. He visits his beeyard in an electric wheelchair. The man knows bees and writes passionately. You may enjoy his comments about the difference between a beekeeper and a beehaver. Find his site at: www.beekeeper.org/george_imirie/index.html.

Oregon State Fair Results

There were more entries than usual on display at the OSBA booth during the State Fair, and the effect was stunning. The judges thought so too, and awarded it a 4th Place Award in the Commodity Booth Division. Congratulations to all who worked so hard to put the booth together, who entered their hive products for judging, and who manned the

booth to provide information to the public. Whew! Great job!

Hobbyist Category:

Joseph Stevens: 1st in Bee Pollination in Food Production display board exhibit; 1st extracting frames

Nathan Stevens: 1st- creamed honey and 2nd – any other source honey, 2nd extracting frames

Vincent Stevens: 1st- any other source honey; 2nd any other fruit honey, 3rd extracting frames, 2nd beeswax (tie)

Phyllis Shoemake: 1st wildflower honey; 2nd mixed flower honey

John Schoon: 1st mixed flower; 2nd wildflower honey

Duane Hann: 1st vetch honey; 1st clover honey, 1st any other fruit honey, 2nd blackberry honey, 1st beeswax

Ken Kite: 1st blackberry honey

Graceann Kite: 3rd blackberry honey

Bethany Grienfelder: 3rd blackberry honey

Fred VanNatta: 1st cut comb, 1st round comb

Commercial Category:

Walt Nichol: 1st creamed honey, 1st clover honey, 1st vetch honey, 1st holly honey, 1st wildflower honey, 1st chunk comb, 3rd blackberry, 2nd observation hive, 2nd Family Apiary exhibit*, 2nd beeswax (tie)

Harry Vanderpool: 1st observation hive, 1st blackberry honey, 3rd beeswax

Joseph Stevens: 2nd blackberry honey, 2nd any other source (onion) honey, 3rd round comb, 1st Family Apiary exhibit*

*The Family Apiary Exhibits consisted of samples of assorted honeys, pollen, frames, comb honey, beeswax, propolis, candles and photographs

Member News

Oliver Petty had quadruple bypass surgery on Monday, August 12th at Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis. He was taken to the hospital because of chest pain, had angioplasty which was not successful, then the surgery. Connie said he is resting and recovering at home. Best wishes for a full recovery!

Terramycin Update

From the Lane County Beekeepers newsletter (thanks to V.P. Ken Ograin):

It was asked about a replacement antibiotic for Terramycin. As we speak the West Virginia Dept. of Agriculture (WVDA) is currently assisting the USDA with its evaluation of Tylosin and Lincomycin by using the antibiotics to treat Terramycin-resistant AFB infections. USDA is providing WVDA with a limited quantity of Tylosin and Lincomycin in exchange for efficacy data collected by the WVDA. If the two experimental treatments work as well as early results show, the antibiotics may soon receive approval from the FDA for controlling AFB in honeybees.

The antibiotic Lincomycin hydrochloride was evaluated for toxicity to larval and adult honeybees and for efficacy in controlling AFB. Results of toxicity studies involving nine applications of Lincomycin (200, 600 or 1000 mg. Active ingredient per application) as a dust in confectioner's sugar revealed no significant difference in mortality among any of the treatment groups for either adults or larvae, when compared to untreated or sugar-treated controls. In field efficacy studies, 18 colonies with existing oxytetracycline-resistant AFB were dusted three times, one week apart, with either 100, 200 or 400 mg. Lincomycin (in 20 grams confectioner's sugar). Forty-five days after the third treatment, no visible signs of AFB could be found, regardless of the initial severity of disease or the dose applied.

Beekeeping and Climate Differences in Oregon

By Mary Moss

This is the first in a series of articles focusing on the challenges of beekeeping inherent with climatic variations in Oregon. We will start by taking a look at the Coastal counties.

Beekeepers in Coos County face different challenges than, say, in the Willamette Valley, and still differently than what is encountered in the High Desert. David Wright, President of the Coos County

Beekeeping Association, says there are several advantages to keeping bees in the south coastal region. He is quick, however, to add that the drawbacks must be considered as well.

David got his start as a beekeeper while in his teen years. His uncle had kept bees and David grew up learning about them. He also learned what *not* to do, and is careful to avoid the pitfalls and mistakes he saw back then. Now, at age 50 with 15 colonies, David puts his expertise as a sheet metal worker to good use in his beekeeping endeavors.

To cope with the added moisture potential in the coastal climate, David has constructed special metal lids for his hives with a 4-1/2" hole in the center. This hole is covered by a cap, which is easily removed for a quick peek inside or to accommodate a gallon sugar syrup feeder.

During inclement weather, David can quickly see from a distance how well the bees are consuming syrup, because he tints the syrup with either red or blue food coloring. The color shows up the syrup level better than clear water.

David also builds special metal stands for his hives, to keep them well up off the ground. They measure 5 feet in length, are 20 inches wide and stand 16 inches high. He uses screened bottom boards.

Some advantages to beekeeping in the usually mild coastal climate include the lack of extreme temperatures. "I've seen the bees bringing in pollen on New Year's Day," says David. "And it's not unusual to have 70 degree weather in January and February down here. When the valley has cold and foggy air, the coast will have cool mornings and warm afternoons, and there'll be plenty of pollen available in those conditions."

David goes on to explain that, during extremely moist stretches of weather, mold and mildew can get a foothold in the hives unless the beekeeper is very vigilant. Prevention and frequent hive checks are David's way of keeping disease in check. "I've seen a bit of chalkbrood and nosema," he comments. "But there haven't been a lot of problems."

Another threat to the bees in a form other than disease is bears. They will come out of the wooded areas and barge in, looking for honey. David says he copes by using an electrified fence with motion-sensor lights around the trailer that holds hives for pollination jobs.

Overall, David says the Coos County beekeepers are a “dedicated bunch. We’ve recently got a few new members and are looking for more.”

A new association has sprung up to the north, up in Clatsop County. Thom Trusewicz is serving as its president. While Thom is fairly new to beekeeping, he is enthusiastic, determined to do well, and is quick to pass on information to other newcomers. He says that education is the key to successful beekeeping in these days, “when it isn’t as easy as it was 20 years ago.”

He is very cognizant of the different challenges faced by beekeepers in the region, and concurs with many of David Wright’s comments and techniques. Thom also uses screened bottom boards for improved ventilation, and keeps his three colonies at least 16” off the ground. He even builds extra bottom boards and gives them away for other beekeepers to try, which speaks to his belief in their efficacy.

Wet bottom boards are clearly a problem. “I still remember attending a presentation at which Dr. Michael Burgett (OSU) spoke about moisture collecting in wooden bottom boards,” Thom says. “The idea that a board can absorb 6-1/2 quarts of water was a real eye-opener.”

Air circulation, too, is a major issue, Thom says. The cold wind sweeping through the bee yard creates the need to keep entrance reducers on for extended periods, and he adds that a vent hole in at least one of the supers on each colony is essential. “My main push here with our moisture level is to get beekeepers to vent their hives,” says Thom, “And I’m surprised by how few vented hives I see. Proving my point, I tell our beekeepers about a fellow who is keeping a hive at my house. His hive is between my two vented hives. On warm evenings I will go out to look at the hives before it gets dark. All of my bees are in the hive, but hundreds of his bees are outside wasting energy fanning at the entrance to cool and dry the hive. The vents help keep things dry inside. When moisture is in the air, it is best to keep it moving because you will have problems when it settles.”

“None of our beekeepers are right on the coast,” Thom notes. “Most of us are in the Lewis and Clark, Youngs River Valleys or out in Knappa, where we are miles from the coast and sheltered by wooded coastal hills.”

Because of that, Thom strongly recommends not pointing hives to directly face blackberry bushes that

keep the hives shaded and moist. He prefers to keep the space in front of his hives weed- and grass-free, so that the bees have lots of air movement and plenty of space to come in for a landing.

“I don’t have to bush whack just to get to the hives,” he explains. “Nor do I have to ever bring the lawn mower close to the hives.”

Conversely, during colder times, Thom finds that a burlap fence constructed around the apiary helps abate strong winds. “When the winter winds pick up from November to April,” Thom says, “I can attach hives straps to the bench holding the hives.” He notes that expecting hives to remain upright during 100-mph winds isn’t realistic, hence the precaution with the straps.

Thom goes on to explain that most of the beekeepers in his region do not do anything drastically different because of the coastal environment, but he does.

“Time will tell if it makes a difference,” he says wryly.

One thing is certain. Successful beekeeping is a challenge no matter where one attempts it. Education, vigilance, and common sense all play into creating a formula for keeping the bees happy, alive and well.

Mary Moss is a beekeeper and freelance writer who lives in Forest Grove. She is a past officer with TVBA and a member of the OSBA.

News You Can Use – National Honey Board Updates

House Panel Restores Bee Lab Funds

The House Appropriations Committee has voted to maintain the current level of funding for the four USDA-ARS Honey Bee Research Labs, rejecting a Bush Administration move to slash federal beekeeping research.

In a July 11 vote, the Appropriations Committee endorsed the recommendations of its Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee, which had earlier decided to keep all four labs open, rather than close the labs in Beltsville, MD, Baton Rouge, LA and Tucson, AZ, leaving only the Weslaco, TX lab open. The budget plan was to cut the authorized research scientist positions from 21 to 9 and eliminate more than 50% of the funding, leaving only \$2.5 million rather than the current \$5.7 million.

The producer organizations pointed out that while all of ARS was scheduled for cuts, honey bee research was getting more than its share. ARS was being cut \$15 million – honey bee research was accounting for \$3.25 million of that. Honey bee research represents about 0.57% of the current ARS funding, but would have represented more than 20% of the budget cut.

The battle is not yet won. “We have to concentrate on the Senate and ensure that members of the Senate Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee understands our needs,” said David Ellingson, vice president of the American Beekeeping Federation and chairman of the ABF Legislative Committee. “All beekeepers need to thank their Representatives for their assistance in restoring the funding and ask their Senators to do the same thing.”

To contact any Senator’s office, dial 202-224-3121 or email at www.senate.gov. Oregon Senators can be contacted at: Ron Wyden 202-224-5244 or 503-326-7525 and Gordon Smith 202-224-4209 or 503-326-3386.

Bee Mail News

For a limited time, Ben and Jerry’s has a new special flavor batch of ice cream called “Honey I’m Home.” See www.benjerry.com/indexg.tmpl.

Once again www.honey.com has been selected as s CyberSafari Summer ’02 Outpost (www.cybersafari.org). CyberSafari is a treasure hunt designed to teach World Wide Web navigational skills. Since July 19, surfers will search honey.com for the answer to a honey-related clue.

The Agricultural Research Service has launched an updated version of its database search engine that reports nutrients in 6,220 food items. Named the Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 15 (SR15 for short), it is the authoritative source of food composition in the United States. See www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2002/020815.2htm and www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/cgi-bin/nut_search.pl (enter keyword “honey”).

The National Honey Board has developed a thirst-quenching sports beverage formula in conjunction with the University of Nebraska that delivers nearly equivalent amounts of carbohydrates and calories as manufactured sports beverages, with a superior delivery of potassium (averaging 85 mg. compared to an average 40 mg.) Formulas developed to date include honey and lemon, honey and orange, and honey and Kool-Aid™ powder. See www.honey.com/pressrm/bev.html.

A honey research study recently presented at the American Chemical Society found that honey fights cholesterol equally as well as some fruits and vegetables. Don’t like spinach? Try honey. It contains the same levels of plaque-fighting antioxidants as the leafy green stuff and the range of antioxidants is comparable to that in apples, bananas, oranges and strawberries. Health Scout (www.healthscout.com/template.asp?page=newsdetail&ap=1&id=508598) and Specialty Food News (www.foodinstitute.com/nasft/nasftupdate0820.htm) and other media are getting out the sweet news.

APHIS Proposes to Amend Bee Importation Regulations

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is proposing to amend the regulations for the importation of honeybees and honeybee semen, as well as regulations to prevent to introduction of exotic

diseases and parasites of all bees. The proposal would impose specific requirements for importations from Canada and prohibit the interstate movement of honeybees into Hawaii. Federal notice (http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid+fr19au02-26) has been posted and information and comments (www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html) regarding the action are available online.

industry and local communities,” said Bruce Wolk, director of marketing for the NHB. “We envision the “Honey and Biscuits” breakfast to be held annually and hope to see at least 100 breakfasts this first year.”

In addition, the NHB is sending new Honey Month story ideas, recipes and photography to newspaper food editors across the country.

Honey & Biscuits: A Benefit Breakfast for Volunteer Fire Departments

This fall, in honor of National Honey Month and firefighters nationwide, the National Honey Board will promote “Honey and Biscuits breakfasts to benefit volunteer fire departments across our nation.

The past year has challenged our best and bravest, demanding the utmost from all first responders, including our fire personnel. In addition to the tragic events associated with September 11, this summer has seen forest fires rage across the Western United States, floods plague the Midwest and numerous severe weather patterns rip through the South and East.

We know the honey industry will honor local fire departments and their valuable efforts by collaborating with communities to host and “Honey and Biscuits” breakfast. With the enthusiastic endorsement of the National Volunteer Firefighters Association and in honor of Fire Prevention month, breakfasts can be hosted in towns large and small to help firehouses raise money for new equipment and facilities. And of course each event will be enhanced by the natural goodness of honey!

The NHB has made it easy for the honey industry to participate. A comprehensive booklet containing step-by-step instructions on how to host a “Honey and Biscuits” breakfast and accompanying artwork is available by calling toll-free 888-682-2337 or by emailing us at breakfast@nhb.org. “We are ready to answer questions on how to organize and create a successful breakfast for both the honey

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR
CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION FORM**

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS FALL CONFERENCE 2002

New Kings Inn Best Western, Salem, Oregon

October 31, November 1 and 2

Attendee's Last Name First Name MI Registration Date

Company Name (if applicable) _____

Home Phone _____ WorkPhone _____

Mailing or Street Address Cell Phone _____

_____ e-mail _____

City State/Province Zip Code

Event Conference	Pre-Registration for Individual Days	Full Pre-Registration
Thursday Night hospitality room	complimentary	complimentary
Friday Conference Only @ \$40 (see item 1) Family registration fee @ \$55	\$	xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Sat. Conference Only @ \$40 (see item 1) Family registration fee @ \$55	\$	xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Full Conference @ \$75 (see item 1) Family registration fee @100	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx xxxx	\$
Friday Evening Banquet @ \$25	\$	\$
Saturday Noon Lunch @ \$15	\$	\$
OSBA Membership (includes Bee Line) \$20	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$

If exhibiting, num. of tables @\$25 _____

Total plus exhibitor's table fee \$ _____

- Attendees qualify for pre-registration rate if application form (with registration fee) is postmarked on or before October 1, 2002. Late or on site registration rates are: One day \$45, full conference \$85.
- Make checks payable to OSBA.
- Mail completed registration form and payment to: Phyllis Shoemake, 1702 Toucan St. NW., Salem OR 97304.
- Hotel reservations are not included in these rates. Make your reservations at New Kings Inn Best Western, Salem, OR: 1-800-528-1234 and ask for the OSBA Fall Conference special rate.