ILLNESS CLAIMS RAY VARNER

Our OSBA Immediate Past President, Raymond “Ray” J. Varner, died August 24, 2003 of leukemia. He was 62. The disease had only been recently diagnosed; he died of complications relating to the chemotherapy treatment.

Ray was born in Twin Falls, Idaho. He was placed in an orphanage at age three, and was adopted when he was five. His family moved to Forest Grove, where Ray graduated from Forest Grove High School and attended Pacific University on a music scholarship. He then enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Ray served in the Marines for six years, and did two tours of duty in Vietnam. He was a member of Helicopter Squadron 364, The Purple Foxes. Ray received medals for his gutsy service and daring, which included three combat missions in one day to rescue Marines trapped by gunfire.

After leaving the Marines, Ray became a deputy sheriff in Orange County, California, before returning to Oregon in 1972 to join the Washington County Sheriff’s Office, where he served for 26 years.

Ray helped develop and lead the special weapons and tactics team, worked in a program to stop drunken drivers, and went on to spend 18 years in forensics. He took classes at the FBI Academy, obtained a degree from Portland Community College, and continued his education constantly through avid reading. While completely serious about his work and responsibilities, Ray always showed a great sense of humor as well as creativity in approaching life and its many problems. His law enforcement colleagues were always impressed by his dedication as well as his upbeat personality.

Ray’s first marriage produced two daughters, Candace and Christina, and he also adopted a boy, Ric. After a divorce, Ray married Diane, who already had a daughter, Lori. Soon afterward, Christina and Candace came to live with Ray and Diane. Ray made sure his children made it to all of their sports practices and seldom missed a game. Ray worked hard to make their lives rich and full and to conscientiously create a warm, loving, happy home on the farm in Yamhill.

(continued on page 6)

WHAT’S INSIDE:

- Fall Conference Agenda
- Conf. Profile: Dr. Keith Delaplane
- Conf. Profile: Dr. John Skinner
- October Beekeeping Tips
- State Fair Competition Results
- Remembrances of Ray Varner
President’s Message for October
By Kenny Williams

Back in August, we were dealing with the usual bustle and breakdowns surrounding the honey harvest when we received a phone call informing us of the passing of Ray Varner, former OSBA president, on Sunday, August 24, and then all of the hundred-and-one demands of life and work suddenly seemed trivial in comparison. A number of beekeepers attended the memorial service the following Thursday in Hillsboro, along with many others who worked with and cared about Ray. I personally feel saddened by the loss of this fine man. I will remember Ray as the guy who was always telling me I was doing a great job as OSBA’s next president even before I had done much of anything. Elsewhere in this issue of the Beeline please look for other articles by people sharing their memories of Ray.

There have been several changes in the OSBA leadership recently. On July 21, treasurer George Steffenson of Grants Pass submitted his resignation, and in early September, following a mail vote by Executive Committee members, I appointed Phyllis Shoemake of Salem as his replacement. Phyllis was formerly OSBA secretary-treasurer and we welcome her back. Also, Mary Moss of Forest Grove has taken over as editor of the Beeline. Mary has contributed articles in the past, and also helped Diane Varner with the newsletter when she and Ray were spending time with their son during his illness a year ago.

On November 6,7, and 8, the OSBA will hold its Fall Conference at Hood River in conjunction with Washington and Idaho beekeepers. OSBA vice-president Harry Vanderpool, who has organized the event, has provided additional details in this month’s Beeline. I would like to encourage any and all beekeepers to attend this excellent program, especially those who seldom attend. Why, one might ask, should any beekeeper indulge in the costs of attending? To answer, let me apply a quote from the great American writer Henry David Thoreau, who wrote in Walden, his famous book on living simply, about the costs of attending university. The tuition that a student pays, he said, “is an important item on the term bill, while for the far more valuable education which he gets by associating with the most cultivated of his contemporaries no charge is made.” In other words, while your registration fee makes it possible for the first-class speakers on the program to join us, there is no extra charge for the priceless opportunity to rub elbows, swap stories, and make plans with your fellow Northwest beekeepers. See you there.
2003 Oregon State Fair Bees & Honey Competition Results

Bees - Caucasian Commercial
1st - Harry Vanderpool, Salem, OR
Honey, Extracted - Blackberry, Commercial
1st - Harry Vanderpool, Salem, OR
2nd - Joseph Stevens, Estacada, OR
Honey, Extracted - Any Other Fruit Commercial
1st - Harry Vanderpool, Salem, OR
Honey, Extracted - Any Other Wildflower Comm.
1st - Joseph Stevens, Estacada, OR
Honey, Extracted - Any Other Source Commercial
1st - Cindy Damm, Yamhill, OR

Honey, Extracted - Clover, Hobbyist
1st - Joseph Stevens, Estacada, OR
Honey, Extracted - Vetch Hobbyist
2nd - Duane Hann, Mulino, OR
Honey, Extracted - Blackberry Hobbyist
1st - Fred VanNatta, Salem, OR
2nd - Gordon Kramer, Newberg, OR
3rd - Duane Hann, Mulino, OR
Honey, Extracted - Any Other Fruit Hobbyist
1st - Duane Hann, Mulino, OR
Honey, Extracted - Any Other Wildflower Hobbyist
1st - Scott Gerg, Estacada, OR
Honey, Extracted - Any Other Mix Flower Hobbyist
1st - Fred VanNatta, Salem, OR
Honey, Extracted - Any Other Source Hobbyist
2nd - Duane Hann, Mulino, OR

Honey, Other Types - Comb Honey/Round Commercial
2nd - Joseph Stevens, Estacada, OR
Honey, Other Types - Comb Honey/Square Commercial
1st - Joseph Stevens, Estacada, OR
Honey, Other Types - Creamed Honey Commercial
3rd - Joshua Otto, Estacada, OR
Honey, Other Types - Extracting Frame Full, Comm.
3rd - Joseph Stevens, Estacada, OR
Honey, Other Types - Extracting Frame Western Comm.
1st - Harry Vanderpool, Salem, OR
2nd - Joseph Stevens, Estacada, OR
Honey, Other Types - Comb Honey, Round Hobbyist
1st - Fred VanNatta, Salem, OR
Honey, Other Types - Comb Honey, Square Hobbyist
1st - Gordon Kramer, Newberg, OR
2nd - Fred VanNatta, Salem, OR
Honey, Other Types - Chunk Honey In a Jar Hobbyist
2nd - Fred VanNatta, Salem, OR
Honey, Other Types - Extracting Frame Full Hobbyist
1st - Fred VanNatta, Salem, OR
Honey, Other Types - Extract Frame Shallow Hobbyist
1st - Fred VanNatta, Salem, OR

Northwest Beekeeping, October
By Harry Vanderpool, WVBA

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. 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-pooper! 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.

(continued on page 4)
October Beekeeping Tips, continued

- 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.

2003 Conference Speaker Profile: Dr. Keith Delaplane

Dr. Keith S. Delaplane, University of Georgia; a popular speaker, Dr. Delaplane has just been selected as senior editor of the International Bee Research Association's Journal of Apicultural Research. A prolific author, including a several years as a regular columnist for the American Bee Journal, he has written extensively on control of Varroa Destructor and Small Hive Beetle, as well as use of slatted racks, screened bottom boards, the age of brood comb and its effect on colony growth, and bumble bees.


(continued on page 5)

(Dr. Keith Delaplane, continued)


Dr. Delaplane earned his B.S. in Animal Science in 1983 at Purdue University, His M.S. in Entomology in 1986 at Louisiana State University and his Ph.D. in Entomology in 1989 at Louisiana State University.

Here, in his own words, Dr. Delaplane recounts his life in beekeeping:

“My grandfather, W. Harvey Delaplane, was a beekeeper in Indiana during the early decades of the twentieth century, as were many folks in those times
when it was normal for a rural family to have a cow, chickens, garden, and one or two bee hives.

“Our family beekeeping enterprise skipped a generation with my father, but Dad was resolved to get me involved so for my 13th birthday he bought me a beginner beekeeping kit, complete with a hive, veil, gloves, and a certificate for a mail-order package of bees.

“I accepted the challenge with immediate, and perhaps excessive, enthusiasm. Excessive, my father came to believe, because from that point on I was a lackluster helper around the farm. While Dad would be plowing, planting, cultivating, and harvesting, his teenage son would be busy in the bees, planning for the day when he would be operating a beekeeping empire.

“One hive grew to two, then to four, then to eight, and ultimately 51 which proved to be almost too much for a kid to handle. It would have been too much indeed was it not for the solid guidance I received from my mentor, Mr. Paul Champ. Mr. Champ was a beekeeper in our neighborhood that operated about 300 hives. He patiently let me help him during my earliest years as a beekeeper. It was he who first showed me a queen bee, and it was he who introduced me to the peculiar pleasures of working sleepy bee yards tucked away in remote country places.

“It was my indomitable interest in beekeeping that led me to pursue graduate study in entomology. I learned that bee science is only partly similar to bee keeping, but my path led me nevertheless to a post at the University of Georgia that melds duties in apicultural extension, research, and teaching.

“Now I find myself conveniently straddling the world of the academician and the world of the practicing beekeeper. As a private person, I am still a beekeeper. My wife, Mary, and I own and operate a small apiary of about 30 hives in Oconee County, Georgia. We make a crop of local wildflower honey in spring, then I move my colonies in June to Habersham County, on the fringes of the Appalachian mountains, to collect a second crop of honey from sourwood trees. I count it a blessing to be able to work with bees, both as a career and as a hobby.”

(Ray Varner, continued from Page One)

Shortly before retiring from law enforcement, Ray took up beekeeping. He liked to joke that he had moved “from one sting operation to another.” At one point, he had one hundred hives of bees, and sold his honey at farmer’s markets with his distinctive label, “RayBee’s Honey.”

In 2001, Ray’s life was enriched by the discovery that he had four brothers. (He had been born the oldest of three boys who were placed in an orphanage.) Soon, he met them and found that his birth parents later had two more boys who were raised in the family home. Ray met all of them and was thrilled to have his sense of family finally complete. He and Diane felt that their happiness was boundless.

However, that happiness was diminished last year when Ray and Diane struggled to nurse their son, Ric, through his final year after he was diagnosed with leukemia, which also happened in 2001.

During his years in beekeeping and with the OSBA, Ray was very active and traveled to all of the bee clubs around the state to help them. He contributed a great deal of help to his fellow beekeepers as well as to the community.

Ray’s passing has left a big hole in the Oregon beekeeping community as well as in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. He will be very sorely missed.

Our deepest condolences are extended to the entire Varner family.
2003 Conference Speaker Profile: Dr. John Skinner

Dr. John Skinner received his BS in Biology at the University of Akron, Akron, OH in 1976 with an emphasis in Botany, his MS in Biology at the University of Akron, Akron, OH in 1979 with an emphasis in Botany and Pollination Ecology, and later, his Ph.D in Entomology at the University of California, Davis, CA. in 1987 with an emphasis in Apiculture.

Dr. Skinner has worked very hard with the beekeepers in his state during his teaching career, and now is involved with 100% extension work!

Extension efforts focus on supplying accurate research-based information to extension agents and beekeepers to improve the beekeeping industry, promote pollination of fruits and vegetables and help beekeepers "keep" their honeybee colonies alive.

Cooperative efforts address the needs of regional, state and local beekeeping associations. Activities include conducting educational programs, workshops and training sessions for agents and beekeepers.

In one example, the Tennessee Beemaster Program provides extensive classes and demonstrations and has an enrollment exceeding 500. Topics include planning an apiary, starting colonies, assembling equipment, producing hive products and detection, diagnosis and management of diseases and pests. Special emphasis is provided concerning how to manage mite populations using new integrated management strategies recently being developed. Publications have been written to support many topics. A new web page has been developed to allow electronic dissemination of educational materials.

Research efforts include developing an integrated pest management system for honeybees and pollination improvement studies. Mite management studies include developing alternative treatments for tracheal and varroa mites including formic acid gel and seeking registration for a new botanical oil product, ApiLifeVAR.

Current studies involve a Southern Region IPM study with researchers from Georgia and South Carolina to use genetic resistance, physical factors (open bottom boards) and isolation (reduce re-infestation) to manage Varroa mites populations below economic thresholds. Additional work (EPA) will examine ways to reduce chemical usage and determine levels of contamination with assistance of beekeepers throughout the state.

Pollination studies include assisting the UT Dogwood Team to develop new cultivars resistant to powdery mildew and anthracnose by using honey bees to pollinate selected cultivars in cages. Additional studies examine how to improve vine crop pollination including squash and pumpkin.

Dr. Skinner has buried beekeepers in an avalanche of books and publications over the years, over 33 to date.

Don’t miss this opportunity to meet with this beloved member of our beekeeping community!

REMEMBRANCES OF RAY VARNER

Terry Parker, Beaver Creek:
“There’s not a lot I can say about Ray that hasn’t already been said by many people since he passed away. I know this: he was a peach of a guy! I still remember how, even while he and Diane were going through the agony of watching their son die, Ray was diligent about his responsibilities with the OSBA and made himself available whenever possible to those requiring his assistance. That was
so impressive, and was typical of Ray’s integrity. I can’t begin to say how much I’ll miss him.”

**Harry Vanderpool, Salem:**
“The first conversation that I had with Ray Varner was after he walked up to me, a total stranger, and encouraged me to become an association officer years ago. Since that day Ray has supported and encouraged me on everything that I have done. There was never a moment’s doubt in either of our minds that we were 100% behind each other in our endeavors. When we were lined up to do something, I would really look forward to the day, knowing that we were really going to have fun. Boy, I am going to miss all of our annual “Summit” meetings also. Twice yearly we would get together and solve all of the world’s problems over pie and ice cream. One thing is for sure; Ray taught me what REAL friendship is all about, and I will be eternally grateful for the lesson learned. In his honor, I will do my best to “pay it forward” and give my true friends the honor and respect that they deserve.”

**OSBA GUIDELINES FOR OREGON BEEKEEPERS**

*Provided by Harry Vanderpool*

Last year, at the O.S.B.A. conference held in Salem, a question arose as to whether the association should establish “ethics” for Oregon beekeeping.

Since then, our news media has inundated us with all sorts of “ethics” violation horror stories. Therefore, many members have expressed an interest in the idea of establishment of guidelines that are supported by the membership, but are not favorable to the label “ethics”.

The title, “Guidelines for Oregon Beekeepers” seems to be better accepted.

(continued on page 8)

| **OSBA GUIDELINES, continued** |

(continued on page 8)

This matter will be on the table at the business meeting at the fall conference on November 7th for discussion and possible vote.

Please give this some thought and discuss it with fellow O.S.B.A. members.

For background on this project, consult the May 2003 Beeline or go to http:/www.orsba.org/download/May03.pdf

Please E-mail your ideas and comments to Shallotman@yahoo.com

The following is a bare-bones starting point for discussion of the guidelines.

1) Public safety is priority #1 in all beekeeping operations.

2) Local, State, and Federal laws and rules, regarding beekeeping and hive product handling, should be adhered to.

3) The wholesome image of honey and other products of the hive must be maintained.

4) Honey bee colony health shall be maintained in a manner consistent with acceptable and legal, current practice.

5) Unfair trade practices, such as pricing at or below the cost of production are unacceptable. The Oregon Pollination Survey should be reviewed for local prevailing expenses and average revenues.

6) Beekeepers should make every effort to continue and support the ongoing education of apiculture statewide.

###

**USDA LAUNCHES NEW TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20, 2003 – Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s new Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAA) program. USDA will start
accepting petitions from U.S. agricultural producers for assistance immediately.

Under the program, technical assistance and adjustment payments will be provided to U.S. agricultural, livestock and aquacultural producers, including qualified fishermen, if it is demonstrated that increased imports of competitive commodities have contributed importantly to a 20-percent or more price decline compared to the average price over five preceding marketing years.

“We are working to educate U.S. producers about this program through state departments of agriculture, commodity groups, trade organizations, rural leaders and many others across the country,” said Veneman.

The Trade Act of 2002 established the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers program and authorized appropriations to carry out the program not to exceed $90 million a year for fiscal years 2003 through 2007. The program, administered by USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service, will be implemented based on a notice published in today’s Federal Register and posted on the Web at http://www.fas.usda.gov/info/fr/notices.html.

Groups of agricultural producers with complete marketing year price information from marketing year 2002 or 2003, whichever is the most recent available, are eligible to apply.

A group of agricultural producers or their authorized representative must first file a petition with FAS to establish group eligibility to apply for TAA. After a group is judged eligible by USDA, individual producers belonging to that group may file for benefits. Producers can obtain instructions on filing a petition and applying for benefits from local Farm Service Agency offices. The TAA petition form and application are located at http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/resource.htm.

For further information, contact a county or state Farm Service Agency office or the Foreign Agricultural Service, Trade Adjustment Assistance Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 1021, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-1021; telephone: (202) 720-2916; e-mail: Trade.Adjustment@fas.usda.gov.