
THE BEE LINE

The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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November-December 2003

HONORING RAY VARNER

By Heike Williams

Many of you have known Ray Varner for a long time. Others – like myself – got to know him just a short time ago. I liked him right away: his softspoken manners, kind personality and his determination to be involved. I was looking forward to having more contact with him and Diane when Kenny became president and Ray (as many may not know) offered to become treasurer when that position needed to be filled.

His passing was a shock, and we learned of the memorial service through an informal beekeepers' telephone tree. I am glad that I attended. It was an extraordinary service. I learned more about Ray than I ever knew and more than he, himself, modest as he was, normally shared with others. One after another, his colleagues of the Washington County Sheriff's Office, his daughters, his brothers and other family members stood up and gave testimony about qualities Ray incorporated by sharing memories and telling stories – some serious, some funny – about their living close to Ray.

We learned that Ray spent part of his early childhood in an orphanage in Boise, Idaho, and was separated from his two younger brothers when they were adopted by different families. One of them remembers seeing his older brother, Ray, five years of age, through the rear car window waving at him when his new parents departed with him.

We learned that Ray, as a parent himself, adopted his son Ric. We learned how it was when five-year old Lori, Diane's daughter, met her new dad for the first time. We learned that it was only two years ago that Ray found out that he had four brothers and, as one of Ray's sisters-in-law stated, how healing it was for her husband when the five brothers finally met.

We could tell that it was not easy for any one of them to come forward and speak. And you could tell that they did it nevertheless because they wanted to show how thankful they were for everything they received from Ray. As deeply emotional as these testimonies were, they gave vent to a deep sense of gratitude for the time each of us was allowed with Ray. I am sure I was not the only one of those who attended the memorial service who felt that way when leaving.

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Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Nov-Dec 2003

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President's Message for November/December

By Kenny Williams

As I write this in early November, we have just concluded our 2003 Northwest Fall Conference. Over 230 people registered, one of our highest attendance rates ever. Once again, we had a first-rate slate of speakers, and for this we owe gratitude to OSBA vice-president Harry Vanderpool for his skill in networking and organizing. The strong attendance and the generous (even humorous) giving at the auctions have strengthened the OSBA treasury immensely. Also, George Hansen spoke at the Saturday luncheon on the Specialty Crops Grant which funds the Honeybee Workshops on pests and diseases, and the donations received at that time will go a long way toward enabling us to present these popular workshops into the future after the grant funding has expired. A big "Thank You" to George

Hansen, and also to Rosanna Mattingly who is doing much of the detail-work with the project.

I also want to mention the good work which Thom Trusewicz is doing with the OSBA website, with its good looks and easy access. Soon to be added is an inexpensive way for members to advertise honey, wax, pollination and so forth on the site, while the revenue generated from this will help defray the costs of the site upkeep. See the application form elsewhere in the Beeline.

I want to thank everyone for coming to the conference. Personally, I enjoyed the level of effervescence and humor that results from bringing beekeepers together. Anyone who attended the Thursday evening reception knows what I'm talking about.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING OSBA HONEYBEE WORKSHOPS

To the OSBA Membership:

I would like to say "Thank You" for the generous response I received at the OSBA Fall Convention on my presentation about the Honeybee Workshops. The contributions will help us meet the goal of putting on two extra workshops during 2004. We will do our best to reach as many beekeepers as possible and help them avoid doing "A Bad, Bad Thing."

George Hansen

Director, Honeybee Workshops

(Honoring Ray Varner, Continued from Page one)

Many members of the beekeeping community have been touched – in smaller or larger ways – by being, speaking, working, joking with Ray. In order to honor his life and show our respect I would like to ask you to consider a donation to a cause we know was close to Ray's heart: the former orphanage in Boise, Idaho, which is now called the "Children's Home Society of Idaho".

Diane Varner says: "The Children's Home Society of Idaho is now a counseling center for youth, and does some fine work with children and their families. Ray visited several times in the last two years, and it brought back memories of spending time there as a child. They are in the same

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building although it has been updated, and when Ray went into the attic area that is now used as storage he recalled that it used to be the boy's dormitory. It brought back a flood of memories. Ray and two of his brothers were placed in the Home in 1944-45 (back in the days when it was an orphanage) and adopted from there shortly thereafter...One of those brothers (Jim) ... still lives in Boise. He's just a few blocks down the street from the Children's Home . . . Jim is active on the Board of Directors . . ."

If you would like to learn more about the facility, their address is 740 Warm Springs Ave., Boise, ID 83712, phone (208) 343-7813 and they have a web site at www.childrenshomesociety.com.

Please make checks payable to: "Children's Home Society of Idaho" and mail them to me and Kenny (See the Who's Who in the Beeline for address). We will collect and forward them to Diane Varner who will continue to be in contact with the Children's Home on her frequent visits to Boise.

Thank you so much.

Martha Recognizes Honey as "Fit to Eat"

The September issue of [Martha Stewart Living](#) magazine features an article on honey — "Fit to eat: the healthiest foods, and how to prepare and enjoy them." Not only does the piece describe honey's use in cuisine, but that "much contemporary research supports folk wisdom" regarding its natural remedies potential.

Northwest Beekeeping, November-December

By Harry Vanderpool, WVBA

- November marks the end of our close association with the bees for the year. Cheer up!! There are many things that you can do to help your bees, and your operation.
- Take a walk in your apiary weekly. Conduct a visual inspection of hive entrances. Watch for signs of mice or other animal vandalism.
- Spend a cool clear day gathering up all of the rotten, broken down hive parts, pallets, etc. Make a small fire and keep it burning until your place sparkles.
- Try to disturb the bees as little as possible. As the weather cools down, the bees will cluster into a tight unit centered around the brood area. They must keep the brood warm regardless of outside temperature. If you must rescue a hive in the dead of the cold with a manipulation, try to work *around* the cluster rather than through it.
- December 21st is the first day of spring in the bee world. Are you ready for your next year in beekeeping? It could be the best year ever! Its "New year's resolution" time folks! Settle on a resolution that will improve you as a beekeeper and your operation well.
- Set down and make a winter to-do list. Hang it on the fridge for a few days so that you can add to it as things pop into your head. Make a final copy and hang it where you can't miss it. Now get to work.
- Pull your bee trucks into your shop and set aside a couple of hours for inspection time on each one. Change fluids, bleed and adjust brakes, pack wheel bearings, check lights etc. Don't put this off. If you do, it will not get done.
- Make a point to contact a fellow beekeeper once in a while just for the sake of exchanging notes.
- Order supplies for next year, comparing prices by phone before ordering. By all means, feed your beekeepers disease. Shoot for the quantity discount! Doesn't that idea just warm your heart?
- Does the thought of getting your books up to date depress you? Consider looking into an accounting program like *Quickbooks*®. These programs make bookkeeping fast, fun, and informative. They also help you to look at your operation from a statistical point of view. Ask an association member to show you their favorite program.
- Purchase all of the seasonal supplies you will need in advance for holiday retail sales.
- It's time for a little winter P.R. with your farmers, growers, and customers. They will remember the thoughtfulness next year.
- On a piece of paper, write down all of the good reasons that you have for not attending your local beekeeper association's monthly meeting. Wad the paper up, and light your woodstove with it. Isn't a small fire great for bringing us all down to earth? We would all really enjoy your attendance at the next meeting.

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Knowledge of GMOs Poor

According to [The Food Policy Institute at Rutgers University](#), as much as 80% of processed food in the U.S. has a component from a genetically modified crop but only 26% of Americans think they have ever eaten such food. Overall knowledge about both genetically modified foods and food production remains poor, although somewhat better than in 2001.

Rebecca Will Share Heavenly Ideas for Holiday Cuisine

This December [National Honey Board](#) spokeswoman Rebecca Kolls will provide viewers and listeners across the U.S. with sweet treat ideas for heavenly holiday cuisine that can be made with honey. Conducting a television and radio satellite media tour will allow Rebecca to talk to numerous stations around the country from one location, providing significant media reach with less cost.

FUNNY HONEY HARVEST STORY SEARCH IS ON!!

We are looking for amusing tales of past honey harvests where goofy things happened. Perhaps animals were involved, or a novice beekeeper's ignorance created havoc and frustration.

Send your stories to: *Mary Moss, Editor, The Bee Line.*

A NEW BEEKEEPERS NETWORK

By Thom Trusewicz

It seems that every week, those who are listed as contact persons on the OSBA Web site are contacted by people who want to buy honey or other hive products or services. Rather than referring the buyers, we want to set up several Web pages where site visitors can find the goods or services they need.

You can be listed for one year for a nominal fee of \$4.00 per page (non-members pay \$6.00 per page.)

We will have a page for at least each of the following areas:

- Honey for sale
- Pollen for sale
- Propolis for sale
- Wax for sale
- Candles for sale
- Pollination 1 to 20 hives
- Pollination 21 or more hives
- Bees for sale
- Apitherapy
- Bee removal
- Any other service or product not listed here

Also, we are going to have a **free** swarm call list. You can be listed so people in your area can you when they find swarms. This listing is free to all OSBA members.

If you want to be included please fill out the Web-Ad form which is enclosed in this newsletter.

Electronic Food Facility Registration Goes Live

The Food and Drug Administration announced that its [new electronic registration system](#) for both foreign and domestic food facilities, went "live" Oct. 16. Registration of food facilities is one of the new requirements under the federal [bioterrorism regulations](#). Facilities must register by Dec. 12.

International Mead Festival a Sweet Success

The National Honey Board sponsored and participated in the [International Mead Festival](#), held Oct. 24 - 25 in Boulder, Colo. In addition to a celebration of honey wine, the festival is "the" international commercial mead competition. The event hosted both public tasting and [private judging](#) of commercial meads. Over 60 meads from seven different countries participated.

Page 9**Families Prepare for the Sweetest Season**

En los días más dulces (in the sweetest season), entertaining and cooking for family and friends are at the center of holiday celebrations. This year the [National Honey Board](#) highlights the use of honey in preparing meals and sweets that appeal to the Hispanic family. The program will focus on discovering Hispanic consumption patterns associated with the holidays, gauge the use of honey and provide suggestions for baking and making treats for the whole family, including children.

OSBA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Salem Public Library, Salem, OR
September 17, 2003

The OSBA Executive Board Meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Kenny Williams.

Fred Van Natta reported on the Legislative Bill concerning the closed position at OSU. We need to decide if we want to continue the effort and, if so, restructure a committee to do so, headed by commercial beekeepers. It would also be his suggestions that the committee try to work with the college to encourage reinstating this position. George Hansen and Kenny Williams have made that attempt in the past, but Kenny will again make phone calls to try to include the college. George Hansen told Fred how much we appreciated his effort on our behalf. The bottom line from Fred is how important that position is to us and are we willing to do some funding or all of the funding ourselves.

Several way that can be achieved are (1) beekeepers have a tax or license fee for \$ per colony, (2) someone at the university requests this position to the Legislature.

Harry Vanderpool will put a note in the registration package about forming a committee to handle legislative work in the future.

George Hansen will visit Kurt Schrader to see if he will visit OSU about our request.

Phyllis Shoemake was asked to read the Treasurer's Report. She reported that all of the expenses were not in from George Steffensen, but at the present the Treasury has \$25,752.

Minutes were read by Jan Lohman from the previous meeting.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

--Thom Trusewicz reported that the Honeybee Workshop was very successful in Astoria.

--Joanne Olstrom reported that the group for the fair support in their area is dwindling.

--Chuck Sowers reported that all is well in his group.

--Fritz Skirvin stated that the Fair went well. It was very interesting. We need to look at options to provide more materials for handouts, because they run out every year too soon.

--Jan Lohman reported that Eastern Oregon was looking forward to the Workshop coming their way and that they are hearing from some new, local beekeepers.

HONEYBEE WORKSHOP REPORT:

George Hansen reported on the status of the Honeybee Workshop Grant. There are 500 names listed on their database at the present time, and thousands of names (are) available. Presentations in the future will continue to go into the notebooks.

These notebooks are presented to each person that signs up for a workshop, and they have also been sent to everyone that attended the convention. The electronics have not been developed at this time.

The workshops were being considered in the future for the Salem area and Eugene area. We developed four workshops this year, and hope to continue with two per year as time goes by. Kenny asked George if he would ask at the convention about carrying the workshop forward.

It was proposed that the OSBA purchase the equipment that the Honeybee Workshop is using and

(OSBA Meeting Minutes, continued from page 6)

either rent it back to the Workshop or otherwise be compensated for the expense.

George requested funds from the OSBA to help with costs of operating the Workshop until the total grant money is received. Fritz Skirvin made a motion that we advance the Honeybee Workshop \$2,000 to cover costs. Thom Trusewicz seconded the motion and it was approved.

INCORPORATION:

We will postpone discussion on incorporation until a future time.

2003 STATE FAIR:

Harry Vanderpool reported that they had stopped paying premiums for prizes. The Fair (OSBA booth) continues to be held by the Willamette Valley Association. They need a source for more handouts; by the third day of the Fair, they are all distributed. Diane Varner suggested that we contact the National Honey Board and order free materials.

MEMBERSHIP LIST:

Thom Trusewicz moved that we create a membership list and mail it in January with THE BEE LINE. It was seconded by Fritz Skirvin and approved. At the Fall Conference, members will vote YES or NO on whether they want to be included (on our copy). We will make it clear that it is for our use only.

WEBSITE:

The OSBA Website has an average of 233 hits per month. Discussion was held on ways to advertise on the Website to generate some income. One suggestion was a business card (ad) for \$25.00 per year. Also, an item called "Ask the Beekeeper" was suggested, along with a swarm call list. Thom will

come up with an application for the convention. George Hansen suggested that Thom create an active link with the Honey Locator.

NEW BUSINESS:

Phyllis Shoemake is again our Treasurer and will agree to be placed on the nomination list for the Fall Convention for 2004.

AUCTIONS:

Jan suggested that Harry bring in some help. Jordan Dimock organized the auctions last year and he could be approached to do it again this year.

George Hansen suggested that we make token "Thank You" presentations to our guest speakers. It is done at most of the meetings he attends. A small basket with Oregon items was suggested. Jan Lohman will call Debbie Morgan and see if she will put that together for us.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

Someone needs to present a Slate of Officers and Regional Directors. Chuck Sowers will again handle the nominations.

Mary Moss is the new Bee Line Editor, and will hold the position for at least the next year.

The next meeting will be November 6, 2003 at 3:30 p.m. at the Hood River Inn.

Harry suggested that everyone take home and read the Section 18 form. Jan Lohman will write a letter to Lawrence Cutts to ask for their help with this since they have already completed theirs in Florida.

Discussion was held concerning the 2004 Fall Convention. It was decided by a majority vote that we try to have the Convention at the Coast. Harry Vanderpool will look into this and report back.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Lohman,
Secretary

Viva Variety Contest Winners Announced

Culinary professionals and enthusiasts from across the nation were challenged to submit [original recipes showcasing](#) the distinct flavors of varietal honey.

(<http://www.honey.com/pressrm/mkt/variety.html>)

The three winners were awarded a trip to New York City where they participated in a gala awards ceremony hosted by celebrity chef Alton Brown. The sublimely sweet recipes (using this honey varietal) that took top honors were "Honey Figs with Goat Cheese and Pecans" (clover), "Summer Fruit Salad with Mint Honey-Lime Dressing" (mint) and "Grilled Lemon Herb Shrimp" (eucalyptus).

Food Sales Post Gains

According to [The Food Institute](#) "real" sales at the nations supermarkets jumped 3.0% during September. Through the first nine months of 2003, (with sales deflated to account for inflation), "real" sales were up 1.73% over a year earlier. This is more than triple the 0.54% advance posted during the same period of 2002. Eating and drinking establishments posted a 4.2% gain.

Crop Insurance Deadline Approaches

By Dec. 1 applications for 2004 disaster program honey production loss coverage under the [Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#) must be made at local Farm Service Agency offices. There is an application fee of \$100. Producers who do not meet this and other deadlines may not be eligible for benefits for 2004 losses. Contact your local FSA office for more information.

HONEY MARKETING TOOLS — ORDER NOW

Your customers will love these new marketing tools from the National Honey Board — from gardening gift packs to brochures to cookbooks to hang tags.

Items are all available to order now. After Oct. 31 items will be available at cost or discounted for quantity purchases. Visit the [NHB industry Web site](#) for information and ordering forms.

Dig these new gardening gifts. Items available include an eight-panel brochure In the Garden with Honey, wild rose-scented honey and beeswax hand balm, "Worker Bees in the Garden" kneeling pads and "Honey Bee Flower Seed Mix." Savor Sweet and Simple Moments with new spa brochure. This eight-panel brochure explains how to enjoy some pampering without an expensive trip to the spa.

A NEW COOKBOOK!

Flip over this new honey recipe flipbook. Our new cookbook, [Home is Where Your Honey Is](#), is designed to stand on the kitchen counter. It contains more than 60 pages of honey recipes and use tips.

Hang on to full-color hang tags. Designed to hang on almost any honey container, the two different styles of tags feature delicious recipes and tips for using honey.

Pesticide Contamination Analyzed

The [Environmental Working Group](#) released a report on the top 12 fruits and vegetables it considers the most contaminated by pesticides. The report ranks contamination for 46 fruits and vegetables and is based on more than 100,000 laboratory tests conducted from 1992 to 2001 by the USDA and the FDA. Apples, peppers, celery and cherries top the list.

Food Change Intentions Surveyed

According to a [recent survey](#) the number one "2004 food change" people intend to make is to eat more low fat foods (53%). In a close second is cooking more meals from scratch at home (51%). The next three answers in order of rank reinforce the trend of healthy eating at home as opposed to restaurants: eat more freshly prepared foods that just need to be heated (29%), cook more meals at home using prepared ingredients (27%) and eat more organic foods (27%).

BEE QUOTES

Nov-Dec 2003

"Each bee on her return is followed by three or four companions . . . how they do it has not yet been observed" Aristotle, Historia Animalium, IX

"In the summer of 1944 a few very simple experiments led to a result that was just as unexpected as it was thrilling" Karl von Frisch on the discovery of the dance language of bees.

Do you have any unusual anecdotes about bees? Send them to the Editor!

Food Experts Want to Change Food Pyramid; Support High Protein in Diets

Independent food experts [have told the U.S. Senate](#) that the country's current guidelines on food (that recommend six to 11 servings of carbohydrates a day), are contributing to America's problems with obesity.

In a related story, critics contend since the USDA is primarily charged with promoting the sale of U.S. farm commodities, it should not also oversee the guidelines of the food pyramid and tell Americans what is best to eat. Arguing there is an inherent conflict of interest, the critics say control of dietary guidelines should be in the hands of the Department of Health and Human Services. [Chicago Tribune](#) free registration required.
