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# THE BEE LINE



*The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association*

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Volume 30, Number 5

June 2005

## Phyllis Shoemake Honored

*by Harry Vanderpool*

Phyllis Shoemake was presented with the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association's Honorary Lifetime Membership Award recently in Salem.

At the W.V.B.A. Bee Social that was held in January, Phyllis was roasted for her tireless (more on that in a moment) years of service in the beekeeping community and in the local and state association level. She now serves as Treasurer of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association as she has for many terms.

Phyllis got her start with a couple of hives around 1978 that, in her words, she "stumbled and fumbled around" with up in Clatsop County. It was after her move to Salem in 1982 that she found out about the W.V.B.A. and attended her first meeting.

As her beekeeping skills increased, she noted the value of her involvement in the local association. Soon, she was surprised at the honey crops that her hives produced.

Phyllis served for several terms as Secretary and Treasurer of the W.V.B.A..

She has fond memories of her first few years with Fritz Skirvin as president. She said that they were a dynamic team.

One day, Marge Ehry who was O.S.B.A. president at the time asked her to consider running for O.S.B.A. Treasurer. The rest is history.

"I was really surprised by the award," Phyllis said. She continued, "Please let everyone know that I don't mean to be stingy with the Treasurer Position. I certainly don't want to hog all of the glory if someone is interested in the position!"

Next time you see Phyllis, be sure to thank her for all of her hard work.

Phyllis Shoemake

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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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Our official Website:  
*orsba.org*

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# President's Message

## by Kenny Williams

In late April, I learned that the small Hive Beetle, or SHB, had been discovered at a southern Oregon apiary. An entomologist with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Jim Labonte, later confirmed the discovery. The administrator of ODA's Commodity Inspection Division, Jim Cramer, called to ask what the OSBA would like ODA to do, if anything. Since that time, I have been talking with Oregon beekeepers in order to gain a consensus of opinion to convey to ODA. Jim Cramer informs me that the Department will not act unilaterally, and will act only if Oregon beekeepers feel urgently that action of some kind must be taken. As I write this in early May, we have not yet conveyed a consensus of recommended action to ODA. As it happens, California beekeepers are dealing with this same issue now, and I have been in touch with Shannon Wooten, CSBA president, to get a sense of where California beekeepers want to go with this.

In coming issues of *The Beeline*, look for a discussion of SHB by Dr. Lynn Royce of OSU. Also there is much information on-line regarding SHB. Try, for example, the article by W. M. Hood in the September 2004 Bee World at [www.ibra.org.uk](http://www.ibra.org.uk) on pages 51-59.

Most likely, the very least that ODA will do would be to send out an alert to beekeepers through various media announcing the presence of SHB in Oregon, and discussing several approaches to treatment.



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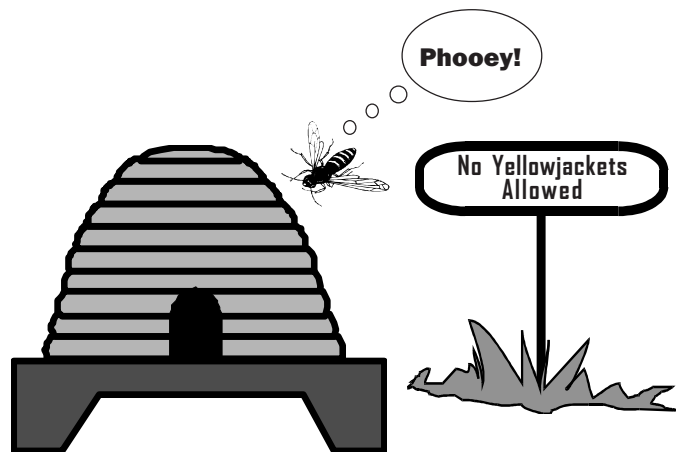
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## Growers Groups Deserve Support

by Harry Vanderpool

Please forgive me if this comes across as a bit of a downer, but I am still in disbelief over the events that I am writing about here.

This story begins a couple of weeks ago . . . I walked into my farm office and noticed the light flashing on the answering machine, indicating a message. The message was from a key figure from a prominent growers association. This fellow is responsible for locating **thousands** of hives for pollination in Oregon, 100 of mine this year in fact!

Now, this is no ordinary fellow. Rather, he attended the O.S.B.A. Fall Conference last fall, at his own expense, to better familiarize himself with the beekeeping world that he recognizes as critical to agriculture.

The message he left was simple; he was looking to rent one hive.

Now, how do you respond when someone wants to rent ONE hive? Understandably, I would guess, with not with much enthusiasm.

I called back the following evening and he explained that his Growers Association had an isolated test-plot of a strain that was showing promise and was in need of a hive of bees to assure a fair simile of actual yield.

But are you ready for this? Are you sitting down?

He said that he had called beekeeper after beekeeper and explained his situation and that he was repeatedly denied!

"We don't rent fewer than "X" number of hives" was the answer.

Apparently, all that was heard by the beekeepers contacted was, "One hive," and nothing else.

Friends, this is a fellow that has and will personally create **THOUSANDS** of placement opportunities for Oregon beekeepers' hives in the next couple of years--and we can't provide him with one single hive for research for a promising new strain?!

Well, thankfully, he decided to contact our president, Kenny Williams who led him to a beekeeper who understood the situation and provided a hive.

I firmly assured him that in the future, when his association needs a hive for research, there *will* be hives available.

As an agricultural association, the O.S.B.A. is actively enlisting support from growers associations for various issues. This is a mutual world, friends! They need our support as well. Times are tough, losses are high, honey prices are declining.

With all of the bad news in mind; are we really going to pass over the good news? Good news for beekeepers is realized only when we make things happen, in my opinion!

If I am missing something here, please let me know. My E-mail: [Shallotman@yahoo.com](mailto:Shallotman@yahoo.com) or Ph # 503-399-3675



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## FORMIC ACID UPDATE

The State of Oregon registration for Mite-Away II Single Application Formic Acid Pad, EPA Reg. No. 75710-1 has been approved, effective immediately. It is expected that NOD Apiary Products, USA, Inc. will be getting product into Oregon forthwith.

*Per David L. Priebe, State Registration Specialist, Pesticides Division, Oregon Department of Agriculture.*

## NORTHWEST BEEKEEPING TIPS - JUNE

By Harry Vanderpool, WVBA

- Nectar flow is at its peak this month in the Willamette Valley. Watch your honey supers closely; they can be filled rapidly when conditions are right. Studies have shown that supering ahead of the need for space increases honey production in colonies.
- If you have comb to draw and can sacrifice a bit of honey production, this is the month to make it happen. You can place supers with frames of foundation on your largest colonies, and they will quickly produce the prettiest comb you can imagine.
- Replace old dark or damaged comb with frames of foundation.
- Buy some queens and start up some small nucs. Queens can sometimes be in short supply late in the year. Requeening late in the year can be testy also. Starting small nucs now will cover your late queen problems.
- You say that you don't have any nuc boxes? Buy nuc boxes. Put them to work.
- Examine colonies every ten to fourteen days.
- If you find hives with the beginnings of swarming tendency, remove the queen cells and rotate brood boxes. Pull a couple of frames of sealed brood and fortify weaker hives. Place foundation in their place. Give those juveniles a serious job to do—draw wax!
- If you find sealed queen cells of good conformation, place the frame with the cells in a nuc box with a frame of feed, and a frame of pollen. Shake as many young bees into the nuc as you can from the parent hive. Make sure you do NOT shake the parent queen into the nuc! Stuff some grass into the entrance and set it aside in your yard or in an area with drone populations. Feed light syrup with fumagillin. Check the nuc every 14 days for your new queen and eggs. Track these queens for vigor. Just do not make this your *primary* source for queens.
- Provide a steady supply of clean water.
- Hives need ventilation during hot weather. Honey in the comb will dry faster, and the bees will not expend as much energy cooling a crowded hive if there is adequate ventilation.
- Continue to be on the lookout for American Foulbrood.
- Start sampling colonies for mite load. On the Internet, you'll find that [www.greatlakesipm.com](http://www.greatlakesipm.com) has the good old sticky boards that you need for a very reasonable price.
- Take a walk through your honey house and take an inventory of chores and supplies that you will need soon.
- Respect yourself and others with the beekeeping community by your attendance at your regional association's monthly meeting.

# Who's Who in the OSBA Resource Guide

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**Webmaster: Thom Trusewicz**  
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## REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

### **Clatsop County**

Meets 7 pm Wed., even # months  
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### **Lane County**

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### **Southern Oregon**

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### **Portland Metro Beekeepers Association (PMBA)**

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**Continued on next page**

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**Phyllis Shoemake, 1702 Toucan Street NW, Salem, OR 97304.**

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