

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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Natalie Worth

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Image above: Rocko Worth of Bend OR. His essay, reprinted here, took third place in the 2006 Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees contest. Rocko writes, "researching honey bee mythology was fascinating and fun. ...[T]his experience has given me a great deal of respect for honey bees, and the culture surrounding them." Congratulations, Rocko!

THE APPEARANCES OF HONEY BEES IN ART AND CULTURE

Rocko Worth

The Honey Bee has been used in art and culture as a symbol of industry and a well built community for thousands of years. Honey bees have also been used as symbols of Love, Sensuality, Immortality, Death, and Resurrection.[1] Emperors, Pharaoh's, Popes and Conqueror's have all used the honey bee as their personal symbol [2], and it has been a revered creature for countless centuries. The honey bee has been treated as a gift from the gods in nearly all cultures, and has appeared in important roles in mythology. [3] While the honey bee is a small creature, people have always respected the bee as a force to be reckoned with, because of their stingers and the ultimate teamwork of the swarm. Bees have provided honey for humanity for thousands of years, and honey itself was regarded as a nearly holy substance by many cultures, and was a common offering to their gods. [2]

Numerous deities have been represented as or by honey bees, such as Austeja, the Lithuanian household god of Fertility and Weddings and her husband Bubilas, who represented the drones. [2] Vishnu, a Hindu god known as the preserver, is depicted as a blue bee resting on a lotus flower, and Kama, a Hindu god of Love, has a bow with the bowstring made of honey bees. [3] The Egyptians called honey bees the "Tears of Ra", their sun god, and the King of Lower Egypt is literally translated as "He of the Bee". [4] The Greeks called honey bees the 'Birds of the Muses' [2] and certain priestesses were called Melissae [5], which is the Greek word for bee. Artemis, the Greek Mother god's symbol is the honey bee. [2]

Honey has been in world culture for thousands of years as a sweetener, and several cultures, mostly in eastern Europe, had mead, a honey wine. Mead was generally more expensive than table wine, and in the middle ages was so expensive that only nobles could afford it. However, peasant beekeepers often drank it, because the extraction of honey was difficult, often leaving a remainder of a sort of honey and wax mixture that could not be sold, and instead was mixed with water and fermented. [6] Honey is mentioned in

Continued on page 8

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring this year has certainly presented some challenges. In almond pollination, we got our hives in on the early side and enjoyed a week of lovely weather that pushed the bloom along nicely. Then, overnight, a cold air mass moved in and brought temperatures in the twenties for five consecutive nights, damaging the early almond varieties. For the rest of February and most of March, the weather never became good again, with only a few days reaching sixty and waves of precipitation continuing to move through. Back we went to California, to feed light hives in the mud and the cold. In one twenty-four-hour period, we had four inches of rain. Flood waters rose rapidly on the already-saturated land and we had to fish a number of pallets of bees out of high water, which created a couple of extra days of work getting water out of combs and boosting chilled populations. We moved our hives to prune orchards following the prolonged almond bloom in order to continue their building up—but not this year, as the chilly weather persisted, and the hives needed further feeding upon arrival back in Oregon.



Many California beekeepers in the queen and package business responded to the wacky weather by postponing their first grafting, but to no avail. The lack of adequate mating conditions led to high percentages of unmated queens, and the mating nucs got their second queen cell without having yielded a first queen. This, of course, was a tremendous setback for producer and customer alike, as queen shipments were postponed a week and more. Beekeepers who had sustained losses earlier were anxious to begin their re-stocking yet replacement but had to wait for queens, packages, and frames of brood.

Kenny

2007 ABF ANNUAL CONVENTION

Abbreviated Schedule:

Tuesday, January 9

Possible beekeeper tour, all day
Committees, evening

Wednesday, January 10

General Session, morning
ABF State Delegates Assembly, noon
Trade Show, opens at noon
Special Interest Groups, afternoon

Thursday–Friday, January 11–12

Trade Show, all day
General Session, all day

Saturday, January 13

Educational Workshops, morning
Trade Show, closes at noon

The convention will be held in Austin TX at the Hyatt Regency Austin. As available, details will be posted at: <http://www.ABFnet.org>.

SOLID HONEY WAFER

National Honey Board Press Release

Longmont, CO (May 16, 2006)—Next time you're considering adding a little honey to your tea, picture yourself reaching for a solid honey wafer. Amazingly, thanks to research sponsored by the National Honey Board (NHB), the ease and convenience of solid honey is now more than wishful thinking, it's reality.

Prompted by growing interest from food manufacturers in dried honey, the Honey Board initiated a product concept program on behalf of the U.S. honey industry to optimize the utility of the various forms and styles of honey. Early in the project, due to honey's hygroscopic properties, the Honey Board realized honey's sticky constraints. By removing a portion of the water content of honey (honey contains roughly 17% water), technologists solved the stickiness problem and created a new concept/product—solid honey. Launched with the tentative name "Simply Honey," the honey wafer has a single ingredient: pure honey (no additives or stabilizers). With dimensions approximating the size and thickness of a quarter, it dissolves quickly in hot liquid.

To monitor public response, the Honey Board introduced "Simply Honey" as a hot beverage sweetener at food trade shows during 2006, beginning with the World Tea Expo in Las Vegas (March), the Specialty Coffee Association of America conference in Charlotte, NC (April) and at the annual Food Marketing Institute show in Chicago (May). At these events, the board prospected for food manufacturers willing to implement the Honey Board's primary objective: moving the concept from ideation to the store shelves. The concept comes at no cost to the manufacturer; however, additional product development, product identity, packaging and distribution would be the manufacturer's responsibility.

Solid honey.
Honey without water?



While commodity boards primarily focus on generic promotion programs, the National Honey Board proactively assists the industry by identifying opportunistic honey applications and consumer-friendly honey concepts. Since joining the NHB as Marketing Director, Bruce Wolk has spearheaded industry efforts to make honey more accessible to 21st century consumers. "Our goal is to keep honey top of mind when consumers reach for a sweetener. Market research and focus group feedback shows us that honey's natural appeal and unique flavor are no longer strong enough to influence that decision, whereas a form of honey that is easy to handle and store adds considerably to its attractiveness."

For more information on current and concept forms and styles of honey contact Charlotte Jordan at (303) 776-2337 or charlotte@nhb.org. For more information about the National Honey Board and its marketing and promotion programs, visit www.honey.com.

Note: The National Honey Board is hosting a roundtable event on issues of current interest to the honey industry. It will take place on June 28, 2006 in Denver. Topics will include standard of identity, voluntary quality, and labeling with speakers from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and the Food and Drug Administration. The event is open to the public and honey industry members are invited to attend. For information, contact Lisa Jager at (800) 553-7162 or at lisa@nhb.org.

OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Columbia Basin: Debbie Morgan
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2635 Mitchell Butte Rd, Nyssa; (541) 372-2726

Metropolitan Area: Chuck Sowers
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South Coast: Joann Olstrom
3164 Maple Ct, Reedsport; (541) 271-4726

Southern Oregon: Pat Morris
1333 Rogue River Hwy, Gold Hills
(541) 855-1402

Willamette Valley: Fritz Skirvin
6694 Rippling Brook Dr SE, Salem
(503) 581-9372

OSBA REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS



Central Oregon Beekeepers
Meets 6:30 pm, third Tuesday, Bend
Deschutes Public Library, Hutch Rm
President: Dennis Gallagher
(541) 389-4776; denbend@coinet.com
Secretary/Treasurer: Glenda Galaba
(541) 383-1775; galaba@msn.com

Clatsop County Beekeepers
Meets 7 pm, third Wednesday, Astoria
Extension Office, 2001 Marine Dr, Ste 210
President: Steve Lindros
(503) 325-1127; slindros@hotmail.com
Vice Pres: Don Thompson; (503) 458-6714
Secretary/Treasurer: Marylyn Sanbrailo
(503) 717-8448

Coos County Beekeepers
Meets 6:30 pm, third Saturday (except Dec)
Ohlsen Baxter Bldg, 631 Alder St, Myrtle Pt
President: Thomas Kyelberg
(541) 297-4017; usvi@charter.net
Vice Pres: Spike Richardson; (541) 267-4725
Secretary: Marcia Burgdorff; (541) 888-5695
Treasurer: Jane Oku; (541) 396-4016
jane_oku@hotmail.com

Lane County Beekeepers
Meets 7:30 pm, third Tuesday, Eugene
EWEB Meeting Rooms, 500 E 4th Ave
President: Mike Harrington
(541) 689-8705; beekeeper@comcast.net
Vice Pres: Morris Ostrofsky
(541) 685-2875; ostrofsky@pacinfo.com
Secretary: Barbara Bajec
(541) 767-9086; mbartels@bbastrodesigns.com
Treasurer: Nancy Ograin
(541) 935-7065; woodrt@pacinfo.com

Portland Metro Beekeepers
Meets 7 pm, second Thursday, Oregon City
Hous Auth Clackamas Bldg, 13930 S Gain
President: Sam Hutchinson
(503) 829-7744; samh@molalla.net
Secretary: Paul Hardzinski; (503) 631-3927
Treasurer: John Keeley
(503) 632-3682; keeley81@bctonline.com

Southern Oregon Beekeepers
Meets 7:30 pm, first Monday, Central Pt
So Or Res & Ext Ctr, 569 Hanley Rd
President: John Jacob
(541) 582-BEES; oldsol@jeffnet.org
Vice Pres: Brian Bolstad
(541) 512-2364; bolstad815@hotmail.com
Secretary: Mysti Jacob; (541) 582-2337
Treasurer: Laurie Boyce
(541) 846-0133; leanira@hotmail.com

Tillamook County Beekeepers
Meets 7 pm, first Thursday, Tillamook
Forestry Building, 5005 Third St
President: Bob Allen; (503) 322-3819
Vice Pres: Terry Fullan
(503) 368-7160; tfullan@nehalemtnet.net
Secretary/Treasurer: Wayne Auble

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers
Meets 7:30 pm, last Friday, Beaverton
OSU Ext, #1400, 18640 SW Walker Rd
President: Todd Balsiger
(503) 357-8938; toddbalsiger@comcast.net
Vice Pres: Andrew Schwab
(503) 537-0506; Pyr4ausi@verizon.net
Secretary: Preston Gabel
(503) 530-1436; preston@gabelhaven.com
Treasurer: Walt Amour; (503) 690-9930

Willamette Valley Beekeepers
Meets 7:30 pm, fourth Monday, Salem
Chemeketa Comm College, Bldg 34, Rm A
President: Fritz Skirvin; (503) 581-9372
Vice Pres: Mike Rodia
(503) 364-3275; drodia@yahoo.com
Secretary: Evan Burroughs
(503) 585-5924; n7ifj@qwest.net
Treasurer: Susan Rauchfuss
(503) 391-5600; smokfoot@cyberis.net

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Lane County Beekeepers

The May newsletter will be available soon at: <http://www.lcbaor.org/Newsletter.htm>

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Todd Balsiger notes that the Bee Day at Dan Hiscoe's was very successful. He hopes everyone's bees are doing well with the recent weather.

Taking a Pulse

Marianne McMurrian says that folks have been collecting swarms "like crazy." Many beekeepers are getting queen excluders and boxes as they prepare for the honey flow. Those new to beekeeping are wondering what to expect, when to add the next box, and how to tell if the queen is still there.



BEEKEEPING IN WESTERN OREGON

Harry Vanderpool

June

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 later in the year. Requeening late in the year can be testy. Starting small nucs now will cover your late queen problems.

Buy nuc boxes and put them to work.

Examine colonies every ten–fourteen days. If you find hives with signs of a tendency to swarm, remove the queen cells and rotate the brood boxes. Pull a couple of frames of sealed brood and fortify weaker hives. Place foundation in their place.

If you find sealed queen cells of good conformation, place the frame with the cells in a nuc box with a frame of honey and a frame of pollen. Shake as many young bees into the nuc as you can from the original hive. Avoid shaking the hive's queen into the nuc! Stuff grass into the entrance and set the nuc aside. Feed light syrup with fumagillin. Check the nuc every fourteen days for a new queen and eggs. Track the queens for vigor.

Provide a steady supply of clean water.

Ventilate hives during hot weather. Honey in the comb will dry faster, and the bees will not expend as much energy cooling the hive.

Continue to be on the lookout for foulbrood.

Begin sampling colonies for mite load.

Walk through your honey house and inventory chores and supplies you will need soon.

And don't forget to attend your regional association's monthly meeting!

Adapted from: *The Bee Line* (June 2004) 29 (5): 5.

BEE DAY: LEARNING IN THE FIELD

Thom Trusewicz

No one seems to recall just how long this spring-time rite of passage for new beekeepers in Oregon has been taking place, but the organizers from the Portland Metro Beekeepers Association state that it has been more than a decade.



Zan Hare

George Hansen and Terry Fullan lighting the smokers for the day.

Every April, those wishing to learn the art and science of keeping bees find their way to George Hansen's apiary, Foothills Honey Company, in Colton, Oregon. Students who have taken beekeeping classes in a classroom setting get their first opportunity for some hands-on experiences. This year over fifty registered participants were shown how to locate queens, assess the health of a colony, and understand integrated pest management and disease control.

Having a field day in Oregon in April is always chancy since it isn't advisable to open hives in the rain. However, in the entire history of Bee Day it has only rained once. This year the sky was clear all day April 22nd.

Several stations of bee colonies were set up in Hansen's field in Colton. Participants spent forty-five minutes at each station learning lessons from each presenter. Doug Wood demonstrated beekeeping equipment. Bill Ruhl



Zan Hare

Portland's first-year beekeeper, Melanie Brown, flashes a victory sign after finding the queen on a frame among a thousand worker bees. Seasoned beekeeper, Bill Ruhl, easily guides students through this lesson.

and George Hansen showed attendees how to locate the queen in a colony and how to see if the queen is laying eggs. Andrew Schwab demonstrated general hive inspection and maintenance. And Dr. Lynn Royce talked about medication and spring management.

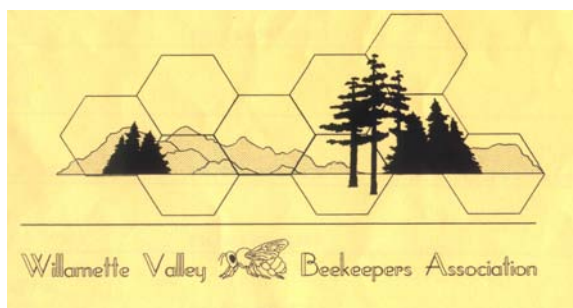


Zan Hare

Tyler McDaniels stoking the smoker.

Beekeepers, beginning and experienced, can find events like this on the Oregon State Beekeepers Association website:

<http://www.orsba.org>



AN INVITATION
Sunday July 16 12 Noon
Rauchfuss Apiaries
1861 Park Avenue N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97303

Chicken and sodas will be provided. A barbeque will be available if you wish to cook something else. Please bring side dishes, desserts, and other drinks if you so desire. We will have demonstrations of tools and tricks of the trade. Do you have some you might bring to share with the group? Bring a chair for yourself, and maybe another to share. Kenny Williams, OSBA president, will be guest speaker again this year, and we will repeat the silent auction. Plan to win a door prize.

On I-5, take exit 256 (Market St.) and go west on Market to the third stoplight. Turn right (north) on Park Ave. about 2/10 of a mile. It's a light yellow two story house on the left, and there should be a Parking Assistant out front. Call 503-391-5600 if you need a little more help with directions.

The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. The newsletter is published ten times a year and subscriptions are included with OSBA membership. Send news about your bees and beekeeping, as well as corrections, letters, comments, photographs (old and new), stories, interviews, and advertising to the Editor, *The Bee Line*, PO Box 42363, Portland OR 97242; thebeeline@comcast.net.

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Business Ads , per issue:	
Business-card	\$10.00
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OSBA members	\$3.00
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Non-members	\$5.00

Note: Please submit all copy and art by the 15th of the month prior to publication. The next issue is July 2006. For advertising, send payment to Co-Secretary/Treasurer, Phyllis Shoemake. Contact the Editor for additional information.

many cultures mythology as a gift from a god. In aboriginal mythology, honey came from the tears of repentance that fell on the waratah flowers. [7] The Cherokee Native Americans have a legend of the Great Spirit giving mankind honey bees; the Great Spirit also had to give the bees their stingers so they could protect themselves from man's greed. [8]

Honey bees were used as the crest of the Bonaparte's, and symbolized the family's connection to the legendary "Holy Blood Line", supposedly descended from Mary Magdalene, and Napoleon's red cape is famous for the bee print on it. [9] Honey bees have been used in Egypt as the symbol of diligence, hard work and spiritual sweetness, [10] and the beehive is used in Freemasonry as a symbol of Industry. [11] The Mormon's often use the honey bee, which they call the Deseret, and the beehive as symbols of Industriousness, [12] and through the lobbying efforts of a fifth grade class made it the Utah State Insect in 1983. [13] At one point, near the American Revolution, a honey comb with thirteen rings was used on the currency, and symbolized the American Colonies. [14]

Honey has long been used in Australian aboriginal art as part of their culture, and is treated as a life giving substance and a precious source of sugar. The honey is taken from the native stingless honey bees, or the honey ant, an ant that stores honey in its abdomen as food, and is an aboriginal delicacy. [15] In written art, Homer used the swarming of honey bees as a metaphor to describe the gathering of the Achaean soldiers in "The Iliad". [16]

Encaustic art is a style utilizing beeswax as the primary medium, created by melting beeswax and mixing it with pigments, and then using a heated tool, similar to a traveling iron to apply the molten wax onto a surface. Encaustic art was used in the ancient times by the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. They mixed beeswax and a resin called dammar together, and then added earthen pigments, and charcoal was used as the heated tool. [17] Encaustic art is supposed to last forever, and there are certain mummy portraits

that are more than fourteen centuries old, and in near perfect condition.

Cire Perdue is a technique for bronze casting used since very early times. A solid core is overlaid with wax which is then molded into perfect representation of the subject, and then, layer by layer, refractory material is laid over it. Supports that connect the core to the refractory material passes through the wax, and after all this is done, the whole thing is baked in an oven until the wax runs out, and is replaced with molten metal. Benvenuto Cellini created "Perseus with the Head of Medusa" in this manner, and even then complained of the outrageous price of beeswax. [18]

Honey bees have been used as symbols in countless cultures, almost all of them good. They seem to be regarded as an inherently positive, but dangerous species. They are worthy of our respect, and have had the favor of the powerful for century upon century. Honey bees have played an important part in the world's art and culture, and I believe that they deserve all the honor and reverence that has been bestowed upon them. I think honey bees are one of our most valuable insects.

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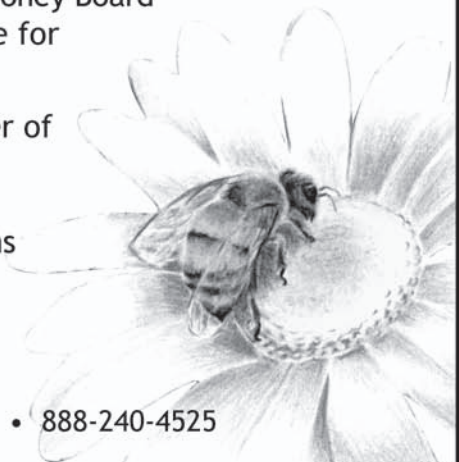
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Note. An apology. The reference to Helga Moll's bee journal in the May 2006 issue as *Dos Bienenreich* was incorrect. It should have read *Das Bienenreich*.



MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS FORM

Membership in the Oregon State Beekeepers Association is open to anyone with an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. OSBA membership includes a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on publications, and ten issues of *The Bee Line*.

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone number: _____ **e-mail address:** _____

Regional Association (if applicable): _____

Discounted Publications:

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<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	___\$13.25	___\$25.25	___

*Outside the US, add \$15 per year for postage.

The OSBA respects the privacy of members and will not sell any information provided. May we include your name and address in a membership list that will be given to OSBA members only? YES/NO (please circle one).

Membership: \$20 per person (\$29 per person outside the US) \$ _____

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A swarm in June...is worth a silver spoon

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