

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 31, Number 6

July 2006



Melissa Scherr

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Image above: Students from Central Linn High School in Halsey demonstrate the insect trap they used in their research with native bees. Along with students from three additional rural schools, they presented the findings of their experiments at a conference held at Oregon State University this past May.

A NOT-SO-USUAL CONFERENCE AT OSU IN CORVALLIS

Heike Williams

Can you imagine a conference where the audience (and the podium for that matter) is not filled by quiet, discreet whispering adults but by about 130 buoyant 13–16-year-old kids? Well, I had the pleasure of being invited as the representative of OSBA to such a conference, which was held at Oregon State University on May 18th, 2006.

The “OSU–K12 Discovering Partners in Nature Conference” was the conclusion and pinnacle of a project in which students from four different rural schools presented the results of their research studies relating to wild bees. This came about when, in the past, a grant enabled OSU scientists to visit schools. The next logical step was to teach students about scientific research and let them do their own studies. A grant given by the Toshiba America Foundation made this idea a reality for the 2005/2006 school year. The project was spearheaded by energetic Dr. Sujaya Roa of the Department of Crop & Soil Science and conducted with the help of other OSU faculty members, Dr. Lynn Royce and Laurie Halsey as community participants, and Graduate Student in Entomology Melissa Scherr, whom the kids clearly adored. The research studies all centered around the topic “Bees, Flowers, Pollen”—native bees, to be exact. As Emeritus Professor of Entomology W.P. Stephen explained in the keynote address, a blue-colored trap was found to attract not the pest insect it was originally developed for but wild, solitary bees. This led to the idea of using the trap as a central tool in the research projects.

Each group of students from the participating schools (Central Linn High School in Halsey, Falls City Elementary, Inavale Elementary School in Corvallis, and Seven Oak Middle School in Lebanon) created the question they wanted to explore. Topics ranged widely. Here are a few examples:

- “What time of day do bees come out the most?”
- “Which bee structures (leg/thorax/stomach) hold the most pollen?”

Continued on page 6

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

What a great Father's Day I had this year! My son Austin called and asked what I was going to do on Father's Day. I told him that everything is cancelled due to the sudden break in weather and that it is now or never on the hay crop. But first I had to pull honey and inspect a bunch more hives. He said, "I want to help. When do you want me to show up?"



We headed out in the morning, not to return until the job was done. We worked hard. We told jokes. We sang songs. At the end of the day, the final yard was fixed and my slate was clear to cut hay the next day. Unusual Father's Day gift, yes. A memorable one for sure!

Preparations are underway for the OSBA fall conference that will be held at the Agate Beach Inn in Newport, Oregon, on October 26, 27, & 28, 2006. Mark your calendar! This year there will be some added features.

A basic bee school will be held on Friday and Saturday mornings in the Cove Room. It will run until noon alongside the main session. Often family members want to enjoy a weekend at the coast but are not, or have not yet become, directly involved with bees. This low-key session is for them! Over 500 slides, lots of hands-on time for questions and answers, and discussion will be on tap.

In the general session there will be more opportunity for hands-on instruction. In those sessions, there will be a presentation and a hands-on lab that follows. Look for a tentative agenda in upcoming issues, or log onto <http://www.orsba.org> and click on Events for up-to-the-minute updates. This year Idaho will hold their annual conference together with us in Newport.

Volunteers are needed for small tasks to help make this conference a success. Remember that we are an ASSOCIATION. Any goal can be reached with a strong team effort! Can you contribute 15 minutes or 1 hour to the success of our conference? Call (503) 510-6090 or e-mail: shallotman@yahoo.com. You'll be proud of your conference!

Harry

PROPOSED CHANGE IN BYLAWS

It has been proposed that the following section of OSBA bylaws be deleted. It is burdensome for treasurers of local associations to keep \$1 from the \$20 OSBA membership dues when such dues are paid through the local association. This provision is little used by the locals and the \$1 deduction is insignificant to the OSBA treasury.

Article 1 Section 2(C)

Branch Associations. One dollar (\$1) of the

dues collected for membership in Oregon State Beekeepers Association may be retained by the branch association. If the member resides where there is no branch association, the state association shall retain the one dollar.

This proposed change in bylaws is to be voted on at the business meeting during the annual conference October 27, 2006. Send any comments you wish to make prior to the meeting to either Jan Lohman or Phyllis Shoemake.

USE OF HONEY BEES AND HONEY IN SYMBOLISM

Kara Hansen

People from all over the world have used honey bees and honey as symbols for thousands of years. Ancient Egyptians believed that honey bees were born from the tears of the Sun-God, Ra. Egyptian pharaohs used honey bees as the royal symbol from 3000 to 350 B.C. [1] Later Egyptians engraved bees on their tombs as symbols of the afterlife and resurrection. This most likely came from the fact that bees do not leave their hives during their three-month hibernation period, but reappear later, much like the resurrection story of Christ. [2] Many other cultures also use the honey bee as symbols representing their Gods and Deities. [1]

According to W. W. Maxwell, M.D., in the book *ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture*, The A.I. Root Bee Library, 38th Edition, there are 68 references in the Bible to bees, honey and honeycomb. One of the better known scriptures about the land of milk and honey is "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey." (Exodus 3:8). [3] The phrase "a land flowing with milk and honey" is used 20 times in seven books of the Old Testament, referring to an area which would provide plenty of milk and honey. Dr. Maxwell says that the phrase was "used enough to emphasize the fact that man can live satisfactorily on a diet of milk and honey, with very little of other foods." Today we know that honey is easily absorbed by the stomach because it has been predigested by the bees. [4]

Napoleon Bonaparte also used the honey bee as a symbol. His beautiful red cape was famous for its "golden bee" print. [5]

It was said that babies whose lips were touched by bees would grow up to be great speakers, poets, storytellers, and philosophers. Many famous poets and writers such as Virgil, Sophocles, and Plato were associated with bees. [1]

Early Catholics believed beeswax to be pure because it was produced by virgins (worker bees do not mate). Even today, the Catholic Church still requires that the candles used in their ceremonies contain a certain percent of beeswax. [2]

The first Sea Bee battalions that were formed trained at Camp Endicott located in Davisville, Rhode Island. This is the original home of the Sea Bees. The term "Seabees" originated by taking the first two letters of the words "Construction Battalions" (CB). Their symbol became a bee in a sailor hat holding a Tommy gun and assorted tools in his many "hands." The Sea Bees were different because the Civil Engineer Corps Officers were in command of the battalions and regiments, instead of line officers (officers who can command ships). This was the first time this had occurred in United States Naval history. [6]

The honey bee is a symbol of industry all around the world because of the bees' wonderful work habits of collecting nectar and pollen and making honey. The National Honey Board quotes that "bees may travel as far as 55,000 miles and visit more than 2 million flowers to gather enough nectar to make just 1 pound of honey"! [1] Bees symbolize creativeness because they always find the right place for everything, and they always find a way to do what they want; cooperativeness because bees know what their job is, and they do it without complaining; obedience because bees appear to listen to what their queen has to say, and carry through; orderliness because bees always keep their hives clean and orderly; diligence because bees always do what they

Continued on page 7

OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Columbia Basin: Debbie Morgan

3800 Benson Rd, The Dalles; (541) 298-5719

Eastern Oregon: Jordan Dimock

2635 Mitchell Butte Rd, Nyssa; (541) 372-2726

Metropolitan Area: Chuck Sowers

26730 S Hwy 170, Canby; (503) 266-1740

North Coast/Webmaster: Thom Trusewicz

90041 Logan Rd, Astoria

(503) 325-7966; ccbee@intergate.com

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; haymakerooo@yahoo.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@nehalem.tel.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

AROUND THE REGION

Central Oregon Beekeepers

Dennis Gallagher extends a thank you from the group to Thom Trusewicz for the bee day at Central Oregon Community College in April. Though the event was arranged hastily, seventeen people attended—about half of whom were members of the local group and half were interested people from the community. Thom covered equipment, clothing, handling, seasonal management, bee diseases, and the like. He shared as well his own views and experiences with beekeeping and answered questions from the audience. The group is having regular monthly meetings now, often at the Deschutes County Library in Bend. This month, however, the meeting will be held at a member's farm.

Lane County Beekeepers

The group's June newsletter is now available and soon will be archived on their web site at <http://www.lcbaor.org/Newsletter.htm>.

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

Laurie Boyce reports that the group's bee school in May 2006 was a huge success. Eighteen folks plus ten in families attended. The day began with a talk on bee biology by Dr. Peter Schroeder from Southern Oregon University. Then, SOBA member Pat Morris discussed extraction. LCBA members Chuck Hunt and Jonathan Loftin were generous with their time and effort as well and gave talks on equipment and spring management, respectively. SOBA president John Jacob followed with a discussion of diseases, pests, and treatments; he concluded with a live bee demo. Students had a lot of fun looking for the queen and at brood. At the end of the day, the group raffled off items donated by five West Coast supply companies. SOBA earned enough money to buy some needed equipment or books, as well as to meet the commitment to donate \$5 to the OSBA research fund for each registration received for the school—\$140. The group looks forward to conducting a bee school again next year and

hopes to raise more money for the research fund at that time.

John Jacob notes that they are still seeking foulbrood comb for the research project. Contact him for details on sending samples.

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Todd Balsiger says that the group will probably discuss something pertinent to beekeeping this time of year at this month's meeting. The additional field day last month at Dan Hiscoe's place was filled with so much to see and do that it was "overwhelming." The group thanks Dan for his generosity and his willingness to share his knowledge of bees and beekeeping.



Taking a Pulse

Sheryl Johnson of Ruhl's Bee Supply says that they are busy now with many beekeepers gearing up for extraction. Tylan (used for *control*, not *prevention*, of American foulbrood) and APIGUARD (a treatment for *Varroa*) are now in stock. Neither are for use during a honey flow.

In a similar vein, Margaret Forsythe at GloryBee Foods reports that they have been "busy, busy, busy helping people keep up with swarms and getting ready for the nectar flow as the blackberries start to bloom." They also have been enjoying beekeeping stories, among which has been a swarm-removal method for bees wrapped around a larger tree branch or trunk. Instead of brushing the bees off the tree, the customer's uncle would hang a frame of honey as close as possible to the swarm. Then, when he went back to the swarm, the bees would have moved to the frame of honey and he could easily slip the frame (with swarm) into a new hive. Another customer recently reported that he has successfully moved swarms out of chimneys, buildings, and trees with Bee-Quick.

An Unusual Conference (continued from page 1)

- “How much pollen can a bee collect in one go?”
- “Does pollen from native and non-native plants have structural similarities?”
- “What kind of protein attracts the most bees?”

Groups of 2–4 students came forward and presented the results of their study group. The audience consisted of their peers, teachers, and parents as well as special guests—John A. Anderson, the president of the Toshiba America Foundation, and Jim Torrey, the past mayor of Eugene. The type of presentation ranged from the self-conscious student who didn’t want anything more than being off that stage to the self-confident teenager who started his presentation with a cool “How are you doing?” question to the audience. I was impressed by the fact that all the students had learned about the scientific approach and presented their studies accordingly: question—hypothesis—procedure and experiment set-up—results and conclusion, and in a few cases even a discussion on interferences and suggestions for follow-up experiments. You could tell that the scientific names of native bees like *Agapostemon*, *Bombus*, and *Halictus* were no strangers to these kids and that, in fact, they had fun using them. Besides becoming knowledgeable about names, body parts, the behavior of bees, and the importance of pollination, the students learned (maybe the hard way?) that experiments with living things do not always work as expected. There was the trap that caught solitary bees but no pollen-bearing ones. There was the disappointing finding that pollen of native and non-native plants do not look significantly different. There was the trap with chicken liver that attracted not bees but mainly flies. And so on...

Still, the projects definitely were a success. That was demonstrated to me, the outside observer, threefold:

1. By the teachers who spoke up and explained how the students profited from the hands-on experiments and how they improved their understanding of the natural world;
2. By all the posters, photos (there were some magnificent scanning electron microscope images of pollen), and fabricated models of bees and pollen grains that demonstrated the projects of the various study groups;
3. And (nothing was more convincing) by all the hands that went up in the air when the kids were asked, “Who wants to become a scientist?”

www.orsba.org: Web News

Thom Trusewicz

It was suggested at the last OSBA Board meeting that our website, <http://www.orsba.org>, have a resource page where people can find beekeepers to speak to schools and service groups. If you are comfortable giving talks on the topic of beekeeping and would like to have your contact information listed on the website, please e-mail me at ccbee@intergate.com or call me at (503) 325–7966. Please leave your name, phone number, and if you are willing to talk with schools, service groups, or both.

If you haven’t visited the OSBA Beekeeping on-line forum, it is time you did. People with all levels of beekeeping experience post messages, questions, and answers there. This is our “Virtual” OSBA branch association with members in several states and Provinces. Join us and keep up with new ideas and practices. To get there, go to www.orsba.org and click on the button for the Message Board. Once there you will find most of the messages on the general board. Click a topic you want to read about and have fun. See you there!

Symbolism (continued from page 3)

know they need to do, no matter what. They represent social order in that there is a leader and a community that works together under this leader.

Before we had modern machinery to do much of our work for us, people would hold work "bees." A bee was an activity where neighbors, friends, and family gathered together to help each other complete a large task, much like a hive of bees. They had lots of different kinds of "bees": quilting bees, wool picking bees, land clearing bees, corn husking bees, butchering and barn raising bees.

Even today in Amish settlements across the United States, the tradition of work bees continues. At a barn raising, you may see up to 700 men working on the building of the barn. With that many men, it can take under six hours to finish a barn. In Amish country, if a barn burns down they start making plans for a new barn before the fire is even out. [7] Amish men will travel out of state to help their "brother" rebuild. Their sense of community and cooperation reminds me of honey bees.

Honey bees demonstrate many things about how we should try to live our lives. They symbolize community. If humans had the work habits of bees, our society wouldn't have many of the problems that we face today with drugs, alcoholism, homelessness, and neglected children. It's no wonder then that honey and honey bees have been popular symbols throughout the world for thousands of years.

References

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- [2] Tucker, Suzetta. "ChristStory Bee and Honey Page." 1997. <<http://ww2.netnitco.net/users/legend01/bee.html>> (accessed January 28, 2005).
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- [7] Good, Merle. *Who Are the Amish?* (Intercourse, Pennsylvania: Good Books Publishing, 1985.) Pages 98, 100, 104.
- [8] Greenwood, Barbara. *A Pioneer Sampler*. (New York: Houghton Mifflin. 1995.) Pages 55, 174.
- [9] Ottum, Bob. *A Day in the Life of the Amish*. (Greendale, Wisconsin: Reiman Publications, L.P. 1994.) Pages 16–17.
- [10] Buttrille, Susan G. *Women's Voices from the Oregon Trail*. (Boise, Idaho: Tamarack Books, Inc. 1993.) Pages 36–37.

Note: Kara Hansen of Waltherville was a state winner of the 2005 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest sponsored by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees. She says that when she started searching for information for her essay, she was impressed at how many times in everyday life we use honey bees—often without realizing it. And, she adds, "I hope that by reading my essay, you will have a little more insight on how much honey bees contribute to our lives, and also all of the important things we can learn from them. Big things come in small packages!"

**CLASSIFIED AD**

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KEEPING BEES IN WESTERN OREGON

Harry Vanderpool

July

Provide water continuously.

Examine supers frequently, and don't leave much empty comb on colonies light on stores in the brood nest. Add supers only to the top of filled ones, not below, unless hives are near a commercial crop.

Check colonies for queens, and requeen if necessary. Requeen any colony with undesirable characteristics, such as poor production, mean temper, foulbrood, or poor brood pattern.

For a hopelessly queenless colony, or one with a laying worker, move the hive several yards and place a nucleus in a brood box in its place. Shake all of the bees from the original colony on the ground. Sort through the combs and reassemble the hive. Fortify the nuc with a frame of emerging brood if available. Repeat with two frames in a week. Watch feed as fall approaches!

Consider combining colonies with reduced populations if the cause is known.

Make preparations for extracting. Remove supers containing well-ripened honey, and get it done before the weather cools.

Set plans in place for your fall treatment and medication. Put it in writing and this document can help you assess the efficacy of your pest-control strategy.

Test random colonies for *Varroa* load. Take care to retest after your fall treatment is concluded. Ask for help if needed.

Continue to watch for foulbrood.

Avoid exposing honey or cappings.

A critical nectar dearth exists approximately July 10–September 1. Leave 40–50 pounds of honey in each colony for fall build-up or feed an equivalent amount of syrup (2:1). Feed supplementary pollen patties if needed.

Plan to attend your association's meeting.

Adapted from: *The Bee Line* 30(6): 5.

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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.

Size of Ad	Cost
Business Ads , per issue:	
Business-card	\$10.00
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Half-page	\$50.00
Full-page	\$100.00
Classified Ads (30 words), per issue:	
OSBA members	\$3.00
OSBA members—for items given away at no charge (as long as space is available)	FREE
Non-members	\$5.00

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

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The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association
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A swarm in July...isn't worth a fly

Oregon State Beekeepers Association is a nonprofit organization representing and supporting all who have an interest in bees and beekeeping.

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