THE LAST PACIFIC NORTHWEST HONEY BEE POLLINATION SURVEY—2006

This is the 20th year that the Pacific Northwest honey bee pollination survey has been conducted by the OSU Honey Bee Lab. This is also the last year this survey will be conducted. The information gathered over the past 20 years has given us a much better understanding and appreciation of the value of honey bee pollination to our region’s largest industry (agriculture). From the survey data, we have learned many things—including the historical trends of increasing pollination fees and usage patterns for the various commodities that utilize honey bees in managed pollination. The survey has provided the strongest and longest database for pollination services for any region of the US. Numerous beekeepers have reported the usefulness of the survey for their individual beekeeping operations.

I invite and welcome your participation in this year’s survey. As concerns any individual beekeeper, all information you provide will be held in confidence. In filling out the survey form inserted in this newsletter, you do not need to provide your name unless you wish to do so. Results from the survey will be published in the OSBA Bee Line, the WSBA Newsletter and the USDA Honey Market News.

Please return the completed form as soon as possible, hopefully before December 15, 2006. In addition, please note a change of address for the Honey Bee program at OSU. The address is printed on the form.

In concluding a 20-year activity that I believe has yielded valuable information to the academic community and perhaps, more importantly, to the practicing beekeeping community, I wish to sincerely thank all the beekeepers who have participated over the past two decades. Your efforts have improved the general state of beekeeping in the Pacific Northwest, a unique area that continues to be a promised land for beekeeping and agriculture-at-large.

Michael Burgett
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the end of the bee season approaches, we have the annual OSBA Fall Conference to look forward to. Yet again, OSBA VP Harry Vanderpool has organized another terrific line-up of speakers and events. Whether it’s a discussion on queens, mites, or pollination, there will be something of interest for you. This year’s meeting will include a simultaneous Bee School, taught by OSBA member (and Webmaster) Thom Truscwicz, for the relative newcomer to beekeeping. Be sure to sign up early, as this greatly helps those organizing the event. As always, there is no charge for the single finest aspect of the Conference: the opportunity to swap lies, commiserate, rub elbows, and meet with your fellow beekeepers.

In other news, a new OSU Extension publication will soon go to the printer. Extension technical writer Linda Brewer is editor for the publication, called “How to Reduce Bee Poisoning From Pesticides.” Copies should be on sale (for $1.50 each) around January, but there is a chance that a few early copies may be available at our Fall Conference.

Kenny

Note: Conference Agenda is on page 3 and Registration Form is an insert.

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.

A SPECIAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHT

This fall’s OSBA Conference will include a Bee School taught by Thom Truscwicz for those who are new to bees and beekeeping and interested in gaining experience, as well as for beekeeper family members who want to learn more about these amazing insects.

Bee School Cove Room
Instructor: Mr. Thom Truscwicz

Friday, October 27
8:30 am: Beekeeping Equipment Demo
9:15 am: Anatomy: Worker Bees
10:00 am: Break
10:15 am: Drones and Queens
11:00 am: Friday Bee School Concludes

Saturday, October 28
8:30 am: Bee Behavior
9:15 am: Honey Bee Pests and Diseases
10:00 am: Break
10:15 am: Hive Products Q & A
Thursday, October 26
7:00 pm: Wine and Cheese Social

Friday, October 27
7:30 am: Registration
8:00 am: Silent Auction Begins
8:15 am: Welcome and Announcements
Mr. Kenny Williams, OSBA President
Mr. Greg Lemmons, IHIA President
General Session in the Ball Room
(see Bee School information, page 2)
8:30 am: Bee Breeding and Future Possibilities
Ms. Susan Cobey, Ohio State University
9:15 am: Successful Formic Acid Application
Mr. David VanderDussen, NOD Apiaries
10:00 am: Break
10:15 am: California Almond Pollination
Mr. Joe Traynor, Scientific Ag Co.
11:00 am: Idaho Beekeeping/Mr. Jay Miller
Noon: Luncheon
The WSU Bee Breeding Program: Increasing Involvement/Dr. Steve Sheppard, WSU
1:15 pm: Honey Bee Dissection for Tracheal Mite Infestation/Dr. Diana Sammataro

Note: Special Session in the Cove Room
2:00 pm: Tracheal Mite Dissection Lab
Dr. Lynn Royce and Dr. Diana Sammataro
2:00 pm: Out of Africa: A Story of the Bees of Ethiopia/Dr. Marina Meixner
2:45 pm: Break
3:00 pm: Fall Requeening Strategies
Mr. John Jacob, Old Sol Apiaries
3:45 pm: Evaluating WSU Honey Bee Stocks in Commercial Operations/Mr. Ben Horwath, WSU
4:00 pm: Silent Auction Ends
4:30–5:45 pm: State Business Meetings
6:00 pm: Social Hour
7:00 pm: Banquet (followed by Benefit Auction)
Grumpy Old Beekeepers/Mr. George Hansen

Saturday, October 28
7:30 am: Registration
8:15 am: Welcome and Announcements
Mr. Kenny Williams, OSBA President
Mr. Greg Lemmons, IHIA President
General Session in the Ball Room
(see Bee School information, page 2)
8:30 am: Carl Hayden Research Lab
Dr. Diana Sammataro
9:15 am: Instrumental Insemination Techniques and Queen Performance/Ms. Susan Cobey
10:00 am: Break
10:15 am: Decision-Making to Address New and Current Issues/Mr. David VanderDussen
11:00 am: Doolittle’s Scientific Queen Rearing and the Current Genetic Diversity of US Bee Populations/Dr. Steve Sheppard
Noon: Luncheon
Panel Discussion: Pollination Pricing—Are We Just Stashing Bees?/Mr. Jay Miller, Moderator
1:15 pm: Candle Making
Mr. Chuck Sowers, Sowers Apiaries

Note: Special Session in the Cove Room
2:00 pm: Candle-Making Lab
2:00 pm: National Honey Board Report
Mr. George Hansen
2:45 pm: Break
3:00 pm: Panel Discussion Q & A
Dr. Lynn Royce, Moderator
3:45 Final Comments/Mr. Kenny Williams
4:00 pm: Adjourn
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@integrate.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; haymaker000@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@btconline.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; bolstad@soo@molalla.net
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@nehalemntel.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
Co-Treasurers: Michael & Brigitte Hendrickson
hendricm@ece.pdx.edu

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
REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Lane County Beekeepers
The September newsletter is now available.

Portland Metro Beekeepers
John Holderness reports that Sam Hutchinson’s broken leg (a result of a motorcycle accident) is healing day by day.

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers
Todd Balsigner notes that the group has new co-treasurers: Mike and Brigette Hendrickson. And that, come December, they will have a new president... He shares his belief that their club (as well as others) has benefited tremendously from Thom Trusewicz and his ORSBA web site. Some of their members are prolific users of the message board at this site, and new members have come to meetings because they have browsed there and gained interest. Todd thanks Thom for his tremendous contribution to OSBA. As he says, this is his last year as TVBA president, at least for a while. He can’t remember when he started, but knows that it has been a long time—maybe 6 years or so. And he adds: Hat’s off to Phyllis Shoemake.

AROUND THE REGION

At Ruhl Bee Supply, Sheryl Johnson says Ed continues to heal from a recent surgery. She has now done the research and confirms that there’s an antidote for the odor of Honey Robber. Honey Robber has been stored “way in the back” of the shop for years because Sheryl (and others) cannot stand the smell. It lingers in the air as well as on hands and clothing. The answer is Febreze, a product available in the laundry section of grocery stores. The recommendation for use: “Just spray it!”

Note: While looking up how to spell Febreze, I found several references to recipes for homemade Febreze. Tests with these offshoots might merit a few trials as well!

FALL HARVEST DINNER

Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Program

Saturday/October 14, 2006

5:30 pm: Social Hour
6:30 pm: Dinner
7:45 pm: Fundraising Auction

Location: Albany—at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center

The purpose of the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Program is to teach young people about agriculture, the source of our food and fiber, and its impacts on our economy and our daily lives. The program provides educational materials to K–12 teachers throughout Oregon at no cost. During the 2005–2006 school year, AITC hands-on learning materials and lessons were delivered to more than 48,500 students.

To attend the dinner, print out an invitation/mail-in registration at: http://aitc.oregonstate.edu/PDF/FHDinvite2006.pdf

Individual tickets: $30 or Table of 8: $200
(Please order by October 5, 2006.)

Tickets at the door: $40

Even if you can’t attend the dinner, donation items are needed for the auction. Please contact Tami Kerr, Program Director, to donate auction items: tami.kerr@oregonstate.edu
**KEEPING BEES IN WESTERN OREGON**

*Harry Vanderpool*

*October*

Continue to take precautions against robbing. Smaller colonies may need an entrance reducer to help with hive defense.

Make hive inspections as brief as possible as the weather cools. Inspect only as necessary.

Install mouse guards on all hives. Use galvanized hardware cloth with 1/2-inch holes.

As humidity increases, make sure hives have adequate ventilation. This will reduce the onset of fungal problems later on when the rains begin. Use auger holes or small twigs placed at the rear of hive covers.

Protect stored supers with frames of comb by placing paradichlorobenzene crystals (not naphthalene/mothballs) on a small piece of paper every fifth super in the stack. Make sure to cover the stack. Inspect untreated comb regularly.

Feed colonies light on stores heavy sugar syrup (2:1) during the remaining warm weather. Do not use poor grades of honey for feed.

Consider medicating bees with Fumidil-B to control *Nosema*, especially if bees were stressed in late summer.

Remove miticide strips on schedule.

Continue to document your efforts to help assess the efficacy of your pest-control strategy.

Secure hive covers. Fiberglass straps work well. Make a to-do list for fall and winter and review it often.

Deliver yard-rent honey. Consider placing this honey in nice containers.

Get lumber and other materials needed for constructing hives in hand before the cold weather sets in. You will be able to get right to work on cool mornings!

Make plans to attend the OSBA fall conference.

You are an important member of the agricultural community of beekeepers.

*Adapted from: The Bee Line 30(9): 10.*

**PRESENTING...**

Among the many talented individuals who will be sharing their knowledge and experience at the OSBA annual conference (see Agenda, p. 3) this month:

**Susan Cobey** is Staff Apiarist at Ohio State University, a position she has held since 1990. She maintains the New World Carniolan breeding program, which she originated in 1981 at Vaca Valley Apiaries in California. The program also serves as a training model for specialized beekeeping short courses offered to beekeepers seeking tools for improving stocks. In addition to establishing and maintaining the bee breeding program and teaching courses, Susan has published numerous articles in the beekeeping literature on related topics.

**Diana Sammataro** is Research Entomologist at the Carl Hayden Bee Laboratory in Tucson, Arizona. Her major focus involves research on novel controls of bee mites. As she continues work on developing an approach to managing bees and parasitic mites, including new mite controls (volatiles and new products), she is also doing research on pollination problems and mite behavior. Diana speaks at bee conferences across the country and internationally. In addition, she is the new president the Western Apicultural Society and heads arrangements for the 2007 WAS Conference in Tucson next summer. Diana has published numerous research papers, reports, and other materials related to honey bees and beekeeping.

Early in his career, **Joe Traynor** worked for Valley Pollination Service in Bakersfield, California. It was there that he learned about the world of beekeeping. He has run up to 600 colonies at a time. Joe has also worked for a fertilizer company, a consulting company, and Superior Farms (Now Paramount Farms). Since 1973, he has owned and operated Scientific Ag. Co., which is both a pollination service modeled after Valley Pollination Service and a consultation service in soil fertility and plant nutrition. His contributions to the literature are extensive.
HONEY COMB AND WAX MOTH

Thom Trusewicz

When doing presentations on chemical-free beekeeping, I am often asked about how to store comb to protect it from wax moth without using chemicals. Often wax is stored with fumigants such as paradichlorobenzene. The problem is that wax, which is a lipid, absorbs the gas produced by this material. Any honey left in the wax will absorb it as well. So, if fumigants are not desirable, what can protect comb from wax moth? One simple answer is: a freezer. The minimum temperature and exposure time needed to destroy all stages of the wax moth are: 20°F (-7°C) for 4.5 hr, 10°F (-13°C) for 3.0 hr, 5°F (-15°C) for 2.0 hr. Leaving frames in for a longer period will not harm wax, so if you have the space or forget that you placed the frames in the freezer, no harm done. If you choose to remove the frames, place them in supers stacked on a flat surface such as plywood or a hive cover. Tape over any vent holes or cracks in the boxes. And tape the joints where one box rests upon another box. Check the frames in mid-winter to be sure there hasn’t been a moth invasion that somehow got by your barriers.

Reference: http://www.msstate.edu/Entomology/beenews/beenews0705.htm

NECTAR—SWEETNESS AND?

Rosanna Mattingly

Many beekeepers are about as hooked on plants as are honey bees—their diversity, beauty, and innumerable adaptations for life are awesome indeed. And, as remarkable as the honey bee’s capacity to find and communicate the location of flowers with relatively high sugar contents may be, there’s ever more to the story.

A common assumption is that nectar is a simple solution of sugar water and that honey bees prefer flowers with nectar containing relatively more of the sweet stuff. We feed our bees sugar syrup in different proportions depending on whether we’re wanting to ensure their survival during lean times or we’re wanting to encourage egg-laying and early build-up. Researchers use sugar syrup freely in all sorts of experiments—for example, in elucidating various aspects of the bee dance. And some of us even feed sugar syrup to hummingbirds, all the while believing that we are mimicking the stuff of flowers. It seems to work. Yet, the nectar of the next flower you see a bee visit may contain any number of additional substances.

Continued on page 8
Speculation about the reasons for all of this is abundant, and ongoing studies are testing a range of hypotheses. For example, among the amino acids, proline is particularly abundant in some nectars. Studies have shown that the flight muscles of insects burn a lot of proline during early phases of flight and that proline may be a better short-term source of energy than glucose. It’s also known that a bee’s taste receptors for salt respond to proline. When honey bees are offered sugar solutions spiked with proline, they show a preference for solutions containing proline concentrations similar to those in plant nectars. Would crops with proline additives at these particular concentrations in their nectars attract more visitors?

In a sense, a honey bee worker is as inseparable from plants as she is from all the other bees in her colony. The next time you make up a sugar water solution, take a minute to think about how it may differ from the nectar your bees will collect and about the numerous aspects of plant-pollinator relationships about which we know so little. It’s like that with Nature. The closer you look, the more you find—and often the more you find that is almost beyond imagining.


**BEE TALK**

Q: Who is the bees favorite singer?
A: Sting!

Q: Who is the bees favorite pop group?
A: The Bee Gees. (Of course!)

**From:** http://www.ahajokes.com/bee_jokes.html

**PEAR BUTTER**

5-1/2–6 pounds of pears, peeled and sliced
1/2 cup water
2 cups mild-flavored honey

Cook pears with water until softened. Mash and blend in blender. This should make about 7 cups of fruit pulp. Pour pulp into a 5-quart saucepan. Add honey and cook uncovered over low heat for about 3 hours—until thickened. Stir frequently toward the end of the cooking time. Spoon a teaspoon of pear butter onto a cold plate to test. If no liquid separates from the butter, it is ready. Ladle into hot sterilized jars and seal. Take care to review basic canning methods. Makes five 1/2-pint jars.

**From:** California Honey Advisory Board
**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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- 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 November/December 2006. For advertising, send payment to Co-Secretary/Treasurer, Phyllis Shoemake. Contact the Editor for additional information.
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The Johnson Family
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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<th>Journal</th>
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*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) $_________
Publication(s): Indicate journal(s) and period(s) of subscription $_________
Additional voluntary contribution: Designate Research Fund/General Fund (please circle one) $_________
Amount enclosed: $_________

Members of an OSBA Regional Association: Make check payable to the Regional Association and attach form. The Regional Association Treasurer will submit the form and a check for the amount less $1, which goes to support the Regional Association.

Regional Association Treasurers and others: Make check payable to OSBA and send with form to: Phyllis Shoemake, 1702 Toucan St NW, Salem OR 97304.
Please check your mailing label. If the date on the label is near 1-October-06, your membership is due to expire. This is your friendly renewal notice.

Enjoy all the treats of the harvest season!

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

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