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INTRODUCTIONS

President Chuck Sowers

Nothing reminds me of the changes in beekeeping as much as does the winter season. Thirty-some years ago when we were starting beekeeping, winter meant a time to relax, put together some new equipment, repair some old equipment, and plan for a great next year. All of this remains true—except the relaxing part.

As I start my first year as OSBA president, I am looking forward to the challenges that we face as a group. If mites and shrinking bee forage were not problem enough, we now have viruses and the high cost of fuel. With the Apiary position gone at Oregon State University and the Department of Agriculture trying to cut costs, we are left with little support. It is time for us to pull together and work on solutions to as many of our problems as possible. The Endowment project for a honey bee-related position is ongoing, I hope for more information about the progress on this in the near future.

I taught school for many years. During that time, our family built our bee business from a few hives to over a thousand. Seven years ago, we retired from teaching and moved just south of Canby to have room for our business. While the pollination part of our beekeeping has remained constant, our bottled honey sales have climbed close to more than we can handle. That brings to mind the problem of labor in the beekeeping world. For many years our children were a great help. The bees played a big part in their college education, but real jobs have now taken the place of helping with the bees. It seems such a short time ago that they were too young to help. My new workers must be found in a different way.

I have served as the Metro Area Representative for many years. There have been five different presidents during this time. Each of them handled OSBA affairs differently, but with good success. The problems have changed over the years for both OSBA and each of our individual operations. Some have been solved, but many just seem to linger on year after year. One positive was the large rise in honey prices a few years ago that allowed many operations to get into the black. As honey prices have slid a long

Note: Thanks to Helga Moll for the bee sketch on pages 1–3.

Continued on page 2
way back, the California almond pollination has allowed most of us to upgrade all types of related equipment. The new norm is stress for the winter. In the old days, if you lost more than five percent of your bees, you hid the fact from your beekeeping buddies. Now if you lose less than twenty-five percent, you look for people to hear you brag. I hope each of you has reason to brag this year.

Vice President Mark Johnson

I am the new vice president of OSBA. I was a Vocational Educational teacher at Scappoose High School and retired two years ago after teaching thirty years. I live in the West Hills of Portland near Sauvie Island, where I, my wife Sue, and our four children started Nature’s Best Oregon Honey over thirty years ago. The Johnson family runs about 600 colonies, mainly for pollination. Sue also enjoys making beeswax candles. The beekeeping business is a real family affair for the Johnsons. Sue sells her candles and honey at the Hollywood Farmers Market, where she is aided by daughter-in-law Andree’ and grandchild Ella. I would not be able to manage my bees without the help of all my children; ours is a true family-run business.

Chuck Sowers and I have been friends for a long time and have worked together at various times in our bee businesses. We have similar ideas about the direction of the bee industry, and OSBA in particular. We also have proven to work well together over the years and look forward to leading OSBA into the future.

Secretary Lynn Royce

I lift the receiver of the ringing phone and listen to a panicked voice. Spiders! The woman on the line had just learned that poisonous spiders occur in Oregon. She is pregnant and terrified that the spider she saw in her home will harm her or her unborn child. “Take a deep breath,” I say to calm her hysterical voice. “Let’s talk about Oregon spiders.” For the past ten years, I was the Insect Identification Expert in Extension Entomology at Oregon State University. This job brought a broad spectrum of insects and other invertebrates to my desk. From the curious to the farmer, homeowner to medical doctor, I saw critters not only from the Pacific Northwest but also from elsewhere—those that hitchhiked here. Some of the insects, for example, the human bot fly, even crossed our borders inside human bodies. Once in a while I could squeeze in some honey bee work, but it was difficult to sandwich any significant research into the mix of identification and extension. Funding was also a problem.

After several years (1985-1989) of studying the honey bee tracheal mite, I finished my doctorate at OSU. I continued to work at OSU as a post doctorate fellow and did some work on honey bee mating behavior. This complex and highly evolved aspect of honey bees captured my interest and probably influenced my decision to leave the university institution. I struck out on my own in June 2005 to raise honey bee queens resistant to Varroa mites. This was not an easy decision. I enjoyed my clients, even the hysterical ones. I love to talk insects; they are so full of beauty and wonder. But changes came to the institution that pushed and twisted my inner self. It was time to move on.

Coming face to face with the commercial aspect of beekeeping was kind of like leaping into a high mountain lake with ice lingering on shady shores. I’ve learned to be, shine, and grump better than ever before. Suddenly weather, diseases, and other natural disasters are real in a new way to me. Unnatural disasters (spray planes and pesticides) also take on new meaning and definitely bring out my bad side. The process of selection for resistance is complex. The bees are good teachers. Slowly my system is coming together. I already want to add resistance to American foulbrood to the
lines I am working with. I admire the researchers who have brought us significant progress towards resistant honey bee stocks. And I look forward to each new spring to evaluate surviving colonies and begin anew.

As a board member of OSBA, I would like to continue work to improve communication and understanding. We need to hear from each other: understand the frustrations and restrictions of apiculture researchers, increase dialogue with apiculture researchers, make growers aware of our needs, listen to one another across state lines, and improve the awareness of the general public.

Education plays a huge role in understanding. It is important to educate ourselves as well as to reach out to others. I would be delighted to see more beekeepers involved in education. Stories and information provided for The Bee Line could be submitted to grower newsletters. Once is never enough; we learn through repetition. We could work on submissions for parent and school newsletters and magazines. Many members are and have been involved with taking observation hives to schools and other types of public events. Encourage this. Mentor youth who are interested and want to keep bees. Establish an apiary that could be used by schools. There is a good example of this in Battleground WA. In addition, from my experience in research, I would like to see the gap in understanding between beekeepers and bee researchers reduced. Instead of hearing “What can this researcher do for me?” I want to hear “How can we help this researcher so that they will have more time and be willing to work on applied apiculture?”

**Treasurer Patricia Swenson**

I have been voted to act as treasurer for OSBA. I’m a “new-bee.” My husband and I have just completed our second year in beekeeping. Three years ago my Step-Dad gave me a brood box with foundation. I set it out in the yard with hopes that bees would find it. They did not. The next year, my husband and I put in a small blueberry field. Because we wanted bees for pollination, I decided to go to bee school and purchase some bees with the help of the Willamette Valley bee group. At first the idea of keeping bees was mine. My husband drove me to the meetings as I have a bad back and driving is hard for me. It didn’t take long before my husband was drawn into the world of bees with me. Working with bees (and with other bee people) has become an activity my husband and I now enjoy together!

I am a retired zookeeper. I used to work at the Oregon Zoo in Portland. I still think of it as the Washington Park Zoo. Four years ago I was in an automobile accident on the way home from a Science Team meeting in Ephrata WA. Two of the vertebrae in my upper back were crushed, and I am now the unlucky recipient of chronic back pain. My kids are grown and have left home, and I found myself without a job to give my life focus. I felt like a bump on a log. Even though the back pain keeps me from doing some things, I still want to be a contributing member of society. This is one of the reasons I decided to volunteer for the job as treasurer. Working with my own bees and volunteering at the State Fair Bee Booth and AgFest make me feel more like a positive force in the universe.

Being an apiarist is a lot like being a zookeeper. You have to have the ability to observe the behavior of the animals in your care to know how to take care of them. Are they hungry? Are they acting sick? What is the safest way to administer their medications to cure their ills? Then you add 99 percent common sense to your observations. There is a wonderful network for sharing ideas and special methods among those who work with bees. I find this refreshing. Every week I volunteer at the local elementary school and work with children who are having a difficult time learning to read. What better things could I be doing with my life than opening up the world of education to young people and helping work towards a “fruitful” environment through working with bees? I’m glad to be here and helping out.
OSBA RESOURCES

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: Doug Woods
14285 S Union Hall Rd, Mulino

North Coast/Webmaster: Thom Trusewicz
90041 Logan Rd, Astoria
(503) 325-7966; ccbee@intergate.com

South Coast: open

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

Willamette Valley: Harry Vanderpool
7128 Skyline Rd S, Salem; (503) 399-3675
shallotman@yahoo.com

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

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

Eugene Water & Electric Bd, 500 E 4th Ave
President: Morris Ostrofsky
(541) 685-2875; ostrofsky@pacinfo.com
Vice Pres: Judy Scher
judy_scher@catdreams.com
Secretary: Barbara Bajec; (541) 767-9086;
mbarrels@bbastrodesigns.com
Treasurer: Nancy Ograin
(541) 935-7065; woodrt@pacinfo.com
web site: www.lcbao.org

Portland Metro Beekeepers
Meets 7 pm, second Thursday, Oregon City
Hous Auth Clackamas Bldg, 13930 S Gain
President: Sam Hutchinson; (503) 829-7744
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: Floyd Pawlowski
415 Pompadour Dr, Ashland
Secretary/Treasurer: Suzanne Davis
suzanne@mighty.net
web site: www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org

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: Andrew Schwab
(503) 537-0506; Pry4ausi@verizon.net
Vice Pres: Todd Balsiger
(503) 357-8938; toddbalsiger@comcast.net
Secretary: Preston Gabel
(503) 530-1436; preston@gabelhaven.com
Co-Treasurers: Michael & Brigette
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@usfamily.net
ASSOCIATION NEWS

Lane County Beekeepers
Ken Ograin reports that planning for 2007 is well on its way. An early December board meeting chaired by newly elected president Morris Ostrofsky set meeting topics for the entire year. Bee School will take place March 17, 2007, and a planning meeting will be held in January. The January membership meeting will welcome new officers with a social and feature Bertie Stringer talking on “Oregon Floral Sources.” Because the group did not have a membership meeting in December, many members attended the meeting of the Eugene butterfly group for a very interesting talk on native plants and their pollinators by Dr Andy Moldenke of Oregon State University. For information, see: www.ent.orst.edu/moldenka. The last weekend in January will bring the “Good Earth Home Show” at the Lane County Fairgrounds. The group will have a booth at the show, which will allow members to interact with the public to educate and inform.

Note: See the association’s newsletter at: www.lcbaor.org.

Southern Oregon Beekeepers
Suzanne Davis notes that election results are in! John Jacob was elected to continue as the president. Floyd Pawlowski will serve as the club’s vice-president, and Suzanne will serve as secretary/treasurer for the upcoming year. The group will be sponsoring Bee School again this year in southern Oregon. Although dates have not yet been selected, the event will take place in time to incorporate the knowledge into the 2007 beekeeping season.

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers
Todd Balsiger has learned that the OSU extension-campus building their club uses for meetings has been sold. He says this is a real disappointment because the building has provided a fabulous meeting location as well as facility. The group has about a year to find a new home. Todd welcomes any advice on other places where they might meet.

The December meeting, a dinner at the Dancing Dragon, was extremely well attended—about thirty-five people. Todd has decided to step down as president, which he believes he has been for seven years. His son was a baby then, and now he is almost nine. As Todd says, “I am surprised, almost disappointed actually, by how long it has been. Time does go by fast sometimes.”

The group elected Andrew Schwab as president; Todd will serve as vice-president. Todd says that Andrew, the son of a prominent beekeeper from the Dakotas, is full of new ideas, enthusiastic, and more knowledgeable about beekeeping than himself. Although Todd will not disappear into oblivion as some past presidents have been known to do, he may intentionally miss a meeting now and then!

The club has been contemplating how to direct some pork-barrel spending their way now that two of their prominent members (Chuck Sowers and Mark Johnson) are part of the OSBA leadership. This is a work in progress.

DID YOU KNOW?
The pesticides brochure is” in the mail.” An online version is available at: extension.oregon state.edu/catalog/pdf/pnw/pnw591.pdf.
Copies of the OSBA Constitution and Bylaws can be downloaded from the OSBA web site: www.orsba.org.
According to the USDA, honey bees have an annual value of $20 billion for their role in pollination.
Plans for migratory lids from NOD Apiary Products/Mite-Away II and a video download are available at no cost at: www.miteaway.com.
You can save OSBA 75 cents each time you let us know early of any changes in address.
REVISITING THE 2006 CONFERENCE

Rosanna Mattingly

About 170 beekeepers from around the Pacific Northwest took up residence along the Oregon Coast at Newport in late October for a joint meeting of Oregon and Idaho beekeepers’ associations. In addition to conference sessions, attendees gathered in hallways with hot coffee and in unseasonably warm sunshine beachside. Conference presenters Susan Cobey (Ohio State University), David VanderDussen (NOD Apiaries), Marina Meixner and Steve Sheppard (both from Washington State University), Diana Sammataro (Carl Hayden Honey Bee Research Lab), Joe Traynor (Scientific Ag Company), and others shared a wealth of information, long-term experience, and perspectives on both the known and the not so well known.

Participants had opportunities to increase their understanding about declines in the genetic diversity of North American honey bee populations; the evolutionary history of bees in Ethiopia; the history, development, approaches, and ongoing efforts in queen breeding programs; how to raise queens; almond pollination and implications for beekeepers; the many Varroa mitotypes; research into and appropriate colony management—including benefits and use of formic acid for mite control; and the fantastic array of mites on the planet (even though these mites include the genus Tropilaelaps!) and the unsolved mystery of their communication by means of volatile substances.

The conference also provided hands-on events—from candle-making to honey bee dissections for tracheal mite infestation, as well as a bee school for novice beekeepers. In addition, conference-goers were able to preview a draft of the updated publication on reducing bee poisoning from pesticides just released by OSU Extension.

When asked about the conference, Harry Vanderpool noted that “the OSBA Fall Conference 2006 was a huge success due to a strong team effort by its membership. These fine individual efforts that join to serve the whole, provide the ideal definition of the word association.”

Harry noted that those to be thanked include the following:

**Registration Booth:** Phyllis Shoemake, Liz Vanderpool, and Heike Williams

**Co-Anchor, Production:** Ken Kite

**Oral Auction:** Andy Angstrom, Jordan Dimock, Alan Ehry, Pat Heitkam, and Jay Miller

**Silent Auction:** Debbie Morgan

**Speaker Escorts:** Jordan Dimock, Rosanna Mattingly, and Dr. Lynn Royce

**Banquet Wine:** George & Sue Hansen, Jan Lohman & Vince Vazza, Bob & Debbie Morgan, and Tony Noyes

In addition, Harry says that “a very special THANK YOU goes out to Jordan Dimock and Dr. Lynn Royce for their tireless ‘behind the scenes’ efforts, far too numerous to list. And to all of those who donated or purchased auction items, congratulations for a record in auction proceeds this year!!”

Ummmm—interesting that Harry said not one word about his own efforts in planning, organizing, and making it all happen.

_Thank you, Harry!!_
OSBA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Newport, Oregon
October 27, 2006

The General Membership Meeting of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association was called to order by Kenny Williams at 4:40 pm. The Minutes were read by Jan Lohman, and the Treasurer’s Report was received from Phyllis Shoemake. The OSBA Treasury now has a balance of $57,944.52. Fritz Skirvin made a motion to accept the Minutes and Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Jordan Dimock. The motion carried.

Web Site
Thom Trusewicz reported that last year there were 1,500 hits to the OSBA web site. This year we have had 3,500 hits. There are 128 members on the message board. The website is self-supporting.

The Bee Line
Rosanna Mattingly notes that some have helped with The Bee Line, but she is looking for more support from OSBA members to help with articles and pictures.

Pesticides Booklet
Kenny displayed a booklet about bee poisoning that is being printed by OSU at this time. The funding came from the Oregon State Beekeepers Association, Oregon State Department of Agriculture, Washington Beekeepers Association, and the Washington State Department of Agriculture. It will be sent to each OSBA member and will also be on the web site.

New Business
Josh Vlach from the Oregon Department of Agriculture is interested in Fire Ants coming into Oregon. Kenny offered to write an article for The Bee Line to get Josh’s name and phone number to beekeepers. Fred VanNatta suggested that we have Josh write the article.

Phyllis Shoemake is interested in changing the bylaws of OSBA to reflect that the local associations when collecting dues for OSBA not keep the $1.00 as stated in the bylaws. It is cumbersome for the associations, and they do not want to deal with it. The Constitution does not need to be affected by this change. Mike Harrington moved that we change the bylaws to reflect this change, and Jordan Dimock seconded the motion. Discussion was held and the motion passed.

Dr. Marina Meixner spoke to the group about support for her new queen project. She is asking for letters of support from the industry to help secure a grant to help her run this project. She would like letters from individuals and also regional groups.

Fall Conference 2007
Harry Vanderpool explained that our growth has required him to look for a larger facility. He has chosen the Seaside Convention Center for 2007. Bob Arnold, a Washington beekeeper, explained that there is a communication problem between Washington and Oregon concerning the next Convention, which is scheduled to be Northwest Corner. George Hansen suggested that we need to work this out with Washington to benefit the entire industry. Kenny Williams suggested that we move this to the agenda of the next Executive Board meeting and have them work this out.

Herman Scullen Fund and the Endowment Fund
When the Department of Entomology closed at OSU, the Scullen Fund was without an administrator and department. The University and the OSBA Board have been trying to develop a contract for the Endowment Fund as well. We would like to see the Scullen Fund active again, and we proposed a committee of three beekeepers and three faculty. Oregon State University proposed that two beekeepers and three faculty be on this committee, and they
broadened the use of the funds to Pollination Ecology and Ecology as well as Apiculture.

Kenny has asked that they postpone awarding the money until we revisit this and protect the intent of the donors.

Kenny Williams has offered to continue contact with OSU if desired by the new Executive Board to carry out this project. Fritz Skirvin moved that the membership of OSBA reaffirm its commitment that the money for the Endowment Fund benefit Northwest apiculture. This motion was seconded by George Hansen and passed.

Election
Nominated for Regional Representatives are as follows:

- South Coast: To be appointed
- North Coast: Thom Trusewicz
- Metro: To be appointed
- Willamette Valley: Fritz Skirvin and Harry Vanderpool
- Columbia Basin: Debbie Morgan
- Eastern Oregon: Jordan Dimock
- Southern Oregon: Pat Morris

George Hansen moved that we accept the nominations as stated. Jordan Dimock seconded the motion. A vote was taken on the Willamette Valley position, and Harry Vanderpool won the position.

Nominated for Officers
- President: Chuck Sowers
- Vice President: Mark Johnson
- Secretary: Lynn Royce
- Treasurer: Patricia Swenson

George Hansen made a motion that we accept the entire platform of officers. It was seconded by Jordan Dimock and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Lohman

BOB MARION PASSES
Bob Marion, a long-time member of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association, passed away on Sunday December 3, 2006. Bob was diagnosed with cancer in October and was cared for by his daughter until his death.

Bob was a kind, patient, and loving man who was always ready to help others. He was committed to his family, his community, and God. He loved his bees and strived to be the best beekeeper he could be. His appreciation for these small creatures was an inspiration to all who knew him.

Bob always had a smile and a kind word to encourage others. To those of us who knew and loved him, his passing leaves a large void. My prayer for Bob is that he is in heaven tending to the Lord’s apiary.

Mo Verdin
Cascade ID

CITY CITIES
Ken Ograin of the Lane County Beekeepers group responded to the query in the last issue of The Bee Line about hobbyist beekeeping inside city limits. As he relates, the City of Eugene allows one hive only per property, and that hive must be placed ten feet inside the property line. In contrast, the City of Springfield allows one hive on a lot of a minimum of 10,000 square feet, and one additional hive for each additional 2,500 square feet. Ken notes that cities that do not have land use codes for honey bees typically follow the Lane County Land Use Codes: Lane County does not limit the number of hives, but does require that all hives be placed at least fifty feet inside property lines.

Note: Do you know of additional regulations in other places? Lack of regulation?
**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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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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*Outside the US, add $18 per year for postage.
**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: $_________

Make check payable to OSBA and send with form to: Patricia Swenson, 11665 Webfoot Rd, Dayton OR 97114.

Note: You may have read in the General Membership minutes that the newsletter editor is asking for help with articles and pictures. I am! And yet it’s more than that. I want this newsletter to be a resource for beekeepers in the region—whether you are an OSBA member or not. I want it to reflect your concerns, interests, beekeeping practices, friends and mentors, and questions—and maybe even point to some answers at times. I want to know what has meaning for you in your life with bees. And so, yes, I do indeed want your help. Only you can make this happen.
The Bee Line
Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association
PO Box 42363
Portland, Oregon 97242

Address Service Requested

Please check your mailing label. If the date on the label is near January 2007, your membership is due to expire. This is your friendly renewal notice.

Very best of wishes for 2007!

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

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