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Image above: Helga Moll watches her bees as they fly from their open-front house.

Note: The theme of the upcoming 2007 OSBA Conference involves health in bees through nutrition. Conference details are being finalized, and the lineup includes Marion Ellis, George Hansen (CCD; National Honey Board), Pat Heitkam (almond pollination), Jay Miller, and Eric Mussen (mites and medication; current UC-Davis happenings). A form for registration appears on page 8.

FALL REQUEENING AND OTHER THOUGHTS ON BEES

Helga Moll

As a hobbyist beekeeper for many years, I keep just a few hives at my place in the Oregon City area. I do not move the bees to other crops or other places. They actually have their own house, open in the front, and are part of my life. I requeen almost every year. Sometimes the queens are rejected and/or killed. If that happens in spring, I have been able to get another queen quickly. This is not always possible in the fall.

I have found a way to lessen the risk that the queen will be rejected. First I make a small nuc with the old queen and add a frame of eggs and honey and pollen. I shake a good amount of bees in with it. I put this nuc close to the hive. The foragers fly back home to the hive, so the nuc will not show much activity for a few days. Then I add the new queen to the hive and release her after four days if there is no sign of hostility toward her. I do not use smoke when checking on whether or not the hive is accepting the queen. Instead, I spray light sugar syrup with a touch of mint. This makes all the bees smell the same. It seems to work very well. In the event that it does not work, however, I still have the nuc queen handy.

All my hives have screened bottom boards with removable trays. This is a big improvement in keeping bees. I clean the trays weekly and before manipulations. I have double-deep brood chambers, and I dust them with one cup of powdered sugar in a flour sifter for even distribution after each check-up. This seems to make for a good mite drop. The mites are not as able to cling to the bees.

I am trying to get away from miticides. We don’t know what the future holds for our beloved bees. One thing is for sure and will not change—we need them for pollination on this overcrowded planet Earth. We need to find a way to help the bees survive.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Have you ever finished a tough task and felt you were on the downhill side? I finished moving bees into Madras this morning. What a relief. It seems the work for the year is almost finished. Moving bees this time of year has so many problems. The heat keeps the bees in large clumps on the front of the hives, inside the pallets, and flying until dark. You must be careful or they fall onto the ground in big piles or you crush large numbers with the forklift when you pick up the hives. Leaving homeless bees in the field to annoy folks is not the best for public relations. It gets dark so late and light so early that not many hours are left for sleep between night and morning moves. Day sleeping is not an option. Hives must be checked to ensure the new renters get what they expect. Honey must be taken off and extracted. The one-hundred-fifty miles to Madras and a schedule of moves with forty-eight hours or less notice are other difficulties. Maybe the biggest problem to overcome is that the move to Madras coincides with our biggest honey flow. If you get the bees ready far in advance (a week or more), the hive often adds twenty or more pounds, which can cause a truck overweight problem. Valley blackberry honey is highly desirable and Madras carrot honey is not. Never the two should mix. So get the blackberry honey off, but only a day or two in advance. Every year when moving the bees to Madras, I ask myself, Why are we taking so many? And then when the check comes, I ask myself, Why didn't I take more?

I sometimes hear from individuals wanting to start keeping bees. And I have talked to more than one large beekeeper who has expressed some regret in the choice to get into beekeeping as a profession. There is little doubt that keeping bees alive and finding places to keep them has become much more difficult the last thirty years. Most of us enjoy working with our bees, our friends, and our customers. The amount of physical work needed has not decreased, and the mental stress has caused many to question if they should continue. I know of one man who wanted to increase from a few hives to several hundred. He went to work for another beekeeper for a year to see what taking care of five-hundred hives would involve. At the end of the year, he decided to increase to less than a hundred hives and to continue to work for the other beekeeper. His reasons were the long hours, the hard work, and the financial risk involved. Doing this kind of research before putting your time and money into beekeeping could be worthwhile. You may come to a different conclusion with more information. Don’t forget the information to increase your knowledge and enjoyment of beekeeping is waiting for you at the Conference.

—Chuck
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Oregon State Beekeepers’ Association Board Meeting • Canby, Oregon • May 19, 2007

The Board Meeting of the Oregon State Beekeepers’ Association was called to order by Chuck Sowers at 1:00 pm. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Lynn Royce. Two corrections were made: the Pesticide Reporting to the Oregon Department of Agriculture will begin January 2008, not 2007, and Idaho beekeepers were not dissatisfied with the Oregon meeting, but felt they needed to hold their own meeting in 2007. The minutes were approved as corrected. No treasurer’s report was received because Patricia Swenson was absent.

Regional Reports

Portland: Doug Woods reported that the Portland bee day had a good turnout of about sixty attendees. In spite of bad weather, everyone had a good time and learned a lot. Most stayed for the auction. The new president of the Portland group is Kerry Haskins and Peter Forrest is vice president. Peter did most of the organizing—an outstanding job.

Willamette Valley: Richard Farrier is the new president of Willamette Valley Beekeepers, and meeting attendance has increased substantially. There has been audience participation at meetings, with attendance by commercial beekeepers and families. The group held bee school with twenty-five students.

Bend Bee School: Thom Trusewicz held a bee school in Bend with eighteen students.

Old Business

Endowment Fund: Kenny Williams reported on the developments to date with the Oregon State University endowment. The new draft has wording to help cover future changes at OSU or with OSBA. Comments from OSBA members have been positive. Chuck proposed that that the group go forward with the agreement and arrange for the signing.

Kenny will ask George Hansen to reissue the letter requesting support for the fund. Donation checks should go directly to the OSU Foundation with a note to OSBA regarding the amount of the contribution.

Scullen Fund: Kenny Williams reported on the Scullen Fund at OSU. The associate dean of Agriculture, Stella Coakley, was contacted and asked to have the Fund rewritten. The first revision was not acceptable. This revision was rewritten and specifies that an applicant must state the area of research they are working on. The new revision will have a review committee that must include two beekeepers. Kenny was appointed to be one of these beekeepers.

Washington Beekeepers: Chuck reported on the relationship with the Washington State Beekeepers Association and stated that they remain pretty much as they were. The WSBA Conference will be held October 25–27, 2007.

Newsletter: Rosanna Mattingly was not in attendance. The Bee Line seems to be doing OK.

Web Site: The OSBA web site is really busy.

New Business

Diagnostic Center for Bee Diseases to be developed at OSU: Oregon State University has made an announcement that it would like to create a center that would include a database and clearing house. Dr. Michael Burgett has sent a letter to OSBA stating that he is unhappy that OSU has not sought his input regarding the development of the diagnostic center. Jim Young has sent a letter to OSBA stating that he is interested in running such a center.

Fall Conference: Mark Johnson has speakers lined up for the conference. He is worried that attendance may be down without WSBA.

Future Conference Sites: Hood River has good attraction and is closer for Washington and Idaho beekeepers. The coast is always attractive. Salem was deemed not a good site. Eugene would make the logistics of speaker transportation easier, but the UO football game schedule would have to be considered.

Conference Auction: Doug Woods brought up the auction and suggested we find a way for the smaller beekeepers at the conference to be able to participate without being outbid by the large...
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
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; denbend@coinet.com
Secretary/Treasurer: Glenda Galaba
(541) 383-1775; galaba@msn.com

Coos County Beekeepers
Meets 6:30 pm, third Saturday (except Dec)
Olsen Baxter Bldg, 631 Alder St, Myrtle Pt
President: Thomas Kyelberg
(541) 297-4017; usvi@charter.net
Vice Pres: Spike Richardson; (541) 267-4725
Secretary: Marda 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: Morris Ostrofsky
(541) 685-2875; ostrofsky@pacinfo.com
Vice President: Judy Scher
judy_scher@catdreams.com

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS’ ASSOCIATION RESOURCES
Secretary: Barbara Bajec; (541) 767-9086;
mbartels@bbastrodesigns.com
Treasurer: Nancy Ograin
(541) 935–7065; woodrt@pacinfo.com
web site: www.lcbaor.org

Portland-Metro Beekeepers
Meets 7 pm, second Thursday, Oregon City
Hous Auth Clackamas Bldg, 13930 S Gain
President: Kerry Haskins
(503) 632–8448; kh251@aol.com
Vice President: Peter Forrest
(503) 236-7787; pduxpete57@msn.com
Secretary: Paul Hardzinski; (503) 631-3927
Treasurer: Barbara Derkacht
(503) 631-3063; bderkacht@yahoo.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 President: 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 President: Terry Fullan
(503) 368-7160; tfullan@nehalemtel.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; pyr4ausi@verizon.net
Vice President: Todd Balsiger
(503) 357-8938; toddbalsiger@comcast.net
Secretary: Preston Gabel
(503) 530-1436; preston@gabelhaven.com
Co-Treasurers: Michael and Brigette Hendrickson
hendricm@ece.pdx.edu

Willamette Valley Beekeepers
Meets 7:30 pm, fourth Monday, Salem
Chemeketa Comm College, Bldg 34, Rm A
President: Richard Farrier; (541) 327–2637
Vice President: Harry Vanderpool
(503) 399–3675; shallotman@yahoo.com
Secretary: Mike Rodia
(503) 364-3275; drodia@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Susan Rauchfuss
(503) 391-5600; smokfoot@cyberis.net
REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Lane County Beekeepers

Finally the word is getting out about the yellow jacket traps that I wrote about in last month’s newsletter. The business section of the Register Guard had a feature on the Spokane manufacture of the Rescue Trap. Costco is offering a two-pack of the traps with the ten-week supply of attractant for $24. This will save you at least $10. If you take advantage of this seasonal offer from Costco, save the attractant until next spring and use salami or your favorite lunchmeat in them for the rest of this season. Then next spring, when you first see those big yellow jackets (queens are ¾ – 1 inch long), put out your traps with the ten-week attractant in them. It may take a couple of years for you to notice a big change, but if you can get your neighbors to use them change will come fast. If you have wooded areas around your home, place the traps there.

Nosema is one of the suspects of CCD. I will be recommending fumagillin treatments to be on the safe side. And, just in case you have not heard, the “POLLINATOR PROTECTION ACT DUE TO THE ADVANCE OF THE COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER” has been introduced in the US Senate. It would bring $85 million over five years for pollinator research, for both honey and native bees. Of this, $50 million goes to Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services. And $11 million would be directed to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to conduct a nationwide honey bee pest and pathogen surveillance program. The balance would go to the USDA research labs.

— Ken Ograin

At the July meeting, we’ll discuss Fall Management. Visitors are always welcome! See our web site www.lcbaor.org for meeting location and more information. The cooperative group selling honey at the Lane County Farmer’s Market is up and running. The booth was open every Saturday in June and will return in September. It’s exciting interacting with people who enjoy locally produced food. Sales were brisk, and we met a lot of very enthusiastic honey consumers. Sharing the work and time commitments of the market among coop members makes great sense, and it is fun. We are looking forward to returning to the market in September. — Jonathan Loftin

Portland Metro Beekeepers

The club has been humming along this year, offering informative talks on various aspects of beekeeping each meeting. The information has been particularly helpful to the new beekeepers among us, but even experienced members find something they can use each month. Everyone is invited to share wisdom from his or her beekeeping experiences, making the discussions quite lively. Our June meeting focused on nucs — building and using them. Jim Barlean was the featured speaker and brought equipment so we could see exactly what he was talking about. He also talked about hive management and reasons for getting into our hives, summing up with the notion that one might go into the hive “just for fun!” Finally, Jim, the gloveless wonder, encouraged beekeepers to work without gloves. His reasoning is that if you’re going into the hive with bare hands, you’re going to be mighty careful how you handle frames and where you put your fingers. If you’re game to try this no-glove approach to beekeeping, it was suggested you might rub your hands with apple cider vinegar. And yes, Jim admitted to getting stung!

The club is growing, so there’s much to be shared during our monthly round table discussions. This is a great time for connecting new beekeepers with more experienced folks, so that as questions come up during the month help is a phone call away.

— Barbara Derkacht

The Portland Metro group welcomed entomologist Dr. Lynn Royce as guest speaker in July. Dr. Royce, OSBA Secretary and well-respected Corvallis breeder of hygienic bees, discussed new disease abatement theories and techniques, most specifically testing for hygienic behavior in her breeding apiary, her preferred tools and techniques for breeding and mating queens, and her goal of raising a line of bees self-reliant of chemical and antibiotic inputs.

Continued on page 6
The Region—Continued from page 5

From her perspective as a researcher—rather than as a commercial or hobbyist beekeeper—Dr. Royce encouraged us to contact agricultural programs at land grant universities as well as local government representatives to urge better funding for apiculture research. She also encouraged beekeepers to pay close attention to nutrition in pollen substitutes, high fructose corn syrup, and sucrose, and the potential impact on colony health.

“Pesticides are probably our worst enemies,” Dr. Royce said, and by the end of her talk it was clear that she referred to those applied within the hive as well as to gardens and crops. She stressed the importance of careful dosage, though she clearly prefers no dosage at all in her work to breed a more-resistant strain of bees rather than a more-resistant strain of mite.

The group also discussed participation in this year’s Clackamas County Fair, including rallying volunteers for cleaning, setting up, and hosting a booth upon approval by fair officials. Bee-related articles collected by members as well as friends circulated the room as the group discussed the upcoming picnic at Barbara Derkacht’s home. —Michelle Burke

Note: Lynn recommends two main resources:

- A Sustainable Approach to Controlling Honey Bee Diseases and Varroa Mites at: http://www.sare.org/publications/factsheet/0305.htm. Lynn adds that the recommendation for hygienic behavior in removing freeze-killed brood has now been changed from 48 hours to 24 hours.


KEEPING BEES IN WESTERN OREGON

Todd Balsiger

From now to the onset of winter, we need to be concerned about adequate food stores, the arrangement of the food, ventilation, disease and pest prevention and control, queen quality, and weather protection. What we do now in August will go a long way in taking care of these concerns.

- Consolidate the brood nest: remove supers, par colony into winter configuration (generally two deeps).

- Treat for Varroa mites if necessary (do the entire apiary together). James Strange and Steve Sheppard determined a western economic threshold of twenty-three naturally fallen Varroa mites in a 24-hour period for August (Bee Culture, July 2007).

- The following chemicals are registered for Varroa control: Apistan, Hivastan, CheckMite, ApiLife Var, ApiGuard, and formic acid. Note that formic acid should not be used if temperatures are in excess of 80 degrees the first week. This product is designed for use at 50–79 degrees.

- Dust hives three times at 4–5 day intervals with fresh Terramycin to prevent European and American foulbrood. Many beekeepers have noticed an increased incidence of EFB corresponding to greater use of Tylosin. Don’t discount Terramycin. Use Tylosin for AFB control only, as opposed to prophylactic treatments. And, if you do use Tylosin, it is better to use it in the fall as opposed to the spring because of how stable it is in honey.

- Queens can be purchased through the month of August. Requeen colonies with failing queens (little or no brood, patchy brood pattern, low worker population) or colonies with undesirable characteristics, such as poor production, mean temper, European foulbrood, and the like. At this time of year it is best to requeen via a nuc—a must if the colony has laying workers.

- Try to prevent robbing behavior from starting. Work hives quickly, preferably in the morning. Don’t tempt robber bees by exposing honey, cappings, or comb. If robbing behavior begins, remove the stimulus: cover exposed honey and reduce entrances on vulnerable colonies. If robbing is a chronic problem, then move weaker colonies to another location.

- Keep on the lookout for American foulbrood as AFB-infected colonies make easy targets for robbing.
Keeping Bees—Continued from page 6

- Extract as soon as possible after removing supers. Wax moths are very active at this time of year and will quickly find brood and pollen in supers. Protect your extracted supers from wax moths.
- Provide water continuously if the bees don’t have access to it from appropriate locations.

Minutes—Continued from page 3

commercial outfits. We will look into splitting items that are duplicated (e.g., queens), leaving some to be open for bidding only by smaller beekeeping businesses and hobby beekeepers.

Free Conference Registration: There has been interest from some of the regional groups to receive a free conference registration as a fundraiser. Discussion regarding the cost to OSBA was held. Lynn moved that OSBA give each group in the state an individual registration for Fall Conference 2007 to be used for a club fundraising raffle to membership with the winning name drawn at the September 2007 meeting. Harry seconded. The motion carried. Chuck will make an announcement to go to clubs. The next meeting will take place at the Fall Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Royce

EXHIBITING AT THE STATE FAIR

The deadline for applying to exhibit your bees, honey, beeswax, and bee photos at the Oregon State Fair (August 24–September 3) is August 20th. Guidelines are at: www.oregonstatefair.org. (Follow links to Competitions/Blue Ribbon Competitions/Farm and Garden/Section B [pages 14–15].) Note that, in addition to requirements provided at the site, photograph submissions need to include date, place, and a paragraph describing the image.

NATURAL BEEKEEPING

Chelsea Green Publishing has just released Natural Beekeeping: Organic Approaches to Modern Apiculture. Author Ross Conrad learned his craft from the late Charles Mraz. The book offers a holistic, sensible alternative to conventional chemical practices with a program of natural hive management. For more information, visit: www.chelseagreen.com/2007/items/naturalbeekeeping.

Note: Chuck Sowers passed this on from Michael Weaver, Regional Sales Manager for Chelsea Green. Michael says that OSBA can obtain a discount for a bulk order: 1–4 books (any titles) = 35%; 5–9 books (any titles) = 45%; 10+ books (any titles) = 50%. Interest?
## Attendee’s Information

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### OSBA Fall Conference 2007

Agate Beach Inn Best Western • Newport, Oregon

November 1, 2, and 3

### Event Pre-Registration

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- **Thursday Night hospitality room**
  - Complimentary
  - Complimentary

- **Friday Conference Only @ $40 (see item 1 below)/ Family registration fee @ $55**
  - $x
  - xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

- **Saturday Conference Only @ $40 (see item 1 below)/ Family registration fee @ $55**
  - $x
  - xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

- **Full Conference @ $75 (see item 1 below)/ Family registration fee @ $100**
  - $x
  - $xx

- **Friday Noon Luncheon @ $15**
  - $x
  - $xx

- **Friday Evening Banquet @ $25**
  - $x
  - $xx

- **Saturday Noon Luncheon @ $15**
  - $x
  - $xx

- **OSBA Membership (includes *The Bee Line*) @ $20**
  - $x
  - $xx

- **Total**
  - $x
  - $xx

### For exhibitors:

- Number of tables @ $25 each _____ Total plus exhibitor’s table fee $__________

1. Attendees qualify for pre-registration rate if application form (with registration fee) is postmarked on or before October 1, 2007. Late or on-site registration rates are: $45 for One Day ($60 for Family) and $85 for Full Conference ($110 for Family).
2. Make checks payable to OSBA.
3. Mail completed registration form and payment to: Patricia Swenson, 11665 Webfoot Rd, Dayton, OR 97114.
4. Hotel reservations are not included in these rates. If you make your reservations at the Agate Beach Inn—(800) 547-3310, ask for the Beekeepers Fall Conference special room rate. They need to know that you are with “the beekeepers” to give you the special rate.
ZUCCHINI SWEET RELISH

10 cups zucchini, coarsely ground/grated
4 medium onions, diced/chopped
1 medium red or green pepper, chopped
2 teaspoons plain table salt
1 teaspoon turmeric
1 teaspoon celery seed
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon nutmeg
2 1/4 cups vinegar (light preferred)
2 cups honey, light/mild

Combine all ingredients in large kettle. Cook over medium heat for 15 minutes, stirring often. Ladle into clean jars. Store in refrigerator or process in boiling water bath 5 minutes to seal jars for keeping.

Note: From the pamphlet, favorite HONEY Recipes. Recipes were created by the late Wilma Ruhl. Copies of the pamphlet with pickle and relish as well as jam and jelly recipes are available from Ruhl Bee Supply.
Mann Lake Ltd.

See us first for all your supply needs, big or small. Our knowledgeable sales staff is ready to serve you! We offer fast, courteous service at the most competitive price. Let us give you a quote today.

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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. Membership includes a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on publications, and ten issues of *The Bee Line*. To become a member, send check made payable to OSBA with completed form to: Patricia Swenson, 11665 Webfoot Rd, Dayton OR 97114.

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*Outside the US, add $18 per year for postage.
*Outside the US, add $15 per year for postage.

**Note:** 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).

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

Ralph and Luella Gamber, founders of Dutch Gold Honey, and their friends the Millers invented the honey bear in 1957. Now 50, the bear is to be named. To enter a name, visit: dutchgoldhoney.com. The deadline for entries is August 31st.

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

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