

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association

Volume 32, Number 8

September 2007



Rosanna Mattingly

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Image above: Colton beekeeper Elbert Lowry exhibits contagious enthusiasm about bee venom therapy, as well as the many bees in this hive. His article on apitherapy begins on page 6.

Note: The month of September is National Honey Month. Find posters, bookmarks, help with hosting events, and additional information at the National Honey Board—(800) 552-7162. (You can also call this number for information about the Honey Industry Voluntary Quality Assurance program.)

OSBA ESTABLISHES APICULTURE ENDOWMENT AT OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

Kenny Williams, Chair, OSBA Endowment Committee

On the twenty-fifth of June of this year, OSBA President Chuck Sowers and I met at the Oregon State University Foundation in Corvallis for the purpose of signing an endowment agreement with the Oregon State University Foundation. Also present were Dr. Anita Azarenko, Head of OSU's Horticulture Department, and Todd Bastian, the Foundation's Director of Development for the College of Agricultural Sciences. After Chuck signed, Todd gathered up the documents for later signing by Dr. Thayne Dutson, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, and J. Michael Goodwin, President and CEO of the OSU Foundation. Entitled the "Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education," this endowment fund represents an important first step in re-establishing a honey bee research presence at Oregon's land grant university.

The Details

The endowment agreement was written in a way that would permit a two-stage approach to using disbursements from the fund. The first stage allows research, extension, and education to be funded beginning at the time that a minimum of \$25,000 has been donated to the fund (more on this follows). A review committee consisting of the Head of the Department of Horticulture, a faculty member from outside the Horticulture Department, a faculty entomologist, and three beekeepers named by the OSBA Executive Board will determine how the fund will be applied. The second stage is achieved when the principal in the fund reaches a sum large enough to support the hiring of a faculty honey bee entomologist. Currently, this sum is \$1.5 million. As time goes by, the minimum required by the Foundation to cover the cost of a new hire will only increase, but once a hire is made, no more principal is required to keep the position funded into the future. Clearly, it would behoove OSBA to identify and communicate with stakeholders and potential donors sooner rather than later in order to achieve the threshold needed for a hire before the sum needed might increase as a result of inflation.

Continued on page 3

The Bee Line

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 membership in OSBA.

Please send news about your bees and your experiences in keeping them, as well as corrections, letters, comments, photographs and stories (old and new), interviews, and requests for advertising to the Editor, *The Bee Line*, 4803 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 157, Portland OR 97206; e-mail: thebeeline@comcast.net.

Advertising Costs Per Issue

Business Ads:

Business card	\$10.00
Quarter page	\$25.00
Half page	\$50.00
Full page	\$100.00

Classified Ads (30 words):

Members	\$3.00
Nonmembers	\$5.00

Please submit all copy by the 10th of the month prior to publication. The next issue will be October 2007. Contact the Editor for any additional information. Thank you!

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

"Just another Day in Paradise!"

August is a month when most Americans are on vacation. However, as a commercial beekeeper, it is one of the busiest times of the year for me. I am making a trip to central Oregon every other day to bring bees home from the carrot pollination. In between trips, I am extracting honey, beginning to medicate the bees, checking for queens, and starting to feed light hives for winter.

Our family vacation will be November 1, 2, and 3 at Newport for the OSBA Conference. The conference will again be held at the Best Western Agate Inn Resort. We will be having several nationally noted speakers, including Dr. Marion Ellis from the University of Nebraska, Dr. Eric Mussen from UC Davis, and Virginia Webb from North Carolina—who competes internationally with her honey and has won international gold medals. With this in mind, we are planning to have an Oregon honey contest this year, so set aside those varietal honeys that Oregon is noted for and bring them with you to the meeting. We will top off the conference with a slate of who's-who beekeepers from around the Northwest.

To meet the needs and address the interests of both beginner and commercial beekeepers, we are having a beginner's session on Friday and Saturday mornings so that you may choose which session will best suit your needs. We hope to have the schedule online by September 1. As in past years, the vendor's room will allow you to check out the latest and greatest in beekeeping paraphernalia.

I hope you and your family will join us in Newport.

Sincerely,

Mark Johnson

Note: The conference registration form appears on page 8. The postmark needs to be dated no later than October 1 for early registration for the conference.

CLASSIFIED AD

COUNTRY RUBES' COMBO Screened Bottom Boards. Three locations in Oregon: Eugene, White City (Medford), and Gladstone (Portland). Call for price and pickup. New distributors: Toni G. in Eugene at (541) 683-3505 and Dave Schoenmann, Shastina Millworks, in White City at (541) 601-1102. Long-time distributor: Ruhl Bee Supply in the Portland area at (503) 657-5399. Thank you Oregon for your hospitality and support. —Janet at www.countryrubes.com

Endowment—Continued from page 1

The First Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars

Back in October 2005, the OSBA Executive Board voted to match the first \$12,500 of donations from beekeepers in order to achieve more quickly the first \$25,000 required in order to begin disbursements for honey bee research at OSU. Soon after that vote, OSBA member George Hansen sent a letter to fifteen or so members we felt would be likely to consider pledging to an endowment fund, once it might be established. Within eight weeks, George had heard back from enough beekeepers to have total pledges exceeding \$12,500. Now, with the signing of the endowment agreement, George will recirculate this pledge letter to those who previously pledged and also publish this appeal for pledges in *The Bee Line* in order to reach all members. Furthermore, the endowment agreement commits OSBA, as Donor, to provide the first \$25,000 within six months of signing the agreement. This means that by December 25th of this year we must meet our commitment to the Foundation. The pledge drive of 2005 suggests that this should not be a problem.

How to Donate

This part is very important for any of us planning to donate to the fund. Please **make your check payable to “OSU Foundation”** and, most importantly, **be sure to write “Northwest Apiculture Fund” on the memo line.** Do not send your donation to OSBA. If you did, OSBA could deposit it and then pass on that sum to the Foundation, but the IRS would consider this as income to OSBA and that would complicate our tax picture. To avoid this, the OSBA treasurer will be instructed to send your check back to you with directions on how best to complete your donation, as outlined above, directly to the OSU Foundation. Also, **be sure not to leave the memo line blank** as this will be perceived as a generic donation to the Foundation itself. The donation would be placed for use in the general fund and not applied to apiculture at all.

Your donation to the Northwest Apiculture Fund at the OSU Foundation is tax deductible, because the Foundation is a qualifying tax-

exempt organization. When you donate to the Foundation and specify the Northwest Apiculture Fund on the memo line, the Foundation will give OSBA, as Donor establishing the fund, a monthly accounting of those who have contributed. In this way, OSBA will know how much to donate, monthly, as a matching amount—up to \$12,500.

About That Million and a Half...

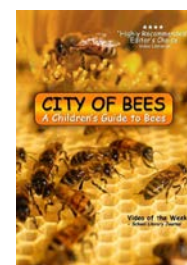
Because not too many beekeepers are very wealthy, even the most heartfelt donations from a majority of OSBA members may not add up to the \$1.5 million in principal required to fund a full-time honey bee entomologist at Oregon State University, our ultimate goal. So, if you or somebody you know is potentially a donor of a significant amount, please contact me at (541) 456-2631 or OSBA President Chuck Sowers (or a future OSBA President). Donating a large sum is a sensitive matter, and potential donors deserve to be approached in a manner that honors their desires and commitments. Together with staff at OSU and at the Foundation, we can communicate in a responsible way that respects such generous potential donors.

CITY OF BEES

Choices Media announces the release of a new version of *City of Bees: A Children's Guide to Bees*.

The film offers an inside look at the complex life of a beehive.

Recognized recently as “Editor’s Choice” by *Video Librarian* and “Video of the Week” by *School Library Journal*, *City of Bees* follows six-year-old Oliver and his friends as they join a beekeeper in caring for his beehives over the course of a year. The children study how a queen bee rules the hive, the various jobs each bee performs, how bees pollinate plants, and how bees can fly at amazing speeds. The filmmakers employ remarkable close-up video footage of bees inside the hive as well. Learning activities are included. The DVD is available at: www.choicesvideo.net. To view a remarkable clip, visit: choicesvideo.net/video/bees.mov.



OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION RESOURCES

OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Columbia Basin: Deb 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

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; pdxpete57@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@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: 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 Brigitte 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) 327-2673
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

Many members are reporting good honey crops. The reports I have been getting about mite loads overall look good; hopefully this is due to many members using queens with good genetics. SC Johnson & Sons, makers of Raid products, has come out with a disposable yellow jacket trap that claims to trap queens in the spring and continue to work catching workers all season. So far three of us are trying these out and after three weeks none has caught any. Let's hope that the traps work better if placed out in the spring. They do have a great web site (see: www.killsbugsdead.com). In the meantime, I am happy to report that my Rescue traps are working great. The one that I pictured earlier is almost full.

—Ken Ograin

Visitors are welcome to join members of the association at our meetings. The topic for the August 21st meeting will be "Native Plants Attractive to Bees." See our web site (www.lcbaor.org) for meeting location and more information.

—Katharine Hunt

Portland-Metro Beekeepers

Portland's annual picnic was held on Saturday, August 8, at Barbara Derkacht's home. There were twenty-two people in attendance with lots of good food, sunshine, and many interesting conversations. A special thanks goes to Barbara for hosting the picnic this year.

Our guest speaker for the day was Marjorie Ehry, who was accompanied by her husband Alan. She spoke on how honey is judged during competition at the state fair and covered what the judges are looking for, including the grading cards that they use for each entry. Marjorie also discussed other bee-related items that can be entered for competition, such as beeswax, artistic beeswax, observation hives, and photos of anything having to do with beekeeping. Finally, she encouraged all of us to consider entering something about/from our bees at the state fair—and to volunteer to work at the state fair in the bee booth. This is a wonderful opportunity to share our interest with others.

Thanks, Marjorie and Alan. We enjoyed having you as our guests.

Sadly, the Portland group will not be having a booth at the Clackamas County Fair again this year. The Fair wants us to pay a \$350 commercial vendors fee to set up our educational booth. Because of the cost, the officers have chosen not to participate. This is particularly troublesome right now as there are many folks newly interested in bees, in part because of recent references to colony collapse disorder in the news.

—Kerry Haskins

KEEPING BEES IN WESTERN OREGON

Todd Balsiger

September beekeeping activities are a continuation of what we started in August: nest consolidation, pest and disease control, feeding, and winter preparation.

- ❖ Colonies should be in winter configuration. Too much space now is a liability.
- ❖ Check hives to make sure they are queenright and have populations sufficient to overwinter. Queens can be purchased until the end of September.
- ❖ Retire poor colonies or combine them with stronger colonies if disease is not present. It is better to take losses now in order to protect your equipment.
- ❖ Make sure colonies have adequate food stores. Heft hives (tilt one side up). They should be noticeably heavy. If not, if available, add frames of honey to either side of (and above) the cluster. Otherwise, feed heavy syrup (2:1 by weight).
- ❖ Finish bacterial brood treatments and *Varroa* treatments. Retest for *Varroa* to ensure efficacy of treatment.
- ❖ Consider medicating bees with fumagillin for *Nosema* disease (especially if you have to feed for weight anyway). Feed two gallons of medicated heavy syrup in late September. Proper winter apiary locations (listed on the next page) can help control the disease, too.

Continued on page 6

Keeping Bees—Continued from page 5

- ❖ Consider treating for tracheal mites; September is the best time. Many beekeepers use a menthol-canola mix on towels. Directions can be found online. Grease patties are a viable option, as are genetically resistant bees. Other controls: formic acid, ApiLife Var, and ApiGuard.
- ❖ Make sure your colony has a good water-tight lid, and provide an upper ventilation hole (e.g., a nail or twig between the inner cover and lid). Bees can handle cold, but not when wet due to dripping condensation.
- ❖ Add entrance reducers/mouse guards.
- ❖ If possible, have proper winter apiary locations. An ideal winter yard is protected from wind and pockets of cold air, and is exposed to the sun. If possible, face hives south/southeast and tilt them so that water drains away from the entrance (not an issue for slotted or screened bottom boards).
- ❖ Try to prevent robbing behavior from starting. Work hives quickly, preferably in the morning or evening. Stop working hives should robbing behavior begin.
- ❖ Keep on the lookout for *American foulbrood*. AFB-infected colonies are easy to rob.
- ❖ Protect extracted supers from wax moths.
- ❖ Lastly, once your hive is well set for winter, avoid popping the lid off. The bees will have glued the lid down, and they will be unable to do this later when clustered. At this point, you will need to secure the lid for them.

ADVENTURES IN APITHERAPY

Elbert Lowry

In the winter of 1996, in my occupation as a timber faller, I packed a lot of weight up the side of a mountain. I believe that my right hip began to hurt as a result of this. Beforehand, I would go for a fast walk of from four to six miles almost every morning I wasn't working. Afterwards, I would walk maybe a quarter of a mile and then turn around for home because of the pain. X-rays revealed nothing that would cause pain. I stopped walks for over three years.

In the spring of 1999, I read a short article in a bee magazine about apitherapy. I really didn't think it would help things, but I'm a hobbyist beekeeper and figured I might as well give it a try. I worked the bees a couple of times a week, and I began to put two or three bee stings on my right hip each time. Within two weeks, I thought it might be helping, so I increased the number of stings to four or five. Within another week, I was positive the stings were helping. I increased the number to five or six. By the end of that August, my hip felt eighty percent healed. I was walking again.

Apimondia was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, that September. I attended everything I could find there on apitherapy. When I returned home, I stung my hip fifteen times, and two days later, another twenty times. To this day, my hip is completely healed. I have had similar results with more-recent injuries.

I joined the American Apitherapy Society at the convention. I also purchased several books, including:

- ❖ *Bees Don't Get Arthritis* by Fred Malone—easy reading, comical, and very informative.
- ❖ *How Well Are You Willing to Feel?* by Pat Wagner—also excellent.
- ❖ *Products from the Hive* by Royden Brown.

In 2001, I attended a course on apitherapy in Kentucky, where I learned so much and enjoyed the people so much that I returned in 2002. It was there that I met Floyd Alexander. Floyd has an apitherapy clinic close to his home in Ohio, open Monday–Wednesday and Friday. At the end of the apitherapy course, I rode with Floyd to his home and spent the following Monday in his clinic. Both Floyd and his assistant Kathy have multiple sclerosis. Their symptoms were severe before they learned about apitherapy. By the time I met them, they were working hard and loaded with energy.

I did a little bit of everything during the clinic. I helped catch the bees, held ice cubes on people where they were to be stung, and applied the bees for the sting. I also had the opportunity to talk with those who were there for stings—the most enjoyable part for me. I listened to many

stories about how bad symptoms had been before apitherapy and about how much they had improved, many within a very short period of time. Some people had been following Western medicine and taking drugs with little or no improvement for several years. Now they had hope. Now they were getting well. They were happy and excited about getting better, and it showed.

A few of the conditions I believe apitherapy can help are: arthritis, multiple sclerosis, some types of cancer, bursitis, chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, lupus, and a number of skin problems. The conditions I have the most experience with are arthritis, multiple sclerosis, pain from old or recent injuries, carpal tunnel syndrome, removing scars, sleep problems, lack of energy, and ringing in the ears.

Anyone trying apitherapy, as well as beekeepers generally, should have an EpiPen or an Anna's kit should someone go into anaphylactic

STUNG ON PURPOSE

Rosanna Mattingly

For some, it's not a matter of *whether or not* to receive a sting—it's a matter of *exactly where, how many times, and how frequently over how long a time period*. All that's needed is a venom source and a human wanting to be stung. Though not essential, a chair might be nice, as might ice and another human to hold the bee during the stinging. I had an opportunity to witness Elbert Lowry in action one sunny afternoon recently. Everything was done at beeyard pace. Elbert had stinger, Cat, sit in a chair (1). The visit was not her first, and she calmly held ice to her foot (2) for the few moments it took Elbert to gather the bees (3).



shock. Be cautious with apitherapy. Begin with one or maybe two test stings. Remove the sting immediately, and wait at least fifteen minutes to make sure that the recipient is not allergic to bee venom. I, along with a number of other apitherapists, recommend taking 500 mg Vitamin C every three hours for two days after a sting and adding fresh bee pollen to the diet.

Apitherapy is only now catching on in the United States. It is widely used in other parts of the world. For more information contact:

The American Apitherapy Society, Inc.
5535 Balboa Blvd Ste 225, Encino, CA 91316
Phone: (818) 501-0446/e-mail: aasoffice@apitherapy.org
web site: www.apitherapy.org

Note: Elbert's insights are drawn from ongoing study and experience. Please heed his note of caution should you decide to experiment with apitherapy. In addition to changes in venom with a bee's age and throughout the year, each of us responds differently, depending.... Sources of additional information continue to grow in number and include a new CD-ROM entitled *Apitherapy*, which is available at: www.apimondia.com.

Elbert then simply held the workers, one by one, to Cat's foot, and waited as each bee complied with the request to sting (4). In a curious turn of events, Elbert then had Cat sting his back (5), newly injured in a fall from a horse. This was done *sans* ice. Though in one way of thinking this turnaround might be seen as a kind of "payback," they both are experiencing definitive benefit.

OSBA Fall Conference 2007
Agate Beach Inn Best Western • Newport, Oregon
November 1, 2, and 3

Attendee's Last Name **First Name** **MI** **Registration Date**

Company Name (if applicable): _____

Home Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____

Mailing or Street Address **Cell Phone:** _____

_____ **e-mail:** _____

City **State/Province** **Zip Code**

Event	Pre-Registration for Individual Days	Full Conference Pre-Registration
Thursday Night hospitality room	Complimentary	Complimentary
Friday Conference Only @ \$40 (see item 1 below)/ Family registration fee @ \$55	\$	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Saturday Conference Only @ \$40 (see item 1 below)/ Family registration fee @ \$55	\$	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Full Conference @ \$75 (see item 1 below)/ Family registration fee @ \$100	\$	\$
Friday Noon Luncheon @ \$15	\$	\$
Friday Evening Banquet @ \$25	\$	\$
Saturday Noon Luncheon @ \$15	\$	\$
OSBA Membership (includes <i>The Bee Line</i>) @ \$20	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$

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.

COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER

Colony Collapse Disorder continues to keep the honey bee in the public as well as the beekeeper mind—from the local *Portland Tribune* (“Is there something bugging the bees?”: August 14, 2007) to Scholastic’s *Science World* for children (“The Case of the Disappearing Bees”: September 3, 2007). For current assessments, continue to visit: www.ento.psu.edu/MAAREC/ColonyCollapseDisorder.html. Click on *CCD Working Group Reports and Research Updates*, where links are provided to such materials as a free download of the summary of *The Status of Pollinators in North America* (The National Academies Press: 2007) and “An Estimate of Managed Colony Losses in the Winter of 2006–2007: A Report Commissioned by the Apiary Inspectors of America” (*American Bee Journal*: July 2007).

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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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Discounted Publications:

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The Bee Line

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*What work I have done I have done because it has been play.
If it had been work I shouldn't have done it.*

—Mark Twain

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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