

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 37, Number 7

August 2012



Zach Greenvoss

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Image above: Seen one bee, seen 'em all? *Never!* Here Amanda Greenvoss, the Oregon Zoo's Youth Volunteer Coordinator, checks out the bees with her children. Amanda invited OSBA to participate in a recent Insect Zoo event, and Paul Andersen, holding the hive that reflects the young faces, helped coordinate the effort (see page 10). We have many ways to support learning about the bees.

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ccbees@gmail.com

HONEY BEES AND EDUCATION

Anita G. Alexander

"Mother," called twelve-year-old Jerry, "my ham radio friend has a swarm of bees he wants out of there. Will you nurture them? Dad can do the wood stuff." Soon I had bees in a cardboard box by my little greenhouse. I found Ruhl's apiary supplies early the next morning, bought a starter hive, gloves, veil, hive tools, beginner's book. Good advice was given, "Go to the next local beekeepers meeting. Here are the data."

Neither Jerry nor I expected that Lu, a busy forester working around the state sixty and more hours a week, would pay attention to the bees. Yet, Lu surprised us. He was fascinated. At last, a hobby that provided continual learning. He read the beginner's book, called Ruhl's. It was Jerry who would have nothing to do with the bees. Ham radio was his delight.

My own interest in bees had started thirty years earlier, in 1927, when my younger siblings and I lived with relatives to enable our Mother to stay with my terminally ill Father in the hospital in Portland. Near Tacoma, formidable Aunt Lill taught me to quietly watch her two hives and tell her what color of pollen the bees were bringing in. She used a goose feather to brush the bees off a frame. I planned to own a few hives—some time.

Thanks to Jerry, Lu and I had one colony and went to a bee meeting. Ernie and Marge McCormick, Alan and Marge Ehry, and others active in the Portland group mentored and encouraged us. Soon Lu was building a library, joining national and international (International Bee Research Association) groups, visiting beekeepers wherever his professional work took him. Canadian apiary inspectors attended annual bee schools, rigid testing at end of the second week. Pass this test or lose your job. Lu signed us up. After the tests were scored, Lu and I and one man from BC scored together in a cluster way above the others. The second year, we learned we had gained acceptance because we were invited to the nightly gatherings of music and fun. Now I applaud all of these local bee schools here. Keeping bees healthy and productive in this global exchange of everything is hazardous.

As long as Lu was satisfied with 30 or 40 colonies, I took care of them most of the time. I was home, and Lu's forestry work was all over the Northwest. He was the founder and instructor of the Variable Probability Sampling Workshops from 1957 to 1991.

During the Vietnam War, Lt. Jerry was serving on the submarine USS Picuda. Thanks to his ham radio skills, he was Communications Officer. In 1967, Jerry called from Florida. "I am tired of the submarine service. In three months, I can transfer to another service, and I will. Work on this old boat is not finished, but we have orders to protect maneuvers in the far north. Our Captain must go, like it or not." Several weeks later, the Picuda was in far northern waters,

Continued on page 11

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer is NOW officially here. We have hit the triple digits, and although the bees are very happy, the beekeepers, “not so much!” We had the crew from Oregon State University over last week and had a blast, but they were struggling a little with the temperatures and unaccustomed to working in such unfavorable conditions. They were troopers though and got their work done—Ramesh, Carolyn, and Alexis were counting bees, brood, honey, nectar, and pollen in our frames, while Ellen was taking blood samples from our bees. As I told Ellen, “Vampires are now in style!”

Speaking of OSU, we should be very grateful for a collaborative effort between Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab, Dr. Ramesh Sagili, Dr. Louisa Hooven, and Linda Brewer to again revise the pesticide booklet that was last revised in 2006. You might remember that Louisa was a speaker at our conference in 2011 and her job will be to research all of the new pesticides and add them to the booklet. Linda Brewer will put the materials together for publication as soon as the new information has been researched. Ramesh, Erik Johansen, and Eric Mussen will review the material before publication. We have had funds donated from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State Beekeepers Association, Washington State Beekeepers Association, Idaho Honey Producers, and the California State Beekeepers Association. We are so lucky to have so many interested parties contributing to this valuable tool. The booklets will be distributed to members of each organization in hard copy and also be made available online.



Ellen Topitzhofer sets up for sampling in Hermiston.

Also in collaboration with the OSU Honey Bee Lab is our Master Beekeeper Program—now with over 140 apprentices and over 50 mentors and instructors. The program has more than exceeded our expectations. In early August, we have planned another mentor and instructor day in Corvallis, and the Master Beekeeper Committee is planning to introduce the next phase of the program, the Journey level, to the group. Our hope is that we can introduce the Journey level to you at the Fall Conference in Seaside on November 1–3.

Let’s see, I complained about the rain in March in the almonds. It was too cool and wet in the cherries and pears during the early Oregon spring. And now summer in Hermiston is too darned hot! Will I ever be happy with the weather?

Jan

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ODA PESTICIDE PROGRAM: WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK A HIVE IS EXPERIENCING DIE-OFF AND THAT IT MIGHT BE RELATED TO PESTICIDES

Sunny Jones, Pesticide Compliance, ODA

First of all, heaven forbid it happens! But, if it does, the Oregon Department of Agriculture Pesticide Program may be the resource you are looking for.

The Pesticide Program seeks to protect people and the environment from adverse effects of pesticide use while maintaining the availability of pesticides for beneficial uses. This includes investigating allegations of pesticide misuse and providing enforcement actions as authorized by statute, providing education and educational assistance to the public and pesticide users, as well as providing compliance assistance for pesticide users.

But what does that really mean in your situation? Let's begin by being up front that the Pesticide Program is not CSI. Things don't move as quickly, nor are they as easy to pinpoint in real life as they are on TV.

To start, call 503.986.4635 to speak to a Pesticide Investigator in your area.

The Investigator will likely ask you:

- ❖ For a general overview of the situation
- ❖ About any pesticide applications made in the area by your neighbors and/or yourself
- ❖ About the symptoms you saw/see in the bees
- ❖ About time frames (how long after a known application did you start to see issues with the bees)
- ❖ About possibly making an appointment to come out and meet with you and look at the situation in person

If the Investigator thinks the situation may involve adverse pesticide exposure to the bees, they could collect

a sample. In order to adequately sample a hive, the Investigator needs two pint-sized jars; sometimes a single pint-sized jar will work. These samples are then sent to the Department's lab in Portland. If the Investigator can identify the product used, they will ask the Lab to run the sample for the specific active ingredient(s) applied. In some situations, we are able to run a screen looking for a variety of pesticides. The Pesticide Program can only use samples we collect and analyze for our enforcement purposes.

When the Department can prove a violation of Oregon or federal law has occurred, an enforcement action such as a Notice of Violation or Civil Penalty is issued. But, honestly, in many bee cases, it is extremely difficult to prove a violation. The Pesticide Program may not be able to determine if an exposure to pesticides caused the problem you are seeing, or there may be multiple sources in an area that could have contributed to the situation.

Even so, at the very least, take the time to notify the Pesticide Program when you have a concern. Speak to the Pesticide Investigator in your area!

We track bee-related concerns/issues. We can provide this information to the US Environmental Protection Agency or other state or federal agencies, and use it to develop our educational outreach programs. Remember, our goal is to provide educational assistance to the public and pesticide users. These educational outreach programs help us protect people and the environment from adverse effects of pesticide use while maintaining the availability of pesticides for beneficial uses.



2012 OREGON STATE FAIR

Marjie Ehry

Honey Show: The OSBA will have a *BIG* exhibit at the Oregon State Fair from **August 24** through **September 3**. Although the State Fair deadline for entries has passed, we want and need Oregon honey and other products from the hive at the Fair! We are asking anyone who wants to enter for 2012 to please contact: Honey Show, 19500 N Hwy 99W, Dundee OR 97115 or email me at marjehry@hotmail.com by **August 15**. Download the form from the Oregon State Fair website (oregonstatefair.org), or contact me and I will mail one to you.

OSBA Booth: If you would like to cover a shift at the OSBA booth, including helping to set up on the 23rd, please let me know (margehry@hotmail.com). It is a fun experience. We had a great turnout last year with many rave reviews, and we hope for the same this year!

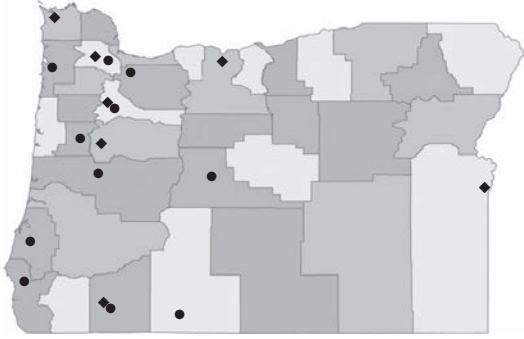
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South Willamette Valley: Jason Rowan
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♦ OSBA REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Central Oregon Beekeepers
Meets 6:30 PM, third Tuesday
63211 Service Rd, Suite 130, Bend
President: Bindy Beck-Meyer
Treasurer: Allen Engle
For information, please contact John Connelly—
johncobka@gmail.com

Coos County Beekeepers
Meets 6:30 PM, third Saturday (except December)
Ohlsen Baxter Bldg, 631 Alder St, Myrtle Point
President: John Gardner—541.572.3847
Vice President: Shigeo Oku—541.396.4016
Secretary: Bobbi Gardner—541.572.3847
Treasurer: Jane Oku—541.396.4016;
janeoku1958@gmail.com

Curry Bee Friends
Acting President: Del Barber—541.249.0160
Vice President: Carla Fletcher
Secretary/Treasurer: Myrna Barber

Klamath Basin Beekeepers
Meets 9:00 AM, last Saturday (except Nov/Dec)
OSU Extension, 3328 Vandenberg Rd, Klamath Falls
President: Tom Chester—541.850.8384; tlc1@well.com
Vice President: Chris Kerns—541.884.8664;
ker664@charter.net
Secretary: Donna Schmerbach—541.891.3066
Treasurer: Kathy Nelson—541.882.3141
Website: www.klamathbeekeepers.org

Lane County Beekeepers
Meets 7:30 PM, third Tuesday, Trinity United
Methodist Church, 440 Maxwell Rd, Eugene
President: Judy Scher—541.344.2114;
judyscher@gmail.com
Vice President: Rita Ostrofsky—541.685.2875
Secretary: Barbara Bajec—541.767.9086
Treasurer: Nancy Ograin—541.935.7065;
woodrt@pacinfo.com
Website: www.lcbaor.org

Linn-Benton Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, fourth Wednesday, South First
Alternative Co-op Meeting Room, 1007 SE 3rd, Corvallis
President: Linda Zielinski—541.929.4856;
llz50@peak.org
Vice President: Zach Welch—541.754.3069;
zw@superlucidity.net
Secretary: Marie Laper—541.760.9838; mlaper@peak.org
Treasurer: Suzi Maresh—541.967.9607;
sjomaresh@msn.com

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, second Thursday, Clackamas Community
College, Clairmont Hall, Room 118, Oregon City
President: Nancy McFarlane—503.260.3930;
mcfarlanebees@gmail.com
Vice President: Jim Barlean—503.659.9718;
jbarlean@msn.com
Secretary: Kat Yeager—503.452.5010;
peace.is.purple@gmail.com
Treasurer: Rex McIntire—503.720.7958;
remcintire_5@msn.com

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, first Monday, Southern Oregon
Res & Ext Ctr, 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point
President: John Jacob—541.582.BEES
john@oldsolenterprises.com
Vice President: Floyd Pawlowski—541.482.4797;
fmpawlowski@ashlandwireless.net
Secretary: Michele Bashaw—541.512.0155;
hapistitch@earthlink.net
Treasurer: Ron Willing—541.582.9694;
rwilling@charter.net

Tillamook County Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, second Tuesday, Art Space
Hwy 101 & 5th St, Bay City
President: Bob Allen—503.322.3819
Vice President: Terry Fullan—503.368.7160;
tfullan@nehalem.tel.net

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM (7:00 PM to socialize), last Friday
Cameron Public Svcs Bldg, 155 N First Ave, Hillsboro
President: Mike Van Dyke—503.642.5338;
mvand581@gmail.com
Vice President: Andrew Schwab—503.538.7545;
beesbuzzin@gmail.com
Secretary: Paul Andersen—503.649.5089;
paulande@easystreet.net
Treasurer: Jerry Maasdam—503.648.7906;
jmaasdam@mac.com

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, fourth Monday, Chemeketa
Community College, Building 34, Room A, Salem
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: Patricia Swenson—pkswenson@gmail.com
Website: www.wvbatoday.com

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Nominations: Chuck Sowers—503.266.1740
NW Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension,
and Education: Kenny Williams—541.456.2631
Public Relations: Paul Andersen—503.332.5410

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Dr. Dewey Caron—302.353.9914 (April–October);
carond@hort.oregonstate.edu
Dr. Lynn Royce—541.929.5337; mitebee@peak.org
Dr. Ramesh Sagili—541.737.5460;
sagilir@hort.oregonstate.edu

REGIONAL NEWS**Regional Representatives
South Coast**

The Coos County Beekeepers Association has held their monthly meetings. A highlight of special interest was the discussion about the rescue of a feral colony by Randy Sturgil. A tree had been cut down by loggers at the headwaters of the Sixes River. The loggers contacted Randy when they discovered that this two-foot diameter tree was home for a large feral honey bee colony. It had been cut into two sections approximately eight-feet each. When Randy arrived, he covered the ends with plastic bags to protect the bees, transported the sections home, reconnected the sections with duct tape and set them upright. The bees appear to be thriving and productive at their new home site at the Oregon Mountain apiary in the pristine Coquille River Valley, Myrtle Point. Members also discussed a proposal to conduct a bee school for the many new members of the CCBA. There are a number of new members who are requesting basic information to improve their beekeeping knowledge and skills. Most beekeepers are still feeding their bees, although with improving weather forage has improved.

The Curry Bee Friends met three times since our last report. There were seventeen participants and several new members. The focus of the presentations was on setting up new hives and feeding. Hive management was discussed

with an emphasis on mite control and Nosema. There was much interest in capturing swarms, and the group requested a special session to learn about swarm trap construction. Some asked how to capture a swarm and how to handle the swarm once it is captured, which led to a special meeting to address swarm capture issues. Del Barber provided several homemade and commercial swarm traps. Carla and Jesse Fletcher also brought in several homemade swarm traps. A handout discussing swarm trap construction and samples of lemon grass oil attractant were provided along with instruction for their use. The meeting was attended by more than a dozen enthusiastic participants who were anxious to build their traps and set them in locations where they have already observed several swarms. At the most recent meeting, the group of sixteen approved bylaws and elected officers to establish a chapter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. The officers are Del Barber, Acting President; Carla Fletcher, Vice President; and Myrna Barber, Secretary/Treasurer. —*Del Barber*

South Willamette Valley

August is here, yet at the time of writing it's just July and August seems impossible. I hope everyone's honey came in at the last moment and your bees look great. Here in the south valley we had/have hope that this nice weather brings on the nectar, but alas we must start considering summer/fall duties. In our operation for the month of August, we try to get all remaining honey off and extracted in preparation for any potential medication. It's amazing to me how fast the season comes and goes. There is hardly time to take a breath and savor the moment. But hopefully you all remember to do just that now and again, and appreciate the wonder of honey bees. Medicating early is a great way to knock those mites in the dirt, paving the way for success during the winter. Sample those hives, make a choice, watch those temps, and hope for a late summer flow to fill up the brood chambers. Did I say sample? Yes, I did. Sample, sample, sample. Stay ahead of your bees so they don't suffer.



At the house, our daughter Eva turned 18 months old and joined us in the meadowfoam fields for some hive

inspection. She wore a suit made by my lovely and talented wife, Elizabeth. Bee safe, good luck, and happy keeping.

—*Jason Rowan*

Regional Associations

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

The Klamath Basin Beekeepers Association has had a busy spring and early summer. At the three most recent meetings, attendance has ranged from 50 to 70. In April, Mike Curtis, a commercial beekeeper and owner of Wild Bee Honey Farm in Eagle Point, spoke about his operation and answered questions on topics such as dividing hives, local nectar flows, and spring management. In May, the club celebrated the beginning of warm weather in the Klamath Basin with a potluck following the meeting. (While not the largest bee club in Oregon, the KBBA claims to be the best fed.) At the June meeting, the speaker was Harry Vanderpool, who came all the way from Salem to speak to the group. His presentation, one of the best the club has had, was on “Nucleus Hive Utilization”—the benefits and opportunities of using nucs, even for hobbyist beekeepers.

In July, the club will host its annual field day where members will gather at a local bee yard and examine hives as a group to review topics such as hive manipulation techniques, mite sampling, and diagnosing hive condition.

—*Tom Chester*

Lane County Beekeepers

Despite the occasional short rain shower, our annual field day was splendid! We were joined by members of Linn-Benton Beekeepers Association. For the first time, we conducted it at the OSU Oak Creek Horticultural Research site. LCBA organized this event with Carolyn Breece from the Honey Bee Lab at OSU. Thank you to all who contributed.

Carolyn provided demonstration hives; Nancy Ograin and Katharine Hunt coordinated the attendants from LCBA; Karessa Torgenson coordinated the Linn-Benton association members. Heike and Kenny Williams, Ken Ograin, Morris Ostrosky, and I provided demonstrations. Barb Bajec demonstrated how to mark “queens” (using drones). Max Kuhn demonstrated hive tools, and how to light a smoker and keep it going. After the demos we had a picnic catered by OSU while we observed Dr. Mike Burgett's many alternative hives around the Japanese gardens.

We are putting out a call for beekeepers in Lane County to gather their honey, honey frames, and wax entries for the Lane County Fair. Any honey and/or wax processed after



Above: Heike Williams (left) does a demonstration under cover as Max Kuhn (right) similarly lights a smoker during the recent Lane County association's field day. **Below:** The field day took place under a sky that seems all too familiar for summer in Oregon.



last year's fair is eligible. This is a great way to show off hive products and to promote beekeeping. Ken Ograin will talk about honey extracting at our July meeting.

—*Judy Scher*


Portland Metro Beekeepers

President Nancy McFarlane invited everyone to the PMBA annual picnic at Molalla River State Park from 11 AM to 2 PM on August 11. Bring a potluck dish and enjoy the summer! Pop and paper plates and plastic cutlery will be available, but all are encouraged to bring their own

table service. The club voted to give a donation to Zenger Farms to support their ongoing education of urban agriculture and beekeeping.

Jim Barlean described activities for this month. Honey flow is close to being over at lower elevations, so consider taking supers off. Check for foulbrood. Check for a good laying queen. Treat for mites. Winter bees start hatching in September. If spotty brood pattern, get a new queen. To maneuver your hive to self-create a new queen, injure the current one by removing a leg. The bees will replace her.

Dr. Dewey Caron gave a PowerPoint lecture on preparing for winter. The following is only a brief summary of his expertise, which was illustrated with charts, pictures, and graphs: Overwintering bees need to be young. They need food reserves in their hive and bodies. Their winter metabolism allows them to suspend the aging process to live through the winter. The colony needs enough honey/pollen stores, enough bees to take care of the colony, and disease/pest control. We can help the colony do this in August/September by giving them water (within 10 feet) and shade. Also, we need to do what we can to prevent robbing, such as providing robbing screens at all entrances. Consider at least a first inspection of the hive around Labor Day and a follow-up inspection in October. Fall manipulations to consider include requeening, combining a weak colony with a strong one, and others to encourage the colony to have the resources to survive the winter. There is concern about feeding syrup in the fall affecting the bees' digestion. Yet, feeding may do more good than harm overall. However, suspend syrup feeding



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IMPORTANT: Making your check out only as described above ensures that your donation is correctly applied to the appropriate Endowment and not to any other program.

in the winter, and consider top hive designs that support decreased moisture in the hive. —Paul Jarrett

Tillamook County Beekeepers

Bob Allen opened our July meeting with fourteen beekeepers attending a lively roundtable discussion about our bees! Everyone is anxious to see how the season's honey yields will pan out this year. Weather has been very good with two weeks of warm temperatures. Summer requeening methods were this month's topic. Dave Downs shared photos of a large swarm captured in south Tillamook County. The Japanese knotweed is a late nectar source for the coastal area. We had a sample for identification purposes at our meeting. Lastly, Trisha Kaufman presented Jeff Hall with a lucky bee-catching device—an artful skep made of plaster of Paris and very colorful. —Terry Fullan

KEEPING BEES IN AUGUST

Kenny Williams



What we do for a colony of bees in August (and July, too, for that matter) can greatly increase the chances of that colony surviving the coming winter and emerging the next spring as a healthy and vigorous colony of bees. In fact, many beekeepers

consider August as the beginning of Fall.

In August, the honey flow is largely over and done in western Oregon, and many earlier sources of nectar are drying up. In parts of eastern Oregon, or where bees are kept near a cultivated, irrigated crop, these remarks may apply several weeks later.

❖ Honey supers should be removed and the hive configured for winter, usually in two brood chambers. Be sure to guard against robbing, which is easily started when there is no nectar flow and difficult to stop once started. Such guarding can be done by covering exposed boxes of comb with a screen lid or a wet, heavy cloth, such as burlap. Try to work the hive quickly, and doing so in the cool of the morning will also help. Another reason to guard against robbing is to prevent the spread of American foulbrood.

❖ After the honey supers are removed, if a colony feels light, think about how you might feed that colony, either

with frames of honey or with sugar syrup, so that it will have 40–60 pounds of stored feed by October 1.

❖ In hot weather and during prolonged dry periods, be sure to make water available to colonies that may not have a natural source nearby. Bees use water to metabolize food and to maintain the proper colony temperature and relative humidity.

❖ Identify any colony that is weak, and determine why it is weak. Often this is due to being queenless, having a poor queen, or suffering from a brood disease such as American foulbrood. It is not too late to requeen, and this may be done by replacing five empty frames with five frames from a queenright, five-frame nucleus, previously established in anticipation of such a need. Also, several queen breeders who advertise in the *American Bee Journal* offer queens later into the summer and in small quantities. A weaker colony that you have boosted or requeened may also need an entrance reducer or mouse guard to help it defend against robbing honey bees or yellow jackets while it recovers. Another option for helping a weak colony is to combine it with a stronger colony and store any leftover comb indoors, to be restocked the following spring by dividing a strong colony or purchasing a package. On the subject of yellow jackets, it is my opinion that hives which succumb to this nuisance were weak to begin with, owing to one of the causes listed above; strong, healthy, queenright colonies can repel invaders or may need nothing more than an entrance reducer.

❖ August is also the time to monitor and treat for the Varroa mite. This wider topic has probably been covered at a meeting of your local bee association or at a bee school you may have attended in the spring. Whatever material you choose to use, be sure it is approved for use in a beehive, and follow the instructions on the label. Tracheal mites may be treated with grease patties.

❖ For many years, American foulbrood, or AFB, was treated with a tetracycline-and-sugar dusting as a preventative. In recent years, the *Paenibacillus* species that causes this brood infection has developed a resistance to this antibiotic, although some beekeepers continue using it. Another antibiotic, Tylosin, is now registered for use against AFB, but as a treatment on infected colonies rather than as a preventative on every colony. In either case, follow label instructions. Heavily infected colonies are probably best burned.

❖ After extracting honey from the comb, or if you bring any brood frames indoors for storage, be sure to protect against wax moth damage, either with Para-Moth

crystals or by freezing. Warm conditions favor the rapid development of wax moth larvae, and unoccupied comb stored in a warm space can be ruined in a matter of weeks. Actually, the two wax moth species are somewhat misnamed, as they feed largely on cast larval skins left behind in the comb after the adult honey bee emerges and, to a lesser degree, on stored pollen, honey, and wax. Therefore, your stored dark brood comb is more vulnerable than yellow honey comb that has been used above a queen excluder for honey and not brood-rearing.

ODA UPDATE ON USE OF HOPGUARD

The US Environmental Protection Agency has approved an AMENDMENT to the Oregon Section 18 for emergency use of HopGuard in honey bee colonies for control of Varroa mites. The Section 18, effective from January 1 through December 31, 2012, has been amended to change the maximum allowed number of applications from three (3) to six (6).

The label must be in possession of the user at the time of application of the product. It is posted as Emergency Exemption Use Directions on the website: oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/sec18.shtml. It is important to note that the CONTAINER labels for the 20-strip and 50-strip packages have NOT been changed. These container labels include the original use directions in which the maximum number of applications is three (3). In the Directions For Use section, third paragraph, the first sentence currently reads, “A maximum of three applications per year (six strips or approximately 11.52 grams of potassium salt of hop beta acids) per ten frame brood super (chamber) is allowed.” In Oregon, allowed use is now as follows: “A maximum of six applications per year (12 strips or approximately 23.0 grams of potassium salt of hop beta acids) per ten frame brood super (chamber) is allowed.”

To emphasize the change in use pattern in the affected states (currently only Idaho, Oregon, and Washington), BetaTec will include an insert inside containers of product destined for use in those states.

LOSS SURVEYS & THE BEE INFORMED PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Dewey M. Caron

Oregon and the Pacific Northwest beekeepers have generously participated in loss and pollination price surveys over the last 25+ years. Willingness to share basic and personal information is greatly appreciated. The Bee



Informed Partnership (BIP, beeinformed.org), a national five-year Coordinated Agricultural Project grant project funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, part of the US Department of Agriculture, is an attempt to get some of the same type of information from beekeepers across the US. I am a member of the scientific advisory panel of BIP, and George Hansen is a member of the stakeholders committee.

Since the winter of 2006–2007, national overwintering colony surveys, collected from ~20 percent of US bee colony owners, have documented high (>30%) losses of managed bee colonies. Affected beekeepers span the entire spectrum of the industry: migratory beekeepers to stationary beekeepers; from commercial beekeepers, part-time beekeepers, to backyard (sideline) beekeepers. This most recent season losses were somewhat lower at 21.9 percent and in fact, for the last three seasons, overwinter losses have each been lower than the previous overwinter loss. Survey returns from Oregon and Pacific Northwest beekeepers report lower loss levels for commercial and semi-commercial operators compared to the national numbers, but higher losses for the backyarders.

The BIP is actually a series of activities. It has included the electronic national overwinter loss survey in April the last two years. The BIP project is using an epidemiological approach to identify risk factors associated with the high bee losses. We are seeking to identify factors that contribute to bee disease occurrence, to advocate for and promote ways to reduce exposure to risk factors to ultimately assist beekeepers to reduce disease incidence at the population level.

The project uses survey and field team-generated data, along with analysis of historical loss data—the Oregon and Pacific Northwest surveys that Ramesh and myself are conducting are an attempt to validate the national survey results. Our national data reveal about a quarter of all beekeepers responding to the 2010–2011 winter loss survey lost fewer than 15 percent of their hives, an acceptable rate. Unfortunately, however, another 25 percent of all beekeepers lost over 55 percent of their colonies. We have another season of survey data to extend and help verify/explain these data currently undergoing analysis.

All beekeepers know that keeping bees healthy and productive is a complicated endeavor. There is no “one right way” to keep bees. Keeping colonies alive is not always about what beekeepers do, but where the bee colonies are located and for those who practice more intensive management, also about how skillfully we manage colonies. We believe our BIP effort can help identify key factors to determine why some beekeepers are losing a few colonies while others are losing many. Given that there are many

complex factors involved in explaining colony losses, BIP seeks to help make sense of cumulative loss data through statistical analysis and by presenting results using tools that will enable individuals to interact with the results to compare bee practices and successes with others in the region and operational size. With increasing data, BIP will develop means to assess and present economic cost issues. By compiling a comprehensive honey bee disease database, beekeepers will eventually be able to compare their Varroa mite and Nosema infection levels with historical levels and with other beekeepers in their region.

At its core, BIP is motivated by the conviction that beekeepers, when presented with beekeeper-derived data that objectively show which management practices worked and which did not, will adopt and make more informed decisions for more success in bee colony care. The effort starts with your participation. Thanks to all Oregon beekeepers who have participated in the past... We seek greater input to help get a better understanding of the situation in our state and the region. We need your input for both the OSU and BIP surveys. The website has more information, and I encourage you to look it over. Included is a blog and links to the National Honey Bee eXtension website. An informative article on the outreach (extension) rationale of BIP was just published in *American Entomologist*. I encourage ALL Oregon beekeepers to Bee informed – Bee included - Bee involved.

OREGON ZOO EVENT

Paul Andersen

The Oregon Zoo celebrated National Pollinator Week from June 18th through June 24th. The Tualatin Valley and Portland Metro beekeeper associations were supporters of this activity with volunteers attending every day to care for the observation hives and answer general questions from children and adults [see photo, page 1].

Contributors were Andrew Schwab, Paul Andersen, and Dr. Dewey Caron. Andrew supplied two observation hives, which we alternated every other day. The zoo supplied us a location where we could keep the hives when they were “off duty” and the bees could fly. This helped a lot, and the hives were in quite good shape for being used “locked up” every other day for a week. Paul and Dewey trained the staff on basic bee information and caring for the hives when they were “off duty” and during movement between the Insect Zoo display and the back yard.

A big thank you to our volunteers who took care of the display during the week: Andrew, Alisha, & Anthony Schwab; Stafford Hazelett; Jerry Maasdam; Charles Thompson; Steve, Colbey, & Blake Stadelman; Terri and Kaci Rae Christopher; Colin Wolcott; Paul & Mary Andersen; Bassam & Sahar Khalifeh; and Janet Walsh. This was a highly visible outreach for beekeeping!

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Honey Bees and Education—Continued from page 1
 deeply submerged to avoid the high water of a surface storm. Suddenly the hull was repeatedly struck. This led to a conference call among all officers and seamen. They agreed that it had to be the anchor chain malfunctioning, which could tangle into the propeller and cause the loss of the sub and 120 men. No matter the storm, they had to surface and open the hatch. Someone had to go on deck and cut that chain. The Captain asked for a volunteer. After Jerry spoke up, the old chief said, “You are not going on that deck alone, son. I am going with you.”

The Picuda surfaced, saw small waves, and opened the hatch. Jerry and the chief worked their way along the deck, cut the anchor line, and started back to the hatch. It was then that “tall water” (30+ feet) took both men overboard and their safety lines broke. No one ever saw the chief again. Jerry was seen briefly trying to swim back when another wave took him away. A Russian sub surfaced nearby and offered to help capture the bodies. (So much for military secrecy during our maneuvers.)

Within a few hours in Portland, Jerry’s ham radio mentor came to our house in tears. In another hour, a Navy spokesman was at the door, a bit displeased because the mentor had reached us first. That was April 16, 1967.

When the Picuda reached a neutral port, Denmark, the Captain was able to call Lu. When Lu spoke to him, I

heard a flat, hard voice say, “Sir, I served for four years, three in combat, in the War, 474 Fighter-Bomber Group, P-38s. I never lost a Wingman. When you get back to the States, I want to talk to you.” Soon after that conversation, the Captain was able to let us know when he would be in Florida.

Lu, daughter Su, and I flew to Florida. After Lu made his contact and peace with the Captain of the Picuda, he, Su, and I went north to the International Bee Research Association meeting. IBRA drew me, we should go every year. Lu, only to an interesting country. Three years later (1970), the Soviets were hosting it, and I held Lu to the “interesting” promise. Only American scientists could get a visa; yet, anyone with a BS was a “scientist,” so we qualified.

The Stalin era was over, Lenin the great leader, but suspicion and rigid control were in order then. The guest “scientists” had to list all of their plans, day by day, and include the plans with the visa request. I stretched it out—a week in Leningrad, a week driving a rental car to Moscow and camping out, ten days in Moscow for the meeting, nearly two weeks for a tour of beekeepers in the south. Oliver Petty, who went to all of the IBRA meetings, shared the Soviet one with us.

The entire trip enriched our lives. For us, the beekeeper contacts in the south were worth the cost of the entire trip. Thanks to the German decision to fight World War II on two fronts, the Soviet men in our age group left millions of bodies in mud and snow from the Ukraine to Leningrad to the outskirts of Moscow. Women, youngsters, and a few crippled men were the workforce. Regardless of the political status in specific areas, all of the beekeepers had been instructed to welcome us. Personal contact was treasured by all. Forget government. We had memorable days sharing knowledge about the bees. They loved my story of Jerry starting us with a swarm, and then Lu and Su getting interested. Soon after that trip, Su raised queens, made nucs, and sold them for high school cash. Honey bees can increase our education in numerous ways.

Lu endured five hard years before cancer took him in April 1996. Much to my profound pleasure, grandson Todd [Balsiger] asked if I would mind if he fixed up a hive. When I saw it, I rejoiced. Perfect, just perfect. It looked as if Lu had done it. For a decade or so, we worked bees together. I was pleased and proud when he became



Anita’s many activities and commitments, met with grace and good humor, have long centered around family, plants, and the bees.

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the informant. I am glad his generosity includes detailed reports of his tribulations and joys with the bees.

Note: Among her contributions, Anita developed the regional nectar and pollen plant list many have used over the years. She is an OSBA Life Member, as was her late husband, Lu Alexander.

Scott Eckstein
Laree Goska
Jeff Haskins
James Hensel
Frank Hesse, Jr.
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2012 CONFERENCE

Paul Andersen

The 2012 conference is rapidly approaching and it is not too early to start your planning. The dates this year are November 1, 2, and 3, which is ten days before the California conference. The venue this year is back at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center in Seaside, Oregon. It is looking like a very exciting conference, with activities and a broad set of presentations for everyone involved in beekeeping.

The Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab is going to set up the "Bee Lab" with the needed equipment to demonstrate for us the procedures for analyzing the samples they collect. In addition, you will be able to bring your own sample into the Lab, and the researcher will show you how to analyze it and provide you with the results. The Lab will be running in parallel to the conference presentations on Friday and Saturday.

Some of the presenters we have commitments from are Dr. Dewey Caron, Sue Cobey, Dr. Larry Connor, Dr. James Tew, Dr. Steve Sheppard, and Dr. Ramesh Sagili. This year we will have Dr. Frank Eischen joining us from the USDA

and well-known and recognized commercial beekeepers David Hackenberg and Clint Walker.

On Friday Thom Trusewicz will be offering his bee school. On Saturday we will be offering an alternative tract for those interested in Queen Rearing with experts Larry Connor and Sue Cobey. The hotels we are working with are the Best Western Ocean View Resort, 414 North Prom, Seaside OR 97138, phone: 503.738.3334, and Inn at Seaside, 441 2nd Avenue, Seaside OR 97138, phone: 503.738.9581. Both hotels have agreed to give us the same rates as 2011.

Looking forward to see all of you there!!

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2012 Oregon State Beekeepers Association Conference

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For more information and a registration form, go to: www.orsba.org

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Registration: CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED, WITH PAYMENT, NO LATER THAN **AUGUST 31st** for *earlybird rate*.

Accommodations: Conference rate is \$119 per night (+ tax & gratuities), full breakfast included. 1-425-227-8844 or 1-800-EMBASSY (Use 'WAS' code to book.)

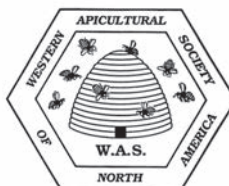
Registration forms available from WAS treasurer Jim Bach, 509-573-4245 or jcbach@fairpoint.net, in the WAS Journal and on the WAS website

http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/Conference_Information or contact

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See you in Seattle!





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Oregon State Beekeepers Association Membership Form

The **Oregon State Beekeepers Association** is a nonprofit organization representing and supporting all who have an interest in honey bees and beekeeping. Membership 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 the ongoing work of the organization on behalf of the honey bee and beekeeping, a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on publications, placement on the swarm call list, and an annual directory and subscription to *The Bee Line*. For new memberships and renewals, please send check made payable to OSBA with this completed form to:

Paul Kowash, 5959 SW Taylors Ferry Rd, Portland OR 97219

Name: _____ **New** ___ **Renewing** ___

Additional name(s) for added memberships at the same address:

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Contact information: The OSBA respects the privacy of members. Please check if you do not want your contact information included in a membership directory sent to OSBA members only: **Do not include contact information** _____

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Note: For new memberships and to renew, see form on page 15.

Welcome, Curry Bee Friends Association!

Reminder: *The Oregon State Fair is August 24–September 3. The deadline for submitting entries for the Honey Show at the OSBA Booth is August 15 (see page 3).*

The Bee Line

The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Annual subscriptions to the newsletter are included with membership in OSBA.

Please send news about your bees and your experiences in keeping them, as well as your corrections, comments, questions, photographs and stories (both from “old” times and “new”), interviews, recipes, and points of view to: Rosanna Mattingly, *The Bee Line*, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland OR 97206; email: osba.newsletter@gmail.com.

The next issue to be printed will be the September 2012 issue. The deadline for submitting copy is August 10, 2012.

Thank you!

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