



# The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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## “THE BEETLES ARE COMING!”

*Todd Balsiger*

This past August, I discovered the Small Hive Beetle (SHB) and its larvae in my grandmother's honey house, which is located between Eagle Creek and Sandy, Oregon. I relate below what I saw that day, discuss the growing body of evidence that the SHB is making inroads in Oregon, and close with some follow-up information.

I had delayed extracting and was beginning to see wax moth larvae damage in my honey supers. I knew I needed to finish; otherwise, it was only going to get worse. I was making great progress in this endeavor when I came across something even more ominous—a lone beetle. Not just *any* beetle—it looked exactly like the SHB. I placed it inside an open glass jar for later identification thinking it could not get out. It was gone in no time.

Eventually I came across a ghastly sight of SHB larvae devouring worker brood on a single frame. I do make a concerted effort to remove brood from supers, but this one frame slipped by. Brood covered about a third of the frame on each side, the balance being mostly honey and a small amount of pollen. The frame was wood with plastic foundation. On one side, the brood had already been consumed—it looked like wet, decomposing cardboard. All of the beetle larvae had migrated to the other side and were devouring the brood there. It was a feeding frenzy of writhing larvae, much like maggots in a decomposing animal. When I picked the super up and pulled the frame, larvae dropped off and hastily tried to escape. I scraped this ghoulish mass of larvae into scalding hot water. Most were now cooked. I stopped extracting, and for the next hour searched out and killed every larva I could find and did a thorough clean up. The larvae bored underneath the slightest of openings to hide.

Compared to wax moth larvae, SHB larvae are relatively indestructible: they have tough, leather-like skin; they are vigorous and crawl at a fast pace; and they can hold their “breath” for a long time. I took some SHB larvae and submerged them in lemon bleach. They did not die for at least 20 minutes—or longer. It takes seconds to kill wax moth larvae in this same liquid. I saw one larva flow out of my extractor with honey. I watched inquisitively. It was now pinned on a sieve by the downward force of falling honey. It had the instinct and strength to turn with the flow and crawl through one of the small openings (wide mesh) and drop into the bucket below. It then floated to the surface—which takes a long time in honey—and latched onto the side of the bucket and started to crawl out! I can only guess that, because SHB thrive in slimy, gelatinous goo, they have adapted to low-oxygen environments.

The damage caused by the SHB in my honey house was negligible. It was limited to one frame only. More troubling is what this incident may portend for the

*Continued on page 11*

**Image above:** Nope, not a beetle! (Thought about it, but I think the fewer we see of the small hive beetle Todd describes in the front story, the better. For some of those kinds of photos, additional introductory info, and guidelines, see: [www.extension.org/page/60425/managing\\_small\\_hive\\_beetles](http://www.extension.org/page/60425/managing_small_hive_beetles).)

May the many bee schools and classes go well this spring. There's so much to learn about the bees. Do you recognize the one pictured above? Or the plant? (See page 12)

**OSBA WEBSITE:** [www.orsba.org](http://www.orsba.org)  
**WEBKEEPER:** Thom Trusewicz  
[ccbees@gmail.com](mailto:ccbees@gmail.com)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As I write this, the bees are in the almonds and we are rapidly moving into 2013; time is flying faster than my bees. But for now I would like to reflect back on the 2012 conference. We raised in excess of \$20,000 for research and education, and with about 180 attendees we covered expenses. There are many reasons we hold the conference, but I really want to talk about one purpose at this time—raising money for research.

Since the retirement of Dr. Michael Burgett in 2002, honey bee research has not been as high a priority for Oregon State University as the OSBA would have preferred. Since then, the OSBA has worked to restore a dedicated bee research staff at OSU. One of the first things the OSBA did was to establish an endowment to help fund a position for the long term. Also, a fairly long list of members continuously lobbied the Oregon State University's Horticulture Department to hire an entomologist. In 2009, with some special emergency funding from the state legislature, OSU recruited Dr. Ramesh Sagili to lead the effort. Dr. Sagili moved quickly to get started, and shortly after he came on board he hired Carolyn Breece as lead technician to supervise the lab's day-to-day operation. The emergency funding, partially made available by the publicity of the importance of bees and beekeeping brought about by Colony Collapse Disorder, was only supporting a temporary position. It was to the benefit of all beekeepers, growers, and seed producers in Oregon to have this position become permanent. The OSBA led an effort to continue lobbying the university and to emphasize the importance of this position to the agriculture industry of Oregon.

The OSBA demonstrates its dedication to this position by raising funds to aid in the research done by Dr. Sagili and his team. Due to the demonstrated importance of this position to the agricultural industry in Oregon, Oregon State University made this position permanent in July 2011. The OSBA has worked hard to support this position and we need to continue to make research support an important part of our organization, as we all benefit from it. In the four years since Dr. Sagili came on board, he has done some extensive research on the efficacy of mite treatments, the Honey Bee Health Survey, brood pheromone testing, the effects of pesticides, and the effect of pollen diversity on the nutrition of honey bees in Oregon. Dr. Sagili worked closely with the OSBA to procure a \$175,000 USDA grant to establish a Master Beekeeper program in Oregon and fund pheromone research specific to the Pacific Northwest. The Oregon Department of Agriculture designated the OSBA to administer these funds and work with Dr. Sagili to establish a Master Beekeeper program as part of the OSU Extension Service. These efforts further strengthen and secure this position at OSU.

Next month I would like to go into more detail about the benefits of attending the conference to you as a member of the OSBA.

Paul

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## OSBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Salem, Oregon ❖ January 7, 2012

**Attendees:** Paul Andersen, Todd Balsiger, Carolyn Breece, Terry Fullan, Katharine Hunt, John Jacob, Kathy Kowash, Paul Kowash, Jan Lohman, Paul Maresh, Harry Vanderpool, Tim Wessels

President Paul Andersen called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

After introductions, Secretary Carolyn Breece read the minutes of the November 1, 2012, executive board meeting. Todd Balsiger motioned to accept the minutes as read. Harry Vanderpool seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

### Treasurer's Report

Paul and Kathy Kowash gave us a brief description of OSBA finances. The Oregon Department of Agriculture contributed \$1,500 toward the publication of the booklet *How to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Pesticides*. We considered a review of OSBA finances by a CPA. Paul Kowash will locate a CPA after tax season for this review. Kathy proposed to upgrade OSBA's Quickbooks software to the 2013 version. Paul Maresh motioned to accept this request. Todd Balsiger seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

Todd Balsiger motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Tim Wessels seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

### Webkeeper's Report

Harry Vanderpool stated that changes, edits, and any other issues regarding the website can be submitted to him or Thom Trusewicz.

### Endowments

Jan Lohman described the two apiculture endowments: the Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education and the OSU Apiculture Endowment. No progress has been made with OSU in combining the two endowments while maintaining language which limits funds to strictly honey bee research.

### ODA Specialty Crop Grant (Master Beekeeper)

Jan described the recent activity of the grant. Grant funds have been used to develop the Master Beekeeper website, publish brochures, and fund the printing and mailing of documents for participants. Items and services are purchased first, then we receive reimbursement from the ODA. We have about \$19,000 left to spend until October 2013, which is the date of grant expiration. We plan to

apply for additional funds this spring to support the Journey Beekeeper level (the second level) of the program.

### Master Beekeeper Report

Several students of the class of 2012 have submitted their materials to become certified Apprentice Beekeepers. The class of 2013 students has been matched with mentors in all areas of the state, and orientations will be held in January for most regions. The planning committee is working hard on the final details of the Journey Beekeeper level, and we hope to begin accepting applications this month.

### Regional Representatives and Associations

**Portland Metro:** Todd Balsiger will write two articles for *The Bee Line*: one describing spotted wing drosophila and how control efforts affect honey bees, and the other regarding small hive beetle, its presence in Oregon, and measures we can take to keep it under control.

**North Willamette Valley:** Harry Vanderpool remarked that it is nice to have regional representatives posting on the OSBA message board. The WVBA membership is through the roof, with 250 members. Their bee school, held in February, has a new director, Kurt Swenson.

**Southern Oregon:** John Jacob announced that the Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association has new officers. The group recently lost a land-use case for allowing bees to be considered farm use. They will be appealing the ruling. They are also working to overturn the current ban on beekeeping in the town of Central Point. John reported that small hive beetle was confirmed present in southern Oregon. SOBA will have a bee school for beginners on April 6, 2013, and for advanced beekeepers on August 3.

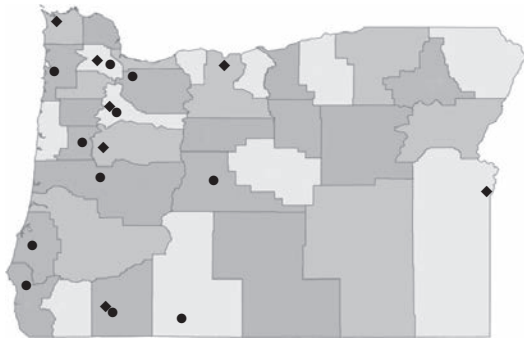
**Cascadia Queen Breeders:** Paul Maresh reported that the club's mission is to develop a strain of honey bees acclimated to the climate and botanical cycles of the Northwest region. The club meets quarterly. The next meeting will feature Dr. Lynn Royce.

**Lane County Beekeepers:** Katharine Hunt reported that the LCBA has about 70–80 people attending club meetings. Some members have been attending planning committee meetings to allow more managed honey bee colonies in city limits. Currently, Eugene allows two hives per 20,000 foot<sup>2</sup> lot. The group would like to change this to four hives per 20,000 foot<sup>2</sup> lot. The city wants beekeepers to provide their bees with a water source, and to notify neighbors of their colonies. The club will have a bee school in March.

**Portland Urban Beekeepers:** Tim Wessels reported that PUB membership continues to grow. They have 147

*Continued on page 12*

## Oregon State Beekeepers Association EXECUTIVE BOARD AND ASSOCIATIONS



### OSBA OFFICERS

**President:** Paul Andersen  
19255 SW Prospect St, Aloha 97007  
503.332.5410; paulande@easystreet.net

**Vice President:** Dewey Caron  
302.353.9914 (April–October)  
carond@hort.oregonstate.edu

**Secretary:** Carolyn Breece  
743 NW 18th St, Corvallis 97330  
541.207.3668; carolyn\_breece@yahoo.com

**Co-Treasurers:** Paul Kowash & Kathleen Kowash  
5959 SW Taylors Ferry Rd, Portland 97219  
503.452.2664; 503.367.5242 (cell)  
paulkowash@aol.com; kowash10@aol.com

**Past President:** Jan Lohman  
77225 Colonel Jordan Rd, Hermiston 97838  
541.567.3209; 541.980.0304 (cell)  
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### ♦ OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

**North Coast:** Terry Fullan  
39450 Northfork Rd, Nehalem 97131  
503.368.7160; tfullan@nehalem.tel.net

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541.249.0160; goldcoastapiary@gmail.com

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**Southern Oregon:** John Jacob  
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**North Willamette Valley:** Harry Vanderpool  
7128 Skyline Rd S, Salem 97306  
503.399.3675; shallotman@yahoo.com

**South Willamette Valley:** Jason Rowan  
80881 Turkey Run Rd, Creswell 97426  
541.942.6479; beetanical@q.com

### • OSBA REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

**Cascadia Queen Breeders**  
Meets quarterly. Next meeting is March 16. Contact group secretary for time and place.

**Chair:** Paul Maresh  
503.283.2060; pmaresh@spiretech.com

**Vice Chair:** Chris Heath  
503.734.7662; tafdad@ccwebster.net

**Secretary:** Alvalea Fong  
503.742.0910; mamagoose@mac.com

**Treasurer:** Rex McIntire  
503.720.7958; remcintire\_5@msn.com

**Central Oregon Beekeepers**  
Meets second Thursday, 63211 Service Rd, Bend  
Visit [www.orsba.org](http://www.orsba.org), Message Board, Central Oregon Branch. For information and meeting details, email: [contact@cobeekeeping.org](mailto:contact@cobeekeeping.org)

**Ring Leader:** Bindy Beck-Meyer

**Bookkeeper:** Allen Engle

**Website:** [www.cobeekeeping.org](http://www.cobeekeeping.org)

**Coos County Beekeepers**  
Meets 6:30 PM, third Saturday (except December)  
Ohlsen Baxter Bldg, 631 Alder St, Myrtle Point

**President:** Hal Strain

**Vice President:** Shigeo Oku—541.396.4016

**Secretary:** Maureen Goettlich

**Treasurer:** Jane Oku  
541.396.4016; janeoku1958@gmail.com

**Klamath Basin Beekeepers**  
Meets 9:00 AM, last Saturday (except Nov/Dec)  
OSU Extension, 3328 Vandenberg Rd, Klamath Falls

**President:** Jim Smith

541.892.5888; tulebee@gmail.com

**Vice President:** Chris Kerns

541.884.8664; ker664@charter.net

**Secretary:** Cathy Vick

541.894.8274; elliott772@aol.com

**Treasurer:** David Ramirez

541.892.3726; ramirez.d.m@gmail.com

**Website:** [www.klamathbeekeepers.org](http://www.klamathbeekeepers.org)

**Lane County Beekeepers**

Meets 7:30 PM, third Tuesday, Trinity United Methodist Church, 440 Maxwell Rd, Eugene

**President:** Katharine Hunt

541.607.0106; keehhunt@gmail.com

**Vice President:** Pam Leavitt—541.344.4228

**Secretary:** Rita Ostrofsky

541.685.2875; ostrofsky@pacinfo.com

**Treasurer:** Nancy Ograin

541.935.7065; nancy.ograin@gmail.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

**Oregon South Coast Beekeepers**

Meets 6:00 PM, third Thursday, OSU Extension Office located at the Fairgrounds in Gold Beach.

**President:** Del Barber

541.249.0160; goldcoastapiary@gmail.com

**Vice President:** Carla Fletcher

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Myrna Barber

goldcoastapiary@gmail.com

**Portland Metro Beekeepers**

Meets 7:00 PM, second Thursday, Clackamas Community College, Clairmont Hall, Room 118, Oregon City

**President:** Chris Heath

503.734.7662; tafdad@ccwebster.net

**Vice President:** Jim Mellis

503.890.2465; craneguy97222@yahoo.com

**Secretary:** Alvalea Fong

503.742.0910; mamagoose@mac.com

**Treasurer:** Rex McIntire

503.720.7958; remcintire\_5@msn.com

**Portland Urban Beekeepers**

Meets 6:30 PM, first Wednesday, Calaroga Terrace Rtmt Comm, Terrace Auditorium, 1400 NE Second Ave, Portland. For information, email: officers@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

**President:** Tim Wessels

503.380.9381; mrtjwessels@gmail.com

**Vice President:** Melissa Kerry

785.331.8003; mkerry@cu-portland.edu

**Secretary:** Mike Card

503.702.9250; mikecard02@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Frank Barley—fbarley@yahoo.com

**Website:** http://portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

**Southern Oregon Beekeepers**

Meets 7:30 PM, first Monday, Southern Oregon Res & Ext Ctr, 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point

**President:** Ron Padgett

541.592.4678; padgett25@frontiernet.net

**Vice President:** Glenn Intermill—541.840.1213

**Secretary:** Dana Rose—puckamok@yahoo.com

**Treasurer:** Eric McEwen—541.592.5483

**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, last Tuesday

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

503.332.5410; 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:** Bunny Carter

503.703.8546; dbcramer@hotmail.com

**Secretary:** Mike Rodia

503.364.3275; drodia@yahoo.com

**Treasurer:** Patricia Swenson—pkswenson@gmail.com

**Website:** www.wvbatoday.com

**COMMITTEES**

**Agriculture Liaison:** Harry Vanderpool—503.399.3675

**Fairs and Exhibits:** Marjie Ehry—503.434.1894

**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

**HONEY BEE RESEARCH**

Dr. Dewey Caron

302.353.9914 (April–Oct); 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

#### North Coast

Beekeepers from Tillamook, Lincoln, and Clatsop counties are now attending monthly meetings in Bay City. This provides an educational opportunity for beekeepers living in the coastal region. Frogs are back to croaking and willows are pudding, so it's nearing Spring. Most agree that it has been a MILD WINTER!  
—Terry Fullan

#### South Coast

Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association has achieved affiliation with the OSBA. The founding members are Del Barber, Mindy Hamilton, Amanda Cooke, Jim Sorber, Myrna Barber, Carla Fletcher, and Joe & Karen Thomas.

The first class of Coos/Curry members involved in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program kicked off in January with 12 students. Shigeo Oku, Randy Sturgill, and Del Barber have teamed up to share mentorship and bring a variety of expertise to the students. The class will meet monthly on Saturdays for 4 hours. Students and instructors travel great distances, ranging for the California border, Camis Valley, and the Reedsport area.

Our Apiary Project for the program is progressing. The Myrtle Point location adjacent to the OSU Extension Office has been confirmed. Plans, including fencing, hive construction, equipment acquisition, signage, and landscaping, have been formalized, and we are moving forward. Hives will be constructed by the new students, thus

making this the initial step towards the primary objective of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program "to increase beekeepers' knowledge and understanding of honey bees and beekeeping."

Beekeepers are gearing up for the season by placing group orders and collaborating transport arrangements.

Carla Fletcher, vice president, is heading up the Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association effort. —Del Barber


### Regional Associations

#### Klamath Basin Beekeepers

The Klamath Basin Beekeepers Association generally meets on the last Saturday of each month. The association's officers for 2013 are: Jim Smith—president, Chris Kerns—vice president, Cathy Vick—secretary, David Ramirez—treasurer, and Jim Shaddock—quartermaster. Our web page, [www.klamathbeekeepers.org](http://www.klamathbeekeepers.org), is managed by Katharina Davitt.

At our January meeting, Alistair Mowat, a professional beekeeper from Weed, California, mentor and member of KBBA, led a discussion about winter beekeeping management techniques for our cold, winter climate. Some members reported losses, due perhaps to our extended cold period in January. The discussion also covered early spring techniques and planning.

KBBA is leading a Beginning Beekeeping class this spring. The first segment will be held March 2 and will cover necessary equipment and tips for getting started as a beekeeper. Other sessions will be about nectar sources and caring for packages. The second segment will be March 30, following our regular



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### WELCOME, NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS!



- |                     |                          |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Michele Bashaw      | Randall Johnson          | Judy Scher         |
| Neal Beck           | Mark Luterra             | Brian Scott        |
| Charles Bennett     | Bud Luton                | Michelle Shaffer   |
| Greg Buhr           | Darlene Marquardt        | James Sorber       |
| Roberta Cranswick   | Ada McClory              | Paul Smedley       |
| Gary & Renee Dillon | Michael Median           | Jessie Spurlock    |
| Hillary Dixon       | Rebecca Merritt          | Ellen Steel        |
| David Downs         | Jonathan & Sheila Millet | Jack Thomas        |
| Allen Engle         | Alistair Mowat           | Joe & Karen Thomas |
| Joe Fassio          | Bernard Newland          | Charlene Thompson  |
| Carla Fletcher      | Rick Olsen               | Richard Turanski   |
| Joan Frey           | Matthew & Dara Pickens   | Mark Wensel        |
| Jody Galbraith      | Wayne Porter             | Tim Wessels        |
| Phillip Heiss       | Sheila Reeves            | Dan Zimmerman      |
| Richard Holcomb     | Mike Robinson            | Monika Zweifel     |
| Katharine Hunt      | Tanya Rudometkin         |                    |
| John Huxley         | Ramesh Sagili            |                    |

meeting and will cover what equipment to buy and how to assemble hives. When packages are delivered in late April there will be a third session about installing packages. The fee for attending is \$25 and includes the book, all sessions, and a first-year single membership. Those interested can sign up through our web page.

—Cathy Vick

### Lane County Beekeepers

LCBA members were very pleased to have Dr. Ramesh Sagili speak at our February 19 club meeting. His presentation title was “Beekeeper Supported and Partnered Bee Research and Extension.”

Our annual Bee School will take place on Saturday, March 9, 2013, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 440 Maxwell Road off of River Road in Eugene. At our March 21 meeting, Jonathan Loftin will discuss Spring Management, including the introduction of nucs. There will also be a short presentation about yellow jackets by Ken Ograin.

—Katharine Hunt

### Portland Metro Beekeepers

Our January meeting was President Nancy McFarlane’s last meeting as president—including Vice President Jim Barlean. Congratulations on a job very well done! Nancy announced that Foothills Honey has offered to host this year’s annual Bee Day on Saturday, April 20. Thanks, George and Susan Hansen! Our new president, Chris Heath, began his term as did Secretary Alvalea Fong and new vice president, Jim Mellis. Rex McIntire continues to give his time as treasurer. In today’s discussion, it was asserted that this was a bad year for yellow jackets. One member lost a couple of hives to this predation. It was recommended to use a “blocking” entrance which discourages yellow jackets but not the hive’s bees. For skunks, put hive’s entrance up off the ground which exposes the skunk’s bellies to the bee sting. Also use carpet tack strips to discourage their scratching at the entrance. For urban and suburban beekeepers, it was recommended to start a water source for your bees by March. Getting them to use this early will discourage them from bothering neighbors. Also, go around and talk to neighbors to assure them and answer questions. One beekeeper recommended adding a pinch of salt to the water to make it more attractive.

In our February meeting, President Chris Heath reminded us that our yearly Bee Day will be on Saturday April 20 this year. Again, the first 150 people to sign up will get to be there. This year at our regular meetings Chris plans to have a monthly door prize for members with an end-of-year prize given by a drawing. Jim Barlean discussed what to do this month. He noted that the bees should be laying brood, so we need to make sure the hive has stores of honey or begin

to feed. Wetness is a prime enemy of bee health, so make sure the hive has good ventilation. If a hive is very small, put into a nuc to give the bees a better chance to make it through the spring. Check for mites and treat them. Jim presented an old method of preventing swarming, invented in 1884 by a Mr. Demaree. Member Paul Hardzinski then gave a demonstration of putting together hive boxes and frames with a discussion of the varieties of frames and foundation available. He advised painting the top of the frame body where the two frames meet. This will prevent water collecting there every winter, which will lead to rot.

### Portland Urban Beekeepers

We had an enthusiastic turnout of 64 beekeepers at our February 6 monthly meeting. Our guest speaker, Dr. Lynn Royce, treated members with her lecture on Queen Rearing. Dr. Royce detailed the queen rearing cycle, stock selection, and a few of the current queen rearing techniques.

The February meeting was our first attempt at live streaming the presentation portion of our meetings. You can view Dr. Royce’s presentation by going to our Facebook page and clicking on the PUB Meeting Recorded live on 2/6/13 or by going to: [www.ustream.tv/recorded/29089478](http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/29089478). We plan on streaming all or portions of future monthly meetings. Glen Andresen handled the monthly Q & A, which included an informal survey of the number of winter losses from members by a showing of hands. PUB will be helping coordinate a more formal winter loss survey by urging members to participate in the 2012/2013 “Bee Informed Partnership.” Glen mentioned Bridgetown Bees, a partnership recently formed with Tim Wessels with a goal of breeding queens in the City of Portland for Portland-area beekeepers.

PUB officers recently met with the Zenger Farm directors to determine the feasibility of PUB members assuming management of the Zenger Farm hives. A committee is being formed to further evaluate the possibility of a partnership. A decision to move forward with the partnership will be made prior to the March 6 meeting.

Beekeeping education from PUB volunteers! PUB members Glen Andresen, Tim Wessels, Brian Lacy, and Matt Reed all volunteered at the “3rd Annual Festival of the Bees” held at the Shining Star Waldorf School on February 2. Glen, Tim, and Brian also volunteered at an Educational Garden at this year’s Yard, Garden & Patio show at the Oregon Convention Center.

Our next meeting, March 6, 2013, will be the unofficial kickoff of the beekeeping season with discussion and presentations covering all aspects of beekeeping for beekeepers in the Portland urban area. Find us at our new

web page <http://portlandurbanbeekeepers.org>, or come join the discussion at our Facebook group, Portland Urban Beekeepers. —*Tim Wessels*

meetings continue to be social, educational, and open to all. —*Terry Fullan*

### Tillamook County Beekeepers

February's bee meeting dealt with 12 members planning bee orders. Spring is coming and everyone is anxious to firm up sources for packages as well as nucs. Beeswax was the main topic on the agenda for this month. Stan Scotton generously presented his rendering methods and samples of various grades of wax. We were reminded of the value of this hive product and the importance of collecting our beeswax. New beekeepers asked for and received advice on just how much woodenware to have on hand. Our

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## FEBRUARY/MARCH: THE WEATHER AND THE BEES

*Dewey M. Caron*

February, the shortest, and March, seemingly the longest, are often the cruelest months. Bee colonies overwinter better if the weather during February and March is consistent. Last year, you may recall, spring arrived early for much of the country, but unfortunately not for Oregon or Washington in the Pacific Northwest. Overall, 2012 was one of the warmest years, and earliest springs, in weather records, but not in Oregon or Washington.

The warm spring resulted in the earliest flowering times known in 161 years of recorded plant bloom history according to plant biologists at Boston University and University of Wisconsin. Studies recently published in *PLOS ONE* compared current flowering times with those recorded near Walden Pond in Massachusetts by Henry David Thoreau beginning in 1852 and Aldo Leopold's records of spring flowering time in Wisconsin beginning in 1935. Flowers bloomed almost one month earlier in 2012 at Walden Pond and in Wisconsin. It was not just the warm spring, as analysis revealed a linear correlation for both locations, i.e., for each degree (Celsius) rise, blooming is 4 days earlier.

Our Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) project is hosting the HoneyBeeNet data being gathered by now-retired NASA scientist Wayne Esiasis, who is also current president to the Maryland Beekeepers Association. In a chance meeting, Wayne and I were talking about how to utilize scale hive data collected over many years by the University of Maryland, including the 11 years (1970–1981) I was on the Maryland faculty. Using resources of NASA, far greater than what I had at the university, Wayne looked at the data and found a gold mine.

His interest has expanded. You can view his expanding project on use of Bee Hive Scale records to time annual nectar flows at: <http://honeybeenet.gsfc.nasa.gov> (or follow links on the [www.BeeInformed.org](http://www.BeeInformed.org) website). In accord with use of Thoreau and Leopold records, bee hives tell a tale of ever earlier flowering and corresponding nectar flows from the flowering plants that bees visit. Maryland data indicate that the peak nectar flow now occurs nearly 4 weeks earlier than in 1970s. This change of the nectar flow timing is likely due to climate changes and also the warming effect of urbanization (the University of Maryland is within the Beltway around Washington DC).

So, if plants are flowering earlier as the climate continues to warm and urbanization and commercial agriculture change

our ecosystem in subtle but consistent ways, are our bees ready to take advantage of an earlier spring? Have colonies shifted to grow in size earlier in the season to take advantage of the nectar and pollen rewards that the plants offer? Have we shifted our bee colony stewardship in accord with earlier flowering times?

Well, we know the expansion of almond acreage in the Central Valley of California means some 50+ Oregon beekeepers, virtually all those with 300 or more colonies, need have a minimum of 8 frames of brood by roughly February 1 to obtain the best rental income in California. In our toughest backyard months, they need full-sized colonies and, of course, need to get them to the almond groves to do their pollination. They must start in the fall, stimulate early, and equalize to obtain such hive strength, virtually before their bees have natural forage. Backyard bees don't get this attention, nor the benefit of the almond pollen during bloom.

Scale hive records of Mike Burgett in Corvallis tell a tale of earlier nectar flows similar to that in Maryland. Backyard beekeepers, unlike the commercial beekeepers, are less likely to begin the Bee New Year with fall managements, are less inclined to use chemical mite treatments, and seldom seek to stimulate colonies early in the spring (both in Maryland and here in Oregon). As a consequence, backyard beekeepers suffer higher overwinter losses than commercial beekeepers (again, in both states). Our two years of national survey data of bee losses and use of management tools (such as mite-control chemicals) are demonstrating these differences. Additionally, the Pacific Northwest bee loss survey Ramesh and I have been conducting nicely complements the validity of the national BIP data.

You can view BIP survey results on the BIP website. Data from 125 Oregon beekeepers are included from last year's survey. While there, be sure to sign up for the national survey, which will be conducted March 29–April 15 this spring. By clicking the participate button, you will get a reminder when the survey is available. You fill out the survey online. It will only take a few minutes of your time and results are anonymous. As in previous years, I will be conducting backyard beekeeper surveys at April association meetings and commercial/sideline beekeepers will receive a paper survey from Ramesh and I to fill out. We appreciate your participation in the past and look forward to your continued participation again this survey season.



**WELCOME!**

*Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association*

## AREMEMBRANCE: *Anita Alexander* (1918–2013)

*Todd Balsiger*

Beekeeping came to my grandparents by way of a swarm. Sometime in the late '50s, their son Jerry came upon a swarm and wanted to hive it. My grandmother looked up Ruhl Bee Supply and made an initial purchase to do just that. As it turned out, it was her husband, Lu, who became smitten with the honey bee. From that point forward, honey bees became a large part of their lives. Later, they purchased



Anita and Lu Alexander. Both Lu and Anita were Honorary Life Members of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association.

land to accommodate their desire to grow the bees—the Cherryville property on the flanks of Mt. Hood. It had a small dwelling, which they converted into a honey house. It was from near this location that Lu took a picture of Mt. Hood which was used for their honey label design. I still use it today, although I have changed the name. In the early '70s, their daughter, Su, raised queens at Cherryville and sold them to Ruhl Bee Supply. She said that, “for a kid is was pretty good money and you only had to work twice a week.” Later Lu and Anita purchased property near Sandy and built a home there along with a new honey house.

Their span of beekeeping was mostly before the Varroa mite. They typically ran between 120 and 140 hives, and harvested between 3 and 5 tons of honey on a normal year. They did not do pollination for income. They sold their honey mostly at the Gresham Co-Op, and the balance from home. Back then, Gresham was mostly agriculture fields. They regularly took hives to fireweed. Below is a picture that shows Anita standing in front of their flatbed truck loaded with fireweed honey.



Eventually Lu took up flying again, and their interest in beekeeping waned and the bees got less attention. I remember the day when a bee inspector visited their apiary near Sandy. Each hive identified with AFB was turned up on end. It had spread like wildfire. Maybe it was for the best, as this quickly reduced numbers and burden.

When Lu died in 1996, the remaining bees fell into my inexperienced hands. I had been deemed allergic as a child to honey bees, so I didn't work them. My experience was limited to being chased by angry bees into another time zone, taking off supers, and extracting and bottling honey. The first thing Anita and I did was call long-time good friends Marge and Alan Ehry for help. Alan drove up and went through the hives, and I watched from a distance. This is when I started to learn how to keep bees. I decided for a few reasons to give beekeeping a try: I had the resources at hand, it made my grandmother happy, and it continued agriculture use for portions of the property for tax purposes.

Anita always came out to the honey house to inspect what was going on when I extracted honey—even this past year. Invariably, she would tell me what time I should quit to come in and eat. I would always keep her informed about all aspects of my beekeeping—how many queens I purchased, how many starts I made, the location of my bees, how the bees were doing, etc. The legacy started by that swarm in the '50s continues.

I send my regards to Marge for the untimely loss of Alan. That was a bizarre twist of fate that Anita and Alan died on the same day, hours apart, and moments after I called Marge and informed her of Anita's passing.

## AREMEMBRANCE: *Alan Ehry* (1941–2013)

*George Hansen*

The Oregon beekeeping community lost a long-time member recently. Alan Ehry passed away as a result of a tragic accident at his farm. Alan was a life-long beekeeper. He had bees as a youngster, and, after service in the Navy, he bought out several beekeepers and started a commercial venture in beekeeping. Over the years, he developed several of his ideas to produce bee equipment as well as to raise queens for the local industry.

Alan and his wife Marge have been loyal supporters of the OSBA and several of the bee clubs in the area, and both Alan and Marge have been honored as a Life Members of the state association. Our convention auctions often had Alan doing the auctioneering duties. He was generous with his knowledge, and helped many beekeepers as they got



Marge and Alan Ehry, on being awarded honorary life membership in the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association a few years ago. Both Alan and Marge are also honorary life members of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association.

a start. His knowledge of bees was vast and ingrained in his nature. He was of a generation that witnessed, during their lifetime, huge changes in beekeeping. As such, Alan's beekeeping displayed an often creative and resourceful response to these challenges.

From the time he started, before herbicides, when crimson clover and vetch grew everywhere, Alan saw everything change with the advent of agricultural pesticides. He faced the necessity to move bees on a regular basis, and had one of the original prototype forklifts in Oregon. He saw the livelihood of beekeepers change over a short time from primarily honey production to pollination service. Alan pioneered the transport of bees to California almond groves, not just as a revenue, but also to aid in building bees up for the spring fruit bloom in Oregon. Later, he witnessed with all of us the new difficulties bees and beekeepers were having in the quickly changing environment. He would often comment on the irony where, in the good old days, we had trouble controlling swarming, compared to today, when it is a struggle to keep bees alive and healthy, let alone increasing.



Ever curious, Alan engages a vendor during the 2012 OSBA Fall Conference.

Alan loved talking bees. He could always be found in discussion with somebody giving as well as getting information. His concern for the welfare of the industry was exhibited by his questions. He would always want to know, "How are your bees?" And he would always be able to give information or contacts or other advice pertinent to one's situation.

Alan's good humor and loyal support for beekeeping are appreciated, and he will be missed.

**Note:** Ken Vial and Rodman Peil of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association also recently passed. Condolences to all families and friends.

### ***Small Hive Beetle—Continued from page 1***

future here in Oregon. Where did I get the SHB? In short, I believe they came from a commercial beekeeper who placed hives on an adjacent caneberry/blueberry farm. I asked him about the beetles, and he said they came from an infested semi-truck load of supers he purchased from Texas. A contributing factor may have been the inadvertent depopulation of some of his hives from insecticide sprayed for Spotted Wing Drosophila control. I saw carpets of dead bees in front of hives, which may have resulted in a SHB infestation. The beekeeper told me he has around 2,000 hives in northwest Oregon, and I have seen his apiaries in both Washington and Clackamas counties.

Furthermore, we have potential trouble brewing from the south. John Jacob (southern Oregon regional representative) reports that an outfit from Florida with around 350 SHB-infested hives has moved in there.

At the fall conference, I learned more disconcerting information. I overheard Dr. Lawrence Connor say, "I have SHB in my hives right now in Michigan," so evidently cold is not a barrier. Dr. Dewey Caron told me that the East Coast is struggling with the SHB. Lastly, I learned that SHB is endemic in some areas (wet and humid) in California.

At this point, I am assuming the role of Paul Revere: "The beetles are coming! The beetles are coming!" I spoke to Oregon commercial beekeeper George Hansen about the SHB. It is his opinion that our problems may be limited to honey houses and mating nucs. I can still remember Dr. Mark Winston's presentation about the SHB in Seaside long ago (SHB came to North America in 1996). It was a "Doom and Gloom" presentation meant to shock us, which it did. I remember him say, "You think the Varroa mite is bad, well wait until you get a load of this." How prophetic he was. He then proceeded to show slides of just how awful the SHB can be. That was about 15 years ago.

Unlike the Varroa mite, the SHB has disseminated slowly across our nation, and for many areas it has not been as problematic as first suggested. I suggest you increase your knowledge about this pest and start incorporating management practices that lessen the likelihood of experiencing damage. Drs. Dewey Caron and Ramesh Sagili are preparing an OSU Extension Leaflet on Small Hive Beetle for release in the near future.

**Minutes—Continued from page 3**

members! PUB had Mace Vaughn of the Xerces Society speak at a meeting about native pollinators. Drs. Lynn Royce and Dewey Caron will speak at future meetings. The club focuses on beekeeping education.

**Tillamook County Beekeepers:** Terry Fullan reported new interest in beekeeping in the area: the Tillamook County Beekeepers Association has four new members. Dr. Dewey Caron will speak at a club meeting on May 18.

**Delegates to American Beekeeping Federation**

The American Beekeeping Federation needs one more delegate from Oregon to attend the ABF conference in Pennsylvania. Paul Andersen motioned to designate Jan Lohman as an ABF delegate. Paul Maresh seconded the motion. Jan will join Dewey Caron and Mark Johnson as the Oregon delegates to the ABF conference.

**Pesticide Booklet**

The ODA has contributed \$1,500 toward the revision and publication of the extension publication, *How to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Pesticides*. When the ODA receives the printed booklet, they will contribute another \$1,500. We also received contributions from Washington and California State beekeepers associations and the Idaho Honey Producers. OSBA will send each member a printed copy, and will send batches of books to the contributing states. Over 2,000 copies will be printed; however, we discussed the possibility of printing more, as the information is valuable and relevant to those beyond the Pacific Northwest.

**2013 OSBA Fall Conference**

The 2013 conference will be held in Seaside, Oregon, October 31–November 2, 2013. Dewey Caron is arranging speakers, and has confirmed Dr. Marion Ellis as one of the speakers.

**Section 18s**

Apivar®, a miticide containing amitraz, has been approved for use in Oregon under the EPA Section 18 Emergency Exemption. It is now available at Mann Lake and Dadant. The Section 18 for Apivar is good for one year.

HopGuard has not yet been approved for 2013, but will likely be approved for one more year under Section 18. The manufacturer has increased the recommended treatment to 6 strips per year. Please read the label for details.

**Research Fund**

Paul Andersen stated that Research Fund income from fall conferences is distributed as donations at the following fall

conference. The OSBA determines the recipients of the donations just prior to the conference in fall, then donates the funds at the conference. Income from the silent and oral auctions, donations from research meals, and raffle ticket sales go to the Research Fund.

Paul Andersen reminded us that OSBA has a matching funds program: when a regional association donates to the OSU Honey Bee Lab, the OSBA matches that donation up to \$500 per year. Todd Balsiger motioned to extend the matching fund program to include 2013. Paul Kowash seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

**Reminder to Executive Board Members**

Executive board members, who include club presidents and regional representatives, must be current OSBA members.

**Review of 2012 Fall Conference**

The 2012 Fall Conference had 189 people in attendance. After the grant has paid for many of the speaker expenses, the conference income equaled the expenses. Of the comments provided in the conference surveys, the most common positive aspect was the queen rearing track on Saturday. The most common negative remark was the location (Seaside). Many attendees preferred a more centralized location. We recognize that Seaside is a good distance from most; however, the convention center is available at a very low, all-inclusive rate.

We discussed the possibility of teaming up with Washington State Beekeepers Association for future conferences; however, we lose a significant portion of the revenue and auction revenue when we have joint meetings. In order to most efficiently support OSU research, the OSBA needs to keep the fall conference as an Oregon event. The OSBA will continue to support Washington State University honey bee research, Dr. Steve Sheppard and Sue Cobey.

Todd Balsiger motioned to adjourn the meeting. Harry Vanderpool seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carolyn Breece*

**Note:** The Section 18 exemption for HopGuard was extended soon after the meeting. It is in effect for one year.

**Photo, page 1:** An alfalfa leafcutting bee (*Megachile rotundata*) on an alfalfa flower. This bee is widely used for pollination by alfalfa seed growers.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March 2, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM.** Linn-Benton Beekeepers Association Bee School at Flinn Block Hall, 222 West 1st Ave, Albany. Targeted towards first- and second-year beekeepers, it will cover all the basics, including getting started (with a focus on packages), equipment, bee biology, hive inspections, seasonal management, pests and diseases, bee nutrition and forage, and gardening for bees. \$10 for LBBA members, \$35 for nonmembers (includes membership). *Information and registration:* 541.203.0117 or sjomaresh@msn.com.

**March 9, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM and March 10, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM:** Central Oregon Beekeepers Bee School at Partners in Care, 2075 NE Wyatt Ct, Bend. Saturday: classroom lecture and hands-on sessions on woodenware, pest management, frame building, beekeeper tools and protection, honey extraction, and more. Sunday: taught by Dr. Ramesh Sagili, explore honey bee culture through applied honey bee biology, helping beekeepers anticipate rather than react to problems, and honey bee colony management. Bring a sack lunch. Total cost for both days is \$25.00 for non-COBKA members (includes membership) and \$5.00 for current COBKA members. Pre-registration is necessary! Register by email: beeschool@cobeekeeping.org or call 541.280.4940. Class size is limited to 50. *Information:* Mike Ashley at 541.280.4940 or captvik@gmail.com.

**March 16, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM:** Astoria Bee School. Clatsop Community College, Columbia Hall, Room 219, Astoria. Cost: \$15 per individual or \$25 per family. Please bring a sack lunch. *Questions?* email: ccbees@gmail.com

**March 16, 11:00 AM–4:00 PM (Registration: 10:00–10:45 AM or prior to meeting at 9:00 AM):** Cascadia Queen Breeders. Rearing Queens in the Mid-Willamette Valley with Dr. Lynn Royce at Kerry Haskin's Gourmet Honey Farms of Oregon, 25101 S Schoenborn Rd, Mulino. Must be preregistered. *Information:* Alvalea Fong at 503.742.0910 or mamagoose@mac.com.

**March 19: Lane County Bee School.** Trinity United Methodist Church. Eugene.

**April 8, 10, and 13.** Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association Bee School. Details on Registration Form. See TVBA at: www.orsba.org/htdocs/bee\_schools.php to download form.

**April 20, 8:00 AM–3:30 PM (Registration: 8:00–9:00 AM):** Portland Metro Bee Day at George Hansen's Foothills Honey Farm, 30576 S Oswalt Rd, Colton. This is a hands-on event with experienced beekeepers. Bring your own protection gear, bee veils, gloves, bee suit, or wear long pants and long-sleeved shirt. Dress for the weather, layered clothing recommended, and bring your own camp chairs. *Information:* Nancy McFarlane at 503.260.3030; Chris Heath at 503.734.7662.

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

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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 provided on page 15.



## ***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 events, 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](mailto:osba.newsletter@gmail.com).

The next issue to be printed will be the April 2013 issue. The deadline for submitting copy is March 10, 2013.

*Thank you!*

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