UPDATE FROM THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Jim Cramer, Director, ODA Market Access and Certification Program Area

Greetings from the ODA!! It has been several years since we have directly communicated and updated you, and even longer since the old days of American foulbrood and mite inspections (thank god). As a matter of reference, the statute and rule legislating and administering apiaries and beekeepers is Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 602.010-602.990 and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 603-055-100. ORS 602 went through a major revision in 1993. The revision deleted most of the statute dealing with inspection and transportation. There are two major portions that were left intact: (1) the registration of persons who own five or more colonies and (2) the ability for the department to designate disease and treatment. The rule (OAR) also deals with registration.

Keeping Registrations: While I have communicated with many of you individually over the years relating to registration, it is good for you all to know that I have not made it a priority to enforce the registration and do not have any plans to change that. I have even suggested that, if the industry wanted, I could propose a legislative concept to abolish that section; again, that would be at your request.

Maintaining Bee Brand Book: One element that we no longer have statutory authority for that I still maintain is the “Bee Brand Book” that I have kept around and updated as requested/needed by individuals. As new-to-the-industry beekeepers would like, I can assign them a number that is consistent with the old system.

Providing Swarm Call List: Other areas that we get involved with is responding to calls from the public. We will get several calls a year from folks that have been blessed with a swarm arriving at their home. We maintain a list of beekeepers that have called us and requested that we pass on their names and contact information to those who call in. If you are interested in being on that list, please drop me a line and I will add you to it.

Responding to Calls and Contributing: As a friendly reminder, we get calls from neighbors who are adjacent to some honey bee colonies with the usual concerns, but the majority involve bees looking for water in the kids’ pool. With summer arriving in May this year, bees looking for water will start earlier than normal. The other calls involve responding to the industry when in need of a few dollars for research or for updating a pesticide publication.

I have really enjoyed working with the industry over these many years, and I think that your organization continues to provide a valued service and resource—not only to the beekeepers and your industry but also to all of agriculture. Keep up the good work!

Best regards,

Jim

Reminder: The form to register with the Oregon Department of Agriculture for beekeepers managing five or more colonies can be downloaded from the OSBA
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It’s May 8 as I write this and it seems more like early July instead of early May. The last few weeks have been much dryer than normal and very warm; last weekend was in the mid-80’s. The plants are running ahead of schedule with the crimson clover fields well into their bloom. The bees definitely are taking advantage of it, and I am surprised at how much cured and capped honey I already have in my supers. If this keeps up, I will have to harvest and extract early so I don’t run out of supers. It looks like it will be a good year for honey!

For those of us who do not move our hives, it has been a good spring for quickly rebuilding and recovering from losses. This spring, the colonies that made it through winter built up quickly and were ready for the early bloom. Despite pulling frames for splits and doing a bit of rebalancing, I still have had swarms. I have managed to catch most of them and put the swarms in a nuc box with frames and let them pull comb; swarms seem to be good at doing this.

Speaking of swarms, it never ceases to amaze me how the media swings from one extreme to the other. On the evening news, I have seen stories of swarms “attacking cars” or “shutting down a school” with comments by someone who knows nothing about bees! On another day, the evening news had a story about a beekeeper picking up a gentle swarm with an interview of the beekeeper explaining what’s going on with the bees. This leaves a much better impression with the public and helps to minimize the unnecessary fears that the media sometimes raise with their stories.

As the Oregon State Beekeepers Association, we, along with our thirteen regional branch associations, have the opportunity to influence the public’s perception and understanding of honey bees and beekeeping. Any time we get a chance to present our viewpoint, answer questions, and correct misconceptions, it benefits us all. Whether it is through an interview with the media such as television, radio, newspapers, or a public event like the State Fair, AgFest, and others, these activities give us widespread coverage and improve awareness of both OSBA and honey bees. It is surprising how many times OSBA members appear in the newspaper or on the radio/TV. A good example was the cleanup of the bees after the truck accident north of Madras in March. Positive exposure helps OSBA to be perceived as an asset to the community and the state. The OSBA is a resource not only to the agricultural industry but to the public as well, and over the years we have been effective ambassadors for the honey bee.

Paul

*Continued from page 1*—website, www.orsba.org. The additional services Jim notes are much appreciated, including ODA’s recent contribution to updating the regional pesticide booklet—along with the California State Beekeepers Association, Treasure Valley Beekeepers Association, and Washington State Beekeepers Association.
Oregon State Beekeepers Association
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Canby, Oregon  April 20, 2013

Attendees: Robert Allen, Paul Andersen, Todd Balsiger, Carolyn Breece, Dewey Caron, Jordan Dimock, Terry Fullan, Paul Kowash, Jan Lohman, Paul Maresh, Rosanna Mattingly, Harry Vanderpool, Tim Wessels

Paul Andersen called the meeting to order at 4 PM.

Dewey Caron motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes as printed in The Bee Line. Todd Balsiger seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

American Beekeeping Federation Report
Jan Lohman reported that the American Beekeeping Federation is trying to get membership numbers up. OSBA will look into becoming an ABF member as an organization. ABF will send recipes and information for distribution at fairs and other events. The next ABF convention will be in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on January 5–7, 2014.

Webkeeper’s Report
Harry Vanderpool passed along Thom Trusewicz’s suggestion of allowing members free ads on the website. Paul Kowash motioned to allow OSBA members three free website ads per year. Todd Balsiger seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

Regional Representative Reports
Portland Metro: Todd Balsiger has struggled to find writers for the beekeeping tips of the month for The Bee Line. Paul Andersen suggested that Master Beekeeper participants in the Journey level could write the tips to earn service points. Todd also reported that he will be writing an article about Spotted Wing Drosophila and how it relates to beekeepers.

North Willamette Valley: Harry Vanderpool reported that 80 people attended the WVBA Bee School. There are now 250 members in WVBA and they have a great website: www.wvatoday.com.

North Coast: Terry Fullan reported that local people from the flower industry are becoming beekeepers. The bee club is small, with about fifteen members, but the new beekeepers are very enthusiastic.

Eastern Oregon: Jordan Dimock reported very dry conditions in eastern Oregon; however, bees look good and beekeepers are very busy.

Regional Association Reports
Portland Urban Beekeepers: Tim Wessels reported that 80–90 people are attending monthly meetings. Beekeepers in the Portland area have experienced quite a few losses. Losses are higher this year than in the last five or so years. Very few treat hives for Varroa mites. Spring conditions are good, no diseases reported yet. The club is growing by leaps and bounds, with good energy from beekeepers.

Tillamook County Beekeepers: Robert Allen reported that five new beekeepers are attending their monthly meetings.

Cascadia Queen Breeders: Paul Maresh reported that the club met for a spring workshop featuring Dr. Lynn Royce. Their next meeting will be a workshop featuring John Jacob and Heike Williams. The club will be creating a 2–3-year training syllabus. They are working on finding isolated mating yards for their queens. The club is just getting started, but things look good so far.

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers: Paul Andersen reported a growing membership. Their bee school had about thirty people.

Linn-Benton Beekeepers: Carolyn Breece reported that the club had a bee school in early March and will team up with Lane County Beekeepers Association in June for a field day. Also, a new bee supply company has started up in Corvallis.

OSU Apiculture Endowment
The Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education and the OSU Apiculture Endowment will not be combined due to disagreement in language designating where funds can be spent. OSBA would like to maintain language which limits funds to strictly honey bee research. Currently, the OSU Apiculture Endowment has $80,383.02 endowed, and $30,263.14 available for immediate use. Donors to the fund can specify whether they would like their donation to go toward the endowment or for immediate use.

Oregon Master Beekeeper Program Report
Carolyn Breece reported that there are nearly 300 students in the Apprentice level of the program. The Journey level has begun with about forty participants. The upcoming Journey-level orientation will detail the program, which includes a community service component. The committee will be submitting a grant proposal which will help develop the Master level. Jan Lohman stated that the current grant has $15,000 left, which she proposes to send to OSU research if our second grant proposal is accepted.

Continued on page 12
Oregon State Beekeepers Association
EXECUTIVE BOARD AND ASSOCIATIONS

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541.354.2223; bfamily@live.com

Eastern Oregon: Jordan Dimock
2635 Mitchell Butte Rd, Nyssa 97913
541.372.2726

Portland Metro: Todd Balsiger
3284 Edgeview Ln, Forest Grove 97116
503.523.9572; toddbalsiger@comcast.net

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, Message Board, Central Oregon Branch. For information and meeting details, email: contact@cobeekeeping.org
Ring Leader: Bindy Beck-Meyer
Bookkeeper: Allen Engle
Website: 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 Vandenbarg 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

Website: www.cobeekeeping.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@nehalemtel.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
Website: www.wvbatoday.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
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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

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Dr. Lynn Royce
541.929.5337; mitebee@peak.org
Dr. Ramesh Sagili
541.737.5460; sagilir@hort.oregonstate.edu
Regional Representatives
South Coast
April 30 was an exciting day for south coast beekeepers. Best estimates reported to the news were that more than 300,000 honey bees were transported to Curry County for Oregon South Coast members. (We get a lot of human Californians doing the same thing, but we make them drive their own car!) Thirty-two packages arrived along with a number of bee-friendly shrubs to enhance honey bee forage. New beekeepers have been attending monthly meetings since the first of the year to learn about focused topics, including plant identification, hive choices, feeding techniques, medication, location selection, and forage. Vice President Carla Fletcher devoted countless hours to this successful event. She and President Del Barber were both swamped mentoring new-bees stocking their hives and getting set for the season.

The Oregon South Coast association was delighted to host Master Gardener and Journey-level participant in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, Shigeo Oku. Shigeo’s free-flowing presentation addressed the topics of gardening for bees supported with real-life examples of bee rescues, swarm captures, and bee biology interspersed. He had fun with the audience while dispelling the Roman soldier myth crediting the loss of the battle to poison honey. (You will have to ask him for the calculations!) There was standing room only at the Curry County Extension Office with more than forty in attendance. Quality presentations by informed practitioners like Mr. Oku have stimulated membership growth. The club has a healthy balance of new and seasoned beekeepers using a mix of top bar and Langstroth hives at each meeting.

Special recognition is due to Mureen Walker, a student in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, for her journalistic contributions to promote beekeeping in Curry County. Her numerous articles and accompanying eye-catching photographs have contributed to public education and beekeeping awareness.

She was instrumental in collaboration with the Oregon County Fairgrounds to purchase an observation hive to be shared with OSCBA. Russ and Babette Rose donated the nuc to stock the hive with a beautiful red-marked queen. Del Barber cares for the bees and delivered them to their debut performance when the Oregon Fairs Association held their spring conference in Gold Beach.

Both Coos and Curry County beekeepers are preparing for county fairs. Members of the Coos County association are expanding their platform to build a mobile bee shack. Over the years, they have devoted countless hours building and subsequently dismantling informative displays. Last year they won the Grand Champion award at the Coos County Fair. This year they plan to build a mobile kiosk, and that will enhance their efforts and result in a display that will be available for future community events. Members of the Oregon South Coast association are looking to their sister organization for suggestions and guidance as they create their first display for the Curry County Fair.

—Del and Mryna Barber

Eastern Oregon
The bees are looking good, came through winter in good shape generally—though at least one operation in the area had large losses resulting from mites and is rebuilding. Colonies coming out of the cherries are strong and ready to swarm. The weather has been warm, making the area drier than usual for this time of year. The expectation is that natural floral sources will be available for a while yet, but then there will be a dearth for a couple of weeks until alfalfa blooms. Though irrigated areas will be short, the high country has adequate moisture for now.

—Jordan Dimock

South Willamette Valley
Well, what a spring. I can’t remember having so many consecutive days to work bees. I kept asking myself where is all the rain that makes me spend all my money to keep my hives alive. This year has been like few before it. I hope your spring has found you in the same position. However, here in the south valley, like most places, we are heading into a lean time for nectar, so be aware that the weight gained can be lost with big hungry bees. Be prepared, and watch those hives for swarm cells. Put a box on early if it gives you peace of mind, and, if swarming just seems to what to happen anyway, make another hive by splitting your pre-swarm in half and see what happens (one will have the queen and one will have cells). Sounds simple, right? Well, here in our operation a two-minute task can turn into a hour. Be prepared for another year: read and ask questions to make your honey season as bountiful as it can be. Good luck.

—Jason Rowan
Regional Associations

Klamath Basin Beekeepers
Klamath Basin beekeepers conducted a very successful beginning beekeeping class over the past two months. More than thirty eager new-bees participated as experienced members presented basic information regarding how to get started keeping bees. Topics included equipment needed, package installation, using a smoker, handling bees confidently, and maladies. Many of the participants ordered packages and woodenware, and are now experiencing the joys of beekeeping.

Over sixty members of the association received and installed new packages and nucs in mid-April. Now fruit trees and dandelions are blooming, so bees have something to harvest.

May 18, the KBBA will host a field day for members at the OSU Experiment Station. The program will include hands-on practice checking and evaluating bee colonies for queens, larvae, brood, and nectar and pollen resources. Participants need to bring and wear protective clothing including a veil, long sleeves, and long pants. Beginning beekeepers will be assisted by more-experienced club members. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about keeping bees and to look inside a hive of bees.

—Cathy Vick

Lane County Beekeepers
Lane County association members helped out at GloryBee’s Annual Bee weekend on April 12 and 13. Though the weather was “cool,” it was really an interesting event bringing many inquiries to the club table about memberships as well as the need for mentors.

The June 18 meeting of the club has as its topic Pests and Diseases. It should prove to be an interesting session presented by Morris Ostrofsky. We will meet a second time in June as we are hosting our annual Field Day along with the Linn-Benton Beekeepers Association on June 29 at the Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab.

—Katharine Hunt

Portland Metro Beekeepers
At our May meeting, President Chris Heath announced his willingness to create and maintain a website for our club. It was put to vote and will be up soon. He thanked all the presenters and volunteers for another successful
The Bee Line

Bee Day at the Foothills Honey farm. Thank you, George and Susan Hansen!

We had our monthly discussion of what to do in the hive this month. Some are reporting exceptional nectar flow already, but this may slack off, for those that feed their bees, continue to feed them. Check for queen cells and remove them. Sometimes shaking bees off the frames is necessary to see queen cells. Now is a good time to requeen.

Chris Heath re-announced a bus trip to OSU to check out the “university educated” (per Dewey Caron) bees there. Seriously, it will be a nice introduction to their work in bee research, on Saturday, May 18. Contact Chris Heath if interested at 503.734.7662. Chris promises it is not a school bus, but a comfortable bus to drive us down and back.

Club treasurer Rex McIntire gave a presentation on catching swarms. He showed us his equipment: a five-gallon bucket on a long pole, cardboard nuc box to keep the captured swarm, and goose-wing brush (“friendlier than a regular brush”). Also, he uses a sugar spray to calm the bees down and a homemade vacuum to pull bees out of an enclosure. At times, he uses an orchard ladder, which is adaptable to varying conditions. To avoid long fruitless trips to discover that the honey bees are actually yellow jackets, he asks the caller to send a smart phone photograph of the swarm.

—Paul Jarrett

Portland Urban Beekeepers

We were fortunate to have two of our local scientists back at our May beekeepers meeting. Dr. Caron, recently back from his work in Bolivia, provided members to a lively Q & A discussion on a variety of beekeeping topics, while Dr. Sagili gave tandem presentations on honey bee health and nutrition research being conducted at the OSU Honey Bee Lab.

The mild spring temperatures have provided Portland area members with a bounty of early swarms beginning the last week of March. Many backyard beekeepers in the Portland area value swarms since many of the swarms came from overwintered colonies. Members use swarms to repopulate winter losses, to strengthen smaller colonies, and to start new colonies.

In the PUB tech corner, we are now live streaming monthly meetings so that members can still view presentations when they are unable to attend in person. PUB Librarian James Moore has posted a link for his “Collecting Data from Your Beehives” website. Visit the progress James makes on this project at: http://bit.ly/beehivedata.

We will be participating in the “Bees and Fleas” event on July 13 in Beavercreek and invite other clubs and beekeepers to join us. If you would like a table to display club information, hive equipment, bee-related services, honey, or any bee-related products, contact Frank Barley at 503.632.6632 or at fbarley@gmail.com.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 5. We are pleased to have guest speaker Gaylen Beatty, founder of the Backyard Habitat Certification Program. Her presentation will cover planting for honey bees and native pollinators, and instruction for members to follow for removal of invasives, adding pollinator plants to increase bee forage, wildlife habitat, and garden sustainability.

Find us at our new web page http://portlandurbanbeekeepers.org or come join the discussion at our Facebook group Portland Urban Beekeepers.

—Tim Wessels

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Swarm season has begun with calls mainly centered in the Salem area. Members can still get their names added to the call list. Instead of a monthly speaker, this month members were split into several groups and a number of different issues were considered in each. In my group, we

—Ramesh Sagili

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June 2013

Blackberries are in full bloom this month; nectar flow will be at its zenith. Recommendations are as follows:

❖ Super ahead of the need for space. This increases honey production and reduces swarming. You may want to walk through your apiary and reshuffle the supers away from colonies that are lagging behind and give them to strong colonies packing the honey in.

❖ If you have foundation to draw, get it on now. Summer’s nectar dearth is around the corner. Continue to replace old, poor-quality brood frames with foundation. It is recommended to replace brood frames every five years.

❖ Remove and extract supers containing well-ripened honey. The moisture content should be around 17.8 percent or less. Honey harvested early in the season (June) has more moisture than late-season honey (late July/August). Avoid harvesting too many frames of uncapped honey early in the season or you may risk having too much moisture in your honey—a bad thing. You can check the ripeness of uncapped honey in a given frame by giving it a hard downward shake. If there is a shower of nectar, then it is too wet to extract.

❖ If you have hives around agriculture crops, then become familiar with the pesticides that are commonly used on them. Make inquiries. Find out what’s going to be sprayed, when, and the dangers the spray poses to your bees. It may be very prudent to move your bees out. See OSU Extension Publication PNW 591 for more information on how to reduce bee poisoning.

❖ Some hives may still be on a swarm trajectory. It is possible to lessen the likelihood of swarming by doing some work! Remove forming queen cells, rotate brood boxes, and pull from two to four frames of bees and brood. Replace the void with empty comb. You can add the frames of bees and brood to weaker colonies or make new startups. Note that swarm cups are a natural condition in the hive; their presence does not necessarily mean the hive will swarm.

❖ This is my own opinion, but, since the introduction of the Varroa mite, I think the “badness” of swarming is overplayed. Through swarming, new queens are raised and the brood cycle is broken up. This will reduce the Varroa population. I have found it still possible to get one or two westerns of honey from colonies that have swarmed.

❖ Continue to be on the lookout for American foulbrood.

Adapted from: WVBA Secretary’s Minutes, May 2013.

OLIVER PETTY To Celebrate 99!

An invitation from Oliver’s family to an open house to honor his 99th birthday on June 9:

June 9 from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM
Hill Street Church of Christ Fellowship Hall
1805 Hill Street SE in Albany

Cards are appreciated. No gifts, please. Although he no longer keeps bees, Oliver still enjoys talking bees and taking a bit of exercise with his dog, Kempsey. Cards and other correspondence can be mailed to Oliver at: 3018 Lansing Ave SE, Albany OR 97322.

Congratulations, Oliver!

MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM UPDATE

The Oregon Master Beekeeper Program recently launched the Journey level of the program. The Apprentice level for 2013 is filled. In addition, Oregon State Beekeepers Association passed the first hurdle toward a grant to help with costs as the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program moves forward. We were accepted on the first tier and submitted the Full Proposal on May 10. This funding will help to move the program forward in a professional way and also

Adapted from: WVBA Secretary’s Minutes, May 2013.
adds funding for honey bee health research. Currently, we have designed and implemented two (Apprentice and Journey levels) of the three total levels to complete the program. The third level, the Master level, will be designed soon. The program is a collaborative effort between the Oregon State Beekeepers Association and the Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab.

**QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

* **Question**  
I’ve heard various numbers as a treatment threshold for Varroa mites, but it seems that these numbers would vary based upon the time of year, colony size, and even the bee activity level. It seems like the results would vary dependent upon if the bees are busy and active or if they are held up in a cluster. I have three hives, one large, one medium, and one small. What 24-hour drop count should I use? Your thoughts?

* **Response**  
Dewey Caron: Mite counts is a truly complex subject. There have been three attempts at coming up with a fall threshold—50 mites/day in Washington state and Delaware (my study) and 50–150 mites per day (Georgia study). Assumptions were normal colonies with low virus levels. If virus is present, it has been suggested that half that number might be more appropriate. But there are so many variables to consider: you indicated time of year, colony size, and if bees cluster at night—some others are how well the sticky board traps mites, whole versus partial bottom sampling, bee population dynamics, how much smoke is used during the sampling period, how long boards are under the hive (three days is usual recommendation), etc.—all which can influence mite drop numbers. If using a different sampling method, such as washing mites from adult bodies (collecting bees in a jar and using powdered sugar or alcohol or ether), the threshold rates suggested vary from 2 percent (i.e., six mites from 300 bee bodies) to 10 percent. Both sample numbers quoted are for studies of August sampling—if mites on adults are sampled in the spring or summer (pre- or post-harvest), a different (lower) number would be appropriate, yet no study has been done determining a threshold number for spring or summer sampling. Thus, by and large, the number that we might use to trigger some action—an action threshold—lacks careful replicated studies.

Treatment options are diverse, as you know. No treatment is always an option, but with high mite numbers the risk of losing the colony or having a nonproductive colony is high. Some treatments are not very effective with high mite pressure, and any treatment option not well executed may not produce the desired results. Basically, obtaining an estimate of colony numbers with sticky board or adult sampling allows us to make a better-informed decision even if we don’t know what threshold number to use. Spring treatment, even if less effective, might reduce mite populations enough to allow the colony to expand.

Our Bee Informed survey (that mostly surveys backyard beekeepers) indicates only 39 percent of beekeepers elect to use a chemical treatment for mites. Spring treatments with chemicals are risky with temperature-dependent options (like MAQS, essential oils) as a cold snap or applications when days do not warm sufficiently may be less effective. Chemicals that can be used to reduce mites on adult bees (oxalic acid, HopGuard, powdered sugar) can cause brood harm at a time of year the colony MUST rear brood to get bigger faster. Treatments that require a treatment-free period before nectar flow have too short a time window for use for most beekeepers. Any material or treatment option that causes harm to the queen may carry great negative consequences prior to the nectar flow and later as bees secure surplus for overwintering, but are potentially less critical in the summer.

My recommendation is to utilize techniques like drone brood removal, screen bottom board, powdered sugaring following inspection, stimulative sugar syrup feeding, splitting colonies, and open sunny apiary sites as the best options for mite suppression during the spring. Allow colonies to outgrow mites and get bigger earlier. With higher colony numbers, labor-intensive methods (such as drone brood removal) are not very practical as spring is already our busiest management period. Thus, most beekeepers electing to treat chemically wait until after honey is harvested in July when several materials such as formic acid, essential oils, or hard chemicals (like the newly available ApiVar) work better than they might in the spring provided temperatures do not get too warm or the beekeeper doesn’t wait until too late into the fall when colder temperatures return. Nonchemical intervention may not work as well, except for breaking the brood cycle, especially if mite population pressure becomes elevated, as is frequently the case, increasing the risk of colony loss over the subsequent winter season if nothing is done or treatments (chemical and non) are not skillfully applied.
FIRE DESTROYS VAN CALCAR OPERATION

Marjie Ehry

Nick Van Calcar, a commercial beekeeper just out of McMinnville, watched as his warehouses, trucks, bee equipment, and years of hard work and determination went up in flames early Saturday morning, April 27. About 65 firefighters from surrounding areas fought the fire, but it was just too late and not enough water. It is hard to imagine the intensity of heat as a bee operation burns.

“What a tragic loss,” was all I could think as I surveyed the charred landscape of what a few days before had been filled with trucks, nuc boxes, beekeepers, and “buzzing” activity. The week before, Nick, Warren Kester (third-generation Oregon beekeeper), and I had laughed about the joys and up and downs of beekeeping—and the prospects of a great honey year.

Any time there is a loss like this, the trickle-down effect is felt by many beekeepers who buy honey until the new crop, as well as the employees and families, farmers, public seeking local honey, those who participate in farmers markets, and many others. Nick is a beekeeper/businessman and will bounce back with his optimistic smile and strength.

Note: Along with Marjie, hoping that all affected by the losses manage the best of possible outcomes. The fire can be viewed at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=emOy8HYtobM.
Donations
Paul Maresh motioned that OSBA donate funds to Ag in the Classroom and Summer Ag Institute. Todd Balsiger tabled the motion. Robert Allen seconded. The board unanimously approved. The funding of the two programs will be on the agenda for the next board meeting.

The Bee Line Report
Rosanna Mattingly thanks those who have submitted material for The Bee Line. Please keep sending!

Pesticide Booklet
Jan Lohman has heard from Ramesh Sagili that the booklet is very close to publishing! We are obligated to give a copy to the ODA by May 31, 2013. We are considering an option to order additional copies for purchase.

Fall Conference
Dewey Caron outlined the plans for the 2013 Fall Conference. Thursday, October 31, will be the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program Bee Institute. The Institute will feature lectures and lab demonstrations. Friday, November 1, will focus on commercial/sideliner beekeepers. Friday will also be the day for the research luncheon and evening banquet. The foundation breakfast will be on Saturday, November 2. Out-of-state speakers include Marion Ellis, Keith Delaplane, Bob Danka of the USDA, Gene Brandi, Gus Rouse, Christy Heinz of Project Apis m., and Mike Andreas, a northern California member of the Bee Informed Tech Team. The 2014 Fall Conference will be November 6–8, 2014, in Seaside.

Miticide Registration
Harry Vanderpool reported that ApiVar now is fully registered and is no longer under the Section 18 emergency exemption. HopGuard is on its way to being fully registered, possibly by the end of the year. Hivastan is working on formulation. If Hivastan works out, it could possibly be listed as under Section 18 now that ApiVar has vacated.

Memorials
Todd Balsiger motioned to allow the OSBA president and vice president to use their discretion in a style of memorial for an OSBA member who passes away. Jordan Dimock seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

The Bee Line Ad Rates
The Bee Line charges much less for ads than do other bee organization newsletters reviewed by the Board. We could either charge more for ads or try to find other publications to place ads. Rosanna Mattingly suggested that we consider additional ads for the newsletter and place ads in the directory and conference materials before raising rates on existing, long-time advertisers. Paul Andersen will work with a TVBA member to recruit more ads.

Pacific Northwest Treatment-Free Beekeeping Conference:
Science meets Earth-Friendly Beekeeping
July 26–28 in Forest Grove, Oregon
Speakers Include:
Dr. Tom Seeley, Kirk Webster, and Dr. Deborah Delaney
Topics Include:
Making Varroa your Friend, Top-Bar and Warre Hives,
Wild Populations, and Bee Breeding for Nontreatment
Workshops Include:
Making Nucs, Making Honey Ice Cream, Doing Mite Counts, and Swarm Demos
For full schedule and registration information, visit:
www.blisshoneybees.org/events.html
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**June 7:** SURE 2011 Disaster Program Deadline.  
*Contact:* 503.692.6830 x223 or Lois.Loop@or.usda.gov

**June 17–23:** Oregon Pollinator Week. By proclamation of Oregon Governor Kitzhaber, we join with many other states throughout the US in celebrating pollinators. As events are planned, please send them for posting, both on the OSBA website (www.orsba.org) and on the Pollinator Partnership website (www.pollinator.org).  
*Information and resources:* www.pollinator.org

**June 30:** Buzz About Benton. Backyard hive tour, 12–4 PM.  
*Information and registration:* www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org/edible-corrallis-initiativebuzzaboutbenton

**July 13:** Bee and Fleas (Beavercreek Kraft Fair). The Portland Urban association will set up a table and possibly an observation hive, and welcomes participation of other area clubs and vendors of bee-related products. Cost is very minimal.  
*Information:* Frank Barley at 503.632.6632, fbarley@gmail.com

*Information and registration:* www.blisshoneybees.org/events.html

**August 5–9:** Eastern Apicultural Society. West Chester, Pennsylvania.  
*Information:* www.easterapiculture.org

**September 7:** Bee Alive Conference. Featuring Randy Oliver! South Medford High School, 1:00–4:00 PM.  
*Tickets:* www.wildbeeinternational.com

**September 29–October 4:** XXXXIII International Apimondia Congress. Kyiv, Ukraine.  
*Information:* apimondia2013.org.ua/en

*Information:* http://wasba.org/events

**October 16–19:** Western Apicultural Society. La Fonda Hotel on the Plaza, Sante Fe, New Mexico.  
*Information:* ucanr.edu/sites/was2

**October 31–November 2:** OSBA Fall Conference. Seaside, Oregon.  
*Information,* as it becomes available: www.orsba.org

**November 18–22:** California State Beekeepers Association Annual Convention. Harrah’s, South Lake Tahoe, California.  
*Information:* http://www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/events.html

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**Reminder:** Website ads are now free to OSBA members—up to three per year!
MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please use the forms provided here, with current pricing information, to subscribe to magazines at the discounted rates offered to OSBA members. Take care to renew subscriptions before they expire to avoid lapses in subscriptions.

**AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL**

**ASSOCIATION MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION**

New Subscriptions and Renewals for OSBA Members during June 2013

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<th>U.S.</th>
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(PRICES GOOD THROUGH DEC. 31, 2011)

Return white copy to: American Bee Journal, 51 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341

**ROOT PUBLICATIONS**

**ASSOCIATION MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION**

Bee Culture Magazine

New Subscriptions and Renewals for OSBA Members during June 2013

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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, three free ads on the website, 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:

__________________________________________________________________

Mailing address: ____________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: ______________________________________________________

Telephone number: ___________________ email address: ___________________

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 _____

Please also check if you want to share only a portion of your contact information:

Share only mailing address: _____ phone number(s): _____ email address: _____

Local group, if member: _____________________________________________

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Voluntary contribution(s):

General Fund $_________

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Total amount enclosed: $_________

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Note: For new memberships and to renew, see form provided on page 15. The date on the mailing label is the expiration date for membership. The treasurer will send a reminder!

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: osbanewsletter@gmail.com.

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

Thank you!

Advertising
Per Issue

Event Listing
All events (15 words) Free

For a nonprofit-group event, an additional 30 words (total of 45) in the listing or an article Free

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

Classified Ad (30 words)
Members $3.00
Nonmembers $5.00

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