



The Save America's Pollinators Act of 2013

Congressman Earl Blumenauer • Third District of Oregon • www.blumenauer.house.gov

Background

Pollinators—including honeybees, bumble bees, butterflies, and other insects—play an important role in our farms, flower gardens, and food. In fact, some of the crops most important to Oregon's agricultural economy—blueberries, raspberries, cherries, apples, vegetable seed, squash—are reliant on bees for pollination and reproduction. More than 70% of America's food sources are pollinated by bees and the worldwide economic value of these crops is as high as \$200 billion a year.

America's bee population is struggling. During the last five years, beekeepers have lost more than 30% of their hives annually. While many factors are believed to contribute to this die-off, significant evidence links the use of a certain class of nicotine-derived pesticides, neonicotinoids, with bee die-offs. In 2013, the European Union significantly limited the use of neonicotinoids, citing concern about their impact on honeybee populations. That ban took effect April 29th and is valid for two years.

EPA Review Process

In 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiated a new process to reevaluate pesticides on a regular cycle. Each licensed pesticide is reviewed every fifteen years to confirm that it is being used safely and that its impacts on human health and the environment are properly assessed. Most neonicotinoids are scheduled to be reviewed in 2018.

Legislation

The Save America's Pollinators Act of 2013 directs the Environmental Protection Agency to suspend use of the most bee-toxic neonicotinoids for use in seed treatment, soil application, or foliar treatment on bee attractive plants within 180 days, and to review these neonicotinoids and make a new determination about their proper application and safe use. EPA is required to take all peer reviewed data into account when reviewing the use of these neonicotinoids, and to specifically account for any potential impact on the health and viability of pollinator populations.

Given the recent bee dieoffs in Hillsboro, Oregon and Wilsonville, Oregon and disturbing preliminary research on the impact of these pesticides, it is clear that they must be evaluated to ensure that their use does not pose an immediate threat to bee populations and the long-term viability of our farms. Until those determinations are made, we cannot risk the potential of putting our farms, food, and families in danger.

The Save America's Pollinators Act also instructs the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, to issue a report on the native bee populations in the United States, any decline in the population levels, and any potential causes of such decline.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The 4th of July is behind us and in a couple of weeks many of us will start harvesting our honey. By the time you read this, I should have my honey off the hives and have to extract. Then it's feed and medicate; it is definitely a busy time of year for beekeeping!

Looking back, June was a very interesting month for bees. It started in early June with the large kill off of bumble bees in the Target parking lot in Wilsonville, followed shortly by a smaller incident in downtown Hillsboro, both involving the pesticide Safari. The ODA immediately started an investigation and has placed a temporary ban on pesticides containing the active ingredient dinotefuran of the neonicotinoid class. The conclusion that the ODA investigation comes to will be interesting for sure. I am certain that the amount of national media coverage of the bumble bee kill had some influence on the decision to impose the ban. When the public starts paying attention to an issue, it does get the attention of bureaucrats and politicians.

Now some significant players in the beekeeping industry such as The National Pollinator Defense Fund, American Honey Producers Association, National Honey Bee Advisory Board, the American Beekeeping Federation, and others have joined together to sue the EPA to tighten control of the new pesticide sulfoxaflor, which is related to the neonicotinoid class of pesticides. These efforts are important; if anything is going to happen at a national level to tighten the control of the use of all pesticides in the neonicotinoids class, it will take national organizations like the American Beekeeping Federation to drive the effort.

For us as beekeepers, the American Beekeeping Federation is our national representation. We need a voice at the national level and the ABF is there for us. Now we need to support the ABF by becoming members if we aren't already.

—Paul

Legislation in Committee—Continued from page 1

Supported by: Center for Food Safety, Xerces Society, NW Center for Alternatives to Pesticides.

For more information on Congressman Blumenauer's agricultural agenda, please contact Tyler Frisbee (202) 225-4811 or Hillary Barbour (503) 231-2300 or visit him on the web at www.blumenauer.house.gov.

Note: At the time of newsletter printing, www.govtrack.us reports that this bill, H.R. 2692, Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2013, has 16 cosponsors (increasing in number) and an estimated 11 percent chance of making it past the House Committee on Agriculture, which is chaired by Representative Frank Lucas. (The site indicates that only 11 percent of bills made it past committee and only about 3 percent were enacted in 2011–2013.) Bill text to be posted at: www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr2692/text.



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COMMENTS on the E.U. RESTRICTION on NEONICS*Eric Mussen*

For many years, beekeepers and environmentally interested individuals have expressed the opinion that the use of neonicotinoid insecticides (“neonics”) have interfered with the ability of honey bees and native bees to conduct their life activities properly. Since laboratory studies have detailed the disruptive effect on those insects, it was suggested that the same things were happening in the field. Unanticipated losses of formerly strong honey bee colonies, and easily observable decreases in bumble bee sightings, correlated well with increased use of neonics.

In Europe, registration and use of various pesticides are based on the “precautionary principle.” Basically, that means that a chemical is rated on its innate toxicity to honey bees and other nontargets, similar to the requirements of the U.S. EPA. Then, a second component enters the equation: likelihood of honey bees and nontargets to become exposed to the toxicant. This second factor is considered by EPA, but not as strongly as it is in Europe. If the sum of the toxicity and likely exposure is large enough, then the European Commission can restrict or prohibit the product’s use. A report published by the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) concluded that the neonicotinoid pesticides posed a “high acute risk” to pollinators, including honey bees, but that a definitive connection between the chemicals and loss of colonies in the field remained to be established.

The complaint against the neonics was brought to the European Commission a while ago, and the members originally voted that not enough scientific information existed to warrant a ban on the products. In the following appeal, the members voted to allow the Commission to prepare new restrictions concerning the use of the products. The restrictions are intended to accomplish two goals: 1) prevent large-scale environmental contamination by dust from agricultural planting equipment and 2) reduce exposure of honey bees and other flower-visiting insects to residues of neonics in nectars and pollens.

Beginning in December of 2013 or sooner, no more neonic-treated crop seeds will be sold or planted in the E.U. Neonics will be withdrawn from use by the general public. Neonics still may be used on plants that are not attractive to honey bees, or other foraging bee species, as forage plants (such as winter cereals).

What might we expect to see as results from this large-scale experiment? First, if large-scale contamination of the air through which bees are flying, contamination of weeds in agricultural fields, along the borders of the fields, and out

in the environment no longer happens, then we would anticipate no longer hearing complaints about honey bees and bee colonies dying shortly after the plantings have taken place. Second, we might anticipate the problems of colony population depletion, sometimes to the point of colony loss, proposed to be due to exposure of bees to residues of neonics in nectars and pollens, would no longer be seen.

However, it is not likely to be that simple. The substantial losses, closely following neonic-coated seed planting, might drop off. But, other colony population problems may not become better for some time. Analyses of residues of pesticides in beeswax, stored pollens, and bees themselves in the U.S. suggest that there are myriad chemicals stored in the hives that are likely to be impacting honey bee physiology negatively already, including a few detections of very low levels of neonics. Since the neonics tend to persist in soil and woody perennials for prolonged periods of time, it is likely that bee exposure at low levels will persist. If the dosage levels of neonics that induce physiological impacts on honey bees are below current levels of detection (LOD), then it will be extremely difficult to determine this effect.

Additionally, removal of neonics from a significant segment of the market suggests that other compounds are likely to be substituted to control pests currently kept subdued by the neonics. Some of the older chemistries that no longer are available were losing their effectiveness against the pests due to selection for resistance, anyway. They are likely to be replaced by newer chemistries that may or may not have detrimental effects on exposed pollinators, including honey bees. The inadequacies in the U.S. to demand definitive, long-term studies on honey bee brood development and adult longevity, following exposure to sublethal doses of the compounds, means that we may find things will not be a whole lot better when we remove uses of neonics from our registrations. It will be interesting to watch this experiment unfold from a distance.

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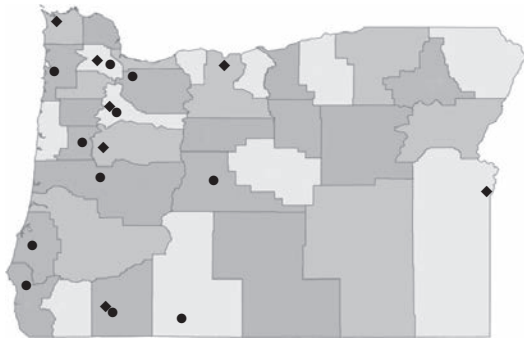
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Meets quarterly. Our next meeting will be in conjunction with the OSBA Fall Conference.

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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 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

Lane County Beekeepers

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

President: Katharine Hunt

541.607.0106; keehunt@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: Greg Long

541.231.3480; gslong6@comcast.net

Secretary: To be determined

Treasurer: Suzi Maresh

541.967.9607; sjomaresh@msn.com

Website: www.lbba.us

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

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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

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president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

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vice-president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Secretary: Mike Card—971.207.9726

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Treasurer: Frank Barley

treasurer@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

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

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Vice President: Andrew Schwab

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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

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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

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Dr. Ramesh Sagili

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REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives

North Coast

For the month of August, the Tillamook beekeepers are having Max Kuhn from Florence as our speaker. Max will cover Robbing: Recognizing, Controlling, and Prevention. Having experienced beekeepers share helps all of us increase our skill levels. Local beekeepers are now harvesting, so this topic will be timely.

We've had a huge blackberry bloom this year. Many beekeepers are waiting for knotweed, a perennial that supplies late-season nectar. In the coastal mountains, we are finding pockets of fireweed and thistle at this time. During Glen Andresen's talk in July, he spoke of the Leach Botanical Garden as a special place called *Portland's Secret Garden*. The garden contains 2,000 species of plants, including an extensive collection of Siskiyou Mountain Wilderness and Pacific Northwest natives. This special place is an opportunity to learn about plants that help bees.

—Terry Fullan

South Coast

A field excursion hosted by Randy Sturgill, a mentor in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, and his wife Loni was the highlight event on the South Coast this month. The



A tour of the Sturgills' bee yard included a full hive inspection, solar charger included.

There were established active hives with shallows in place, swarm traps ready for rehousing, a queen-rearing operation, and a honey house with extracting equipment backed up by packaging and product preparation.

The tour included a full hive inspection and discussion of management and treatment. A special treat was seeing the beehive that was rescued from a nearby logging site. A section of a log, with bees intact, was salvaged and transported to the bee yard. The tree was sliced and bound back together with duct tape and rope, and sited in the bee yard—replicating its original orientation. These survivor bees are allowed to exist in their hive, naturally providing sturdy native swarms to inhabit the area.

Coos-Curry class visited the Sturgills' bee yard in Myrtle Point. As always, Loni suited up to assist the guests. The Coquille River Valley bee yard is an excellent

The class has only two final classroom sessions remaining. All students currently have hives, with some purchasing bees and others waiting for swarms. Shigeo Oku, Pat Reed, and Randy Stugill provided swarms. Many students were able to benefit from the equipment and supplies sold through the Coos County Beekeepers Association. The students all value this strong support system and are demonstrating their appreciation by diligently managing their hives.

All Coos-Curry beekeepers are busy working their hives. There have been a couple of bear attacks, but, to this time, limited absconding has been reported. The primary forage at present is Himalayan blackberries, supported by native wildflowers, rosemary, and lavender. Both the Coos County and the Oregon South Coast beekeeper associations are preparing for their county fairs during the last week of July. Both will have observation hives and distribute educational information to the public. Local honey will be a focus topic, with products available for sale along with education regarding Oregon's regulations for labeling honey. —Del and Myrna Barber

South Willamette Valley

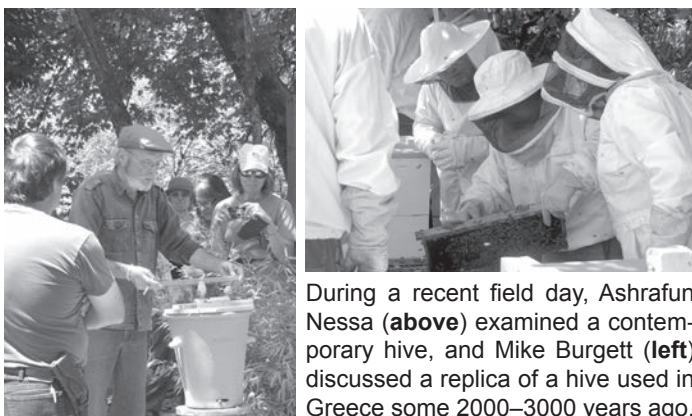
It's honey time again, July here in the south valley means the start of honey pulling and also the beginning of winter prep. A thing to remember about July is that it is hot, so bring water and take rests in the shade. It seemed like a dream in the south valley that we had hot weather, nice bloom—and then the rains came for 5–6 days at peak bloom. I would pull my hair out if it weren't falling out already from all the stress. Some yards recovered quick, others lost their wind. Remember, when nectar is short the bees will be all over your boxes, so to reduce robbing cover up your honey and move with purpose. Once the honey is off, check queens and medicate, if necessary. Sounds early? Always stay ahead of your bees and you may eliminate some of those fun surprises that seem to pop up at the end of the season. Happy keeping.

—Jason Rowan

Regional Associations

Lane County Beekeepers

Lane County Beekeepers Association and Linn-Benton Beekeepers Association joined forces on June 29 to host their second joint Field Day. It was a great success with 81 people in attendance. This event took some careful planning beforehand. Nancy Ograin, Rita Ostrofsky, and Katharine Hunt formed a committee and got the event organized, working with Karessa Torgerson, LBBA, and Carolyn Breece, OSU Bee Lab. On the day, members of the two clubs and OSU led the workshops, which included the inspection of four hives and discussion of tools of the



During a recent field day, Ashrafun Nessa (**above**) examined a contemporary hive, and Mike Burgett (**left**) discussed a replica of a hive used in Greece some 2000–3000 years ago.

trade and *Nosema ceranae*. Instructors included Max Kuhn, Heike Williams, Kenny Williams, Judy Scher, Ashrafun Nessa, Morris Ostrofsky, Karessa Torgerson, and Mike Burgett. The weather cooperated this year as we did not get wet like last year. Mike Burgett led those present around the beautifully laid out yard of different types of bee hives. He gave a fascinating presentation about the pros and cons of each hive.

During July, LCBA hosted a Grange Display at the Lane County Fair. Members of the club were also encouraged to submit samples of their honey and other products of the hive for judging at the fair. Also during July, Vice President Pam Leavitt, her husband Les, and Chip Kiger gave talks to two different Boy Scout troops. Our members have also

been hosting a monthly booth at the Veneta Friday Farmers Market. In August, members will be hosting a booth at the Cottage Grove Fair on the 17th. The club has also encouraged members to submit their honey for judging at the Oregon State Fair. All in all, this summer has proved to be a busy one for the club with many opportunities for members who are enrolled in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program to do community service. At the August 20 LCBA meeting, Past President Judy Scher will discuss Fall Management.

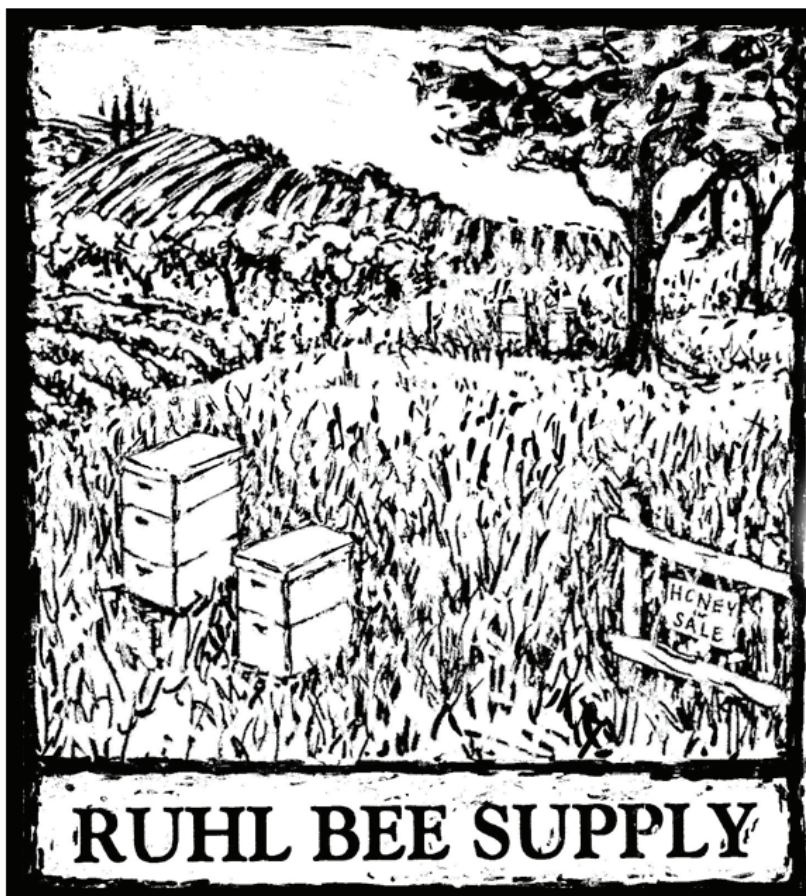
—Katharine Hunt

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Our meeting began with introductions for new visitors. We have a great number of new people tonight, and many shared their stories of beginning and returning to bees.

The “what to do this month” discussion included: it’s time to remove honey supers, check for an active queen, test for Varroa, provide water for the hot summer days—and some people are already feeding sugar syrup. Look for hive robbing and move hive if serious.

One member suggested that the club make a plan to take some action over the recent die-off of bumble bees. Too many people still don’t realize the damage dinotefuran pesticide products (such as Safari, which was mentioned in a recent *Capitol Press* article) may be doing to honey bees as well as other beneficial insects.



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neighborhood Bee Jamboree, the “More Than Honey” film being presented as part of the 1st Annual EcoFilm Festival at the Hollywood Theatre, the Treatment-Free Beekeeping Conference, Bees and Fleas in Beaver Creek, and helping staff the booth at the Oregon State Fair.

—Michael Carlson

Tillamook County Beekeepers

We continue to attract a diverse group of beekeepers and aspiring beekeepers here on the Coast. At our last meeting, we had a young couple hoping to be beekeepers, previous beekeepers who are starting up again after twenty years or more of being away, two- and three-year beekeepers, and the backbone of our group—the long-term beekeepers, particularly Bob Allen, Terry Fullan, and Alan Leach. We come from diverse climate and foraging areas, from the beaches of the Pacific Ocean to the rich valleys of the western slope of the coastal range, from Gearhart to Lincoln City to Hebo.

We are fortunate to have the expertise and experience of beekeepers within the OSBA share their knowledge with us. Last month we were honored with hosting Dewey Caron as our speaker, and this month we had as our guest Glen Andresen from Portland with a clear and concise presentation based on twenty years as an urban beekeeper. You can find the basic theme of Glen’s lesson clearly written by Mike Rodia from the Willamette Valley Beekeepers in the July issue of *The Bee Line* after Glen addressed their group in June. We are eager to see how Glen’s “city queens” will do in our rural environment.

I would like to add that Glen is able to make clear decisions based on what works for him and what doesn’t. As a second-year beekeeper myself, this is a much-welcomed approach. I have read too much, had too much indecisive advice from well-meaning beekeepers, and have not been able to simply choose a course and stick with it. I appreciate that he points out that what works for him might not work for others. It is his ability to pinpoint the successes and the failures that impresses. Although the nature of beekeeping, we should be careful not to overwhelm the many new beekeepers with indeterminate information. All too often, the bee talks I have attended have devolved into a confusing and discouraging dispute on dealing with pests and diseases. Thank you to Stan Scotton from our group for arranging to have Glen speak at our meeting.

We are having excellent weather here on the Coast and have experienced an early and long blackberry season. With the increase in our membership, we will be planning more demonstrations, workshops, and outings. We are a motivated group.

—Jeffrey Hall

KEEPING BEES IN AUGUST

Kenny Williams

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

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

- ❖ Honey supers should be removed and the hive configured for winter, usually in two brood chambers.

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

- ❖ After the honey supers are removed, if a colony feels light, think about how you might feed that colony, either with frames of honey or with sugar syrup, so that it will have 40–60 pounds of stored feed by October 1.

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

- ❖ Identify any colony that is weak, and determine why it is weak. Often this is due to being queenless, having a poor queen, or suffering from a brood disease such as American foulbrood.

- ❖ It is not too late to requeen, and this may be done by replacing five empty frames with five frames from a queenright, five-frame nucleus, previously established in anticipation of such a need. Also, several queen breeders who advertise in the *American Bee Journal* offer queens later into the summer and in small quantities. A weaker colony that you have boosted or requeened may also need an entrance reducer or mouse guard to help it defend against robbing honey bees or yellow jackets while it recovers. Another option for helping a weak colony is to combine it with a stronger colony and store any leftover comb indoors, to be restocked the following spring by dividing a strong

colony or purchasing a package. On the subject of yellow jackets, it is my opinion that hives which succumb to this nuisance were weak to begin with, owing to one of the causes listed above; strong, healthy, queenright colonies can repel invaders or may need nothing more than an entrance reducer.

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

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

❖ After extracting honey from the comb, or if you bring any brood frames indoors for storage, be sure to protect against wax moth damage, either with Para-Moth crystals or by freezing. Warm conditions favor the rapid development of wax moth larvae, and unoccupied comb stored in a warm space can be ruined in a matter of weeks. Actually, the two wax moth species are somewhat misnamed, as they feed largely on cast larval skins left behind in the comb after the adult honey bee emerges and, to a lesser degree, on stored pollen, honey, and wax. Therefore, your stored dark brood comb is more vulnerable than yellow honey comb that has been used above a queen excluder for honey and not brood-rearing.

From: *The Bee Line*, August 2012.

MANAGEMENT WITHOUT CHEMICALS: FEED

Lynn Royce

Unfortunately, we cannot always predict the weather, so it often becomes difficult to know how much feed should be left for the bees for winter and spring. Honey and pollen are the best food for bees. If we take too much honey or the bees were unable to put up enough honey, we have to feed a carbohydrate source (basically sugar). The easiest to come by are corn syrups and beet or cane sugar. We are often constrained by how much we need and our ability to haul large quantities. These refined sugars are not a good replacement for honey, but they will keep a colony alive for short periods. Pollen is the protein source for the colony. There are a number of products that are fed to bees as both a replacement if no pollen is present in a colony or as a supplement. But pollen is what bees have evolved to use and is the best protein for them. It helps bees to have a variety of pollen. Good food means a healthy colony.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH ? ? ?

Question

What is QUILT® fungicide?

Response

Lynn Royce: QUILT® is a Syngenta product for control of powdery mildew, rusts, leaf blotch, and several other fungal pathogens of crops. A complete label can be read on their website, found easily by “googling” *quilt fungicide*. Information provided is based on materials from Syngenta, but this does not replace the label.

The active ingredients include azoxystrobin (persistent) and propiconazole. The mix uses 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one and 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol as preservatives. It is harmful if swallowed or inhaled by human handlers, and it may irritate the skin. It is toxic to aquatic organisms, many beneficial insects, and nontarget plants, and will contaminate

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ground water. Target plants include legumes, vegetables, and cereals. In some cases, QUILT® can be mixed with the insecticides WARRIOR® or MATADOR®. Azoxystrobin interferes with a cell's ability to convert food molecules into energy. It is a naturally occurring chemical found in two species of mushrooms from Czech forests. Propiconazole is a systemic that interferes with the cell membranes of developing fungi inside the plant cells.

QUILT® can be sprayed by ground-delivery methods or by air. Any breeze will cause the spray to drift; spraying by air results in the highest drift possibilities. Any blooming plants around or in the crop that are attractive to bees when the crops are sprayed may be toxic, which can include honeydew if aphids or other honeydew-producing insects are present on the crop, weeds, or other plants near the crop.

There are a number of ways to help protect your bees. None are perfect. One is to contact all the growers near you and request a phone call regarding their plans to spray. You can also ask if they use seed for their crops that are coated or otherwise treated to allow the plant to take up the pesticide systemically as the plant grows. In my experience, the call comes within hours of the forecast spray event. Often the best or only solution is to move your bees. This is expensive and difficult for many of us, and not often very practical if we have no place to go or the acreage being sprayed is large or will be sprayed several times spring through fall.

Depending on the active ingredients being sprayed, you may

be able to cover your bees with wet burlap or close them in for a day. Sometimes the grower can spray at night or early morning when bees are not active, but only if the active ingredients break down rapidly. If the grower is planning to have the spray applied by an airplane, you might be able to talk them into using ground equipment instead. In the case of QUILT®, at least one of the main ingredients, azoxystrobin, is active for several days, so your options are limited to moving your bees or trying to educate the growers and/or your neighbors.

You can contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture Pesticide Division, and they should help you. They can also come and sample your dead bees for testing if you intend to pursue legal action. Testing is expensive, and I believe the beekeeper has to pay for it. You can also contact the National Pesticide Information Center (1.800.858.7378 or npic@ace.orst.edu); phone contact times, 7:30 AM–3:30 PM PST. They will at least record your information and loss.

Note: According to ODA, “ODA Pesticide Program staff can assist the beekeeper with evaluating...pesticide related concerns and resources.” They also will provide a list of private laboratories for analyzing informational samples taken by a beekeeper. In sampling, “ODA will only obtain samples when deemed necessary to determine compliance with ORS 634 (Pesticide Control Law).” This is done on a case-by-case basis, and their samples are analyzed by ODA Laboratory Services. A brochure with additional information and resources is at: www.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/docs/pdf/investigationflyer.pdf.



OREGON STATE FAIR!

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association will develop a **bee display** at the STATE FAIR (August 23–September 2). The Fair is undergoing some changes, but thanks to Marge Ehry we have been assigned a great display site in the **Jackman-Long Building**. Todd Bartlem and Bunny Carter have volunteered to develop our bee display, with Trevor Riches and Dick Temple assisting. Please plan to come visit the display—the bees will be there—including a most unique “wild bee nest,” courtesy of Dick Temple. Please consider volunteering time to help interact with the public if you can. FREE ADMISSION for volunteers—sign up for 4-hour shift (or for as long as you can be available) by visiting the website: orsbastatefair.wvbatoday.com. It really is important that we have a strong volunteer force to fill all shifts needed....one or two shifts CAN make a difference! Marge will get admission tickets to you (and a close-in parking pass).

HONEY SHOW—WE NEED YOUR HONEY and BEESWAX and BEE PHOTOS for the 2013 COMPETITIVE SHOW. Entries to be displayed in our bee booth. You can preregister online on the State Fair website: www.oregonstatefair.org/competition/farm-and-garden. Competitions are listed under Honey Division (page 16) of the 2013 *Farm, Garden & Floral Exhibitor Handbook* (available online only, see the state fair website above) by **August 2**, or simply bring entries and register at time of entry. Entries will be accepted in the **Jackman-Long Building** on Thursday, **August 22, 4–8 PM**, or Friday, **August 23** (1st day of fair). See the handbook for details of the classes 751-754.

PESTICIDE CAUSES BUMBLE BEE MASSACRE

Dewey M. Caron

In a suburban shopping mall in Wilsonville, Oregon, south of Portland, a massive loss of bumble bees has been attributed to use of the neonicotinoid pesticide dinotefuran (Safari). Is it a “teachable moment,” an unusual pesticide poisoning incident that provides fuel to the numerous calls for bans of neonicotinoids? At the very least it highlights that suburban locations, not merely agricultural fields, can be hazardous to foraging bees.

Early Saturday morning June 15, shoppers to the Target store in Wilsonville’s Argyle Square were concerned at the sight of “tens of thousands” of dead and apparently dying bees. Bodies littered the ground and sidewalk beneath flowering trees at the store entrance and in the parking lot. Still living bees were acting like they were drugged, spinning on the asphalt while others clung and buzzed crazily among the flowers and foliage on the same trees. Ironically this gruesome discovery marked the beginning of the week designated as Pollinator Week in the U.S.

World-renowned Portland-based Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation was called by numerous shoppers and passersby to come investigate the kill. Rich Hatfield, a bumble bee specialist, visited Monday morning

and estimated a loss of over 25,000 yellow-faced bumble bees *Bombus vosnesenskii*, representing over 300 colonies. Rich also noted death of a smaller number of other bumble bee species (*B. mixtus* and *B. melanopygus*). There were also dead honey bees and lady beetles as well.

To be continued...

Note: I regret any inconvenience in needing to cut here. In the meantime, please note that the article is posted at: www.orsba.org; similar versions of Dewey’s account also may be found in local accounts and the August issue of *Bee Culture*.

WELCOME! New and Renewing MEMBERS



Robert Allen
Bo Leydon & Diane Arney
Ron & Stephanie Barnas
Ethan Bennett
Dewey Caron
William Carter
Crystal Chappelle
Deanne Darling
Vincent Digiano
Larry Edwards
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John Good
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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2: Deadline for Honey Show entries, Oregon State Fair: oregonstateparks.org/fair/entry_form.cfm. **Note:** Honey Show entries also through the OSBA Booth **August 22 and 23**—see page 11.

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

August 23–September 2: Oregon State Fair. Visit! Help with the OSBA Booth! Enter the Honey Show! *Contact:* See page 11.

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.

October 3–6: 2013 Washington State Beekeepers Association Annual Conference. Best Western Evergreen Inn and Suites, Federal Way, Washington. *Information:* wasba.org/events.

October 16–19: Western Apicultural Society. La Fonda Hotel on the Plaza, Santa 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. *Registration:* see page 14.

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



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Or contact: Melanie Kirby at 505-901-2102, ziaqueenbees@hotmail.com




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2013 Annual Conference

Oregon State Beekeepers Association

October 31– November 2, 2013
 Seaside Civic and Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon

Individual and Family Registration

Name: _____ Date: _____
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Names: _____

Event			Cost
Thursday Night Hospitality Room			Complimentary
Full Conference	Individual - \$125		\$
	Family - \$160		
Friday Conference Only	Individual - \$85		\$
	Family - \$100		
Saturday Conference Only	Individual - \$85		\$
	Family - \$100		
Friday Research Luncheon ¹	\$25 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Friday Banquet	\$40 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Saturday Apiculture Endowment Fund Breakfast - 7:00 AM ²	\$20 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Annual OSBA Dues	\$25 per Person	Number: _____	\$
Total Cost			\$

Please make check **payable to OSBA** and mail with this completed registration form, **postmarked no later than October 18**, to: Paul Kowash, 5959 SW Taylors Ferry Rd, Portland, Oregon 97219

Note: Hotel reservations are not included in these costs. Special rates are available at the Best Western Ocean View Resort (800.234.8439), at Rivertide Suites (503.717.1100), and at Inn at Seaside (800.699.5070). Be sure to ask for the **Beekeepers Conference** special room rate when you make your reservation.

¹The Friday Research Luncheon is limited to the first 150 registrants. For Saturday's lunch, please enjoy your meal at one of the local establishments of your choice.

²The Saturday Apiculture Endowment Fund Breakfast at 7:00 AM will feature a special presentation by Dr. Marion Ellis and an opportunity to support the endowment.



Oregon State Beekeepers Association Membership Form

Membership includes support of the ongoing work of the organization on behalf of the honey bee and beekeeping, a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on publications, placement on the swarm call list, and an annual directory and subscription to *The Bee Line*. For new memberships and renewals, please send check made payable to OSBA with this completed form to:

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

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

Mailing address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone number: _____ **email address:** _____

Contact information: 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:** ___

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Note: The date on the mailing label is the expiration date for membership. The treasurer will send a reminder! Please see page 15 for a membership form.

For subscription renewal forms this month, please email osba.newsletter@gmail.com or call 503.772.3486.

Celebrate National Honey Bee Day: August 17!



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.

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

Thank you!

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