



# The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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Suzannah Kruse

## IN THIS ISSUE...

Oregon Legislature	1
President's Message	2
Membership Minutes	3
OSBA Resources	4
Regional News	6
ODA Label Requirement	10
Linden Tree Mystery	10
Introductions	12
"Memorandum"	13
Upcoming Events	14
Magazine Subscriptions	14
Membership Form	15

[www.orsba.org](http://www.orsba.org)

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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[www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org](http://www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org)

OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM

*A Joint Venture of OSBA and the*

*Oregon State University Extension Service*

[info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org](mailto:info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org)

**Above:** Harry Vanderpool speaks during a recent, *welcome* hearing of the Oregon legislature on honey bee health and pesticides.

## OREGON LEGISLATURE MEETS

*Fred VanNatta*

Oregon legislators between their regular annual sessions come to Salem occasionally for three-day meetings to track budget expenditures, and to hold hearings on issues that may come before the next legislative session. They had such a meeting in mid-November, and believe it or not, a hearing on bee health and pesticide use was held by the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. The legislature has held many hearings on pesticides, but never one on bee health and pesticides.

Invited speakers were Katy Coba, Director of the Department of Agriculture, and Dale Mitchell, Pesticide Compliance Program manager. Others represented the Oregon State University, the Oregon Association of Nurseries, Oregonians for Food and Shelter, and two individuals from the beekeeping industry. They were a principal in GloryBee Foods and our very own Harry Vanderpool, a prominent Salem-area commercial beekeeper.

The legislators learned that the Oregon Department of Agriculture responded promptly when they were informed of the bumble bee kill in Wilsonville earlier this year. The department began a study into the details and cause of the pesticide kill of an estimated 50,000 bumble bees. Their report will be released in mid-December. The department also announced it has placed restrictions on two types of pesticides implicated in the mass bee be killings in Wilsonville and Hillsboro this past summer. Pesticides containing dinotefuran and imidacloprid can no longer be applied to linden trees, basswood and other trees of the *Tilia* genus. Apparently these chemicals interact with juices unique to the trees of the *Tilia* genus, creating an increased hazard for visiting insects.

The star of the show before the legislators was Harry Vanderpool. He brought pictures of bee kills in front of his well-painted, complete-with-his-name-on-them hives, rented by one of his customers. He noted there were no villains in this pesticide bee kill. Both he and the farmer who contracted for the bees and the pesticide applicator were just trying to make a living. Harry noted the parties needed to work together and needed more information. He described the procedure he used to educate his customers. His approach commanded respect by all parties in the room for the beekeeping industry.

We now await the Oregon Department of Agriculture report on the bee kill. Rumor has suggested the label on the chemical applied to the Linden trees instructed "do not apply when bees are present." The applicator applied the pesticide early in the morning. If the bee label information is correct, the applicator is the victim of someone who wrote a label without understanding the residual life of the pesticide and the life activities of bees. The various governmental agencies that approved the label obviously need education as well. The next step is to see the report by the Department of Agriculture.

**Note:** The report has been released, noting civil penalties, at the time of newsletter printing. See: [www.oregon.gov/ODA/Pages/news/131219bees\\_pesticides.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/Pages/news/131219bees_pesticides.aspx).

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

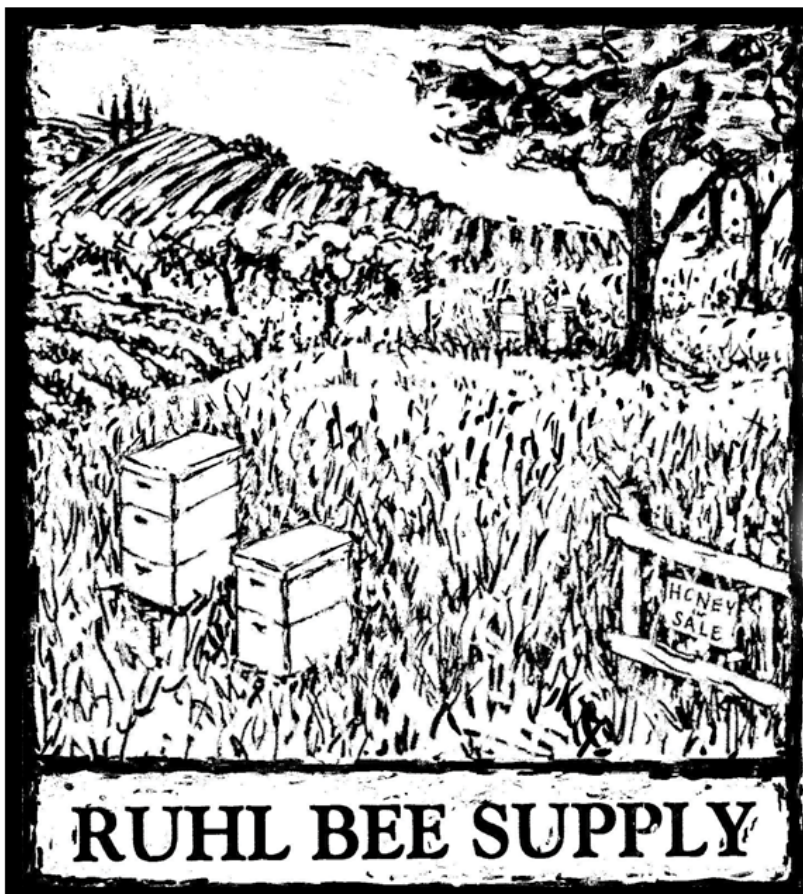


I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! With the New Year brings new challenges and new opportunities along with changes. So it goes with beekeeping—nothing seems to remain the same from one year to the next. The Oregon State Beekeepers Association has some changes that you should be aware of in case you weren't able to attend the membership meeting. But first I would like to thank those who are moving on and leaving an opportunity for others to serve. Paul and Kathy Kowash, who have served as co-treasurers for the last three years and have made significant contributions in helping us identify what needs to be done to get our books in order. Chuck Sowers, who has given many years of service as head of the Nominations Committee, which can be a daunting task. Marjie Erhy, who has always been there for the State Fair and has asked to be replaced. And Carolyn Breece, who has given three years service as secretary and all the tasks that go with that position. She really kept things running smoothly for the organization. Thanks you all!!

Bunny Cramer-Carter has joined us as secretary and Lynn Royce has taken over as treasurer. I want to take this opportunity to welcome them aboard and thank them for their willingness to step up to these positions. In addition to her role as past president, Jan Lohman will be heading up the Grant Committee as chair. Carolyn Breece is still the coordinator and contact person for the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. Harry Vanderpool will be serving as both Nominations and Agriculture Liaison chair. Thanks to everyone who has served and is still serving on committees, as volunteers and supporting events by helping out. You are all appreciated! We are also in the process of looking for people who would be interested in helping with the website. So, if any of you are inclined to help update and perhaps add content, please let me know. My email is published in every *Bee Line*.

If you are heading to California for pollination, good luck and be safe. Otherwise, keep your bees dry, fat, and happy till the weather warms and blooms start.

—Paul



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## OSBA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 1, 2013 ❖ Seaside, Oregon

President Paul Andersen called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

Marjie Ehry motioned to accept the minutes of the last OSBA General Membership meeting as printed in *The Bee Line*. Bob Allen seconded the motion. The membership unanimously approved.

### Past Year Accomplishments

- ❖ A CPA firm was hired to help the OSBA with finances and to help us meet the requirements of 501 (c) (3) status.
- ❖ The Oregon Master Beekeeper Program has expanded.
- ❖ A new grant to fund further development of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program was awarded to the OSBA.
- ❖ The booklet, *How To Reduce Bee Poisoning From Pesticides*, is now available. All OSBA members will receive a copy.

### Treasurer's Report

Paul Kowash described how the newly hired CPA firm is helping us with reporting to the IRS to keep within the requirements of a charitable organization. The CPA will provide consulting services. We discussed how local clubs could use guidance in their financial records. We also discussed our insurance coverage, and we may consider increasing coverage. Tom Chester motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Bunny Carter seconded the motion. The membership unanimously approved.

### The Bee Line

Rosanna Mattingly thanks those who have contributed to *The Bee Line*. Please continue sending material!

### Webkeeper's Report

Harry Vanderpool reported lots of hits on the website. The message board varies in activity.

### Regional Representative and Association Reports

Bob Allen, of the Tillamook County Beekeepers Association, reports that beekeepers in the area are sitting out the winter.

Harry Vanderpool, North Willamette Valley representative, reported on the honey bee colonies at Mahonia Hall (Governor Kitzhaber's mansion). The two hives are strong, heavy, and in great shape to overwinter. Mite counts were taken. Honey yield was low this year, though they harvested some. Harry also declared this year's state fair booth was the best ever! He suggests calling on regional associations to recruit volunteers to staff the booth.

Sarah Red-Laird, Southern Oregon representative, reported a tough year in Southern Oregon. It started well with a good vetch flow, but in June, temperatures reached triple digits

and the valley had many wildfires. Flowers dried up and bees suffered. Other news: beekeeping is now legal in Ashland backyards. Sarah's company, Bee Girl, hosted the Beekeeper's Ball, an event featuring dancing, costumes, and music.

### Endowment Report

Kenny Williams reports that there is about \$79,000 in principal and \$31,000 in expendable funds in the Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education. The Endowment Breakfast will hopefully encourage donations to the endowment.

### Oregon Master Beekeeper Program

Carolyn Breece reported that the second year of the program began with another full Apprentice level with 132 students across the state. A total of 98 people now have Apprentice beekeeper certifications. The Journey level was launched in early spring and has 45 students enrolled. The Journey level features a service component. Many students are earning service points in creative and fun ways.

### Oregon Master Beekeeper Grant

Jan Lohman announced that the OSBA has been awarded another grant (\$59,000) to fund the development of the Master level of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. The grant will pay for speakers, the conference facility, and will update the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program website.

### Pesticide Booklet and More...

*How to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Pesticides* is now available. Each OSBA member will receive a copy.

Mark your calendar: The 2014 OSBA Fall Conference will be held in Seaside, Oregon, on November 6–8, 2014.

The 2013 research donation was proposed at \$15,000 to OSU and \$3,000 to WSU. Tom Chester motioned to accept the proposed donation. Katharine Hunt seconded the motion. The membership unanimously approved.

The proposed delegates to the American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow include Jan Lohman, Sarah Red-Laird, and Carolyn Breece, with Mark Johnson as a back-up delegate. Bob Allen motioned to accept the proposed delegation. Nancy Ograin seconded the motion. The membership unanimously approved.

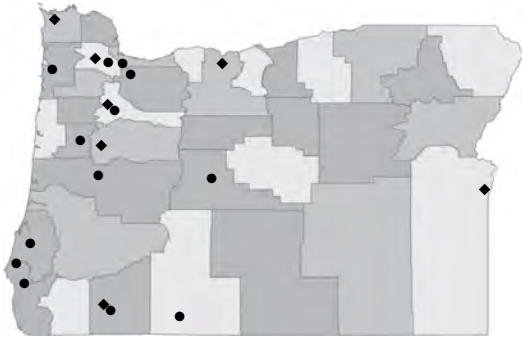
### Budget

Paul Andersen described the new OSBA budget. The budget includes an increase in Rosanna Mattingly's stipend for additional work along with *The Bee Line*, a monthly \$200 fee for the CPA, travel expenses for Dewey Caron, and funds for educational events. The OSBA needs a dedicated computer for financial records. This is a one-time budget item of \$1,200. We will increase our insurance coverage, resulting in an approximate \$200–300 increase in the annual premium.

*Continued on page 12*

## Oregon State Beekeepers Association

### EXECUTIVE BOARD AND REGIONAL 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:** Bunny Cramer-Carter  
PO Box 779, Stayton 97383  
503.703.8546; dbcramer@hotmail.com

**Treasurer:** Lynn Royce  
30807 Decker Ridge Rd, Corvallis 97333  
541.929.5337; mitebee@peak.org

**Past President:** Jan Lohman  
77225 Colonel Jordan Rd, Hermiston 97838  
541.567.3209; 541.980.0304 (cell)  
jan.lohman55@gmail.com

#### ♦ OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

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

**South Coast:** Mureen Walker  
25055 Pistol River Loop Rd, Gold Beach 97444  
541.425.1188; muriahhh@yahoo.com

**Columbia Basin:** Bill Edwards  
5051 Lost Lake Rd, Hood River 97031  
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

**Southern Oregon:** Sarah Red-Laird  
PO Box 3257, Ashland 97520  
541.708.1127; sarah@beegirl.org

**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. Contact the secretary for information.

**Chair:** Paul Maresh

503.283.2060; pmaresh@spiretech.com

**Vice Chair:** James Hensel

**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:** Jodi Wiktorowski

**Treasurer:** Polly Habliston

**Website:** [www.lcbaor.org](http://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:** Rosalie Bienek; rosalielbienek@gmail.com  
**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:** Carla Fletcher  
**Vice President:** Jim Sorber  
**Secretary:** Myrna Barber  
**Treasurer:** Barbara Fitts

**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  
president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org  
**Vice President:** Melissa Kerry—785.331.8003  
vice-president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org  
**Secretary:** Mike Card—971.207.9726  
secretary@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org  
**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:** John Jacob  
541.582.BEES; john@oldsolenterprises.com  
**Vice President:** Ron Padgett  
541.592.4678; padgett25@frontiernet.net  
**Secretary:** Dana Rose—puckamok@yahoo.com  
**Treasurer:** Cheryl Housden—541.955.5146  
chousden@earthlink.net

**Tillamook County Beekeepers**

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

**Tualatin Valley Beekeepers**

Meets 7:30 PM, 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

*GloryBee Foods has launched a “Save the Bee” initiative, a program dedicated to increasing bee research and education to combat Colony Collapse Disorder. To access the 2012 Sustainability Report, go to:*

*GloryBee.com or <http://bit.ly/GBSustain>.*

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## REGIONAL NEWS

### Regional Representatives

#### North Coast

Coastal small food producers attended the 2013 Grow the Coast day-long event at the Seaside Civic & Convention Center on November 23. This event is growing in popularity and is about farming, food, and community resilience. Keynote speakers were Susannah Morgan, CEO Oregon Food Bank, Lauren Gwin and Garry Stephenson from OSU Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems. This event ran concurrent sessions, the first about the business of farming and the second all about agriculture. Jim Fanjoy and I did a session on Bee Biology and Beekeeping Basics.

It gave us a good opportunity to promote beekeeping. Overall, this event was fantastic, and so please keep it on your radar for next year.

Coastal beekeepers hopefully have a warm place to work on equipment repairs and assembly during the winter. It's also a reflective period; how can we be more clever and creative with our beekeeping this time around? On the Coast, we welcome 2014.

—Terry Fullan

#### South Coast

Overwintering for our southernmost club, Oregon South Coast, means preparing for re-queening and re-kinging. Two of our founders, Del and Myrna Barber, are swarming off to some distant land, borne on the winds of Peace Corps purposes, sure to pollinate innovative beekeeping wherever they hive up. Another of the founders, Carla Fletcher, was voted in to fill the presidency vacated by Del. As vice president for two years, she organized and presented excellent informational programs at club meetings. Jim Sorber, who has been working closely with Del in hiving for honey bees, will serve as vice president. He has offered to use the cedar that he received from Del to make top bar hives for Oregon South Coast members at a special rate. He has presented at meetings several of his woodshop creations for hives.

The job of treasurer, which was just one of several positions that Myrna was filling so impressively that no one can take her place, was divided out and voted on—going to Barbara Fitts, who recently received her certification as Apprentice in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program and successfully developed her first two packages of bees into two healthy colonies, also making two splits to accommodate the two queens received as part of the hygienic queen-rearing program. Barbara is also a member of the Inominata Garden Club, where she was treasurer and editor of the monthly newsletter.

Myrna will continue as secretary through January, accepting responsibility for making it difficult to replace her after two years of documenting on her laptop most everything discussed at meeting, including the presentations and who cooked up what delectables for the potluck meal between the business meeting and “What’s the Buzz,” when members and attendees talk about what is happening with bees and blooms.

Myrna turned over the reporting for *The Bee Line* to Mureen Walker, photojournalist, who was also a participant in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program this year. At conference, Del introduced Mureen to OSBA board members, and she was voted in as South Coast Regional Representative.

South Coast members present from Curry County were Del and Myrna Barber, Carla and Jesse Fletcher, and Mureen Walker, and from Coos County beekeepers, Shigeo Oku, vice president, with Jane Oku, treasurer, and member Phillip Moulton, who was especially inspired by the workshop in



judging honey bee products and is interested in becoming certified to judge at county fairs. For the Halloween event, Jane and Myrna doing the “Bee Dance” at conference were pictured along with an article about the event in the *Curry County Reporter*, sent in by photographer/reporter Mureen Walker.

Tamara Mitchell is overseeing the development of a website for the club. Del and Myrna will be starting a blog so that we can all follow along as they venture out to other areas and practices of beekeeping.

Del has served this past year as instructor for the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program and mentor for many in Curry and Coos counties. He is planning an intensive set of classes at the beginning of the year, before leaving for Peace Corps training, so that the program can be accomplished at South Coast in 2014 and then continue.

Shigeo Oku of Coos, along with Curry members, Del and Myrna, Carla and Jesse Fletcher, and Mureen Walker, met with Mark Adams of Northwest Queens during the fall conference for the first face-to-face discussion of the hygienic queen-rearing program that they have been in since the end of July, as a result of efforts by Carla and Mark.

—Mureen Walker

#### Southern Oregon

I’m so excited for my first posting as the newest Regional Representative for Southern Oregon. There’s always something going on in our little corner, and I’m happy to share with the rest of the beeks in this great state.

Our meetings continue to be well attended by a variety of experience levels. Newbees, small-scale beekeepers, commercial beekeepers, and bee-curious fill our meeting space at the OSU Extension. Everyone benefits from the opportunities to freely share information on how to keep our bees happy and healthy. Our Bee School is scheduled for the 19th of April, and we are discussing holding Bee School II in mid-August.

It's been a year of extremes for us here in the Rouge and Applegate valleys. We were treated to a bumper crop of spring wildflowers, trees, shrubs, and legumes. Off to a great start until the summer's extreme heat encouraged a record-breaking set of wild fires. At one point, our air quality was worse than Beijing, China! This major event resulted in my inbox getting very full with questions regarding the smoke and health of our bees. After all, isn't that why we use smoke? To encourage the bees to gorge just enough to go into a food coma, but before they abscond (thinking their house is about to be set ablaze) they realize all is well and go on with their day? Apparently not so. Bees didn't eat a presumed plethora of honey, nor did they abscond. However, we were not out of the woods, so to speak. The prolonged extreme heat, drought, and poor air quality seemed to stress our blackberries and star thistle to the point of exhaustion, and didn't leave them in the mood to share with the bees.

We now find ourselves on the other side of the scale with record cold temps, dipping down into single digits for days in a row. All of us have our bees' welfare on our conscience. That conscience is filled with questions and a smidge of guilt: if only I had more time to get that last pollen patty in, I should have pushed my hives closer together, I hope I got that candy recipe right, should I have invested in wrapping? Maybe I should take a page out of Portland's book and do some yarn bombing with hive cozies!

But this is why we love beekeeping, right? Always a challenge for the intrinsically curious! One thing is for sure, we all make mistakes, which gives us the gifted opportunity to learn more every year. Here's to a successful and sticky 2014 to all Oregon beekeepers! —*Sarah Red-Laird*

## Regional Associations

### Cascadia Queenbreeders

Cascadia Queen Breeders meeting was held November 1, 2013. We ratified the changes to our bylaws and discussed the 2014 schedule for meetings and workshops. There was a drawing for door prizes, and we had several happy winners.

We co-hosted with OSBA the "Chat with the Queen Producers" on Saturday, November 2. Our speakers were Pat Heitkam, Frank and Joy Pendell, Morris Ostrofsky, and

Jordan Dimock. The producers were very willing to answer everyone's questions and explain about the production and shipping of queens. They gave their reasons why the queen bee doesn't survive or be productive for more than a year. It was a very informative session. We wish to thank all of the speakers for their time and information.

About one dozen intrepid beeks braved the cold to show up in Corvallis for our December 7 meeting and potluck, where we discussed what went well and what we could have done better in our 2013 queen-breeding efforts. Our next training class/workshop will be Saturday, May 17, at the OSU Oak Creek Facility in Corvallis. We will cover queen breeding methods, grafting, mini nucs, mating nucs, queen rearing tools, and equipment. See the next *Bee Line* for instructions to sign up. We wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season. —*Alvarea Fong & Paul Maresh*

### Klamath Basin Beekeepers

As I write this, here in Klamath Falls on the East side of the Cascades, the temperature is currently 8°F above zero. Local Klamath Basin beekeepers have been feeding sugar to beef up stores for winter and planning wind breaks and insulation for their bee colonies. At this point, we can only keep our fingers crossed and hope that we have done enough so our colonies make it through to spring—which may arrive in April or May or June. Perhaps in January or February we will make a sugar fondant to put in hives that need some extra stores so bees can get supplemental feed that is palatable in freezing weather. Now, we are all looking forward to the spring, new packages, and the anticipation of another honey harvest.

Dr. Dewey Caron visited our Klamath Falls beekeepers club in October and provided an informative and inspirational look at moving toward beekeeping without chemicals, although recognizing that mite control is, at the present, most important. Dr. Caron, who lives for half the year in Bolivia, also shared his experiences caring for Africanized honey bees. His entertaining and educational presentation was most enjoyable. —*Cathy Vick*

### Lane County Beekeepers

Lane County was well represented at the OSBA annual conference held in Seaside October 31–November 2 with about twenty members in attendance. It was an excellent conference, well worth the 3½ hour drive! As always, the LCBA November meeting was a sweet treat! It saw seventy-five people tasting each other's honey and picking the







## Portland Urban Beekeepers

Portland Urban beekeepers have been busy buttoning up the last few tasks on their list to prepare their apiaries for winter. After an unusually dry summer in the metropolitan area and an abrupt transition to weeks of rain, the sun came out again in October, further confusing beekeepers in Portland. With the arrival of cool nights dipping into the 40s it finally became clear that one of the nicest Portland summers in years was over. Whether or not our colonies feel the same remains to be seen. A number of beekeepers have found a “less than preferred amount” of honey stores in our boxes heading into the short winter days and long winter nights. After PUB’s overwintering losses reached about 40 percent last year (according to Dewey’s survey), it’s unclear what will result from the long summer dearth.

About a dozen PUB members attended the Oregon State Beekeepers Association annual conference in Seaside October 31–November 2. At PUB’s November 6 meeting, some of the members who attended shared their takeaways. Overwhelmingly, there was agreement that it was a great conference with a wide variety of topics that kept the expert and novice beekeepers more than engaged. The venue was very nice, presentations were well done, and the speakers were all top notch. The registration fee was very reasonable given the loaded two–three day experience. Some members spoke about specific workshops and lectures that were particularly interesting to them, including, “Honey Bee Health and Varroa Resistance,” “Working Towards Treatment Free Beekeeping,” the “Miller Method of Queen Rearing,” and “Beekeeping in the 21st Century,” while others spoke about research, diet, and Varroa—topics that permeated almost all presentations and discussions. There was ample time for Q&A with conference presenters and experts. Because of the overwhelmingly positive experience by those who attended this year’s conference, PUB will likely have an even greater presence at next year’s event.

Our November meeting included our first Annual Honey Tasting Event. Nearly thirty members brought samples from their hives to compete for prizes and titles. Residents of the retirement center were invited, too. For almost everyone, this was a first time participating in a tasting and also a first time judging. Every member received a judging sheet that explained and included scoring information for clarity, taste, color, consistency, and flavor. What was amazingly evident was how different honey can look and taste in our urban area. In a few instances, we tasted honey that was produced by a single hive with a harvest taken in the late spring and the early fall. While amped up on honey, mitigated by cheese and other refreshments, the event gave members a chance to get to know each other even better and to continue to develop friendships, cross-pollinate knowledge, and share ideas.

In December, PUB, along with its regular membership meeting, will be hosting its first annual “Products of the Hive” event for members to showcase for other members the creative things they do with their bees, products created from their hives, bee-related business, education, or anything they do with bees in mind for the community. —*Michael Carlson*

## Tillamook County Beekeepers

This report will cover our October and November meetings. The membership is still strong and motivated as we move further into fall. Other than for a few mischievous bears making a mess but not actually taking anything, most members are reporting no calamities and strong colonies going into winter. The majority of us have our hives in winter configuration, two deep boxes, secured for wind, and safe from predators. We discussed not disturbing the hives to maintain the seals the bees have made to guard against cold and moisture. Many of us are still feeding, but doing so without disturbing the inner bee sanctuary. Alan Leach brought in a blossoming branch of Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) for those who didn’t know what it looked like. Sharon Frantz offered up a great way to get more honey out of capping wax and make a light alcoholic mead in the process. Many of us will have cleaner capping wax in the future. We hosted Drew Johnson, Food Safety Specialist with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Drew covered the basics of making money with honey, including registration, labeling, additives, and value-added products of the honey house.

As our membership and enthusiasm have grown, the talk was of formalizing our club. We talked about electing officers, agendas and minutes, education workshops, and radio, newspaper, and community billboard spots to help draw in the many new beekeepers. Stan Scotton, Jim Fanjoy, and Jeff Hall will head up the nominating committee. Terry Fullan and Jeff Hall are planning to attend other club meetings in the state to glean new ideas. Dewey Caron will once again address us at the OSU Extension in Tillamook. Alan Leach built a colony hand truck with a hand-crank platform lift. Trisha Kauffman, who not only feeds us and provides the space we meet in, graciously offered her fully licensed commercial kitchen for workshops. In October, we had a raffle for a free registration to the OSBA conference and it was won by Byron Richardson. Wrapping up in October, we tasted several of our members’ honey with no clear winners but a wonderful medley of flavors. Several from our group attended the OSBA conference.



—*Jeffrey Hall*

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has announced a series of measures designed to protect bees and other pollinators from exposure to certain pesticide products. ODA is requiring specific label statements restricting use of products containing the active ingredients dinotefuran and imidacloprid while strengthening its outreach and education efforts to pesticide users regarding pollinator protection. The steps were outlined today at a hearing held by the House Interim Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources...

As a condition of annual registration for 2014, ODA is requiring an Oregon-specific label statement on dinotefuran and imidacloprid products being sold or distributed in the state that prohibits the application of these products on linden, basswood, or Tilia species. Bee deaths reported this year involved products containing these active ingredients applied to European linden trees. It appears the tree species' natural toxicity to bumblebees in combination with the pesticide contributed to the deaths. Taking the rare step of requiring an Oregon-specific label statement on pesticide products indicates the importance ODA places on protecting pollinators...

**From:** ODA takes steps to protect pollinators from pesticide impacts (11/21/2013). Full news release is at: [www.oregon.gov/ODA/Pages/news/131121bee\\_measures.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/Pages/news/131121bee_measures.aspx)

## THE LINDEN TREE MYSTERY

*Lynn Royce*

Trees often give us some of our most prolific nectar flows and best honeys. My favorite trees include a couple of West Coast natives, big leaf maple and cascara, and some East Coast natives: black locust and American linden. The linden trees are especially attractive to bees, and their fragrant honey is sought after by beekeepers. Several kinds of lindens have come across the Atlantic to grace our landscapes as shade trees.

However, there have been reports of numerous dead bees under linden trees both in the US and in Europe, and dead bumble bees are often the majority. This puzzles people who have these trees in their yards. In the late 1960s and 1970s researchers theorized that there must be a toxic sugar in the nectar of lindens.

Von Frish suggested that mannose might be the problem. When he fed this sugar to bees, they died. Eva Crane (1977) revisited this work. But it was years later before anyone fed linden nectar to bees or looked at the nectar to see what sugars it did contain. The nectar was not toxic when extracted from flowers and fed to the bees (Surholt et al. 1992) nor did the bees somehow change the sugars into

a toxin (Baal et al. 1992). Results using capillary liquid gas chromatography and HPLC showed the nectar to contain fructose, glucose and sucrose (Denker et al. 1992) or glucose, fructose and galactose (Muhlen et al. 1992) but no mannose. The bumble bees were dying of starvation (Muhlen et al. 1992; Illies and Muhlen 2007).

So why are there more dead bumble bees under linden trees? One has to consider the different life styles of these two bees. They have many similarities. Both are social, pollen is carried back to the nest in "pollen baskets" on the hind legs of these bees, both are faithful to a flower source. The difference and probable cause of death to bumble bees but not honey bees is elegantly explained by Illies and Muhlen (2007). Honey bees overwinter as a colony usually supporting 10–20,000 individuals over several months of winter. Bumble bees overwinter as newly emerged and mated queens. These queens go into hibernation individually and the rest of the colony dies off. In the spring, bumble bee queens come out of hibernation and must start their colony on their own. They, unlike honey bee queens, can forage, build wax structures (egg cups, nectar pot), lay eggs, incubate the first brood, and care for the first larvae. Only after the first brood become adult workers does the queen bumble bee stay in the nest and lay eggs.

Honey bees must constantly find new nectar sources throughout the warm season so that they can support a growing colony, reproduce by swarming, and store enough honey and pollen to overwinter a populations of at least 10–20,000 individuals. They need to continually find sources of flowers that are blooming in increasing numbers, and after these flowers peak and then begin to dwindle it is no longer efficient for the honey bee to continue to come to them. Therefore, through the dance language, they constantly become aware of new nectar and pollen sources and maximize their foraging.

Bumble bees will find a flower source and stay with it until it is finished blooming. They do not have a dance language or send out scouts to find flowers that are increasing their bloom.

We also know that honey bees take more fuel on foraging flights, insurance that they can fly home. They forage over greater distances on average than bumble bees, whereas bumble bees take less fuel with them when they leave to forage (Illies and Muhlen 2007). In the case of linden trees, bumble bees keep coming to this attractive tree even after most of the blooms are gone. Many bumble bees run out of fuel before they recognize that the flowers are done. They cannot continue to fly and fall to the ground under the trees.

The trees are a huge floral source for bees; thus, many come to them and it is not usual to see the dying bees under them at the end of the bloom. In a floral source that is a large field of flowers, this phenomenon would scatter the dying bees and their notice by humans would be greatly diminished. Also in dry years when lindens appear “most toxic,” the flowering trees may be one of the few nectar sources available and therefore attract more bees than during a wet year that will have more resources available to bees at any one time.

Is one bee more highly adapted than other bees? No, each has its own adaptive strategy that works well and provides plants with a variety of pollinators and the pollinators with food.

Another phenomenon that is common for these trees as well as other crops are plant-feeding bugs like aphids that feed on plant fluids and excrete what is known as *honeydew*. These bugs are often seen as problematic to humans, either because they reduce crop yields or because the dripping honeydew is an annoyance. Honeydew is attractive to bees and other insects that seek sweet fluids. Depending on the time of year, honeydew can be as attractive to bees as spring flowers, especially the late fall when the weather stays warm but dry conditions and shorter days end most if not all flowers. In Germany, a honey crop is made from the aphids that feed on evergreen trees, they call it

*Tannenbaum* honey. There is a danger for bees that feed on honeydew. Because of crop damage or the nuisance factor, aphids are often sprayed with an insecticide. Bees are insects and very susceptible to many insecticides. If they are working the aphid honeydew when the spray is applied, the insecticide can kill bees or worse they carry a toxic food back to the nest where it can damage the queen and the developing bees.

Many of our beautiful shade trees are susceptible to aphids and may drip honeydew on cars or outdoor furniture. But honeydew is water soluble and easily washed off. Cosmetic spraying of aphids is bad for pollinators and birds. Think, “a sticky car may mean safe food on your table.”

Wherever these big bloomers are: in a dense forest where blooming undergrowth is limited, or in an urban setting where there is more asphalt than plantable ground, or rural areas where croplands limit bloom diversity, these trees provide our pollinators with a tremendous and vital resource. These trees could be the most-important factor for survival of many kinds of bees. They may be essential even when blooming is over because the plant feeding insects may extend the season just enough. When asked, “What can I do to help the bees?” one answer: “Save the big trees—maples, lindens, black locust, cascara, catalpa, old oaks.” Another answer: “Plant a tree.” These trees are the home and forage for our bees.

*Continued on page 15*

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**INTRODUCING NEW OSBA OFFICERS**

**Secretary Bunny Cramer-Carter**

I live with my Husband, Jess Carter, in Lyons, Oregon. In addition to my bees, I have a small flock of sheep and a Jack Russell Terrier puppy. I grew up in Cedaredge, Colorado, and many of our neighbors were orchardists and had bees all around. I was always fascinated and read whatever I could, but never lived where I could have them. Then for Christmas the first year Jess and I were married, he gave me all the equipment, showed me how to put it together, and included a coupon for a package of bees in the spring. I promised him I would keep it to one hive, but as you all know that is impossible. Expansion is just too much fun.

At the urging of Jess, I joined Willamette Valley beekeepers in September 2009 and found a large group of people interested in the same things as I am and willing to help each other. It has been wonderful. I have attended every OSBA conference since and love working the booths at State Fair and Ag Fest. I am in the Journey level of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program and have helped two friends and a niece to become beekeepers.

As a fairly new beekeeper I would encourage everyone to volunteer and put the time in helping your local club and your state organization. At first I was worried that I didn't have the experience to move among the commercial beekeepers, but that really isn't important. What is important is supporting the industry and helping where we can. Being a voice for beekeeping and helping to spread the word benefit everyone.

My favorite bee fact? It take approximately 4,000 bees to make a pound. My biggest shock at my first meeting?

Asking one question and getting ten different answers. My favorite place to shop? Bee supply stores.

**Treasurer Lynn Royce**

I did my doctoral research at Oregon State University on tracheal mites of honey bees and have studied pollinators for over thirty years. Notable achievements include developing a successful patented mating chamber while at Oregon State University and creating a honey bee breeding program that selects for genetic mite resistance. I am a passionate scientist who cares deeply about implementing research in practical applications to improve honey bee health.

**Membership minutes—Continued from page 3**

**2015 Conference Dates**

Katharine Hunt requests on behalf of Lane County that the OSBA consider a change of venue to a more centralized location and to change days of the event to Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Discussion of location and dates followed.

**2014 Executive Board Nominations**

*Regional Representatives*

- South Willamette Valley: Jason Rowan
- North Willamette Valley: Harry Vanderpool
- Southern Oregon: Sarah Red-Laird
- Portland Metro: Todd Balsiger
- Eastern Oregon: Jordan Dimock
- Central Oregon/Columbia Basin: Bill Edwards
- South Coast: Mureen Walker
- North Coast: Terry Fullan

*Officers*

- Treasurer: Lynn Royce
- Secretary: Bunny Cramer-Carter
- Vice President: Dewey Caron
- President: Paul Andersen

Paul Andersen motioned for the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot. Mike Rodia seconded the motion. The membership unanimously approved. The General Membership meeting adjourned at 5:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Carolyn Breece*

**Note:** The minutes of the October 31 OSBA Board meeting duplicate much of the General Membership meeting minutes and are available on request.

*May all travels with bees be safe ones!*

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: All bee residents of our hive  
 FROM: Swarm communications center (aka Cindy Brown)  
 DATE: May–August  
 RE: Planned swarm

Ok, everyone...we're getting ready for our planned swarm. We've got this all planned out, we know what we're doing, it is very organized. Our motto will be KEEP CALM AND SWARM ON. You can pick up your swarm t-shirt near the entrance of the hive.

Our Queen has been doing a great job laying eggs and increasing our numbers, because it's getting crowded here in our amazingly healthy hive.

We've collectively decided it's time for half of us to swarm with our Queen and move out into the world for a new home. Remember this is a normal part of our hive's life.

Those of you who will be going need to get ready by eating lots of that sweet stuff to store in your honey stomach. That's how we bees pack for our big trip.

Right now, we've been sending out hundreds and hundreds of female scouts. They have been tasked with looking for our new location; it will be within a five mile radius of our current hive.

When a scout is satisfied she's found a good location, get ready...when she comes back to the hive—it's dancing time! Check out her moves, she'll tell us all where our new home is. The more awesome her moves, the more awesome the location is! More scouts will join her, maybe some will suggest different locations. It's gonna look like Studio 54 and a dance contest. We'll decide on which location based on the best dances.

Keep your ears open, because when you hear the scouts' piping sounds you need to get ready and warm up your flight muscles, we're leaving soon.

The plan is that the scout will do a quick buzz run, then our Queen will leave the hive, taking about half of us with her. Get ready to hustle, because we're outta there in less than 60 seconds.


She'll fly to a spot not too far away and those with her will gather around her, forming a cluster. Usually, you'll be hanging from a tree branch, but sometimes you'll end up on a picnic table or another nearby object.

Make sure to give your support to our Queen; it's a real sacrifice for her to leave the hive and let her younger, inexperienced daughter queen remain in the established hive. Please sign the card in the nectar area and make a donation toward her gift.

You who remain will stay behind in this current home will make yourselves a new Queen. Have fun, we know you'll do a great job and make us proud.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**January 7–11, 2014:** American Honey Producers Association Convention & Tradeshow. Omni San Antonio at the Colonnade. San Antonio, Texas. *Information:* www.ahpanet.com/?page=AHPAconvention.

**January 7–11, 2014:** North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow. Baton Rouge River Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. *Information:* www.nabeekeepingconference.com.

nabeekeepingconference.com.

**February 4:** Urban Beekeeping Class. Bee Girl, Ashland.

**February 18:** Bayer Bee Care Tour (10 AM–NOON). CH2M-Hill Alumni Center, Oregon State University, Corvallis. *Information:* beecaretour@porternovelli.com.

**April 19:** Southern Oregon Bee School.

**May 17:** Cascadia Queen Breeders Workshop. Oak Creek Facility, Oregon State University, Corvallis.

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## Oregon State Beekeepers Association Membership Form

The **Oregon State Beekeepers Association** is a nonprofit organization representing and supporting all who have an interest in honey bees and beekeeping. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. Membership includes the ongoing work of the organization on behalf of the honey bee and beekeeping, a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on publications, placement on the swarm call list, 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:

**Lynn Royce, 30807 Decker Ridge Rd, Corvallis OR 97333**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **New** \_\_\_ **Renewing** \_\_\_

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

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**Telephone number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thank you!**

**Linden**—Continued from page 11

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## *The Bee Line*

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517

Portland OR 97206

### **For OSBA Members:**

The swarm call list starts anew. Contact [ccbees@gmail.com](mailto:ccbees@gmail.com) to add your name to the listing.

Website ads are free—up to three per year!

*Wishing good health to all bees and all their keepers throughout this fine new year!*



## ***The Bee Line***

*The Bee Line* is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Annual subscriptions to the newsletter are included with each 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). It’s your newsletter—we want to hear from you!

The next issue to be printed will be the March 2014 issue. The deadline for submitting copy is February 10, 2014.

*Thank you!*

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