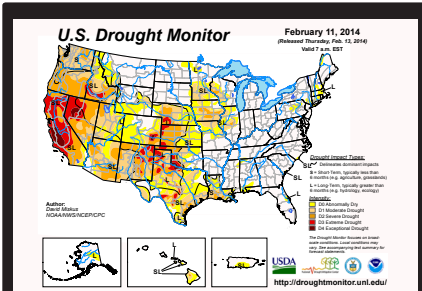




# The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 39  
Number 2  
March 2014



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[www.orsba.org](http://www.orsba.org)  
OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
WEBKEEPER: Thom Trusewicz  
[ccbees@gmail.com](mailto:ccbees@gmail.com)

[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:** Welcome rains in early February led to improved conditions in Oregon; even so, the situation remains far less than optimal for the coming season. For updates: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>.



## PACIFIC NORTHWEST TECH TEAM

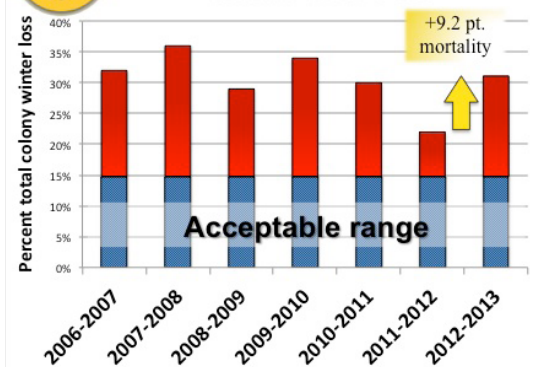
*The Bee Informed Partnership*

The Bee Informed Partnership is excited to announce that it is coming to Oregon! The Bee Informed Partnership ([www.beeinformed.org](http://www.beeinformed.org)) is a five-year extension grant funded by USDA/NIFA to reduce colony mortality and we have several endeavors to effect that change, the largest being the technical transfer teams. Our newest team, the Pacific Northwest (PNW) will be based out of Oregon State University and should be operational by April/May 2014. These teams (northern California and Hawaii teams working with queen breeders, the Midwest team working with migratory and honey producers, and our Florida and Georgia team working with migratory beekeepers and queen producers) work directly with large, commercial beekeepers. Through implementation of standardized sampling of colonies and providing results back in near real time (averaging less than five days from receipt at our University of Maryland lab), we help the beekeepers make timely, informed management decisions. Using epidemiological tools, we hope to find which management strategies are working and which ones are not. In short, we believe the information collected from these larger operations will not only have value to the specific beekeeper, but to the wider beekeeping community. Please visit our website and read our blogs.

In addition to Tech Teams, we have been working hard to develop and deliver new and innovative services to help beekeepers, both small and large, keep their colonies alive. This year we are offering Real Time Disease Load Monitoring, which is meant for sideline beekeepers or bee groups, so they can get near real-time understanding of Varroa mite and Nosema spore levels in their colonies. For those experiencing unexpected and unexplained high levels of loss, we offer Emergency Response Kits, which will help rule out possible reasons colonies are being lost. Both of these services can be found at our website's home page. Finally, the results from our past annual Winter Loss and Management Surveys can help you identify which management practices were employed by beekeepers who suffered the lowest losses in your area. You've seen the Winter Loss reports, please be sure to participate this year—the survey opens April 1 and remains open until April 30. Go to our website and sign up to participate now.



## Managed honey bee colony losses in the US



Ellen Topitzhofer, based at Oregon State University and working with Ramesh Sagili, will be the lead for the PNW team. Any questions or comments can be directed to Ellen at [etopitzhofer@gmail.com](mailto:etopitzhofer@gmail.com) or Karen Rennich, the Bee Informed Project Manager, at [usbeesurvey@gmail.com](mailto:usbeesurvey@gmail.com).

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



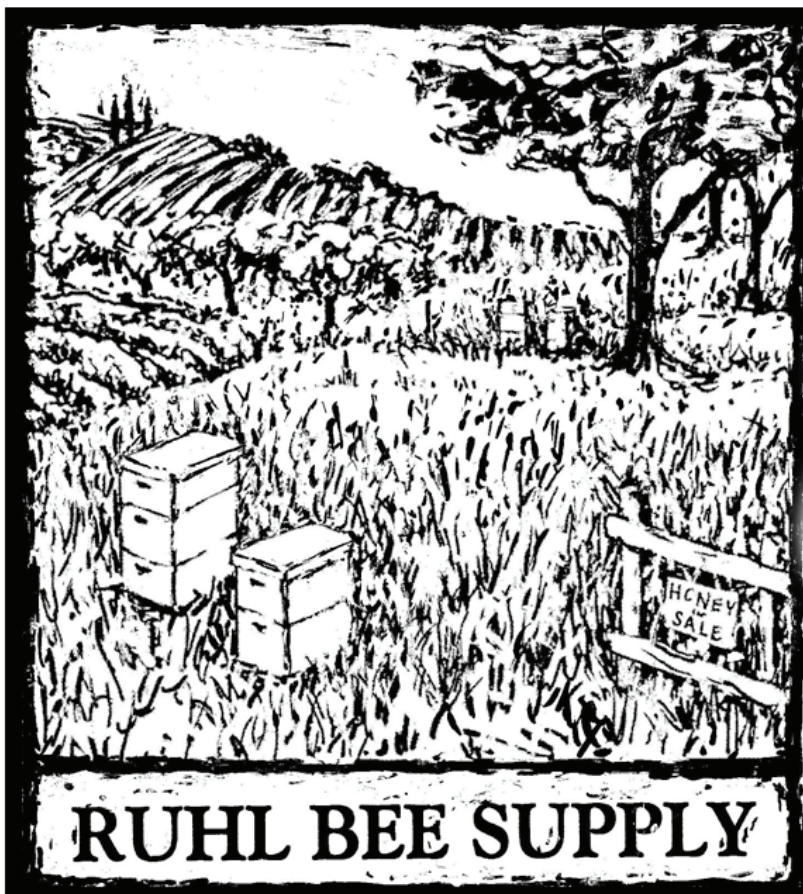
It seems to be a bit of a rough winter this year, not only weatherwise with the cold and snow but also healthwise with a very nasty flu going around along with other bugs. I know I have had an upper respiratory infection for about three weeks now that I hope is just about over.

With spring on the way, hopefully most of the winter weather is behind us and everything can start blooming, hopefully without interruption in preparation for a good honey year. For many of us, honey production is an economic factor in our operation. Certainly for the larger operations, pollination and nucs are more significant, but honey still is a factor and adds to the bottom line. Honey prices and demand are up, prices by 15 percent or more and the demand is keeping my phone ringing. Whenever I go into a store, large or small, I check what they are carrying for honey. I look for the local brands, varieties, color, and make note of the pricing. Recently one of the shops specializing in local products from Washington county area told me they are out of honey for the rest of the year. It appears there really is a bit of a shortage unless you're willing to bring it in from out of the area. I know of one packer who brought in 3,000 pounds from Wisconsin to meet his demand. The year 2013 was not a good year for honey production, let's hope we all fare better in 2014!

The "Bayer Bee Care Tour" which many of you may have heard about will have happened before you read this, but probably too late to get anything in this *Bee Line*. We have several people attending to see what they have to say. I do wish to point out that Dr. Sagili's OSU Honey Bee Lab and the OSBA are not endorsing the event. We will be attending to observe and learn what Bayer is planning and/or promoting. If anything of significance comes out of the event and it is too late for *The Bee Line*, we will post it on the website, [www.orsba.org](http://www.orsba.org).

Have safe travels and take care!

*Paul*



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## OSBA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

January 6, 2014 ❖ Canby, Oregon

**Attendees:** Paul Andersen, Bill Edwards, Todd Balsiger, Terry Fullan, Katherine Hunt, Jason Rowan, Bob Allen, Tim Wessels, Kenny Williams, Marjie Ehry, Mureen Walker, Bunny Cramer-Carter

President Paul Andersen called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

The motion to accept the minutes as printed in *The Bee Line* was made by Tim Wessels. The motion was seconded by Bill Edwards. The board unanimously approved.

### Treasurer's Report

Paul Andersen covered the Statement of Financial Income and Expenses for the period of January through December 2013.

There were a few questions pertaining to items 47250 Conference Registration and 65301 The Queen Breeders Conference Expense. The 2011–2013 grant is completed and we are waiting for funds to be returned to us. The new grant 2013–2015 is moving forward, and we will be sending in our first invoicing to help with the expenses for the conference and equipment for the program.

At the next board meeting in April, we will have a final version from the CPA with all grant money and conference information included.

After the books are closed, the CPA will aid OSBA in developing a budget based on past spending and some recommendations of their own. OSBA will create a budget committee to review recommendations and guide spending by the club.

### Webkeeper's Report

Paul Andersen stated that Thom Trusewicz and Rosanna Mattingly are maintaining the website, but that the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program has been approached with the idea that maybe some of the participants in the program would take over the webkeeper duties as a way to earn points. Rosanna Mattingly is working on setting up the website to accept payment through PayPal.

In a side note to *The Bee Line*, Rosanna Mattingly asked to remind everyone to submit materials by the 10th of the month for publication.

### Regional Beekeepers Association and Regional Representative Reports

Bill Edwards, Columbia Basin Regional Representative: Reported that it has been dry and cold. Bees look good.

Wanted to remind everyone to ask for help if you need it.

Katherine Hunt, President, Lane County Beekeepers: No December meeting. Good January Meeting scheduled with an allergist speaking. The club is participating in the Green Show in Eugene in January.

Jason Rowan, South Willamette Valley: The temperature has been -10°F in the South Valley. The stronger colonies made it, but the weaker ones won't. There is a lot of shedding. In the fall there was a lot of honey, the bees must have known and stored up for it. Most colonies had good stores in the fall, and most still do. He thinks it is mix of cold air with stagnation that is doing the weaker colonies in.

Tim Wessels, President, Portland Urban Beekeepers: They are hearing a lot about cluster shed. People with hives on the perimeter of Portland didn't seem build up winter stores as well as those in city. They are having good meetings now have over 120 members with an average of 60 at each meeting. They hosted a honey tasting and are working with members on good education. Trying to keep everyone on alert and what to do on a monthly basis.

Mureen Walker, South Coast Regional Representative: Big losses. Robbing seems to be a big issue. They also have 120 members with 30–40 consistently showing up for meetings. Their founders Del and Myrna Barber are going into the Peace Corps and they don't know their location yet. Del intends to teach an intensive four-week course for the Apprentice level of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program before he leaves.

Terry Fullan, North Coast Regional Representative: The temperatures have been mild and are behind on rainfall. It was 70°F in Nehalem on January 5, 2014. They participated in Grow the Coast—a local food-production, sustainability conference.

Bunny Cramer-Carter, Willamette Valley Beekeepers: No December meeting. Mead making presentation in November. We held our board meeting last weekend with the focus on Bee School in February.

Paul Andersen, Tualatin Valley Beekeepers: No December meeting. Dessert potluck meeting at the end of November. The speaker for January will be John Edwards of Ruhl Bee Supply.

### Oregonians in Action

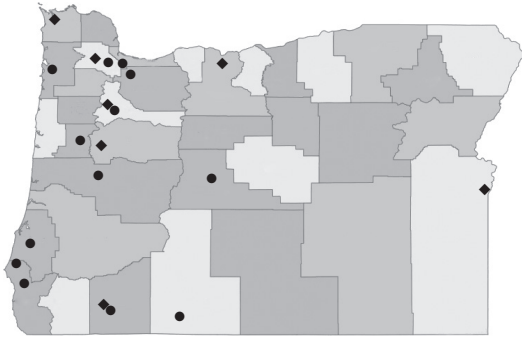
Marjie Ehry wanted to bring to everyone's attention the group Oregonians in Action. They are a watchdog group that has stepped in to support Oregon State Beekeepers. Their websites are [www.oia.org](http://www.oia.org) and [www.oregonwatchdog.com](http://www.oregonwatchdog.com).

*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 6:30 PM, second Thursday

Partners in Care, 2075 NE Wyatt Ct, 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:** John Gardner—541.572.3847

**Vice President:** Shigeo Oku—541.396.4016

**Secretary:** Bobbie Gardner—541.572.3847

**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

541.884.6274; elliot772@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Steve Vick

541.884.6274; stevevick@aol.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; keehunt@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:** Steve Oda  
541.745.7227; odafamily1@comcast.net

**Secretary:** Robert Williams  
rober2w@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:** Wayne Berry  
berrydogs@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Barbara Fitts

**Portland Metro Beekeepers**

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

**President:** Joe Maresh  
503.703.5060; joemaresh@bctonline.com

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

**Secretary:** Patty Anderson  
503.887.7057; wiseacrefarms@me.com

**Treasurer:** Barb Derkacht  
503.631.3063; bderkacht@yahoo.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:** Bill Catherall—503.572.6467  
vice-president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

**Secretary:** Mike Card—971.207.9726  
secretary@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

**Treasurer:** Keith Gilman—503.830.3178

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:** Jim Fanjoy

**Secretary:** Jeffrey Hall

**Treasurer:** Stan Scotton

**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; 46donnaakay@gmail.com

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

**Website:** www.wvbatoday.com

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## REGIONAL NEWS

### Regional Representatives

#### North Coast

Winter-like conditions continue and beekeeping is still quiet. February is flying past and soon backyard beekeepers will be busy with caring and feeding our bees. Membership in the Tillamook club is growing. Everyone is very anxious for the spring.

—Terry Fullan

#### South Coast

Oregon South Coast Beekeepers and Coos County Beekeepers kicked off the New Year, welcoming enthusiastic new members, sharing in the Oregon Master Beekeeper program, learning valuable tips from featured speakers, and discussing the successes and challenges of the honey bees. Del and Myrna Barber announced the location of their assignment for the Peace Corp at Botswana, Africa, where beekeeping is prevalent and taught in the college. Del will likely be teaching there, while he tends to his “day job” of helping to reduce HIV and AIDS, utilizing his decades of experience in practicing medicine and serving as instructor.

Del has been powering through the entire first year of classroom curriculum of the program, completing four all-day sessions in a month of Saturdays, eight hours each, at the OSU Extension building in Gold Beach. This year seven students took the classes which began the second weekend of January and ended the first weekend of February. During the sunny afternoon of the second class session, unusually warm for January, the group set up tables outside and constructed an entire bee hive, Langstroth, from woodenware brought in from the CCBA by Shigeo and Jane Oku.



A mix of instructors, some students, and others involved in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program in the South Coast region. **Front:** Del Barber and David VanDike. **Back:** Wayne Berry, Sheigo Oku, Jim Sorber, Peter Schuler, Jan Burris, Ron Hoffine, Mureen Walker, and Bob Morrow.

Several new members are coming from the two counties, some mainly to learn the details of managing beehives in this particular climate, many exposed directly to the marine layer and other salty wind and moisture conditions. They include Jan Burris, who fell in love with honey bees when she was a young college student in Georgia and became an avid beekeeper there. Russ and Babette Rose, who manage the largest amount of hives in our area, were the featured

speakers of the educational portion of the OSCBA January meeting. Their emphasis was on preparing for spring and included several important tips, besides strong urges to not be on break during overwintering. Instead of electric bear fences, the Roses use chain link dog kennel fencing secured to the ground by rebar bent into a crook and used like tent stakes. They also use a spacer placed between the top box and the inner cover that has one end able to swivel on the single nail or screw securing it at each end so that it can be either completely closed or rotated to allow ventilation and a second access for the bees. As an alternative, I use a seven-eighths-inch hole closed with a wine cork at the top rear for ventilation and passage of tubing from a syphon feeder on the outside to a frame feeder on the inside. Russ also explained to avoid rotating boxes when the cluster is in the middle. Shigeo announced that the group working on the bee yard project near the OSU Extension office in Myrtle Point is planning experiments in how various treatments affect Varroa mites.

—Mureen Walker

#### Southern Oregon

Southern Oregon seems to have been annexed by California. As most of Oregon is finally starting to see some drizzle and powder...we continue to be in a patch of aridity. I also continue to hear stories of high bee losses near the epicenter of the summer fires in Josephine County. The majority of survival stories seem to be connected to supplementary feeding of syrup and pollen sub.

Topics in our recent meeting (ironically held in “The Bear Hotel”) focused on management strategies for a dry climate, the search for quality guest speakers, and our spring Bee School. Any suggestions for dynamic speakers with an interest in checking out wine country, rivers, and Shakespeare are encouraged to send Carl a message at [carl\\_lorenz@hotmail.com](mailto:carl_lorenz@hotmail.com). So far on the roster for Bee School instructors, we have Bee Girl (that’s me) and whispers of Prof. Dewey Caron’s attendance as well. Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association now has a website! An enormous thank you to Ellen Wright for her lovely design work and ongoing content updates. Please visit us at: [www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org](http://www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org).

This winter also brought the sad news of losing one of our best friends and beekeepers, Floyd Pawlowski. Floyd was a longtime board member of the Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association, an Oregon Master Beekeeper Program mentor, and coordinator of the beekeeping exhibit at the annual 4-H Ag Days fair. His soul was gentle, kind, and encouraging to all. From his obituary, “He was often called to take charge of swarms found in local homes and businesses; a task he was only too happy to take on. He loved to gather his own firewood on his family’s woodlot; he loved his animals; he loved his land - he simply loved.”

—Sarah Red-Laird



## South Willamette Valley

Northwest beekeepers were very happy this year to load their hives on a truck, get them out of the freezer, and drop them in sunny California for almond pollination. A combination of a protracted warm and dry fall and very cold winter caused concern among beekeepers about colony conditions. Although many reports of a slightly higher winter loss percentage, most hives came through looking pretty good. Once placed in almonds, our Northwest hives found themselves in the midst of the worst drought in over 100 years. The bees had not one single weed or flower of any sort to forage on other than almond bloom. This, of course, was another cause for worry. Supplemental feeding(s) was in play. How will the scorched earth California drought affect queen availability/quality? How will California beekeepers survive 2014 with the entire state in a complete brownout?

—Harry Vanderpool

## Regional Associations

### Cascadia Queen Breeders

We want to remind everyone to plan on coming to our Queen Breeding workshop/meeting May 17, 2014, at the OSU Oak Creek Facility in Corvallis. We will be demonstrating queen-rearing tools and devices, hands-on, with handling queen bees and caging, queen banks, and grafting techniques. We are working on finalizing our workshop presentation. Please mark your calendar.

—Alvaela Fong

### Lane County Beekeepers

During January club members were busy with the annual Good Earth Home, Garden, and Living Show January 24–26 at the fairgrounds in Eugene. We had a special added attraction to our booth this year. Pam Leavitt donated a beautiful doll house which she built. People were given the opportunity to donate money to our club scholarship program and have a chance to take home this darling dollhouse which included a beehive! The lucky grand-dad who took it home was Chuck Hunt. Thank you, Pam, for sharing your talents with the club! Many of our members helped at the booth this year. Those who came out to talk with the public about beekeeping and LCBA included Nancy and Ken Ograin, Pam and Les Leavitt, Max Kuhn, Gary Morgan, Polly and Doug Habliston, Rita and Morris Ostrofsky, Larry Larson, Matt Lowe, Brian McGinney, Mike Harrington, Frank Feuille, Katharine Hunt, Brian Brown, and Judy Scher. Thank you, everyone.

Our annual "dinner" meeting took place in January with Dr. Jason H. Friesen giving an excellent presentation about bee allergies. Dr. Friesen practices locally and sees patients with asthma, environmental and food allergies, eczema, and other allergic conditions. He recently served as the president of the Oregon Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology



**Left:** Pam Leavitt with her husband Les, Brian Brown, and dollhouse at the Home and Garden Show. **Right:** Dr. Jason Friesen takes time to visit with members after his January presentation.

and remains on the executive council. He is also a Certified Physician Investigator researching new therapies for asthma and allergies.

The new 2014 LCBA Executive and Board of Directors was introduced at the January meeting. Also, Nancy Ograin and Rita Ostrofsky were thanked for their many years of service and given a small token of the club's gratitude. Nancy will continue to edit the newsletter and keep track of memberships, and Rita is very involved in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. Thirty-one members completed the survey about the OSBA annual conference (dealing with distance, time, and place). More than half said that they had never attended; the majority would like to attend; for twelve, distance was the main barrier; for eighteen, because "scheduled on days when working, gas, and cost." The majority said they would attend if the conference was within 60 miles of Eugene. Slightly over half would like the conference to be held Friday–Sunday and the rest, Thursday–Saturday. If interested in seeing a copy of the survey, please contact me at keehhunt@gmail.com. Jonathan Loftin will discuss Spring Management at our February meeting. On March 8, we will host our annual Bee School. At our March 18 meeting, we will have a question and answer period for the new beekeepers along with a discussion about introducing package bees.

—Katharine Hunt

### Portland Metro Beekeepers

Portland-Metro Beekeepers had our first meeting of the new year. We elected new executives and thanked our past executives for their service. Kim Wilde from doTERRA essential oils gave a very informative presentation on essential oils. She explained how the oils are extracted and the tests for purity that her company requires. She brought some sample bottles of eucalyptus, thyme, and lemongrass that were passed around and we tried one drop on our hands or arms. The fragrance was heavenly. She had diffuser with orange citrus that smelled wonderful. Thank you, Kim!

President Joe Maresh opened the February meeting and welcomed everyone, including many new beekeepers. We discussed our upcoming Bee Day to be held on April 26 at Foothills Honey in Colton, Oregon (save the date!) and our

meetings for the year, what topics and speakers we would like to have. Among the topics of interest are: raising queens, pest control, how to maximize honey production, organic/natural beekeeping, and everyone's favorite—making mead! We also plan to have several weekend workshops including equipment building and a tour of hives. There was a round-table discussion regarding what members are doing with their hives this month. It was very informative with long time beekeepers sharing their experience with the newbee's.

—*Alvarea Fong & Patty Anderson*

### **Portland Urban Beekeepers**

One of the interesting stories about Portland's 2013 beekeeping cycle will be the strange weather pattern and its potential effects on the 2014 cycle. We will be talking about the short-, medium-, and long-range effects of what occurred, mired in lament for mistakes made and things beyond control or roiling in relief at making the right choices.

The 2013 precipitation was relatively dry, and the beginning of 2014 has been ushered in similarly. After a relatively long dry summer and longer than normal dearth, fall arrived abruptly with some beekeepers facing a lack of adequate food stores for some colonies. The arrival brought weeks of unrelenting rain that then abruptly stopped. November was uneventfully dry until a cold spell with temperatures as low as 13°F hit in early December. And now, in early February 2014, another cold spell arrived bringing more record low temperatures and record wind/snow/ice. Right when our girls were beginning to stir...they faced another hoop to jump through before the spring thaw.

Some PUB members have been scratching their heads as to what this will mean for their colonies this year. On the face, it appears that the long dry summer and erratically cold and dry fall/winter of 2013–2014 has resulted in higher than normal colony losses. It remains to be seen what the final numbers will be as there still are another few weeks left for Mother Nature to test our patience and the “will” of our beloved queens.

In December, PUB held its first annual “Products of the Hive” event for members to showcase creative things they do with their bees, products created from their hives, bee-related business, educational activities, or anything they do with bees in mind for the community. This gives our members who are trying to make a living in the beekeeping business exposure and helps to spark creativity. One of the things immediately noticeable is that competition is not a big issue as everyone seems to have created their own niche in the beekeeping business world. This was a successful event and will likely become an annual part of our program.

In January, PUB held its annual elections. Tim Wessels will remain as our chapter president, Bill Catherall was elected

as our new vice president, Keith Gilman our new treasurer, Lauren Smith our new librarian and Mike Card, Michael Carlson, and Seth Lee remain as our secretary, communicator, and director-at-large, respectively.

At our February meeting, Tim Wessels and Glen Andresen presented their queen rearing project to develop a successful breeding program that will create Portland winter-hardy queens for distribution to other beekeepers in the area. For experienced beekeepers, the presentation further solidified the complexity of undertaking such a project. For new beekeepers, it created respect and an awe-inspiring story. Ultimately, it's very clear how important this project will be to Portland beekeepers and along with other local breeding programs will give us an opportunity to affect our less-than-inspiring current winter survival rates. —*Michael Carlson*

### **Tillamook County Beekeepers**

At the January meeting, we elected new officers with Bob Allen remaining president; Jim Fanjoy as vice president; Stan Scotton as treasurer; Jeffrey Hall as secretary. With several new guests, we did a general introduction of all attendees. Guests and prospective members included: Jim Simpson; Mark Wittmer; Crystal Dillenburg; Emily Vollmer; Tom and Gretchen Webb.

General discussion of Tillamook Bee Day to be held in April, the day to be determined after contact and confirmation with Dewey Caron. A Bee Day committee was formed and includes: Bob Allen, Mark Wittmer, Jim Fanjoy, and Terry Fullan. They will meet Wednesday at 7 PM in the Art Space building. Other members offered to help out on the day of the event. There was general discussion of having a sort of Bee Boot Camp prior to Dewey's talk to give new and prospective beekeepers a basic background of beekeeping and beekeeping terminology.

Stan Scotton led a discussion of where to obtain bees this spring. He pointed out that Glen Andresen of Bridgetown Bees will not be able to supply nucs or queens this year, but most likely will next season. Bob took preliminary orders for nucs and packages, with packages from Kenny Williams and nucs from George Hansen. Jim gave a thorough explanation of the differences between nucleus hives and packages, and the basic pros and cons of each for the new beekeepers attending. Bob talked about the upcoming Cascadia Queen Breeders workshop, and if non-members are allowed to attend, asked who would be interested. Several in the group expressed interest. Stan has arranged for Karessa Torgerson to speak on swarming at our next club meeting on March 11. Stan was asked by Bob to contact Morris Ostrofsky about a possible field trip by members of our chapter to find out about and observe his queen-rearing operation. He uses the Miller Method.

—*Jeffrey Hall*



## KEEPING BEES IN February–March

*Todd Balsiger*

The five “Best Management Practices” for pollinating California’s agricultural crops, as published in a Managed Pollinator CAP article, are just as pertinent to us here in Oregon and need to be objectives in our colony management. They are: 1. Manage for Varroa control. 2. Purchase or breed mite-resistant, hygienic queens. 3. Maintain adequate colony nutrition. 4. Control diseases. 5. Minimize exposure to toxins, inside and outside the colony. In addition, for this period:

- ❖ Heft hives to find any light ones. Brood production is ongoing and energy demands have increased, so this is prime time for starvation. Provide light hives emergency feed. When daytime highs exceed 55°F, syrup can be used instead of fondant or frames of honey. Consider adding Fumagilin-B to syrup to control possible Nosema.
  - ❖ Varroa control is still of preeminent importance. An instructional poster with step-by-step instructions (and pictures) for a standard sampling system to estimate colony infestation to determine if there is a need to treat can be found at: [www.extension.org/pages/31539/varroa-sampling](http://www.extension.org/pages/31539/varroa-sampling). Varroa treatment thresholds are recommended at 10–12 percent infestation, which equates to around 3,000 mites per colony. I am not discounting other sampling methods like sticky boards; it is just that this is well documented and has easy-to-follow directions.
  - ❖ Early spring and fall (February/March and August), the periods between the nectar flow, have historically been the windows for Varroa treatments. We should certainly sample at these times to know if a treatment is necessary. ApiLife VAR, Apiguard, and formic acid are examples of treatment options. HopGuard and Mite-Away Quick Strips can be used while supers are on. It is incumbent upon us to consider the efficacy of a miticide, its drawbacks, and caveats—how well it kills mites, possible impacts on colony health including queen and brood loss, residue in comb, and super withdrawal times. Follow the directions; it is the law. I certainly do not recommend hard miticides like fluvalinate and coumaphos. Aside from the fact that they don’t work anymore due to resistance, they have been shown to leave residue in comb which can react dangerously with agricultural fungicides.
  - ❖ Consider using cultural and genetic controls. Screen bottom boards give a 15 percent reduction in mites. Drone brood trapping, labor intensive and not practical on a large scale, can significantly reduce mites. Genetic control is even better; through the use of mite-resistant queens like Minnesota hygienic, Russian, and VSH, reductions can be 40–50 percent. As stated above, even with cultural controls and resistant queens, eventually the threshold will be reached and the colony will need treatment.
  - ❖ Prophylactically treat colonies with Terramycin in powdered sugar weekly for three weeks to prevent American foulbrood.
- To learn more about foulbroods I recommend this video: [www.extension.org/pages/25099/university-of-florida-bee-disease-video](http://www.extension.org/pages/25099/university-of-florida-bee-disease-video). I can think of exceptions to this use of Terramycin. For example, colonies with known hygienic behavior, and maybe beekeepers who timely monitor all of their colonies and can readily identify AFB and are not squeamish about burning infected colonies. Terramycin requires at least a four-week withdrawal time between the last antibiotic treatment and the first marketable nectar flow. Tylosin provides up to four weeks of protection with a single treatment, but it is much more persistent and requires a longer withdrawal period before supering. There is a growing problem with Tylosin being detected in US honey.
- ❖ Look for signs of Nosema. Symptoms include slow buildup, lots of fecal matter on the outside of the colony near entrances, disjointed wings (K wing), and crawling bees outside of the colony. These symptoms may also be associated with tracheal mites (K wing and crawling bees). Make sure that suspect colonies have good ventilation and are in full sunlight to encourage cleansing flights. Treat with Fumagilin-B in syrup (follow the directions exactly; overdosing does not help).
  - ❖ I mentioned above the symptoms of tracheal mites—K wing and crawling bees. Near-perfect control for tracheal mites can be achieved through resistant queens. If your bees are not resistant, then grease patties and menthol can be used.
  - ❖ Find and remove queenless or dead-out colonies. We can usually pinpoint struggling or dead-out colonies by the lack of flight activity. Take an investigative peek into hives that are not keeping up with their peers. For dead outs, determine why the colony perished: queenlessness, starvation, disease? If the frames and hive components are disease free and in good condition (e.g., no Nosema spore fecal matter covering everything, no AFB scale in the brood cells, brood frames are less than five years of age and don’t have hard chemical residues, etc.), then store for future use in a dry location and stack so that light can penetrate and air can circulate to discourage wax moths and mold, respectively. These disease-free, dead-out boxes can be added to strong colonies in the spring for future splits.
  - ❖ Some beekeepers like to stimulate their colonies in the spring through feeding to increase the rate of buildup—either to make splits or to have colonies ready for the main nectar flow, which generally begins in earnest by late May. To stimulate your colonies, begin feeding sugar syrup and pollen patties when daily highs exceed 55°F.
  - ❖ Wax moth activity dramatically picks up with increased temperatures. Keep an extra eye on stored supers (especially in stacks) that have had some brood and pollen. Moth crystals (paradichlorobenzene) as well as freezing the frames can be used for control. Exposing the frames to light and air circulation can inhibit the moths, too.
  - ❖ Spring usually brings some of the windiest weather, so make sure lids are secured.

**Adapted from:** March 2012 issue of *The Bee Line*.





**ANNUAL LOSS SURVEY**

*Dewey M. Caron*

Ramesh and I have sought to document the level of annual losses. In 2012 spring for example, Oregon commercial beekeepers, managing a total of 55,562 colonies, lost 7,093 colonies from October to March, a 12.77 percent loss rate. In 2013, our sampling of the Oregon commercial and semi-commercial beekeepers (more than 300 colonies) reported losses of 9,607 colonies (of 50,392 entering the winter) for a 19.1 percent loss rate. These heavy losses, although lower than the BIP national loss rate for both years (22 and 30.6 percent, respectively) point to the need for considerable efforts to replace lost colonies.

Larger-scale beekeepers have consistently had lower annual losses than backyarders. In 2013, for example, 156 smaller-scale beekeepers reported

losing 298 of 723 colonies overwinter, a 41.2 percent loss rate. The success rate among backyarders was 33 percent (i.e., 51 surveyed individuals had no overwinter losses). In the previous year, 2012, 106 surveyed individuals lost 193 colonies of 513 entering the fall, a 37.6 percent loss rate but the success rate was higher (43 individuals—40.5 percent—reported no lost colonies).

Ramesh and I are seeking your cooperation again this spring with the loss survey. Larger-scale beekeepers will be mailed a single-page survey this month, and we ask that you kindly fill it out within a month if at all possible and send it back in the postage-paid envelope. I will survey smaller-scale beekeepers through Lane County and Willamette Valley newsletter sites and in-person surveys at association bee meetings. We appreciate past involvement and ask that you help us make this information available once again this spring.

Our Oregon survey should not interfere with the great response of Oregon beekeepers to the national BIP survey. The survey is electronic and this year will be available during the entire month of April (as last year). You can sign up for a reminder by visiting: [www.beeinformed.org](http://www.beeinformed.org). Look for the “Boots on the Ground” article and recent compilations of data on overwintering management, small hive beetle, mite control, and other useful information.

Last year, 194 Oregon beekeepers did fill out the national survey (managing 37,938 colonies) and they reported a loss rate of 26.5±2.2 percent colonies overwinter and for the entire season (a new feature of our report to be published in *Journal of Apicultural Research* this month) an annual loss of 36.45±2.2 percent (combined winter and summer losses).

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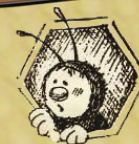
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**Board Meeting Minutes—Continued from page 2**

**Endowment Report**

Endowment Committee Chair Kenny Williams reports that he has been in touch with Oregon State University regarding calling a first meeting of the Review Committee that is defined in the Endowment Agreement the OSBA created with OSU. The agreement calls for a Review Committee, consisting of three OSU faculty members and three OSBA members, to meet for the purpose of guiding dispersals of monies from the Endowment Fund. The three OSBA committee members are: Kenny Williams, Jason Rowan, and George Hansen. The Committee will meet in order to approve a dispersal of funds to Dr. Sagili's apiculture program.

It is really important that OSBA stay connected to OSU. When Dr Sagili was originally hired, it was for a temporary two-year position. With lobby effort by OSBA, Dr Sagili's salary is part of the OSU budget, and it could be removed.

It was also pointed out that OSBA gives additional support each year separate from the Endowment. This is important because it reinforces our connection with OSU and shows that OSBA intends to continue supporting the honey bee research. This additional support is in the form of money, equipment, and honey bees.

**Oregon Master Beekeeper Program Report**

Carolyn Breece was unable to attend, but asked Paul Andersen to read an update into the minutes.

The Oregon Master Beekeeper Program is busy preparing for its third class of Apprentice students. The class of 2014 has about 180 students from all over the state. Students are eager to learn about beekeeping, and we thank the volunteer instructors and mentors for their time teaching the new students. The Journey level has about 60 students to date, who are busy earning service points and learning advanced topics in beekeeping. The planning committee will begin developing the Master level this year.

**Tech Transfer Team**

Paul Andersen read the following into the minutes. The tech transfer team is going to be supported by PAM (Project Apis m) and also by the Bee Informed grant. We are looking into some funding from others as well, which will determine how many employees we have and how much they can accomplish. There will be more information after the upcoming meeting.

**Legislative Activities**

On November 21, 2013, the Oregon House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Bee Health and Pesticide Use adjourned and listened to several speakers. These speakers included: Katy Coba – ODA, Paul Jepson – OSU, State IPM Coordinator, Scott Black – Executive Director Xerces Society, Carson Lord – Nurseryman, Scott

Dahlman – Oregonians for Food & Shelter, Alan Turanski – Vice President GloryBee Foods. Also speaking was Harry Vanderpool from OSBA. Also attending from OSBA were Mike Rodia and Fred VanNatta.

Harry's emphasis is on enhanced communication and training for growers and beekeepers. We can take the biggest chunk out of bee kills statewide by helping everyone get on the same page. He suggested that at least one session in chemical applicator retraining be related to pollinator protection. He also urged that we need to take the new pesticide manual out of hiding at OSU and get it into the hands of those it was written for.

The legislature has called everyone back for January 8, 2014. Harry Vanderpool will attend and make a report back to OSBA.

**Other Business**

**Fair and Events:** The need for a secure association storage was introduced. OSBA is required to keep original documents and also has a need to keep past tax documents. The current treasurer only needs to keep the current year at her house, and the rest should be stored.

Also the updates we make for exhibits at fairs and festivals need to be stored and kept in one place. This includes boards, banners, cabinets, and demo items. There is a need to have all this in one place to be available to all clubs. In the past, these things tend to get spread out and some have been lost.

Kenny Williams pointed out that we should have historical archives here as well. Rosanna Mattingly has all the back issues of *The Bee Line*. But there is other historical stuff that should be kept here.

Trevor Riches has agreed to assess our needs and locate some storage places that meet our needs and price range. It will be located in the north central Willamette Valley. This will be reported on at the April Meeting.

**Insurance:** Insurance coverage has been increased to \$2 million. The cost is about \$250.00 per year. Will cover all associations. Paul Andersen listed 13 associations under the Certificate of Indemnity.

**2014 Conference Program Ideas:** Dewey Caron is working on presenters for November conference, and they could include: Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Julianna Rangel, Diana Sammataro, or Kim Flottum.

**2015 Conference Venue:** Katherine Hunt is working with Travel Lane County and has looked at Village Greene in Cottage Grove. Florence, Oregon, has also put forth a proposal. The dates Thur-Fri-Sat as opposed to Fri-Sat-Sun were discussed. Discussion seemed to go toward Thur-Fri-Sat. The question came up as to who would vote on this, general membership or do a survey at the conference with the people who would attend.

At this point the conference is just hosted by OSBA. Not combined with other states.

Paul Andersen, Harry Vanderpool, Bunny Cramer-Carter, and Katherine Hunt will meet with Sue Harshbarger to review the Travel Lane County information. Other locations discussed were Oregon Gardens, City of Eugene, and Kenny Williams is checking with Lebanon, Oregon. They are supposed to be developing a convention center and meeting space. Two things to remember when thinking about this location are: Airports and Hotels.

Todd Balsiger suggested diversifying and doing every other year at Seaside and then somewhere else. This would possibly open the conference up to more people.

Todd Balsiger made a motion to adjourn the Executive Board meeting. Tim Wessels seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Bunny Cramer-Carter*

of predatory mite (*Stratiolaelaps scimitus*) as a biological control agent for Varroa mites and testing Amitraz (ApiVar) efficacy and mite resistance.”

**EPA FUNDS IPM PROJECTS**

The US Environmental Protection Agency has announced agricultural grants for almost half a million dollars in funding for three projects with Integrated Pest Management practices to reduce use of potentially harmful pesticides and lower risk to bees while controlling pests and saving money:

The Louisiana State University project to minimize impacts to bees from insecticides used in mosquito control.

The University of Vermont project to reduce pesticide use and improve pest control while increasing crop yields on 75 acres of hops in the Northeast—and develop and distribute outreach materials to help farmers adopt these practices.

The Pennsylvania State University project to protect bees and crops by reducing reliance on neonicotinoid pesticide seed treatments and exploring benefits of growing crops without.

For more information on the EPA's Regional Agricultural IPM Grants: [www.epa.gov/pestwise/grants/regionalagrants.html](http://www.epa.gov/pestwise/grants/regionalagrants.html)

**GRANTS & AWARDS**

**NATIONAL HONEY BOARD & HONEY BEE HEALTH**

The National Honey Board has approved funding for eight new research projects focusing on honey bee health with a total dollar commitment of \$235,646. In addition, the Board's 2014 budget includes \$50,500 for ongoing bee research projects from prior years. Among the projects is that awarded to Ramesh Sagili and Ashrafun Nessa, Oregon State University, "Evaluating potential

**BOLD STEPS AWARD**

GloryBee Foods was awarded the Bold Steps Award by Mayor Piercy at the State of the City Event on January 8, 2014. GloryBee beat out two finalists for the prize: Life Technologies, a global life sciences company and Rainbow Valley Design & Construction, a design/build firm specializing in environmentally friendly new homes, remodels and commercial spaces.

For more information: GloryBee Foods, 541.689.0913

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Central Oregon Bee School for Beginners.** March 1, 9 AM–5 PM (bring sack lunch or purchase) AT Partners in Care, 2075 NE Wyatt Ct., Bend. Cost: \$5 for members; \$25 for non-members (includes one-year family membership); class limited to 50 students. Pre-registration required: email beeschool@cobeekeeping.org or call 541.280.4940; www.cobeekeeping.org.

**Astoria Bee School.** Saturday, March 8, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM (bring sack lunch AT Clatsop Community College, Columbia Hall, Room 219. Cost: \$20 per person; \$30 per family/those coming together. Questions? email ccbees@gmail.com.

**LCBA Bee School.** Saturday, March 8, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM, AT Trinity United Methodist Church, Eugene. Cost: \$40 per person, \$60 for two. To register, contact Ken Ograin.

**MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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**TVBA Bee School.** April 7, 9, and 12. Registration, download: [www.orsba.org](http://www.orsba.org).

**Central Oregon Bee School/Advanced.** April 12, 9 AM–5 PM (bring sack lunch or purchase). Location, cost, and registration details are the same as for the March 1 class (see page 14).

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

**Portland Metro Bee Day.** April 26 AT Foothills Honey, Colton.

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

**Western Treatment-Free Conference.** Medford area. August 2–3.



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

**Do not include any contact information** \_\_\_\_\_

**Share only the following:** mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of local group, if member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership:** \$40 per person (\$50 per person outside the US) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Voluntary contribution(s):**

General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Research Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you!**

*Effective Date: 1/1/2014*

*The Bee Line*

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## ***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 April 2014 issue. The deadline for submitting copy is March 10, 2014.

*Thank you!*

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