



The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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www.orsba.org

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WEBMASTERS: Erin Olmon & Chris Heath
orsbawebmaster@gmail.com

www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org

OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM

A Joint Venture of OSBA and the
Oregon State University Extension Service
info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TECH TRANSFER TEAM

Ellen Topitzhofer

Tech Transfer Teams are part of the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP), which is a five-year Extension grant funded by USDA/NIFA with the goal of reducing honey bee colony mortality. Dan Wyns and I make up the brand new Pacific Northwest Tech Transfer Team based out of Dr. Ramesh Sagili's lab at Oregon State University. We are the fourth Tech Transfer Team to be established. These teams work with commercial beekeepers across the country in an effort to monitor colony health throughout the season. A lot of effort and resources have been put into getting this team off the ground. In addition to the USDA/NIFA grant, we have received funding from Project Apis m. (PAm, <http://projectapism.org>), APHIS, and the Environmental Protection Agency. We also have tremendous support from twenty beekeepers who are partnering with us in the program this year.

As of mid-May, Dan and I have been inspecting hives and taking samples for pest and disease loads for our participating beekeepers in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Our goal is to provide a bridge between beekeepers and researchers in an effort to reduce colony losses each year. Results for disease loads are provided in near real-time (averaging less than five days from receipt at our University of Maryland lab), helping beekeepers make timely and informed management decisions. As of today, we have sampled over 1,500 colonies for Varroa and Nosema. We've also launched a case study on European foulbrood (*Melissococcus plutonius*) and Idiopathic Brood Disease Syndrome (snotty brood). For this study, we've been taking larval and bee bread samples from symptomatic and asymptomatic colonies, and we will be looking for any trends between certain viruses or pesticide exposure.



Sampling bees on radish (upper left, this page) and bees on crimson clover (above).

In addition, we have received funding from the EPA for pesticide residue analysis from pollen collected by colonies in a variety of Pacific Northwest crops. This information will provide an initial step in understanding pesticide exposure during pollination and a better picture of what is being collected and brought back to the colony in relation to what is being applied on target crops. Over the course of a full year, we will collect fresh pollen samples from fifteen pollination crops. We've currently collected pollen from crimson clover, black cap raspberries, meadowfoam, radish, mustard, annual ornamentals, white clover, watermelon, red clover, carrot, and onion.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



By the time you read this summer will be more than half over. The state fair will be coming up quickly; it is one of the events my family and I have always looked forward to attending. I would like to encourage everyone who can make it to stop in and see the OSBA booth in the Jackman Long Building. Trevor Riches, our chair of the events committee, and his team have updated our display so that it is informative and fun for both adults and children. Many of the branch associations will be helping to staff the booth, and information on how to sign up will be on the front page of the OSBA website. Please consider signing up as this is an important educational opportunity for both the public and the beekeepers staffing the booth.

As a beekeeper, you will gain firsthand experience, learning just how much the general public, especially school children, are tuned into the problems of the honey bee. They will ask about the survival rates and the die-offs they keep hearing about in the media in addition to some basic questions about beekeeping and being a beekeeper. It is a real eye opener to see how keenly people are interested in an industry that was not well known to the public ten years ago.

This is also an opportunity for us to help the public better understand the struggles that our industry is experiencing and the efforts our organization is making: supporting research at Oregon State University, educating association members at monthly meetings, local bee schools and the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program.

Public exposure is an important aspect of keeping the OSBA a growing and thriving organization. We are an organization that has credibility with state government, the state legislature, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Our input is solicited when pollinator issues are under discussion or review. We also need to have credibility with the public, and this only happens through exposure at public events and references of our organization in the press. With greater public credibility also comes a greater influence with public officials, the university, and industry. The state fair is the largest single event that gives us incredible exposure; check it out and help staff it if you can.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and take care.

Paul

Tech Team—Continued from page 1

Overall, it's been a whirlwind of great experiences so far. It has been great to be able to interact with our beekeepers and see so many different operations and landscapes. I've been learning so much from working with them. Check out our website to learn more about what we do: <http://beeinformed.org>.

EMERGENCY (TEMPORARY) RULE PROHIBITING THE USE OF DINOTEFURAN AND IMIDACLOPRID ON LINDEN TREES

On June 26, 2014, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) enacted an emergency (temporary) rule prohibiting the use of any product containing the neonicotinoid insecticides dinotefuran or imidacloprid, regardless of application method, on linden trees. The Temporary Administrative Rule will be in effect June 26–December 23, 2014, OAR

603-057-0387. Additional regulatory action may take place before or after the expiration date of the temporary rule.

What Does this Mean to You?

This means that if you have a container label that provides directions for use on linden trees, you can not apply it to linden trees, basswood trees or other *Tilia* species. This rule prohibits the use of dinotefuran or imidacloprid to *Tilia* spp., regardless of application method, including but not limited to: foliar, bark treatment, soil drench, tree or soil injection, bark injection, and basal bark application.

WELCOME, NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS!



Lynn Baker
Steve Green
Ken Peterson
Alden Potter

NRDC: EPA SHOULD BAN BEE-KILLING 'NEONIC' INSECTICIDES

WASHINGTON (July 7, 2014)—The government should move as quickly as possible to ban a major class of insecticides that scientists say is a primary cause of the massive decline of bees and other crucial pollinators, the Natural Resources Defense Council said today.

In an emergency petition filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), NRDC said there is “mounting scientific evidence” that the pesticides, neonicotinoids, or “neonics,” “are toxic to bees and threaten both individual and population survival.” Neonics comprise roughly 25 percent of the global agrochemical market and are the most widely used class of insecticides in the world today.

“The bee situation is dire. Getting rid of these bee-toxic pesticides is one thing we can do right now to stem the decline,” said Jennifer Sass, a senior scientist at NRDC.

Populations of bees, which are critical to the pollination of many food crops, have been in sharp decline worldwide for a decade, a phenomenon known as “colony collapse disorder.” Scientists believe that bees that are exposed to neonics when they visit flowering plants suffer serious behavioral and functional problems that devastate their populations.

The petition asks EPA to launch an immediate one-year review of neonics’ impact on bees, to determine if the pesticides’ use should be prohibited on bee-pollinated crops and ornamental plants—including shrubs and plants sold to consumers as “bee-friendly.”

EPA already acknowledges that a number of the neonic pesticides are “highly toxic” to bees. It says it is currently reviewing neonics and will evaluate their impact on bees in 2019. “This delay cannot be justified,” the NRDC petition says. It asks the agency to begin its review within 30 days.

In the longer term, the petition asks the agency to “initiate cancellation proceedings for all neonicotinoid pesticide products, beginning with those for which safer alternatives are available.” The European Union has already recognized the dangers of neonics and last year imposed a minimum two-year moratorium on certain neonics being used on crops “attractive to bees.”

Unlike traditional pesticides that are applied on a plant’s surface, neonics are “absorbed into the plant tissue, turning a plant into a ‘tiny poison factory’ that emits toxins from its pollen down to its roots,” the petition says. It affects beneficial insects like bees and other pollinators as well as harmful ones. Bees carrying the insecticide-laced pollen and nectar back to their hives and nests can spread the toxins to the whole colony.

If they don’t kill the bees outright, neonics have been shown to suppress the bees’ immunity to diseases, impair their egg-laying, and make them disoriented, hurting their ability to forage and find their way back to the hive, according to the latest research. Neonics’ use has soared in recent years: as of 2011, 3.5 million pounds were applied to 127 million acres of crops, double the amount five years earlier. They are heavily marketed by international chemical giants such as Bayer, Dow, Monsanto and Syngenta.

The plight of bees and other pollinators has raised alarms at the White House. President Obama last month created a Pollinator Health Task Force, headed by EPA and the Agriculture Department, to come up with a National Pollinator Health Strategy, including an assessment of neonics’ impact on bees. The White House noted that the number of U.S. honey bee colonies has plunged over the decades, and that pollinators contribute over \$24 billion in pollination value. The petition can be read at: http://docs.nrdc.org/health/hea_14070701.asp.

FOUR-YEAR SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS: SYSTEMIC PESTICIDES POSE GLOBAL THREAT

The conclusions of a new meta-analysis of the systemic pesticides neonicotinoids and fipronil (neonics) confirm that they are causing significant damage to a wide range of beneficial invertebrate species and are a key factor in the decline of bees.

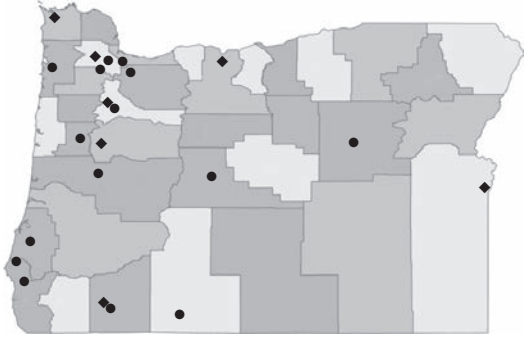
Concern about the impact of systemic pesticides on a variety of beneficial species has been growing for the last 20 years but the science has not been considered conclusive until now. Undertaking a full analysis of all the available literature (800 peer reviewed reports) the Task Force on Systemic Pesticides—a group of global, independent scientists—has found that there is clear evidence of harm sufficient to trigger regulatory action.

The analysis, known as the Worldwide Integrated Assessment (WIA), to be published in the peer reviewed *Journal Environment Science and Pollution Research*, finds that neonics pose a serious risk of harm to honey bees and other pollinators such as butterflies and to a wide range of other invertebrates such as earthworms and vertebrates such as birds. Summary findings are at: www.tfsp.info.

NEW ZEALAND SAYS NO TO NEONICOTINOID

The New Zealand Environmental Protection Agency has refused an application to import Ortus, an insecticide containing thiamethoxam, because of its threat to bees. Among other things, the EPA told the *New Zealand Farmer* magazine, “We are demanding a high level of scientific evidence about the safety and effect of such products before considering them for approval.”

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@nehalemtnet.net

South Coast: Mureen Walker
25055 Pistol River Loop Rd, Gold Beach 97444
541.373.7010; mureen98@gmail.com

Columbia Basin: Bill Edwards
5051 Lost Lake Rd, Hood River 97031
541.354.2223; bfamilylive.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, Message Board, Central Oregon

Branch. For information and meeting details, email:

contact@cobeekeeping.org

Ring Leader: Bindy Beck-Meyer

Bookkeeper: Allen Engle

Website: www.cobeekeeping.org

Coffee Creek Beekeepers

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

John Day River Beekeepers

Meets quarterly

President: Matt Allen

541.934.9101; apricotapiaries@gmail.com

Education Coordinator and Secretary: Liz Lovelock

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: Doug Youngberg

dyoungberg@e-isco.com

Secretary: Cathy Vick

541.884.6274; elliot772@aol.com

Treasurer: Steve Vick

541.884.6274; stevevick@aol.com

Website: www.klamathbeekeepers.org

Lane County Beekeepers

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

President: Katharine Hunt

541.607.0106; keehunt@gmail.com

Vice President: Pam Leavitt—541.344.4228

Secretary: Jodi Wiktorowski

Treasurer: Polly Habliston

Website: www.lcbaor.org

Linn-Benton Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third 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 Wednesday, 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 Rmt 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: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 pm, first Monday, Southern Oregon (6:30 PM hands-on demo at SOBA hives thru bee season) 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

Website: southernoregonbeekeepers.org,

facebook.com/SouthernOregonBeekeepersAssociation

Tillamook County Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, second Tuesday (except December) Fresh Cafe, 9120 5th Street, Bay City

President: Bob Allen—503.322.3819

Vice President: Jim Fanjoy

503.637.5522 ; jim@fanjoy.com

Secretary: Jeffrey Hall

503.739.0893; jlh434@mac.com

Treasurer: Stan Scotton

503.232.4945; 4scotton@gmail.com

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 Cramer-Carter

503.703.8546; dbcramer@hotmail.com

Secretary: *In transition*

Treasurer: Patricia Swenson—pkswenson@gmail.com

**HEITKAMS'
HONEY
BEES**

PAT, RUSSELL & CRAIG HEITKAM
4700 FIRST AVENUE • ORLAND, CA 95963
Bus. 530-865-9562 • FAX 530-865-7839
Email: heitkamsbees@hughes.net



Queens, Bees, Honey & Pollination

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives

South Coast

Jane and Shigeo Oku of Coos County beekeepers report that the Russian bees from Old Sol that they donated to their apiary in Myrtle Point have “exploded.” They have split it twice, and it has swarmed as well. Jane says, “They are very calm bees, even when splitting them they don’t get aggressive. We hope they will out produce our other bees...” As to swarms at their own place, they say, “In a single week, we had two swarms move into empty hives and one moved into our bee tree.”

Carla Fletcher, president of Oregon South Coast beekeepers, drove north more than a hundred miles to pick up a UPS shipment of queens especially developed by Mark Adams of Washington of NorthWest Queens for treatment-free survival. She reports that she distributed the queens through three counties on her way home, on July 10, in Douglas, Coos, and Curry counties. The UPS boxes used for shipment of queens is excellent, with double screen at both ends for good ventilation and assurance of no possibility of any stings, a little sponge of water, and some hard candy on the floor beyond the central support for eight queen cages.

The club has been preparing for a booth in Artisan Hall at the Curry County Fair, July 24–27.

Carla handed out coriander honey sticks at the meeting, and some commented that they liked it better than some of the other dark honeys that she had offered for sampling before, like the carrot and the buckwheat.

Carla has an idea for drone pooling among club members. Participants will bring in a drone board with brood to a club meeting and exchange it for the same from another member. She says that in her area, the mating with feral, the dark bees, some even totally black, which she has proved by showing specimen at a club meeting, is causing domestic bees to get really in-your-face “hot” and could use some competition, a good drone pool.

I caught a swarm from the swarm that got in early April, but when I let them fly, they returned to the apple tree above and I caught them again. I should have used Carla’s method of making sure the queen can’t leave by placing a queen excluder on top of the bottom board. When I returned the next day, they had swarmed. Being up the ladder in that tree with that swarm was a treat with the aroma of the ripening yellow transparent apples and the sweet pheromones of the swarm. —Mureen Walker

Southern Oregon

It’s been a busy summer so far for bee lovers in southern Oregon. Talent is in line to become the second “Bee City USA” in the country after the Talent City Council approved a resolution in early July that adopts the title and national guidelines. Additional steps to gain the designation as a “Bee City” include establishment of a pollinator subcommittee, installation of a Bee City USA street sign, posting pollinator information on the city website, annual celebration of National Pollinator Week, and yearly renewal of the designation. The bee lovers behind the designation are creating many projects focused on education and bee habitat to keep Talent’s bees and people happy and healthy.

There is even more good news in local policy. As of mid-July, the Medford City Council has voted to move forward on amending the current city code that bans beekeeping in city limits. Beekeeping advocates are proposing the adoption of Ashland’s “beekeeper and neighbor friendly” ordinance. An initiative is in the works and will quickly move to the public hearing phase. To view the current Ashland ordinance, visit: www.ashland.or.us/beekeeping.

Our July meeting featured local beekeeper David Curtis, who outlined his “Upper Rouge Pollinator Project.” He hopes to pull members of the community together to create an oasis of sainfoin in southern Oregon for bees and other pollinators. Curtis said, “Sainfoin is well documented to meet many of the world needs in regard to resisting climate change: assisting soil and water conservation, nitrogen fixing, reducing methane and nitrates, increased animal yields, food for birds, and many more positive effects on our environment.” He added, “It is a major source of nectar and pollen for pollinators.”

The Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association is also hosting its first ever Intermediate Bee School. Lincoln Metter, a long-time beekeeper and educator from Washington, will be the speaker. The day (August 16, from 9 AM to 4 PM) will feature presentations and hands-on demonstrations for the intermediate and the seasoned veteran (beginners also welcome!). Please visit our website for more information on this course, and other news and events: www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org. —Sarah Red-Laird

North Willamette Valley

The end of the honey flow will be earlier this year. Expect a long, protracted dearth and hope for late summer rains.

Supers should be removed earlier this year and/or expect to feed more. I personally feed in June and July for late start ups and stragglers to avoid feeding during crazy times (robbing season).

If you want your hives to survive this winter—I'm thinking of the Portland beekeeping group which sustained 50 percent plus losses last winter—apply an effective mite treatment in early August and make sure your bees go into winter fat and heavy. That plus healthy queens and avoiding pesticide sprays should dramatically increase winter survival rates.

—Todd Balsiger

Regional Associations

Coffee Creek Beekeepers

The three Coffee Creek hives are keeping our beekeepers busy! *Mizzbeehavin*, true to her name, is building swarm cells. Resources are abundant in this apiary, so the bees are pretty flush. *Newbeeginnings* is setting a better example. It is making progress with lots of busy and healthy adult bees, capped brood, and larvae—and food stores.

Beelieve is another story entirely: because the bees have been persistently defensive since they were installed, the beekeepers agreed that the hive needed to be requeened. Bruce did the honors, and when he returned to the colony later to put the new queen in, he paid the price! He has probably satisfied his sting quota for the year.

Bunny and Ann continue to teach classes. We hope that participants will soon be able to start taking their written tests for certification. Despite having to manage a full range of beekeeper problems from swarminess to defensiveness, the participants remain enthusiastic.

—Karessa

John Day River Beekeepers

A group of twelve of us got together for an afternoon field day in Kimberly on Saturday, May 10. We were pleased to have such a turn out given the morning rain showers and the distance some people drove. At the first sign of sun, we grabbed our bee gear and started lighting smokers. The sun stayed out long enough to do group inspections on multiple hives. We saw demonstrations on mite sampling, queen marking, and making an egg nuc. Much information was also shared through discussion sparked by various questions.

May was our fourth meeting. Our first meeting was in August 2013 in Kimberly. We also met in Dayville in November 2013 and John Day in January 2014.

We are excited to be joining the Oregon State Beekeepers Association as a regional association. We would like to thank our club OSBA members for helping make this possible (Andy, David, Liz, Matt, Ron, Will).

Matt Allen has volunteered to serve as club president and represent the John Day River beekeepers at OSBA meetings. Liz Lovelock has volunteered to serve as secretary and education coordinator, assisting with club communications

and scheduling meetings and educational events.

We are hoping for multiple future events later this year, which could include bringing observation hives to the farmers' market, and the county fair and a club honey festival in the fall.

—Liz Lovelock

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

The June meeting of the Klamath Basin Beekeepers was a combination informational meeting and field day. Robert Clements, KBBA member and amateur beekeeper, led a lively discussion about the “varmits” that may affect beekeeping. Everything from ants and hornets to skunks and bears was mentioned. Skunks are especially troublesome here in the Klamath Basin, and many members offered suggestions. A skunk board with staples very close together, pointed end up, is an especially effective deterrent. Raising the height of hives on bricks, blocks, or rails also helps. Diatomaceous earth or cinnamon around the base discourages small ants. For bears, electric fencing was a recommendation.

Newer members then spent time at the several beehives that are located on the premises of the Klamath Basin Learning and Education Center/OSU Extension Service Agricultural Experiment Station. Members were tasked with evaluating each hive and recommending next steps. Colonies were checked for health, parasites, available stores, and pollen and nectar gathering. Treatment, feeding, or addition of supers were among the recommendations. For newer beekeepers, working with club mentors, practicing handling a smoker, and working with the bees in each colony provides valuable experience that each member can take home and use in his/her own bee yard. Each member of the group contributes ideas and tips, providing a growth of knowledge and practice in beekeeping, contributing to a better beekeeping experience. As Klamath Basin beekeepers move into the height of summer, monitoring of hives and addition of supers becomes the task at hand. With local crops growing, clover blooming, and other summer nectar sources available, a strong harvest can be anticipated.

—Cathy Vick

Lane County Beekeepers

Unbeknownst to the club earlier on June 17, the day of our monthly meeting and the second day of Pollinator Week, there had been a massive kill of bumblebees, bees, and other pollinators in Eugene due to the misuse of an insecticide. The death increases the attention to pollinators and problems created by the use of insecticides. Since then, there have been a number of letters to the editor and other articles about this disastrous accident in *The Register Guard*. The topic presented by our vice president, Pam Leavitt, that evening was “Honey Bee Pests, Pathogens and Diseases.” Her presentation may be found at: www.lcbaor.org.

org/Reference.htm. We also viewed a set of slides showing different local crops which are pollinated by bees and other pollinators. This was supplied by Dewey Caron.

As mentioned in last month's report, LCBA Field Day was held on Saturday, June 14. A lot of volunteers helped to make this happen. First of all, Jason Rowan, who lives near Creswell, welcomed us to his apiary where he had a number of hives ready for us to examine. Morris Ostrofsky, Kenny and Heike Williams, Judy Scher, Max Kuhn, and Paul Johnson got suited up and then took groups of 5–10 people through the hives, as well as discussions of equipment and how to do a sugar roll and other methods of checking hives for mites. Afterwards we shared a delicious potluck lunch under a beautiful old (800 years we think) oak tree which spread out above us. Photos of this gathering can be viewed at: www.lcbaor.org/fieldday.htm.

July 11 saw the sun hidden by clouds for the opening day of the 45th Annual Oregon Country Fair. So, though it was muggy, it was not unbearable for Anita and Arthur Jones' bees which were on display at the Wild Edibles booth in the Community Village area of this great fair. Secretary Jodi Wiktorowski organized the club volunteers this year. People who visited the bees had a treat in store as they were able to watch as bees emerged from their cells.

—Katharine Hunt

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Our July meeting opened with announcements by our president, Joe Maresh. He asked for volunteers at our booth at the state fair for shifts on Friday, August 29, and the Clackamas County Fair for shifts on Tuesday, August 12.

We will not have a regular meeting in August. Instead, there will be a potluck picnic at Max Patterson Park in Gladstone on Sunday, August 10, beginning at 11:00 AM. Music will start at 12:30 PM. Should be a fun gathering!!

Our featured speaker for July discussed the allergic reaction to bee stings. She explained the difference between a localized reaction and a systemic reaction and what symptoms to look for. Prevention is key. If bees are highly active and you have been stung, move away from the area in a calm manner to minimize the number of stings. Monitor the person stung for symptoms ranging from localized redness, hives, and possible breathing issues. If you suspect an anaphylactic reaction, take the person to the hospital or call 911. It can be dangerous to use an EpiPen without knowing the person's medical history.

We also had roundtable discussions on removing supers for honey and honeycomb production, including cut honeycomb and the use of Ross rounds. During our break, we had a hands-on presentation of mites and what to look

for. The club also passed out jars with screened lids to all attendees to test for mites using the sugar roll method. Our next meeting will be held on September 11 at 7:00 PM. We will feature discussions on feeding, fall forage, and winterizing hives.

—Patty Anderson

Portland Urban Beekeepers

As the nectar flow begins to wind down, some Portland Urban beekeepers are still busy chasing swarms, some are sorting frames and constructing supers, some are harvesting their golden honey treasure, and some are just sitting back and enjoying the “Zen” of being a beekeeper. Luckily, apiaries in the urban area are less impacted by the nectar ebb and flow, so the coming dearth is less of a concern. However, those in the foothills are beginning to plan for the late-summer lack of food diversity.

As some predicted, the use of pesticides hit some PUB member apiaries hard this year, but so far there have been no massive kills in the urban area like last year's linden tree mis-application in Wilsonville. The media still loves the story and these events still receive a great deal of attention. Dewey Caron, one of our featured speakers at the July PUB meeting, talked at length about one of the sudden bee death cases. While it looked early on to be a pesticide kill, the mounting evidence suggests that it may have actually been a combination of factors or just plain starvation. In this case study, Dewey explained how susceptible apiaries in the foothills are to a lack of biodiverse food sources.

The other speaker at July's meeting was Bill Catherall (PUB vice president), who made a presentation on foundationless Langstroth beekeeping. Our final speaker for the meeting was Janet Shea (PUB secretary), who was selected to be our member spotlight for the month. The member spotlight is one of our new meeting items where one member makes a short presentation about themselves, including their hobbies and interests, where they live, how they got into beekeeping, and what they like most/least about beekeeping. This is an opportunity to get to know each other a little better as our monthly member meetings are often so packed with agenda items that the chance to network becomes challenging.

We will be hosting the OSBA bee table all day on Sunday, August 24, at the Oregon State Fair in Salem. Our annual membership drive and vote for our new proposed constitution is currently underway. Plans are being made for a pollinator-friendly plant swap coming up in September. Our education committee has gotten off to a great start hosting several tabling and education events this summer and making plans for a two-day beekeeping 101 training coming up this winter.

—Michael Carlson

KEEPING BEES IN AUGUST

Kenny Williams

What we do for a colony of bees in August (and July, too, for that matter) can greatly increase the chances of that colony surviving the coming winter and emerging the next spring as a healthy and vigorous colony of bees. In fact, many beekeepers consider August as the beginning of Fall. In August, the honey flow is largely over and done in western Oregon, and many earlier sources of nectar are drying up. In parts of eastern Oregon, or where bees are kept near a cultivated, irrigated crop, these remarks may apply several weeks later.

- ❖ Honey supers should be removed and the hive configured for winter, usually in two brood chambers.
- ❖ Be sure to guard against robbing, which is easily started when there is no nectar flow and difficult to stop once started. Such guarding can be done by covering exposed boxes of comb with a screen lid or a wet, heavy cloth, such as burlap. Try to work the hive quickly, and doing so in the cool of the morning will also help. Another reason to guard against robbing is to prevent the spread of American foulbrood.
- ❖ After the honey supers are removed, if a colony feels light, think about how you might feed that colony, either with frames of honey or with sugar syrup, so that it will have 40–60 pounds of stored feed by October 1.
- ❖ In hot weather and during prolonged dry periods, be

sure to make water available to colonies that may not have a natural source nearby. Bees use water to metabolize food and to maintain the proper colony temperature and relative humidity.

- ❖ Identify any colony that is weak, and determine why it is weak. Often this is due to being queenless, having a poor queen, or suffering from a brood disease such as American foulbrood.
- ❖ It is not too late to requeen, and this may be done by replacing five empty frames with five frames from a queenright, five-frame nucleus, previously established in anticipation of such a need. Also, several queen breeders who advertise in the *American Bee Journal* offer queens later into the summer and in small quantities. A weaker colony that you have boosted or requeened may also need an entrance reducer or mouse guard to help it defend against robbing honey bees or yellow jackets while it recovers. Another option for helping a weak colony is to combine it with a stronger colony and store any leftover comb indoors, to be restocked the following spring by dividing a strong colony or purchasing a package. On the subject of yellow jackets, it is my opinion that hives which succumb to this nuisance were weak to begin with, owing to one of the causes listed above; strong, healthy, queenright colonies can repel invaders or may need nothing more than an entrance reducer.
- ❖ August is also the time to monitor and treat for the Varroa mite. This wider topic has probably been covered



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Sept 18	Kyra Jean Williams Farm to College Fall 'Festival' with dinner on the Oval (evening)
Sept 18-19	Main Conference Presentations & Trade Show
Sept 19	Banquet
Sept 20	Workshops - Candle Making to Queen Breeding (a.m.)
Sept 20	UM Color Run for the Fun and Exercise (a.m.)
Sept 20	Missoula Honey Harvest Festival on the UM Oval with additional opportunities (p.m.)

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at a meeting of your local bee association or at a bee school you may have attended in the spring. Whatever material you choose to use, be sure it is approved for use in a beehive, and follow the instructions on the label. Tracheal mites may be treated with grease patties.

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

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

From: *The Bee Line*, August 2012.

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Without Chemicals

Lynn Royce

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

STATE FAIR HONEY SHOW AND VOLUNTEER REQUEST

Dewey Caron

How much surplus honey have your bees stored this year? Our active storage season is over for most Oregon beekeepers—the rest of the season bees collect only enough to keep going. Some beekeepers report a decent season and harvest—others have yet to take surplus or find colonies without much to share.

Once you harvest why not consider exhibiting your honey in the State Fair Honey Show (better hurry as registration deadline online is August 7) and of course plan to bring it to the OSBA Seaside annual meeting (entries due first day of conference November 7). Could your honey win a top prize in both—win the Daily Double?? Think of the bragging rights!!!

The State Fair Honey Show has been extensively revamped this year. Honey and Products of the Bee Hive is now a separate division of the Fair. We have been able to get the judging standards and the entry categories modernized. See the State Fair Exhibitor handbook for details (www.oregonstatefair.org)—download an entire booklet with details on the Honey Show. There will be 4 divisions of Beekeeping photographs (3 classes), Beeswax (4 classes), Extracted Honey (3 color classes - 3 pint or pound jars per entry), and a class of other Honey (5 classes comb/cut-comb/chunk/creamed/extracting frame). There is no entry fee. Ribbons (1st, 2nd & 3rd) for each class. Two entry levels—A. Youth (17 and under) and B. Oregon

adult beekeeper. Entries must be entered online by August 7. Honey Show entries can be delivered to select Sleep Country USA stores in Medford, Bend, Eugene, and three Portland-area stores (see website for which stores and for entry time window—otherwise, bring them to the Salem Fairgrounds, Jackman Long Building, Saturday, August 9 (NOON to 8 PM) or Sunday, August 10 (NOON to 8 PM). Judging will be Saturday, August 16, the weekend before the fair opens.

Fair Display Volunteer: Entering honey is a good way to educate yourself and the general public about bees. I also encourage you to give back to the general public some of what you know about honey bees by volunteering to assist with the Fair Bee Display. We have an expanded booth this year, complete with an “apiary,” a children’s activity area (with some neat activities for them to learn about bees and beekeeping), and, of course, live bees (in Ulster observation hive). This year several local associations have signed up to secure volunteers for Association BEE Day at the state fair—LCBA (Saturday, August 23), PUB (Sunday, August 24), WVBA (Monday, August 25), LBBA (Wednesday, August 27), TVBA (Thursday, August 28), Portland Metro (Friday, August 29), and Tillamook (Sunday, August 31). We plan three shifts of 10 AM to 2 PM, 2 to 6 PM and 6 PM to close of up to four volunteers per shift.

The state association website (www.orsba.org) is open for volunteer sign up. We need individual names, cell numbers, and addresses for EACH OSBA volunteer so we can send free entry and parking tickets (a \$13 value). To sign up go directly to the volunteer sign up form at: <http://orsba.org/htdocs/statefairvolunteer.php>.

If any volunteer is interested but unable to be at the fair on their club date, please contact Trevor Riches directly at: osbastatefair@gmail.com, so we can help you get signed up. After August 1, we will welcome any volunteer to fill any available slots, even on a date for a club of which you might not be a member.

Seaside Conference: The Annual OSBA meeting will be November 6–8 at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. In addition to the honey show, we will show prize-winning movie “More than Honey” at our Thursday night social. Honey Show entries will be taken until 10 AM on Friday, November 7, with winners announced at the end of the day. The full program Friday and Saturday features Kim Flottum, editor of *Bee Culture Magazine*, Dennis vanEngelsdorp of Maryland, and Marla Spivak of Minnesota, plus Oregon beekeepers George Hansen, Judy Scher, John Jacob, and Lynn Royce, and the students and bee specialists of Oregon State University and

Washington State University. Mark your calendars now. More information and meeting registration form will be posted in August on the OSBA website (www.orsba.org) and will be included in next month’s *Bee Line*.

PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

Congressional house bill 4790 has been referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure committee for consideration. The short title is the *Highways Bettering the Economy and Environment Pollinator Protection Act*.

This bill is: To amend title 23, United States Code, to encourage and facilitate efforts by States and other transportation rights-of-way managers to adopt integrated vegetation management practices, including enhancing plantings of native forbs and grasses that provide habitats and forage for Monarch butterflies and other native pollinators and honey bees, and for other purposes. Text of the bill can be read at: <https://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/4790/text>.

Such actions would greatly improve forage for pollinators if enacted. Peter Fazio from Oregon is on the committee. He serves Benton, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Josephine, Lane and Linn counties. Also on the committee is Rick Larsen, Washington 2nd district, serving Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Island, and San Juan counties. Comments can be sent to congressional representatives.

HONEY BEE HEALTH COALITION

The Keystone Center has announced the formation of a new Honey Bee Health Coalition. Recognizing that declines in honey bee and pollinator health have put agriculture, healthy ecosystems, and worldwide food security at risk, this diverse coalition was formed to promote collaborative solutions.

Ed Spevak of the Saint Louis Zoo’s WildCare Institute Center for Native Pollinator Conservation and the Zoo’s Curator of Invertebrates notes that it brings together beekeepers, growers, researchers, government agencies, agribusinesses, conservation groups, manufacturers and consumer brands, and other key

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partners in the U.S. and Canada to improve the health of honey bees and other pollinators, ecosystems, and the security of our food supply. The idea for the Coalition first took shape as part of a Clinton Global Initiative Commitment in 2013. Coalition members currently include the Agricultural Retailers

Association, the Almond Board of California, the American Beekeeping Federation, the American Honey Producers Association, the American Seed Trade Association, Bayer CropScience, Browning Honey Company, the Canadian Honey Council, and numerous other groups and organizations.

NATIONAL HONEY BOARD PROPOSALS

The National Honey Board has issued a call for research proposals to study how to increase U.S. honey production, with a focus on finding possible strategies and action steps to proactively address ways of increasing U.S. honey production. The deadline for proposals is October 15, 2014. Proposals will be reviewed and considered for funding in the Board's calendar year 2015 budget. The request for proposals is at: www.honey.com/images/uploads/general/Honey_Production_RFP.pdf.



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Presidential Memorandum—Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators

Pollinators contribute substantially to the economy of the United States and are vital to keeping fruits, nuts, and vegetables in our diets. Honey bee pollination alone adds more than \$15 billion in value to agricultural crops each year in the United States. Over the past few decades, there has been a significant loss of pollinators, including honey bees, native bees, birds, bats, and butterflies, from

the environment. The problem is serious and requires immediate attention to ensure the sustainability of our food production systems, avoid additional economic impact on the agricultural sector, and protect the health of the environment.

The full text of the memorandum is posted at: www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/20/presidential-memorandum-creating-federal-strategy-promote-health-honey-b.

LABELING PLANTS


Less than a week after the White House announced a new task force to better protect our pollinating species, the Center for Food Safety announced that Home Depot and BJ's Wholesale Club are taking steps to better protect pollinators like bees. After hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens contacted Home Depot, the company announced plans to label plants pretreated with neonicotinoid pesticides and begin to offer customers alternative products.

Recipe for Summer

(1) Locate ingredients. (2) Mix well. (3) Enjoy!



Fred VanNatta




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UPCOMING EVENTS

July 28–August 1: Eastern Apiculture Society Conference. Visit: www.easternapiculture.com/conferences/eas-2014.html.

August 2–3: Western Treatment-Free Conference. Visit: www.blisshoneybees.org/2014conference.html.

August: Classes available from Bee Girl. For information or to register, visit: www.beegirl.org.

August 23–September 1: Oregon State Fair. Salem.

September 17–20: Western Apiculture Society Conference. For information, visit: ucanr.edu/sites/was2/Conference_Information/Conference_Details/.

November 6–8: OSBA Fall Conference. Seaside.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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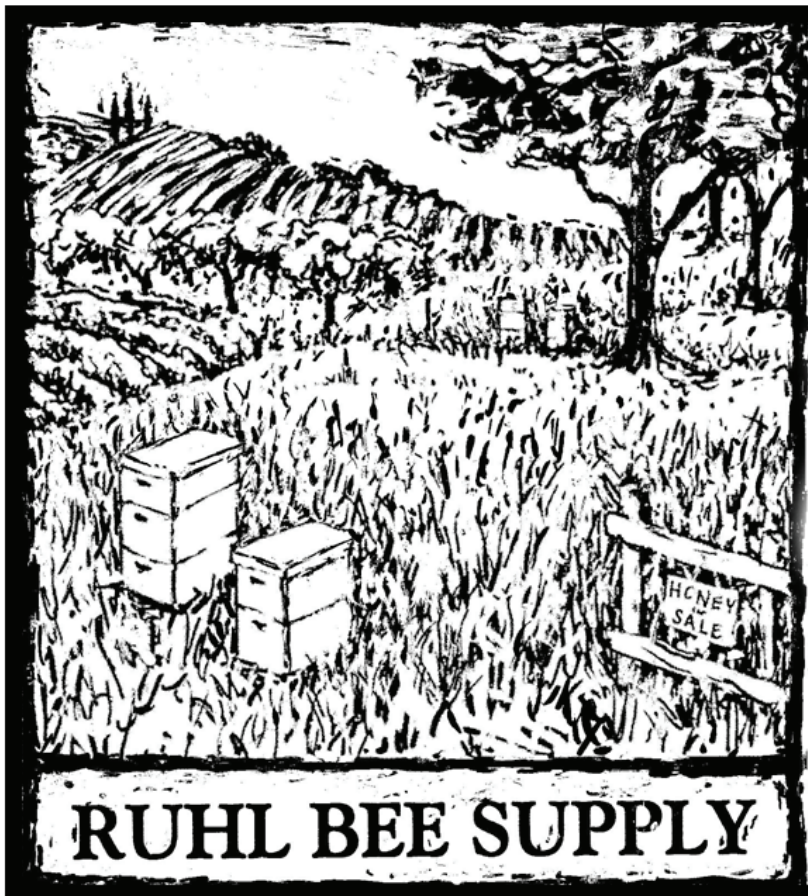
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Oregon State Beekeepers Association Membership Form

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: _____ **Date:** _____

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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. It’s your newsletter—we want to hear from you!

The next issue to be printed will be the September 2014 issue. The deadline for submitting copy is August 10, 2014. Please let me know if difficulties and otherwise honor this.

Thank you!

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Per Issue

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