OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY HONEY BEE LAB
2013–2014 Research Summary
Ramesh Sagili

Evaluating Apivar Efficacy and Varroa Mite Resistance to Apivar
Amitraz (Apivar) was recently approved under FIFRA Section 3 registrations for use in honey bee colonies to control Varroa. Each Apivar plastic strip contains 3.33% of active ingredient (amitraz). This product is now available in the US and a majority of US beekeepers started using this product in spring 2013. Varroa mite resistance to amitraz has been reported in various regions of the world where this product has been used extensively. For the past few years, many beekeepers in the US have used an unregistered formulation of amitraz to control Varroa populations in the absence of an effective synthetic mite-control product. Currently we do not know if the indiscriminate use of amitraz (unregistered) for past few years, in terms of dose and method of application, has generated mite resistance toward this chemical. Hence, in this study we are evaluating efficacy of amitraz (Apivar) and Varroa mite resistance to Apivar.

Preliminary results from our amitraz (Apivar) efficacy trial conducted during August–September 2013 suggest that percent control obtained by Apivar was 86%, which is significantly lower than the control (95–99%) reported in other studies from Canada and Europe, and also by the product manufacturer. In some of the experimental colonies that received Apivar treatment, we observed a significant number of mites on bees during visual inspections and also a significant number of bees with deformed wing virus after the recommended 42-day minimum treatment period. Mite drops measured on mite boards appeared to be gradual. These results suggest that mite populations in some colonies may have developed resistance to amitraz. It is very important for beekeepers to know the efficacy of this new product and any existing mite-resistance problems for successful Varroa mite management, as this is currently the only available synthetic miticide presumed to be effective, and a large number of beekeepers are relying on this new formulation for Varroa mite management.

Image above: Carolyn Breece (right) auctioneers a George Hansen encaustic painting, held by Pat Heitkam, at the 2014 fall conference. With an attendance of over 200, the research funds raised included those from the banquet auction, $14,050; silent auction, $1,215; and quilt raffle, $940. Thanks to all who attended, presented, participated, donated, and shared in ongoing learning about the bees!

Figure 1. Percentage of mites (alcohol wash method) recorded 6 weeks after initiation of Apivar treatment.
Figure 2. Mite drop counts (sticky board) in experimental colonies 8 weeks after initiation of Apivar treatment.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I can’t believe 2014 is over, the year just disappeared. Our annual membership meeting and officer election is held at the conference, and for 2015 we re-elected Paul Andersen as president and Bunny Cramer-Carter as secretary. The membership elected two new officers, Harry Vanderpool as our vice president and Jeff Milligan as our treasurer. Please join me in welcoming them aboard! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing officers Lynn Royce and Dewey Caron for their service to the OSBA. We appreciate the time and effort put in to make the OSBA operate and function by these volunteers.

In any organization there are a few exceptional people who willingly share their knowledge and give their time and talent with a passion whose only reward is to see the organization grow and become better. We recognize this passion for bees and beekeeping in a few members by honoring them as “Life Members.” This year at the November meeting we voted to add Rosanna Mattingly to this list in honor of her years of service and commitment to beekeeping. Rosanna rightfully joins a group of exceptional contributors who have helped make the OSBA what it is today, an important and influential association in Oregon that is recognized beyond our state borders as an extraordinary beekeeping organization. Currently this group includes Michael Burgett, Marjie Ehry, George Hansen, Lynn Royce, Phyllis Shoemake, Chuck Sowers, and Fred VanNatta. Those contributors no longer with us: Anita Alexander (2013), Lu Alexander (1996), Orval Bassett (2000), Alan Ehry (2013), Herman Larson (2002), Oliver Petty (2014), and Morris Smith (1998). Have a good 2015!

Paul

THANK YOU, GLORYBEE!

It was much to the surprise of the OSBA Conference Steering Committee to receive the challenge from Alan and Dick Turanski on behalf of GloryBee to match the proceeds of the Friday evening fundraising auction up to $12,500! This was a real incentive for the participants to bid up the auction items for research. We ended up beating that number, and Dr. Ramesh Sagili’s Honey Bee Lab will have an extra bonus this year, thanks to GloryBee! This will definitely help with the ongoing research at Oregon State University. The members of OSBA thank the Turanski’s for their generosity. We appreciate the support of GloryBee in our efforts to aid research at OSU!

Paul Andersen

WELCOME BACK, HARRY! WELCOME, JEFF!

Harry Vanderpool is a commercial beekeeper based in the south Salem hills for 24 years. His bees pollinate crops beginning in February in almonds until August in seed crops. His daughter, Suzannah Kruse, manages the honey packing side of their operation, selling Farm Direct Honey throughout the valley. Harry previously served as OSBA vice president for three years alongside Kenny Williams as president. He has served as vice president and president of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association as well as director of the WVBA annual Bee School for many years. Harry continues as chair of the OSBA Agricultural Liaison Committee, comprised of beekeepers who interact in a balanced approach with a wide array of agriculture interests. He welcomes your calls and e-mails with any beekeeping concerns.

Jeff Milligan was elected as the new OSBA treasurer at the 2014 fall conference. He has worked much of his professional career staffing public and private executive boards and commissions doing administrative, policy development, and fiscal management related work. He has strong computer skills as well as experience using QuickBooks. Jeff has been president of his own management consulting and digital video production business since 1994. He has experience in keeping bees for over 16 years and shares a bee yard of 30+ hives north of Keizer, Oregon. Although he’s done some pollination in the past, his current interests are related to extraction, honey production, hive construction, and queen rearing. He is a member of the Cascadia Queen Breeders and Willamette Valley Beekeepers as well as a member of OSBA.
Attendees: Dewey Caron, Paul Andersen, Jeff Milligan, Terry Fullan, Harry Vanderpool, Fred VanNatta, Lynn Royce, Jan Lohman, Tim Wessels, Kenny Williams, Joe Maresh, Katharine Hunt, Bunny Cramer-Carter

President Paul Andersen called the meeting to order at 4:11 PM. Paul Andersen made a motion to accept the minutes as they were printed in The Bee Line. Katharine Hunt seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes as they were printed in The Bee Line passed.

Reports

Treasurer: The third quarter report was presented. The line item 65120 Insurance was discussed. Paul researched this amount with the insurance agent and a refund is coming back. An audit was done on the organization type, and there will be a small increase to the premium.

The line item 80200 Specialty Crop Grant Program Expenses are expenses that happened at the beginning of the year before a separate checking account was set up.

Harry Vanderpool made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. Jan Lohman seconded. The motion to accept the treasurer’s report passed.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program: There is a total of $25,188.78 left on this grant. This will cover three speakers and some expenses for Dr. Sagili. After the grant is finished, the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program must become self-supporting. They are currently working with the program to create a budget. There is income from registration fees exchanged. The answer was no. The program would be set up a program. The question was asked if there would be a separate checking account. The suggestion was made to ask Carolyn to put money in the bank to set up a separate checking account. The motion to accept the treasurer’s report passed.

Terry Fullan, North Coast. Strong interest in beekeeping. They are still feeding, bees are still taking food. GROW the COAST was held in Seaside. Six members attended. The event was sponsored by OSU, Food groups, IDA Accounts, Foot Roots.

Tim Wessels, Portland Urban Beekeepers. Tim has been spending time with legislative issues of the Multnomah County beekeeping code. He feels they are making headway. Tim was accepted as a member on the Vector Control Advisory Group. In Gresham the Council asked the committee on ordinances to review their presentation and to give it again in January. Dewey has attended the last few meetings and the topic honey bee health has always been a concern.

Mureen Walker, South Coast. They have been focusing on queen breeding and NW Queens. They are working on their Educational Bee Yard. Gold Beach is working toward making honey bees legal. Their club asked for clarification on the insurance certificate for uses such as the Educational Bee Yard.

Katharine Hunt, Lane County. Everything is going fine. More people are volunteering. Products of the Hive the topic at the last meeting. High mite loads reported.

Harry Vanderpool, North Willamette Valley. Good summer in the North Willamette Valley. He was done treating on August 3 and one month later the mite counts were still high. Regardless of the products used, mite counts remained high. People were reporting feeding more and treating more than ever before.

Oregon Pollinator Task Force: Fred VanNatta reported the progress of HB1439. The proposition will go to committee in February 2015. As it is written now, there will be an annual payment of $10 a year and $.50 cents per hive. Of the money collected, 100 percent is marked for honey bee research. There will be a window of time for public comments. It was recommended the clubs be notified when the time for public comments is before the legislature votes.
Honey Bee Health Coalition: The Coalition has held two meetings. The latest one was on October 16. The Coalition is made up of people from all areas of agriculture. Currently, OSBA is the only state organization with membership. The four points of the Coalition are: (1) Forage & Nutrition, (2) Hive Management, (3) Outreach, Education & Communication, and (4) Crop Pest Management. Paul Andersen suggested a cost analysis to establish a value to OSBA of sending someone twice a year to the meetings. Discussion was tabled until the January 2015 meeting.

Other Business: Lynn Royce put forth a motion to pull together members to form a committee that will create policies & procedures guidelines. Paul Andersen seconded the motion. The motion passed. Jan Lohman was nominated to head the Policies and Procedures Committee and bring back recommendations.

New Business
OSBA Membership Requirement for local associations: Currently, OSBA requires a club to have five members with current dues paid to OSBA to be an OSBA branch association. OSBA provides a portal into the beekeeping community and provides insurance for the meetings, schools, and events these clubs host. Discussion was held on ways to offset expense from the clubs. Katharine Hunt made the motion that each club should pay an affiliation fee of $50 per year, have at least five paid members, and the group’s president must be one of the five. The motion passed.

Life Membership: The award of life membership was discussed. Harry Vanderpool made the motion to nominate Rosanna Mattingly. The motion passed and the recommendation will be presented at the general membership meeting.

Nominations: Harry Vanderpool presented the OSBA Nomination Slate for 2015.

Officers
President – Paul Andersen
Vice President – Harry Vanderpool
Treasurer – Jeff Milligan
Secretary – Bunny Cramer-Carter

Regional Reps
North Coast – Terry Fullan
South Coast – Mureen Walker
Columbia Basin – Bill Edwards
Eastern Oregon – Jordan Dimock
Portland Metro – Tom Cinquini
Southern Oregon – Sarah Red-Laird
North Willamette Valley – Steve Coffman
South Willamette Valley – Jason Rowan

Research Funds Distribution: The previous distribution of 85 percent OSU/15 percent WSU motion was rescinded, and the distribution will be $13,500 to OSU and $1,500 to WSU, thus keeping the $868 in reserve. Motion was made and passed. OSBA will match any conference donations from clubs up to $500. The amounts donated at conference were: Tualatin Valley $500, Portland Metro $2,000, Portland Urban Beekeepers $250, and Lane County $500. GloryBee will match what we take in for the auction up to $12,500. This money will go directly to OSU.

Dewey Caron: Dewey thanked everyone for the support of OSBA. He enjoyed his time on the Board, but it didn't work with his travels. Will be around to participate in special projects. Paul Andersen thanked Dewey for his time on the OSBA Board as vice president and for all his work setting up conference.

Bunny Cramer-Carter

Note: The Nomination Slate was elected as given at the General Membership meeting, held on November 7. Additional items from the General Membership meeting follow here. For a copy of the entire minutes from either meeting, e-mail osba.newsletter@gmail.com or phone 503.772.3486.

State Fair: Trevor Riches is the OSBA Fairs and Exhibits Committee chair. The booth was up for 11 days. There were 125 volunteers from the regional clubs participating. The State Fair is in the process of evolving.

Storage Locker: If clubs need a display for upcoming events, they can borrow items. Just need to coordinate with Trevor or the Board.

Conference Dates: The 2015 OSBA Conference will be held at the Oregon Garden. The dates are November 6, 2015, to November 8, 2015. The Oregon Garden will hold 105 rooms for the 2015 conference, and there are an additional 18 rooms in Silverton. It will be possible to start registering for these rooms after January 1, 2015. The theme for the 2015 conference will be Products of the Hive. Harry Vanderpool asked that anyone having recommendations for speakers to please contact him. Starting in 2016 and for the next five years, the Seaside Civic and Convention Center is reserved for OSBA conferences.

Oliver Petty Papers: Last June, Oliver Petty died. There are many boxes of historical documents. Currently, most of these documents are located in Albany. Harry Vanderpool suggested digitizing old documents. Beverly Koch asked if any others members were interested in working on this project. Marjie Ehry has looked at the documents a couple of times and said there is a lot of material there.

Endowment: Kenny Williams extended an invitation to form a group to brainstorm potential donors to add significant funds to the endowment. To fund the endowment in perpetuity, it will need to reach $2,000,000.
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The NOVEMBER issue of the Western Apicultural Society Journal has just been posted. Follow the link at:
http://ucanr.edu/sites/was2/WAS_Journal
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<td>Southern Oregon Beekeepers</td>
<td>7:30 PM, first Monday</td>
<td>Southern Oregon</td>
<td>John Jacob, 541.582.BEES; <a href="mailto:john@oldsolenterprises.com">john@oldsolenterprises.com</a></td>
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<td>Ron Padgett, 541.592.4678; <a href="mailto:padgett25@frontiernet.net">padgett25@frontiernet.net</a></td>
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<td>Cheryl Housden, 541.955.5146; <a href="mailto:chousden@earthlink.net">chousden@earthlink.net</a></td>
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<td>6:30 PM, third Wednesday</td>
<td>South First Alternative Co-op Meeting Room</td>
<td>Linda Zielinski, 541.929.4856; <a href="mailto:Ilz50@peak.org">Ilz50@peak.org</a></td>
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<td>1007 SE 3rd, Corvallis</td>
<td>Steve Oda, 541.745.7227; <a href="mailto:odafamily1@comcast.net">odafamily1@comcast.net</a></td>
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<td>Oregon South Coast Beekeepers</td>
<td>6:00 PM, third Wednesday</td>
<td>OSU Extension Office</td>
<td>Jim Sorber, 541.642.5338; <a href="mailto:mvand581@gmail.com">mvand581@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>located at the Fairgrounds in Gold Beach</td>
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<td>Barbara Fitts</td>
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<td>Portland Metro Beekeepers</td>
<td>7:00 PM, second Thursday</td>
<td>Clackamas Community College, Clairmont Hall</td>
<td>Joe Maresh, 503.703.5060; <a href="mailto:joemaresh@bctonline.com">joemaresh@bctonline.com</a></td>
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<td>Room 118, Oregon City</td>
<td>Rex McIntire, 503.720.7958; <a href="mailto:remcintire_5@msn.com">remcintire_5@msn.com</a></td>
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<td>Barb Derkacht, 503.631.3063; <a href="mailto:bderkacht@yahoo.com">bderkacht@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Portland Urban Beekeepers</td>
<td>6:30 PM, first Wednesday</td>
<td>Calaroga Terrace Rtrmt Comm, Terrace Auditorium</td>
<td>Bill Catherall, 503.572.6467; <a href="mailto:president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org">president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org</a></td>
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<td>1400 NE Second Ave, Portland</td>
<td>Sylvan Zimmerman, <a href="mailto:vice-president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org">vice-president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org</a></td>
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**Website:** http://wvbahive.org

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**HEITKAMS’ HONEY BEES**

Queens, Bees, Honey & Pollination

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- Phone: 530-865-9562, Fax: 530-865-7839
- Email: heitkamsbees@ Hughes.net
South Coast

Barbara and I attended the conference along with newly elected president, Jim Sorber, accompanied by his wife, Lynn. Mark St. James, newly elected vice president, had hoped to attend along with his wife, but an obligation arose preventing that. Mark fervently hopes that the beekeeper organizations, including OSBA, and the research teams, such as at OSU, will be able to receive funding support through the Obama initiative to benefit pollinators and also to appeal to the new task force to effect regulations for the spraying of chemicals to prevent harmful effects to honey bees and other pollinators.

At the neighboring CCBA, Shigeo Oku and Jane Oku report that the CCBA Apiary next to the OSU extension office in Myrtle Point is doing well. They made several splits from a May nuc of Russian honey bees, so no honey but lots of mites in all their hives—except one of the colonies caught as a swarm this year which they hope to benefit by developing. They treated three times with formic acid and a fourth with HopGuard and said, “There were always more mites.”

Barbara Fitts attended the preconference program for Journey-level beekeepers, presented by the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. In the Bee Name Game, excelling at bee biology but not up on songs and movies featuring bees, Barbara’s team got the booby prize of sitting at lunch with their favorite presenter(!). My team came in second, winning ballcaps with the logo and text, “I support Bee Informed.”

Some favorite tidbits gleaned from the conference are: (1) Liquid smoke works well, sometimes better and longer. (2) An inverted bucket of syrup keeps the stronger colonies distracted while opening the hives of weaker ones. (3) Honey bees of USA have had relatively little time to adapt to the relationship with Varroa mites as those of other countries. Eventually a predator learns not to kill off its host, they say. (4) Since the recent revelation of how propolis can be beneficial to the health of the honey bee and not just a nuisance to the beekeeper, the formerly shunned Caucasian honey bee is now in high demand. (5) Tree Hive Bees with smaller boxes tied high on tree trunks, as much as 12 feet up, with frames half the standard size and a bottom box for only the type of woody debris found at the bottom of a wild bee tree, is one of the approaches to more-natural beekeeping. (6) Drones that are not haploid, but diploid, get removed from the cells by workers, being one of the reasons for “spotty brood pattern.” (7) “A drone has no father, but he does have a grandfather.”

Portland Metro

I would like to thank OSBA for letting me have the opportunity to be the Portland Metro Representative. Many, if not most of you, don’t know who I am so I thought I should take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Tom Cinquini. I am married to a wonderful wife, Janell, and we have two boys, Corbin (3) and Cole (11 months). You may have seen or heard them running around at this year’s annual conference.

I grew up in Oregon, received a degree from Pacific University in Forest Grove, and we now live in Canby. I have had the privilege of working for Sowers Apiaries the last six years. (It helps that my inlaws are the owners, Chuck and Jeanne Sowers.) During this time, I have gained a lot of knowledge about beekeeping.

The most important things I have learned are:

First, I don’t know very much about beekeeping.

Second, you need to have a network of friends so you can call them when you have questions. This has saved my life or at least the bees’ lives more than once. Thank you to all that I call.

Third, something I learned from my father-in-law, Chuck: “Take care of the bees and they will take care of you.” I am continually learning about what it takes to keep healthy bees. As I learn about what beekeepers did in the past, what they are doing now, and what they plan to do in the future, it helps me decide what I think is the best for our outfit and, with help, decide how to move forward.

Being our “slow season” (I use the term very loosely), we are using this period to spend as much time as possible with our families. We are also contacting growers in California and others we pollinate in early spring. We are using this time to fix and modify equipment. We will be building new boxes and lids for next year. We are looking back at what went well in 2014 and what did not, and we are discussing what changes we want to make and how to implement them. I hope the new year brings you all healthy colonies!

—Tom Cinquini

South Willamette Valley

I can’t believe I’m saying this, but spring is just around the corner here in the south valley. The bees are still taking their much-needed rest, but don’t bee fooled by the lack of buzzing in the air. This time of year may seem like a time to kick back and read a book or two, but it’s not—so, snap out of it. I’m sorry. I was just writing to myself. It takes but a moment of time to check the weight of your colonies to be sure of their stores. It’s fine to take a quick peek under the lid on cool, dry days. Did I hear someone say midwinter mite treatment? Maybe it’s for you. If the bees

—Mureen Walker
look hungry, don’t wait till they die to wish you would of spent the couple of bucks on some fondant or winter patties. Let’s all try to come out of winter the way we want rather than the way fate decides. Remember to keep those hives covered, and try and find some time for yourselves this holiday because spring is knocking at winter’s door.

Happy Keeping. —Jason Rowan

Regional Associations

Cascadia Queen Breeders
The Cascadia Queen Breeders had their Annual Holiday Potluck and business meeting December 13, 2014. Harry Vanderpool spoke on Adventures in Queen Rearing. It was a very informative and entertaining presentation. The less-stress way of queen rearing he developed is wonderful. He also brought queen rearing equipment for us to inspect. With elections, Chair Paul Maresh, Vice Chair James Hensel, Secretary Ken Anthony, Treasurer Tom Chester. A presentation of Recognized Service Plaques was made to the outgoing treasurer, Rex McIntire, and secretary, Alvalea Fong. John Jacob spoke on Queen Rearing. It was a presentation full of excellent information on grafting and ideas on selection of queen mothers. He discussed in depth nucs, feeding, grafting, timing, candling queen cells, need for good records, and ways to correct nuc problems. —Alvalea Fong

Coffee Creek Beekeepers
It may be winter, but the Coffee Creek bee program is still very busy! Late in the fall, Bruce helped the team put solid sugar on the hives as needed and combined one weak hive with a stronger hive, leaving two hives for winter. All participants took their quizzes for the Washington State Master Beekeeper program, and every person passed! We are well on our way to certification as Apprentices! Bunny is helping the team on a project geared toward building real-world business experience. Under her lead, every team member is going to come up with a business plan for running a small apiary and marketing the hive products. As always, we’d love to have volunteers! Contact chad.e.naugle@doc.state.or.us if you are interested. —Coffee Creek Crew

Lane County Beekeepers
Members of Lane County Beekeepers Association gathered for their annual “Honey Tasting” event on Tuesday, November 18. There was intense buzzing as the five teams circled their respective table trying out each of the samples, which were organized by color. Each group was instructed to decide on the tastiest of the lot (7 jars). After much discussion and licking of lips, five were chosen along with a judge from each table. These five had a hard time deciding on the three winning samples, so another member was called upon to break the tie! In the end, Francis Rothauge, Silva Kew Phillips, and Jennie Timms took home the ribbons with the grand prize (“the traveling smoker”) going to Francis. Judy Scher organized this fun event.

During the meeting, three scholarships were awarded for the 2015 Oregon Master Beekeeper Program by the club. The recipients were Karla Casebolt, Dale Bryant, and Ray Krass. We also voted in our 2015 Executive and Board of Directors during the November meeting: Pam Leavitt, president, Max Kuhn, vice president, Polly Habliston, treasurer, and Jodi Wiktorowski, secretary. The Board includes Kelly Goodwin, Francis Rothauge, and Larry Scoville. I am thankful that we have members willing to take on leadership roles, contribute new ideas, and share their enthusiasm with our community. I have enjoyed serving the club as president the past couple of years.

In December, club members Jen and Doug Hornaday held a benefit for their program: Healthy Bees=Healthy Gardens at Cozmic Pizza, a great local restaurant that supports community functions. Once again members of our club stepped up and volunteered their services either by hosting the LCBA information table or by directly helping Jen. Members included Pam Leavitt, Bob Johnston, Becca Hale, Janine Piercey, Paula Mance, Deb Elder, and Maggie Matoba. It was a busy event with lots of good music, opportunities to take part in a silent auction, and learn about bees and how you can encourage your neighborhood to become pesticide free and plant healthy pollinator and veggie gardens. —Katharine Hunt

Portland Metro Beekeepers
Our December meeting was our annual Christmas party. We had a great turnout and outstanding food! It gave us all an opportunity to chat with folks about our bees and help us to plan for the next few months.

Our January meeting will be held on the 8th at 7 pm. Our featured speaker will be Karessa Torgerson of Nectar Bee Supply in Corvallis. She will be talking about record keeping and the five things that we often overlook when it comes to our bees.

Our annual Bee Day to be held April 25, 2015, will be discussed, along with information on workshops and a bee school that our club will hold in 2015.

We will also hold elections for officers at the January meeting. —Patty Anderson

Portland Urban Beekeepers
Portland Urban beekeepers were very fortunate to have Kim
January–February 2015

Flottum, writer and Editor of Bee Culture, who was in town for the OSBA annual conference, to attend and present at our November meeting. Kim Flottum has an amazingly well-rounded experience that lends itself well to his current role as editor of his internationally well-respected news magazine focused on beekeeping. While pursuing his degree at the University of Wisconsin working with entomologists, he has done research in crop pollination and use of pesticides. He has farmed, worked in variety of beekeeping groups and clubs, and led local, state, and national beekeeping organizations. He is a prolific writer and has written several “must have” beekeeping books, including the Backyard Beekeeper.

His presentation “On the Radar” was filled with practical and current beekeeping information of interest for all levels of experience. As any individual who has been involved in beekeeping and the business and “news” of beekeeping for many years, he has witnessed a great deal of change in technique, regulation, and the evolution environmental stressors have brought to the hobby (and business). This is particularly evident on how the rise and spread of Varroa as well as the impact pesticides and fungicides on colonies and colony management have brought to the industry. He spoke about the president’s initiative and the importance of each region, like Portland, to submit our comments on what the EPA and USDA should be doing to protect honey bees and beekeeping.

Kim also spoke about the “honey” market and how consumption is steadily increasing throughout the nation. However, the colony loss rate means a drop in production that is now being filled by a growing international production. This brings with it problems of purity and safety that are difficult to manage as honey makes its way onto grocery shelves and food production.

The rise of beekeeping is a national phenomenon that will continue to have an impact on the beekeeping industry. New beekeepers are often younger, include more women, and they are raising colonies not only in the country but in urban areas and innovative places like rooftops, hotels, and restaurants. This increase will help to diversify the stock, but the community needs to watch out for an ugly urban disaster like a major bee spill or bad honey recall. He believes that Russian bees may be the solution to America’s beekeeping problems. Russian bees are hygienic, relatively immune to the ravages of Varroa, and are survivors. But there are not enough of the Russian stock available to make an impact yet.

Dewey Caron was presented with a cake by the group to thank him for his educational assistance this last beekeeping season. He will be off to Bolivia in a few weeks after the OSBA conference. He plans to do some writing and helping local tribes in the foothills and mountainous areas of rural Bolivia, but will be back next April.

—Michael Carlson

FROM THE WEBMASTER

Hello fellow beekeepers and a happy 2015! I want to thank everyone who visited the conference website and those who registered to attend the conference from the website. Now that the conference is over, I’ve switched my focus to a complete overhaul of osba.org. This is no small undertaking, and in order to minimize any issues transferring over to the new site, I will be keeping updates of the current website to a minimum. I will only be posting critical news updates; web advertising is put on hold until the new site is live. I greatly appreciate your patience and understanding during this period of transition. Paul, Dewey, and I put a lot of thought into the new site and its capabilities, and I can’t wait to share the results with you.

FROM THE WEBMASTER

Erin Olmon

KEEPING BEES IN January–February

Todd Balsiger

Among considerations for this time of year:

- Replace brood comb that is suspected of having high concentrations of pesticide residue.
- Breed or purchase mite-fighting bees.
- Adopt integrated pest management practices.
- Use natural chemicals for Varroa control, and synthetics only as a last option.
- Provide nutritional feeding. It seems that Bee Pro is one of the better commercially available pollen substitutes.
- In general, disturb your bees as little as possible.
- If you are concerned about starvation, lift the back of the hive to assess its weight. Provide emergency feed (e.g., drivert and pollen patty) to featherweight colonies.
- Brood rearing and metabolism increase at this time of year and add to hive moisture, often with condensation dripping down onto the bees. To help prevent this, make sure lids are water tight, hives are tilted so water drains away from and not into the hive, and there is sufficient ventilation.
- Make periodic checks of your apiary, especially after a windstorm, to make sure nothing is amiss.
- Prepare for next month’s tasks—in recent times, if weather allows, we generally treat for foulbroods and for Varroa in February.
- For nonprocrastinators, this is a good time to do such things as assemble hive components, fix unresolved problems in the honey house, and go fishing.
- There is greater demand for queens and packages, so order in advance.

Adapted from: January-February 2010 Bee Line.
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- 150 Clip Pallets, new & used like new
- 100 Deeps, new w/foundation, take 1 or all
- 700 Cedar Tops, new & like new
- Lots of miscellaneous equipment

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OSU Research Summary—Continued from page 1

Table 1. Average number of mites observed on mite boards in treatment and control colonies.

<table>
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<th>Treatment</th>
<th>First 3 days</th>
<th>One week later</th>
<th>Two weeks later</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apivar</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Some important considerations when using Apivar: (1) Results can be variable depending on factors such as dose and placement of strips. (2) Apivar appears to decrease mite populations gradually, so beekeepers should not expect significant mite drops in few days. (3) Using Apivar in spring may be ideal when mite populations are relatively low compared to late summer or fall. (4) As with any other chemical there exists a risk of resistance development with extensive use of Apivar. Resistance development can be delayed by following removal directions and rotating Apivar with other available mite control options.

Apivar Resistance Study

Colonies from seven commercial beekeeping operations and fourteen backyard beekeeper apiaries were used for monitoring resistance. Average percentage mite mortality from Apivar exposure in commercial beekeeping operations was low (83%) when compared to average percentage mite mortality (96%) in backyard beekeeper colonies. Following was the range of mite mortality observed in test colonies: Commercial: 40–100%; Backyard: 84–100%. We plan to repeat this study with a greater sample size in 2015 to get a better understanding of the resistance problem.

Biological Control of Varroa Mites Using Predatory Mites

*Stratiolaelaps scimitus* is a soil-dwelling predatory mite that has been recognized as useful biological control agent for controlling certain insect and acarine pests. These predatory mites are currently being experimented by some beekeepers in the US, Europe and Canada for *Varroa* mite control in honey bee colonies. Currently there are no scientific studies that have examined the efficacy of these predatory mites in controlling *Varroa* mites except some anecdotal evidence that these predatory mites have promise in controlling *Varroa*. In this study, we are evaluating the potential of this predatory mite to control *Varroa destructor*.

Predatory mites were obtained from Evergreen Growers Supply, Clackamas, Oregon. Predatory mites (*Stratiolaelaps scimitus*) are supplied in a vermiculite base by this supplier. This vermiculite-based product with predatory mites was sprinkled on a paper placed on top bars beneath the hive cover such that the mites in the vermiculite would crawl onto the frames and also onto the bees when bees start removing the vermiculite from the hive. Each of the experimental hives designated to receive predatory mite treatment received approximately 25,000 predatory mites. *Varroa* mite levels were monitored during the study period with both alcohol wash and stick boards method. Sticky mite boards stayed on the hives throughout the experimental period for monitoring mite drops throughout the experimental period and also to observe any possible physical damage done to *Varroa* mites by the predatory mites. Colony evaluations (bees, brood and food resources) for all experimental colonies were also done at the start and end of the experiment.

Preliminary results: No significant difference was observed in mite mortality between control and predatory mite treatments. We plan to repeat this study in 2015 with a greater sample size. Further, we also plan to conduct an observation hive study to closely observe predatory mite and *Varroa* interactions.

Longitudinal Monitoring of Commercial Beekeeper Colony Health

We have been monitoring select commercial beekeeper colonies throughout the year for the past three years. Colony health (*Varroa* and *Nosema* infestation levels) and nutritional status of these colonies have been documented. Following graphs show the *Varroa*, *Nosema* and nutritional status information at different times of the year (2013–2014):

Supplemental Forage During Hybrid Carrot Seed Pollination

The carrot seed production in central Oregon needs over 14,000 hives for pollination from July through late August. The natural scarcity of pollen and further decline in pollen...
availability toward the end of vegetable seed production season negatively impacts honey bee health due to poor nutrition. As vegetable seed crops approach maturity, foragers have difficulty locating sufficient pollen for their colony growth. Adequate and diverse pollen sources are important for honey bee colony growth and immunity, especially before overwintering. Vegetable seed pollination (predominantly carrot seed) is the last pollination event for Oregon beekeepers and also coincides with the most critical time when bees need ample and diverse pollen. Supplemental feeding as a preparation for winter survival can improve health, making bees less susceptible to disease and pests.

The goal of this project is to determine potential flower species that could improve honey bee nutrition and thus improve honey bee health during pollination by providing supplemental nutrition. Assessment of flower species was based on flowering dates, honey bee flower visits, pollen protein analysis, and crop management.

This study was initiated in April 2013 and is currently in progress at the Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center apiary in Madras, Oregon. In 2013, six flower species were selected based on availability and desirable pollen production. Prairie Coneflower (Ratibida columnifera), Alsike Clover (Trifolium hybridum), Buckwheat (Fagopyrum esculentum), Borage (Borago officinalis), Alyssum (Alyssum maritimum), and Sunflower (Helianthus annuus) were planted in 20-foot by 150-foot plots in 8-inch row spacing, using an Oyjord plot drill. In 2014 bachelor button and Sainfoin were also tested in addition to the species tested in 2013. Foraging bees were counted using hand-held tally counters over a 10-foot by 40-foot area as soon as all species of flowers were in consistent bloom. Pollen traps were used to collect pollen from the...
TASK FORCE ON POLLINATOR HEALTH

The Task Force has developed many recommended actions to improve the health of both native and managed pollinators that are detailed in the November 2014 report. Four priority recommended actions emerged from the discussions (numbers in parentheses refer to specific actions that support a recommendation in the report):

I. Oregon should develop a strong, effective outreach and education strategy on pollinator health, including best management practices. (See 1.1 – 1.3; 4.1, 4.3(c), 4.4(a), 4.4(b), 6.1(b) and 6.1(c))

II. Oregon should fully fund a state-of-the-art bee health diagnostic facility at Oregon State University. (See 5.1(a))

III. An integrated pollinator health research plan should be developed and funded to improve understanding of the many issues affecting pollinator health. (See 5.1(b)–(d) and (f), 5.2(a)-(c), 6.1(a), and 6.1(d))

IV. A sustainable revenue stream to fund the proposed outreach, education and research programs is needed. (See 6.1(a)-(d))

Consider reviewing the report before it goes to the legislature: https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2013I1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/41335

Effects of Two Widely Used Agrochemicals on Honey Bee Colony Health

Pesticides are presumed to play a significant role in honey bee colony declines, but impacts of pesticides on honey bee health are not well understood. Unfortunately, there is a gap in understanding the colony-level impacts of agrochemicals in order to make conclusive interpretations, except the fact that many pesticide residues have been documented in honey bee hive matrices. The majority of existing studies have focused on effects on individual worker bees, determined LD50 toxicities, or only examined the lethal or sublethal effects of a single pesticide exposure. Further, most of these studies were conducted in a laboratory set-up in small cages that do not represent a realistic colony environment, and many times the pesticide concentrations tested are not realistic. Also, there is a huge gap in understanding the additive and synergistic effects of agrochemicals on bees.

Our goal in this study is to understand the impact of field realistic concentrations of two predominantly used agrochemicals and their interactions on honey bee colony health. Specifically we are examining the independent and interaction effects of a fungicide chlorothalonil and a neonicotinoid insecticide imidacloprid on honey bee colony health for a period of one year. Both these chemicals are commonly found in honey bee colonies in relatively high concentrations. The objectives of this study are: 1. Evaluate independent and interaction effects of imidacloprid and chlorothalonil on honey bee colony physiology, and 2. Examine both independent and interaction effects of above two agrochemicals on honey bee colony health and foraging behavior. This study is currently in progress.

Note: Extension activities will be presented in the March 2015 issue.
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UPCOMING EVENTS


January 31: Clark County Beekeepers Association hosting Michael Bush presentation. Information: www.ccbees.net


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Thank you!

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Reminder: The date on the mailing label is the expiration date for membership. If the date is January or February 2015 (or earlier), this is your friendly renewal notice.

May all preparations for this year’s season go exceptionally well!

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, interviews, recipes, and points of view—as well as advertising to: Rosanna Mattingly, The Bee Line, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland OR 97206; e-mail: osba.newsletter@gmail.com. It’s your newsletter—we want to hear from you!

The next issue to be printed will be the March issue, 2015. The deadline for submitting copy is February 10, 2015. Please call or e-mail if you find difficulties with the deadline so we can work out the space and timing.

Thank you!

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