THE GOVERNOR’S POLLINATOR HEALTH TASK FORCE—FINAL REPORT

George Hansen

As a response to the repeated bee kills on linden trees in Oregon over the last few years, legislation was introduced to ban the neonicotinoid pesticides implicated in the incidents. The legislature preferred to send the issue to a task force to be appointed by the governor.

The issue was broadened from specific pesticide uses to the broader issue of pollinator health. The eight members of the task force included Ramesh Sagili from Oregon State University, who was selected chairman. The honey bee industry was represented by George Hansen, a commercial beekeeper. The full list of members of the task force as well as the full report can be found online at: https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2013I1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/41335.

Representative Reardon and Senator Thomsen participated as ex officio nonvoting members. The governor had no participation in the proceedings, as is generally the case in these efforts. This was truly an effort by “stakeholders” to develop recommendations to the government acceptable to all parties.

Working for consensus on all issues, it was clear that there was a majority willing to take strong regulatory actions concerning pesticides and licensing applicators, but not unanimous support. As you read the document, you will see some had majority support, while others had consensus (unanimity). The themes that had consensus support centered around increased outreach and training of applicators, including homeowners, but only on a voluntary basis. Because the task force was more broadly about pollinator health, there are recommendations about developing pollinator forage on public lands, researching honey bee health issues apart from pesticides, and the development of best practices for managing honey bee pests. As a general rule, not surprisingly, applicators, farming organizations, chemical companies, and pesticide retailers are far more willing to discuss the control of pests and pathogens on honey bees and the forage and nutrition issues rather than disputing only pesticide issues.

In the end, given the makeup of the task force, the recommendations go about as far as could be expected. Some may be severely disappointed in the results. On the positive side, some very good working relationships were developed for future work. It is now up to the Legislature and the Oregon Department of Agriculture to take the recommendations and implement them.

Of particular interest to beekeepers are the recommendations to develop and fund a state-of-the-art honey bee diagnostic and research facility at Oregon State University, and to reinvigorate the apiary registration law that is currently still on the books but has very weak participation. The recommendation is to maintain the current $10 annual apiary registration, and to augment this with a $.50 per hive fee. After administrative costs, this money is to be sent to Oregon State University to fund bee research.

Continued on page 2
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is never too early to start talking about the annual conference especially when there are changes that may be unexpected. This year there are a couple of differences everyone should be aware of for your planning. First and most important for everyone to note is a shift of the days we will be meeting. In the past we have for years started on Thursday evening with the reception and then the conference presentations following on Friday and Saturday. This year we will be starting on Friday evening with the conference presentations on Saturday and Sunday. The schedule is the same except everything is shifted by one day. So, this year block off Friday evening, November 6, Saturday, November 7, and Sunday, November 8.

The other big change is the venue. For the last four years, we have been holding the conference at the convention center in Seaside, which has been and will be in the future an excellent venue. Unfortunately, in 2015 the facility was booked by another group quite a ways in advance and we were just not able to make any dates work for us. This year the 2015 conference will be at the Oregon Garden, an 80-acre botanical garden in Silverton, Oregon, which is only 10 miles east of Salem on Hwy 213. The complex has about 100 hotel rooms on site of which about 25–30 are already reserved. I would encourage those of you who want to stay on the Oregon Garden site to make your reservations early. You can call them at 503.874.2500; use promo code BEEKEEP. We have a rate with them for $109 per night. Or you can go online at: https://reservations.moonstonehotels.com/irmnet/login.aspx?resort=15; use the promo code BEEKEEP for both the Group ID and password. We will also put a link on our new website. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Have a good 2015!!

Paul

Task Force—Continued from page 1

This could generate as much as $40,000 annually for honey bee research. By registering, the beekeeper receives a license, which may be of use in disputes with neighbors or applicators. It must be underlined that this program does not register locations. It just licenses the owner to have an apiary. There is no hive inspection associated with the program. Currently, there is no penalty for not registering with the state. This rule will have to be developed by the Legislature and the Department of Agriculture, and the OSBA will need to pay close attention to how this and all the other recommendations evolve.

Finally, it should be explained that the apiary registration recommendation was proposed to show good faith from the beekeepers to participate in this broad attempt to solve problems by making contributions to research. There is an accompanying recommendation to increase pesticide registration fees. Every pesticide used in Oregon must pay an annual registration fee, which is being recommended to be increased from $160 to over $200. This increase will generate about $400,000 annually, which will be used to fund the outreach and education programs for pesticide users. Under current law, those pesticide registration fees may not be used for funding honey bee research. If you do the math, you will realize the huge number of pesticides registered for use in the state.

HB 2653: RESIDENTIAL BEES

Mike Rodia

As some of you may already know, newly introduced HB 2653 proposes that the Department of Agriculture adopt regulations for keeping bees in residential areas. In a recent hearing, representatives from the OSBA, WVBA, and Portland Metro beekeepers testified that we prefer that the State not adopt rules or regulations because beekeeping varies widely across the state. None-the-less, it was obvious that the House committee wants to pursue the issue. A work group consisting of Fred VanNatta (OSBA, WVBA), Joe Maresh (OSBA, Portland Metro), myself (OSBA, WVBA), and others will be working on the content of the bill in the coming weeks. Representative Gorsek’s (the bill’s author) stated intent is to minimize or eliminate the hurdles beekeepers, in some jurisdictions, face when desiring to put honey bees in residential areas.

That is also our desire.

The first meeting of the work group will be at 9:00 AM on February 27 at the state capitol. Besides Fred, Joe, and myself, in attendance will be Raine Lee Ritalto, two representatives from the Department of Agriculture, and Jason Hitzert. I will update you as things happen and for those wanting more info you may e-mail rrodia@msn.com or call 503.364.3275.
A WALK IN THE PARK (aka OREGON GARDEN)

Jan Lohman

I admit that when the Oregon State Beekeepers Association Executive Board had to change our venue for the 2015 Fall Conference from the Seaside Convention Center (which I love) to another location, I was concerned that we would find an appropriate location to enjoy for our next conference. Our officers looked at several locations and decided enthusiastically to move this year’s conference to the Oregon Garden in Silverton, Oregon.

Vince and I were traveling to the Willamette Valley in January and decided to check out this facility that we understood to be the “next meeting place.” If you have not been there, it is a sight to see. We were treated like it was a 5 star resort, but with a very reasonable price and a fireplace and patio in every beautiful cottage.

Our visit was in January so many of the beautiful plants were expired for the season, but there was enough greenery and enough fountains to keep us moving through the gardens and you must know that the garden fee was part of the hotel registration fee.

It has a beautiful craftsman style lodge which houses the Garden View Restaurant. There are 103 rooms currently, with more being added in the next few years. In the spring there are tree peonies in the Rose Garden. In the summer the sea holly can be seen in the Children’s Garden, and in the fall bright red and pink blooms can be found on the river lillies in the Conifer Garden. In winter the hybrid witch hazel is located along the tram path.

As always, at the conference the main attraction is our program from the OSBA, and Harry Vanderpool has been working so hard to complete our line up. You will be hearing more about the program throughout the year. Please keep your date free for this year’s conference, November 6, 7, and 8, and book yourself an extra day to really enjoy the facility as well. The Oregon Garden has limited rooms, so please make sure that you book your room well in advance of the conference. And best of all, the Oregon Garden’s Facility is pet friendly—for well-behaved pets.

OSBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 3, 2015  Canby, Oregon

President Paul Andersen called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm.


Minutes from the November 2014 Board Meeting haven’t yet been printed in the The Bee Line for review, so Paul Andersen read a review of the minutes. The motion was made to accept the minutes as read. It was seconded, and the motion passed.

Reports

North Willamette Valley Regional Representative Steve Coffman — Everything has been quiet. The commercial people are gearing up for California. People are spending a lot of time in their shops getting equipment ready.

Eastern Oregon Regional Representative Jordan Dimock — Things are going pretty well. Many hives were damaged by the sudden drop in temperature. The equivalent of a ½ frame damaged by cold. Currently, the Dimocks’ bees are inside at about 40 degrees. They leave soon for almonds.

Portland Urban beekeepers President Bill Catherall – Annual elections will be held this month. They are holding a bee school this year on February 22 for entry-level beekeepers. Their plant committee is collecting seed packets and plant starts; the manner of distribution hasn't been defined yet. They are also planning a Tour de Hives to be held as a fund raiser for Zenger Farm. The group is still working with Multnomah County to keep bees without signatures, just notification to neighbors.

North Coast Regional Representative Terry Fullan — Their January meeting will be held on January 13. The topic will be The Tillamook County Spray Program. The planning committee has speakers lined out for the year. At the General Meeting in Seaside, Kenny Williams asked for volunteers from the membership to join him in brainstorming ways of significantly adding to the principal of our endowment fund held at the OSU Foundation. To that end, Terry offered to meet with Kenny along with Lorraine Ortiz, who works in the field of fund raising for nonprofit organizations. Knotweed beekeepers kept their hives out later. Their winter work was completed in late October. They are watching two beekeepers to see how they do coming into spring.

Katharine Hunt, past president of Lane County beekeepers, introduced the new president of Lane County Beekeepers Association, Pam Leavitt. Their board meeting is January 13, prior to the general meeting.

Continued on page 12
The FEBRUARY issue of the Western Apicultural Society Journal has just been posted. Follow the link at: http://ucanr.edu/sites/was2/WAS_Journal
**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

**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; rfarrierfarms@gmail.com
Vice President: Mona Kanner
Secretary: Emily Cross
Treasurer: Laura Evans
Website: http://wvbahive.org

**Note:** The update on the OSU Honey Bee Lab’s Extension Activities will appear next issue instead of this time!
Regional News

Regional Representatives

South Coast
An educational apiary is the big new project for OSCBA in Curry County, spearheaded by Carla Fletcher, past president, who has received approval for it to be on public property owned by ORREC, Oregon Resources Research and Educational Center. A work party began clearing the area of overgrowth, and a committee is selecting pollinator-friendly plantings to go around the ORREC building and another is planning the observational hive for inside.

Coos County beekeepers were still quietly overwintering as of the end of January, according to treasurer Jane Oku, and the colonies seem to be doing well in their apiary next to the OSU Extension office in Myrtle Point.

Gold Beach, the county seat of Curry County, is preparing to issue permits to beekeepers inside the city limits. Treasurer Barbara Fitts has collected bee package orders from members and placed the order with C.F. Koehnan & Sons, to be picked up on April 4 by local honey producers, Russ and Babette Rose, when they make the trip to the Sacramento area.

President Jim Sorber led a roundtable discussion at the meeting January 20 (now on third Tuesdays) about what plants the honey bees are working during January and noted: rosemary, pussy willow, pineapple sage, coyote bush, Meyer lemons, and the “inedible” camellias. Tea trees are blooming abundantly by February.

Vice President Mark St. James gave a presentation on what beekeeping equipment is common and Jim Sorber discussed what he keeps in his toolbox for visits to the bee yard, including spray bottle, EpiPen, and Benadryl.

As usual there was a hearty potluck between the business portion and the more lengthy educational informational presentations and sharing. Wayne Berry, secretary, continues in monitoring communication issues. Barbara Fitts provided a summary of the first meeting of the year for this report.

—Mureen Walker

Regional Associations

Cascadia Queen Breeders
Cascadia Queen Breeders will once again be sponsoring a “Lunch With the Queen Breeders” at the OSBA annual fall conference at the Oregon Garden. This year’s conference will feature Queen Breeders from the Pacific Northwest. Be sure to reserve your spot for this popular luncheon when you register for the annual OSBA conference.

—Paul Maresh

John Day River Beekeepers
In spite of a couple of cold spells, winter in the John Day Basin has been fairly mild. January threw us rain, snow, and several good fly days. No blooms yet, but the bees are eagerly robbing poultry feeders, bird feeders, and sawdust. We had a small winter meeting with six members in attendance. Discussion topics were diverse and ranged from planting for bees and spring garden planning, management strategies, and bee moving and trucking laws.

Looking forward to springtime, our maples will be blooming soon, with apricots and other tree fruits shortly thereafter. We are planning a basic beekeeping workshop for sometime in April as well as a queen rearing workshop for sometime in May.

—Matt Allen

Lane County Beekeepers
Club members began the new year with sandwiches and snacks at the first monthly meeting on January 20, 2015. The club provides this opportunity to socialize and eat together once every year. Morris Ostrofsky was the speaker for the evening, and he entertained the audience with “Fun Facts about Bees.” He had a great presentation and gave the audience the ability to participate when he asked them to answer questions about bees. The new officers for the club were introduced. President Pam Leavitt, Vice President Max Kuhn, Secretary Jodi Wiktorowski, Treasurer Polly Habliston, and Board of Directors: Kelly Goodwin, Francis Rothauge, and Larry Scoville.

January 23, 24, and 25, the Good Earth Home Show was held at the Lane County Event Center. LCBA has had a booth for a number of years and again this year set up a display to enable visitors to view pictures and see equipment used in beekeeping. There were volunteer members of the club in attendance to answer questions. This event always generates a great deal of interest from the community on urban beekeeping and how to “protect” bees. The people who attend this home show are often knowledgeable about the threats to our pollinators and want to know how they can be involved to help. The honey donated by club members was offered for sale. The club was able to advertise their upcoming bee school on March 7, coordinated by Ken O’Grain, and the club always gets attendees from this home show. The February 17 club meeting will have Jonathan Loftin presenting “Spring Management.”

OSU Extension Linn County Master Gardeners are hosting a Pollinator Conference on Saturday, March 21, at the Phoenix Inn in Albany. This is an opportunity to learn about pollinators in Oregon and how to support them in your home landscape. Dr. Ramesh Sagili, from Oregon State University, will speak on “Current Bee Health Issues.” A member of the LCBA, Jen Hornaday, is...
March 2015

Linn Benton Beekeepers
Linn Benton Beekeepers Association (www.lbba.us) held its board elections, installing the following new and returning board members: President Steve Oda, Vice President Everett Kaser, Secretary Robert Williams, Treasurer Suzi Maresh, and Members at Large: Kristin Rifai, Dennis Stillwaggon, Karessa Torgerson, Tim Wydronek, and Linda Zielinski. We wish to thank them all for their service.

—Robert Williams

Portland Metro Beekeepers
The Portland Metro beekeepers voted in officers in January. They are returning officers Joe Maresh, president, Rex McIntire, vice president, Patty Anderson, secretary, Barbara Derkacht, treasurer, Beverly Koch, librarian, and Craig Rodgers, communications officer.

The featured speakers at our January meeting were Karessa Torgerson of Nectar Bee Supply in Corvallis, and Dr. Lynn Royce, retired entomologist from OSU. Karessa educated us on the five mistakes beekeepers make: feeding, mite management, understanding swarming and how it impacts mite population, awareness of your queen status, and the importance of record keeping. The Oregon Master Beekeeper website has examples of hive inspection sheets. Dr. Royce discussed the natural home for honey bees—the tree hollow. She explained how the natural organisms and fungi in trees may be beneficial for the bees. Check out her blog on: treehivebees.org.

The February meeting was packed with club business. We wrapped up with a roundtable discussion focused on what we should be doing in our hives this month. Many folks are feeding sugar water now if their hives are light. Hives should be inspected for mites, and think about some form of mite control if need be. We are also working with Clackamas Community College and facilitating an “Introduction to Beekeeping” class to be held February 21. And don’t forget to mark you calendars for our annual bee day on April 25 to mark you calendars for our annual bee day on April 25.

—Patty Anderson

Portland Urban Beekeepers
Portland Urban beekeepers held its first general membership meeting of the year the first Wednesday of January. We held new officer elections alongside the second annual PUB showcase, where local business owners and hobbyists shared their goods and projects. Among the displays were hives and the book Winged from BeeThinking, the book The Song of Increase by Jacqueline Freeman, a candle-making demonstration from Brandi Rodgers of Ruhl Bee Supply, lip balms from Rachel Glaeser, a bee vacuum and homemade preserves from Brian Lacy of Live Honeybees, beehive woodenware and Portland-raised survivor bee program from Tim Wessels and Glen Andresen of Bridgetown Bees, and hive scale, quilt box, homemade deodorant, and candles from Bill Catherall of The Bee Vlog. February kicked off our regular general membership meetings for 2015. Lois Levene was ecstatic to share the results of her efforts working with The City of Portland and Multnomah County to address the signature approval requirement to keep bees. Thanks to her hard work, the signature requirement has officially been reduced to a notification requirement. Robert Leger spoke about “The Yellow Jacket Free Home.” He gave us an introduction to the yellow jacket biology and life cycle, as well as helpful tips on trapping and controlling them.

Our featured speaker, Dan Carr, gave a dynamic presentation about his experiences working with beekeepers and farmers in Malawi and Uganda. He learned to keep bees from a Malawian school teacher, and together they started the Mwazisi Beekeepers Association. After returning to the United States and managing Stone Barns' bees for three years, he was invited by the USAid Farmer to Farmer program to go back to Africa to work on a special project with a beekeepers cooperative in Kasese, Uganda, called the Liberty Development Foundation, LIDEFO. He spoke of the unique challenges of keeping bees in Africa, such as honey badgers, elephants, and poachers. He showed off the resourcefulness in hive design with top-bar hives made of bamboo and threads stripped from recycled tires. He had rich photographs and stories of his time, and reminded us that it’s not about the bees, it’s about the people.

Calaroga Terrace has been generous in accommodating our monthly meetings, but we are looking for suggestions of alternate venues that can accommodate up to 200 people. Our meetings are digitally recorded into blocks of video posted to YouTube soon after. For more information visit: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org.

—Courtney Todd Campbell

Willamette Valley Beekeepers
The Willamette Valley beekeepers welcomed 120 members and guests at their January meeting. For the most part, this was a social meeting. Everyone enjoyed pizza and the treats brought in by members. Lots of members donated door prizes, which made for lots of winners. The newly elected board consists of the following people: President Rich Farrier, Vice President Mona Kanner, Treasurer Laura Evans, and Secretary Emily Cross. WVBA is gearing up for our annual bee school, which starts in February. One of the hives at Mahonia Hall is doing great, while the other died out and will be replaced this spring. With the help of Erin Olmon, the association continues to maintain the content on its website: www.wvbahive.org.

—Richard Farrier
The Bee Line

HOPGUARD® II

David L. Priebe, ODA State Registration Specialist, Oregon Department of Agriculture, writes that “EPA has approved our request for FIFRA Section 18 emergency use of hop beta acids (HopGuard II, unregistered, manufactured by BetaTec Hop Products) to control Varroa mites in honey bee colonies during 2015.” He has sent the approval letter and the Oregon Section 18 use directions label for 2015, and notes that the label must be in possession of the user at the time of application. He also includes a copy of the container label, which has been revised recently to add information on resistance management. These documents may be posted soon; in the meantime, copies are available as needed by e-mail: osba.newsletter@gmail.com.

KEEPING BEES IN MARCH

Todd Balsiger

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

❖ Heft hives to find any light ones. Brood production is ongoing and energy demands have increased, so this is prime time for starvation. Provide light hives emergency feed. When daytime highs exceed 55°F, syrup can be used instead of fondant or frames of honey. Consider adding Fumagillin-B to syrup to control possible Nosema.

❖ Varroa control is still of preeminent importance. An instructional poster with step-by-step instructions (and pictures) for a standard sampling system to estimate infestation to determine if there is a need to treat can be found at: www.extension.org/pages/31539/varroa-sampling. Varroa treatment thresholds are recommended at 10–12 percent infestation, which equates to around 3,000 mites per colony. I am not discounting other sampling methods like sticky boards; it is just that this is well documented and has easy-to-follow directions.

❖ Early spring and fall (February/March and August), the periods between the nectar flow, have historically been the windows for Varroa treatments. We should certainly sample at these times to know if a treatment is necessary. Review treatment options with care. It is incumbent upon us to consider the efficacy of a miticide, its drawbacks, and caveats—how well it kills mites, possible impacts on colony health including queen and brood loss, residue in comb, and super withdrawal times. Follow the directions; it is the law. I certainly do not recommend hard miticides like fluvalinate and coumaphos. Aside from the fact that they don’t work any more due to resistance, they have been shown to leave residue in comb which can react dangerously with agricultural fungicides.

❖ Consider using cultural and genetic controls. Screen bottom boards give a 15 percent reduction in mites. Drone brood trapping, labor intensive and not practical on a large scale, can significantly reduce mites. Genetic control is even better; through the use of mite-resistant queens like Minnesota hygienic, Russian, and VSH, reductions can be 40–50 percent. As stated above, even with cultural controls and resistant queens, eventually the threshold will be reached and the colony will need treatment.

❖ Prophylactically treat colonies with Terramycin in powdered sugar weekly for three weeks to prevent American foulbrood. To learn more about foulbroods I recommend this video: www.extension.org/pages/25099/university-of-florida-bee-disease-video. I can think of exceptions to this use of Terramycin. For example, colonies with known hygienic behavior, and maybe beekeepers who timely monitor all of their colonies and can readily identify AFB and are not squeamish about burning infected colonies. Terramycin requires at least a four-week withdrawal time between the last antibiotic treatment and the first marketable nectar flow. Tylosin provides up to four weeks of protection with a single treatment, but it is much more persistent and requires a longer withdrawal period before supering. There is a growing problem with Tylosin being detected in US honey.

❖ Look for signs of Nosema. Symptoms include slow buildup, lots of fecal matter on the outside of the colony near entrances, disjointed wings (K wing), and crawling bees outside of the colony. These symptoms may also be associated with tracheal mites (K wing and crawling bees). Make sure that suspect colonies have good ventilation and are in full sunlight to encourage cleansing flights. Treat with Fumagillin-B in syrup (follow the directions exactly; overdosing does not help).

❖ I mentioned above the symptoms of tracheal mites—K wing and crawling bees. Near-perfect control for tracheal mites can be achieved through resistant queens. If your bees are not resistant, then grease patties and menthol can be used.

❖ Find and remove queenless or dead-out colonies. We can usually pinpoint struggling or dead-out colonies by the lack of flight activity. Take an investigative peek into hives that are not keeping up with their peers. For dead outs, determine why the colony perished: queenlessness, starvation, disease? If the frames and hive components are disease free and in good condition (e.g., no Nosema spore fecal matter covering everything, no AFB scale in the brood cells, brood frames are less than five years of age and don’t have hard chemical residues, etc.), then store for future use in a dry location and stack so that light can penetrate and air can circulate to discourage wax moths and mold, respectively. These disease-free, dead-out boxes can be added to strong colonies in the spring for future splits.

❖ Some beekeepers like to stimulate their colonies in the spring through feeding to increase the rate of buildup—either
to make splits or to have colonies ready for the main nectar flow, which generally begins in earnest by late May. To stimulate your colonies, begin feeding sugar syrup and pollen patties when daily highs exceed 55°F.

- Keep an extra eye on stored supers that have had some brood and pollen. Moth crystals (paradichlorobenzene) as well as freezing the frames can be used for wax moth control. Exposing the frames to light and air circulation can inhibit the moths, too.
- Make sure lids are secured.

Adapted from: March 2012 issue of The Bee Line.

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FROM THE WEBMASTER

Erin Olmon

In the first week of February, we transitioned to the redesigned orsba.org. Paul, Dewey, and I began planning this update almost a year ago, so you can imagine how exciting it is to finally have the website out in the world. One of the coolest features of the website is that for logged in people the site knows who is an OSBA member and who’s not. This lets us do things like let you sign up for the swarm list through the website, check the status of your membership, renew your membership, or view members-only content and benefits.

Several people have indicated they would like more information about the security of the website and data stored online. The OSBA board and I take the website’s security very seriously. Today, I want to give you an overview on how we protect the website and any information people give us so that you can decide if you are comfortable providing information to us online. If you want more details, please contact me directly at orsbawebmaster@gmail.com.

Site Security

There are several aspects we consider and actively manage to achieve optimal security of the OSBA website and any data stored online. First: We chose a web hosting provider that we believe adheres to a high standard of security. Information we collect is stored in databases which can only be accessed from inside the web host’s firewalls, which means no one can directly connect to our databases. This is a good thing. Second: The connection between orsba.org and your browser is now encrypted. This means individuals of ill repute cannot spy on your data and gain any meaningful information, such as information you provide to OSBA or your site username and password. Third: A security suite protects the website, much like virus scanners and security software protect your personal computers. This does a lot of the heavy lifting for orsba.org security. Fourth: The website hides phone numbers on the swarm list and email addresses anywhere on the website from web crawlers while still allowing humans to see the information. To my knowledge, this has not been a problem in the past, but considering the number of phone numbers and email addresses on orsba.org, this is pretty exciting.

Information Collection

In order to make members-only features and content possible, the website needs to know who is a member and who isn’t. We maintain a current set of records online that comprise a member’s first name, last name, and membership expiration date. If a member chooses to update their address online, register for an event online, renew their membership online, or someone becomes a new member online, we will store any information provided as part of that process except financial information. In general, for any website including OSBA’s, if you provide information online, it will be stored online.

Access to membership information is strictly controlled; at this time it can only be accessed by the OSBA president, treasurer, secretary, and webmaster. A member always has access to their own membership information. As in the past, there are parts of the website that require some personal information be displayed to the public, such as the swarm list and classifieds. In those cases you must sign up to have your information displayed, and you must provide the information you want to display. The information collected for public display on the swarm list or classifieds is stored separately from the membership information. One thing we do not collect or store is your financial information. All online financial transactions take place through PayPal on the PayPal website. If you aren’t comfortable paying with PayPal, we happily continue to accept checks via good old USPS mail.

Swarm List!

Your OSBA members-only swarm list is available for sign up! This year, you will sign up for the swarm list through the website. If you have any issues signing up for the swarm list, please contact me and we’ll get things sorted out.

JACKSON COUNTY AND ODA: A SAGA

John Jacob

Honey bees are the backbone of our modern agricultural economy. Essential pollination services are provided to growers of key cash crops such as nuts, berries, tree fruits, and enumerable seed crops by Oregon’s commercial beekeepers. Together these crops keep farmers, pickers, packers, and retailers employed, as well as food on our tables. Honey bees are the key to make all of this happen. Unfortunately, honey bees are under attack on many fronts including pesticides, mites, diseases, and extreme habitat loss. Given the current state of affairs, one would wonder why Jackson County and the Oregon Department of Revenue would seek to disqualify honey bees as acceptable farm use.
This story really begins in 2000 when Jackson County sought to disqualify a 1,700 acre farm in Ashland that hosted three apiaries of 50–60 hives each (*Young v. Jackson County*). The bees were used in pollination and substantial honey production, and the land was maintained with pollinator habitat in mind. After a brief trial, the landowners and beekeepers prevailed and a solid legal precedent was set for the County and State to uphold the letter of the law. Oregon state law defines honey bees as livestock and states that "farm use is defined as employment of the land for the primary purpose of obtaining a profit in money by feeding, breeding, managing, or selling livestock, poultry, fur-bearing animals, or honey bees or the produce thereof." Subsequently in 2012, on a different piece of land in Rogue River, another Jackson county tax assessor again sought to remove 20 acres of a 40-acre farm from EFU special tax assessment because they were again asserting that honey bees insufficient use to qualify as farm use based partly on soil type.

Despite over triple the number of hives per acre, as in the previous case in 2000, and the legal minimum annual farm income requirement being met consistently by the Whedes (*Whede v. Jackson County*), the County only agreed to grant a mere one acre of farm use for the physical size of the apiary. Eventually at the trial, Jackson County argued that honey bees were not the “highest and best use of the land” due in part to the soil type and water rights. The “highest and best use” phrase is from the administrative rule book and not the letter of the law. There is not a “highest and best use” requirement in the letter of the law.

Further, one could argue that a pollinator sanctuary where hives are raised for pollination and queens are reared to start hives for the beekeeping industry would be the best possible use for this dry land farm. Apiculture adequately serves the intent of the law and substantially furthers Oregon’s overall agricultural economy. Unfortunately, this time the County successfully argued that, due in part to soil type, the farm was not in proper use and the judge, citing out of state legal precedent, upheld the disqualification of the Whede’s property from EFU special assessment. This dangerous ruling set precedent and removed incentive for landowners to give beekeepers access to their land for apiaries and infringed on the right of landowners to farm the livestock or the crop of one’s choice. The ruling was devastating and a big shock given the great public awareness about the current plight of honey bees and pollinators and our favorable legal precedent in 2000. The stated intent of EFU zoning laws is to preserve farmland and despite apiculture being the backbone of agriculture and very low impact on the land we were going to be forced to farm something else or pay much higher taxes. The potential negative impacts of this ruling were so dire, the Whedes and Old Sol Apiaries vowed to keep fighting and filed an appeal to fight for our rights as landowners and beekeepers. The appeal would not happen for almost another long year until August 26, 2013 (*Whede v. Jackson County & Oregon Department of Revenue*).

We were able to obtain excellent legal representation from Oregonians in Action attorney Lynn Stafford for this trial. John...
Jacob and Dewey Caron were the expert witnesses for the Whedes and the all-day trial in Salem seemed to go extraordinarily well. We were able to demonstrate very significant downstream economic contributions to our agricultural economy though beekeeping and raising queens and the importance of clean forage. Jackson County's witness had a very difficult time fielding the judge's questions and seemed to anger the court at times. Despite this apparent success, it still took the about 14 months for the judge to make the ruling. Judge Breithaupt's ruling will clearly be good for beekeepers, pollinators, landowners, and Oregon's agricultural economy.

Further, we now have at least two legal precedents in Oregon that demonstrate beekeeping is an acceptable farm use. One may be tempted to savor the sweet nectar of victory and the rule of law in this case; however, a somewhat bitter tinge is left behind regarding the waste of taxpayer's dollars by the County and the Department of Revenue. The ORS statutes are very clear and most laypersons would recognize the letter and the intent of the law and that the law explicitly states honey bees are livestock and acceptable as farm use. One can only hope that Jackson County assessors and the Oregon Department of Revenue can do the same and in the future make better use of our tax dollars.

**COZY BEE PROJECT**

*Jim Fanjoy*

The bees need our help, and it's science to the rescue! Help me study which hive design best keeps bees warm and dry. With technical advice from Drs. Dewey Caron and Ramesh Sagili, I will be starting a research project this spring to study the effects various roof types have on bee health. We'll be putting temperature and humidity sensors in hives with migratory, telescoping, garden, and Vivaldi tops. After tracking the results, we'll compare that data with Varroa populations and overwintering success, then present our findings so beekeepers everywhere can benefit. Search for “Cozy Bee Project” on kickstarter.com to get more specifics on how I'm going to run the experiment. If it looks like something you'd like to support, please consider donating (and get some of the rewards while you're at it).
Health — George Hansen gave the update. The final report titled the Task Force on Pollinator Health will be presented to the Oregon Legislative Assembly. First, George reminded everyone that while Senator Chuck Thomsen and Representative Jeff Reardon were on the committee, they were nonvoting members of the task force.

George’s comments on Page 1: “A lot of task force members wanted to ban materials and other members were against the ban. Outreach was the only agreement.”

On Page 3, George explained how the voting categories were labeled based on the level of agreement reached by the task force.

Page 17, Item 1.2. Currently, Oregon does not have a reporting system. People don’t report because they don’t want to get people in trouble.

Page 18. Most of the pesticides harmful to bees are general use and not restricted with applicator’s license. The task force recommends more complete, thorough training of applicators and creating a more-effective extension for pesticide applicator information.

Page 19, Item 4.3. George cautioned that Oregon needs to be really careful implementing the registration of bee locations. It could still allow damage to be done to native pollinators because they are in all areas, not just the registered locations.

Page 20, Item 6. Funding. A recommended increase to $210 per chemical per company to the state would increase funding to outreach and education. A registration fee of $10 per entity and 50 cents per hive would go to Oregon State University for research. There are some administrative costs to be paid. The intention is clear in the language, but there will have to be someone to oversee the program. An advantage to beekeepers registering is if something were to happen with pesticides, they would have assistance. Beekeepers should make a good faith effort to participate.

George Hansen would like Oregon State Beekeepers Association to come out in support as much as possible. The hearings will start some time after February. This was as far as the task force could go at this time, but it did establish relationships for the future. Fred VanNatta is very up to date on this. If anyone has concerns, it is suggested they contact Fred.

Memberships — Memberships and dues for Oregon State Beekeepers Association are for individuals only. If there are two people on application, we need to identify which one is the member. In regards to The Bee Line, each person will receive a copy. If for instance there are two paid members in one house, each will each receive a copy unless they ask for one. This is because each membership is tracked separately.

Local Associations — Each OSBA-affiliated local association must have at least five current members who are also members of Oregon State Beekeepers Association. The president must be one of the current OSBA members. It is noted that a larger association receives more benefit than the smaller associations in regard to the insurance. OSBA is going to be asking all associations for a $50 affiliation fee to help cover the cost of the insurance umbrella that covers all meetings, field days, and activities of the associations. OSBA will review the smaller clubs and new clubs, and may subsidize the fee, not waive it.

NEW BUSINESS
HopGuard® II — A Section 18 has been requested for HopGuard® II. HopGuard is one of two mite treatments that can be used with honey supers on. The OSBA voted to pursue continuation of HopGuard® II. Oxalic Acid will be a full approval, not a Section 18.

OSBA Logo — Use of the OSBA logo needs to be preauthorized. The motion was made and seconded that Rosanna create a letterhead for the official use of Oregon State Beekeepers Association. OSBA officers wishing to use the letterhead will send the letter to Rosanna for tracking and approval. Motion carried.

Board voting privileges — The privileges were reviewed. Committees make recommendations to the board, and only current board members vote. Everyone is welcome to sit in on a board meeting and voice their thoughts, but they don’t have a vote.

Jeff Hall, secretary for Tillamook County beekeepers, volunteered for the day-to-day website position.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2, 6–9 PM: Honey Bee Breeding by Sue Cobey. CASEE Center, Brush Prairie WA. Fee—$5 for non-Clark County Beekeepers Association members. Preregister/RSVP. Information: clarkcountybee@yahoo.com.

March 7, 8:45 AM–5:00 PM: Lane County Bee School, Eugene OR. Cost—$40, individual; $60, for two. Preregistration required. Information: 541.935.7065, lcbaor@pacinfo.com.

March 14, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM: Astoria Bee School, Clatsop Community College, Columbia Hall, Room 221. Cost—$20, individuals; $30, people together. Register on site, cash/check; bring a sack lunch. Information: ccbees@gmail.com.

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March 21, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM: BEEvent Pollinator Conference and Vendor Fair, Phoenix Inn and Suites, Albany OR. Cost: $25.00. Pre-registration required. Online: https://oregonstate.edu/osuext/register/81. Information: 541.766.6750, pamela.opfer at oregonstate.edu.

April 11: Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association Bee Day, Coffman Farms, 2775 Ballard Rd, Dallas OR.

April 18, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM: Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association annual Beginning Beekeeper Class. Information: www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org.


Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Membership Application

☐ New Member ☐ Membership Renewal

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.

Please send check made payable to OSBA with a completed form for each individual to:

Jeff Milligan, PO Box 20548, Keizer OR 97307

First Name: ___________________ MI: ____ Last Name: ___________________

Company name: ______________________________________________________

Type:  ☐ Small scale (less than 25)  ☐ Sideliner (25–300)  ☐ Commercial (more than 300)

Mailing address: ______________________________________________________

City: ___________________ State: ____________ Zip: ___________________

Telephone number: ________________ e-mail address: ___________________

Contact information: The OSBA respects the privacy of members. Please let us know if you want your contact information included in a membership directory sent to OSBA members only:

☐ Do not include contact information

☐ Share all OR ☐ Share mailing address ☐ Phone number(s) ☐ e-mail address

Local group, if member: _______________________________________________

Membership dues: $40 per person ($50 per person outside the US) $________

Voluntary contribution(s):

General Fund $________

Research Fund $________

Total amount enclosed: $________

Classified Ad

1000 6⅝" Supers w/drawn comb, spaced 9 frame in light wax

700 6⅝" Supers w/foundation

150 Nuc Boxes, 5-frame, ready 4 bees

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

Contact: Spellmans at 360.263.2425
Reminder: The date on the mailing label is the expiration date for membership. If the date is March 2015 (or earlier), this is your friendly renewal notice.

Best of wishes for all bees and their keepers as we enter this new spring!

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 April issue, 2015. The deadline for submitting copy is March 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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