



The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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www.orsba.org

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

WEBMASTER: Erin Olmon
orsbawebmaster@gmail.com

www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org

OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM

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

Image above/HB2653: Bigleaf maple welcomes spring as representatives of OSBA and other beekeepers work with the legislature. They have now accepted and support proposed HB2653-1 legislation. To follow the bill, visit: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Measures/Overview/HB2653>. For questions and information about the legislation and suggested changes, as well as the next meeting on April 2, contact Mike Rodia at rodia@msn.com or 503.364.3275.

REINTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROTECT POLLINATORS, PREVENT MASS BEE DIE-OFFS

Washington, DC – Today, Representative Earl Blumenauer and Representative John Conyers announced the reintroduction of the Saving America's Pollinators Act. The legislation requires the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take swift action to prevent mass bee die-offs and protect the health of honey bees and other critical pollinators by suspending the use of certain bee-toxic insecticides, known as neonicotinoids. It also requires the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Administrator of the EPA, to monitor the health of native bee populations and to identify and publicly report the likely causes of bee kills.

Recent research provides convincing evidence of a link between neonicotinoids and poor bee health. Bee populations have declined steadily since 2006, and the continued decline will have serious implications to our food supply.

"Honey bees and native bees jointly provide U.S. agriculture an estimated \$18 to \$27 billion in pollination service annually, and one out of every three bites of food people eat is from a crop pollinated by bees," said Representative Blumenauer. "It is imperative that we take a step back to make sure we understand all the factors involved in bee population decline and move swiftly to protect our pollinators."

The crops pollinated by bees include apples, avocados, cranberries, cherries, broccoli, peaches, carrots, grapes, soybeans, sugar beets and onions. However, these crops and numerous others are threatened by the dramatic decline of pollinator populations throughout the country. Over the past decade, documented incidents of honey bee colony collapse disorder (CCD) and other forms of excess bee mortality have been at a record high with some beekeepers repeatedly losing 100 percent of their operations.

"The EPA plans to wait until 2018 before reviewing the registration of neonicotinoids," said Representative Conyers. "But America's bees cannot wait three more years. Neither can the thousands of farmers that rely on pollinators. Our honeybees are critical to ecological sustainability and to our economy. I am urging all of my colleagues to please protect our pollinators and support the Saving America's Pollinators Act."

With the introduction of the Saving America's Pollinators Act, Congress will follow the example of local communities like Eugene OR, Spokane WA, and Seattle WA that have already adopted measures to ban the use of neonicotinoids on municipal lands. The federal government has also taken action to discontinue the use of neonicotinoids on national wildlife refuge system lands. This is a small step in the right direction, but greater action needs to be taken to protect bee populations at the federal level.

"The Saving America's Pollinators Act remains the gold standard when it comes to legislation designed to protect bees and other pollinators from exposure to toxic insecticides," said Andrew Kimbrell, Executive Director of Center for Food Safety. "We rely on bees and other pollinators for so much of our food and it's in everyone's best interest to do all we can to protect them. EPA has remained tone deaf to the influx of damning scientific evidence identifying neonicotinoids as a primary culprit in poor pollinator health and it is high time that the U.S. take action, just as other countries

Continued on page 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It has been a warm dry winter and my bees are rapidly brooding up. My hives look good with a fairly low winter loss, so far. I am hoping that this will be an excellent year for honey as I don't do a significant amount of pollination and just focus on honey production. I generally keep all my hives within 10 miles of home most of the year but I do occasionally move them for maximizing my honey harvest.

This brings me to the bills moving through the state legislature, currently there are three bills in the legislative process, HB3360, HB3361, and HB3362. HB3362 is the result of the Governor's "Pollinators Task Force" and will have the greatest impact on beekeepers. The OSBA has been actively communicating with the key legislators and testifying at committee meetings in order to represent our interests as beekeepers. These bills were all intended to "help" bees and beekeepers in one way or another. However as of the March 18th committee meeting the OSBA still has several issues with HB3362.

We need all of you to be aware of how this is going to affect you and be prepared to let your legislators know your concerns. To help keep you abreast of the situation the OSBA will be utilizing the website to post copies of the bills, any amendments that come up, along with comments and recommendations on what to communicate to your legislators. So please keep your eyes on the orsba.org website for further updates.

Paul

LOSS & POLLINATION ECONOMICS SURVEYS

Dewey M. Caron

Ramesh and I have sought to document the level of annual PNW overwintering losses and the business of pollination for the last several years. Will our mild, dry winter show higher survival this past winter season? What is happening to pollination colony rental prices? Please consider sharing your loss information and rental activity through our annual surveys.

In 2014, our sampling of OR commercial & semi-commercial beekeepers revealed that 21.3% of 51,718 fall colonies were lost overwinter. For 2013, Or larger scale beekeepers reporting losing 9607 colonies (of 50,392 entering the winter) for a 19.1% loss rate. These overwintering losses were lower than the BIP National loss rate for both years (30.6% and 23.2% respectively).

Larger-scale beekeepers have consistently had lower annual losses than backyarders. In 2013 for example 156 smaller-scale beekeepers reported losing 298 of 723 colonies overwinter, a 41.2% loss rate; in 2014, 307 small-scale (backyarder) individuals surveyed had a loss level of 48%, the highest level in 7 years of such surveys.

Larger-scale beekeepers have been mailed a single page overwintering loss survey and in another mailing a pollination economics survey. We ask that it kindly be filled out within a month if at all possible and send it back in the postage-paid envelope. I will be bringing a paper survey for smaller-scale beekeepers to distribute at March/April association meetings. The survey is also available as an online survey instrument available at <http://bit.ly/2015PUBSurvey>. It will take but a few minutes. We appreciate past involvement and ask that you help us make this information available once again this spring. Future Bee Lines will feature the results.

Our OR survey should not interfere with the great response of OR beekeepers to the National BIP survey. The survey is electronic and this year will be available during the entire month of April (as last year). You can sign up for a reminder by visiting the www.beeinformed.org website. In 2013, 194 Or beekeepers did fill out the National survey (managing 37,938 colonies) and they reported a loss rate of 26.5+2.2% colonies overwinter and for the entire season (a new feature of our report to be published in i.e. soon) an annual loss of 36.4 +2.2% (combined winter and summer losses). In 2014 222 OR beekeepers managing 50,691 colonies had a 17(+1.7) % overwinter colony loss rate and for the entire season 30.2 (+2.4)% colonies.

Pollinators—Continued from page 1

have, to suspend their use.

"It is time for the Environmental Protection Agency to take a stronger stance on pollinator protection." said Scott Hoffman Black, Executive Director of the Xerces Society. "We hope that the reintroduction of this bill further encourages EPA to work with its partners to better manage the possible risks to bees posed by pesticides, including neonics."

From: <http://blumenauer.house.gov> March 04, 2015



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OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM

Ramesh Sagili

I am sure that most of you are aware of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, which is a collaborative effort between Oregon State University and Oregon State Beekeepers Association that was initiated in 2011 and has achieved national recognition in this short span. Currently there are over 600 beekeepers enrolled in the program. There are 176 certified apprentices and journey students have volunteered over 1,500 hours in their communities. We really appreciate the unwavering support of all the committee members, mentors, volunteers and participants to the program. If you would like to know more about this program then please contact Carolyn Breece (carolyn.breece@oregonstate.edu) who coordinates the program.

Carolyn Breece

As the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program wraps up its third year of educating beekeepers, we would like to take a moment to update the OSBA on the year's events and milestones. First and foremost, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all of the volunteers that keep the program running. We have nearly 90 volunteer mentors who meet with Apprentices for invaluable hands-on training, 14 classroom instructors across Oregon (and Idaho!) who teach Apprentice classes, and 12 committee members who diligently work behind the scenes to bring quality education to Oregon beekeepers.

This year we added a new committee member to the team. We welcome Karessa Torgerson from Corvallis! Karessa has been involved in the OMB Program since the beginning. She is the classroom instructor for the Corvallis group and online classes, and she is a mentor. She is also a newly certified Master Beekeeper with the Eastern Apicultural Society! We are lucky to have Karessa on board as she brings expertise and fresh ideas to the table.

The Apprentice class of 2014 is near completion. Many have sent in their certification materials, and some are even signed up for the Journey level. We were thrilled to have a large group in Klamath Falls enroll in the program, thanks to a generous donor who provided scholarships to ten members of the Klamath Basin Beekeepers Association. The "Boise Boys," mentored by Jan Lohman in 2013, mentored a group of Apprentices in the Boise area in 2014. They and a few others in the area are at it again for the Apprentice class of 2015! We have many great stories from mentors and students, so we are happy to report 2014 as a successful year. Many thanks to GloryBee, Lane County Beekeepers Association, and

the anonymous donor in Klamath Falls for providing scholarships to eager new beekeepers.

The Journey Level nearly doubled in participants this year. We had a field day in June, in which Journeys learned about making nucs and splits, managing swarms, and honey labeling and entering in fairs. We also had two brave Journey students take the practical exam in front of everyone! Journeys had the opportunity to learn about honey judging at the Oregon State Fair with Dewey Caron and Trevor Riches. In November, Journey students gathered for the second annual OMB Institute. Speakers Kim Flottum, Sarah Red-Laird, and Dennis van Engelsdorp provided the group with useful communication tools for Journeys, and Ramesh Sagili gave us a background in honey bee genetics. For 2015, we are planning a lab day at OSU.

Program mentors met in August for the annual Mentor Field Day. We talked about Varroa management, record keeping, and how to effectively mentor new Apprentice students. To show our appreciation for their time, we had a raffle for the mentors in which everyone was a winner! Special thanks to all the donors of the fantastic prizes!

Enrollment for the class of 2015 is now complete and we are eagerly awaiting the January orientations, when new Apprentices can meet their mentors/instructors and get started with program! Including the class of 2015, we now have nearly 600 Apprentice students enrolled in the OMB program.

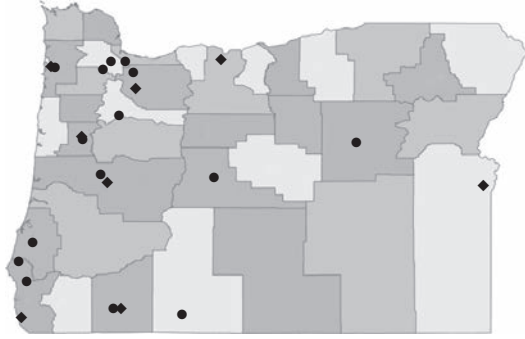
Check out our website and blog for more information and announcements about the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program: www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org And stay tuned for more updates!

Congratulations to our newest certified Apprentice Beekeepers!



Pam Arion	Alan Herzfeld
Anna Ashby	Debbie Johnson
Caroline Barnes	Barbara Jones
John Bassinette	Sonya Kyllo
Kat Betz	Brian Lackner
Rhae Books	Hans Maffeo
Jesse Botens	Nancy McDowell
Scott Branch	Melissa McLaughlin
Michael Caligure	Judith Olson
Bill Catherall	Rodney Olson
Jeff Clark	Raymond Rutler
Bryan Coggins	Phylicia Schwartz
Jenai Fitzpatrick	Kathy Sundet
Claudia Flaiz	Kathleen Treetop
Bill Gordon	Steve Vick
Meaghan Goulder	Ellen Wright
Alex Avery Hansen	

Oregon State Beekeepers Association EXECUTIVE BOARD AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS



OSBA OFFICERS

President: Paul Andersen
19255 SW Prospect St, Aloha 97007
503.332.5410; paulande@easystreet.net

Vice President: Harry Vanderpool
7128 Skyline Rd S, Salem 97306
503.399.3675; shallotman@yahoo.com

Secretary: Bunny Cramer-Carter
PO Box 779, Stayton 97383
503.703.8546; dbcramer@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Jeff Milligan
PO Box 20548, Keizer 97307
503.588.7224; milligan50@msn.com

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

♦ OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

Columbia Basin: Bill Edwards
5051 Lost Lake Rd, Hood River 97031
541.354.2223

Eastern Oregon: Jordan Dimock
2635 Mitchell Butte Rd, Nyssa 97913
541.372.2726

Portland Metro: Tom Cinquini
1172 S Sycamore St, Canby 97013
503.547.5386; tomcinquini@gmail.com

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

Pesticide Action Network. Over four million speak up for bees. To learn about the early March rally, see: www.panna.org/blog/over-four-million-speak-bees.

North Willamette Valley: Steven Coffman
2540 Greenwood Rd S, Independence 97351
503.838.2981

South Willamette Valley: Jason Rowan
80881 Turkey Run Rd, Creswell 97426
541.942.6479; beetanical@q.com

• OSBA REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Cascadia Queen Breeders

Meets quarterly; contact the secretary for information.

Chair: Paul Maresh
503.283.2060; pmaresh@spiretech.com

Vice Chair: James Hensel

Secretary: Ken Anthony—klanthony1@comcast.net

Treasurer: Tom Chester

Central Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, second Thursday

Partners in Care, 2075 NE Wyatt Ct, Bend

Visit www.orsba.org, Message Board, Central Oregon Branch. For information and meeting details, e-mail:

contact@cobeekeeping.org

President: Allen Engle

Treasurer: Patricia Moreland

Website: www.cobeekeeping.org

Coffee Creek Beekeepers

Coos County Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third Saturday (except December)

Ohlsen Baxter Bldg, 631 Alder St, Myrtle Point

President: John Gardner—541.572.3847

Vice President: Shigeo Oku—541.396.4016

Secretary: Bobbie Gardner—541.572.3847

Treasurer: Jane Oku

541.396.4016; janeoku1958@gmail.com

John Day River Beekeepers

Meets quarterly

President: Matt Allen

541.934.9101; apricotapiaries@gmail.com

Education Coordinator/Secretary: Liz Lovelock

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Meets 9:00 AM, last Saturday (except Nov/Dec)

OSU Extension, 3328 Vandenberg Rd, Klamath Falls

President: Paul Davitt

president@klamathbeekeepers.org

Vice President: John Wilda

vicepresident@klamathbeekeepers.org

Secretary: Judy Olson

secretary@klamathbeekeepers.org

Treasurer: Ray Rutler

treasurer@klamathbeekeepers.org

Website: www.klamathbeekeepers.org

Lane County Beekeepers

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

President: Pam Leavitt

541.344.4228; pamseaver2000@yahoo.com

Vice President: Max Kuhn—541.997.7390

Secretary: Jodi Wiktorowski

Treasurer: Polly Habliston

Website: www.lcbaor.org

Linn Benton Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third Wednesday, South First Alternative Co-op Meeting Room, 1007 SE 3rd, Corvallis

President: Steve Oda

541.745.7227; steve@lbba.us

Vice President: Everett Kaser

541.924.9214; everett@lbba.us

Secretary: Robert Williams

541.740.4705; robert@lbba.us

Treasurer: Suzi Maresh

541.967.9607; suzi@lbba.us

Website: www.lbba.us

Oregon South Coast Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 PM, third Tuesday, OSU Extension Office located at the Fairgrounds in Gold Beach

President: Jim Sorber

Vice President: Mark St. James

Secretary: Wayne Berry

berrydogs@gmail.com

Treasurer: Barbara Fitts

Portland Metro Beekeepers

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

President: Joe Maresh

503.703.5060; joemaresh@bctonline.com

Vice President: Rex McIntire

503.720.7958; remcintire_5@msn.com

Secretary: Patty Anderson

503.887.7057; wiseacrefarms@me.com

Treasurer: Barb Derkacht

503.631.3063; bderkacht@yahoo.com

Website: portlandmetro.org

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, first Wednesday, Calaroga Terrace Rmtm Comm, Terrace Auditorium, 1400 NE Second Ave, Portland. For information, e-mail: officers@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

President: Bill Catherall—503.572.6467

president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Vice President: Sylvan Zimmerman

vice-president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Secretary: Janet Shea-Tangeman

secretary@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Treasurer: Keith Gilman

treasurer@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Website: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

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

Res & Ext Ctr, 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point

President: John Jacob

541.582.BEES; john@oldsolenterprises.com

Vice President: Ron Padgett

541.592.4678; padgett25@frontiernet.net

Secretary: Dana Rose—puckamok@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Cheryl Housden

541.955.5146; chousden@earthlink.net

Website: southernoregonbeekeepers.org

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 6:30 PM, last Tuesday

225 S First Street, Hillsboro

Contact: tualatinvalleybeekeepers@gmail.com

President: Jeff Clark

Vice President: Bob Ward

Secretary: Jillian Hettinga

Co-Treasurers: Barb Falconer & Jerry Maasdam

Web: www.facebook.com/TualatinValleyBeekeepers

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

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Queens, Bees, Honey & Pollination

Wanted: Volunteers to observe plants, shrubs, and trees for honey bee visits. Contact with questions and for further details: Travis Owen, enoster@hotmail.com.

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives

South Coast

“To treat or not to treat” is not so much the question now, according to Shigeo Oku of Coos County beekeepers. It’s more like how many treatments of what, and when. His recent experience has led him to believe that it takes four treatments of Formic Acid in the fall, each of them eight days apart. The colonies in that area that got that treatment regime are still alive, and the ones that didn’t are dead. The cold spell in January wiped them out. All except the untreated colony of the daughter queen, N30-1, from the untreated stock at NW Queens in Washington. Shigeo has two daughter queens from N30 and plans to run an overwintering experiment by treating the one and not the other. His experience is that colonies can survive for three years without treatment, but then are likely to decline and die. Need not be concerned about Nosema if mites are kept at minimum. They are at minimum during swarm, maximum during peak brood season.

Carla presented plans for development of the OSCBA Education Apiary at the meeting in February and the members decided to commit funding at the next meeting, pending receipt of the paperwork, written approval from the property owners, OREC, and the insurance coverage information from OSBA. She passed around a package of spoons and a jar of Pomegranate honey for all to taste and discuss.

Russ and Babette Rose will be picking up their bee package order from Koehnan in Sacramento area on the first weekend of April and are inviting people to come to their beeyard for the process. The following week they will pick up the bee package orders for all the other club members. Rolf Dengler, blueberry farm owner and honeybee enthusiast, created a FaceBook page for the group the day after the meeting and already had a page full of beeyard photos. Search OSCBA (South Coast Beekeepers).

Blossoms and branches were passed around to show what the honey bees were foraging in on the day of the meeting in February. Jim showed Myrtle, Huckleberry, and Rosemary. Carla showed Cherry, Witch Hazel, Coyote Brush and Aronia Berry.

Mark St. James gave a presentation on honey bee cycles and noted that in his experience Lavender eliminates the pain of a bee sting, almost immediately. Ammonia was another chemical mentioned as relieving bee sting.

Jim Sorber, president, said he has had good experience with using liquid smoke. He puts a half dozen drops of liquid

smoke in a spray bottle full of water. Carla pointed out that it doesn’t work against the black robber honey bees that have been such a problem in her area.

Honey on Tap was mentioned and several people had seen the new product advertised online and were very interested and curious about it. Rolf put a link to it on our FaceBook page.

—Mureen Walker

Southern Oregon

Picnics, BBQs, and paddle boarding in February? While there are many revelers in the lack of Southern Oregon winter, I’m not one of them. I like building snow people, skiing, and the anticipation of life in the March buds. But this year, we didn’t really have winter. While our precipitation in the Rogue Valley is at 90% of the average, our snowpack is at a mere 14%. Mountain ranges under 5,500 feet have zero snowpack. What does this mean for bees? Two things come right to the top of my mind. Natural water and expedited water. Eighty-six percent of historically trapped water reserves have already washed down the valleys, and are on the way out to sea. The wildflowers as well as the pesky nonnative “bee plants” such as star thistle and Himalayan blackberry will not have the gradual trickle down of mountain water to keep them saturated, growing, and producing nectar and pollen for our bees. What is the next best thing? Irrigation. The brunt of my bees are nestled next to chemical-free hay fields that use interplanted bee-friendly flowers to fix the soil and build organic matter. It’s a win, win, win for all of us. However, irrigation waters were released weeks late and cut off months early in 2014. Hay cuttings were abysmal, and flowers were stunted and dry. The homepage of the Talent Irrigation District is alluding to the same fate this year.

Adding to the water shortage is no bloodless period for bees, resulting in no break from Varroa. We are also seeing an early explosion of blossoms that most beekeeper’s bees don’t have the populations to capitalize on (unless you were in the almonds, or have been feeding protein patties since January). I worry that the unseasonably early (and fast) Spring bloom will be gone and we’ll be in the 100s quicker than you can say “starvation.”

However, because I am a relentless optimist I think there are solutions. Beekeepers are some of the most innovative and resilient people on the planet. Bees thrive in the torturously hot and dry South West, right!? Perhaps the answer is in drought-hardy plants and a good hard look at beehive/landscape carrying capacity?

I’m sure these topics and many more will come up in our Bee School, which is April 18th and will feature presentations from Dewey Caron, Morris Ostrofsky, and myself. It will

be a fantastic day with the focus on beekeeping basics, biology, honey, and Varroa. We look forward to sharing our passion and workshopping ideas with Southern Oregon!

—Sarah Red-Laird

South Willamette Valley

April is a time for strong growth, uncertain weather, and high risk in the apiary. To manage and control these factors, knowledge will be your best asset. Try and anticipate the needs of your hive through a complete inspection as well as keeping a eye on the uncertain weather patterns of spring in our beloved valley. I would suggest to not put off what can be done today for you never know what Mother Nature will be like. Remember stay ahead of what your bees need.

Things to remember in the South Valley: (1) Spring treatment, know your problems. (2) Bigleaf maple could be good or bad, so watch you weight and feed more than not. (3) Re-queen as early as possible if you can find the Qs. A fresh Q can make a big difference in disease, swarming, honey, and overall survival. Good luck out there, and prepare for another dry year, i.e., no late nectar and yellow jackets. Happy keeping.

—Jason Rowan

Regional Associations

Cascadia Queen Breeders

Cascadia Queen Breeders would like to announce our Spring meeting and workshop to be held May 30 at Kerry Haskins' Honey House located at 25101 S. Schoenborn Rd. Mulino, OR 97042. Our instructor will be Dewey Caron. The Queen Rearing workshop will cover Grafting and the Miller Method of queen rearing. We will provide drinks such as coffee, pop, and water. Bring your lunch and enjoy the conversations with other people interested in breeding Queens. Workshops are free to CQB members, nonmembers will pay a fee of \$25 for this workshop. The CQB meet quarterly. Watch *The Bee Line* for upcoming events. Contact CQB Secretary Ken Anthony, 2124 NE Hwy 20, Corvallis OR 97330 or klanthony1@comcast.net to register for this event or to join Cascadia Queen Breeders. Due to space limitations, this workshop will be limited to the first 20 participants who register.

—Ken Anthony

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Hello from Klamath beekeepers! March is here and OH! what a different March it is! Spring uncharacteristically is in full swing. At this point in the year we usually still have residual snow on the ground and maybe a crocus or two, but this year we have Manzanita blooming two months early, dandelions, narcissus, and wild invasive geranium, and the bees are humming! The busy workers are bringing in loads of a pale, almost white pollen. Recent inspections of the hive show brood, drone brood, and drones and queen cells with larvae

in them. Swarm season, as unlikely as it may seem, may be upon us! Let us hope the flora catches up to the bee demand. Packages are coming in April 11, almost 2 weeks ahead of schedule. This year is off to a flying start!

—Judy Olson

Lane County Beekeepers

Saturday, March 7, LCBA held its 31st Bee School. This event was organized by Ken and Nancy O'Grain. There were 54 people in attendance, plus many volunteers from the club. Our focus was beginning beekeepers, who learned about the basics of getting started with honey bees, the essential equipment, package bees, spring/summer and fall/winter management. Workshops were offered on feeding bees and woodenware assembly. Door prizes were awarded during the breaks and the grand prize, donated by GloryBee, was a package of bees. The winner will pick up their bees at the Bee Weekend on April 10 and 11.

Our March meeting will be held on March 17, 7:30 PM, at Trinity United Methodist Church with the topics of Swarms and Hive Evaluation and Yellow Jacket threats.

Oregon State University 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 speaking on Creating Healthy Landscapes for Bees. The LCBA held a drawing to award a free registration to this event and the winner was Karla Casebolt.

—Pam Leavitt

Portland Metro Beekeepers

The Portland Metro Beekeepers welcomed 86 members and new beekeepers at our March meeting held on Thursday, March 12. The featured speaker at our March meeting was Kenny Williams, past president of OSBA. His focus for the evening was managing your hives for honey production. Our ultimate goal, he stressed, was to have bees next year! He walked us through his four management practices that we should keep in mind when looking at our honey production.

The queen quality is very important. They should be good, strong, and young queens. A poor brood pattern is an indication of a poor queen. Equalizing hives is another recommendation. He suggests new beekeepers have a minimum of three hives to ensure all colonies survive. Preparation and timing are equally important. This is the time of year we will be receiving nucs. Make sure all your equipment is ready and also be ready to feed your bees depending on the nectar flow. Locate your hives near a nectar source. Don't forget your bees need a water source, too.

President Joe Maresh announced several workshops that we will hold this spring. We will be having workshops on queen rearing, mite control, and honey harvesting. More information will be available at our next meeting on April 9. Tom Chester gave us a recap of the Bee School we held along with Clackamas Community College. It was a full class and all participants gave awesome reviews! We look forward to holding another class with CCC.

Our annual Bee Day will be held on April 25 at George Hansen's apiary in Colton. We recommend registering early, as space is limited. Registration forms are available on our website: portlandmetro.org. All beekeepers are welcome to attend our monthly meetings held on the second Thursday of each month at Clackamas Community College.

—Patty Anderson

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Dewey Caron and Janai Fitzpatrick are putting the finishing touches on this year's PUB Winter Loss survey. We'll be releasing it regionally by the end of the March. Additionally, PUB members have a marvelous opportunity to enlist on Hive Tracks for free. Hive Tracks helps you with your beekeeping records, and this program allows PUB to see trends across our group and share it with our members.

Tour de Hives will be on June 20. We are looking for Portland apiaries that would like to be a part of the tour. We're also looking for volunteers to be host assistants at each of the tour stops. If you are interested, please sign up at: <http://bit.ly/TourVolunteer2015>.

Dewey Caron has returned to PUB with his What to Do in the Hive This Month. He advised on hive maintenance in this early spring we are having in Portland. He encouraged everyone to test honey stores through hive hefting, as well as a very brief inspection. He reminded us to not disrupt any of the frame arrangements at this time.

Jacqueline Freeman, a biodynamic farmer and pioneer in the emerging field of natural beekeeping, gave a passionate presentation on swarms. She went into depth about why and how swarming happens and shared wonderful photos and videos of capturing swarms on her farm. She encourages beekeepers to let their hives swarm because it is natural and supports healthy breeding. Jacqueline enjoys listening to her bees, and her new book, *THE SONG OF INCREASE: Returning to our Sacred Partnership with Honeybees* is named after her favorite bee process, swarming. You can follow Jacqueline on her website: SpiritBee.com. Our meetings are digitally recorded into blocks of video that usually correspond to our meeting agendas and posted to YouTube soon after. For more information visit: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org.

—Courtney Todd Campbell

Tillamook County Beekeepers

Our club continues to grow and enthusiasm for beekeeping is at an all time high on the coast. Karessa Torgerson was our featured speaker at our March meeting. Her topic was: Mistakes Beekeepers make. This was the second time Karessa has addressed our group and was well received. Her knowledge and compassion for beekeeping makes her a delightful speaker. Our president Bob Allen confirmed bee package and nucleus hive orders. Jim Fanjoy discussed his study, in conjunction with Dr. Dewey M. Caron and Dr. Ramesh Sagili, of how hive roof configurations affect honey bee colonies. Please go to his webpage devoted to this project at: www.kickstarter.com/projects/1624397990/the-cozy-bee-project. The project needs to be fully funded by April 11, 2015. Our club members have decided to help fund the project. Additional individual OSBA member support would be appreciated. Bee Day is April 11, 2015, at the Fairview Grange. Only \$15 will get you in the door and includes lunch. Dr. Caron will be giving a special workshop for beginning beekeepers and anyone who wants to increase their beekeeping knowledge. We have lots of donated equipment to be raffled. A table will be set up for anyone who has new or used equipment for sale. Our next meeting will be April 14, please join us.

—Jeff Hall

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

The Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association (TVBA) meets monthly on the last Tuesdays in downtown Hillsboro. Meetings begin at 6:30 PM, and beginning in April 2015, we will be meeting at 225 S First Street (at Washington) in Hillsboro. Free parking is available in the public garage above the first floor meeting rooms. Membership dues are \$20 per household per year.

New officers were elected in January: Jeff Clark is president, Bob Ward is vice president, Jerry Maasdam and Barb Falconer are co-treasurers, and Jill Hettinga is secretary.

Monthly meetings include social time, a business meeting, and an expert presentation on a select beekeeping topic of value to club members. In February, our speaker was Mark Johnson, who demonstrated nuc creation. In March, we enjoyed a presentation from Carolyn Breece. And on April 28, we are scheduled to hear from Heike Williams on queen breeding.

We offer an annual Bee School; this year classes take place April 6 to 11. Cost of the Bee School is \$50 which includes copies of materials, the book *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by Keith Delaplane, and a one-year membership in the Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association. To enroll in Bee School, please download an application form at our Facebook page and send it along with a check made payable to "TVBA" to Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Assn, 1769 SE Alder Street, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123-4987.

—Debby Garman

KEEPING BEES IN APRIL

Todd Balsiger

Each spring we need to verify that colonies are queenright, healthy, and well fed so they can build up to maximum populations to capitalize on the summer's nectar flow. In that endeavor, consider the following:

- ❖ Check for weight by hefting hives. Colonies can starve quickly at this time of year. Feed light colonies with heavy sugar syrup.
- ❖ Sample for Varroa infestation; treat if thresholds are exceeded. I've learned that the sugar shake can be fatiguing to the arm and the alcohol wash may be preferred. The procedure is the same as the sugar shake, albeit the bees and mites don't walk away. Whatever method you choose, take care to be consistent in use so you can make comparisons of mite counts in colonies over time.

This is some of what Randy Oliver writes about the alcohol wash: "It meets all my criteria for simplicity and quickness in the field, requires a minimal amount of equipment, and does not require sharp eyes nor much counting. Best of all, the alcohol wash gives an immediate and suitably accurate assessment of mite levels in a yard within a few minutes. Many in the research community have gone to using the alcohol wash of 300 bees from the broodnest as their standard method of mite assessment. The suitability of the alcohol wash is supported by extensive sampling and statistical analysis by Katie Lee for her doctoral research."

I recommend visiting Randy's website at <http://scientificbeekeeping.com> to see how he makes his sampling kit and how he samples. Whatever procedure you use, continue to sample so you know your estimated infestation rate and whether or not treatment is necessary.

Randy's treatment thresholds are much lower than others I have read. In the summer, he treats anything above 2 percent infestation (6 mites out of 300 bees). Most other sources recommend treatment at 10 percent infestation. I do not know what threshold is appropriate for us.

- ❖ Do some "hive house cleaning" activities on a nice spring day. This allows a variety of tasks to be accomplished based on your objectives. With all hive manipulations, have a plan before starting and try to combine tasks to minimize hive intrusions. At the minimum, at least clean or swap out the bottom board for a dry one (a new pair of underwear, as Dr. Burgett would say), and make sure the colony is queenright. From there, the sky is the limit: reversing, making divisions, equalizing, and so forth. Many beekeepers systematically go through their hives and remove burr comb, poor-quality comb, and old brood comb; clean bottom boards; replace queens if necessary; check brood frames for foulbrood; and create uniform strength hives.

Consider stimulative sugar water feeding about 6 weeks prior to the onset of the major nectar flow. Discontinue stimulative sugar feeding before supering. For more on this topic, I am going to share what John Jacob wrote on the OSBA web page. From John: "An old timer once told me anybody can grow bees on a flow, but a good

beekeeper will grow the bees before the flow in order to maximize honey production. I have found this to be very true for maximizing honey production. The key is to keep the bees from hanging in the trees before or during the flow. This can be accomplished several ways through better brood nest management. Several thoughts come to mind here:

1. Super early and often.
2. Checkerboard and keep the brood nest open.
3. Monitor for signs of swarm impulse and take appropriate action.

Number three is very important and there will be many opinions on this. Personally I like to model my management on the bees' natural life history. In other words, help the bees do what they want to do. When there are signs of the urge to swarm I like to take the old queen off in a small nuc with a couple frames of brood and some food (much like how a swarm leaves with the old queen to establish a new hive). This way the parent hive is left strong for gathering nectar and rearing a new queen. A break in brood rearing during the flow actually can increase honey production because there will be less brood for workers to tend to during this period and the colony will naturally allocate more workers to foraging. If the new queen fails to mate or is marginal in any way, she can be dispatched and the old queen with her nuc combined back to the parent hive. Explosive growth before the flow is actually a good thing if one can manage the swarm impulse productively."

Other things to consider:

- ❖ Be prepared to catch swarms. The beginning of swarm season is marked by the flush of new growth on plants. It generally begins in earnest in April, peaks in May, and continues into June. Requeening, reversing, checkerboarding, equalizing, and making divisions are all strategies to reduce swarming.
- ❖ Maple trees bloom around the beginning of the month, and this is a major nectar source for honey bees. If the weather cooperates, it is possible to fill supers with honey. Some beekeepers super now; others feel that their bees need the maple honey to ward off starvation. Only you know how well provisioned your hives are and the typical weather in your area.
- ❖ Heed your super withdrawal times based on your pest and disease treatments. Also, if you use paradichlorobenzene for wax moth control, then before supering place supers out on a warm day to allow the paradichlorobenzene residues to vaporize.
- ❖ Divisions in April are ideal if a robust honey crop is desired. However, well-mated queens are not always available, and well-balanced divisions (ratio of adults to brood) are necessary to prevent chilled brood. Making divisions is a form of Varroa control as it disrupts the brood cycle. (Swarming does the same thing, but to a greater extent.)
- ❖ Keep the front of hives clear of grass to promote ventilation and forager access.
- ❖ Mouse guards can be removed.

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

EARLY SPRING, INTO APRIL: HIVE PLACEMENT

Lynn Royce

I watched the sun rise across a frosty landscape the past few mornings, and the cold reminded me how important it is for our bees to be warm and dry. We can help them by paying attention to the sun in winter as it crosses the sky. Even a few hours of sunshine on the hives can make a difference in winter, and placement of the colony so that this happens requires attention to the how low the sun travels in the south sky and what obstacles will block it. I have seen high fences, tall hedges, buildings, and trees as the most common blockers of a winter sun. In the spring and early summer, when we are getting new bees for the first time or to replace ones we lost, the sun has a different path across the sky, and days are warm or even hot. This makes it hard to think about

winter and what spot will be in continuous shade during that time of year. A dry colony is less likely to get dysentery, will be warmer, will have honey and pollen stores that will keep better—and you have a better chance of healthy bees still alive when spring arrives.

From: April 2013 issue of *The Bee Line*.



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PNW TECH TRANSFER TEAM at OSU

Ramesh Sagili

You probably are aware of the Pacific Northwest Tech Transfer Team, which is a collaborative effort between Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) and Oregon State University that started in May 2014. BIP currently has four tech-transfer teams operating in the US. Ellen Topitzhofer and Dan Wyns are the Pacific Northwest Tech Transfer Team members. The goal of these tech-transfer teams is to reduce honey bee colony mortality by assisting beekeepers with timely colony diagnosis (pests/pathogens/nutrition) that allows them to undertake timely intervention. About 20 beekeepers from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho are participating in this program. The PNW team is working with each participant beekeeper based on their individual needs in evaluating and improving management decisions. We are also able to help beekeepers understand seasonal trends within their own beekeeping operation.

Ellen Topitzhofer

Dan Wyns and I started out mid-May to work with 19 beekeepers that are based in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. The functionality of our team revolves around our ability to



provide beekeepers with data on disease levels in near real-time and in a way that's easy to interpret. We sample colonies for Varroa and Nosema levels from each beekeeping outfit four times throughout the year. Our sampling regime focuses on longitudinal disease monitoring, incident response, and evaluating efficacy of

treatments. We have completed three sampling rounds with our participating beekeepers—one in spring, summer, and fall—our fourth sampling round will commence in early spring of 2015 during almond pollination. In addition to our routine sampling, we are working on two supplemental studies that address issues we've seen in the field.

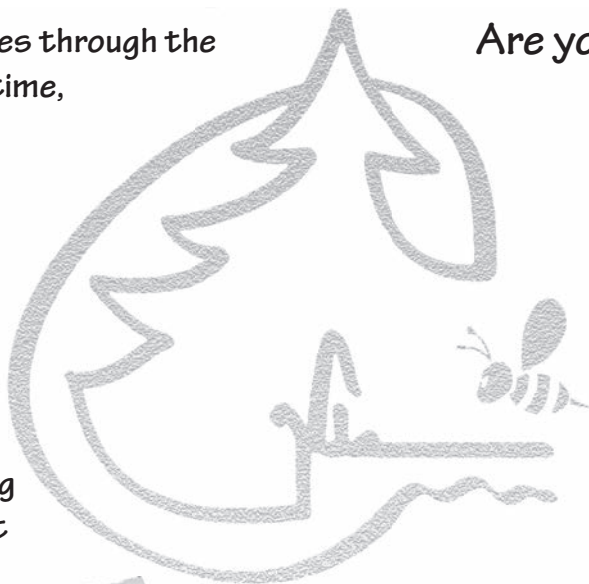
We've had several incidences involving an outbreak of European Foulbrood (*Melissococcus plutonius*) and Idiopathic Brood Disease Syndrome (snotty brood). During our spring sampling period, we detected the presence of EFB/IBDS in 12 of the 19 beekeeping operations, followed by sightings in 10 operations during our summer sampling period. We

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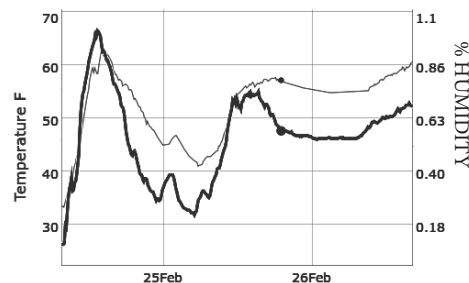
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haven't seen a distinct trend in geographic location, pollination crop, or treatment history. Starting in spring, we took larval samples from symptomatic and asymptomatic colonies. The BIP Diagnostic Lab at the University of Maryland analyzed these samples for EFB via DNA quantification methods and screened for six common viruses (KBV, ABPV, IAPV, DWV, LSV-2, and CBPV). Sample results indicate high prevalence of EFB in symptomatic colonies, but no conclusive trends that any given virus plays a role in infection. We plan to continue



investigating this issue next year in hope of improving our understanding of how to identify and manage these outbreaks.

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Given that the majority of our participating beekeepers spend the better part of the year transporting their colonies to different crops for pollination, we're working on another study that evaluates pesticide exposure in pollination crops. This study is a collaborative effort between BIP and the EPA. We trap pollen in a variety of crops to be analyzed for pesticide residues. This project is still underway, and we expect to sample from a total of 15 crops by the end of May next year. Our goal is for this information is to provide a better understanding for beekeepers and growers of pesticide levels honey bees are exposed to in these crops.

There are exciting new things happening with BIP, including the launch of the Sentinel Hive program. If you're interested in learning more information about the Tech Teams or other BIP programs, check out our website: beeinformed.org.

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BEE SCHOOLS AND BEE DAYS THIS SPRING!

Central Oregon Beekeepers Association

Bee School • April 4, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Location: Bend

Preregistration required

Cost per family: \$20 for members • \$25 for nonmembers

Preregistration: beeschool@cobeekeeping.org

Information: www.cobeekeeping.org

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association

Bee School 2015

April 6 and 8, 7:00–9:00 PM

April 11, 8 AM–NOON

Location: 225 S First Ave, Hillsboro

Cost: \$50 (includes copies of materials, *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by Keith Delaplane, and a one-year membership in TVBA)

Registration: Application form at:

www.facebook.com/TualatinValleyBeekeepers

Tillamook County Beekeepers Association

Bee Day • April 11

Location: Fairview Grange, Tillamook

Cost: \$15

Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association

Bee Day: An extension of Bee School

April 11, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM

Location: Coffman Farms, 2775 Ballard Rd, Dallas

Information: http://wvbahive.org/bee-day-2015

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association

Beginning Beekeeper Class: The Art and Science of Keeping Bees in the Rogue Valley

April 18, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Limited to the first 100 to register

Location: Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point

Cost: \$35 SOBA Members • \$45 Nonmembers (includes SOBA membership for nonmembers)

Registration: April 17 deadline

Information: www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org

Portland Metro Beekeeping Association Bee Day 2015

Saturday, April 25th from 9 AM - 3:00 PM
Check-in 8:30-9:00 AM

Attendance limited to 175 people.

Pre-registration by April 16th deadline \$25/person or \$35/family

Day of registration \$30/person or \$40/family

GEAR: If you don't have a bee suit, bring or wear long pants, long sleeves, "hoodie" to hide hair, and garden or dishwashing gloves for protection. Consider rain gear and warm clothes, sun hat, umbrella. There will be a limited number of bee veils and suits to check out.

Bring a lawn chair or camp chair. Or it will be a long day of standing.

Complimentary morning beverages provided.



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Mapquest for detailed directions.

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9:00 AM WELCOME
9:30 -10:30 1st Session: Beekeeping by George Hansen

10:30 -11:30 2nd Session:
Inspection - all attendees out to the hives.

LUNCH 11:30 - 12:30

12:30 - 1:30 3rd Session - Concurrent:
Overview of OSU Bee Lab by Dr. Ramesh Sagili.
Or
Diagnosis and Managing Honey Bee Diseases by Dr. Dewey Caron.

1:30 -2:30 4th Session
Inspection - all attendees out to the hives.

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Q & A Table - "Ask the beekeeper": All day
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Registration includes 1 lunch. Family registration includes 2 lunches. Additional lunches, at \$8 each, and must be ordered and paid at this time. Form must be received by April 16th for pre-registration. Make checks payable to PMBA. Thank you.

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Cascadia Queen Breeders

Spring meeting and Queen Rearing Workshop
May 30

Location: Kerry Haskins' Honey House
25101 S Schoenborn Rd, Mulino
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Cost: Free to CQB members, nonmembers \$25.00

Registration/Membership: Ken Anthony, 2124 NE Hwy 20, Corvallis,
Oregon 97330 or klanthony1@comcast.net

Portland Urban Beekeepers Association

June 20

Volunteer Application to host or assist a host Tour de Hives 2015
http://bit.ly/TourVolunteer2015

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UPCOMING EVENTS

First Wednesday, 7 PM: Douglas County Bees, "Let's Talk Bees." Third floor, Douglas County Courthouse.
Information: douglascountybees@gmail.com.

For Local Bee Day/School Event Details, see page 13.

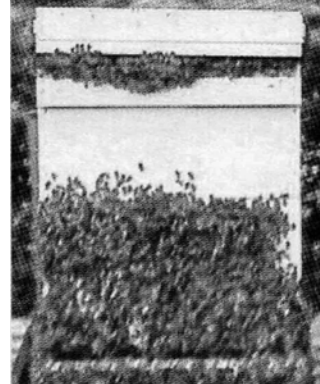
April 4: Central Oregon Beekeepers Bee School, Bend.

April 6, 8, 11: Tualatin Valley Bee School, Hillsboro.

April 10-11: GloryBee Bee Weekend, 29548 B Airport Road (directly off of Hwy 99), Eugene. Free event.

April 11: Willamette Valley Bee Day, Dallas.

April 11: Tillamook County Bee Day, Tillamook.



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April 13, 7 PM: Waystations for Monarchs. Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St, Eugene. Free event.
April 18: Southern Oregon Beginning Class, Medford.
April 25: Portland Metro Bee Day, Colton.
May 30: Cascadia Queen Breeders meeting/Workshop, Mulino.
June 20: Portland Urban Beekeepers Tour de Hives.

August 10–14: Eastern Apicultural Society Conference, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada.
September 15–20: 44th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress, South Korea. *Information:* www.apimondia.org.
October 1–3: Western Apicultural Society Annual Conference. Boulder, Colorado.
November 6–8: OSBA Fall Conference, Oregon Garden.



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:*

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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):

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Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Thank you!

Effective Date: 1/1/2014



The Bee Line

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



May all bees be buzzin'!

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