



Mureen Walker

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www.orsba.org

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM

*A Joint Venture of OSBA and the
Oregon State University Extension Service*

Image above: Mother and son head for the hives while two budding beekeepers check out an oversized beesuit during a recent bee event in southern Oregon. What have you learned this spring? How are your bees? What concerns do you have? Notes, stories, questions, photos—please send them to: osba.newsletter@gmail.com.

POLLINATOR BILLS IN THE 2015 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Harry Vanderpool

The Governor's Task Force on Pollinator Health was formed as a result of Oregon **House Bill 4139** in 2014. The Task Force, with Dr. Ramesh Sagili as Chair, met seven times and developed a set of recommendations. In 2015, three House Bills were introduced to carry out the recommendations of the Task Force:

House Bill 3360 requests an appropriation out of the general fund for the purpose of developing a state-of-the-art bee health diagnostic facility at the Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab.

House Bill 3361 directs the OSU Extension Service to collaborate with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to expand and make information related to practices that can improve pollinator health available to the public.

House Bill 3362 funds pollinator health outreach, education, and training plans. Funding is derived from increased pesticide registration fees and increased apiary registration fees.

Of the three bills, HB 3362 stood out as the most problematic. This bill adds a \$0.50 per hive assessment to the \$10.00 registration fee. No one appeared at the public hearing in opposition the assessment; however, the allocation of monies collected was challenged staunchly by the OSBA.

A section of the bill stated, "All moneys collected pursuant to ORS 602.090 shall be spent on honeybee and native bee research."

The OSBA Agricultural Liaison Committee made it very clear in public testimony that a per hive assessment from honey bee hives should go entirely to honey bee research or we would continue opposition. The Salem *Statesman Journal* and the *Capitol Press* reported that the OSBA declared the bill in jeopardy over the proposed language.

A compromise was reached between the chief sponsor of the bill, Representative Jeff Reardon, and the OSBA Agricultural Liaison Committee with the additional support of Dr. Ramesh Sagili. An amendment was proposed that read, "All moneys collected from ORS 602.090 shall be spent on pollinator research that is predominantly focused on honeybees."

An additional sticking point in the bill for beekeepers was the requirement for beekeepers to report all of their locations and contact information for each in order to obtain registration. George Hansen and the OSBA opposed this firmly as a non-starter. In the end, this language was dropped from the bill. All bills as amended passed out of committee and are currently in Ways & Means.

I would like to thank those who, although they did not have the extra time to do so, stepped up and walked the capitol steps on numerous occasions to defend honey bees and Oregon beekeepers: Dr. Ramesh Sagili, George Hansen, the OSBA Agricultural Liaison Committee: Fred VanNatta, Marge Ehry, Dr. Mike Rodia, and myself. A special thanks to Scott Dahlman of Oregonians for Food and Shelter for written support of OSBA amendments.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It seems that whenever I think I have everything under control something happens and I realize that despite plans and schedules, the unexpected can upset everything. Murphy's Law comes into play and everything that can go wrong will. As they say, the best laid plans often go awry.

I won't go into details, but the last month seems to be one of those times. Events I had no control over came together just to make things difficult. Nothing huge, but when a lot of little inconveniences that are minor by themselves converge, they will consume your time, distract you and interfere with your schedule. At the point where external influences that are out of your control happen, the only thing you can do to live with it, adjust your plans, reschedule and hope that next month is better.

Now, as a beekeeper, I know I am not in total control when it comes to the bees. I try to guide and influence them to do what I want them to do. So I attempt to manage Varroa and keep the bees healthy, well-fed and dry. Last August I also decided to re-queen a test batch of my hives to see if it might improve my winter losses from the previous year. One of the queens I put in last August, which was producing a nice brood pattern in March, just stopped laying. She was still in the hive in April, but there was no brood. Then another hive, which got a queen from the same batch in August, throws out a swarm every week for three weeks in row and is still packed with bees. The bees are the ones who are definitely in control. I did manage to hive all three swarms and they are all doing well, so it wasn't a real loss. But it is a reminder that the bees have a mind of their own and they don't seem to want to listen to me. As for the winter losses, they were slightly lower; I may try to re-queen a larger number of hives later this year. It makes me think of another saying, "If you want to make GOD laugh, make a plan." I think the same goes for bees, they just laugh louder.

Paul

LAST CALL FOR LOSS SURVEY RETURNS

Dewey M. Caron

A reminder – Ramesh and I are once again seeking to survey large-scale commercial, sideliner and smaller-scale backyard beekeepers in OR and the PNW about overwintering losses/survivorship – this is our 7th consecutive year gathering this information. The commercial and sideline beekeepers were mailed a paper survey – if you haven't dug it out and filled it out please do so ASAP. Smaller-scale beekeepers should use the electronic survey <http://bit.ly/2015PUBSurvey>.

We will summarize the past winter survey in an upcoming BeeLine . Last years summary is on orsba.org website under the July 2014 BeeLine tab.

If you are not a regular I recommend you check out the beeinformed website. Dan Wyns of the PNW Tech Team (he and Ellen Topitzhofer are the Team) has recently posted a blog about the Oregon Sentinel Apiary – it is part of the Oak Creek apiary at OSU. You can also see his earlier posts on watermelon and hybrid onion seed pollination in Oregon and another on top bar hives. Ramesh and I wrote a larger report about our PNW Tech Team to appear in an upcoming American Bee Journal.

Also check out Hive Check on the beeinformed website. Several OR beekeepers, both large and small scalers are supplying basic information about our beekeeping activities every two weeks for summary and posting on the site. You can join in the effort by signing up to add your activities – you will get a simple 10 question survey instrument every two weeks and then will receive a report within a week that summarizes our region. It is another feature on the beeinformed website that features beekeepers talking to beekeepers, something beeinformed is encouraging.

The past results of the National BeeInformed survey of losses and management is also available on the www.beeinformed.org website (under management surveys of programs (from top bar pulldowns). As we continue to analyze results and summarize what some beekeepers are doing to reduce overwintering losses you can see that beekeepers who used drone brood removal in the northern tier of states had anywhere from a 10 to 33% higher survival rate over the last 3 survey years while those who utilized a chemical such as Apiguard (the essential oil thymol) did even better, reporting 26-31% fewer losses overwinter. Check other results for some clues as to what some beekeepers are doing to help reduce overwinter and summer losses.

HB2653-A and RESIDENTIAL BEEKEEPING

Mike Rodia

Over the last several years, the OSBA and its regional associations have been asked to provide assistance to new and established beekeepers with problems concerning the keeping of bees within residential areas. While we have helped by appearing before municipal councils we have also, on occasion, advised beekeepers not to alert or question municipalities about beekeeping unless they are prepared for the answers that they might receive. In some cases municipalities have (had) rules or ordinances that prohibit or severely restrict beekeeping. In other cases the municipalities have proposed new rules or ordinances that would be and/or are used to limit residential beekeeping or impose unneeded or onerous requirements. These rules and ordinances have included limits on the number and placement of hives, registrations and fees, written notifications to and the required acceptance by neighbors, and most recently requirements for honey bee liability insurance. There is no consistency between cities within counties or within the state. What is allowed in one location may be banned or restricted in the next, even if the separation is by only a few miles. Although other states and cities have adopted laws and/or “Recommended Best Practices” to guide municipalities and beekeepers when regulating or keeping honeybees in residential areas, Oregon has not. It has been recognized that if Oregon did adopt rules or ban them altogether, it would make it much easier for beekeepers to know what they could or could not expect when placing honey bees in residential areas. What was and is needed is a bill passed by the State that would address this issue. That bill is HB2653, which resulted when beekeeper Raine Lee Ritalto asked Oregon House Representative Gorsek to help. She had moved from Portland where honey bees are allowed to Gresham where (until recently) they were not. After nearly four years of struggling with the city to allow honey bees in residential areas she did not want any other beekeeper to go through what she experienced.

HB2653 as originally proposed contained only one paragraph that directed the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to establish standards for keeping honey bees in residential areas. Initially the OSBA opposed the bill, as introduced, and proposed instead a ban on all current and future regulation of honey bees in residential areas by municipalities. It became clear that the House Committee on Agriculture and the Environment wanted the municipalities and beekeepers to work together to further develop HB2653. A work group was established and

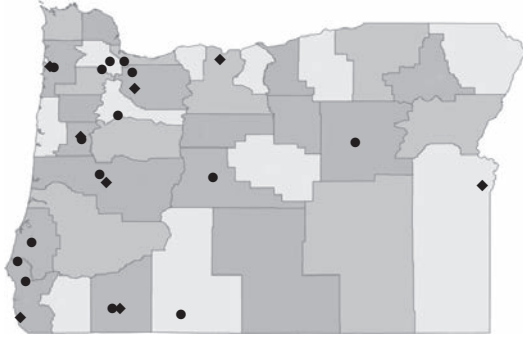
subsequently met several times with Representative Gorsek and his Chief of Staff. Included were OSBA representatives Fred VanNatta, Joe Maresh, Dick Temple, and Mike Rodia; Raine Lee Ritalto, beekeeper; and representatives from the League of Oregon Cities, The Oregon Farm Bureau, and the City of Gresham. The result of those meetings is the amendment bill HB2653-A.

HB2653-A can be referred to as a “gut and stuff” bill as the original language of HB2653 was deleted in its entirety and new and much more comprehensive language inserted. The bill opens with three paragraphs of “Whereas . . .” that serve both as an introduction to and as a setting forth of the need for the bill. If passed, as is, HB2653-A will establish written policies to include/address: 1. Best practices for residential beekeeping; 2. Recommendations to address the application of nuisance ordinances to residential beekeeping; 3. Methods for mitigating conflicts involving residential beekeeping; 4. Recommendations concerning government oversight of residential beekeeping; 5. The distribution the best practices and information on residential beekeeping; 6. The adoption of ordinances consistent with the best practices and recommendations; and 7. A reasonable fee for registering hives in residential areas.

The bill is not everything that we would like, but it is a start and it has ways to go before it, hopefully, is adopted. It passed the House committee with no Fiscal impact and was slated to go to the full House for a vote. Before that could happen there was a bit of a scare as Oregon State University (OSU) indicated they would need \$300,000 to carry out what the bill would require of the Extension service. Oregon State University along with the DOA and beekeepers are assigned responsibilities for implementing the bill’s requirements. Both the DOA and OSBA indicated they would not seek funding. The bill was determined not to have a separate fiscal impact because it would be funded by way of the “Pollinator Bills—HB3360, HB3361 and HB3362.” Once this was made clear, OSU withdrew its request and the bill was passed again by the House Committee and sent on to Ways and Means. No hold-up is expected and it should go to the full House and then the Senate with little or no opposition.

We would like to eliminate the provision for fees or at least modify it, such that no local fees could be charged if the beekeeper registered with the DOA. Although guidelines will be developed, the municipalities are not required to follow them nor are they required to do so by a certain date. It is, however, understood and expected that they will do so within the three years that the bill allows for the development and implementation of the bill’s mandates.

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• 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

Page 1 Photos, left to right:
Ryder and Sara Steinbeiss; Tayden and Crixus Dengler

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—puckamak@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

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Agricultural Statistics Board reports an increase in honey production for 2014. View the report at: <http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/abfnetsite-ym.com/resource/resmgr/Hone-03-20-2015.pdf>.

HEITKAMS' HONEY BEES

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Queens, Bees, Honey & Pollination

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives

South Coast

Easter was hiving day for our southernmost commercial beekeepers. Russ and Babette Rose increased the size of their apiaries by 15 at the end of a day that was predicted to be rainy and possibly downright stormy. The rain stopped just as club members arrived.

Babette helped her daughter and grandson get suited up, and we all gathered next to the action under the big top in time to watch and video Russ hiving his first package of Italian bees. The couple is very active and vocal in presenting beekeeping to the community. They hope to stabilize at 50 hives and be able to satisfy most of the demand for local honey in their area.

Rolf and Jill Dengler recently purchased the blueberry farm where the Roses have had one of their several apiaries. Rolf immediately became a most-avid beekeeping enthusiast, went to the meetings, joined the club, offered to start a Facebook page at the February meeting—and then the next day had it up.

When they made the trip to pick up bee packages from the Sacramento area, the Roses enjoyed visiting with Mrs. Koehnen who is in her eighties and still very spry and active. Her husband, the founder of C.F. Koehnen and Sons, passed on in January. Mrs. Koehnen assured the Roses that the bees they are getting have no Nosema and are doing well since returning from the Almond orchards. She said that if club members make their request by May this year for bee packages for 2016, then there will be enough ready for all orders for our area to be picked up at once. This year there were several months between orders, so the ones ordered by the club will be ready two weeks later. The Roses are making another trip for them, with delivery on April 19.

Our major nectar source, the blackberry blossoms, were showing well by Easter, a bit early for here. The temperatures have been

unusually cold for this part of the season, with many days and nights in the lower 40s and some in the 30s. We should expect an early nectar dearth, according to our past president, Carla Fletcher, who expects the blackberries to dry up earlier than usual since they bloomed so early.

As we returned to our vehicles at the end of the event at Blueberry Farm, within two minutes of the last good-bye, the sky broke loose with a downpour of icy sleet. Later that night, there were three hours of dramatic rolling thunder to finish off Easter after the Blood Moon of the prior morning and the sunny sharing of the Easter afternoon gathering at the beehives. —Mureen Walker

Southern Oregon

This is hands-down my favorite time of year in southern Oregon, and I think it's the bees', too! The rolling hills are emerald green, and the vetch is just starting to compliment them with an blanket of violet. Although bloom of our pear crops, and most wild flowers, shrubs, and trees was about three and a half weeks early, bees that over wintered well were able to capitalize on the flow and some beekeepers are already pulling their first honey crop.

Along with the buzz of early spring are headlines touting southern Oregon's bee friendliness. Members of SOBA have been happy to support many of the current and upcoming initiatives including: working on policies to legalize urban beekeeping in Medford, Jacksonville, Talent, and Phoenix; the designation of Phoenix as a "Bee City USA"; and the designation of Southern Oregon University as the nation's first "Bee Campus USA."


We have a long list of events where SOBA will have a presence, educating the public on the importance of bees, what is in store for being a neighbor to a beekeeper, and most importantly, encouraging community members to plant flowers for our beloved girls. More information on all of our activities can be found at www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org. —Sarah Red-Laird

Regional Associations

Cascadia Queen Breeders

Cascadia Queen Breeders will hold their Spring meeting and workshop Saturday, May 30, from 10:00 AM till 3:00 PM at Kerry Haskin's Honey House, 25101 S Schoenborn Rd, Mulino, Oregon. This workshop will be taught by Dr. Dewey Caron and will cover hands-on grafting as well as the Miller Method of queen breeding. It is geared toward sideliners and small-scale commercial beekeepers along with backyarders with at least two years of beekeeping experience.

We strongly suggest that participants have read *Increase*



Honey and
Crop Pollination

George and Susan Hansen
30576 Oswalt Rd
Colton, Oregon 97017
(503) 824-2265
www.foothillshoney.com

Essentials by Larry Connor and published by Wicwas Press prior to the class. People can also benefit from reading his *Queen Rearing Essentials* also published by Wicwas Press.

Cascadia Queen Breeders has free workshops for members. The cost of this workshop for non-members is \$25.00. We try to have at least three classes or workshops per year. Our dues are \$35.00 per year. To sign up, contact our secretary, Ken Anthony: klanthony1@comcast.net; 2124 NE Hwy 20, Corvallis, OR 97330; 541.754.0455.

—Paul Maresh

John Day Beekeepers

It is the first week of April, but here on the John Day River it feels like the third week of April. Everything is early. Beautiful weather at the beginning of March had the wild plums pumping out nectar. Apples are starting to bloom, bitter brush is blooming, dandelions are all over the place, and the bees are starting to show signs of swarming.

We are excited to announce a spring field day on Saturday, May 16, beginning at noon, at the Diamond Hitch Mule Ranch in Kimberly, Oregon. We hope to divide up into groups based on experience. Beginners will have a lesson on basic bee biology, equipment, and management, while more-advanced folks will be talking about the many ways to split a hive. The event will be free, but donations are encouraged to help support club activities like our popular table at the Grant County Fair.

We are also planning a second field day in mid-June, focusing on small scale queen raising; exact date TBD. Please contact us for more information if interested.

—Matt Allen

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Spring is here . . . or is it?! Today is April 8 and it is 20 degrees and there are 2 inches of snow on the ground. After record high temperatures in January, February, and March, this month has shown typical Klamath spring weather with rain, snow, hail, sun, and temperatures ranging from the high sixties down to the teens. Amazing how any living organism can adjust to this high desert climate.

Unfortunately, the plants have been tricked by the unusual weather early this year and the fruit trees and other plants are blooming when the temperatures are now in the 20s and teens at night. The bees have also been tricked. Swarms were reported in early March and those that were not captured by lucky beekeepers are probably doomed as are the untended hives that are not being fed and are already trying to build up for the perceived and expected nectar flow. It appears it will be a sad year for fruit in the Klamath Basin, but with this weather . . . who really knows? We are looking forward to an atypical bee year. It will be another learning experience!

—Judy Olson

Lane County Beekeepers

Lane County Beekeepers Association is growing. Our total count of members is 206 as of the first of April. We have had 26 new members join this year and we anticipate more following the GloryBee Weekend on April 10 and 11. The club will have a booth, staffed by our volunteer members at this event.

The annual Bee School, held on March 7, was very successful. We had 54 people in attendance. The evaluations from the participants were informative and gave the committee positive feedback. The club awarded three scholarships for this year's school. They were given to Deb Elder, a new member, Sebastian Petro, a student with Kalapuya High School who helps manage two hives on the school property, and Samuel Tepe, who has indicated an interest in learning about bees before getting started in this fascinating pastime. The grand prize of a package of bees, donated by GloryBee, was awarded to Angie and John May.



The speakers at the recent LCBA Bee School, from the left: Pam Leavitt, Morris Ostrofsky, Judy Scher, Jonathan Loftin, and Chuck Hunt.

The Pollinator Conference in Albany on March 21 was well attended, and the LCBA awarded two free registrations. They were given to Karla Casebolt and Kelly Goodwin.

We are particularly proud of the outreach to the community done by members of the LCBA. We had Paula Mance talk on her first year as a beekeeper. Ken O'Grain talked about native pollinators and mason bees at the Elmira Grange Marketplace. Becca Hale talked to the Fern Ridge Rotary Club on Gardening for Pollinators. Chip Kiger continues to make presentations to school groups, which has been a special hobby of his for quite some time. The club continues to encourage our members to reach out to the community to help them understand the joys of keeping bees as well as the plight of our pollinators and how we can help.

The club is beginning to get calls reporting of early swarms. The warm weather in February and March certainly has jump started the flowering of plants and trees, as well as our buildup of bees.

Our April meeting topic "5 Mistakes Beekeepers Make" will be presented by Karessa Torgerson, on April 21 at 7:30. In addition, Lynn Royce will do a quick talk on her Tree Hive project. Happy Spring!

—Pam Leavitt

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Our monthly meeting on April 1 came with some exciting announcements! First, our new swarm hotline is now live! We've partnered with Honey Bee Allies. They have created a swarm list tool for us that will be available to our membership. We will be retiring our old swarm list. To be a part of the PUB swarm list and take advantage of our new hotline (503.444.8446) for swarm notifications, register at: bit.ly/pubswarmlist.

We will be hosting a photo and art contest. If you're interested, start taking pictures or creating your art projects, and stay tuned for further submission details. Judging will take place at our annual winter honey tasting event.

Tour de Hives will be taking place on June 20. We are still looking for hosts and assistants. If you're interested in participating, please volunteer at: bit.ly/TourVolunteer2015.

Glen Andresen gave his monthly pollen and nectar report. With this early spring, most of the fruit trees have finished blooming, and the great bee plants haven't started blooming just yet. To see a full report, visit: BridgetownBees.com/whats-in-bloom/.

Carolyn Breece gave an enthusiastic presentation on the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, a collaboration between Oregon State University and Oregon State Beekeepers Association. It's an exciting intensive beekeeping program, designed to support beekeepers at all levels. It starts with the Apprentice level, where beekeepers are matched with master mentors to support their learning in the field. Students can continue their training and education at the Journey level, and finally if a student completes the whole program, they will become a Master Beekeeper. Certification is available, but not required to participate. Many of the mentors in the Portland area are PUB members! For more information on the program and how to get on the waiting list, see: OregonMasterBeekeeper.org.

Dewey Caron presented findings on last winter's survey results. To participate in this winter's survey, visit: bit.ly/2015PUBSurvey. This survey helps us share information and continue to develop best practices for overwintering bees in our unique Pacific Northwest climate. Additionally, he gave his monthly "What Is Your Plan" presentation, where he reminded us that April is "the cruelest month." As overwintered adults die off, and brood ramps up, the hive can be left in a vulnerable moment. He predicts that the early spring this year will mean a big beekeeping season, and some special practices might be interesting to try, such opening the brood area to the supers to alleviate crowding. He reminds us to set out bait hives and be sure to have extra

boxes and frames ready for the big swarm season upon us!

For more information about Portland Urban Beekeepers or to become a member, check out our new website at: PortlandUrbanBeekeepers.org. —*Courtney Todd Campbell*

Tillamook County Beekeepers

Our Bee Day was held on Saturday, April 11, and was a major success. Over sixty people attended and enjoyed great food prepared by our own Claire Moody, excellent speakers, demonstrations, a raffling of great beekeeping gear, and a question and answer period with a panel of experienced beekeepers. Dr. Dewey Caron gave an excellent talk on the basics of the honey bee, their habitats, and general requirements.

Followed by round-robin demonstrations on: Hive building, Wes Preston; Langstroth hive and components, Jim Fanjoy; Smokers and protective gear, Stan Scotton; Hive products, Terry Fullan. Another talk by Dr. Caron followed by questions and answers. Our next Bee Day is scheduled for April 2, 2016. —*Jeff Hall*

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

The Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association meets monthly on the last Tuesdays in downtown Hillsboro. Meetings begin at 6:30 PM, and take place 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.

Monthly meetings include social and questions time from 6 to 6:30 PM, a 30–40 minute expert presentation on a select beekeeping topic of value to club members, followed by a short business meeting and time to ask questions. Carolyn Breece presented great information on the Master Beekeeper program in March, and the April meeting offered a presentation on swarm catching. Our next meeting will be on May 26—please join us!

We offer an annual Bee School in April; this year approximately 30 students attended. Benefits of membership include the monthly newsletter, monthly educational and social meetings, participation in annual spring Nuc buy, a Bee Day in July, and access to the club's honey extraction facility. —*Debby Garman*

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Beekeepers in the Mid-Willamette Valley have been enjoying the warmer than usual weather. The hives have been very strong due to this mild weather. The maple nectar flow in the area has really been good. The downside is that, swarm season has begun. There have been many swarms in the area. Many of the crops have been blooming at the same time, so commercial beekeepers are busy trying to cover their contracts.

Erma Hamilton, Fred Mann, and Steve Rice put together a booth for the “Ask an Expert” at the main branch of the Salem Library. They provided information on beekeeping to many of the library customers.

European honey bees aren’t native to Oregon or the United States for that matter. How did honey bees get to Oregon? The earliest written account is found in *History of Oregon*, Volume 1, by Charles Henry Carey and published by The Pioneer Historical Publishing Company, Portland, 1922. Here is an excerpt from that book:

The abundance of nectar-producing blossoms, particularly the wild clover and wild peas, which was noticed by the earliest comers, led to a number of efforts to introduce honey bees before one was successful. The loss of a hive of bees by a member of the immigration of 1846 via the Applegate trail was then with reason regarded by its owner as a calamity because he had had a promise of \$500 for a hive delivered in good condition in the territory. Further attempts were thereby discouraged, until 1854, when John Davenport of Marion County succeeded and his achievement was hailed with great joy throughout the territory, since it meant a new and welcome addition to the diet of the pioneers.

—Richard Farrier

KEEPING BEES IN MAY

Todd Balsiger

The summer’s main nectar flow begins this month and lasts into early July (albeit this year expect it to begin and end earlier than normal). This roughly eight-week period is of critical importance for hives to gather surplus honey and winter stores. For the rest of the year hives mostly lose weight. This is a dynamic period in bee management with many overlapping tasks. Consider the following:

- ❖ We need to ensure hives continue to build up for the main nectar flow. After the maple and fruit trees bloom, there is actually a decrease in available nectar, and with poor weather hives can still starve. Although very infrequent, in past years it has been necessary to feed well into summer to prevent starvation. Discontinue feeding prior to supering!
- ❖ It is still possible to treat for Varroa mites if your infestation rates are too high. It should be with a “soft treatment” compatible with supering.
- ❖ May is an ideal month to requeen and make divisions (the earlier the better). It’s a more forgiving time to work bees than in March or April with increased daily high temperatures and less rain. Keep in mind that divisions made now most likely will not make a honey crop and will probably require extra

feeding to draw foundation and secure adequate winter stores.

I was once told that a good starting point to raise queens here in the Pacific Northwest is when the trailing blackberry blooms (our native blackberry). This usually is about mid-May. But not this year—I saw it blooming yesterday mid-April!

- ❖ Continue swarm-control practices. Decreasing queen pheromone production and its distribution within the hive triggers the swarm impulse. The two best ways to reduce swarming are to regularly requeen (young queens produce more pheromone) and to reduce congestion. You can reduce congestion by supering, making divisions, equalizing, replacing old/poor quality brood frames with foundation or new comb, and by possibly reversing the brood boxes at this point).
- ❖ Swarming will be at its zenith. Nuc boxes containing a combination of at least one frame that has had brood (darker comb) and another with food stores (honey and pollen) with the balance either drawn comb or foundation are ideal for catching swarms. Remember, frames need to be tight together when drawing foundation, or at least not too far apart and equally spaced—otherwise the likely result will be burr or misshapen comb. Feeding sugar water will help draw out foundation into quality comb and accelerate hive growth.
- ❖ Consider setting up bait hives in your apiary or at your house (similar to the nuc box above) to catch swarms. Make sure mice can’t get in!
- ❖ Visually look at hives for health and investigate under performance (e.g., less flight activity, lack of honey production, etc.). Possible reasons: poor queen (they may be raising a supercedure queen), queenlessness (possibly in conjunction with laying workers), brood diseases (American or European), too many Varroa mites, the hive has swarmed (don’t destroy the swarm cells at this point). Take appropriate action which may include doing nothing. If you don’t know what to do, go to your next local beekeepers’ association meeting and ask.
- ❖ Look for signs that it is time to super—for example, the bees lose interest in syrup, the bees have zero robbing tendencies, or you see a new film of white wax, especially on the top bars. I strongly recommend the use of queen excluders.
- ❖ Provide abundant room for storing honey early in the season. I consider two supers as abundant. If paradichlorobenzene crystals are used for wax moth control, then air out the supers on a warm day to vaporize its residues.
- ❖ Bees generally work from the center up, so foundation centered in the hive will be drawn the fastest. I recommend ten frames when drawing foundation to prevent burr and misshapen comb. The usage of 9 frame spacer bars also works for drawing out quality comb. These spacer bars ensure equal spacing that’s not too far apart.

❖ If appropriate water resources are absent, provide water early and let the bees train themselves to use it.

Small Hive Beetle Observations

I had the highest incidence of Small Hive Beetle (SHB) that I have ever seen in my hives when they came back from California. Previously I only seen larvae in one hive; this time, it was in numerous hives. I had tried to convince my “piggyback” commercial beekeeper to not put pollen patties into my hives down there to no avail.

Many years ago, Gus Rouse (Big Island queen breeder) shared one of his first experiences with the SHB. He had opened up and systematically put pollen patties on 10 hives, and when he put the lids back on, SHB adults had already found the pollen patties! This is the primary location that I have seen SHB larvae within the hive: on pollen patties. I captured an adult beetle again and larvae feeding on pollen patties and placed them into jars as samples.

I am not the only one. I talked to another Oregon commercial beekeeper and he too saw a SHB in one of his hives in California. Clearly this is a growing problem. Without doubt, whether discussed in the open or not, SHBs are in Oregon within migratory commercial beehives. Our habitat may be ill suited for the SHB to thrive, but this is an open question that time will answer. When I look at hives that previously had larvae feeding on pollen patties in them, in general the hives look good.

Without Chemical Treatment

Lynn Royce

Swarming may have an important function for the colony of bees in addition to reproduction. Think about the number of pests and diseases that depend on the brood to complete their reproductive cycle. If the bees break their brood cycle they will break the reproductive cycle of pests and diseases like Varroa, tracheal mite, foulbrood, chalkbrood, and others. We can break the brood cycle without letting the bees swarm. Caging the queen for a few days, making splits, and requeening are all possible ways to break the brood cycle, and with luck lower the prevalence of pests and diseases that depend on brood. Think about swarming to get an idea of how long you need to keep the colony queenless. To get ready

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for swarming the workers prepare the queen to fly. They stop her from laying eggs so she will resorb any developing eggs and thereby reduce her body weight so she can fly. This takes several days. The bees left behind have a virgin to mate, so add the days for a newly emerged virgin to harden and develop muscle for flight, about 4–5, then a couple more days for mating flights, then 4–5 more days to develop ovaries and start laying. Now add up the time: 5–6 days to get the old queen ready to fly, plus 10–12 days to mate the virgin and get her laying. This gives you 15–18 days of broodless time during the swarming process.

From: *The Bee Line*, May 2014.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Question: How many days is the female Varroa mite outside of the capped brood before it re-enters another cell for reproduction? Do the young female mites that emerge along with the new bees also take the same amount of time to re-enter another larval cell for reproduction?

Ramesh Sagili: The time a female Varroa takes to re-enter (re-infest) a new cell depends on the availability of older larvae (ready to be capped) to enter, and also on the number of bees in the hive at that point of time. One study showed that on average female mites take about 4 to 6 days to re-infest new larval cells. In a lab study, female mites that were artificially reintroduced into new cells with appropriate aged larvae (ready to be capped) immediately after emergence from a cell were able to reproduce successfully without any problems. Young female mites that emerge along with the foundress mite (parent mite) need time to achieve full maturity and hence may take a little more time to enter a cell for reproduction than the parent mite. Research pertaining to these new young mites is scarce, hence providing an average time for infestation is difficult.

CITY OF PORTLAND BANS PURCHASE & USE OF NEONICOTINOIDS

—By unanimous vote, Portland has joined Eugene, Seattle, Spokane, and a number of other cities in banning the purchase and use of neonicotinoids on city property, including parks, streets, and gardens. The ban does not apply to private property—nor to two rose test gardens (for the present). It includes seed dressings, soil treatments, foliar sprays, and other types of applications. The ordinance also encourages retailers operating within the City of Portland to accurately label plants, seeds, and other products that have been treated with neonicotinoid pesticides.

The ordinance can be downloaded at: <http://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/Record/7436602/File/Document/>.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service banned neonicotinoid insecticides from use on national wildlife refuges across the country earlier, with phase out to be completed January 2016.

BEE LAB

Jan Lohman



The Oregon Master Beekeeper Program held a Lab Day for Journey-level participants on August 4 in Cordley Hall at Oregon State University. It was a great day where over 40 Journey participants learned how to use microscopes from Judy Scher and Dr. Lynn Royce. Fun was had by all!

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WELSH HONEY JUDGE CERTIFICATION

Trevor Riches

The Welsh Honey Judge Certification is a two year program during which time a candidate takes a beginning class at either University of Georgia or University of Georgia Bee Institute then is required to Steward/Assistant Judge several accredited Honey Shows plus earn show awards/ribbons. The Certification process is in concert with The Welsh Beekeeping Association.

After this has been accomplished the candidate is then eligible to take the Advanced Training at University of Florida or University of Georgia. This advanced training entitles the candidate to take the Certification exam. I am now working toward my Senior Judge Certification and need to Judge several shows as part of my eligibility to qualify.

To this end, if any clubs have an interest in hosting a honey show, I would be happy to give two presentations outlining "What you need to know to enter a honey show" and "What a judge is looking for." I would, of course, judge the show free of charge. Contact me at: tjriches@gmail.com.



Trevor Riches has earned his Certified Welsh Honey Judge rating from the University of Florida in conjunction with the Welsh Beekeepers Association.

(Congratulations, Trevor!)

BEES IN SCHOOL—Honey bees are the talk of the town—well, the classroom at least! Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom is focusing on honey bees during its 2015 literacy project, which runs from March 9 to June 8. Volunteers work with classroom teachers in providing information, reading a story (the book chosen is *The*

Beeman), and engaging students in activities that heighten the learning. The program provides materials as well as instruction and guidance for visits with K–4 students. For information, resources, and to add your name to the list of hundreds who have participated in the program, visit: aitc.oregonstate.edu.

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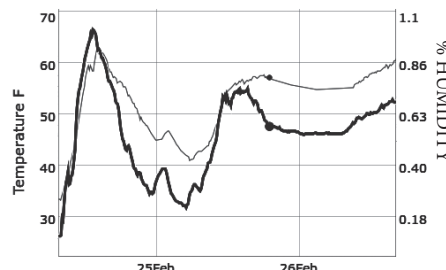
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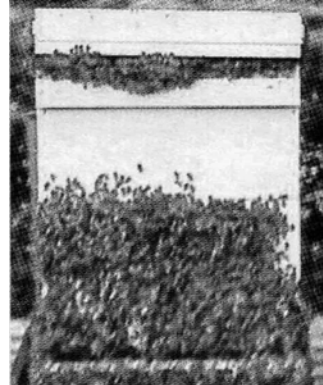
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First Wednesday, 7 PM: Douglas County Bees, "Let's Talk Bees." Third floor, Douglas County Courthouse. *Information:* douglascountybees@gmail.com.

May 30: Cascadia Queen Breeders meeting/Workshop, Mulino.

June 20: Portland Urban Beekeepers Tour de Hives. *Information* to volunteer or host: <http://bit.ly/>

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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*.

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If the date is May 2015 (or earlier), this is your friendly renewal notice.

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~ Lord Byron

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