PROMOTING POLLINATOR HEALTH

Under leadership of US Environmental Protection Agency and US Department of Agriculture, the Task Force to create a Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators has released the National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators, which contains three overarching goals:

❖ Reduce honey bee colony losses to economically sustainable levels;
❖ Increase monarch butterfly numbers to protect the annual migration; and
❖ Restore or enhance millions of acres of land for pollinators through combined public and private action.

The strategy and the accompanying science-based Pollinator Research Action Plan: Report of the Pollinator Health Task Force outline needs and priority actions to better understand pollinator losses and improve pollinator health. Briefly, the five main action areas involve:

1. Setting a Baseline. Assessing the status of pollinator populations requires inventories to establish baseline conditions, with subsequent monitoring and longitudinal studies to detect deviations from the baseline, and causes of those deviations.

2. Assessing Environmental Stressors. Many individual environmental factors have the potential to impact pollinator populations. Agencies will not only examine these factors individually in controlled laboratory experiments, but will also explore how these factors interact with each other in real-world situations through longitudinal studies of pollinator health.

3. Restoring Habitat. Pollinator populations depend directly on plant populations for nutrition, and, in turn, plants depend on pollinators for reproduction. Research will focus on understanding the spatial and temporal relationships between plants and their pollinators, and identifying habitat with the highest potential for pollinator benefits through restoration.

4. Understanding and Supporting Stakeholders. The choices that land managers and beekeepers make depend on a complex web of cultural and economic values. Research will explore the costs and benefits to land managers and the public of adopting pollinator-friendly practices.

5. Curating and Sharing Knowledge. Long-term monitoring and sound research require an extensive and well-curated knowledge base. To support quality data collection of traditional plant and pollinator specimens, as well as genetic material, best practices will be developed for specimen identification and confirmation, as well as associated electronic data.

These actions will be supported by coordination of existing Federal research efforts and accompanied by a request to Congress for additional resources to respond to the pollinator losses that are being experienced. In addition, in support of habitat-focused efforts, USDA and the Department of Interior have issued Pollinator-Friendly Best Management Practices for Federal Lands, providing practical

Continued on page 2
Spring is quickly passing and by the time you read this we will moving into Summer although in the north valley this spring has almost been like summer at times. Hopefully this summer won’t be too hot and too dry. The bees are storing a lot of honey already, and the blackberries are just on the verge of blooming, I am hoping for a good honey crop this year. I will keep putting on supers and maybe have an early harvest.

This spring the swarms are keeping everyone busy whether you are trying to prevent your hives from swarming or collecting the ones that got away. If you’re a person collecting swarms, there seems to be plenty this year. Remember you can get on the website Swarm List. This is one of the benefits of belonging to the OSBA.

The Bee Informed Partnership has posted some preliminary data on their website, and the news media has really been actively reporting the average national annual losses of greater than 40%. Oregon looked pretty good with the lowest losses of all the states of around 25%. Don’t know if that means we are lucky or good, but I will take it either way. Remember these are the annual losses, not the winter losses which should be coming out soon. I expect that we will see something with more detail in the near future from Dr. Ramesh Sagili and Dr. Dewey Caron as they are actively involved in gathering and analyzing the information. Take care and have a good summer!

Paul

National Strategy—Continued from page 1

guidance for planners and managers with land stewardship responsibilities. To foster collaboration, plans include developing a Partnership Action Plan that guides coordination with the many state, local, industry, and citizen groups with interests in and capacities to help tackle the challenge facing pollinators.

Note: The strategy reports are at: www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/Pollinator%20Research%20Action%20Plan%202015.pdf and www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/Pollinator%20Health%20Strategy%202015.pdf.
Preliminary analysis of the 6000+ Bee Informed Partnership national loss survey returns (representing about 15% of the total managed colonies in the US) indicates an overwinter loss level very similar to last winter season (23%), and second consecutive year with colony losses below the 30% national average colony loss. Overwintering colony losses for commercial beekeepers were 21%, while small scale (backyard) beekeepers lost over 42% of their colonies. When summer colony losses are included, annual colony losses exceed 40%. Oregon colony losses reported in the BIP survey were 25%.

According to our national survey, combined losses for both large and small scale beekeepers have been below 30%, three times now in the past 4 years. This year commercial beekeepers again reported their summer loss level in excess of the overwinter losses.

In our 2014 PNW winter colony loss survey (conducted by OSU), 9 Oregon commercial beekeepers that managed 37,768 colonies in the fall (average 4196/individual and 61% of the total estimated colonies in Oregon) reported losing 4678 colonies, a 12.4% colony loss rate. Heaviest loss rate for an individual beekeeper reported was 31.5%. Four semi-commercial Oregon beekeepers (50–500 colonies, average 317/individual) had colony loss of 31.7%. Summer colony losses ranged from none (3 individuals) to 40%, with 3 individuals indicating summer losses around 20%.

The total colony loss rate of 41 PNW commercial/semi-commercial beekeepers was 15.7%. The total honey bee colonies (128,254) owned by these reporting beekeepers represent 60% of the total estimated 3-state (Oregon, Washington, and Idaho) colony numbers.

The BIP preliminary colony loss report was released mid-May with both of us, Ramesh Sagili and Dewey Caron, as co-authors, and a complete report and analysis of our PNW survey will be posted at the orsba.org website during May.

Note: The Loss Estimates image, which the authors submitted with this article, appears in the study in which they participated with twelve other authors (and perhaps other places, also). To view that study, visit: http://beeinformed.org/results/colony-loss-2014-2015-preliminary-results).

Old Sol Apiaries
Your source for Oregon bred queens and nucs. Our queens are double vetted and matured longer for higher confidence and greater acceptance rates.
President Paul Andersen called the meeting to order at 4:12 PM.


Minutes from the January 2015 meeting were published in The Bee Line. President Paul Andersen asked if there were any changes to these. One correction was made: The Tour de Hives is a fund raiser for Portland Urban Beekeepers, not for Zenger Farm. The minutes were approved as corrected.

REPORTS

Oregon Master Beekeeper Program
Carolyn Breece was not able to attend but submitted the following to be read at the board meeting: Oregon Master Beekeeper participants are busy this spring! Classes are wrapping up in most parts of the state and now it’s time to head out to the field. Apprentices are meeting with their volunteer mentors to go through the spring field worksheets. They are learning beekeeping basics and preparing for the upcoming nectar flow. Many are installing packages and nucs together. This year, the OSU Ag in the Classroom program is featuring the book, The Beeman. Several Journey Level participants are earning service points by volunteering to take The Beeman to local schools to read to kids about honey bees. On April 4, 2015, we had our first Journey Lab Day. Journeys came to OSU to view and dissect honey bees under a microscope. Special thanks to Lynn Royce, Judy Scher and Morris Ostrofsky for leading an informative and fascinating workshop on microscope use and honey bee anatomy. OMB participants are also attending Friday in the Apiary at OSU. In March, Kelly Goodwin, Journey Level student from Blachly, gave us a wonderful presentation on planting for honey bees. She even brought plants for people to take home! We then made up a couple of nucs from swarmy hives. In April, we split up into small groups and went through as many colonies as we could. We discussed spring colony management, we did a few mite counts and we did some collective problem solving. Please check our website and blog for more information on the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program (www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org).

Grant
Jan Lohman was not able to attend the meeting. But there is an important summary of the existing grant in August. We will know by August if we have qualified for another grant.

State Fair
Trevor Riches has reported that the new company running the Oregon State Fair seems to be cooperative. We will be assigned a slightly smaller area for our booth, and there has been some shuffling between buildings.

Webmaster
Erin Olmon, Webmaster, introduced herself and explained the results of a survey to test the reactions to the new website. The two most-received comments were: great site redesign and not happy with the limitations of the swarm list. Respondents like The Bee Line posted online. Members have volunteered to scan back issues. Erin has added a contact form with: Paul Andersen, Erin Olmon, Trevor Riches, and Thom Trusewicz. The most asked questions are: Help me be a beekeeper and Help me find a mentor.

Swarm list on the OSBA website currently allows beekeepers to sign up for five areas. Results of the survey said (5) five was too few and somewhere between 20 and 10, a happy medium. The Indiana solution was brought up. The Indiana solution is where beekeepers put themselves on a map and people calling in can contact the closest person to their location. Another concern, the different levels of skills amongst the beekeepers. How is this situation coordinated and triaged. Erin felt another issue is if it is a swarm or cutout. Individual beekeepers need to ask the right questions when the person calls with the problem. One housekeeping question came up asking if the list is shuffled. Yes. The list is shuffled automatically each time. A suggestion was made for a list at the bottom that would cover buildings and cutouts.

Jordan Dimock made the motion to increase the swarm list to 15 areas a beekeeper can sign up for to receive swarm calls. The motion was seconded and passed.

The topic of Cutouts came up. A disclaimer stating that OSBA is not covered for someone getting hurt. Insurance covers group events. Not individual activities.

Classifieds. The classifieds are ready to bring online, but Erin needs some direction. Currently, an OSBA member is allowed up to four ads free and is charged for any ads placed after four. The question was asked about past volume on the site. In the past the activity on the site was low volume. Another question was asked if a commercial beekeeping business is a member will they get classifieds for free? The point was made that commercial businesses
are willing to pay for display ads because they receive feedback on the number of hits and on their own page as to the source of traffic to their site. Erin suggested that she start up the classified ads and then see if we are missing an income source.

Joe Maresh made the motion that Classifieds are free to members and no limit on ads placed. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Availability of *The Bee Line* issues. Currently the website keeps the previous six months for six months.

Jordan Dimock made the motion that current OSBA members have access to all online *Bee Lines*. Nonmembers will have the access to the previous six months. The motion was seconded and passed.

Membership grace period. Erin was seeking some guidance on how much grace period a non current member can have before access is denied to the OSBA site.

Joe Maresh made the motion that there would be (2) two month membership grace period on the OSBA website, then access will be denied. The motion passed.

Display Ads/Classified Ads. Display ads have to be approved. Can we ban someone? Advertising cannot discriminate. Can we exclude? What is the OSBA policy? This topic needs further investigation. Ads should be tasteful and relevant.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Oregon State Beekeepers Conference**

Dates will be November 6–8, 2015. The official conference name is Oregon State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference 2015.

This is a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Conference.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Summary of Activities since late January 2015:

1. Mailing address transferred to: PO Box 20548, Keizer OR 97307.
2. New e-mail address: treasurer.osba@gmail.com.
3. Bank accounts transferred from Corvallis to Salem.
5. Established relationship with accounting firm to evaluate service.
6. Considerable progress on QuickBooks conversion.
7. Researching online renewal and donation options.
8. Researching online conference registration options.

The balances in the OSBA accounts as of April 24, 2015:

- Community Business Checking $19,393.66
- Community Business Savings $28,921.96
- Community Business Savings $200.18

Budget areas for 2015 for discussion:

1. Oregon Master Beekeeper Program – No cost to OSBA. There are 150 enrolled in the Apprentice level this year; 93 are enrolled in the Journey level. Costs covered through enrollment fees and the ODA grant. Another grant is in the second tier of review. We will learn the results of the review in late June 2015. Even without the grant, the program can continue without funding for OSBA in 2015.
2. Annual Conference – Conference costs are paid from registration fees, the ODA grant, and some funding from OSBA. Unless the 2nd grant is funded to continue supporting the conference, then costs will be dependent on registrations and real cost.
3. *The Bee Line* – ($8,200) projected costs are $3,400 for printing, $600 for postage and $4,200 for Rosanna’s monthly stipend ($350/month).
4. State Fair and Events – ($2000 & proposed $3000–$5000) – Historically OSBA has allocated up to $2000 for actual expenses for the display at the State Fair and other events for community education about bees, beekeeping, etc. Trevor is proposing an additional one-time purchase of portable display walls.
5. Insurance – $850 estimated for 2015; $850 will be the maximum.
7. Accounting – $3,800–$2,400 (monthly costs) & audit preparation $1,300 & Department of Justice filing fee $175.
8. PO Box Rental – $125.
9. Storage Room Rental – $41.00 monthly.

**Oregon Legislative Activities**

Bills introduced as a result of recommendations from the task force established by HB 4139 are in Ways and Means, and we are still waiting to learn the outcome.

**Honey Bee Health Coalition**

They are working on a comprehensive document regarding Varroa Mite Control. Could be available in as little as 30 days. Work has been progressing on the Highway Department forage and right of way. Agriculture Crop Association has donated money for the Tech Teams. Increasing funds for the Tech Transfer Teams.

Continued on page 13
Oregon State Beekeepers Association
EXECUTIVE BOARD AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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

Reminder: Check out current resources at:
http://www.extension.org/bee_health
Lane County Beekeepers
Meets 7:30 PM, third Tuesday, Trinity United Methodist Church, 440 Maxwell Rd, Eugene
President: Pam Leavitt 541.344.4228; pambseaver2000@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, Corvallis Waldorf School, 3855 NE Highway 20, Corvallis
President: Steve Oda 541.745.7227; steve@lbba.us
Vice President: Everett Kaser
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
Treasurer: Barbara Fitts
Website: southernoregonbeekeepers.org

Portland Metro Beekeepers
Meets 7:00 PM, second Thursday, Clackamas Community College, Clackmont 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, Alberta Abbey, 126 NE Alberta St, 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; johnoldsoolenterprises.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

Bacteria Help Honey Bee Larvae Thrive!
Read all about it at:
http://agresearchmag.ars.usda.gov/2015/may/honeybee/

HEITKAMS’ HONEY BEES
PAT, RUSSELL & CRAIG HEITKAMS
4700 FIRST AVENUE • ORLAND, CA 95963
BUS. 530.865.9562 • FAX 530.865.7839
Email: heitkamsbees@ Hughes.net
Queens, Bees, Honey & Pollination
The Bee Line

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives

South Coast
We learned the value of the Vertical-Space-Vent & Doorway Frame that the Roses use when we attended their mass-hiving presentation with 15 bee packages in April. Just before putting on the inner cover, they put that spacer on top and then lay in a slab of protein patty and then put in the queen cage on its side. Later the spacer can be used for ventilation or bee traffic by swiveling the short end to expose the bee space opening on the other edge.

Swarms were definitely the headliners of the spring season. The Roses had caught nearly twenty of them at last report, mostly from their own hives, but beginning to wonder whether a metropolis of hives is an attraction for homeless bee colonies on the move in the neighborhood. Many of us have participated in adventures in swarm rescue.

From Coos County, Patti and Hal Strain report that the largest swarm that they have ever seen came out of Hal’s log hive. The swarm, guestimated to be about the size of three bee packages, escaped, but they caught a smaller one later that they think also came out of the log hive. They are pleased to be more into bee production than honey. Pat Reed posts photos of his log hives featured as artistic lawn art with a cause on his website at www.solarbeez.com.

The bear came early this year, too, breaking through the electric fence and devastating the beeyard at Randy Stugill’s place in Coos. Most of 75 hives were scattered on the ground when he and his wife returned from a trip. Randy says that he has no idea why the fence failed to keep out the bear.

On the south coast, there were some nice days of spring except for the chill wind that seemed to be coming down the coast directly from Alaska and the nights in the 40s for most of April and May. It was the nicest March in memory. Maybe that is why there was already so much honey that there was more bear and swarm activity than ever.

Jan Burris, our Alaskan beekeeper transplant, was surprised to find her hive already full of honey in April. She produced a queen and had made a split by mid-May.

Albert Equivez demonstrated at the April meeting his method of preparing for swarms and for honey. As a swarm lure, Albert sprays or brushes bee syrup into open comb. He also showed a small potted Black Locust that club founder, Del Barber, says can be the source of 100 pounds of honey. It sold quickly. So far, Albert gets the most honey of any of the noncommercial beekeepers of the OSCBA, mainly because most of his bees are at his home area of the Coquille valley in Coos County. He works and goes to bee meetings in Curry, recognizing that inland is much better than the coastal climate for honey production. Round table report of losses by club members present: of the fifty colonies in noncommercial beeyards, losses of nearly fifty percent total, which included my three to yellow jackets, my one and Jim’s three to bear, and his one to “River Wasps.” Several members reported disappearance/absconding incidents, several of suspected queen failure, one of starvation, and three to wax moths. One “dwindled” maybe to yellow jackets, four were robbed out, two mysteriously DOA. Only one was reported as suspected insecticide, and one due to mites, with crippled wing disorder. More accurate statistics will be gathered from a polling of all club members. Work parties continue at the new teaching beeyard that the club is developing under the efforts and guidance of Carla and Jesse Fletcher.

—Mureen Walker

Southern Oregon
Greetings from Southern Oregon, where bee fever abounds! Our Spring “Beginner Bee School” was sold out a whole week ahead, a new record breaker! We had about 100 participants this year, learning about the amazing world of bees and beekeeping from myself, John Jacob, Dewey Caron, and Morris Ostrofsky. More great news on the policy front, as well. Southern Oregon beekeepers banned together and worked hard to pass a “bee friendly” ordinance in Medford to allow beekeeping in city limits. Phoenix and Jacksonville also followed suit, and pledged to amend their city constitutions to become more bee and beekeeper friendly. We also reached the little members of our community in May at the FFA’s Jackson County Ag in the Classroom day. We joined the likes of sheep shearers, horse shoers, and cattle raisers to teach hundreds of Rogue Valley fourth graders all about ag. I think they liked our table the best. How can you beat honey sticks and an observation hive full of live bees?

For more SOBA news and events, check out our website and follow us on Facebook: www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org, www.facebook.com/SouthernOregonBeekeepersAssociation.

—Sarah Red-Laird
John Day Beekeepers
May is warming up to be an exciting month. The honey flow is starting to kick up around here as is the major swarming season. The area’s weather opened up for a great spring field day on May 16 in Kimberly. Twenty-six people attended—from novice to veteran beekeepers and ages spanning 7 decades. A highlight of the day was an artificial swarm set up on the edge of the beeyard. We talked about swarming, hiving swarms, and preventing swarms. An observation hive was also a big hit, allowing us to look at bee biology up close without the distractions of an open hive. In the hives, we looked at healthy brood and robust queens. We also got to find and squish a drone-laying queen, an important lesson for everyone. Toward the end of the day, we split a strong and swarmy hive, making two splits and donating some brood to a smaller hive. Everyone learned a lot and had a great time. We are hoping to do another field day toward the end of June, this time focusing on queens.

—Matt Allen

Klamath Basin Beekeepers
Another spring is upon us and the bee packages have arrived. After canceling our first pick-up date for the bee packages, we decided on April 25 hoping for better, more-predictable weather. What we got instead was cool, blustery weather with the occasional snowflake. Fortunately the bees arrived safe and sound, but with not the best bee-package-installation weather. Many fruit trees have bloomed only to have subfreezing temperatures erase any hope of a good fruit crop—although the bees took advantage during the bloom and did their best to pollinate the trees. Many things bloomed early and at once, only to leave a mid-spring dearth, only to be saved by the lilac and choke cherry blooms and the emergence of maple, quaking aspen, and our reliable bitter brush bloom that, like Manzanita, doesn’t care if it freezes. The bees get out on the increasing number of warm days and don’t seem to care about the subfreezing nights even as it snowed again on the night of May 6. They huddle down into their cluster and make do, as the rest of us must, with what we have to work with. Now off to the bee symposium at UC Davis . . .

—Judy Olson

Lane County Beekeepers
Lane County beekeepers April meeting was very well attended. There were 127 people in the audience to hear Karessa Torgerson speak on 5 Mistakes Beekeepers Make. In addition, the group was introduced to the Tree Hive Bees nonprofit by Lynn Royce. The club made a donation to this worthwhile project of $100. Dewey Caron attended the April meeting to share information of past surveys done to document overwintering losses. He brought copies of the survey for this year and encouraged our members to fill out the survey at the meeting and return it to him or to do the survey online. In addition, he also encouraged our members to complete the BIP national survey.

The Board of Directors of LCBA focuses on working to provide the membership with the most relevant topics for our monthly meetings. The list of topics ended up to be longer that the months we had to present them in a year. Our solution was to offer an early meeting presentation. In April, Morris Ostrofsky presented a great talk on Nucs to more than 50 people. This was offered from 6:15 to 7:00 PM, with the regular monthly meeting following at 7:30 PM. We plan to repeat this with early sessions in July on Extracting and October on Bee Pheromones. The May meeting featured Reading Frames by Morris Ostrofsky. In June, Pam Leavitt will present Varroa, the Enemy. Ramesh Sagili is scheduled to speak in Eugene on May 7 on Honeybees and Ecosystems: Facing the Challenges. Our annual Field Day will be June 6, 2015. Jason Rowan is hosting the event at his apiary in Creswell, Oregon.

—Pam Leavitt

Linn-Benton Beekeepers
Linn-Benton beekeepers schedule speakers with timely topics to help you in your beekeeping endeavors. Our speakers are all volunteers who are willing to share their knowledge to help you be successful. Please be sure to thank them for taking the time to share with us. We meet 6:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month at the Corvallis Waldorf School, 3855 NE Hwy 20, Corvallis. No cost. Join us. Upcoming events:
May 20: Karessa Torgerson, Mistakes Beekeepers Make
June 17: Rich Little, Native Bees
July 15: Dewey Caron, Winter Prep and Annual Loss Survey Results

We will also be staffing a booth at the Corvallis Farmers Market on June 27. Drop by and say hi.

—Robert Williams

Portland Metro Beekeepers
The Portland Metro beekeepers held the April meeting on Thursday, April 9, and our annual Bee Day was held on
April 25 at George Hansen's apiary in Colton. The nucs we purchased through the club arrived a few weeks early...as we all know everything is early this year! They were heavy and needed to be moved into a hive fairly quickly. We had a discussion on how, and when, to do that. We have many new beekeepers attending our meetings and the roundtable discussions with the experienced beekeepers are beneficial to all of us. We also had a booth at the Clackamas County Master Gardener spring show and plant sale on May 2 and 3 at the Clackamas County Event Center in Canby.

We will hold a variety of workshops this year. The first one will be on Queen rearing using the Miller method to be held on May 23 and led by Morris Ostrofsky. For more information on this and other workshops, visit our website.

The first speaker at our May meeting was Ellen Topitzhofer of the Bee Informed Partnership. She is part of the Pacific Northwest Tech Transfer Team, funded in part by a grant from USDA/NIFA. Ellen is working with commercial beekeepers in the region to reduce colony mortality. Her team inspects hives and takes samples for pest and disease loads. During the inspection, she looks at the queen status, how many frames of bees, weight, and brood pattern. She is also working on pesticide residue analysis on pollen. She shared pictures showing distinctly different pollen samples collected from hives sitting side by side. We also had a very interesting discussion on queen health and re-queening led by our vice president, Rex McIntire.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11, and our featured speaker will be Dewey Caron. For more information on meetings and events, please visit our website at: portlandmetro.org.

—Patty Anderson

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Our May 6 meeting was the first to be held at our new home, Alberta Abbey. It is a lovely venue which is big enough to accommodate our rapidly growing membership!

Our swarm hotline by Honey Bee Allies is up and running, and very active! To report a swarm, call 1-844-856-BEES. Members can register to receive swarms, or to be a swarm mentor or mentee. If you’re interested, 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. Our Education Committee is requesting donations of fun educational materials. There’s a request for bee or flower hats, games (such as a beanbag toss), and a photo cutout stand. Additionally, we’d like to start collecting samples for an entomology display.

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.

At the meeting, Glen Andresen gave his monthly pollen and nectar report. Speaking of Glen, Dewey Caron wrote a lovely article on Glen in Bee Culture this month called, “Beekeeper, Gardener, Teacher: Meet Portland’s Glen Andresen.” Tim Wessels, our former PUB president, gave a presentation on “What to do in the Hive This Month,” where he spoke mostly of swarm control and supering.

We proceeded to gather for breakout sessions, divided by beekeeping experience. We had large groups of new beekeepers, which is very exciting! For more information about Portland Urban Beekeepers or to become a member, check out our new website at: PortlandUrbanBeekeepers.org!

—Courtney Todd Campbell

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

The Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association meets monthly on the last Tuesdays in downtown Hillsboro. Monthly meetings include social and questions time from 6 to 6:30 PM, a 30–40 minute expert presentation on a beekeeping topic of value to club members, followed by a short business meeting and time to ask questions. Meetings take place at 225 S First Ave (at Washington) in Hillsboro. Free parking is available in the public garage above the first floor meeting rooms. Our next meeting will be on June 30; please join us!

Dr. Dewey Caron spoke on regional and national winter loss data and Varroa mites in May. Carolyn Breece presented the Master Beekeeper program in March, and the April meeting offered an excellent presentation on swarm catching.

Tualatin Valley beekeepers offer an active FaceBook page and local swarmcatcher list, and an annual Bee School in April. Benefits of membership include meeting and networking with a great group of active beekeepers, our monthly newsletter, monthly educational and social meetings, participation in an annual spring Nuc buy, a Bee Day in July, and access to the club’s honey extraction facility. Membership dues are $20 per household per year.

—Debby Garman

KEEPING BEES IN JUNE

Todd Balsiger

Blackberries are generally in full bloom this month so the nectar flow will be at its zenith. This year the start and end of the main nectar flow may occur a week or two
earlier than normal. Plan on an extended dearth this year. Recommendations are as follows:

- Super ahead of the need for space. This increases honey production and reduces swarming. You may want to walk through your apiary and reschedule the swarms away from colonies that are lagging behind and give them to strong colonies packing the honey in. Investigate why some hives are not producing. You may consider requeening non-producing hives or even making nuts out of them.
- If you have foundation to draw, get it on now. Summer’s nectar dearth is around the corner. Continue to replace old, poor-quality brood frames with foundation. It is recommended to replace brood frames every five years.
- Remove and extract supers containing well-ripened honey. The moisture content should be around 17.8 percent or less. Honey harvested early in the season (May/June) has more moisture than late-season honey (July/August). Avoid harvesting too many frames of uncapped honey early in the season or you may risk having too much moisture in your honey. You can check the ripeness of uncapped honey in a given frame by giving it a hard downward shake. If there is a shower of nectar, then it is too wet to extract.
- If you have hives around agriculture crops, then become familiar with the pesticides that are commonly used on them. Spotted Wing Drosophila and other agriculture pests may be much more problematic this year because of our benign winter. Make inquiries. Find out what’s going to be sprayed, when, and the dangers the spray poses to your bees. It may be very prudent to move your bees out, especially if the farmer does scant weed control and irrigates heavily creating an artificial bloom which attracts bees. See OSU Extension Publication PNW 591 for more information on how to reduce bee poisoning.
- Swarms issue one or two days after the first queen cells are capped. If you find a colony at this stage, I would not destroy the queen cells as this colony probably needs them. If you want more bees, then with care remove a few frames of bees and brood along with some queen cells. Put them in a nuc as usual and let them raise their own queen. Make sure to leave queen cells behind. I would avoid “digging” too much. Every time you pull a frame, there is the possibility of destroying queen cells on the bottom of the frame.
- This is my own opinion, but since the introduction of the Varroa mite I think the “badness” of swarming is overplayed. Through swarming, healthy young queens are raised and the brood cycle is interrupted. This will reduce the Varroa population. I have found it still possible to get a decent honey crop from hives that have swarmed at my apiary locations.
- Keep an eye on your Varroa mite load and get prepared to treat in the near future.

Lynn Royce

The beautiful queens and their genetics are critical to the health of the colony—and healthy drones who supply the other half of the genetics to the workers. So be happy when there are a lot of drones in a colony, especially if you like the colony and it stays healthy. We can test for some traits that are helpful and then select for them. It does not take a degree in genetics to do this, but you should understand some basics: recessive and dominance of traits, hybrid vigor, haploid, and diploid are a few important topics that would help you with selection. An example of a recessive trait we can test for is hygienic behavior, where the workers remove dead and dying brood. Also a young productive queen may be able to produce enough workers for the colony to outgrow the disease for a time. This is a complex system and to understand it better spend some time reading a good basic genetic text. It also will help if you read more about the common diseases we see in our managed bees.

Varroa mites are a serious problem for honey bees. The mites spend time on adult bees and reproduce inside capped brood cells. There is time during development of the bee pupa for mites to lay eggs that will hatch, grow up, mate, and be ready to leave the cell with the young adult bee. In the time it takes a worker bee to emerge (post capping period), the average number of females mites that can develop from a single female is 1.3. The mother mite will also leave the cell. However, if the cell houses a drone, there is more time for mite development so an average of 2.6 female mites can emerge. Because of both mite development and attractiveness of drone brood, the beekeeper can place drone comb into a colony and remove it shortly after capping. These frames of drone brood can then be frozen to kill the mites and the drones, then thawed and replaced in the colony. The bees will clean out the dead drones and mites and the cycle can start over. Care must be taken to remove the drone brood before any drones emerge—otherwise, the mite population will be increased.

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www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/2015-conference/schedule

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**Oxalic Acid**

The EPA has approved Oxalic Acid for use in beekeeping. One of the major bee supply companies will be the major distributor. It is possible to view the Final Label online now.

**Nominations**

The board is planning nominations further in advance for board positions. If anyone has interest, please speak up now.

Meeting was adjorned at 6:56 pm.

Bunny Cramer-Carter

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**Board Meeting Minutes—Continued from page 5**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 30: Cascadia Queen Breeders meeting/Workshop,
Mulino.
First Wednesday, 7 PM: Douglas County Bees, “Let’s
Talk Bees.” Third floor, Douglas County Courthouse.
Information: douglascountybees@gmail.com.
June 14: Kids and Bees Program. D.I.R.T. Park, Central

Make plans to celebrate pollinator week in your area,
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June 20: Portland Urban Beekeepers Tour de

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

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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, points of view—and ads/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 do want to hear from you!

The next issue to be printed will be the July issue, 2015. The deadline for submitting copy is June 10, 2015. Please let me know if you find difficulties with the deadline so we can work out the space and timing for the material.

Thank you!

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