GUIDELINES FOR BEEKEEPING

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association has established the following set of guidelines that promote and support the beekeeping industry and the general public. It is hoped that members will take an interest in and adhere to these guidelines. Beekeepers should ensure that each of the following priorities are addressed in the order listed.

Safety Is First

Public and beekeeper safety is a top priority. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Care in hive transport and placement
- Keeping vehicles and machinery fit for use
- Ensuring employee safety management
- Focusing on product safety
- Maintaining the health of colonies
- Training for new beekeepers

Quality Is Second

Quality standards affect the public, beekeepers, and the industry. They include, but are not limited to:

- Attending to strength and suitability of hives for pollination
- Keeping hive products to standards consistent with local ordinance(s)
- Maintaining the health of colonies
- Training for new beekeepers
- Providing a quality work experience for employees
- Being thoughtful in interactions with and having consideration for fellow beekeepers
- Keeping conduct and behavior professional while operating as a beekeeper

Production Is Third

Once the safety and quality issues have been thoroughly addressed, beekeepers are in a good position for healthy and productive business.

Note: As we are reminded here, care for honey bees extends well beyond the bees, thus involving all who contribute to their management as well as the colonies belonging to other bees, their keepers, and the people in the path of the beeline and migrating colonies. The OSBA guidelines are a reminder of safety concerns, and consideration of guidelines prepared by others for beekeeping at different scales is also encouraged.
Summer is definitely here and it arrived before the 5th of July. It is starting out to be a warm one and I hope the heat we are getting now isn’t an indicator of a long hot summer. I really don’t want to see all the nectar sources dry up early. I am going to have to make sure the my bees have access to plenty of water.

Last year at about this time the OSBA was invited to join the Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC). We decided to participate and joined a group of more than 30 diverse members representing organizations and agencies involved in beekeeping, food, agriculture, government and conservation. These members understand the importance and benefits we can all realize through joint efforts to improve the environment for bees. The HBHC is focusing on four areas that will improve the Honey Bee environment. They are Hive Management, Bee Forage and Nutrition, Managing Crop Pests and Cross Industry Collaboration. In the first year some of the areas where the HBHC has effected improvement are in the Hive Management category—raising awareness of the “Tech Transfer Teams” (part of the Bee Informed Partnership), and helping to raise funds for this effort. There is also an effort to develop and publish a comprehensive Varroa management document, a single authoritative source to cover the assessment, management and treatment of the Varroa mite. This document would already be out but there were some last minute issues to be resolved regarding the newly approved use of Oxalic Acid. The other activity to have a near term is under the Bee Forage and Nutrition category. This is really a pollinator effort to improve the forage for all pollinators on lands managed by all levels of government and large land holding corporations to diversify their planting for pollinator forage.

There are more aspects to this than can be covered here and I would encourage you to visit their website at: honeybeehealthcoalition.org.

Take care and have a good summer!

Paul
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: THE OREGON STATE FAIR

Before we know it . . . the Oregon State Fair will be here and once again the call for volunteers will go out. Traditionally the various associations in Oregon have stepped up to the plate to make the Oregon State Beekeepers booth an excellent educational experience for the public.

The Oregon State Fair is always a special event in Oregon but this year is extra special in as much as it celebrates the 150th. Anniversary of the Fair!

Please make plans to help once again for this very special event. For your information here are the operating times for the Fair:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUG 28–29, 10 AM–11 PM
SUNDAY–THURSDAY, AUG 30–SEPT 3, 10 AM–10 PM
FRIDAY–SUNDAY, SEPT 4–6, 10 AM–11 PM
LABOR DAY, SEPT 7, 10 AM–10 PM

Please note that this year the booth will be located in the Columbia Hall NOT Jackman-Long Building as in previous years.

The online volunteer sign-up forms will be going live on July 7, 2015 at www.orsba.org.

This year the shifts will be 3 hours each as opposed to a 4 hour shift last year with 3 volunteers needed for each shift. The shifts will be:

10 AM–1 PM
1 PM–4 PM
4 PM–7 PM
7 PM–10 or 11 PM, depending upon date

Volunteers must sign up INDIVIDUALLY please!

I would like to personally thank all the volunteers that helped us make the 2014 booth such an enormous success. Having beekeepers from all over Oregon donate their time and knowledge to educate the public about the plight of honey bees and other pollinators was a critical component of the 2014 booth.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Oregon State Fair. I look forward to seeing you in the 2015 booth!

Cheers,

Trevor Riches
Chair, Fair and Events Committee

BEEKEEPERS ENGAGE IN SCHOOL CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS: A Special Thank You From Oregon Agriculture In The Classroom Foundation

As I am sure many of you are aware, this past spring Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, featured The Beeeman by Laurie Krebs for the program’s annual literacy project. The annual project, which ran this year from March 8 through the end of the school year, is an opportunity to volunteer in a local classroom by reading an agriculturally related book and leading the classroom through a lesson that reinforces the topics covered in the book. The project aims to help students develop an interest in both reading literacy as well as become more agriculturally literate. With the help of project sponsors, Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom, provides all of the materials including the book which is left behind in the teacher’s classroom to use for years to come.

This year seventeen volunteers from your organization and associated groups read to 104 classrooms, and reached over 2,800 students helping these students to understand bees and their importance in greater detail. In total, the project is estimated to reach over 20,000 students in over 900 classrooms across the state.*

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Oregon Beekeepers for their dedication to the education of young Oregonians about the importance of bees as pollinators not just in this capacity but others as well. We all know how important it is for the younger generation to be aware of these important topics.

Again, thank you for your dedication and partnership in this project. I look forward to continued collaboration with your group. As mentioned, this is an annual project, and no matter what the topic we encourage personalization and as we all know pollinators impact most agricultural sectors. If you are interested in participating in future years please get in contact with us, we would love to connect you with a classroom next spring.

Thank you again for your support and partnership.

Best wishes for a bountiful summer,

Jessica Budge, Executive Director
Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom

*At time of press, these numbers were still to be confirmed.
This spring at local meetings I distributed paper copies and directed individuals to a web-based survey document as a continuing effort to define overwintering success. This was the 7th year of such survey activity. I received 230 responses from OR backyard beekeepers, keeping anywhere from 1 to 50 colonies (and an additional 31 from Washington beekeepers).

The vast majority (42%) of respondents had 1 or 2 colonies, Medium=3 colonies (range 1 to 50); 45% of survey respondents had 1, 2 or 3 years of beekeeping experience, medium=4 with range of 1 to 60 years. A report of the survey responses, both losses and responses to management questions in the survey, can be found at www.pnwhoneybeesurvey.com

Number of responses varied among the bee groups from as few as 6 for two groups (Tillamook & Central OR) to 46 from Lane Co (LCBA) and 53 from PUB (Portland Urban Beekeepers) members. Lost rates for the 10 groups varied from a low of 10% for Klamath Basin Beekeepers (12 individuals) to a high of 50% for the 6 respondents of COBA (Central Oregon Beekeepers Association). Overall weighted loss rate for the 230 backyard OR beekeeper respondents, entering the winter period with just under 1000 colonies, was 29.3%. See accompanying Figure 1 (the number adjacent to the group name is number of respondents).

The 2015 survey asked for numbers of hives by hive type both entering winter and then in the spring. Langstroth hive beekeepers, both those using 8-frame or 10-frame boxes, had 27% winter loss. This hive type represented 89% of respondent hive types. Nuc (5-frame) hives had double this loss rate (53%) followed closely by Top bar hive losses (49%). Warré hive rate loss (37%) was intermediate. Each collectively accounted for 10% of hive types with 1% “other” hives (such as long and feral hives) experiencing a 1/3 loss rate. Most respondents reported losing 1, 2 or 3 hives with the heaviest loss of 14 colonies. See Figure 2 for loss by hive type.

Information on loss rate by colony origination (overwinter colony, package installation, etc.) can be found on the pnwhoneybeesurvey.com website as well as response to managements related to bee health and varroa control. It includes a copy of the survey itself. Individual association reports will also be posted on this site as they are prepared. Further analysis will eventually be posted to pnwhoneybeesurvey.com, including analysis of loss related to fall, feeding and treatment managements practiced.

As reported in last month’s Bee Line, 13 Oregon Commercial & Semi-commercial beekeepers reported 12.4% overwinter loss rate. The BeeInformed survey (with a mixture of both large and small-scale beekeepers) reported a 25% loss rate for OR respondents.

STATE FAIR HONEY SHOW

Trevor Riches

This is the year you have been waiting for to enter the Honey and Products of the Hive Show at the Oregon State Fair! It is a great accomplishment to win a blue ribbon at the Oregon State Fair but this year is extra special because 2015 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Fair! The Oregon State Fair Honey Show is a great place to exhibit your skills in the preparation of Honey and Products of the hive.

Many people are hesitant to enter a honey show. They cannot see the purpose of it all.

I usually explain what a honey show is in this way: simply put, a honey show is where a person or business submits an entry with the hope of showing the world just how good their honey (or products of the hive) processing methods are.

Now, clearly honey bees are responsible for producing excellent honey without any help from us, however, we can really degrade the quality of the honey during the process from a hive to the container.

Whilst judging honey many factors come into play, the main ones are:

1. Is the container clean?
2. Is the honey clean?
3. Is the honey moisture content correct?
4. Has the honey been overheated?
5. Is the container lid clean?

I was successful in changing the dates of production allowed to enter the competition for 2015.

All exhibits must have been produced under the direct management of the Exhibitor and produced from the apiary of the Exhibitor between September 2014 and August 2015. This has been changed this year to accommodate the late extraction here in the Pacific Northwest.

I hope this will encourage more entries in the competition.

Competition entries will be accepted at the Columbia Hall entrance (through the Red gate on 17th Street)

Friday, August 21, 10 AM–PM
Saturday, August 22, 10 AM–5 PM

And don't forget the other divisions and classes in the 2015 Honey and Products of the Hive Competition.

Listing of the 2015 Classes
There are two levels for Honey Entries: Youth (17 years of age and younger) and Adult (Oregon Beekeeper). Division 240 is designated for Youth, but Youth may choose to enter any other division, competing against adults.

240 Youth (Ages 17 years and younger)
2400 Artistic Beeswax, molded or dipped (1 lb min)*
2401 Beeswax, any other
2402 Honey, Extracted (any variety)
241 Beekeeping Photo. Entries must be an 8”x10” mounted photograph in a black frame
2410 Fair theme (Crazy Fun Since Day One)
2411 Bees and their Keepers
2412 Bees/Bee Colonies at work
242 Beeswax. Minimum quantities are listed below
2420 Artistic Beeswax, molded or dipped (1 lb min)*
2421 Beeswax Block – 1 block (1 lb min)
2422 Beeswax Candles, dipped – 2 dipped candles, 100% beeswax
2423 Beeswax Candles, molded – 2 molded candles, 100% beeswax

*Artistic Beeswax can be several shades of beeswax, i.e., brood or capping wax. Artificial enhancements accepted but should not overpower the beeswax.

243 Honey, Extracted (any variety). Extracted Honey–3 one pound, uniformly filled, Queenline or otherwise one pound or one pint glass/plastic jar
2430 Light
2431 Amber
2432 Dark
244 Honey, Other (any variety)
2440 Chunk Honey Jar – 3 one pint or one pound jars
2441 Comb Honey section – 3 square or round sections comb honey
2442 Creamed – 3 one pint or one pound jars
2443 Cut Comb – 3 uniformly cut comb pieces (min 12 oz each)
2444 Extracting Frame with Capped Honey Comb – one frame (any size)
OSBA OFFICERS

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503.332.5410; paulkandersen@frontier.com

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7128 Skyline Rd S, Salem 97306
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503.703.8546; dbcreamer@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Jeff Milligan
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503.588.7024; milligan50@msn.com

Past President: Jan Lohman
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South Coast: Mureen Walker
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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

Reminder: Check out current resources at:
http://www.extension.org/bee_health

** 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

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

Reminder:
Check out current resources at:
http://www.extension.org/bee_health

Website: www.orsba.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, Corvallis Waldorf School,
3855 NE Highway 20, 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; wiseacrefarm@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; 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 Maasdams
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

Xerces Society Report
REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives

North Coast

Ever since Bee Day in April, attendance at the monthly meeting has been way up with new beekeepers and folks just interested in learning more about bees. We again had about thirty attendees in spite of several of our regulars being away on vacation. The sharing of ideas and experiences happens before, during, and after the meetings and a good time is had by all.

Our guest speaker at the June meeting was Dr. Dewey Caron. His slide show presented the survey results of the 2014–2015 data collection. Each slide provided useful information, as well as an opportunity for questions and discussions. Dr. Caron's survey results can be found online at: pnwhoneybeesurvey.com. Additional question and answer time was made available to answer any and all questions had by the attendees. We sincerely thank Dewey Caron for his time and insightful sharing of bee info.

As usual, the Tillamook Beekeepers will be “manning” the bee booth for one day at the state fair. Some discussion related to that event was had.

Some of our regular members come to the Tillamook beekeepers meeting from Lincoln City and Newport. They have been working diligently at organizing a new beekeepers group to meet monthly in Newport. The new group is called Central Coast Beekeepers Association (CCBA). The first meeting is Wednesday, June 17th, at 6:30 pm in the large meeting room of the Newport Public Library. Meetings are the third Wednesday each month at least through the end of the year. Dan Speers has agreed to serve as interim president. For additional information contact Dan via email at: dspeers@yahoo.com.

Lastly if you haven’t heard of it, one of our members shared a product called Bee’s Wrap which is bee’s wax coated fabric used as alternative to plastic wrap for covering refrigerated items. Information is available at Beeswrap.com. Our member became a wholesale dealer allowing all of us to get the products at 50% off the retail price. She encourages anyone interested in doing wholesale or retail sales to contact the Bee’s Wrap company, which is located in Vermont. —Claire Moody

South Coast

Learning from visits and exchanges with visitors seemed to be the high note of the last several weeks of spring leading up toward the summer solstice. Oregon South Coast founders Del & Myrna Barber came from Nevada and stayed in the area for several days, sharing about their latest adventures in beekeeping, including their meeting with a beekeeper in Turkey, Cappadocia, area who had just moved in many of his blue hives for pollinating the black apricot. The beekeeper there wore black clothes, like a sports jacket suit, and no protective gear. His bees seemed especially docile. Obviously Turkish bees never see black bear, only the rare Syrian Brown Bear.

Myrna also showed photos of Del’s own home crafted and adapted Russian beehive to help keep an even temperature inside through both hot and cold seasons. The car thermometer at the hive indicating inside and outside temperatures shows an even 94 degrees continuously inside. The walls are constructed of 1” solid foamboard insulation sandwiched between plywood, with T-111 on the outside. The inside is the equivalent of the “double deep” brood box so often claimed to be the space needed for overwintering and adequate brood production for nectar and pollen harvesting for the next winter. Del says that some people are making the frames by cutting the ears off of one standard frame, turning it upside-down and temporarily fastening it to the bottom of the upper one by a screwed-on bracket so that it can be separated for spinning out the honey. Del uses the press that he designed to squeeze the honey out of the comb, so he built each double deep frame with a central bar for strength. He says that a frame weighs about 25 pounds when full. This is basically a hybridized Tanzanian Top-Bar horizontal hive. The current queen is a Carniolan, but Del is eager to acquire a Caucasian Russian queen for his Russian Hive. He hoped to pick up one in a nuc, but there wasn’t enough lead time.

I saw hundreds of occupied nucs and no electric fence, only a standard sheep fence, at Old Sol. I asked, “How do you keep the bears away?” Misty Jacob quickly replied, “Our Karelian Bear Dog!” This dog keeps nose to nose with a skunk, so it can’t turn fast enough to get a spray aimed. This speed and agility is part of what keeps this dog safe from bear, while being an absolute pest that no self-respecting bear ever wants to be confronted with again.

Our main honey producers to the south, Babette and Russ Rose, had a bear turn over the dozen hives at their...
house. They had no bear fence and their dogs, who would normally be barking ferociously, apparently slept through the intrusion. The Roses relocated those bees upriver and secured them in dog kennel type fencing by midnight. Bear returned every night about 4 AM for a while. The dogs sounded the alarm.  
—Mureen Walker

South Willamette Valley
This spring has been something here in the south valley. I have often equated it to holding a tiger by its tail. At this time the weather is hot and the honey is coming in fast. We hosted the annual Lane County bee day here down in our field with much success. I am grateful for the participation of all the friendly folks that dedicate countless hours in support of our most beeloved insect.

July signals the start of extraction/treating here in the south valley. Pulling honey in July may sound early and perhaps it is in some areas, but here in the south valley getting the honey off and hives treated by August is a great way to keep your hives healthy going into the fall. The bees still may have some natural forage to store and hitting the mites where it hurts this time of the year will greatly reduce winter losses. Here in the south valley summer rains can bring on a pennyroyal flow which can help a great deal with the summertime floral loss. It seems to me that we are going to experience a extended dry spell this summer, so be prepared for light hives. Feeding your bees during the summer can be somewhat problematic, so keep your feed buckets covered and lids on tight. Reduce your entrances if robbing is an issue. Having a small colony in too many boxes can spell trouble as well, so stuff them in one if at all possible. We still have a long way to go before the end, so pay attention to what your hives may need and enjoy some of your well-deserved honey.

Happy Keeping.  
—Jason Rowan

Regional Associations

Cascadia Queen Breeders
The Cascadia Queen Breeders held a queen breeding workshop May 30. We want to thank Kerry Haskins for hosting us at his honey house in Mulino. We also thank Dewey Caron for leading us in such an informative workshop.

Dewey covered several queen rearing methods in the lecture to give people an overview and visibility into the most popular methods of rearing queens. Our focus was the larva grafting method into queen cups and the Miller method. Hands-on and observations with live hives were part of the training provided at the workshop. There was a frame of queen cells created by the Miller method that were harvested and placed into breeder nucs as part of the class training. The configuration and use of Cloake boards to tease the hive into rearing new queens was part of the field activities during the workshop. The activities started at 11 AM and concluded at 3 PM. Some stayed longer to get further training with Dewey on grafting live larvae into queen cups. Grafting tools and the grafting process were the focus with Dewey after the field work with the hives was complete.

We were able to have hands-on grafting thanks to CQB members Joe Maresh and Craig Rodgers, as they made sure we had good material to graft from. People were able to get their hands sticky transferring Miller method queen cells to mating nucs.

A special thanks to Joe, Craig, and Kerry as we had two good, different types of Cloake board setups to work with. We look forward to hosting 3 more workshops this year.

Thanks to CQB members as well as interested individual beekeepers who made this a memorable and functional event.  
—Ken Anthony

Lane County Beekeepers
Our annual Field Day was held on June 6 at Beetanical Apiary, owned by Jason Rowan. The weather couldn’t have been more perfect and the area Jason offers provides plenty of shade from a huge oak tree for the social time. There were 8 hives and those attending were divided into two groups. One group did hive evaluations, led by Kenny Williams, Morris Ostrofsky and Max Kuhn. The second group split into two and half watched Judy Scher present a collection board demonstration, and the other half watched Ken O’Grain share information on dividing hives, robber screens and moisture boxes. These groups then switched so all who were there participated in all offered activities. Forty people were in attendance and after the demonstrations, a picnic and time to “talk bees” with other beekeepers completed the great day.

We are encouraging members to exhibit honey and bee products at the Lane County Fair, scheduled for July 22 through July 26. The club has a tradition of having a display booth at the fair, which attendees seem to enjoy and it stimulates lots of questions from viewers.

Our topic for the regular July meeting will be Fall Management by Judy Scher. In addition, we will be offering an early session at 6:15–7:00 PM on Extracting, by Ken O’Grain.

July is a very busy time in Lane County, with removal of honey supers, extracting and treating for Varroa if necessary. Our club is fortunate to have a number of extractors that members can use. We have volunteers throughout the
The Bee Line

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Portland Metro Beekeepers held our June meeting on Thursday, June 11th.

We were pleased to have Dr. Dewey Caron present his winter loss survey. The data he receives from the surveys are analyzed and presented in both regional and national detail. His surveys give us more and more useful information each year, and we look forward to learning of the results. It’s extremely beneficial for all of us to complete this survey each year. To see results, visit pnwhoneybeesurvey.com.

The club will be holding a mite workshop with Dr. Caron and Matt Hansen in July for club members.

Dewey also led a discussion on installing queens. When to do it – how to do it – why we should re-queen and what works and what doesn’t. He is such a great speaker and so informative! Thank you Dewey!

We will hold our annual picnic on Sunday, August 9th. It’s a great time to gather and share stories of our bees. Last year we had a huge turnout and look forward to seeing our fellow beekeepers again this year!

Our July meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9th. Our topic will be honey extraction presented by Kerry Haskins. Also, we will all be sharing our own homemade devices and bee gadgets. Should be quite interesting! For more information on meetings and events, please visit our website at: portlandmetro.org.

—Patty Anderson

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Our June 3rd meeting was filled with practical information from local beekeepers. Bill Catherall gave a great presentation on beekeeping record keeping. He’s a big advocate for record keeping so you can do “bee math” in order to plan well by anticipating when brood will emerge. Additionally, record keeping is a great tool to track your hive’s health. Bill showed us all sorts of innovative tracking tools, including using bricks, paper templates, and duct tape. He reminds us that whatever works for us is the right way to do it!

Dewey Caron was back this month with advice on what to do in the hive this month. He reminds us to challenge the bees by giving plenty of super space. He warns that this year might not be a great year to harvest all of the supers. This is an early year, and the bees might need that extra honey to overwinter. Dewey recommends starting to test for mites. Testing early gives us a baseline so that when we take fall mites numbers there’s some context.

Dewey also presented some early results from the Pacific Northwest Honey Bee Survey. Good news, shows less loss than last year! To check out the survey, visit http://pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/survey-results/2015-survey-reports. Dewey and his team are still crunching numbers, so stay tuned for more exciting results. If you find this information helpful, please participate in next year’s survey!

Our main event was a Q&A panel, moderated by Dewey Caron. The panel consisted of three beekeepers with varying backgrounds. Mike Card is a fourth year beekeeper with seven colonies. Kerry Jahanne, a beekeeper and orchardist and recent transplant from New York, has 14 years of beekeeping experience. While she managed 40 colonies in New York, she’s still looking forward to starting her first in Portland. Our final panelist was a Portland beekeeping fixture and PUB veteran, Glen Andresen, who has 25 years of beekeeping experience and currently manages 80 hives. The questions revolved mostly around the pros and cons of foundation vs. foundationless, and the ways to track and manage mites.

We are excited to be sponsoring the bee booth at the Oregon State Fair on Saturday, August 29th. Come say hi! 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 (TVBA) meets monthly on the last Tuesdays in downtown Hillsboro. Monthly meetings include social and questions time from 6 to 6:30 pm, a 30 to 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.

Instead of a regular meeting in July, the club meets outdoors for a mini Bee Day, with Dr. Dewey Caron leading hive inspections and mite counting demos, followed by a barbecue potluck picnic. The event takes place at Diane and Mike Van Dyke’s River Oak Farm and Nursery, 8355

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July 2015

SW River Road, Hillsboro. The TVBA Honey House is located at this site, and demonstrations of the honey extraction equipment will be offered. Demonstrations and hive inspections begin at 3 pm and the picnic dinner will be served about 5 pm. Our Bee Day and picnic this year will take place on Saturday, July 25th – please join us!

We 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 JULY

Karessa Torgerson

What you do in July will have a measurable impact on your colony’s chance of winter survival. Bees raised after this month must endure the long, wet winter and still be strong enough raise a new generation early next spring. July is your opportunity to create ideal conditions for development of healthy winter bees!

❖ Plan your mite treatment. Monitor mite levels throughout the month so you know whether or not you need to treat. If numbers exceed threshold, don’t wait until August to deal with the problem. Many colonies have been lost to Varroa by mid-August in the past. Even if your numbers are low enough to wait, finish treatments no later than August 15 so your that winter bees are raised with minimal exposure to mites and mite-borne disease. If you are trapping for drones, you can continue trapping all the way through July, but be careful not to leave the frames in too long.

❖ Watch for Nosema. The “new” Nosema (Nosema ceranae) can be a silent killer. It doesn’t cause “streaking” like Nosema apis did, so your bees can be infected without your knowledge. If you have bees that appear healthy (without distorted wings or black, hairless bodies), yet are crawling on the ground in front of your hive or a hive that is failing to thrive for no immediately apparent reason, send a sample to OSU for testing in mid-July to find out if you need to medicate. Sometimes it can take a while to receive the lab results. Don’t procrastinate.

❖ Minimize heat stress. Provide plenty of ventilation for warm, moist air to leave the hive. Make sure the bees have a water source. If possible, give your colony afternoon shade during hot days.

❖ Watch for robbing. The blackberry bloom ends in mid-July for most of Oregon. This marks the beginning of robbing season. Reduce entrances on weaker colonies, especially if you suspect they are diseased. Marauders from healthy colonies can bring diseases back with the booty.

❖ Avoid spilling syrup or honey near the hives, and keep hives open only as long as necessary. Keep a “robbing screen” on hand in case you need to stop a looting frenzy.

❖ Resolve queen problems. Queens are generally not available after the first week of August. It’s best to make colonies queenright now so they have time to collect themselves for winter. Recombine hives if necessary, but only if the colonies are not diseased.

❖ Assist swarmed colonies if necessary. In terms of summer population, colonies are weakest five-to-six weeks after they have swarmed. Reduce entrances, confirm the new queen is laying well, and combine swarmed colonies with other colonies if necessary. Be ready to feed swarmed colonies in August if they are light on stores.

❖ It’s also time to plan for the honey extraction. In most parts of Oregon, colonies don’t put much honey away after July. You can remove honey supers at the end of this month without compromising your harvest. This allows you more time and flexibility for preparing the bees for winter.

❖ Reserve equipment now. It can be difficult to find available extractors of honey bee pests and diseases, bee nutrition, and the pollination of California’s agricultural crops. Most of his articles published are 1st-person, hands-on, in-the-field, down-to-earth research. Randy has a Master’s Degree in biological sciences, and corresponds with bee researchers and beekeepers worldwide. You can find more information on his website: www.scientificbeekeeping.com.

 conferences/preview/preview:

Randy Oliver is a commercial beekeeper, bee researcher, and technical writer from Grass Valley, California. With focus on digesting scientific research from various fields and applying it to practical beekeeping, his articles include information about management of honey bee pests and diseases, bee nutrition, and the pollination of California’s agricultural crops. Most of his articles published are 1st-person, hands-on, in-the-field, down-to-earth research. Randy has a Master’s Degree in biological sciences, and corresponds with bee researchers and beekeepers worldwide. You can find more information on his website: www.scientificbeekeeping.com.

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- Consolidate your honey supers as July progresses. Rearrange frames if necessary. Your goal is to minimize unprocessed nectar on the frames at harvest time. When you are ready to extract, give frames with uncapped cells a shake while holding them parallel to the ground. If nectar comes out, the frames are too wet to include in the harvest.

**From: The Bee Line, July 2013.**

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**OSBA FALL CONFERENCE 2015**

Plans are underway for the OSBA Fall Conference to be held at the Oregon Garden Resort on November 6, 7 & 8, 2015. Tentative agenda and registration information will be posted by August 1st at: www.orsba.org. Notice that our conference days have changed this year to Friday, Saturday & Sunday.

Reserve your room at the resort right away. Rooms located at the resort are limited and filling up fast! You may make online room reservations by going to the Oregon Garden website: www.oregongardenresort.com.

You will be prompted for a Group Code, which is: BEEKEEP

Please follow the steps below to make online reservations:

1. Click “Book Now” on the Home page
2. Under Dates you will see “Have a Promo or Group Code? Enter it Now”
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**Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association Fall Bee School**

The Art and Science of Keeping Bees in the Rogue Valley

August 1, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Please bring a lunch and protective bee gear if you have it. Weather and time permitting, we’ll work with bees during and after class.

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569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR

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Registration deadline: July 30

Limited to the first 100 to register.


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Registration for the Western Apiculture Conference—October 1–3—began in mid-June. To check out the schedule: www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/2015-conference/schedule

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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.

August 1, 9 AM–4 PM: Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association Fall Bee School (see page 13).

August 10–14: Eastern Apicultural Society Conference, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada.


October 17: Second annual Oregon Honey Festival, Ashland. To be a Vendor, Sponsor, or Advertise in the Program, contact: OregonHoneyFestival@outlook.com (see ad, page 14).

November 6–8: OSBA Fall Conference 2015, The Oregon Garden, Silverton, Oregon.

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

To learn about the Bee Understanding Project, visit: http://pollinatorstewardship.org.

**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, 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 August issue, 2015. The deadline for submitting copy is July 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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*Per Issue*

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