



The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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September 2015



Tara Nelson

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BEE INFORMED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Karessa Torgerson

In his presentation, Bee Informed Partnership: Management Practices That Work and Those That Don't, during the 2014 fall conference, Dennis vanEngelsdorp, University of Maryland, compared management methods of the 25 percent of beekeepers who are losing 10 percent or fewer of their colonies every year with the 25 percent of beekeepers who are losing 50 percent or more. He used results from four years of Bee Informed Partnership surveys, plus some additional resources, to identify some of the differences between the two groups.

Dennis prefaced his talk with a strong caution: correlation doesn't equal causation. Many of the following points are to be viewed as a foundation for further research, and none are to be interpreted as an iron-clad rule.

- ❖ Surveyed beekeepers in the North lose significantly more colonies than those in the South.
- ❖ Those who replaced frames once every ten years lost fewer colonies than those who replaced them more frequently and those who didn't replace frames at all.
- ❖ Beekeepers who used equipment from dead-outs immediately had better results than those who stored equipment for future use.
- ❖ Beekeepers who supplemented with honey had slightly lower colony survival than beekeepers who supplemented with sugar syrup or dry sugar. This could be due to the way the honey is processed or stored, or any number of other factors.
- ❖ Drone trapping is not always an effective Varroa mite management technique. These results may be muddied by those who aren't properly using the technique. Beekeepers in the North tend to have better results when using this method than those in the South.
- ❖ Beekeepers who start with packages tend to experience higher colony losses than average, whereas those starting from splits tend to experience lower losses.
- ❖ Colonies that experienced a "queen event" were three times more likely to die than those that hadn't. This does not include colonies in which the bees accepted a queen that was deliberately installed by the beekeeper.
- ❖ Using Coumaphos for mites is almost as ineffective as using nothing at all. ApiVar, ApiGuard, ApiLifeVar, and Mite Away Quick Strips are viable treatment options.

Dennis reported that about 58 percent of surveyed beekeepers don't treat for Varroa mites. He expressed concern about the popularity of the no-treatment approach because Varroa mites are transmitted hive to hive much more readily than is commonly thought. Even colonies with some level of resistance cannot cope with large and repeated waves of incoming mites from untreated, collapsing

Image above (left to right): As Avery and Elizabeth remind us, it's never too soon to start in bees. Enjoy your ongoing learning as the (welcome!) rains begin to set in.

Continued on page 4

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It been a long hot and dry summer! It is mid August when I write this and my bees in town are doing OK with the heat but my bees in the country seem to be struggling a bit more than usual because of the dryness. The seasons are moving fast and I want to remind everyone to register for the conference as it will be here before you know it. Remember it is at the Oregon Garden this year, and it is Friday, Saturday, and Sunday instead of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Also, please, if you know of any beekeepers who are not members of the OSBA, tell them about the conference.

As things ramp down I am starting my Varroa sampling and getting ready for treatments. In early August the Honey Bee Health Coalition released their latest contribution to bee health, *Tools for Varroa Management*. I am going to rely on this document for Guidance this year. This is probably the most comprehensive document and guideline for managing Varroa mites there is at this time. We have a copy of it on our website and it is free to download; take a look at it.

It covers IPM, Varroa seasonal development, monitoring options and selecting controls for Varroa. It has a very complete and detailed list of all the treatments available on the market, both chemical and nonchemical. There is information on the pros and cons of each, effectiveness, and usage with a lot of details on each treatment. I am finding it very useful in helping me make the best decision for my treatment plan.

Take care, keep cool, and I hope you are at the conference this year.

Paul

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OSBA Fall Conference 2015
Oregon Garden Resort ❖ November 6–8, 2015
Tentative Conference Agenda



Friday, November 6

- 7:00 PM Kick-Off **Wine and Cheese Social** with
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Saturday, November 7

- 7:30 AM **Registration**
- 8:00 AM **Silent Auction** Begins
- 8:15 AM **Welcome & Announcements**
 Paul Andersen, OSBA President
General Session
- 8:30 AM **Oxalic Acid and Concepts in Mite Management**
 Randy Oliver, ScientificBeekeeping.com
- 8:30 AM–
 3:00 PM **Bee School (Concurrent)**
Thom Trusewicz, Director
- 9:15 AM **Bee Informed Partnership**
 Ellen Topitzhofer, Oregon State University
- 10:00 AM **Break**
- 10:15 AM **2J Honey Farms**
 Jay Miller, 2J Honey Farms
- 11:00 AM **National Honey Board Report**
 George Hansen, Foothills Honey
- NOON Luncheon (*Preregistration required*)
Oregon Master Beekeeper Program
 Carolyn Breece, Oregon State University
- 1:15 PM **Wholesale Honey Considerations**
 Alan Turanski, GloryBee
- 2:00 PM **VanCalcar Apiaries, Amity, Oregon**
 Nick VanCalcar, VanCalcar Apiaries
- 2:45 PM **Break**
- 3:00 PM **Changes on the Landscape Impacting Honey Bee Forage and Nutrition**
 Pete Berthelsen, Pheasants Forever
- 3:45 PM **Swarm Fundamentals**
 Karessa Torgerson
- 4:00 PM **Silent Auction** Ends
- 4:30–
 5:45 PM **OSBA General Membership Meeting**
- 6:00 PM **Social Hour**
- 7:00 PM **Banquet/Benefit Auction to Follow**
 Dr. Clint Walker



Sunday, November 8

- 7:30 AM **Registration**
- 8:15 AM **Welcome & Announcements**
 Paul Andersen, OSBA President
General Session
- 8:30AM **Wax Is Wax**
 George Hansen, Foothills Honey
- 9:15 AM **Beekeeping Mistakes, Lessons Learned**
 Jay Miller, 2J Honey Farms
- 8:30 AM–
 10:00 AM **Mead Workshop (Concurrent)**
Andrew Schwab
- 10:00 AM **Break**
- 10:15 AM **Understanding Bee Biology Over the Course of a Season**
 Randy Oliver, ScientificBeekeeping.com
- 11:00 AM **Pests, Pathogens and Poor Nutrition: Understanding and Mitigating**
 Dr. Ramesh Sagili, Oregon State University
- NOON Luncheon (*Preregistration required*)
 Cascadia Queen Breeders
Panel of Northwest Queen Producers
 Jordan Dimock, Moderator
- 1:15 PM **Package & Queen Production**
 Pat Heitkam, Heitkams' Honey Bees
- 2:00 PM **Effects of a Neonicotinoid Insecticide on Honey Bee Health and Physiology**
 Stephanie Parreira, Oregon State University
- 2:45 PM **Break**
- 3:00 PM **Maximizing Honey Production**
 Dr. Clint Walker
- 3:45 PM **Final Comments**
 Paul Andersen, OSBA President
- 4:00 PM **Adjourn**

To register by mail for the conference, see page 15. Visit <http://osba2015.orsba.org> to register online, for additional conference information, and for conference updates as they become available.

► Please be aware that preregistration is definitely encouraged this year! ◀

Management—Continued from page 1

colonies. No-treatment beekeepers risk spreading mites to neighboring apiaries, where colonies can be reinfected post treatment.

Selecting for resistance is still critically important and doesn't require a no-treatment approach. Beekeepers who are actively breeding for resistance need to take mite counts before applying treatment and breed only from those colonies that have lower counts. However, every colony in an apiary should be treated at the same time regardless of mite count. Because mites are so easily transmitted from colony to colony, treating only some colonies is almost as risky as not treating at all.

For more information and to see the survey results, visit: www.beeinformedpartnership.org.

PREDICTING AND MANAGING PESTICIDE RISKS TO BEES

Presentation by *Paul Jepson*; notes by *Karessa Torgerson*

Pesticide use is a complex issue. Growers are sometimes forced to make difficult choices; for example, of the two commonly used pesticides available to control cabbage aphids, one is more toxic to humans while the other is more toxic to pollinators. Although growers are increasingly responsive to the potential impact of pesticides on pollinator populations, they face daunting pest management realities in the field. In some areas, for example, spotted wing drosophila has destroyed 80% of blueberry crops. This magnitude of loss can easily put growers out of business.

However, there is good reason to be hopeful about progress in terms of minimizing pesticide impact on pollinators. When the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership partnered with Walla Walla growers to reduce pesticide contamination in waterways, they were able to effect a tremendous reduction in organophosphate contamination in waterways while still maintaining adequate control of pests. The effort involved trapping moths to map out infested areas and only treating where necessary. Although the costs were considerable – the project required 117 farm visits over the course of the growing season – this early success promises even better successes in the future.

One final point: Paul cautions beekeepers against advocating sweeping bans of pesticides. He argues that education and collaboration yield positive results while still allowing growers the tools they need to produce high quality food.

A wild population of honey bees has evolved tolerance to *Varroa destructor*! To read the study, visit: www.nature.com/ncomms/2015/150806/ncomms8991/full/ncomms8991.html#abstract

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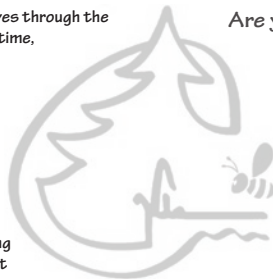
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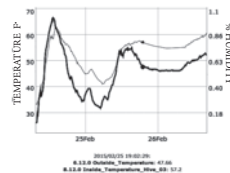
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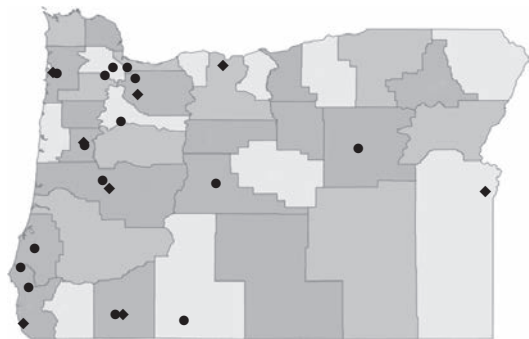
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Updates and resources available at:
http://www.extension.org/bee_health
and <https://beeinformed.org>.



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

• 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

Douglas County Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, first Wednesday

Third floor, Douglas County Courthouse

Contact: douglascountybees@gmail.com

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John Day River Beekeepers

Meets quarterly

President: Matt Allen

541.934.9101; apricotapiaries@gmail.com

Education Coordinator/Secretary: Liz Lovelock

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

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

OSU Extension, 3328 Vandenberg Rd, Klamath Falls

President: Paul Davitt

president@klamathbeekeepers.org

Vice President: John Wilda

vicepresident@klamathbeekeepers.org

Secretary: Judy Olson

secretary@klamathbeekeepers.org

Treasurer: Ray Rutler

treasurer@klamathbeekeepers.org

Website: www.klamathbeekeepers.org

Lane County Beekeepers

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

President: Pam Leavitt

541.344.4228; pamseaver2000@yahoo.com

Vice President: Max Kuhn—541.997.7390

Secretary: Jodi Wiktorowski

Treasurer: Polly Habliston

Website: www.lcbaor.org

Linn-Benton Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third Wednesday, 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; 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; john@oldsolenterprises.com

Vice President: Ron Padgett

541.592.4678; padgett25@frontiernet.net

Secretary: Dana Rose—puckamok@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Cheryl Housden

541.955.5146; chousden@earthlink.net

Website: southernoregonbeekeepers.org

Tillamook County Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, second Tuesday (except December)

Fresh Cafe, 9120 5th Street, Bay City

President: Bob Allen—503.322.3819

Vice President: Jim Fanjoy

503.637.5522; jim@fanjoy.com

Secretary: Jeffrey Hall

503.739.0893; jlh434@mac.com

Treasurer: Stan Scotton

503.232.4945; 4scotton@gmail.com

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, last Tuesday

225 S First Street, Hillsboro

Contact: tualatinvalleybeekeepers@gmail.com

President: Jeff Clark

Vice President: Bob Ward

Secretary: Jillian Hettinga

Co-Treasurers: Barb Falconer & Jerry Maasdam

Web: www.facebook.com/TualatinValleyBeekeepers

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, fourth Monday, Chemeketa

Community College, Building 34, Room A, Salem

President: Richard Farrier

541.327.2673; rfarrierfarms@gmail.com

Vice President: Mona Kanner

Secretary: Emily Cross

Treasurer: Laura Evans

Website: http://wvbahive.org

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives

North Coast

The Tillamook County Fair was held last week. Rick Stelzig built a wonderful observation hive which was a huge hit with children and adults. There was usually quite a crowd. They loved finding the queen and actually watching her lay eggs. There were lots of questions, mostly about colony collapse. Rick had the children drawing bee pictures and gave out honeystix. It was a complete success.

We had no speaker for this meeting so discussions followed on various topics. Knotweed was generating a good honey flow. Various members for whom the major honey flow was finished were treating mites. Those who were treating were mostly using Mite Away strips. There are still swarms to be had if anyone wanted them. November's meeting will be our annual honey tasting event. Lastly we were saddened to hear that a person who began beekeeping after our Bee Day had had a life-threatening reaction to a sting. Fortunately the story has a happy ending except for his having to give up his new hives. *—Claire Moody*

South Coast

Yellow Jackets! The predators killed two colonies here last fall, so they seem to some to be the enemy. But at the July meeting of our group, a man visiting for the first time spoke up and said that he takes every yellow jacket colony he can get. We gasped. "What do you do with them?" He gave us the full details, "I vacuum them up with a shop vac. All you have to do is put the nozzle down there and they just rush in, like it's an anteater. Then I take them home in the vac and dump them into a cardboard box that I put on the perimeter of my property. They find a place to burrow underground and I never have any trespassers." But what about your honeybees? "Yellow Jackets can't harm honeybee colonies that are strong." Oh!

Bee club meetings are so interesting! We have been enjoying sharing with a couple who has been managing thousands of hives all their adult lives, as sole support of their family. Carla Fletcher gave a presentation about "Surviving the Dearth ... after the Blackberry blossoms, what then," and offered a sudsy solution for eliminating aggressive feral bees. Coos County club members contributed with Pat Reed showing that the African Blue Basil is a staple foraging plant in his bee garden for most of the season, blooming all season, and Hal Strain's Timber Hive is working well and "absolutely full of buzzing bees using all the depth it provides," according to his wife, Patti. At the south end, since the blackberry blossom, the yellow blossom of the Saint John's Wort is keeping the bumble and honey bees

happy. Another Coos resident reports that his black plastic culvert contraptions were working well as wild hives in the trees until a massive colony die out occurred in his area. The most southerly group signed up for time slots in the booth at the local Curry County Fair, August 27–30, which is during the Oregon State Fair this year, making it difficult to participate in the state fair in Salem.

There was an historic heat wave at the coast this year, spiking at 106 degrees at the seacliff on Wednesday, July 29, so some things suffered melt down, likely more than we know of at the moment, and the blackberries are reportedly damaged by it.

The OSCBA meetings in Curry County continue to be very interesting, with the big potluck break and networking session between the short business meeting and the extensive sharing in the "What's the Buzz" and the educational informative session. *—Mureen Walker*

Regional Associations

Cascadia Queen Breeders

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

Lane County Beekeepers

The LCBA members who entered products for the Lane County Fair won prizes in all three divisions for honey and wax. Jen Hornaday, who entered as Healthy Bees-Healthy Gardens, won two awards in the dark honey and medium honey categories and one in the light honey category. Nancy Ograin won a first in dark honey, a second in medium honey, and a first in wax. Polly Habliston and Ken Ograin were the second and third place winners in wax. Judy Scher won a first in light honey, chuck honey, and cut comb honey.

Max Kuhn, our vice president, has achieved the Journey level of the Oregon Master Beekeepers Program. Congratulations to Max. He joins an exclusive group of five in the state. Three of the five are from LCBA, and they are Judy Scher, Morris Ostrofsky and now, Max Kuhn. The other two are Karessa Torgerson and Jan Lohman.

Our September meeting topic will be "Bee Nutrition" presented by Dr. Ramesh Sagili. In addition, he will share information on the on-going studies at the bee lab at Oregon State University. We meet on Tuesday, September 18, at 7:30 PM, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 440 Maxwell Road, Eugene. Visitors are always welcome!

Enjoy this beautiful season, when temperatures are moderate, skies are clear, and the bounty of the garden is overflowing.
—Pam Leavitt

Portland Metro Beekeepers

The Portland Metro club has a relatively new website, search for “portlandmetro.org.” Please visit for updates on our meetings and classes.

For August we had our annual picnic and it was sunny, the company and food were great, and the talk was bees (mostly). Our next meeting is at Clackamas Community College, 7 PM, Thursday Sept. 10th. It is at Clairmont Hall, Room 118.
—Paul Jarrett

Portland Urban Beekeepers

While Glen Andresen was busy flipping pancakes at the family booth of Junction City’s Scandanavian Festival, Dr. Dewey Caron took over our August 5th meeting was with practical advice for how to start the beekeepers new year off and transition into fall. His presentation was full of a vibrant Q&A from our members, mostly around feeding and requeening practices. As we help our bees prepare to overwinter, Dewey reminded us of last year’s Pacific Northwest honey bee loss survey results (pnwhoneybeesurvey.com), debunking some practices

as statistically insignificant, and some as trends. Very few practices showed significant success in preventing overwinter losses, such as chemically treating for varroa mites. Dewey, as always, encourages us all to try new overwintering techniques and share our results in the 2016 survey!

Our apiary at Zenger Farm has seen some exciting growth this year! We started the year with two hives, and to that have added eight nucleus hives, resulting in twelve hives going into fall. The property has been cleaned up, with fresh woodchips and improved shelters and equipment. Zenger Farm is dedicated to education and experimentation. See portlandurbanbeekeepers.org/zenger to find out when the next volunteer work party is. They are an amazing way to get beekeeping experience!

We’re getting excited for some events coming up this fall and winter. At our November 4th meeting we’ll be hosting a Show & Tell where members and guests are encouraged to show off their products and share recipes. We will invite local companies to share what they are doing, and people can bring items to sell.

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prizes. We'll be having a potluck and honey tasting to complement the art.

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 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. Our September meeting will be on Sept 29 – meeting activity is a compare-and-contrast honey tasting of member's samples. Please join us!

Club members will be working at the OSBA booth at the Oregon State Fair on September 5th.

Our group offers 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

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Many members from Linn-Benton Beekeepers and Willamette Valley Beekeepers (WVBA) attended WVBA's picnic held at Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture at OSU. It was a great day for a potluck picnic. We had wonderful weather and great food.

The Association's extracting equipment has been and still is in high demand. Honey production has been good this year. Several who started with nucs produced two supers of honey with each nuc. They're very happy with the production of honey this year.

Beekeepers are now implementing Varroa mite treatments. It's necessary to treat for mites now, so the hives can produce healthy bees which will then produce healthy bees for the winter.

—Richard Farrier

KEEPING BEES IN SEPTEMBER

Ken Ograin

September is a month when one needs to be observant. In August, you were busy with honey harvesting, mite control, and inspecting colonies.

- ❖ Honey frames need to be protected from wax moth.
- ❖ Your honey supers should be cleaned and stored for next year's honey flow.
- ❖ Things you need to be mindful of are winter food stores, robbing, yellow jackets, and Nosema treatment; also, get your bee yards tidied up.
- ❖ Keep hefting your hives to monitor food stores. Your colonies will be consuming more food than is being brought in. Feed heavy syrup if needed in a top feeder or inside feeder at this time, as entrance feeders tend to attract robbers.
- ❖ Robbing and yellow jackets can and may be a major problem this month.
- ❖ Entrance reducers will help, but the UC Davis robber screen that Dewey Caron has brought to our attention is a

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good thing. The screens are easy to make using just scrap wood and 1/8-inch hardware cloth. I made many of these last year, and they do an excellent job of deterring robbers.

❖ Monitor for mites, and be sure that you have followed manufacturer's instructions for any products that you may have used. Be sure to remove any unused product in a timely manner.

❖ If you did any requeening or combining of weak colonies last month, be sure to check them. All colonies need to be queenright with a healthy population of winter bees that will carry the colony through winter.

❖ If your colony did not produce any surplus honey but seems to have a large population of bees and is queenright, Tom Seeley may have the answer for you. One, if your colony had swarmed, then your population may have not recovered in time for the major nectar flow. Another possibility, Tom says, is Nosema or tracheal mites as both of these can reduce a bee's life span, and it is the foraging phase that will be shortened. This would be a good reason to test your bees for both so that you can treat them while there is still time, that is, before winter temperatures will prevent your ability to do so.

❖ Hives need to be protected from winter rains and winds.

❖ Be sure you have good-fitting lids, and weight them down.

❖ Tip hives up slightly in the back if you use solid bottom boards.

❖ Don't forget about mouse guards. It will not be long before daytime and nighttime temperatures will be getting down, forcing bees to cluster for long periods.

FROM THE WEBMASTER

Erin Olmon


Your friendly webkeeper, Erin, is looking for some help with OSBA's social media accounts. We are looking for people to run the OSBA Facebook and/or Twitter accounts. In addition, we are looking for someone who can be the beekeeper behind "Ask a Beekeeper". For more details on what we're looking for and how to express interest, please visit <https://orsba.org/help-wanted/>. Thank you!

BEES WELCOME AT OREGON GARDEN

Dewey M. Caron

Our 2015 fall meeting site, Oregon Gardens, is friendly to bees and pollinating insects. Although they do not have a pollinator garden among their specialty gardens, there is interest and they are considering development of such an attraction, according to Horticulture Director Ty Boland. They are currently keeping track of the plants most attractive to bees and butterflies. Beekeepers know many bee plants are weeds or have aromatic but often inconspicuous flowers (think Boxwood, Pyracantha, ivy, holly and herbs). Unfortunately we are not likely to see pollinators on Garden plants during our November meeting.

During the season, the plant care program is ecological based and sustainable. Chemicals are not routinely used with herbicides the most common pesticide employed. The Horticultural staff are quick to point out that cosmetic spraying, for example to reduce aphids and their honeydew secretions on tulip tree, are not done at Oregon Gardens.



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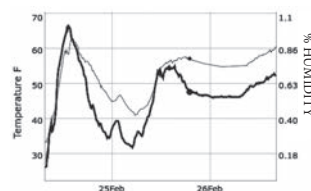
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8.13.0 Outside_Temperature: 47.56
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They will instead acknowledge the honeydew does not harm the plant and actually provides bees, ants, and other beneficials with a summer food source.

There are mason bee nests in the garden which are attractively signed and pointed out to visitors. The apiary in the Oak grove has an informational sign, although visitors are not permitted in this section.

Education, including hosting events such as the OSBA fall meeting, is a major activity of Oregon Gardens. They have both adult and younger generation education programs and an extensive volunteer program. There will be an opportunity for beekeepers and family members to visit the Gardens at a reduced group entry fee during our gathering.

A Fifth Grade Program has offered environmental education at Oregon Garden for 14 years. Over 5200 students participated last year. Cindy Quam, program coordinator, has developed a lesson within the last three years on honey bees which covers flower parts, purpose of pollination, social characteristics, castes, metamorphosis and communication. She reports students, as well as adult chaperones, are fascinated by the subject of bees and ask many questions. She says "The lesson is requested over and over again as teachers do not have time to cover pollination and the more interesting interrelationships in nature." Some of the bee teaching materials have been donated by WVBA. Funding for the program comes from the Roth's Benefit-Education Foundation in partnership with The Oregon Garden. Additional hands-on items are always welcome, as are volunteers.

Our meeting theme Products of the Honey Bee fits into several gift shop sale items. The Oregon Garden Gift Shop

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sells local honey, packed by Wayne and Kathy Porter of Flying Bee Ranch of Salem (www.flyingbeerranch.net). They manage some 200 colonies and have been beekeepers for 55 years. The honey is offered through an arrangement with the Senior Center of Silverton who benefit from gift shop sales. The Porters have their bees on Route 213 outside Salem as you approach the Gardens in Silverton. Justin and

Martha Keane of Dogwood Bee Farm also sell their Simply Bee Products in the Gift shop. They currently have about 100 colonies north of the Gardens also along Route 213 (Mulino). The Keane's are faithful OSBA and Portland Metro attendees - look for some of Martha's glass fusing artwork during the OSBA auction.

The bee colonies and the two most recent beekeepers at Oregon Gardens contribute to the educational programs. Current beekeeper Mike Roth is a 3rd generation beekeeper who enjoys his grandfather's Journals of beekeeping adventures in Clackamas County at the turn of the century. He had some 70 colonies in the foothills. Mike learned beekeeping from his dad and currently manages 100+ colonies. He pollinates radish and has sent some colonies to almonds on the 'back of the truck' of a buddy. His honey sales are a fixture of the Silverton Farmers Market and he is a frequent visitor to local 2nd grades to present a well-received bee program. His website and Facebook site (Homestead Honey Company) has great photos of bees (including his prize winning State Fair honey show entries), bee products, swarms and cutouts he has done. He plans to be at our November meeting.

Prior to Mike, the previous Oregon Garden beekeeper was Mark Thompson, a 20 year bee veteran. He no longer has bees at Oregon Gardens due to distance from his home near Dundee. As an experiment, he installed solar panels, sold by a Vermont beekeeper (<http://www.beecoolventilators.com/need.htm>), on four of his newly hived nucs in 2010 and produced 300 pounds of honey. The press release of this success was widely picked up by media (Christian Science Monitor <http://www.csmonitor.com/The-Culture/Gardening/diggin-it/2011/0224/Solar-powered-beehive-coolers-increase-yields>), Sunset Magazine, Solar Oregon, among others). Mark continues to use solar devices on several of his 20 + colonies to produce honey for his several sales outlets along 99W from Tigard to McMinnville. He too plans to attend this fall.

COULD A MUSHROOM SAVE THE HONEYBEE?

The title of this note is that of an Oregon Public Broadcasting story by Ken Christensen. You can read it at: www.opb.org/news/article/could-a-mushroom-save-the-honeybee/, where you'll find an OPB earthfix video describing current work related to *Varroa destructor* as well as well as a link to the TED Talk, "6 ways mushrooms can save the world" (www.ted.com/talks/paul_stamets_on_6_ways_mushrooms_can_save_the_world?language=en) by Paul Stamets. Stamets is the mycologist who is working with Steve Sheppard on this project. Yes, ideas worth sharing!

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CROP INSURANCE DEADLINES


WASHINGTON, Aug. 20, 2015 – Farm Service Agency Administrator Val Dolcini today encouraged producers to examine the available U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the sales deadline for fall crops.

Deadlines for coverage vary by state and crop. To learn more about NAP visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local USDA Service Center. To find your local USDA Service Centers go to <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator: <http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 28–September 7: Oregon State Fair. Salem.
September 15–20: 44th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress, South Korea. *Information:* www.apimondia.org.
October 1–3: Western Apicultural Society Annual Conference. Boulder, Colorado. *Information:* http://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/category/2015-conference-news.
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, Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, Oregon. Agenda, page 3; Registration, page 15 and http://osba2015.orsba.org (which includes additional information and updates).
January 5–9, 2016: American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow. Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville) Florida. *Information:* http://abfconference.com.



**Oregon State Beekeepers Association
 Membership Application**

New Member Membership Renewal

The **Oregon State Beekeepers Association** is a nonprofit organization representing and supporting all who have an interest in honey bees and beekeeping. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. Membership includes the ongoing work of the organization on behalf of the honey bee and beekeeping, a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on publications, placement on the swarm call list, three free ads on the website, and an annual directory and subscription to *The Bee Line*.

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

Jeff Milligan, PO Box 20548, Keizer OR 97307

First Name: _____ **MI:** _____ **Last Name:** _____

Company name: _____

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

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

Do not include contact information

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

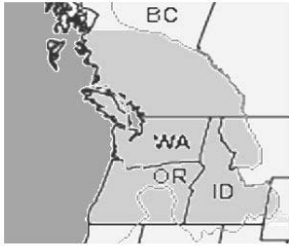
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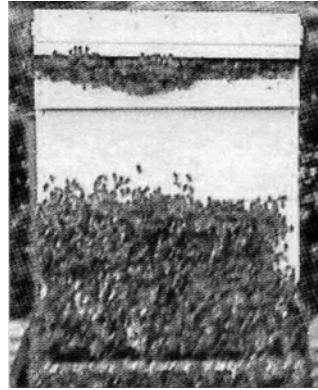
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Please make check **payable to OSBA** and mail with this completed registration form, **postmarked no later than October 24**, to: Jeff Milligan, P.O. Box 20548, Keizer OR 97307. To register online, visit: <http://osba2015.orsba.org/>

Attendees qualify for preregistration rate if application form (with registration fee) is postmarked on or before October 24. **Late or on-site registration rates are: One Day Individual \$110.00, One Day Family \$130.00; Full Conference Individual \$190.00, Full Conference Family \$220.00.**

Note: Hotel reservations are not included in these costs. Special rates are available at the Oregon Garden Resort: (503) 874-2500 Ext 0

*The Oregon State Beekeepers Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. Please consult your accountant for details.



The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association
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~ **Reminder:** The date on the mailing label is the expiration date for membership. ~
If the date is September 2015 (or earlier), this is your friendly renewal notice.

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 October issue, 2015. The deadline for submitting copy is September 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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