THE BIG RATCHET

Marla Spivak on the University of Minnesota Bee Squad Program: A Summary

Heike Williams

Even though the 2015 OSBA Fall Conference is upon us, and probably past by the time you read this, one of last year’s conference presentations is still vivid in my mind, the one by Marla Spivak where she introduced us to the book The Big Ratchet: How Humanity Thrives in the Face of Natural Crisis by Ruth DeFries.

The author of this book presents the theory that civilization happens in cycles where the pendulum swings from one extreme to the next. Each cycle has the periods of ratchet (a ratcheting up, say, of production), hatchet (reaching a limit or a drop in production), and pivot (a turning to a new approach developed by human ingenuity in response to the “hatchet”). Spivak then adds her own interpretation as it would apply to the world of bees and beekeeping.

According to Ruth DeFries, the idea and concept of the Green Revolution dates back to the 1940s and originally had the intention of feeding the world. To increase agricultural production worldwide, new technologies like monocropping, the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and new breeds of high-yield crops were used and slowly ramped up to an industrialization of agriculture—along with its side effects of big agribusinesses, the build-up of resistance of targeted insects, fungi, and weeds, the tank mixes of pesticides (synergistic effect), and so on—a development which resulted in poor soils, destruction of natural habitat for wildlife, polluted waters and good agricultural ground, loss of livelihood of small farmers, and urbanization. A well-meant intention became more and more counterproductive.

Marla Spivak draws the parallel to the beekeeping world where a similar “ratcheting up” development happened. When finally the pendulum reaches its limit, the hatchet phase starts. For bees, the hatchet means death—as it started in 2006/2007 with Colony Collapse Disorder: colonies all over the world were failing due to parasites, pesticides, lack of forage area, and other causes. Marla sees poor nutrition at the base of the problem. Pollen, the bee’s protein source, contains the enzymes which boost the immune system and enable bees to detoxify by breaking down pesticides. Plus, in a depleted landscape, all the pollinators are fighting over the reduced pasture.

After the ratchet and hatchet phases, what happens next is a pivot: the pendulum starts to swing to the other side. In the world of agriculture, it is the public awareness of paying attention to our food: where is comes from, how it is produced, and how it is processed. The same is true for the world of beekeeping. Colony Collapse Disorder has brought an immense public awareness to the public, scientists and beekeepers alike. In Marla’s opinion, honey bees need good, clean bee food: real pollen, that is. Feeding pollen substitutes in the form of

Continued on page 10
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year is almost gone, and I am always surprised how quickly the time races by and I must say it’s been a good year for the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. First, I want to thank the executive officers who support me, Vice President Harry Vanderpool, Secretary Bunny Cramer-Carter, and Treasurer Jeff Milligan have all been very supportive and responsive to the needs of the OSBA. There are many others that have given their time and talents to support the OSBA, many more than I could mention here, and I want to thank all of you for your efforts and dedication, too!

Also this year, the amount of donations going to Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab from the local associations is going up. I think this really got a jump start when the OSBA started its fund-matching program for up to a $500 donation by a local affiliate to the OSU Honey Bee Lab. In addition, several of the local affiliations are starting to donate funds beyond the $500 match. This is important because we are a charitable organization whose primary benefactor is OSU honey bee research along with other institutions that we feel are aiding beekeeping.

In closing, I want to mention that this will be my last article as president of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. I have had the privilege of serving as president for the last three annual terms, and the association will be electing a new president during the membership meeting at the conference this year. I must say this has been a very rewarding experience for me, and I appreciate the confidence the membership has shown me. I thank the membership for the opportunity, and I am sure whoever is elected to replace me will serve with enthusiasm.

Take care. I hope you are at the convention this year.

Paul
BEEKEEPING IN CROATIA

Pam Leavitt

My husband and I spent the first three weeks of September in Europe. We visited Dubrovnik, Croatia, where we saw many hives on the hillside. I have since learned that the old walled city of Dubrovnik, over 1,000 years old, had shipping and textiles as its major economy, and they shipped their textiles, wine, and beeswax from their port.

Croatia is a small country which lies on the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea. Slovenia is to the north, Hungary to the east, and Bosnia/Herzegovina to the south. There are 150 cooperative beekeeping associations with more than 7,000 members. There are three microclimate zones: the highlands with cold winters and lots of snow, and two other zones which have dry and hot summers. Eighty percent of beekeepers in Croatia are hobbyist, 17 percent have an additional occupation, and the professionals are 3 percent of the total.

Fifty-nine percent use a Langstroth-type hive configuration, 16 percent use nucs, 17 percent use hives with 42 x 26.6 cm frames, 4 percent use skeps, and 3+ percent use other means. The country produces more than twenty kinds of honey. The largest come from multifloral sources, black locust, amorpha (false indigo), rapeseed (canola), lime tree, and sunflower. The second largest sources are lavender, rosemary, sage, salvia, juniper, and fir.

*The Croatian Bee, Hrvatska pcela,* is the country’s beekeeping magazine, which is one of the oldest beekeeping magazines in the world. It began publication on March 1, 1881. They print 7,000 copies, eleven times a year.

Every city we visited had an open air market, and they all had stands selling honey and hive products. It was a treat to travel that far and meet other beekeepers.
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 6:00 PM, fourth Tuesday (except December)
The Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas Ave, Bend
Visit www.orsba.org, Message Board, Central Oregon Branch. For information and meeting details, e-mail: contact@cobeekeeping.org
Co-President: Allen Engle—aengle@bendbroadband.com
Co-President: Patricia Moreland—oregonpat@gmail.com
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

**OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Updates and resources available at:
http://www.extension.org/bee_health
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; wiseacre@lbba.us
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 Falconer
Secretary: Dianne Hutto
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
What a lively meeting the Tillamook County Beekeepers had in October. It was called “Hit or Miss” and “Show and Tell.” We had reports of some excellent honey yields and some rather disappointing results. It ran the full gamut.

One of the discussions was on dead-outs. One of our members had hundreds of dead bees in front of an otherwise strong hive. So, he called the Department of Agriculture. Someone from that department came and took samples of dead bees, live bees, wax, and honey.

Shortly after the inspector’s visit, all of the rest of the bees absconded. This scenario is not at all uncommon, and so we are looking forward to the results of department’s testing. We will share them with all who read The Bee Line.

Jim Fanjoy gave an update on the Cozy Bee experiment he is conducting. He has two apiaries with eight hives each, and within an apiary there are four different roof configurations. Each hive is monitored electronically for inside and outside humidity and temperature, and the results are being stored in a database. Fascinating! For more information, check out: www.peacecrops.net/CozyBee.

One of our members brought in vases of the flowers her bees liked best. They included cleomes (the bees’ most favorite), lemon bergamot, buckwheat, borage, and cosmos. Since they bloom until frost (and self-seed), they make a nice little supplement to the blackberries. She has volunteered to grow starters of the above for the group in the spring. Escallonia, ivy, and knotweed are, of course, probably highest on the bees’ wish list.

Lastly we had demos of a couple of different bee vacs. By far the most impressive one is the Bushkill Beevac (www.beevac.com). It is designed to work for both swarms and cut-outs, and the three pieces that make it up fit directly onto hive boxes. It’s really a brilliant design and affordable ($110). Rob Overton, the designer, has generously donated one to the silent auction at the state convention.

Jim Fanjoy gave an update on the Cozy Bee experiment he is conducting. He has two apiaries with eight hives each, and within an apiary there are four different roof configurations. Each hive is monitored electronically for inside and outside humidity and temperature, and the results are being stored in a database. Fascinating! For more information, check out: www.peacecrops.net/CozyBee.

One of our members brought in vases of the flowers her bees liked best. They included cleomes (the bees’ most favorite), lemon bergamot, buckwheat, borage, and cosmos. Since they bloom until frost (and self-seed), they make a nice little supplement to the blackberries. She has volunteered to grow starters of the above for the group in the spring. Escallonia, ivy, and knotweed are, of course, probably highest on the bees’ wish list.

Lastly we had demos of a couple of different bee vacs. By far the most impressive one is the Bushkill Beevac (www.beevac.com). It is designed to work for both swarms and cut-outs, and the three pieces that make it up fit directly onto hive boxes. It’s really a brilliant design and affordable ($110). Rob Overton, the designer, has generously donated one to the silent auction at the state convention.

South Coast
Election of Officers and then the big Thanksgiving Potluck are the wrap up highlights of the last meetings of the year for Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association gatherings in Gold Beach. There is an effort to encourage members to step up into the first two positions, and bring fresh perspective for a year, serving as president or vice president.

Several people have signed up for the Oregon Master Beekeeper class for 2016, and instructors and mentors are prepared.

Several officers and members are excited about attending the annual conference at Oregon Garden this year. Attending will be current president, Jim Sorber, with his wife Lynn, Barbara Fitts, treasurer, reporter Mureen Walker, and possibly others still making plans.

Meetings have been enriched by the monthly visits of the commercial beekeepers who were in the area on a mission and so enjoyed being here that they expressed the desire to return again some summer on their own and revisit us. In the summer, while it is hot in their state, it is so coastal here. During the Curry County Fair, they worked as volunteers in the OSCBA bee booth on four-hour shifts nearly every day of fair. We miss them, hope to hear from them through the year and see them again.

Quite a few of us have robber guards on now, not just mouse guards. We have had considerable losses each year to robbing of several kinds, from feral bees, especially the very dark and even solid black ones (as proven by deceased ones provided by Carla), yellow jackets (the western wasp), and even our own neighboring colonies of honey bees. There seemed to be more yellow jackets this year, patrolling the ground so thickly that it was hazardous to go barefoot.

They say to expect an extremely wet El Niño winter. I have put the solid foam insulation in the covers to prevent condensation. May our bees all have a cozy cluster for the winter. Cheers!

—Mureen Walker

Regional Associations

Lane County Beekeepers
The Lane County Beekeeper Association is very appreciative of the OSBA donation of a free conference registration to each of the regional associations. We held a drawing at the September meeting, and Brian McGinley won the free registration for the annual conference at the Oregon Garden. In addition, the LCBA board voted to award three additional free registrations. Barbara Elliott, Walter Bucher, and Becky Lemler were the lucky winners for the drawing. We encouraged our membership, at both the September and October meetings, to take advantage of the opportunity to learn, network, and hear experts in the field of beekeeping at this event in November.

The LCBA held several special presentations for our members in October. Lynn Royce, PhD, who did her doctoral research on tracheal mites of honey bees and has studied pollinators for over 30 years, did a demonstration
on honey bee dissection at our October 20 general meeting, with assistance from Judy Scher, LCBA member. Then on October 27, she led a dissection lab at the University of Oregon for our members. We had to limit the number of participants due to the space available in the biology lab. Dr. Peter Wetherwax from the University of Oregon was gracious to allow our club to utilize the lab space and equipment.

The club board voted to purchase a tri-ocular microscope with camera to enable us to do dissections. We have members who are interested in learning about honey bees beyond the basics. We have several members who are Master Beekeepers, Apprentice and Journey level, and with their expertise, we will be able to offer our club members additional ways to further their education.

The November meeting, on November 17, will be our honey tasting social. We invite members to bring small samples of their harvest. It is a fun evening of tasting, discussing, and socializing with one another. Visitors are always welcome at our club meetings. We meet the third Tuesday of every month, except in December when we take the month off. We gather at Trinity United Methodist Church, 440 Maxwell Road, Eugene. Doors open at 7 PM and the meetings start at 7:30 PM.

—Pam Leavitt

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Our featured speaker this month was Harry Vanderpool, vice president of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Harry stepped us through his schedule for feeding and mite control from August, when the honey comes off, through October. Determining the state of each colony and hive consolidations should be done by now. Feeding now is weather permitting. Syrup can ferment and cause dysentery when the fermented syrup is in the feeders and frames. He also suggested installing mouse guards in the hive entrances. The speaker for November will be Kathy Pendergrass. She will be discussing her publication of Plants for Pollinators in Oregon. She will provide information about establishing, maintaining, and enhancing habitat and food resources for native pollinators. Our next membership meeting will be held on November 12th at 7:00 PM. Our December meeting will be our Christmas party on Thursday, December 10th. We will have more information on that at our November meeting. For more information about our meetings and events, please visit our website at: portlandmetro.org.

—Patty Anderson

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 30–40 minute expert presentation on a beekeeping topic of value to club members, followed by a short business meeting and time to ask questions. Meetings are at 225 S. First Ave. in Hillsboro. Free parking is available in the public garage above the first floor meeting rooms.

We are taking registrations now for our annual Spring TVBA Beginning Beekeeping School. Cost is $50 and includes First Lessons in Beekeeping by Keith Delaplane and a year of club membership. The TVBA will be offering the school on March 21 (6–9 PM), 23 (6–9 PM), and 26 (9 AM–1 PM), 2016. This course will prepare the prospective beekeeper with the fundamentals of bee biology, hive management, apiary site selection, honey bee purchase choices, installing bees, plus beekeeping equipment options and expectations for your first year of beekeeping. Class emphasizes the Langstroth hive, but other hive types such as Warré and top bar are covered. The class is a total of eleven hours will take place at the Washington Street Conference Center Hillsboro Room 103/109. Limited space is available.

We have developed a scholarship for club members to participate in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program beginning in 2016, and also provided funding to support some members’ attendance at the November state conference.

Our November meeting date is TBD (check our Facebook page for updates), and we will not meet in December. January meeting will be on the 26th. Meeting presentations and activities are always geared to support and prepare for seasonal beekeeping activities. Please join us!

TVBA offers updates and information through an active FaceBook page and local swarmcatcher list, and an annual Bee School. 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 discounted spring Nuc buy, a Bee Day in July, and access to the club's honey extraction facility. Dues are $20 per household per year. Cheers.

—Debby Garman

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.

Selecting for productive, mite-tolerant queens since 2000
The Bee Line

KEEPING BEES IN November–December

Morris Ostrofsky

The most frequent question I get in fall is, “Should I put the collection board in place under my screened bottom board?” It seems reasonable to want to protect the bees from cold weather by covering the screened bottom board. Yet, the cold weather isn’t the greatest threat.

What isn’t as obvious is that moisture is a much-greater problem than cold weather. The answer I give is, “Only leave the collection board in place when taking mite counts.” If you are using solid bottom boards, then you must provide an upper entrance.

What can be done to deal with moisture? First, if you are using a solid bottom board, tilt the hive slightly forward. Put on your spring to do list to switch to a screened bottom board.

I have found use of an insulation box that contains hay or other absorbent material to be very effective. Use a box with the same footprint as a standard box, add some ½-inch ventilation holes to it, and cover the bottom with hardware cloth to keep the absorbent materials in place. Place the box just under the outer cover. Venting moisture out of the hive can also be accomplished by adding an upper entrance.

❖ If you have not done so already, remove queen excluders and add mouse guards.
❖ Going into the coldest season of the year means monitoring the bees’ honey supplies. This is easily done by lifting the back of your hive just a few inches. Ideally, the bees should have stored from 60 to 80 pounds of honey. If your colony is light, November is the time to start feeding fondant. Note that we switch from a liquid feed to a solid feed now because at the lower temperatures the bees have a harder time metabolizing the sugar and evaporating off excess moisture in the syrup. A frame of honey from a known, healthy hive is also an excellent source of food. Leftover candy canes make a sweet holiday gift for your bees. Continue to check stores periodically.
❖ Light colonies can be fed saturated syrup until daily temperatures drop into the 40’s.
❖ Occasionally the temperature hits 50°F, and the bees should be out doing cleansing flights. With weeks between cleansing flights, it must be a great relief for them to get out. On these days, if you notice that a hive is inactive, it bears closer examination. If you find that the hive is a dead-out, examine the combs for scales of American foulbrood. If you have any doubt, send a sample to the lab in Beltsville for confirmation.
❖ It is usually a waste of time and resources to try to keep weak colonies going through fall and winter. It is easier just to unite them. I suggest using the newspaper method to do this. Make sure when you do this that the uppermost box is provided with an opening.
❖ Entrances should be reduced to prevent robbing. They should also be checked periodically to make sure they are not plugged with dead bees.
❖ Now that Oxalic Acid is legal in Oregon, November and December provide a window of opportunity to deal with Varroa mites. If you are still having a problem getting your mite numbers where you want (3 percent or less), this is the time you can deal with the mites without harming brood. Brushy Mountain is the supplier of Oxalic Acid and complete directions. Although there are a number of ways to apply Oxalic Acid, the dribble method is the simplest and safest way to apply Oxalic Acid. Remember: follow the directions exactly.
❖ This is a good time to put down your hive tool, pick up a pen, and go to a conference. This time of year is also an opportunity to build bee equipment and gizmos/gadgets for next year. And on those cold winter days when your bees are clustered and content, it is your turn to take a well-earned break and read that latest bee book.
RUHL BEE MERGER LANDS IN WILSONVILLE

John Edwards

At Ruhl Bee Supply, we have enjoyed strong growth as beekeeping has expanded in popularity, but we knew we would need to invest heavily to continue our momentum. Finding growth partners is not easy in our specialized market, so when Brushy Mountain Bee Farm approached us about becoming their West Coast arm, it became instantly clear that this could be a great move. It would be a win for our Northwest customers and ensure the future of our employees, and it would be a strategic win for Brushy Mountain.

Since taking the leap with Brushy Mountain, we have had an exciting ride. As part of that, we have just completed a move to a 31,000-foot facility in Wilsonville, just off I-5. This building provides enough space for us to offer the entire BMBF product line as well as our previous Ruhl products. In addition, we now have a dedicated classroom for beekeepers, a bee yard to keep hives for field classes, and enough parking space to accommodate the busiest of bee days.

The premium quality of our hive boxes and clothing is an example of our commitment to US manufacturing, yet it has been almost impossible for us to do this for 100 percent of our product line. One of the great attributes of Brushy Mountain is that it is also committed to manufacturing in the US. Brushy Mountain has made deep investments in a world-class woodshop, a metal shop, and a sewing facility.

This merger has also enabled us to do some things we simply did not have the scale to do alone. We now offer free shipping on all orders over $150. Bee clubs can take advantage of this and have the product shipped directly to them. Alternatively, they can pick up the order and save 10 percent in addition to any volume discounts that may apply. The 10 percent discount applies to all in-store sales.

We at Ruhl will continue to focus on strong local support for our Northwest customers, and we look forward to showing you our new place in Wilsonville.

2014 OSBA CONFERENCE HONEY SHOW

Trevor Riches and Dewey Caron

There were 12 exhibitors at the 2014 State Meeting honey show. Trevor Riches did an outstanding job with show stewarding – this was part of his 2-year activity to complete requirements to become a Certified Welsh Honey Judge. Trevor and Dewey completed part II of honey judge training with Bob Falconer, Karessa Torgerson, Gene Doyle and Naomi Price, each of whom did the show judging. At the conclusion of the conference the donated show entries garnered over $150 for Bee research. Successful bidders got to take home price-winning Oregon honey. Included in the honey auction was the Rosette winner State Fair entry of light extracted honey generously donated by Max Kuhn. Congratulations to all the show winners and thanks to all who contributed to the show.

2014 Honey Show Winners

Extracted Honey Light: 1st Place, Mike Card, 2nd Place, Renea Williams, 3rd Place, Pam Arion
Extracted Honey Light- Labelled: 1st Place, Eric Walls, 2nd Place, Renea Williams
Extracted Honey Amber: 1st Place, Mike Standing, 2nd Place, Tim Wydronke
Extracted Honey Dark: 1st Place, Isaak Stapleton
Extracted Honey Light YOUTH: 1st Place, Zane Minzlaff (Zane won Youth Rosette at the 2014 state fair honey show)
Beekeeping Photograph MACRO & PORTRAIT YOUTH: 1st Place, Kaitlyn Walls
Beekeeping Photograph: 1st & 2nd Place, Mike Standing
Beeswax-Block: 1st Place, Fred Mann
Marla Spivak—Continued from page 1

soybeans and brewer’s yeast is not enough.

Marla lists three things needed: to find a balance between the need for pesticides and the needs of pollinators, to rediversify our landscape to create pollinator habitat using tools like buffer strips and cover crops, and to develop new non-chemical ways to control Varroa.

As DeFries points out in her book, human beings have always brought an immense capacity for ingenuity to the application of a pivot. Some of the pivots we are experiencing right now in the world of beekeeping are the Tech Transfer Teams, urban agriculture, the local food movement, and backyard beekeeping. The contribution of the University of Minnesota is the so-called Bee Squad Program. Marla describes how it stands on five legs:

1. Mentoring backyard beekeepers using University apiaries
2. The “Hive to Bottle” Program, where beehives requested by businesses and homeowners are managed on their ground for a fee
3. Wild Bee Safari: tours on campus to show the public native pollinators and forage plants
4. In the winter, courses on how to identify native bees, and to learn about bee-friendly plants
5. Collecting data from the managed hives

Why can a program like this serve as a pivot? Marla shares with us a few amazing stories.

Pesticide kills at two of the managed colonies led to activism of the involved business community, triggering some new legislation efforts: Best Management practices recommendations in the Twin Cities area, compensation for bees killed, and a law called the Pollinator Truth in Advertising Bill (plants treated with systemic insecticides cannot be labeled as pollinator friendly).

A golf course whose owners saw their bee colony damaged by applying pesticides for just cosmetic reasons changed their landscaping policy completely. Not only did they rethink their use of chemicals, but also they ordered replantings in order to build pollinator habitat.

These hopeful and encouraging remarks were topped off by Marla’s announcement that University of Minnesota received funding to build a new state-of-the-art Honey Bee and Native Pollinator Research Facility. The presentation ended with well-deserved thunderous applause by the audience.

We thank Marla Spivak for making time to share her research, thoughts, and outlook with the Oregon Beekeeper Community.

AS I SEE IT . . .

Marjie Ehry

Twenty-one kindergartners were having fun doing the bee dance and buzzing because “bees always buzz, don’t they?” “What else do they do”, I asked. Make honey, pollinate flowers so we have lots food, live in a hive, make wax, and sting...of course!

Between March and June of 2015, Ag in the Classroom (AITC) featured the book The Beeman by Laurie Krebs in their annual literacy project. Each year AITC Foundation features a book relating to agriculture. This year seventeen volunteers went to 104 schools reading and doing fun activities about honey bees. The kids loved it! I don’t know what other beekeepers took part, but I know Carolyn Breece was featured in the Capital Press, with a photo telling of her AITC presentation to a classroom of students.

Summer Ag Institute (SAI) is another group that promotes the honey bee and beekeeping every year to a group of urban teachers. This is a week-long class where the teachers are hosted by farm families and take part in the harvest, driving trucks, milking cows, or whatever is happening on the farm.

The point I am trying to make is…there is no way OSBA would have the time or could afford to send someone into schools with our message. The National Honey Board is happy to help provide printed materials and such for these two groups, why don’t we? The honey bee doesn’t have a voice, and we need to be sure her story is told. The OSBA needs to step up support of these programs!
OREGON HONEY FESTIVAL 2015

Marjie Ehry

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association sponsored the first Oregon Honey Festival in 1985. It was held in Dundee, south of Portland, during the summer, and it was a big success with beekeepers and community participation. This was a very busy time, and with more festivals planned, we talked of having another later in the year during 1986. Then, suddenly, with the arrival of the tacheal mite, beekeeping as we knew it changed drastically. The Oregon Honey Festival was postponed—or maybe even history!

As a long-time beekeeper having promoted honey bees, varietal honeys, and pollination along with the value to agriculture and the general public, always stressing the extraordinary part this little girl plays in our lives is an ongoing need. I missed the festival in Ashland last year, but I couldn't miss this second annual honey festival.

I was curious. Why a honey festival in Ashland? Who were the people and what was the message? Was it similar to what we had done? Was there bingo, bee beards, games for kids, face painting, honey tasting, bee equipment, demonstrations? Was Ashland taking part with a pancake feed? Was it outdoors on the street or in a field? I planned a trip south with questions in mind!

My daughter and I left on Friday to be ready Saturday morning at 10 am. Paying $15 to get in was an interesting concept, I thought, when you have a story to tell the world. Yet, I was sure the historical hotel where the festival was held was a high-dollar location. In addition, they had a good roster of speakers, which meant this event would not be a walk through.

Honey tasting seemed to be the main focus of the sales area. The tasting was very interesting with a wide variety of honeys included in most displays. I felt many were not characteristic of honey varieties stated, but personal taste and experience differ. There also were exhibits featuring wooden ware, honey, and beeswax candles and items, a kid’s corner with coloring and cute cork bees, bee photos, cards, art, cookbooks, and a display of work being done on Tree Hive Bees. I am sure there are some displays I am missing here, but all were interesting and well done.

The consecutive presentations I was able to hear included: Dr. Ramesh Sagili, Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab, with research interests that include honey bee health, nutrition, pheromone biology, and pollination, who discussed the necessity of practical beekeeping and agriculture in food production.

Laura Ferguson, whose enthusiasm and relationship to the honey bee were obvious as she pointed out that this is the first time the honey bee has risen to the attention of the world and we need to ride the wave.

Eric McEwen, “Diggin Livin” Apiaries of Cave Junction, who is working with the USDA to establish standards for organic honey—which means no chemicals, including no plastic frames, no paint, and foundation from cappings wax, thus ensuring it is pure.

Lynn Royce, PhD, founder of Tree Hive Bees, who is studying bees that have lived in trees in the forest and setting up tree hives emulating the same living area and conditions with practical application to improve honey bee health.

Marie Simmons, author of award-winning cookbooks, including the latest, Taste of Honey, which is so well done and full of beautiful photos and information about the history of bees and honey, I recommend it.

The universal message seemed to be use less fertilizers and pesticides, grow your own food, go organic, move bees less, plant more wildflowers, provide more wild areas, and live more simply.

Shannon & Glenda Wooten
11189 Deschutes Rd
Palo Cedro Ca 96073
Tel (530) 549-3555
www.wootensgoldenqueens.com

"Breeder and Shipper of Northern Calif. Italian Queens"

Wooten's Golden Queens, Inc

Top Quality Italian Queens
Now Accepting 2015 Orders
50 or more Queens $21.00 + Shipping

Our Involvement with Bee Informed Tech Team ensures queens are top quality & performs well in all regions.

Shannon & Glenda Wooten
11189 Deschutes Rd
Palo Cedro Ca 96073
Tel (530) 549-3555
www.wootensgoldenqueens.com
Application for Exemption from Licensing for Honey Extractors with 20 or Fewer Hives

I, ____________________________________________________________,

(print name here)

am extracting honey for sale from 20 or fewer bee hives, and I do not extract honey for any other beekeepers.

I will notify the Oregon Department of Agriculture if I begin extracting from more than 20 hives, or begin extracting for other beekeepers for a fee.

Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Company Name (if applicable)

Address ___________________________ City, State, and Zip Code ___________________________

Phone Number ___________________________ E-mail address ___________________________

Firms exempt from licensing and inspection by this policy are still subject to product labeling requirements. Please contact ODA for a label review. Extractors who sell other food items may be subject to other licensing requirements. If any changes occur such as change of address, phone number, or if you cease operations, please contact our Salem Office at (503) 986-4720.

Retail honey extractors who own their hives can have an unlimited number of hives if they only sell to the consumer.

Wholesale honey extractors who own 20 or fewer hives and extract only their own honey are considered to be hobbyists and are exempt.
OH YES HE CAN, HE’S OUR FRED MANN

Dewey Caron

The recent successful Bee booth at 150th Oregon State Fair is now history. Although nine local bee associations each helped cover a day at the fair, WVBA members play a dominant role each year in establishing, peopling and making the Bee Booth a reality. The organizing committee thanks once again all WVBAers who were a part of our booth to help answer the questions of the general public and enlighten them about honey bees.

Rich Farrier and family were booth volunteers and we once again used donations from Rich, including his demonstration of the colors of honey, to share with the fairgoers. Steve Coffman supplied the bees for the two Ulster Observation hives. Trevor Riches and Todd Bartlem drove into Salem every other day to switch out the observation hive and floral displays. Both also did the housekeeping as well as provided the design concept (after which Bunny set us straight). Trevor was exceptional working for the entire year (long meetings) on the new fair committee looking out for our best interests. Several WVBA members entered the honey show – one of the best in recent memory.

But we feel one WVBA member in particular, Fred Mann, deserves special mention and accolades. As in past years Fred was at the fair all but a day or two manning the booth. He is our master go-to person during fair set up and disassembly. He has a way to fasten, fix, take-apart or build anything we needed. Fred with his drill (screwgun) is a sight to behold. He is the youngest 80 year old we know as he leaves the rest of us in his dust.

In recognition of his efforts Todd, Bunny, Trevor, and Dewey (the Committee) presented Fred with our GOLDEN SCREWGUN AWARD at the September WVBA monthly meeting. Todd mounted a “golden” drill on to a Brushy 8-frame bottom board and added an engraved plaque:

For your dedication to the promotion of Oregon Beekeeping by your friends and co-conspirators on the OSBA Fair and Events Committee

Bunny Dewey Todd Trevor

September 2015

Todd, Bunny and Dewey added to Fred’s embarrassment by reciting a little poem (our sincerest apologies to true poets) called “Ode to Our Fred Mann” with thanks to members joining in to chant the refrain.

Note: From a post, reprinted with permission from the author, submitted from the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association, http://wvbahive.org/garticles/oh-yes-he-can-hes-our-fred-mann/. To view the Ode, please see the full posting at the site.
UPCOMING EVENTS

November 6–8: OSBA Fall Conference 2015, Oregon Garden, Silverton, Oregon. Although set to go out before, this issue of the newsletter will be delivered during and after...May everyone enjoy the learning!


MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please use the form provided here, with current pricing information, to subscribe to American Bee Journal at the discounted rate offered. A discount form is no longer needed for subscriptions to Bee Culture.

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

ASSOCIATION MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION

(Rates listed below are 25% below regular rates.)

Secretary’s Name: Bunny Cramer-Carter
Address: PO Box 779
City: Stayton
State, Zip: Oregon 97383
Phone: 503.703.8546

Return white copy to: American Bee Journal, 51 S. 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341

For new subscriptions and renewals during NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2015
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)

Mailing address:____________________________________________________

City:_______________________ State:__________ Zip:________________

Telephone number: ________________ e-mail address: __________________

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

☐ Do not include contact information

☐ Share all OR ☐ Share mailing address ☐ phone number(s) ☐ e-mail address

Local group, if member: _____________________________________________

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

Voluntary contribution(s):
General Fund $_______
Research Fund $_______

Total amount enclosed: $_________

Thank you!
Reminder: The date on the mailing label is the expiration date for membership. If the date is November 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 want to hear from you!

The next issue to be printed will be the January–February issue, 2016. The deadline for submitting copy is December 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!

Advertising

Per Issue

Event Listing
All events, space permitting (15 words) Free

For a nonprofit-group event, an additional 30 words (total of 45) in the listing or an article Free

Business Ad
Business card $10.00
Quarter page $25.00
Half page $50.00
Full page $100.00

Classified Ad (30 words)
Members $3.00
Nonmembers $5.00

This issue of The Bee Line is printed on recycled paper by Minuteman Press Powell; 503.234.2040.