

# The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 41 Number 1 January–February 2016

# Laren Leland

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#### www.orsba.org

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Oregon State Beekeepers Association Webmaster: Erin Olmon orsbawebmaster@gmail.com

Membership Form

#### www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org Oregon Master Beekeeper Program

A Joint Venture of OSBA and the Oregon State University Extension Service info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org

Image above: A drop of dew on new comb with uncapped honey, which won first place in the recent Portland Urban Beekeeper's Photo & Art contest. Laren Leland took the photograph with a macro lens, and then had it printed 70-inches wide—noting that it was "almost big enough so that you could imagine crawling into a cell!"

#### **ASIAN GYPSY MOTH**

R. Mike Rodia

Eastern and Central states in the US have seen extensive destruction of woodlands due to infestations by the European gypsy moth. In an effort to control the spread of the European gypsy moth, extensive and ongoing pesticide programs have been employed. Unfortunately, these programs have often come after considerable damage has already be done, and the moth's progress has been slowed but not stopped.

The much-more-destructive Asian gypsy moth along with the European gypsy moth have now been found in the Portland area. Luckily, the infestation is still small and localized around the Forest Park, Hayden Island area. The female Asian gypsy moth can fly up 25 miles, and if left unchecked could rapidly spread destruction to Oregon's forests and nursery operations.

In the past, hard pesticides have been used to treat the moth, but there is now available approved organic treatment products containing Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*). This particular strain of the Bt bacteria is naturally found in the soil and selectively acts to prevent the gypsy moth caterpillar from developing into the moth. Studies have shown that the Btk strain is not harmful to bees, humans, or animals and most other insects when applied as an aerial spray or if ingested. It is effective only on leaf and needle sucking insects. Interestingly, Bta (*Bacillus thuringiensis aizawai*), another Bt strain, at one time was registered and labeled in the US to control wax moths in beehives. It is still available in Europe.

Representatives of the OSBA met with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) concerning their desire to treat the Portland infestation with Btk. They understand that as beekeepers we have concerns over any type of aerial spraying that might impact our bees, and that the ODA will only do what is minimally necessary and with no impact on beekeeping. If approved to move ahead, the ODA will hold informational meetings in the John's Landing area and will be working with about thirty groups, such as the OSBA, to help everyone understand the need for and urgency of the treatment. In a worst case scenario, if the gypsy moth continues to spread, the financial impact could be considerable as Oregon lumber and nursery products could be quarantined from export to stop the spread of the Asian gypsy moth to other parts of the country or world.

Possible aerial spraying would occur in late March or early April with three carefully controlled sprayings of minimal concentrations of the water-based Btk, spaced ten days apart. The area to be sprayed is largely industrial or forested with a small residential portion. Occupants would receive advance notices of the spraying.

Those interested in learning more about Btk, its properties, and use might want to refer to wrbo.org where a number of articles and information sheets have been assembled.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It seems like the OSBA Fall Conference 2015 was just a day or two ago, yet the engines are already revving up for the trek to almonds and the beginning of a new season.

For me, the conference this year had the feel of attending a retreat. And after the long, dry, hot, extended pollinating season such as we experienced in 2015, a retreat was just what was needed to refresh our mind and soul. Nowhere could one find a finer gathering of people who share and understand the work and challenges that we face all year, year after year. The hard-working women, men, families, beekeeping businesses, and commercial operations that make it happen in our industry were well represented there.

This brings to mind a comment that Kenny Williams has said many times over the years: "The price of admission allows us to learn about current research and of other beekeepers' experiences. However, the networking, the fellowship, the reuniting of old friends, the making of new friends at the conference is priceless, and comes at no charge."

Quoting an old BTO tune, "It takes a lot of people to make things move . . . ." Organizing and running a conference are no exception. All of the "people" are volunteers.

Secretary Bunny Cramer-Carter and Treasurer Jeff Milligan literally worked their fingers to the bone. Rosanna Mattingly, *Bee Line* editor, produced a beautiful program that went out in registration. Marge Ehry did an excellent job with the silent auction. The staff and students of the OSU Honey Bee Lab organized and ran the oral auction in fine style. And how about those killer auctioneers, Pat Heitkam and Gus Rouse?!!

A special Thank You to Ryan Lieuallen, George & Susan Hansen, Andrew Schwab, and Jan Lohman & Vince Vazza for donating wine for the banquet. Please thank Dick Temple next time you see him for tech support. Great Job to Karessa Torgerson, Carolyn Breece, and Paul Andersen for running the projector without hiccup.

Thank you, thank you to Lynda Carter and Mary Andersen for help in registration again this year! Thanks to Dewey Caron for honey judging and auctioneering. Ciera Wilson & Steven Coffman transported speakers, as did George Hansen (twice!). With over \$20,000 in auction proceeds that all go to honey bee research, we all owe those who donated and/or bid on items at the auctions a huge thank you!

And finally, thank YOU! Thank you for attending and bringing your family and crew.

Please remember what Kenny said. The conference was greatly improved by your presence and fellowship! And now, now we can all go back to work for another season . . .

Harry





#### OSBA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

November 6, 2015 Silverton, Oregon

Attendees: Paul Andersen, Katharine Hunt, Kenny Williams, Pam Leavitt, Steve and Karen Oda, Jason Rowan, Karessa Torgerson, Dick Temple, Jeff Milligan, Harry Vanderpool, Bill Catherall, Jan Lohman, Marjorie Ehry, Jordan Dimock, Joe Maresh, Tom Cinquini, Mary Edwards, Mureen Walker, John Jacob, Jeff Clark, Bunny Cramer-Carter

President Paul Andersen called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm. Jordan Dimock made the motion to accept the September Board Meeting Minutes as they were published in *The Bee Line*. The motion carried.

#### Reports

**Grant** – Jan Lohman reported that the 2013 grant is finished. The balance of \$2,434.07 is owed to OSBA from the grant. As soon as it is received, the amount of \$10,566.47 will be returned to the Oregon State Beekeepers Association.

**Treasurer** – Working on automating registration. The website has been successful. As of this Board meeting there are 300 people registered for the Fall Conference. Of these, 56 percent registered online. We have participants from as far as Alaska and Hawaii. Vendors have signed up for 24 tables; they seem to like the new location. The program costs are \$1,500, and we have an advertising income from conference of \$3,200.

**The Bee Line** – There is an interest in an electronic version of *The Bee Line*. One benefit of this would be the ability to allow vendor/advertiser contacts and to give advertisers feedback on traffic from their ads.

Regional Representatives and Club Presidents

Jeff Clark, President, Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Association – The focus is on winterizing hives. Gearing up for bee school.

Tom Cinquini, **Portland Metro** Regional Representative – Bragging/crying on mite levels. Performing multiple tests.

Joe Maresh, President, **Portland Metro Beekeepers Association** – Focusing on educational workshops, gathering speakers, and bulk buying for nucs, sugar, and queens.

Jordan Dimock, **Eastern Oregon** Regional Representative – Damage from mites, determining losses. Focus on winterizing.

Bill Catherall, President, **Portland Urban Beekeepers Association** – The group is very busy. Currently, they are redesigning bee school.

Pam Leavitt, President, Lane County Beekeepers Association – They have implemented early sessions on their meeting nights. These sessions are allowing extra topics to be introduced. These sessions have been very well attended. They have purchased a microscope and camera. In October, Lynn Royce presented a demonstration of a dissection. Thirty-one of their members attended the session at Oregon State University.

Steve Oda, President, **Linn-Benton Beekeepers Association** – They are preparing for elections. The October meeting covered mead making.

John Jacob, President, **Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association** – Preparing for two bee schools. Held a premeeting to do hive checks on the club hives.

Mureen Walker, South Coast Regional Representative -



Work on the educational apiary is moving forward.

Jason Rowan, **South Willamette Valley** Regional Representative – Seeing a lot of brood, more than normal. Monitoring food levels. Still checking hives.

#### **Old Business**

Ag in the Classroom/Summer Ag Institute – During the September Board Meeting, the question was asked if the donations to these programs were worth continuing. Jeff Clark volunteered to do research and presented his report at the November meeting. The report shows these programs are worthwhile and our support should continue. Jeff would like to reach out to more beekeepers and bring teachers to apiaries. Joe Maresh made the motion to support each program at \$250 each.

Discussion followed. There was concern that we weren't supporting these programs enough. The National Honey Board adds a higher amount of support to both programs. Since the Charter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association is to support education and research, the original motion was amended.

Joe Maresh amended the motion to read: The OSBA will donate \$500 to each of two Summer Ag Institute Programs. One institute is held in LaGrande and one institute is held in Corvallis. The OSBA would also donate \$500 to Ag in the Classroom. This would be a total donation of \$1,500. This motion passed.

This will be the 2015 donation. The donation will be year by year and will be revisited each year. The 2015 donation will be clearly defined as to how OSBA wants the \$1,500 split among the three programs.

#### **New Business**

Conference 2016 – Currently, the 2016 Conference is penciled in at Seaside for November 3, 4, and 5, 2016. The 2015 conference is planned for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to test which combination of days is most popular. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, or Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The evaluations gathered at the end of conference will help make many of the decisions regarding the 2016 Conference.

**Budget for 2016** – The budget will be presented and voted on at the January 2016 Board Meeting.

Scullen Fellowship and Northwest Apiculture Fund – In order to make sure the funds go where intended and not distributed elsewhere, Oregon State Beekeepers Association should have in place a committee to oversee decisions concerning these funds. The committee should appoint three representatives that represent the OSBA as "members of the Northwest Beekeeping Industry to serve on the Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education Committee." The recommended slate will be: George Hansen, Jan Lohman, Kenny Williams, Jason Rowan, Jeff Milligan, and Harry



Vanderpool. The reason for nominating these people is that they have a history of working with the endowment and to bring new board members into the group to learn about these funds.

Jordan Dimock made a motion to accept the Fellowship Slate as presented. The motion passed.

**Nominations** – The Oregon State Beekeepers Association Slate for 2016 is:

#### **Officers**

President: Harry Vanderpool Vice President: Jason Rowan Secretary: Bunny Cramer-Carter

Treasurer: Jeff Milligan

#### **Regional Representatives**

North Coast: Stan Scotton South Coast: Mureen Walker Columbia Basin: Bill Edwards Eastern Oregon: Jordan Dimock Portland Metro: Tom Cinquini Southern Oregon: Sarah Red-Laird North Willamette Valley: Steve Coffman South Willamette Valley: Karessa Torgerson

Donation Plan for 2014 - The 2014 Auction collected \$16,260. GloryBee matched \$10,000 from the auction. This donation was sent directly to the Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab.

Harry Vanderpool made the motion to give \$15,000 from the 2014 auction proceeds to Ramesh Sagili and the OSU Honey Bee Lab. The remaining \$1,260 will be kept back for a rainy day. The motion passed. The check will be presented to Ramesh at the Research Luncheon during the conference.

Oregon State Beekeepers Association will match any donations from the regional clubs up to \$500 each. The checks should be made out to Oregon State Beekeepers Association with "Ag Research Fund" on the memo line. For tracking purposes, it is important for these funds to travel through the OSBA bank account.

**State Fair 2015** – The State Fair booth received a donation of \$1,000 from Brushy Mountain Bee Farm. The booth space was smaller this year, but attendance was very high. Feedback on the booth was favorable.

The next OSBA Board Meeting will be held on January 9, 2016, at 2:00 PM. The meeting will be held at Sowers Apiary in Canby. Jordan Dimock made the motion to adjourn the board meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 рм.

> Respectfully submitted, Bunny Cramer-Carter

Note: Because of the degree of overlap between the minutes of the Executive Board meeting and the General Membership meeting, the minutes from the General Membership meeting on November 7, 2015, are omitted here. Additional discussion in those minutes includes the following:

Western Apicultural Society, WAS - Oregon State Beekeepers Association needs to appoint a new Representative. The OSBA extends a big Thank You to Dewey Caron for his service. Sarah Red-Laird has been nominated to the position. A motion was made to appoint Sarah to this position. The motion carried.

**Life Memberships** – This year there will be two Life Memberships awarded: one to Ramesh Sagili and one to Mike Rodia.

To obtain a complete copy of the minutes from the General Membership meeting, please e-mail osba.newsletter@gmail. com or phone 503.772.3486.

#### Congratulations, Honorary Life Members!





R. Mike Rodia

Ramesh Sagili

#### 2016 BEE SCHOOLS

In February, Portland Urban Beekeepers Association will be holding our Bee School, aimed at helping brand new beekeepers get started. Saturday, **February 6**, 10 AM-4 РМ at the Urban Farm Store. Students can register on our website: PortlandUrbanBeekeepers.org/bee-school. Please help spread the word to those you mentor!

—Bill Catherall

Portland Metro Beekeepers Association will work with Clackamas Community College to hold a Bee School class winter term. It will be held on two consecutive Saturdays - February 6 and February 13 from 9:00 AM to 2:15 PM. The cost will be \$50 and you may register through CCC.

-Patty Anderson

Lane County Beekeepers Association Bee School will be Saturday, March 5, at Trinity United Methodist Church. The club will offer scholarships to this valuable opportunity to learn what is involved in the first year of keeping bees. Each year we have more applicants than spaces available, so signing up early is important. -Pam Leavitt

Looking forward to the Spring, we in southern Oregon

have scheduled our Bee School for **March 19**. Beekeepers and wannabees are looking forward to learning from Dr. Dewey Caron, Morris Ostrofsky, and myself.

—Sarah Red-Laird

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association will be offering our annual Beginning Beekeeping School on March 21 (6:00–9:30 pm), March 23 (6:00–9:30 pm) and March 26 (9:00 AM–1:00 pm). 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 are covered, based on participant interest. The class is a

total of 11 hours over three sessions, taking place at the Washington Street Conference Center Hillsboro Room 103/109. Limited Space available. The cost is \$50, which includes: First Lessons in Beekeeping by Keith Delaplane and one-year membership in TVBA. —Debby Garman

#### **CLASSIFIED AD**

Bee Truck: 1988 Isuzu NPR 3.9 Liter Turbo Diesel with 236,000 miles, 16' bed will carry 96 10-Frame hives. GVW 13,200 lbs. 12-Volt Freutel-style Bee Boom built by Roger Warner in 1998, used 6 seasons. Has toolbox, smoker box, fire extinguisher, spare tire, ropes, etc. Fairly new tires, new batteries. Runs nice. Asking \$5,000. Contact: Doug Mason, Medford, Oregon, 541-512-1804



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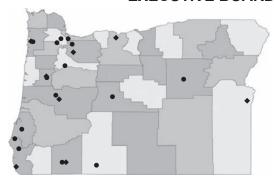
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### Oregon State Beekeepers Association EXECUTIVE BOARD AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS



#### **OSBA OFFICERS**

**President**: Harry Vanderpool 7128 Skyline Rd S, Salem 97306 503.399.3675; shallotman@yahoo.com

Vice President: Jason Rowan 80881 Turkey Run Rd, Creswell 97426 541.942.6479; beetanical@q.com

Secretary: Bunny Cramer-Carter PO Box 779, Stayton 97383

503.703.8546; dbcramer@hotmail.com

**Treasurer**: Jeff Milligan PO Box 20548, Keizer 97307 503.588.7224; milligan50@msn.com

Past President: Paul Andersen 19255 SW Prospect St, Aloha 97007 503.332.5410; paulkandersen@frontier.com

#### OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

North Coast: Stan Scotton PO Box 364, Lincoln City 97367 503.232.4945; 4scotton@gmail.com

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

**North Willamette Valley**: Steven Coffman 2540 Greenwood Rd S, Independence 97351 503.838.2981

**South Willamette Valley**: Karessa Torgerson 541.220.8919; karessat@gmail.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**: Betsy Fleming **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

May 2016 find all plants, all pollinators, and all who care for them in the very best of health!



#### **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: Curt Sawall Secretary: Lynn Sorber 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 7:00 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: Laren Leland

vice-president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Secretary: Simone Miller

secretary@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Treasurer: Linda Callahan

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: Risa Halpin

rhalpin906@aol.com **Secretary**: Ellen Wright

541.941.1894; ewright42@gmail.com

Treasurer: Cheryl Housden

541.659.6654; 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: Rick Stelzig rstelzig@embarqmail.com
Secretary: Claire Moody

503.318.9149; claire@vanirmail.com

Treasurer: Terry Fullan

503.368.7160; tfullan@nehalemtel.net

#### **Tualatin Valley Beekeepers**

Meets 6:30 PM (6:00 PM social time), last Tuesday

225 S First Street, Hillsboro

Contact: tualatinvalleybeekeepers@gmail.com

President: Jeff Clark

Vice President: Debby Garman

Secretary: Dianne Hutto
Co-Treasurers: Barb Falconer

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

Treasurer: Laura Evans Website: http://wvbahive.org





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#### **CONFERENCE MOMENTS**

Mureen Walker

The auctioneers were having almost too much fun during the auction, thus making it fun for all. Pat Heitkam of Heitkams' Honey Bees (left) and Gus Rouse of Kona Queen Hawaii auction off Hawaiian coffee.



Ramesh Sagili (left) receives the art created by George



Hansen from the creator. This was after a group of people conspired to purchase the art donated to the auction to benefit further research by Ramesh at OSU, and then gifted the art itself to Ramesh as well. George described the piece,

rendered with a wax process, as a wooden hive in the woods that takes on the natural look of its environment.

Dewey Caron (left) judged the honey entries and issued a top honey award to Eugene Doyle at the Oregon Garden Pavilion.



#### **CONFERENCE AUCTIONS**

The donations that kept both the oral auction and the silent auction buzzing were contributions from the following, most of whom donated multiple items—very many all together. Without them, there would have been nothing to bid on. With nothing to bid on, there would have been no need for auction managers nor anything for auctioneers to do. Without those who made the bids that kept the spotters spotting, there would have been no auctions at all. **Thanks to Everyone!!** 

#### **Oral Auction**

Bambu Billy & Judy Kindall
Big Island (Olivarez) Olivarez Queens
Michael Caligure Gus Rouse
Tamara Dimock Chuck Sowers
George Hansen Clint Walker

Pat Heitkam Western Bee Supply

Alex Howitt Wilco

Martha Keene/ Kenny Williams
Dogwood Bee Farm Dan Wyns

#### **Silent Auction**

Matt Allen/Apricot Apiaries

Beeline Apiaries & Woodenware
Beetanical Apiary

Benton Tractor Co
Dewey Caron

Coffman Farms

Dogwood Bee Farm

GloryBee

Happy Bee

J & TD Apiaries

Martha Keane/
Dogwood Bee Farm

Pam Leavitt

Jan Lohman

Eugene Toy & Hobby

Flying Bee Ranch/
Andy Schutz

Foothills Honey Co/

Alden Potter

Judy Scher

Sowers Apiaries

Kristi Walls

George and Sue Hansen Wil

Wild Harvest Honey

Bob & Deb Morgan





#### MORE CONFERENCE MOMENTS

Marjorie Ehry

Harry Vanderpool

#### **Clockwise from Upper Right:**

A. Ramesh Sagili listening to GloryBee's Dick and Alan Turanski as they present a \$10,000 contribution for honey bee research, with Paul Andersen standing by.

B.Rufus LaLone talking about the weather.

C. Ramesh Sagili receiving research donations from from OSBA regional associations for work at the OSU Honey Bee Lab.

D. Nick VanCalcar sharing his family history.





#### **REGIONAL NEWS**

#### **Regional Representatives**

#### **North Coast**

Long-time North Coast regional representative, Terry Fullan, has given up the representative job in favor of being the Tillamook County Beekeepers Association treasurer. No one seems to remember just how long Terry was the representative, but it has been a while. Terry, we thank you for your service. The north coast had an unusually dry summer, which must have been good for the bees. Most members reported record honey harvests. We had our honey-tasting activity at our November meeting, and David Downs honey finished in first place. This also is the first year he has been able to extract much of a honey harvest.

There is a new OSBA Chapter forming in Lincoln County. It is called the *Central Coast Beekeepers Association*. We are working on our nonprofit status paperwork and expect to be able to join OSBA early in 2016. The Central Coast beekeepers meetings are held at the Newport Public Library at 6:30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month. If you know of someone who would be interested in attending, encourage them to check it out. At the November meeting, Max Kuhn did a presentation on swarms. As part of the presentation, he showed a video by SwarmPlus. If you haven't seen it, I recommend you look for it.

As I write this, the rain and winds have once again returned to the north coast. We seem to be getting back into our regular weather pattern. It is time to look at doing some of those inside bee projects and maybe even some guided studies.

—Staw Scottow

#### **South Coast**

The new year down here on the south coast for us means a few new Oregon Master Beekeeper Program apprentice students who are eager and enthusiastic. Mike started making a Kenya top bar hive in December. Cheryl began already last spring with two colonies in Warre hives and plans to add at least two horizontal for 2016. Raina, still in her teens and energetically full of enthusiasm, served in the fair booth a four-hour shift every day of the Curry County Fair and even offered to take on the job of secretary for the club, if needed. Barbara Fitts, Oregon South Coast beekeepers secretary, is preparing to begin leading classes for the program in January. Several club members from previous classes may be assisting. In Coos County, there are two signed up for the first year of the program.

Colonies lost already among club members: Both Parone hives are empty. The colonies didn't survive in them. One

of the club members took much interest in the theory and design and demonstrated the newly made hives to the club. One of the Warre hives lost most of its population to a swarming. One of the Langstroth hives got drenched in the first major storm of wind-driven sideways rain at the beginning of December, when an upper vent was ambushed by rogue winds. Propolis production was greater among bees of a package colony of Carniolans than from the bees of a nuc of Caucasians.

December 1, the honey bees were still bringing in the bright yellow pollen and the ones with syrup were lapping it up, moving the entire body in the process of pumping it in as quickly as possible! They were still all over the top of the upper frames, and more than usual were scattered all over the inner cover. Yellow jackets buzzed the ground frantically during the last few weeks of November. Rosemary blossomed right into December, though scanty. The beginning of December was the end of foraging, as the windstorms began with more than an inch a day at times and fairly continuous for weeks, with driven sleet by midmonth. Del & Myrna, founders, plan to visit in January. The Educational Apiary should be ready for new colonies by April, according to Carla Fletcher, project director.

-Mureen Walker

#### Southern Oregon

Real winter came back with a bang to southern Oregon last week. A storm last weekend dropped record amounts of snow in the mountains and cities sitting in higher elevations. I'm doing my happy dance, as this means more snow pack reserves for irrigation (watering our bee flowers) this summer. Also, our bees will get that winter brood break to know down the "ticks." There are quite a few beekeepers that have been waiting for a shift in the temperature, so we can give oxalic acid a try.



Our December meeting was a merry one, with a holiday cookie "potluck" and ugly Christmas sweater contest. We also shifted our meeting format from large group Q&A to small group discussions. We would very much recommend trying

it out in your groups, if you haven't already! Three SOBA leaders, and veteran beekeepers, led conversations about bees and beekeeping, answered questions, and we also brought equipment to get hands-on with. Many of our members are new beekeepers, and this helped take the intimidation factor down.

Also at our December meeting was Josephine County Commissioner, Simon Hale. Commissioner Hale, the Bee Girl organization, and the Northwest Farmers Union are embarking on a policy to allow beekeeping on public lands. The SOBA meeting acted as a listening session to bring insight to potential issues and guide the policy process. Issues raised were stinging risk mitigation, hive concentration, impact on existing beekeepers near public lands, water accessibility, public land spray programs, smoker operation during fire season, and hive security, i.e., animals, vandalism, and theft. Efforts, thus-far, for a top down approach from Washington DC have not gained much traction, so SOBA is excited to be a part of a more grassroots effort. —Savah Red-Laúrd

#### **North Willamette Valley**

Hi, Everyone. Well, we made it through another year and hopefully your bees are still heavy and strong. Winter is a good time to review how your year went and decide what worked and what you want to do differently. Looking back, mites have been a big problem for me and many of the beekeepers around me. Some have stayed on top of checking their mite levels and treated when needed, while others treated and assumed everything was fine, then suffered higher losses as a result.

One new thing I tried this fall was Randy Oliver's clear plastic cup method for performing a mite wash. He talked about this method at the conference back in November and also published it in the *American Bee Journal*. If you're unfamiliar with it, you can read more about it on his website: scientificbeekeeping.com. It is extremely fast and very accurate. Another thing I tried was dribbling an oxalic acid treatment onto the bees, which you can also learn about on Randy's website. At this point, we have only treated twenty colonies as an experiment, and so far I'm happy with the results. Before applying oxalic acid, try to pick days with temperatures in the upper 40°s so that you don't chill your bees.

—Steve Coffman

#### **Regional Associations**

**Note:** For all groups, please see pages 7–8 for meeting time and place, website, and/or whom to contact for information. Also please continue to send reports, photos, and changes!

#### Cascadia

Morris Ostrofsky presented a very detailed training lecture on the Miller Method. Included in the lecture, using actual hive components and planning charts detailing the daily activities necessary to be successful in rearing queens.

—Ken Anthony

#### **Lane County Beekeepers**

Our final meeting of the year in November was primarily a business meeting where we held the election of officers, adopted amendments to the bylaws, and finished the evening with honey tasting. Three members of our club were given scholarships to the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program to start in January. They are Deb Elder, Diana Scoville, and Francis Rothauge. The LCBA supports this program, where participants can learn from experienced beekeepers, be provided with training and mentorship, and upon completion of the certification requirements, they will become Certified Apprentices and eligible to apply for the Journey program.

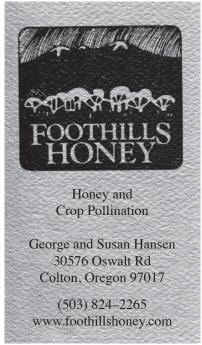
Our January meeting will be a social time with sandwiches and treats provided by the club to our members, followed by a presentation by Judy Scher on "Unappreciated Products of the Hive." The Good Earth Home Show at the Lane County Fairgrounds will be January 22–24. We will

have a booth, staffed by our members. Every year we are pleased at the interest in honey bees by the community at large, and even folks who aren't interested in keeping bees themselves will stop by and ask questions about the health and future of our "fuzzy buddies."

am writing newsletter column on December 8, and where I live in Eugene near the Willamette River, the girls are finding a very light colored pollen to bring back to the hive. I wish I had the ability to follow them to see where they are going for this protein source?? We hope 2016 will be a good year. Please take care of yourself so you can take care of your They certainly bees. need our attention and help. -Pam Leavitt

# Portland Metro Beekeepers

Happy New Year to all our fellow beekeepers! I hope everyone made it through the big rains



#### **Old Sol Apiaries**

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Our January 14 meeting will hold discussions on preparations for the upcoming season and suggestions on what we can be doing now to get ready. It's a great time to inventory and repair broken equipment. We will also be holding elections for officers. —Patty Anderson

#### **Tualatin Valley Beekeepers**

The Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association monthly meetings have a social and questions time from 6:00 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. We are taking registrations now for our annual Spring TVBA Beekeeping School. Meeting presentations and activities are always geared to support and prepare for seasonal beekeeping activities. Please join us!

—Debby Garman

#### **Portland Urban Beekeepers**

Our November meeting was held at a different venue, Tabor Space, where we had our annual PUB Showcase event. This is an opportunity for members and guests to show off and even sell their products, equipment, share recipes, collaborate on ideas, and socialize. Beekeeping opens up a whole world of industry and innovation, and we like to help support that and get the word out. We had a very good turnout for this event and quite easily filled the Copeland Commons room. Next year we're going to have to find a bigger room!

Our December meeting was held in the same room, but

due to bad weather and an unusual change in date, the attendance wasn't quite as high. But we had a really fun time at our annual Honey Tasting event. Every year we get together to sample the members' honeys and nosh on snacks. Attendees voted on their favorites, and prizes were awarded. This year we added to the event by including a Photo & Art contest [see photo, page 1] where members could show their bee-themed art. We also helped a local soup kitchen, Free Hot Soup, collect some honey donations to be used in their recipes or to be served with tea to help the homeless in Portland.

—Bill Catherall

#### WELCOME, 1 New Officer/2 New Regional Reps!

OSBAVice President Jason Rowan is owner of Beetanical Apiary and has been keeping bees in the south Willamette Valley for over a decade. He started with two colonies that he adopted from his neighbor's house after they moved away. After finding he had a passion for keeping bees, he quickly grew to numbers well over a thousand, which he uses to support his wife and two young children. Jason has been on the OSBA board for a number of years and is honored to be the vice president of an organization built on the passion and love of honey bees, beekeepers, and those brave enough to associated with such a noble cause.

**North Coast Representative Stan Scotton** is a backyard beekeeper living in Lincoln City. Stan started beekeeping in the Sellwood Neighborhood of Portland before bringing his bees to Lincoln City in 2012.

**South Willamette Valley Representative Karessa Torgerson** is an EAS Master Beekeeper, co-founder of Nectar Bee Supply, and a board member for Tree Hive Bees. She presented on Swarm Fundamentals at the conference.

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#### **KEEPING BEES IN January–February**

#### Todd Balsiger

My monthly tips follow after I share overarching yearly concerns, the Varroa mite and to a much lesser degree, the small hive beetle.

For me, the biggest change in beekeeping over the years is how we manage the Varroa mite. Do this well, and you've gone a long way to becoming a good beekeeper.

It has been nearly three decades now that our bees have been infested with the Varroa mite, and yet it is still our number one problem (second in my book would be agriculture pesticides). Just a few years ago, it was recommended to treat at a 10–12 percent infestation rate; now it's 1 percent in the spring, and 2 percent in the fall! – as suggested by Randy Oliver.

In 2012, I wrote the following which is as true today as then:

"Varroa control is still of preeminent importance. Keith Delaplane reported in January's 2012 *Bee Culture* that 'high levels of Varroa are associated with high levels of viruses and low populations of adult bees and brood.' And Dr. Jamie Ellis states, 'Left unchecked, even with the best cultural controls and genetic resistant stock, Varroa mites will eventually almost assuredly kill your colony."

The proverbial questions for all beekeepers: When to treat? How to treat?

When to treat is based on monitoring and sampling for Varroa mite infestation. The calendar is still very important. Randy Oliver has produced a nifty seasonal chart outlining times of the year to monitor. Please visit his site: scientificbeekeeping.com. You can find the map within "Basic Beekeeping" as Randy considers Varroa control to be basic.

How to treat Varroa and not kill the bees? This is where it gets interesting. Most of our original mite controls are ineffective now, e.g., Apistan. For many years now, commercial beekeepers have relied on blue shop towels saturated with a solution of canola oil and amitraz. There are even strips now impregnated with amitraz called Apivar. It is my opinion that Apivar will hasten the already impending demise of the efficacy of amitraz. I hope this is not entirely true. For me, I have made a concerted effort to learn how to use other options. Randy Oliver lists these other options at his website, too, titled "NAME YOUR POISON" (under "Treatments for varroa control" in the "Basic Beekeeping" section). It, too, is a dynamic chart showing among things

treatments that can be used at certain times of the year.

Randy's top three treatment recommendations are: thymol, oxalic dribble, and formic. Here are my experiences with each:

#### **Thymol**

The first time I used thymol, I followed Randy's directions to the T. I suffered my greatest loss ever because of it – nearly 50 percent of my hives were fried. It was like putting an M80 firecracker between the brood boxes and igniting it. Dr. Ramesh Sagili had similar results in studies he did. At our most recent conference in Silverton, Randy touted 98 percent efficacy with Apiguard this past fall with no deleterious effects. Randy told me he no longer places Apiguard between the brood boxes but on top with a spacer. I suspect the formulation for Apiguard has changed? My recommendation: Experiment before wholesale treatment.

#### **Oxalic Dribble**

Oxalic acid is now legal (not that this has ever been a deterrent for beekeepers). It is cheap! It is really easy to use. I have used it three times now. I treated all my hives this late November/early December.

#### **Formic**

I was a big fan of MiteAway II. It has been replaced by MAQS. After my experience with Apiguard (thymol), I was very hesitant to try MAQS, especially after reports of queen loss and excessive brood kill by local beekeepers. Then George Hansen piqued my interest in it again. At the last Seaside state meeting, he explained that he used it to get a quick mite knockdown before using Apivar (amitraz-impregnated strips). He also said he used a rim. Hmmm . . . This past August, I experimented with MAQS. I was bold enough to experiment with all treatment configurations except two strips between the brood boxes - the directions. My unscientific opinion is, don't use rims, don't place strips on top, place one strip between the brood boxes, maybe two. I believe the formulation of this product has been dialed down. I feel comfortable using formic acid again with MAQS, especially one strip between the brood boxes. One caveat: At the Silverton meeting, Randy stated he suffered loss using MAQS. I did not inquire.

Have you seen any small hive beetles?

The last two consecutive years, some of my returning hives from almonds have had small hive beetles. Then they disappear, nowhere to be seen for the balance of the year. At the Silverton state meeting, I discussed this issue again with Gus Rouse, proprietor of Kona Queen Hawaii, and inevitably an expert on SHBs now. He

believes, because of the high mobility of the small hive beetle, they're already distributed to regions they find hospitable.

My advice: Always be on the lookout for them, and be prepared to change your management practices quickly to avoid any problems. For example, when I take off honey now, I'm very diligent that I don't get any brood mixed into the honey supers, and I extract the supers immediately. I also do not store wet supers anymore. Maintaining bee space to all regions of the hive is important; for example, cramming nine frames into a deep plus a deep feeder smashed against the wall would be inadvisable. Smashing a pollen patty to the top of the hive without a spacer rim would be inadvisable. News break: Randy stated he found some small hive beetles in his hives down in California this fall after applying pollen patties . . .

Okay, here's the rubber stamped January-February tips:

- \* Heft hives to find any light ones. After the shortest day of the year, brood production resumes and energy demands increase. Provide light hives emergency feed (e.g., fondant, drivert, sugar in division board feeders, frames of honey, pollen patties, etc.).
- \* February has historically been the time to treat for Varroa prior to supering. Monitor hives to ascertain Varroa infestation rates. Current recommendations are to treat if the infestation rates reach 1 percent in the spring.
- ❖ Likewise, February has also historically been the time to prophylactically treat for foulbroods prior to supering. While I no longer prophylactically treat for foulbroods, I keep a ready eye out for it. I have a five-gallon bucket of Terra-Pro, a terramycin treatment, at the ready if I have the slightest suspicion.
- Find and remove dead outs. When I find dead outs, I go through the equipment and do a vigorous cleaning, in part to facilitate frame manipulation. This is the easiest time to cull comb that is dark brown and rubbery hard, comb that has a preponderance of drone cells, or comb with signs of disease (AFB). Everything goes into dry storage to preserve the equipment for future use.
- \* Make periodic checks of your apiary, for example, after a windstorm, to make sure nothing is amiss. I personally use single bottom boards for most of the year, and each hive is strapped down holding the lids and bottom boards tight to the brood boxes. My lids can't blow off. If you don't do something similar, and you've taken a lid off recently for some reason, then the bees most likely will not be able to propolis the lid back

down. The next windstorm may blow this lid off.

❖ In general, disturb the bees as little as possible. ♣



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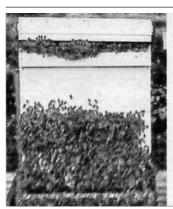
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**Reminder**: The date on the mailing label is the expiration date for membership. If the date is January 2016 (or earlier), this is your friendly renewal notice.

#### 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 March issue, 2016. The deadline for submitting copy is **February 10, 2016**. 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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