REMEMBERING PHYLLIS SHOEMAKE

Note: Many who belong to the Oregon State Beekeepers Association today did not have the opportunity to meet Phyllis Shoemake, who passed at the end of last year. Yet, she was a mainstay of the organization. As past issues of the newsletter indicate, Phyllis served as Secretary-Treasurer of OSBA from 1989 until 2003, when she finally got a break—a short one. Although there’s no record from a board meeting held in May, Phyllis provided the treasurer report during the September 2003 meeting. She continued on as Co-Secretary-Treasurer with Jan Lohman from 2004 through 2006. My own experiences in working with Phyllis speak to her exceptional kindness, dedication, and care in doing what she saw needed to be done. She did such good work, and she made it fun. Phyllis was unquestionably one of the finest human beings I have known.

I had known Phyllis for some time when she started coming to the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association and joined the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Always enthusiastic with a big smile and ready to help with anything. In 1989, Bill Ruffner felt his commercial beekeeping schedule just wasn’t working with the duties of OSBA secretary/treasurer. As OSBA president, I asked Phyllis if she would be interested in filling out the term. She had worked in Rep. Denny Smith’s Salem office and at the legislature, and I knew if she had time with her other activities she could handle the job. The rest is history. Phyllis served for many years caring and working with our members. Taking care of insurance and IRS nonprofit changes, details with finances, all as our membership has grown. The OSBA is indebted to her, for having had such a gracious and qualified person step forward taking this load on her shoulders. Phyllis was a very good friend and will be missed.

Marjie Ehry

I was saddened to hear about Phillis. She was always a faithful servant at the state meetings and that is the way I remember her, a cheerful and willing worker.

Mark Johnson

My introduction to Phyllis Shoemake was to watch her in action with the OSBA, single handedly preparing and managing our registrations and receptions at the conference, while the rest of us enjoyed the show. She was so capable and efficient that we never doubted that it would come off without a hitch. It was Phyllis that had our OSBA history in her head, and respectfully corrected our errors as meetings moved along – serving as both secretary and treasurer for many years. I stopped by Phyllis’s home to catch up with her six years ago, and to tell her how much we missed her at our meetings. She was full of stories of her past and future travels, so I knew that her life was full and happy. Phyllis was a wonderful friend to me and a huge asset for the OSBA and a very classy lady.

Jan Lohman

Many of our younger or more-recent beekeepers are unlikely to know who Phyllis Shoemake was. For many years (at least 25 by my estimation), she was actively involved in the WVBA and the OSBA. As a member or as the secretary or the treasurer, depending on which group could convince her to serve, she was there to help. In the era of Fritz Skirvin, Walt Nichol, and Marge Ehry, she and they helped set the tone and basis for what would become today, one of the largest local beekeeping groups in the state, the WVBA. I have known Phyllis not only as a beekeeper, but for many years prior, as a friendly voice on the telephone, calling...
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Several years ago, while holding our annual conference at Agate Beach, we had a speaker step back from the podium, look around the room and declare, “Oregon Beekeepers are the most unified group that I have ever seen!” What a nice thing to hear.

The very next year, Dr. James Tew started out his presentation saying, “I am asked to speak all over our nation. Nowhere have I found a more unified group of beekeepers than here in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest!” That was music to my ears.

What is this “unity” thing, anyway? Is the OSBA some sort of mutual admiration society? Hardly. Let me give you a couple of examples that come to mind:

A few years ago, I was driving through Rickreall with several barrels of honey on my truck when all of a sudden my rear differential grenaded. Not 5 minutes later, my phone rang and it was a call from Madras asking me to pull bees out immediately so that they can spray. I only had one truck! What was I going to do? While standing alongside the road awaiting a wrecker to arrive, my phone rang. It was a call from a friend that runs a very large honey company just calling to say hi. As soon as I told him of my predicament, he said, “As soon as you get home, jump in your Volkswagon, run out to our shop, pick out any truck you like, and keep it as long as you need it.”

That’s unity!!!

Yesterday, a convoy of rigs from my area was headed south on I-5 towards almonds when a bearing seized on one of their trailers carrying a forklift. They all pulled over and were sizing up the situation when awesome Oregon beekeeper Zach Williams pulled up behind them, got out, and took a look. There was a real time issue with the convoy reaching their destination on time. Zach is an excellent mechanic, and he knew that this is no easy or fast repair. In an instant, Zach offered to trade trailers, forklift and all, and he would remain behind and make the repair. Zach wandered around unfamiliar towns in Southern Oregon to find parts, made the repair, and was back on the road in 5 hours.

The convoy made it on time! That’s unity!!! GOOD JOB ZACH!!

Please don’t take your place in our agricultural community for granted. Each and every one of us is a cog in the wheel that makes it all happen right.

Thank you for looking out for your fellow beekeeper, the OSBA, and our industry!

Harry
The meeting was called to order by President Harry Vanderpool at 2:04 p.m.

Reports

Treasurer Report

The version of QuickBooks currently used by Oregon State Beekeepers Association is in need of an update. The accountant recommended to not reconcile the final 2015 records until the update is complete. The updated software will have many added benefits. The ability to create basic and tax receipts. Another added benefit of the new QuickBooks program is that it will be possible to download spreadsheets directly into the accounting system.

The conference attendance was 320 people. The total 2015 conference expenses were $30,755.00. The facility charges were $26,337.00, and the printing and general expenses were $4,418.00. Revenue from conference is $43,200.00. The income from the silent auction is $1,175.00 and the income from oral auction is $22,215.00. These funds will go to research. In addition to the income from the auctions, there were $3,740.00 in private donations.

Some specialized automation created problems at registration, but the bugs are being worked out. The tax filings for 2014 are complete; this includes the Department of Justice filing and fee of $80.00. The tax filings for 2015 will be timely because the books are in good order.

Regional and Club Reports

Stan Scotton, North Coast Regional Representative – Terry Fullan was the North Coast Regional Representative, but will now be treasurer for the Tillamook County Beekeepers Association. The creation of a new club, Central Coast Beekeepers Association, is progressing. They will be meeting at the library in Newport on the fourth Friday of the month. Currently, they are working on the nonprofit registration and dues structure. If there are any membership inquiries for the mid-coast area, please direct them to Stan. They are teaching Oregon Master Beekeeper Apprentice-level classes at the Marine Hatfield Science Center.

Robert Allen, President, Tillamook County Beekeepers Association – Jim Fanjoy, The Cozy Bee Project, lost one of his apiaries in the flooding. Eight hives from his project were lost. They are also having many problems with bears. But aside from the bears and flooding, Tillamook has had a very productive honey year.

Next Tuesday will be the first meeting of 2016. They are preparing their bee orders. The first Saturday in April will be their bee day with Dewey Caron.

Bill Edwards, Columbia Basin Regional Representative – Experiencing a snowy winter. Hives seem to be wintering well. There is a new club starting in Bingen, Washington.

Cheryl Housden, Treasurer, Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association – Holding Apprentice-level beekeeping classes for the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program at the OSU Extension Center in Grants Pass. March 19 is the Oregon South Coast bee school.

Steve Coffman, North Willamette Valley Regional Representative – Beekeepers that stayed on top of the mites in their colonies are looking good.

Jason Rowan, reported for South Willamette Valley – Despite the cold, there have only been 2–3 percent losses. Filbert pollen is coming.

Pam Leavitt, President, Lane County Beekeepers Association – They are experiencing good attendance. They are holding meetings 45 minutes prior to the start of the meeting to be able to introduce extra topics. The attendance for the pre meetings has been between 60 and 70 people. The club is preparing for the Good Earth Show, January 22–24, 2016, where they will have a booth. Pam extended a Thank You for the free registration for conference. The club gave three more conference registrations. They loved the Oregon Garden venue for Conference.

Rex McIntire, Vice President, Portland Metro Beekeepers Association – They held their Christmas party at the Gladstone Senior Center and had a nice turnout of 34 beekeepers. In addition to the free registration from OSBA, they gave two registrations from their club. They held a candle-making class in December and are planning a lip balm-making class for the future. They are starting the planning for Bee Day to be held at George Hansen’s on April 23, 2016.

Bill Catherall, President, Portland Urban Beekeepers Association – They held a honey tasting social in December. The past week, Bill gave a talk on overwintering nucs. It was well received. They are encouraging members to plan ahead. They will hold their bee school in February. The Tour de Hives will be held in June and for 25 members of PUB there will be a workshop with Michael Bush. This will include a demo at the Zenger Farm in Portland.

Mike Standing, Board Member, Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association – They have just completed their by-laws and second amendments. Working on creating their website. They meet the third Tuesday in the Hillsboro Community Center. They will hold the TVBA bee school in March.
**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:** Mary Edwards  
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541.354.2223

**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 Coast Beekeepers**  
Meets 6:30 PM, fourth Wednesday  
Newport Library, 35 NW Nye St, Newport  
**Information:** centralcoastbeekeepers@gmail.com  
**Co-President:** Nancy McDowell  
541.487.4666; carverranch@gmail.com  
**Co-President:** Anne Schatz  
541.418.1156; rapscallion.retiree@gmail.com  
**Website:** www.ccbaor.org

**Central Oregon Beekeepers**  
Meets 6:00 PM, fourth Tuesday (except December)  
The Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas Ave, Bend  
**Information:** 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

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: Laurie Bowman
541.250.1006; secretary@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
Website: www.lcbaor.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 Catharill—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 (6:30 PM demo thru bee season)
Southern Oregon 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@nehalemnet.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
Website: http://wvbahive.org
ANNUAL OVERWINTERING LOSS SURVEYS

Dewey M. Caron and Ramesh Sagili

Ramesh and I have sought to document, with your cooperation, the level of annual PNW overwintering losses for the last several years. Please consider sharing your overwintering loss information and seasonal activities through our 2015-2016 survey.

Our 2015 sampling of OR commercial & semi-commercial beekeepers revealed that 13% of 39,035 fall colonies (an estimated 55% of total colony number per USDA) were lost overwinter. This was considerably lower than the previous 2 surveys (21.3% and 19.1% loss rates respectively.) Larger-scale beekeepers have consistently had lower annual losses than backyards. In 2015 for example 243 smaller-scale beekeepers reported losing 331 of 1131 colonies overwinter, a 29% loss rate; in 2014, 307 small-scale (backyarder) individuals surveyed had a loss level of 48%, the highest level in 8 years of such surveys.

Larger-scale beekeepers are mailed a single page overwintering loss survey the last week of March. We ask that it kindly be filled out within a month if at all possible and send it back in the postage-paid envelope. I will be bringing a paper survey for smaller-scale beekeepers to distribute at late March/April association meetings. However please consider filling out the survey available as an online survey instrument available at www.pnwhoneybeelosses.com - see survey results (2014 and 2015 results re posted – 2016 results will be posted by June.

Our OR survey should not interfere with the great response of OR beekeepers to the National BIP survey. The survey is electronic and this year will be available during the entire month of April (as last year). You can sign up for a reminder by visiting the www.beeinformed.org website. Annually over 200 OR beekeepers are filling out this survey – last year OR had among the lowest reported losses of all the states. See www.beeinformed.org for last (and previous season) results.

2016 COMPLIMENTARY ABF MEMBERSHIP

For New Members!

All first time members in 2016 can receive a complimentary membership! We want you to see all the ABF has to offer you as a beekeeper! This is at no cost to you until December 31, 2016. ABF is here to serve you and your needs as a beekeeper through:

- Live and on demand educational webinars
- Online beginner beekeeping courses
- Nationwide conferences
- Legislative actions and beyond

Our 2016 Complimentary Membership is free to anyone who has never been a member of ABF. You will receive electronic access to our educational webinars, discounted conference pricing, the monthly ABF E-Buzz, and much more! All memberships will expire December 31, 2016. We are excited to have you join the largest national beekeeping organization in America! Visit: https://abfnet.site-ym.com/general/register_membership.asp.

Questions? Contact Valerie Lake, ABF Membership Coordinator, at 404-760-2875 or valerielake@abfnet.com.
March 5, 9 AM-4 PM: Central Oregon Beekeepers Bee School, Central Oregon Community College.

March 5, 8:45 AM-5 PM: Lane County Beekeepers Bee School, Trinity United Methodist Church.

March 12, 9 AM-4 PM: Astoria Bee School, Clatsop Community College, Columbia Hall, Room 219. Register in class. $25 per person/$35 for those arriving together, bring sack lunch. Questions: ccbees@gmail.com.

March 19, 9 AM-4:30 PM: Southern Oregon Bee School, Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center. To register, visit: www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org.

March 21 (6:00–9:30 PM), March 23 (6:00–9:30 PM) and March 26 (9:00 AM–1:00 PM): Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Beekeeping School, Washington Street Conference Center, Hillsboro, Room 103/109. $50.

April 2, 8:30 AM–3:00 PM: Tillamook County Beekeepers Bee School, Fairview Grange. $15, includes lunch.


MORE BEE EVENTS

April 30–May 1: Portland Metro Beekeepers, booth at the Master Gardener’s Fair, Clackamas County Fairgrounds.


July 18–20: International Conference on Pollinator Biology, Health and Policy, Penn State. Information: Kim Swistock, kar3@psu.edu.


Note: For all groups, see pages 4–5 for meeting time and place, website, and/or whom to contact for information. All welcome visitors to join them at meetings! In addition, many groups are now preparing opportunities for learning, including those that appear (to the left) on this page.

Regional Representatives

North Coast

The recent weather on the north and central Oregon coast has been sunny, warm, and light on wind. Unfortunately, this morning I woke to rain on the deck, but it is mid February after all. The bees, and beekeepers, really enjoyed it while it lasted. The Tillamook County association has gained some new members and meetings are well attended. Last Board meeting the Central Coast Beekeepers Association elected officers, decided on a dues structure, and planned presentations for future meetings. The two associations are putting in a group bee order.

In case you missed it, the BBC ran a story by Helen Briggs who stated that lead researcher Dr. Lena Bayer-Wilfert in the United Kingdom found that the spread of bee disease is “largely manmade.” I don't know about you, but I guess I always assumed that was the case. Now there is research to support it. Researchers also found that, at least in the case of DWV, the disease largely spread from Europe to North America and countries in the rest of the world.

—Stan Scotton

Regional Associations

Cascadia Queen Breeders

Cascadia Queen Breeders wish to thank the First Alternative Co-Op in Corvallis for hosting our December 2015 Annual Meeting with a dozen members in attendance. We also wish to thank CQB member Morris Ostrofsky for his excellent presentation on the Miller Method of Queen Rearing. In addition, we thank MannLake, Brushy Mountain/Ruhl, and Dadant and Sons for their generous donations of door prizes.

—Paul Maresh

Central Oregon Beekeepers

All members are looking forward to the first blooms of spring! The COBKA took the month of December off to enjoy family & friends. In January, we had a great talk about the history of & how to make mead. We finished the evening with a mead tasting. Upcoming talks will include high desert pollinator plants, Langstroth alternatives, and the Bee Informed Partnership. We’ve also instituted a regular “Beginners Corner” a half hour before each meeting, which is moderated by club mentors. Our volunteers are working
on a few additional events, including Ramesh Sagili’s March 26 talk on Bacterial Brood Diseases and current OSU honey bee research. We awarded three Oregon Master Beekeeper Apprentice scholarships to beekeepers in Central Oregon, as well as an annual COBKA membership to all 2016 apprentices in Central Oregon. We’re wondering how this winter will have affected our hives. In central Oregon, we had a bit of very cold weather in December, followed by a relatively mild winter. Several folks have reported starvation losses even with good stores remaining. There’ll be some good discussion at the February meeting.

—Allen Engle

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Here in sunny, snowy, rainy, cold, warm Klamath County, we keep our bees confused. The temperatures in the past month have ranged from 15°F to 55°F, and the snowpack currently ranges from zero in the Klamath Falls area to 2 feet in Chiloquin (30 miles north) to 109 inches (329 inches since October 1, a record!) at Crater lake, a mere 30 miles from Chiloquin. We sent a truck to Redding to pick up a load of drivert sugar at Costco in anticipation of this el nino winter. With temps mostly still in the 20’s at night and 2 feet of snow where I live, of course the plants in the area have not budded out. Even willow and cedar, usually the first to flower, have not done so yet this year. It is a far cry from the balmy weather we had at this time last year. But during the 55°Fdays the bees are out in force staining the white snow with umber spots of pent up poo! A snowy winter makes one appreciate the quantity of bee bodies that are removed or remove themselves from the hive during fall and winter. You warm winter folks from the I-5 corridor should try it sometime!

Many members have suffered heavy losses this winter and the season is not over yet! The mantra for this weather is feed, feed, tip those hives, and feed! Perhaps as an organization OSBA could approach Costco to reconsider stocking Oregon Costcos with drivert sugar to help the bees on the much colder east side.

—Judy Olson

Lane County Beekeepers

The Good Earth Home Show was very successful for our club. We have had new members join, we sold 72 jars of club honey and have had good interest in our upcoming bee school. Bee Culture Magazine offers free copies of their publication to organizations putting on shows or schools, and we take advantage of this offer. Check out the details printed in their monthly issues. Our February meeting will feature Jonathon Loftin presenting Spring Management. In addition, we will have an early session speaker, Morris Ostrofsky, Master Beekeeper, who will talk on Varroa, Mitekeeping 101. In 2015, LCBA began offering topics from 6:00–6:45 pm in what we call an educational early session. These have been very popular and attendance has been high. This allows the club to offer some classes in more advanced topics and keep our primary meetings focused on the first and second year beekeeping. We are pleased at the response knowing we are providing information of interest to beekeepers at varying levels of experience.

The ladies are continuing to find good sources of pollen in the lower elevations of the valley. The temperatures have been kind to the honey bees, allowing them a day or two a week to fly from the hive and do whatever bees need to do!

—Pam Leavitt

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Our Christmas party was a success in its new location. Also Kerry Haskins provided a workshop on candle making last month. We had a lively discussion of ideas for our meeting.
March 2016

agenda with a full page of suggestions by the members and an open discussion of issues for January. Queens may begin to lay eggs. Using Oxalic Acid mid winter was recommended by one experienced bee keeper. Due to pesticides in wax, it was recommended to toss out used frames within about 5 years of use. Old hive bodies can be reused by rebuilding the top portion. One member suggested scorching the inside of hive bodies to limit disease transmission. Our February meeting began with guest speaker John Edwards of Ruhl Bee Supply, who brought several hive boxes and tops to explain the use of resource hives and the importance of nucleus hives as a management tool in your apiary. We wrapped up the meeting with a round table discussion on what needs to be addressed in the months of February and March.

—Paul Jarrett/Patty Anderson

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Each month we open with 2–3 members, selected at random, sharing a little bit about themselves so we can all get to know each other. Glen Andresen noted in his monthly Pollen & Nectar report that already in bloom are winter jasmin, broccoli, Oregon grape, and several others. Bill Catherall presented on “Resource Hives & Overwintering Nucs” and challenged Portland beekeepers to make a greater effort, even as a hobbyist, to start raising our own queens and making nucs to overwinter. Not only can we start planning for losses and get off the merry-go-round of buying packages each spring but we can also help to provide a good source of bees for our neighboring beekeepers. Overwintered nucs grow much faster in the spring and are better equipped for our short-lived nectar flow than trying to make splits in the spring to cover our losses. Our February meeting featured Dr. Ramesh Sagili, who spoke in depth on Varroa and identified several methods to detect a mite infestation as well as several ways to treat them. It is critical for all beekeepers to stop the Varroa mite in its tracks so check your hives thoroughly and often. Thanks to Dr. Sagili for sharing this information with us.

Our February 6 Bee School was a huge hit and encompassed information to help brand new beekeepers get started. Huge thanks to all the presenters and the Urban Farm Store for hosting.

—Scott Macdonald

Tillamook County Beekeepers

What a wonderful meeting we had! Henry, who just moved here from Alaska, told us about beekeeping in the summer with daylight around the clock. Can you imagine bees foraging 24 hours a day? In updates on how our hives are doing, the best report was from Dave, who hasn't lost any of his fourteen hives this winter. His honey, the first he has ever taken, won first prize in our honey tasting back in November. We reviewed bee tasks for this month, and Jim Fanjoy gave us an update on the Cozy Bee experiment. One of his two apiaries in Nehalem was flooded by the huge storm back in December. It isn’t even near a river, just a creek that turned into a massive flood.

If you haven’t seen the Tom Seeley article in the American Bee Journal, find it: “Surviving without Treatments: Lessons from Bees in the Wild!” We also discussed the upcoming

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.
Michael Bush workshop on April 23, in Hood River, which is sponsored by Grow Organic. —Claire Moody

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers
At the TVBA monthly meetings in January and February we enjoyed presentations from John Edwards of Ruhl Bee Supply talking new equipment (including the cool Swarm Bandit) and from Portland Urban Beekeeper’s President Bill Catherall talking about his ideas for building a program to strengthen regional bee genetics to improve resistance to colony diseases and pests. Our March presentation will be about swarm catching and native pollinators identification and sustainability. John Edwards may also be on hand to talk about long hives. —Debby Garman

Willamette Valley Beekeepers
The Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association held their election/social meeting in January, after which the group enjoyed pizza and drawings for numerous door prizes. There were about 125 members present. It seems that so far the members have been very successful in overwintering their colonies. We are hearing of some very low loss percentages. Way to go, Steven Coffman, on his low colony loss this winter. Our Bee School has started with a large number of anxious new beekeepers attending. We will be hosting the Salem-area Apprentice-level classes for the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. —Richard Farrier
KEEPING BEES IN MARCH

Jason Rowan

March in Oregon signals the transition from late-winter maintenance to early spring maintenance. There are many important tasks that await those of us who cannot wait to get our paws into the hive.

❖ Check for dead hives. Pop the lid and take a peek. If the hive has died, remove said colony and inspect when the rains come. Be sure not to leave the leftover honey vulnerable to robbers.

❖ Inspect empty hive can be valuable for future decision making. Can you see signs of varroa, foulbrood, nosema, or starvation. A good book can lead a hand a diagnosis of these.

❖ When inspecting did you find weak hives. Now is the time to sort those out. You can combine weak colonies or break the boxes down to a single box and reduce the entrance so the bees can keep warm which helps with brood rearing.

❖ If the temps have warmed to above 50 degrees with no rain in sight take a peek at the brood. Pull a frame just to see if the queen is laying. Do not be fooled by its size. Repeatedly we have found large colonies with drone laying queens or no queens at all.

❖ Checking for weight by hefting or looking for honey in the comb is a wise move at this point. Many eggs are being laid and brood is hatching which relies on that stored honey for food.

❖ If daytime temps regularly reach above 50 degrees, you can try feeding syrup or pollen supplement to give them a little boost. Just remember if the nighttime temps cool down to far be can be chilled in division board feeders and die.

❖ Start planing for the new year order packages or queens. Assemble woodware

Remember spring is right around the corner and the beautiful cycle of life starts anew with all the surprises along the way. Happy Keeping.

DEWAYNE KELLER MEMORIAL FUND

Jan Lohman


DeWayne wanted a hobby, so he took up beekeeping. In 1969, Raymond Sager asked DeWayne to purchase his commercial bee outfit, and the Keller Apiaries began. He turned his hobby into a very successful career, which he has turned over to his very capable sons, Dee and Todd.

DeWayne Keller and his wife Maxine, who survives him, used to come to our conferences. In these last few years, they have been helping to care for a family member. In addition, his health had suffered for the past three years.

A Memorial Service for DeWayne will be in Ontario on March 5.

The family has set up a memorial fund. It is the:

DeWayne Keller Honey Bee Research Memorium

Please make checks out to Oregon State Beekeepers Association and mail to:

Oregon State Beekeepers Association
c/o Jan Lohman
77225 Colonel Jordan Road
Hermiston OR 97838

All contributions will be transferred to the OSU Honey Bee Lab.

Google It!

As we begin to watch the bees this spring, we might also view again Louie Schwartzberg’s presentation at TED, “The hidden beauty of pollination.” As he reminds us, the “intersection between the animal world and the plant world is truly a magic moment.”

Zombie Watch

It’s been a while since OSU reported Ramesh Sagili’s finding of the “belly-up bee” on a campus sidewalk (reprinted in the October 2012 issue of The Bee Line). The locations of the few zombie bees that have been documented in Oregon are now mapped at: www.zombiewatch.org. The website provides additional information about the fly and guidelines for participating in a citizen science project. It contains a link as well to a recent New York Times article, “Tracking a Parasite that Turns Bees into Zombies.”

WAS Journal

The February issue of the Western Apicultural Society Journal is now posted at: www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/w-a-s-journal.
Dewey Caron put out a new bee school curriculum.

**Oregon Master Beekeeper Program**

Jan Lohman reported for Carolyn. In 2016 there are 189 apprentices. Originally, there were seven locations for Oregon Master Beekeeper Program classes. Now there are 14 locations. The newest locations are: OSU Extension Center in Redmond where the Central Oregon classes will be held, Hood River and Wasco County Extension office for students in the Hood River area, Grants Pass OSU Extension Office for Southern Oregon, Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport for the Central Coast students. The Mobile Mentor Team will go to Hood River four times over the year to work with the students on their field worksheets. Currently, there are no local members for the Hood River area. The Mobile Mentor Team of from two to three will go to a hive at the Extension Center to work.

There are over 80 participants in the Journey level. Fifteen beekeepers have moved to the Master level. Several of the regional clubs have donated a total of eight (8) $150.00 scholarships to the 2016 year. Bambu (housewares manufacturer using sustainable materials) has donated six (6) $150.00 scholarships, and the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program awarded four (4) $150.00 scholarships.

**The Bee Line Report**

Rosanna brought up a point of order. The minutes from the Executive Board Meeting in November 2015 had not been approved. Copies of the minutes were passed around and the motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Stan Scotton made the motion. The motion passed.

The January-February issue of *The Bee Line* has been delayed. The directory has also been delayed. This is to wait until additional details from conference renewals are available so that she can update membership. Rosanna passed a list of current officers to ask the club representatives to check and make any corrections. She shared the first issue of *The Bee Line* from 1977, which she got from Bill Ruhl.

An interesting note: As today, in 1977 the membership was about 300 and the editor (Connie Petty) was asking for stories/contributions. She reminded that the listing of events is free, and photos and articles are always welcome.

**2015 Oregon State Beekeepers Association Conference**

There were 133 evaluations turned in as conference ended. The data compiled went a long way to making decisions for the 2016 Conference. Oregon State Beekeepers received a Thank You note from Dr. Ramesh Sagili and the OSU Honey Bee Lab. The note ended with the message, May “your mites be few and your honey be plentiful in 2016.”

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2016 Fall Conference**

The 2016 Oregon State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference will be held at the Oregon Garden. The dates
will be October 28, 29, and 30, 2016. The tram will be running for better mobility between the lodge and the upper classrooms and Pavilion. The speaker roster for the 2016 conference is filling, and some highlights are:

- Ramesh Sagili – Oregon State University
- Tom Seeley – Cornell University
- Elina Nino – UC Davis
- Judy Wu-Smart – University of Minnesota
- David Miska – Miska Honey Farms
- John Skinner – University of Tennessee

Most speakers have to be booked two years out, and Jason is still awaiting answers from a few speakers.

**Working Committee Chair Appointments**

**Website Committee** – Harry Vanderpool and Paul Andersen have formed a committee to work on the website. Judy Scher, Dick Temple, Craig Rogers, and Ellen Wright have joined the committee. Any other beekeepers who are interested in joining this working committee should contact Harry Vanderpool. This committee is asking the question, why do we have a website and what should be on it? A few responses: It should link to local groups; Forms should be easily found. This committee will schedule a meeting and then select a Chair to run the committee. All board members will be copied on committee meeting minutes because they are looking for transparency.

**Nominations Committee** – Jan Lohman has been appointed to head this committee.

**NW Apiculture Endowment** – Jan Lohman has accepted the Chair position on this committee. The committee includes: George Hansen, Kenny Williams, Jeff Milligan, Jason Rowan, and Harry Vanderpool.

**Public Relations** – Paul Andersen will continue to head this committee.

**Fairs and Exhibits** – Trevor Riches will continue to head this committee.

**Agricultural Liaison** – Mike Rodia has been appointed to this position.

**ODA Division 55 Rules**

Current Division 55, Bees and Oregon Standard of Bee Colony Strength for Colonies Used in Commercial Pollination of Crops, reads:

(1) The annual registration fee shall be $10 for every person who owns or in charge of five or more colonies located in this state.

(2) For each late registration, after July 1, the fee shall double to $20 for registration.

Proposed changes to the Oregon Administrative Rules are that there would be a registration fee of $10 plus 50 cents per hive. After July 1, the fee would be $20 plus 50 cents per hive. Fees would not apply to nucleus colonies. Currently, the proposed changes are being written into law. It is important that the bill is written in such a way that all the collected fees will go directly to the OSU Honey Bee Lab without OSU overhead charges. When the proposed rules are sent to the committee to comment on, the committee will provide comment and/or accept them.

**Gypsy Moth Spraying**

Oregon agriculture officials are proposing to spray about 8,000 acres over the Portland area this spring to kill leaf-eating gypsy moths. The gypsy moth is a serious invasive pest that can cause great damage to Oregon. Last summer two Asian gypsy moths were trapped in the Portland area. Officials believe the pests arrived on ships from Asia, particularly from Far East Russia, as thousands of steel plates are imported from areas across the Pacific that are infested with the Asian gypsy moth.

Oregon state will use a biological insecticide called *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*, commonly known as Btk, a bacterium found naturally in the soil. State officials say it is widely used, safe, and effective, and has been approved for use in organic farming. State officials propose spraying in mid-April by helicopter over targeted areas of Forest Park, north Portland, and Hayden Island with three treatments.

**Western Apicultural Society**

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association Representative is Sarah Red-Laird. Pam Leavitt made the motion to support WAS with a $20.00 Association Membership for 2016. The motion passed.

The next Oregon State Beekeepers Association Board Meeting will be held on April 23, 2016. The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bunny Cramer-Carter

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**Bee Culture**

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

12 BIG Issues

1 Beekeeping Calendar

All for $25/Year Sign Up Online At www.BeeCulture.com or call 800.289.7668, Ext. 3220
Phyllis Shoemake—Continued from page 1

from the Legislature. Working for one of Oregon’s agencies, my interactions with the Legislature were not always on the best of terms. The exception was when Phyllis called concerning an upset constituent or to inquire about what the agency was or was not doing about an issue that the Legislature was concerned about. She was always courteous and understood that I did not always have immediate answers. And even when I disagreed with what her bosses thought, she always thanked me. Phyllis and I had never met in person until several years later when I joined the WVBA and she walked up and introduced herself. She remembered me. And even then I did not recognize the name, as I had only known her as Phyllis. After some stumbling about on my part and her explaining that she was from the Legislature, I was able to put a face to that friendly voice on the phone. As a beekeeper, she was always encouraging me, particularly as regards to the establishment of the first WVBA swarm call-in list. Despite my concerns that she might not want to go after the really difficult swarms, she was one of the first to have her name added to the list and to volunteer to go after any swarm. I don’t recall ever hearing a harsh word from Phyllis. I can and will only remember her as one of the nicest persons I have ever met. Truly, A Great Lady.

Mike Rodia

It was upon attending my very first meeting of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association in the early 1990s that I first met Phyllis. We were introduced by her to the many beekeepers that attended. She greeted my son and I for several meetings until we were acquainted and comfortable in the group. After serving for many years as Secretary, she remained involved with beekeeping, never missing a meeting or event. Later on, I had the pleasure of serving as OSBA vice president alongside her as treasurer. What a joy that was! Phyllis was unflappable, always smiling with a very positive attitude. She did a flawless job. She was awarded the WVBA Honorary Lifetime Membership award, and later the OSBA Honorary award, for her years of hard work and fellowship. And then there was her smile. I always loved, and will miss that she could laugh without making a sound. We will miss her greatly.

Harry Vanderpool

I remember Phyllis as the always up-beat and methodical treasurer who faithfully served the OSBA for many years. Catching up with her at the fall conference was something to look forward to, as we exchanged many a laugh. . . Phyllis also shared with me the secret to her home-made mustard.

Kenny Williams

Phyllis was a great asset to the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. In addition to her record keeping, she had a keen knowledge of how the Oregon Legislature functioned.

Fred VanNatta
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

Date: ________________________  □ New Member  □ Membership Renewal

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 information OR Share: □ mailing address □ phone number □ 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 March 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 April issue, 2016. The deadline for submitting copy is March 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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