



## IN THIS ISSUE...

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| ODA Registration      | 1  |
| President's Message   | 2  |
| Board Meeting Minutes | 3  |
| Resources             | 4  |
| Pollination Survey    | 6  |
| Bee Events            | 8  |
| Regional News         | 8  |
| Keeping Bees in June  | 12 |
| Classified Ad         | 12 |
| Membership Form       | 15 |

[www.orsba.org](http://www.orsba.org)

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
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OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM  
*A Joint Venture of OSBA and the  
Oregon State University Extension Service*  
[info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org](mailto:info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org)

**Image above:** Honey bee on blackberry.

**Statute, Chapter 602 — Bees:** [https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills\\_laws/ors/ors602.html](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors602.html)

**Rules, Division 55 — Bees and Oregon Standards of Bee Colony Strength for Colonies Used in Commercial Pollination of Crops:** [http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars\\_600/oar\\_603/603\\_055.html](http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_600/oar_603/603_055.html)

## HAVE YOU REGISTERED YOUR HIVES?

*Mike Rodia*

**All** beekeepers, whether backyard, hobbyist, or commercial, who managed five or more colonies (not including nucs) within the state at any point during the previous (last) year are now required to register with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). This is the result of House Bill 3362, which modified Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 602 and the subsequent adoption of Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 603-055 by the ODA. The registration fee is \$10 plus 50 cents per colony, due **June 1**. There is a grace period, but on **July 1** the fee becomes \$20 plus 50 cents per colony. The registration is for one year and must be made **each year** if the beekeeper had five or more colonies during the previous year. Once the registration application is completed and filed, the registration year will run from July 1 of the current year to June 30 of the following year.

Previously only those beekeepers engaged in commercial pollination were required to register, and the money collected by the ODA went into the agency's general operating budget. The new law and rules make it clear that the money from the new registration fees "shall be spent on pollinator research that is predominantly focused on honeybees." The ODA agreed with the OSBA that most (all) of the collected money will go to the Oregon State University (OSU) Honey Bee Laboratory and the ODA will not use any of the money for their administrative costs. Members of the OSBA met with the ODA and requested that specific language for our agreement be included in the OAR. The ODA proposed the addition, but the Department of Justice attorney assigned to the ODA said the agency did not have the authority to include it in the OAR. Nonetheless, the ODA said it will honor the agreement and look to adding the language to the ORS in the future.

It should be noted that the ODA not only will not receive any money for administrative costs but also will use no money for enforcement (at least at the present time). This does not mean you should ignore the law as it is a legal requirement and there are benefits to registering. Registering might serve to strengthen your position as a responsible beekeeper should a legal issue arise. In addition, you will receive notifications from the ODA on matters relating to beekeeping, such as the registration of a new Varroa mite control, and the money will go to OSU for research on honey bees.

You may register by going to <https://apps.oregon.gov/sos/licensedirectory/licensedetail/606> and filling out the application form online or downloading and mailing it to the ODA. You may also request a hard copy by calling the ODA Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program at (503) 986-4636.

**Note:** The number of colonies often fluctuates throughout a given year. The number of colonies that must be registered is equal to the highest number of full-strength colonies managed within the state at any point during the previous year, prior to the registration deadline of June 1.



**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

When you tell someone that you are a beekeeper, what do you suppose that they envision?

If they have some experience around beekeepers or agriculture, they may have some very basic idea of what a beekeeper does and is. We have found, however, that most people haven't the slightest clue about a beekeeper's life. I cannot tell you how many people, after visiting our operation, have shaken their head and said, "We had absolutely no idea of what goes on in a beekeeping operation!" I'll bet you have heard something similar.

Oregon Farm Bureau President Barry Bushue has been urging those involved in agriculture to "tell their story" for a number of years. At the Oregon Farm Bureau's 77th annual meeting, he said, "If we don't tell our story, someone else will tell one for us, and we are not going to like it." No truer words were ever spoken.

When Dr. Mike Rodia and I have testified before City Councils or Planning Departments, we have heard "stories" being told in opposition to bees many times. Thankfully, our true stories have won out every single time!

I had the pleasure of speaking at an ODA Aerial Pesticide Applicators Recertification seminar last year. A tremendous amount of information flowed in both directions. I ended my presentation with the question, "What does it mean to move bees so you can spray?"

I answered the question by telling the story. It isn't like a scene from Bewitched, where I fold my arms, blink, and the bees magically disappear. No, it starts at the end of a long, hot, day of hard work, showing up in the evening with \$100,000.00 of truck and forklift. Smoking, loading, v-boards, straps. Driving off into the night to . . . ??? Hoping to get to bed by midnight so I can do it all over again the next day. All of this presented in pictures.

Thanking them for calling so that I can move our bees out of harm's way, I told them that I just wanted them to know that working together often means work. And that I hoped that they would keep that in mind when we make small requests of them. The feedback was very positive.

Last month I was honored to be a speaker at the Oregon Cherry Growers annual meeting. Many of the cherry growers have been in the business all of their life and have considerable experience with beekeepers. But this time they got to sit back and hear things from beekeeper's perspective. I received much positive feedback from them.

I am joining with Barry Bushue in the encouragement of getting out our story whenever we can. No one can tell the beekeeper's story better than the person living it!

*Harry*

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## OSBA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

April 23, 2016 ❖ Canby, Oregon

The meeting was called to order by President Harry Vanderpool @ 4:01 PM.

### Minutes

Bob Allen moved to accept the minutes of the January board meeting, as published and mailed in the March *Bee Line*. Seconded by Jordan Dimock.

### Treasurer's Report

Harry Vanderpool reviewed notes provided by Jeff Milligan, as he was unable to attend today's meeting. Addressed our progress in regards to membership renewal thru PayPal, beginning January of this year, which has been working really well. Thank you, Rosanna.

The OSBA tax returns are on track for May filing date.

Security concerns were discussed related to our OSBA website and all personal information. Harry has been working on this with our web host company. We reviewed our current system in regards to keeping all records, membership renewal information, and files separate from the Internet, which is the case. Security protocols and monitoring procedures along with a redesign/redevelopment of our website were addressed.

Harry informed us of the itemized account report to be turned in next board meeting, per Jeff. The board suggested we request a P/L Report with a calendar end date of June 30, 2016. Also Jan Lohman made a motion that we approve funding, if need be, for an accountant firm to help get our QuickBooks caught up. Paul Andersen agreed to represent us on this endeavor. Board voted and approved above request. Seconded by Joe Maresh.

Banking accounts report included. Jordan Dimock made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as written. Seconded by Bob Allen.

### Regional and Club Reports

Max Kuhn was kind enough to fill in for president of **Central Coast Beekeepers Association**. Max really wanted to express their club's gratitude to OSBA and the Lane County and Linn-Benton Beekeepers Associations for all the help with beginning their new club! Currently: 30 members strong with more applications pending. Just wrapped up first year, Apprentice level, of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, with he believes eight graduating, and they are looking forward to next year. Club meetings: Newport Public Library, 4th Wednesday each month @ 6:30 PM (all members and non-members welcome).

Stan Scotton, **North Coast Regional Representative**. Stan said it's like the North Coast really has two clubs working together: Tillamook County and Central Coast associations, which share a website and newsletter. Also they've joined together on bee orders with Bob and Joe. Currently they are talking about a joint Bee Day; more to come about this in future. The Oregon Master Beekeeper Apprentice-level classroom portion is complete. Thanks to Stan Scotton, Rick Olson, Dan Speers, and Max Kuhn. Regarding bee losses: thought everything was okay, then had a big hit in late winter & early spring, now with our awesome spring warm up, colonies are doing well :-]

Joe Maresh, President, **Portland Metro Beekeepers Association**. Joe said just finished Bee Day with a great turn out of from 160 to 170 participants. Also about 320 nuc orders and eleven thousand pounds of sugar distributed among their members. Losses were not as bad as in years past. They are looking into purchasing bulk queens and buying bulk sugar in the future. Let Joe know if you are interested.

Tom Cinquini, **Portland Metro Regional Representative**. Has been contacted by more hobbyist beekeepers than ever before, mostly regarding winter bee losses. Also Tom and Joe have been asked as representatives to talk with a local beekeeper about his beehive location.

Jordan Dimock, **Eastern Oregon Regional Representative**. Everything went well in California. They have been very busy with splits and nucs this year. The combination of rain and warm weather has been great for the flowers in the area.

Cheryl Housden, Treasurer, **Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association**. In March they had a bee school day. There were 93 people in attendance, for the best one yet. Dewey Caron spoke last Wednesday and there was a great turnout. All Oregon Master Beekeeper classes have been well attended, and they have about 140 members in their area.

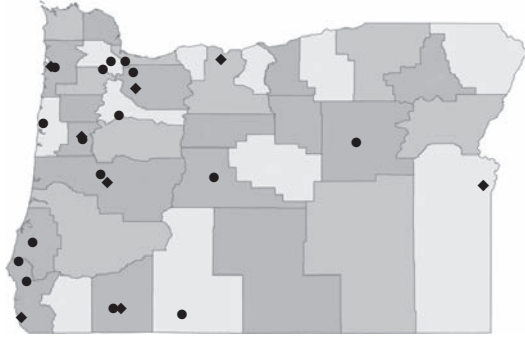
Bob Allen, President, **Tillamook County Beekeepers Association**. Great turnout for their bee school, they had 65 people in attendance and Dewey Caron was the keynote speaker. All nucs/package orders have been delivered and installed.

Steve Oda, President, **Linn-Benton Beekeepers Association**. They currently have about 60 members. On May 21 they will be having a joint field day with Lane County Beekeepers Association at the OSU Honey Bee Apiary.

Laren Leland, representing **Portland Urban Beekeepers**

*Continued on page 13*

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



**OSBA OFFICERS**

**President:** Harry Vanderpool  
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**Vice President:** Jason Rowan  
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5051 Lost Lake Rd, Hood River 97031  
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  
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**South Coast:** Mureen Walker  
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**Columbia Basin:** Bill Edwards  
5051 Lost Lake Rd, Hood River 97031  
541.354.2223

**Eastern Oregon:** Jordan Dimock  
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541.372.2726

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**Southern Oregon:** Sarah Red-Laird  
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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

**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 (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@nehalem.tel.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

**BEEKEEPER POLLINATION SURVEY 2015**

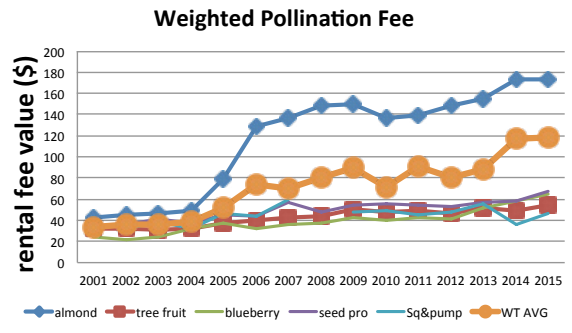
*Dewey M. Caron and Ramesh Sagili*

Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab initiated a survey of Pollination Economics of commercial and semi-commercial beekeepers in 1986. This is our 30th annual report. A total of 37 survey responses were used for analysis for 2015 pollinations that includes 27 commercial and 10 semi-commercial beekeepers. Nine commercial and 3 semi-commercial respondents were from Oregon.

Previous survey reports have been published (2013 and June 2014 BEELINE) and an abbreviated 2014 report was published in June 2015 BEELINE (full report was on orsba.org website). In our latest survey, Oregon Commercial beekeeper respondents managed an average of 2522 colonies/individual; semi-commercials beekeepers averaged 275 colonies/individual. The survey response rate was once again lower in Oregon; 32% of total estimated colonies in Oregon. Overall, our report includes information obtained from PNW beekeepers that owned an estimated 57% of the total colonies in the PNW.

Sum of total value of pollination fee reported by the 37 PNW respondents was slightly above \$25 million with more than 212,000 total colony rentals. The 2015 weighted

average fee of rental colonies was \$118.40, an increase of \$0.78 cents over the previous year. The accompanying graph shows the last 15 year weighted average rental fees for almonds (\$173.25 weighted average in 2015), tree fruits (average weighted fee= \$54.2 in 2015), blueberry (\$64.5), vegetable seed production (\$67.9) and squash & pumpkin (\$46.8) rentals.



**Figure 1.** Weighted Colony rental fee for all PNW rentals (middle bolded line w/ circles), almond (top bold w/diamonds), tree fruits (Lower bold w/ squares - includes pears, sweet cherries and apples combined), blueberry, vegetable seed crops (principally carrot, radish & onion), and squash & pumpkin crops, 15 years 2001-2015.

The 2015 pollination survey continues to illustrate the importance of pollination rentals for beekeepers in the PNW. The 9 commercial Oregon beekeepers reported

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renting colonies to as many as 9 crops: PNW average was 5 rentals/beekeeper. Oregon total rentals reported constituted 39,083 colonies, accounting for gross fee rental income of slightly over \$4.3 million.

By far the largest fee generator for Oregon and PNW beekeepers was California almond rentals, as it has been the case for the last 10 years. Eleven Oregon beekeepers rented 17,280 colonies (range 110 to 6000 plus colonies) to almond growers. Rental fee received by PNW beekeepers ranged from \$130 to \$190 with a weighted average of \$173.25, which is 0.15 cents below the previous year. For Oregon beekeepers, almonds represent 51% of total crop rentals, generating \$3,107,120 in gross rental fees (72% of total gross colony rental income). For PNW beekeepers, almonds accounted for 53% of total rentals and 77% of their total gross rental income, as reported by respondents.

Closer to home, Oregon beekeepers colony rentals to pears, sweet cherries and apples remains the top “local” income opportunity. In 2015, 3562 of total pollination rentals of respondents were to fruit (apples, pear and sweet cherries) with an income of \$289,692. If we exclude almonds and consider only colony rentals in the PNW states, tree fruit represents more than 25 % of the rental colony numbers and 24% of income.

Berry rentals (blackberries, raspberries, marionberry, blueberry and cranberry) accounted for 22% of “local” (within region) rentals and 26.5% of the income. Vegetable seed rentals (4,488 colonies) accounted for 20.5% of local rentals and 20% of the income. 3,084 colonies were rented for meadowfoam (oil crop) pollination (14% of rentals and gross income),

**Table 1.** Pollination rentals and income (number of colonies, % total gross income and % local gross income excludes almond pollination numbers) by crop type as reported by 37 PNW respondents including 12 Oregon beekeepers in 2015.

| crop        | # of respondents PNW&OR | # of colony rentals | % rental (% local rental) | Gross income | % gross income (% local income) |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Almonds     | PNW 34                  | 111,246             | 53%                       | \$19,273,427 | 76.8%                           |
|             | OR 11                   | 17,250              | 44%                       | \$3,107,120  | 72%                             |
| Tree fruit  | PNW 36                  | 53,9812             | 25.5%                     | \$2,926,233  | 11.7%                           |
|             | OR 15                   | 5362                | 12% (25.5%)               | \$289,692    | 6.7% (24%)                      |
| Berries     | PNW 19                  | 11,283              | 5%                        | \$632,743    | 2.5%                            |
|             | OR 13                   | 4870                | 22% (22%)                 | \$319,878    | 26.5% (26.5%)                   |
| Veg seed    | PNW 15                  | 23,020              | 11%                       | \$1,604,700  | 6.4%                            |
|             | OR 9                    | 4488                | 20.5% (20.5%)             | \$238,746    | 5.5% (20%)                      |
| Legume seed | PNW 8                   | 4450                | 2%                        | \$239,156    | 1%                              |
|             | OR 4                    | 1600                | 7.3% (7.5%)               | \$85,280     | 2% (7%)                         |
| Cucurbits   | PNW 10                  | 4855                | 2%                        | \$248,478    | 1%                              |
|             | OR 6                    | 2399                | 5% (11%)                  | \$107,118    | 2.5% (9%)                       |
| Oil crops   | PNW 5                   | 3254                | 1.5%                      | \$173,848    | 0.6%                            |
|             | OR 4                    | 3084                | 14% (14%)                 | \$168,848    | 14% (14%)                       |
| Totals      | PNW 126                 | 212,119             |                           | \$25,098,583 |                                 |
|             | OR                      | 39,083              |                           | \$4,316,682  |                                 |

cucurbit (watermelon, squash & pumpkin and cucumber) employed almost 2,400 colonies (11% of local rentals and 9% of gross income) and legume seed (1,600 colonies) pollination accounted for 7.5% of gross income.

The range of rental prices reported by respondents was extensive.

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For pear, the range was from a low of \$44 to a high of \$60. In sweet cherry the range was even larger (\$25-\$60). In apple the range was \$42 to \$60 per colony. For Oregon beekeepers, almond rental fee ranged from \$130 to \$190 and for meadowfoam it was \$47 to \$55.

Our survey also asked respondents if they used a pollination contract. Fifty percent respondents said they didn't use a contract while 21% said they used a contract, and 29% respondents indicated that they sometimes used a contract.

A complete report will be published in July edition of the *American Bee Journal*.



## BEE EVENTS

**June 18: Pollinator Celebration.** Sauvie Island Center, 13901 NW Howell Park Road, Portland. Preregistration requested. Information: <http://www.sauvieislandcenter.org/events/pollination-celebration>.

**June 20–June 26: POLLINATOR WEEK.** Information: [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org). *Do something*—and please let us hear about it!

**June 25–26, 1–4 PM: Portland Urban Beekeepers Tour De Hives,** featuring tour stops of backyard apiaries all over Portland. General Admission – \$10; Seniors/Students – \$5; Children (12 and younger) – Free. Registration: <https://tourdehives.com/tickets>.

**July 18–20: International Conference on Pollinator Biology, Health and Policy.** Penn State, University Park, Pennsylvania. Information: [www.cvent.com/events/international-conference-on-pollinator-biology-health-and-policy/event-summary-a63f438020fa4db6a3dd57d5ba0f1acc.aspx](http://www.cvent.com/events/international-conference-on-pollinator-biology-health-and-policy/event-summary-a63f438020fa4db6a3dd57d5ba0f1acc.aspx). Contact: Kim Swistock: [kar3@psu.edu](mailto:kar3@psu.edu).

**July 27–29: Eastern Apicultural Society 2016.** Richard Stockton University, Galloway, New Jersey. Information: [www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org).

**August 20–21: Oregon Honey Festival.** Ashland, Oregon. Information: [oregonhoneyfestival.com](http://oregonhoneyfestival.com).

**October 12–15: 2016 Western Apicultural Society Conference.** Honolulu, Hawaii. Information: <http://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/category/conference-news>.

**October 28–30: 2016 OSBA Fall Conference.** The Oregon Garden, Silverton, Oregon.

**November 15–17: California State Beekeepers Association Annual Convention.** Kona Kai Resort & Spa, San Diego. Information: [www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/events.html](http://www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/events.html).

## REGIONAL NEWS

**Note:** For all groups, see pages 4–5 for meeting time and place, website, and/or contact information. All groups welcome visitors to join them at meetings! In addition, many groups offer opportunities for learning. Some appear on this page, and others are posted on their websites.

### Regional Representatives

#### North Coast

The weather is definitely improving on the north and central coast. As I write this, the salmonberry is in full bloom and blackberry, our major nectar flow, is about to start. The north coast is usually about three-to-four weeks behind the valley. Reports from both the Tillamook County and Central Coast clubs are that the colonies that survived winter are coming into May strong. That is definitely the case in my apiary. Beekeepers with new nucs or packages are reporting lots of brood and in some cases, swarm cells. Most everyone seems to be instituting swarm control measures. Several Tillamook County beekeepers reported having swarms, and unfortunately, losing them. Several members have already collected swarms.

Both clubs, after minor club business, devoted their last meeting to open discussion and question-and-answer activities. At the Tillamook County meeting, Wes Preston started things off with a presentation on some innovative things he has done with his wooden ware and bee manipulations and management. Towards the end of the meeting, Claire Moody did a presentation on bee-friendly plants. This will hopefully become a standard thing at each of our meetings. Claire had borage and buckwheat seeds for anyone who wanted some. And she followed that up with cleome starts for everyone. Thank you, Claire and Wes.

—Stan Scotton

#### Central Oregon Beekeepers

Things are booming here in Central Oregon. We had a great fruit tree bloom this year in the last couple of weeks of April, followed by a couple of weeks of cold drizzly weather. Now the swarms are coming like crazy. Both the wanted ones, and the ones due to our oversights. Currently, we have several trees blooming, dandelions, and in the native realm, the bitterbrush is doing wonderfully. In April, we had a wonderful talk by Rich Little on all things Mason bee. We had many community members attending. Next up, in May we'll be discussing swarms (mechanics/avoiding/capturing, etc.) and splits. Also, in June, we've asked Dewey Caron for our Summer Seminar to discuss Africanized honey bees and medicines of the hive.



We've been following up our classroom bee school in March with several field hive inspection demonstrations. There's been lots of interest in the practical side of beekeeping. Finally, we're just starting to publicize next year's Oregon Master Beekeeper class, and hopefully we'll have another great class starting up. Enjoy the changing seasons (especially as summer comes). —Allen Engle

### John Day River Beekeepers

Spring is moving along fast in the John Day River Basin. The weather for the most part has been spectacular, with above average temps and lots of great flying weather. We had a very productive fruit bloom, followed by bitterbrush. The bees have been building up great, and I have been getting swarm reports from across the region since April 15th. Right now nectar is pouring in from mustard and black locust. Clovers and trefoil will be following soon.



New John Day River beekeepers sharing a hive inspection for their first time while others watch and share stories.

We had a field day April 30th with 20 people attending. We talked briefly about equipment and biology before lighting smokers, donning protective equipment, and heading to the bee yard. We installed nucs into deep hive bodies and talked about different methods of feeding a growing hive. We looked at healthy brood patterns, and everyone got to see a queen. We hefted hives for weight, looked at cluster sizes, and inspected several hives to check queen status.

Our next field day is planned for June 4th. The focus will be on equalization and building nucs.

—Matt Allen

### Lane County Beekeepers

In May, the meeting topic was timely, with a presentation by Ken Ograin on Reading Frames/Preparing for Honey Flow. The blackberry vines in the lower elevations, along the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers, are swelling, and a predicted early honey flow is likely to happen.

The June meeting will cover the serious subject of Honey Bee Diseases. Morris Ostrofsky will present this topic on June 21. The club had a large number of new members join this year, and the importance of being aware of the threats to the

honey bee is essential for successful beekeeping.

We continue to be active in the community with requests from various organizations asking us to set up a booth at their event. We participated in the Cottage Grove Earth Celebration in April, the Wildflower Festival at Mt. Pisgah in May, the Farm Festival at the Children's Museum and Science Factory in May, and plan to be at the Eugene Pro-Rodeo Kids Day in June.

There have been lots of swarms, thus a number of calls to members on our swarm list. It is good to have people to call when the "desperate call" comes from a home or business owner who is "freaked out" from the presence of the bees.

I hope your bees are healthy, your hives strong, and the ladies are staying home!

—Pam Leavitt

### Linn-Benton Beekeepers

"The flow is on!" This phrase is music to our ears. In Corvallis, some of the first open blackberry blossoms were sighted on May 7th along a sunny, east-facing bank of the Willamette River.

*On a joyous day in early May, a pair of kind beekeepers were married. In anticipation of the celebration, one of the groom's hives swarmed the morning of. How fortuitous! Congratulations, Jen and Dan!*

During our April meeting, a club member spoke about his recent surprise allergic reaction to stings incurred while gathering a swarm. First and foremost, we are thankful that Ray is alive and well, with his sense of humor and zest for beekeeping clearly intact! He in turn thanks his wife and the EMTs at their nearby fire station for their good sense and expertise. From this experience, he offered these

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reminders: (1) When beekeeping, use the buddy system. (2) If your reaction to a sting is at all unusual, tell someone right away. Self-monitoring your symptoms lets precious time pass by. (3) Know the route to the nearest fire station. When the hospital is too far away, the EMTs at the fire station can be the game changer.

Our main speaker that evening was local beekeeper and wasp whisperer Dan Scollard. With catching enthusiasm, he explained hornet and yellow jacket biology, their ecological roles, and how to help our colonies fend them off. Dan has a wasp-collecting business for venom extraction and travels throughout Oregon to render this free service. In May, Lane County and Linn-Benton team up for a field day at OSU's apiary. Dewey Caron is presenting at the June meeting.

—Laurie Bowman

### Portland Metro Beekeepers

Our Bee day was another success (thank you weather and all the volunteers!). Ramesh Sagili, Dewey Caron, and George Hansen all gave wonderful talks and all were rated 9s and 10s in our feedback forms!



George Hansen (left) and Harry Vanderpool (right) talk bees during Bee Day. Photos by Jan Lohman.

We had 16 volunteers at our demonstration hives. George and Matt Hansen gave a surprise demonstration of a new way to count mites. This involved a light dose of CO<sub>2</sub> to temporarily knock out the bees and also the mites.

At our May meeting, Andy Rapp showed us hive equipment he designed and built. I think it is fair to say that he created a sensation in the group. He showed how he has tested his concept of preventing the circulation

of dead moist air in the hive, creating a natural chimney effect to pull moisture out of the hives and help the colonies to stay healthy all winter. He has not lost a hive in over 6 years. Thank you, Andy!!

President Joe Maresh led a discussion of swarm prevention, raising queens both with a traditional split and a split method developed in Europe. We also talked about other queen issues.

Other topics included bringing Randy Oliver to the NW in 2017, PUB's Tour De Hives, and our club's Mite Treatment classes which will be free to all our club members on June 25th and 26th.

—Paul Jarrett

### Portland Urban Beekeepers

Portland Urban Beekeepers President Bill Catherall started things off reminding those not on the swarm list to register as this is the month for swarms.

Glen Andresen shared his monthly Pollen & Nectar report. In addition to his advice on using mouse guards with your hives, Glen took us through annuals, perennials, shrubs, vines, and flowering trees that are contributing to this year's record honey flow. For a more-detailed report, check out [bridgetownbees.com](http://bridgetownbees.com) for Glen's monthly "What's in bloom" report.

Our featured speaker was Professor Dewey Caron, who explored best practices when caring for your hives during the month of May. He also gave us a presentation on swarm control offering up many different solutions you can try out depending on your goals and how much work you want to put into it.

We're just 6 weeks from Tour De Hives 2016, which is the weekend of June 25-26! This is our yearly fundraiser and PUB's best opportunity to introduce Portlanders to the art and science of beekeeping. Tickets now on sale now so please spread the word to all your friends.

—Scott Macdonald

### Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers continue to be busy

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supporting experienced and beginning beekeepers. Lots of good stories about swarms, although some swarms seem to be queenless. Members are active in offering presentations on pollinators and beekeeping to local school groups.

At our May meeting, we enjoyed an excellent presentation on Supporting Native Pollinators and Mason Bees from local specialist Ron Spental. Dr. Dewey Caron will introduce the group to queen rearing practices at our next meeting at 6 PM on June 28.

—Debby Garman

**Willamette Valley Beekeepers**

All beekeepers in the valley continue to be very busy trying to stay on top of things. Swarming began very early again this year. After a bit of a break, swarm calls are now coming in again. Nectar flow was very strong this spring. Some hives made a super of maple honey this spring. A couple of people are already asking for the

association's extracting equipment to extract this spring's honey. Others have been making splits.

Willamette Valley Beekeepers Bee Day was very well attended. We had some great weather to inspect hives. We also got to demonstrate how to make splits. Thanks to Steven Coffman for hosting. We hosted the Bee Booth at Ag Fest this year at the Oregon State Fairgrounds. It was a great opportunity to educate the public about bees and beekeeping. Thousands of people visited the Bee Booth.

—Richard Farrier

Willamette Valley Bee Day. Photos by Todd Haun.



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## KEEPING BEES IN JUNE

### The Joys Of June In The Beeyard

*Jan Lohman*

#### Supering

Always think positively about your bees and super generously for the colonies that are in production mode in June. As an added bonus, it gives them additional room to help with the swarming situation. If most of your hives are making honey, but several are not, it is a great time to identify the hives doing badly and rebuild or requeen the hives that are failing. As honey supers fill, you can either pull the full supers off and replace with an empty super or pile supers on to make sure that there is adequate space for the bees to store their honey.

#### Hive Inspections

Do not over inspect your hives. Many hobbyists inspect too often and disturb the bees unnecessarily. You can observe bee flight and check supers as an alternative to getting into your bees, and only go into the hive and check for eggs and the queen's brood pattern every three or four weeks to be sure that your queen is doing her job. When you find a hive that is in need of care, watch for supersedure cells and spotty brood patterns; they will tell you that the queen needs to be replaced. Emergency cells tell you she has failed already and is no longer present in the hive. If you have a nuc on hand, you can easily remedy the problem.

#### Nucs

Build a few nucs during the summer to use as queen replacements in your apiary. You can do this with a nuc that you have built with frames of bees, brood, and a queen or queen cell, or you can allow a nuc to develop a queen

on its own by putting frames of young eggs, shakes of bees, and pollen and honey in a nuc box and leaving it alone for a month to see what develops.

#### Frame Replacement

Frame replacement is an asset to your hive and the honey flow is a great time to draw out foundation. Remember that foundation mirrors the frames that it is next to in the hive, so be mindful of where it is placed to maximize the new frames.

#### Be Neighborly

Try to be a good steward of honey bees by being considerate of neighbors if you are in close quarters, and also be kind to fellow beekeepers. Treat others like you would like to be treated. Try to avoid spray damage by creating a working relationship with your neighbors and your growers, and respond promptly when notified of an upcoming problem.

#### Pollination

Many commercial beekeepers have their bees in pollination in the summer and are placed there because of demand, not for a viable honey location. Depending on where in the Pacific Northwest you are located, beekeepers are in pollination or getting their bees ready to move into pollination situations like Central Oregon Seed's vegetable seed crops, or melon fields, red clover, hybrid radish seed, onion seed, and caneberry crosses like marionberries or watermelons in Eastern Oregon.

#### Varroa

Finally, last but not least . . . Varroa mites are still the number one plague to beekeepers. Know your mite levels by using either a sugar roll or an alcohol wash—you can find these demonstrated on YouTube—and use approved methods of control when treatments are needed, giving consideration to temperature and presence of your honey supers.

*Don't Forget to Enjoy Your Bees!*

**"Nation's Beekeepers Lost 44 Percent of Bees in 2015-16."** See: <https://beeinformed.org/>, especially as related to summer losses and Varroa and . . .

#### CLASSIFIED AD

FOR SALE: Kelly beehive loader, \$2300; Fager wax melter, \$1600; Better Way wax melter, \$300; escape boards, \$12 each; drip trays, \$2 each. Call for details: (541) 456-2631. Blodgett, OR.

#### DONATING FOR THE BEES

There are many ways to contribute to honey bee research today. Among others, they include the **Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education**, the **OSBA Research Fund**, the **Agricultural Research Foundation**, and the **Herman A. Scullen Memorial Fellowship Fund**.

See your 2016 *Membership Directory* (pages 42–43) for details on how to ensure that donations go the way funds as intended.



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**Minutes—Continued from page 3**

**Association.** They started a new program, issuing scholarships to students training in the area for the Apprentice level of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. Students must adopt two hives from the club apiary, Zenger Farm, for the duration and return them at the end of the program. Upon completion of the training, PUB will help cover program fees. Tour De Hives will be June 25 in SE Portland and June 26 in N, NE Portland. It is a self-guided tour of Portland area backyard apiaries.

Paul Andersen, speaking for **Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association.** They have between 80 and 90 members in attendance at their meetings. Bee school in late February had about 60 people in attendance. The Oregon Master Beekeeper class had 12 people in attendance. This year they purchased 152 nucs for the club.

**Old Business**

**Club Affiliation Fees:** Reviewed fees and Paul Andersen agreed to contact associations reminding them of the annual dues and requirements, and report back to OSBA. Harry discussed setting up an annual due date with invoices mailed to clubs in January, with a payable date in February (so any changes in board members and officers are up to date).

**Oregon Department of Agriculture Division 55 Rules, Apiary Registration:**

A reminder that all owners of five or more colonies (nucs not included), regardless of private or commercial operations, located within the state of Oregon are required to register their hives and pay fees. We discussed the need to let associations know again about this new rule and new forms must be filled out. Due date June 1, 2016. For information regarding licenses and/or form completion questions: Agency Licensing Unit phone number is (503) 986-4600. The ODA website is: [www.oregon.gov/oda](http://www.oregon.gov/oda).

**OSBA Website:** Harry has been working on contacting interested parties in regards to our Website committee, forms/links, and monitoring information.

**Liability Insurance for Events:** Harry is



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asking any regional association with questions to contact him directly. Liability insurance is covered for regional association qualifying/legitimate events. Events must be posted on the association's website, in their regional newsletter, or in notices sent out their members. The OSBA insurance agent can issue a proof of insurance certificate. To do so, the group will need to contact Harry and provide date of event, name (contact person), and location site (venue location) of said event and which OSBA regional association is sponsoring the event. The suggestion was made of letting associations know of the importance of this information and a reminder that it is at no cost to regional associations.

**New Business**

**OSBA 2016 Fall Conference:** OSBA Fall Conference at the Oregon Garden- October 28, 29, and 30, 2016. Jason Rowan was unable to attend today's board meeting. Harry said he will submit an updated tentative agenda for next month's *Bee Line*.

Harry informed us of checking into another event site possibility in Bend, called the Riverhouse. Jason Rowan and Harry plan to drive over and take a look. An email to our board members will update us. Seaside and the Oregon Garden are both great options and have had great turnouts in past years. Harry will get more information for us to compare our options for future fall conference choices (2017 and beyond).

**OSBA Events Coordinator:** Trevor Riches has done "Breeder and Shipper of Northern Calif. Italian Queens"

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a fantastic job helping organize our Oregon State Fair Booth. Thank you, Trevor. Trevor has stepped down from his position as event coordinator, so we are sending out our request for recruiting a new chairperson to fill this position. Fred Mann has let us know he is willing to help out with running the event booth. Please notify Harry of any interested persons as the Oregon State Fair is fast approaching and we'd hate to not have representation from OSBA this year. Harry will send out emails to each association. Carolyn Breece has agreed to contact "Journey level" Oregon Master Beekeeper participants in regards to helping with filling this much-needed position. Interested parties, please contact Carolyn.

**Policies & Procedures for OSBA Regional Associations:** It has been brought to our attention that we are in need of better training and guidelines for our OSBA associations in terms of how we pass on this information to each club and new board members as they change from time to time. Jeff Milligan has begun setting up guidelines with help from Harry, Jan Lohman, Max Kuhn, Cheryl Housden, Stan Scotton, Anne Schatz, and Joe Maresh. Jan requested a "reminder" of deadlines could also be printed in *The Bee Line*. We all agreed on how important it is for each individual club to know which forms, fees, taxes etc., and due dates for each. Also we

will try to get blank form copies of each requirement for example/reminders.

Jan Lohman asked Rosanna to write a thank you for the DeWayne Keller - Honey Bee Research Memorial Fund and the Keller Family for their kind donations to the Honey Bee Lab at Oregon State University. DeWayne Keller was an Oregon beekeeper and had attended many meetings. His wife Maxine had suggested friends and family to donate gifts to the OSU Honey Bee Lab.

Jan informed the board of balances from the Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education, Expendable Funds, OSU Apiculture Fund, and Herman A. Scullen Memorial Fellowship Fund, which goes towards an OSU graduate student in the Horticulture Department.

The next Oregon State Beekeepers Association Board Meeting will be held on July 16, 2016 @ 1:00 PM.

Jan Lohman made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Paul Andersen. Meeting adjourned @ 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary

**Whatever happened to Question of the Month?**  
No questions! Should there be one, please send to:  
osba.newsletter@gmail.com



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

**Jeff Milligan, PO Box 20548, Keizer OR 97307-0548**

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

Do not include contact information

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) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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~ **Reminder:** The date on the mailing label is the expiration date for membership. ~  
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***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](mailto:osba.newsletter@gmail.com). It's *your* newsletter—we want to hear from you!

The next issue to be printed will be the July issue, 2016. The deadline for submitting copy is **June 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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