



The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org
OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM
A Joint Venture of OSBA and the
Oregon State University Extension Service
info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org

Image above: The Columbia Gorge Beekeepers Association celebrates bees with a winning float in a parade on the Fourth of July.

Note: Proposed changes to the OSBA Constitution and Bylaws appear on pages 13 and 14. Please take a moment to review!

Honey Bee Pollen Foraging Fidelity Related to the Pollination of Meadowfoam in the Willamette Valley

Ann Watkins

Preface

The author of the article to follow, Ms. Ann Watkins, is an Oregon State University senior enrolled in the OSU Honors College. A requirement for Honors students is to conduct research under the mentorship of an OSU faculty member. A few years ago, Ms. Watkins enrolled in the beekeeping class taught by Dr. Ramesh Sagili. This course was a motivational factor that instilled in her a desire to conduct her senior research project on some aspect of honey bees. She also took the Honors College class "Thesis Undertake" where I was a co-instructor. After she discovered that I am also a *bee person*, she approached me to discuss her senior research project. In collaboration with Dr. Sagili, we recommended to Ms. Watkins that she look at a real-life pollination situation and determine the value of the honey bee to the grower. What follows is an abstract of her senior research thesis that looks at the ultimate value of renting honey bees for meadowfoam pollination.

Michael Burgett

Emeritus Professor of Apiculture

Limnanthes alba, commonly known as meadowfoam, was developed as a commercial seed oil crop in the early 1970s by researchers at the Oregon State University Agricultural Experiment Station. The seed oil has long chain fatty acids that make it stable at higher temperatures and potentially a good lubricant. The oil is also a quality emollient without being greasy. Since the oil is a stable lipid, it can be formulated into a variety of products without concern of spoilage. *Limnanthes* seed oil is often used in products for hair and skin care, makeup products such as lipstick, and a pigment improver in industrial work. The crop is popular among farmers in the Willamette Valley because it may be part of a double-cropping system, allowing farmers to diversify their workload and risks.

Limnanthes alba, a plant species native to the western U.S., blooms in late spring. Many meadowfoam growers opt to have supplemental pollination to increase seed yield. *Apis mellifera*, the western honey bee, is typically used to commercially pollinate meadowfoam. The flowers open around 55°F, which is the minimum ambient temperature required for honey bees to forage. The presence of commercial hives is insurance for the farmer that there will be a large number of pollinators available to pollinate. This helps maximize overall pollination and seed yield for *L. alba*. The objective of my study was to examine the pollen fidelity of honey bees employed for meadowfoam pollination.

A commercial grower of meadowfoam and a commercial beekeeper were contacted so that I might conduct my research in a real-life situation. Of the 120 commercial

Continued on page 12

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Today is a day that I look forward to every year. Yesterday, I baled the last bale of hay, and today, I removed the haying implements from the tractors and put them away for the year. After a week of haying, I can't wait to light a smoker!

All of this haying nonsense brings to mind powerful advice given in the first paragraph of the 1905 edition of *Advanced Bee Culture*, authored by W.Z. Hutchinson: "In reply to the query, 'What will mix best with beekeeping?' I have always replied, 'Some more Bees.'" Author Hutchinson then goes on at some length to suggest that, if one cannot make it in beekeeping alone, they should consider dropping bees and focus on the other endeavors that interest them. I will not be dropping bees in order to focus on hay; trust me!!

He continues, "General farming is very poorly adapted with beekeeping, yet the attempt is probably made oftener than with any other pursuit." No truer words were ever spoken in my opinion. And as a beekeeper, I have seen the dire consequences of "general farmers" attempting to set up their own honey bee hives to pollinate their crops in an attempt to avoid contracting pollination services. Those stories rarely end well.

Getting back to the hay, I have a great arrangement with my buyer. They remove every single bale from the fields, and I give them a slight price break for their timely and neat long-term relationship. They had the hay out of the fields this year the day after baling was complete and handed me a check as they drove away with the last load.

As I stood there waving goodbye, in a giddy mood with check in hand, a thought came over me: "Wait a minute! I could make this same amount of money in almonds with only a handful more pallets of bees!!" I went back to the house and dug out the book to refresh my mind of W.Z. Hutchinson's admonitions, and he hit me right between the eyes: "Drawing in a field of hay while the bees lie

idle because the honey has not been extracted to give them store room is another illustration of the conditions with which the farmer beekeeper has to contend. The serious part of it is that the honey thus lost may be worth nearly or quite as much as the hay that is saved."

Some great food for thought from the 1905 edition of *Advanced Bee Culture*, authored by W.Z. Hutchinson. I hope your honey crop is bountiful and bees are looking good!

Harry Vanderpool



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OSBA at the 2017 OREGON STATE FAIR

The OSBA has a booth at the Oregon State Fair! You can be part of the action by volunteering to staff the booth or by entering as an Exhibitor in the Products of the Hive category—or BOTH! The Fair runs from August 25 through September 4. This is a great opportunity to promote the importance of beekeeping and pollinator health to the general public, and we could use your help. Ideally, we will have members from our Oregon chapters hosting the booth each day. We will also need observation hives to display on a rotational basis.



If you have construction or exhibit experience, we could use your assistance to set up our exhibit in the 10-foot by 40-foot booth on August 24, and to tear down the exhibit on September 5. We need people of all levels of experience to interact with the public on Fair days. And if you know the ins and outs of observation hives, you can be part of a critical role to manage that important component of the exhibit. Volunteers get a *free pass to the Fair* for the day, *free parking*, and the *opportunity to promote bees and beekeeping* to the public.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact:

Yvonne Shaw: ylshaw76@gmail.com

To Volunteer

You can volunteer in two ways: With the rest of your bee club on the day assigned, or as part of a team of 4 people for a single shift.

Timing: The Fair runs from August 25th through September 4th. The time is 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM most days. Our booth will be in Columbia Hall. Each day is divided into three 4-hour shifts [10 AM–2 PM, 2 PM–6 PM, 6 PM–10/11 PM]. Each shift will have a Team Captain.

Group Sign Up: Club members who wish to volunteer as a group can go to orsba.org/fair-booth-signup to claim a day and register a Team Captain for each shift. The club president (or other person designated) will receive updates and further instructions from the event coordinator, Yvonne Shaw.

Alternatives: If you wish to volunteer on more than one day, or on a day that is different from your club day, you can. Simply gather 2 or 3 like-minded friends, designate a Team Captain and go online to sign up for a shift. Or contact Yvonne Shaw at ylshaw76@gmail.com to be assigned to a team.

All skill levels are welcome. This event also qualifies for Service Points if you are in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. In addition to general information about bees and beekeeping, the booth will feature a coloring station for kids and an observation hive.

To Exhibit

The Oregon State Fair has an area of judging called *Honey and Products of the Hive* in their Creative Living category. The Fair has both adult and youth categories. Registration is online, and you can find more information and download the competitor's handbook with the rules and classes at: orsba.org/2017-state-fair-honey-show. The handbook also has helpful tips for preparing your samples for judging.

Categories for Judging in the Honey and Products of the Hive Categories: Extracted Honey, Cut Comb, Chunk Comb, Creamed Honey, Artistic Beeswax (molded or dipped), Beeswax Block, Beeswax Candles, Photography of Bees and Beekeeping

Online Entry Deadline: 10 PM, August 1, 2017. Honey judging will take place on August 16 with Judge Marjorie Ehry. Although judging is closed to the public, the State Fair will post results online.

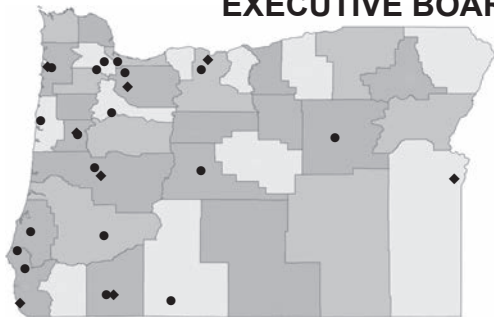
Dates to Submit Entries: Friday, August 11, NOON–6 PM; Saturday, August 12, 10 AM–3 PM

Dates to Pick Up Entries: Tuesday, September 5, NOON–7 PM; Wednesday, September 6, 10 AM–2 PM

Drop Off and Pick Up entries at the red gate on 17th Street and follow signs to Columbia Hall. Bring a copy of your online registration receipt.

Oregon State Beekeepers Association

EXECUTIVE BOARD AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS



OSBA OFFICERS

President: Harry Vanderpool
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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

Rita Ostrofsky, 541.685.2875; ostrofsky@pacinfo.com

• REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Central Coast Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, fourth Wednesday
Newport Library, 35 NW Nye St, Newport
Information: centralcoastbeekeepers@gmail.com
President: Rick Olson
541.997.3792; rolson2@attglobal.net
Co-Vice Presidents: Anne Schatz, Kathy Cope
Secretary: Becky Fain
Treasurer: Stan Scotton
Website: www.ccbaor.org; www.facebook.com/Central-CoastBeeKeepersAssociation

Central Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:00–7:30 PM (5:30 PM beginners' corner), fourth Tuesday (except November)
The Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas Ave, Bend
Information: contact@cobeekeeping.org
President: Allen Engle—aengle@bendbroadband.com
Vice President: Patricia Moreland—oregonpat@gmail.com
Secretary: Misty Lee
Treasurer: Steve Crawford
Website: www.cobeekeeping.org

Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

Meets 6:15–8:15 PM, third Wednesday, Rockford Grange,
4520 Barrett Rd, Hood River
President: Zip Krummel—541.490.0587, zipk@gorge.net
Vice President: James Lombardo
james.lombardo@gmail.com
Secretary: Pat Case
541.806.3052, patcase@gorge.net
Treasurer: Ramona Tamiyasu
541.490.8746, ramona@gorge.net
gorgebeekeepers@org

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

Douglas County Bees

Meets 7:00–8:00 PM, first Wednesday, Douglas County
Courthouse, 1036 SE Douglas Ave, third floor, Roseburg
Information: douglascountybees@gmail.com
President: Phil Moulton—503.349.8463
Secretary/Treasurer: Ivory Los Bonos
www.douglascountybees.org; www.facebook.com/DCBeekeepers

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, 6923 Washburn Way, Klamath Falls
 President: Paul Davitt
 president@klamathbeekeepers.org
 Vice President: John Wilda
 vicepresident@klamathbeekeepers.org
 Secretary: Robert Clements
 secretary@klamathbeekeepers.org
 Treasurer: Ray Rutler, treasurer@klamathbeekeepers.org
 Website: www.klamathbeekeepers.org

Lane County Beekeepers

Meets 7:30/6:00 PM early session, third Tuesday (except Dec)
 Trinity United Methodist Church, 440 Maxwell Rd, Eugene
 President: Max Kuhn
 541.999.0744; t.maxkuhn@gmail.com
 Vice President: Deb Elder
 541.854.5336; dgdeb.elder@gmail.com
 Secretary: Tamara Andreas
 541.406.0244; tandreas6@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Polly Habliston
 541.461.0339; polly@uoregon.edu
 Website: www.lcbaor.org

Linn-Benton Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third Wednesday
 Corvallis Waldorf School, 3855 NE Highway 20, Corvallis
 President: Everett Kaser
 541.924.9214; everett@kaser.com
 Vice President: Tim Wydronek
 Secretary: Laurie Bowman
 541.250.1006; secretary@lbba.us
 Treasurer: Suzi Maresh
 541.967.9607; suzi@lbba.us
 Website: www.lbba.us

Oregon Prison Beekeepers

Sustainability Program Manager: Chad Naugle
 503.373.7544; Chad.E.Naugle@doc.state.or.us

Oregon South Coast Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 PM, third Tuesday
 OSU Extension Office, Fairgrounds in Gold Beach
 President: Brad Remsey
 330.980.6125; bradleeremsey79@aim.com
 Vice President: Harvey Young
 541.661.0031; fishhawk51@hotmail.com
 Secretary: Shelley Pottmeyer
 shelleypottmeyer@yahoo.com
 Treasurer: Barbara Fitts
 541.698.0300; bgfitts@gmail.com

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, second Thursday
 Gladstone Senior Center, 1050 Portland Ave, Gladstone
 President: Rex McIntire
 503.720.7958; remcintire_5@msn.com
 Vice President: Doug Sieckmann
 503.804.5417; forty2chev@aol.com
 Secretary: Gary Barnard
 503.898.0301; gary@dranrab.com

Treasurer: Mike Hainley
 503.341.0344; hainleyfam@gmail.com
 Website: portlandmetro.org

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Meets 7:00–9:00 PM, first Wednesday
 Rose City Park United Methodist, 5830 NE Alameda, Portland
 For information, e-mail: officers@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
 President: Bill Catherall—503.572.6467
 president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
 Vice President: William Roll
 vice-president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
 Secretary: Simone Miller
 secretary@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
 Treasurer: Amanda Shaw
 treasurer@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
 Website: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 7:30–9:00 PM, first Monday (demos, 6:30 PM), 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: Kate Womack
 602.321.6901; k8womack@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)
 OSU Extension Office, 4506 3rd St, Tillamook
 President: Claire Moody
 503.318.9149; claire@vanirmail.com
 Vice President: Rick Stelzig—rstelzig@charter.net
 Secretary: Kathy Cope
 541.264.9222; beachwalkinlady@hotmail.com
 Treasurer: Terry Fullan
 503.368.9149; tfullan@nehalem.tel.net

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Meets 6:00–8:00 PM, last Tuesday, Jessie Mays Comm Hall, 30975 NW Hillcrest Street, North Plains (except Jul & Dec)
 Contact: tualatinvalleybeekeepers@gmail.com
 President: Debby Garman
 503.318.5227
 Vice President: Yvonne Shaw
 Secretary: Laura Stein-Weidner
 Treasurer: Julie Schmidkofer
 Web: http://tvba.weebly.com/

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, fourth Monday, Chemeketa Community College, Building 8, Room 201, Salem
 President: Richard Farrier
 541.327.2673; rfarrierfarms@gmail.com
 Vice President: Mona Kanner
 Secretary: Shelley Growell
 Treasurer: Laura Evans
 Website: http://wvbahive.org



BEE EVENTS

July 14 (10 AM–12 PM): Epi-pen training class at Zenger Farm. \$30 per person. *Information:* andy@zengerfarm.org

July 29 (9 AM–4:00 PM): Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association Beginning Beekeeper Class. *Information:* www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org/news-and-events/fall-bee-school

August 19: Oregon Honey Festival. Ashland. Honey/Mead Producers/Vendors Wanted. *Information:* www.oregonhoneyfestival.com

August 25–September 4: Oregon State Fair. *Information:* https://oregonstatefair.org

August 26 (7–10:30 pm): “Hive to Table Dinner,” fundraiser for the Bee Girl organization. *Information:* www.hive2table.eventbrite.com

September 5–8: Western Apicultural Society of North America 2017 40th Anniversary Conference, UC-Davis. *Information:* www.westernapiculturalsociety.org

October 27–29: OSBA Fall Conference. The Oregon Garden.

November 14–16: CSBA Annual Convention. Lake Tahoe. *Information:* www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/events.html

January 9–13, 2018: American Beekeeping Federation Conference and Tradeshow. Reno, Nevada. *Information:* https://abfconference.com

REGIONAL NEWS

Note: For all groups, see pages 4–5 for meeting time and place, website, and/or contact information. All groups invite and welcome visitors to join them at meetings! In addition, regional associations often offer opportunities for learning, many of which are posted on their websites as well as in these pages.

Regional Representatives

North Coast

We have been having really great weather for the Central Oregon Coast—sunny, temperatures in sixties and sometimes even into the seventies—until this morning when I woke up to rain on the deck, grass, and street.

If you are in the Journey portion of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, as I am, you know about the emails we get from Rita, Carolyn, and now Jen about opportunities to acquire public service points. One of my favorites is education to non-OMB participants. Yesterday I was able to do an orientation and short beekeeping experience with a potential new beekeeper. I find it so rewarding to see the potential beekeeper enjoy their first exposure to the bees.

Both bee clubs on the North Coast have been busy. At the June meeting of the Tillamook County group, the discussion centered around swarms, corn pollen, and one of the members having local queens for sale. The corn pollen issue will be pursued at a future meeting dedicated to just that topic. The

big news however is the change of venue. With attendance running at forty-five or more, we had to move our meetings. At our first meeting at the Extension Office, we had fifty-one attendees. That meeting was centered on recordkeeping and, by extension, hive inspections. Claire Moody organized it, Jim Fanjoy was the major presenter with Garrick Gordon and myself discussing what we use and do.

Central Coast had Ken Ograin present his class on Reading Frames (and Preparing for Honey Flow) at their last meeting. Thank you Ken, great class and lots of insights into beekeeping as well. Kathy Cope, a member of both



Max Kuhn (right) with garden visitor and observation hive.

Tillamook and Central Coast, organized a Garden Festival at the Connie Hansen (nonprofit) Garden in Lincoln City. She was a presenter, and Max Kuhn and I staffed the outside information area. Thank you to Max for bringing his observation hive. If you have never visited the Connie Hansen Garden, I encourage

you to do so. The bees you see are mine. All my bees know where the Connie Hansen Garden is. *Stan Scotton*

South Coast

A/C Bees are what make the circ-U-lation work in the hive. “You will see them at the entrance,” Dr. Dewey M. Caron noted recently during Bee Day at OSCBA, “on one side they are fanning toward the hive and at the other, away.” A day of learning such basic observations was demystifying and satisfying for those who attended. When it comes to mimicking aspects of the bee trees, it’s not the cold, it’s the moisture that the bees need help with for overwintering, he explained, and then told of basic means of providing an absorptive hive quilt at the top and testing it for effectiveness by checking with the hand that it is wicking up the moisture to the top and is dry at the bottom. In the morning session, he spoke to the beekeepers about improving overwintering success and went over the graphs made from the survey results from statewide and coastal statistics, which are online at: www.pnwhoneybeesurvey.com.

Methods of Varroa mite monitoring and treating were attentively received, along with the mite counting challenge. After potluck and sun break, the focus turned toward meeting the challenges to the pollinators and methods of improving their success. Our youngest beekeeper, Daniel Strom, was the most successful in calculating the number of honey bees covering one side of a deep frame

in a photograph. Daniel has been working on establishing the first of the area 4-H Beekeeping club, along with his enthusiastic mentor, Harvey Young, who is applying for the new program.

Even a local cranberry grower attended this first Bee Day here to consider keeping his own honey bee pollinators. It was and “Ace” of a “Bee” Day and is already inspiring plans for one at another time of the year. Curry County Fair is returned to the last weekend of July, moving back from the past two years at the end of August, the time of the Oregon State Fair. Honey judging is at this southwesternmost fair for the first time, developing from the enthusiasm stirred during that portion of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program here. Instructor Barbara Fitts and I entered the competition into the Exhibitors Handbook, and she and one of the students are judges. We will be improving the competition for next year from two of the models recommended by Dewey, Oregon State Fair and Lane County. The beekeeping group in Curry County is still young, less than a half dozen years, while the Coos Group has been growing for years longer and participated in helping with the development of the southernmost sister group.

Mureen Walker

Regional Associations

Central Coast Beekeepers

We’re finally getting sustained summer weather here on the coast. Hopefully the late rain hasn’t altered the quality of the blackberry nectar for the bees like it did last year. I’ve seen a few honey bees foraging shoulder to shoulder with the bumble bees on the Himalayans. We might get another two or three weeks of blackberry forage at this rate.

Ken Ograin of the Lane County Beekeepers gave a talk on reading frames at our last meeting—valuable info for the beginner as well as the experienced beekeeper. Keep the colony healthy, the population strong, and make sure you have a strong healthy queen. Ken covered swarm prevention, Varroa, chalk brood, Nosema, PMS, DWV, tracheal mites, and K-wing. He also analyzed frames that members had brought in. We all got a deeper understanding what’s inside the hive and how to keep our bees strong and healthy.

At our next meeting, we’ll be demonstrating honey extraction. Max Kuhn and Jon Sumpter will be covering all aspects of retrieving liquid gold from our hives. If you can spare it bring in a frame or two to donate to the club honey stores. We’ll have a refractometer available for measuring the water content.

Our outreach this year has been phenomenal. We had a booth at the Connie Hansen Garden Festival in Lincoln

City. Three of our club members, Kathy Cope, Patty Johnson, and Jon Sumpter gave a beginner bee class at the Newport Library. Max Kuhn and I gave a talk at the Summer Youth Program for the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Tribes. We saw a lot of excitement around the demo hive—new pupal beekeepers! We will be staffing booths at the Lincoln County Fair, August 18th–20th.

Rick Olson

Central Oregon Beekeepers

Aaaah, heaven on earth. And not just living in Central Oregon. With the nice weather and good blooms, the girls are working so hard, they aren’t noticing us digging into the hives. We’re all interested to see, with all the replacement hives this year, what the overall honey production is. One nice attribute with the replacement hives is that we aren’t seeing legacy mite issues, but can start the mitigation from scratch. Swarm season was slow this year. We’re thinking it was due, to a great extent, to the feral colonies dying during last winter. Structural removals haven’t decreased quite as dramatically; however, there have been fewer. We’re also having an unusual number of late June and early July requeening needs. We’re thankful to a local beekeeper with queens as well as some from California.

In June, Dr. Sagili from OSU talked to us about mites, as well as a discussion about the whys of hive equalization, current research, and an inspection demo. In July, Matt Allen of Apricot Apiaries will be talking to us about requeening, when to and when not to, and in August, we’ll be having our annual picnic social. As always, please feel free, and invited, to attend any of our meetings.

Allen Engle

Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

The Columbia River Gorge is finally looking like summer. Tough, sometimes, to get into hives when the wind is 15 mph or higher, but our girls are definitely doing their “thing.” Blackberries are in bloom, weeds are blooming, many home flower beds are in color, all food for our hives. It still appears to be a nectar-rich, pollen-poor year so far, but we are hopeful. Our membership is up to 41 and we are delighted about the growing interest in beekeeping and pollinators.



We had a great float in the local 4th of July Parade, won Best of the Non-Profit—all the little flitting bees running up to people really helped. This month for our general

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meeting we have our Secretary, Pat Case, presenting on last year's OSBA Conference to get people interested for this year's conference, and Charlie VandenHeuvel, our Director of Education and Events, will be presenting on the correct way(s) to do a hive inspection; both will be educational and entertaining. Next month we have Jan Lohman presenting on Commercial Beekeeping. Now to get ready for County Fair . . .

Zip Krummel

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Summer has finally arrived in the Klamath Basin; it went from cold to hot overnight it seems. Many hives were delayed this year with their build-up due to the lack of early bloom.

We had a wonderful field day for old and new members hosted by our vice president, John Wilda, at our last monthly meeting. We inspected hives, showed how mite sampling should be done, and showed a proper oxalic acid vapor treatment. We will repeat this this month again for our monthly meeting.

The school education project is still in full swing and we have visited 25 classes over the last 2 months. That is over 700 children that have learned the importance of honey bees as pollinators and how to distinguish between wasps and bees. Various summer camps and summer schools are still to come. Katharina Davitt completed her book for the school bee education program called *Black and Fuzzy is so Lovely*. This 32-page book will go into print soon as we are still in the fund-raising process for the printing

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Bee Culture

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

12 BIG ISSUES
1 Beekeeping Calendar

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cost. Every child taking our bee education class will receive a free copy including an achievement certificate for completing the class. We will be representing our club and the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program at the upcoming Klamath County Fair and the Oregon Honey Festival in Ashland.

Paul Davitt

Lane County Beekeepers

Lane County beekeepers are busy these days. We have the normal beekeeping chores of pulling off honey supers, extracting the honey, and treating the colonies for Varroa mites. In addition, July is the Lane County Fair, where we expect several entries in the "products of the hive" contests from LCBA Beekeepers.

But we also have a busy "PLAY" schedule for August. August 5th we are having a club picnic at a local park with lots of good eats, recreation, and visiting with fellow beekeepers. We are expecting a large turn-out for all the fun and food.

Then later in the month comes the Oregon State Fair. This year Oregon Beekeepers will participate in the Fair by staffing the OSBA-sponsored beekeeping display. The display booth is located inside at Columbia Hall on the State Fair grounds. We at LCBA will be hosting the display on Sunday, August 27th. We will have club members staffing the booth all day that day. That will amount to a very fun-filled and exciting day for the beekeepers lucky enough to work in the booth. No matter which day you choose to visit the State Fair, please stop by the OSBA beekeeping booth and say hi to the beekeepers working there. A pat on the back might be in order also as they are all volunteers, of course, and a "thank you" goes a long way. Best wishes to all Oregon Beekeepers, hope your summer is going just the way you like it. *Max Kuhn*

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

The Tualatin Valley Beekeepers have traded insulation for screens in a quest to ventilate the hives in this hot summer weather. New beekeepers hope to have a box or two of honey frames to run through the extractor at the Van Dyke farm, and experienced beekeepers will guide them through the process. The honey payoff for the harsh conditions and subsequent hard work this winter and spring is close enough to taste.

July was the annual bee day and picnic event at the Van Dyke farm near Hillsboro. The picnic always starts with a potluck meal on the lawn, then evolves into a tour of Diane Van Dyke's bee garden, a hive examination led by Dewey Caron, and finally a tour of the honey house. Participants learned how to extract honey in several

different ways, and see the extractor in action. July was the Washington County Fair. Members hosted the TVBA booth for a few hours and enjoyed the festive atmosphere. Members may also volunteer as beekeeping ambassadors at the Oregon State Fair in Salem in August–September. Either way, it’s a “fairly” captive audience of people who haven’t heard our stories yet, which makes it fun all around.

We will discuss controlling yellowjackets, wasps, and other flying invaders during our August 28 presentation by Robert Léger. We will also talk about Fall feeding, and getting ready for cooler temperatures. *Yvonne Shaw*

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Jen Holt from OSU gave an overview of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. She described the Apprentice, Journey and Master Certification process. She notes that there are also programs in Eastern Oregon and Idaho. The need for mentors is a limiting issue to fill the number of people who apply. John Rockrohr gave a class on using powdered sugar or using CO₂ to count mites in a hive. He had made his CO₂ outfit from dollar store items that works quite well. He also gave a nice summation of some basic beekeeping practices, useful for beginning and more advanced beekeepers. Our next meeting is our annual picnic.

This year again it will be held at the Max Patterson Park in Gladstone. This year the club is providing burgers, hotdogs, and buns, plus a local live music group. The picnic starts at 1 PM, Sunday, August 13th. Bring your own potluck, plates, and silverware. *Paul Jarrett*

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

At Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association’s last meeting Anna Ashby was recognized as an Outstanding Volunteer. Thanks to her for all her help at the Bee Schools, Bee Day, and mentoring other beekeepers. She is always finding good information on beekeeping and has a desire to teach others about honey bees.

We put together an order of excellent nucs from Foothills Honey. The members have been enjoying their beekeeping by having those nucs. After filling the second box, they are now filling a super of honey. A few of the members’ hives that swarmed had trouble requeening this spring. This came as no surprise with the wet spring that we had. It didn’t seem that there were many swarms in the area this year.

Members were reminded last meeting not to forget about tracheal mites. We can’t see them with our eyes, so it’s easy to forget about them. Also it’s time to take more samples to obtain Varroa mite counts. The WVBA July 24th meeting will be a pizza party. *Richard Farrier*

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KEEPING BEES IN AUGUST

The month of August may be one of the most important months for beekeepers. It is considered by most beekeepers as the 1st month of the “beekeeping” year. What you do in the month of August will set your bees up for the next year. So here are some tips that will set your bees (and you) up for success.

To start: pull all honey August 1st. NO exceptions. In a lifetime of beekeeping, with 20+ years in Oregon, I have never found an exception to this rule. Even though you may see things blooming, any honey made after August 1 belongs to the bees for winter stores.

What are we looking for when we complete inspections at this time of year? First off, check on food stores, ALL of them: sugar and pollen. By October 1st, you want that top deep mostly full. It never hurts to feed in the fall. You want those bees that are being raised now to be healthy. They are the girls going into winter, the “fat bees”. For the most part hives can be feed 2:1 sugar/water mix till October 1st. After that date the temperature tends to drop and feeding liquid becomes impossible. Plus we want food stored in the comb, it does no good sitting in feeder.

Another note on feeding: in Oregon, we are lucky, because there are pollen sources happening most of the year round. BUT, there are great benefits to feeding pollen patties in August-September.

Also check the queen: is the laying pattern good? You don't need to find her, but look to see what she is doing. If you don't like what you see, you COULD replace the queen now. More and more queens are becoming available later in the year. But I won't lie, replacing a queen in August is tricky at best. The best time to do so is in early July. So I would suggest that you plan to test out requeening in July next year and see what you think. It makes for STRONG hives the following spring that have less tendency to swarm. Plus, the quality of queens is better just after the summer solstice. Queen breeders also don't have as much pressure to produce as many queens later. ALL this adds up to better mated queens.

Pests?? After you remove the honey by August 1, you check your mite load. But at what point do you treat for mites??? This is a loaded and complex topic. In my opinion, the more important issue now is all the viruses/diseases that mites transmit. So ANY mite is an issue. Whether you choose to treat for mites is your choice. But consider: if you don't treat, your mite infested hive

will be weaker. Other bees in the area may well rob your hive out, and this will triple the mite load of otherwise healthy bees. So if you don't treat, you are putting pressure on the other bees in your area.

If you do choose to treat, do your mite drops now. Pick your method for mite drops; there are many on the market. Research and see what works best for you and the bees. Keep in mind weather/temperatures, as they need to be considered for some of the treatments. Remember to change it up. What worked last year may not work this year. Check your mite drop while treating to see if it is working.

Check for nosema. You can send samples into our local lab and have them checked if you like. That said, most blindly treat for it at this time of year. The data I have seen suggests that there are both advantages and disadvantages to treating. I tend to treat for it because I have seen many bees succumb to nosema during our winters, but it is ultimately your choice to treat or not.

Do you have foul brood? I think lots of people have forgotten about this pest, and it is the cause of many hive deaths. For foul brood maintenance and overall hive health, purge 25% of your older frames every year. Generally, you should do this purge in spring while bees are making lots of wax. And when you are doing inspections during the year, if you find a frame that might have signs of foul brood, pull it and replace it with a new frame. If you find foul brood in August, you have a few treatment options to choose from. Do a little research to see what you are comfortable with. And remember, these treatments only put foul brood in a dormant state—they do not kill it. The only way to kill foul brood is with a fire. The infected equipment needs to be burned.

And who can forget wasps?! Wasps can become an issue this time of year. The most effective way to control wasps starts much earlier than August. Honestly, put traps out in spring; every queen that is killed in spring means thousands of wasps that won't be around later in the year. There are traps and poisons on the market to control wasps. A little bit of research can give you a plan you are comfortable with. If you do have wasps, the other option is to use entrance reducers so that bees do not have as much area to protect. BUT, they also hinder the bees from cooling the hive. I don't think there is great answer for this issue, so focus on spring and early summer control. And don't forget that a strong and healthy hive is better able to defend itself.

Continued on page 13

Meadowfoam—Continued from page 1

honey bee colonies contracted to pollinate a 90 acre meadowfoam field in May 2016, six hives were fitted with pollen traps. Pollen was collected daily during the bloom period. Each day's pollen harvest was homogenized and examined under a microscope at 400 magnification to determine the proportion of *L. alba* pollen represented in the colony's overall pollen collection. In addition, three quadrats were placed in the field to determine daily bloom counts and create a bloom phenology record. This allowed me to determine the number of flowers with pollen available for each day during the bloom period. Temperature and humidity data loggers were used to record hourly data in the field.

The average pollen fidelity over the 19 day bloom period was 88.5% (see Figure 1). The first foraging day's data showed 93% of pollen was *L. alba*, while for the last day's pollen foraging it was 89%.

In this study, the grower's gross return was \$700/acre, while the pollination cost/acre was \$67/acre, accounting for 9.6% of the farmer's farm-gate value of the crop. The high pollen fidelity indicates that the grower made a wise choice in opting to utilize supplemental pollination. With an average daily meadowfoam pollen fidelity of 88.5% the



Figure 1: Pollen Fidelity of *L. alba* examined each day of data collection. These data show the *L. alba* proportion of total trapped pollen for the duration of the experiment.

honey bees concentrated on the intended crop and as a result pollination levels and plant reproduction were likely higher than they would have been if the crop had been pollinated solely by wild bees. We assume this experiment situation accurately represents the typical fidelity of *A. mellifera* to a commercial meadowfoam crop.

Acknowledgments: I wish to thank Mr. Wayne Keizer for allowing me access to his meadowfoam acreage and Mr. Mark Johnson for the use of his colonies for pollen trapping.

Keeping Bees—Continued from page 11

Last but not least: what did you plant this year that blooms later in the in summer for ALL pollinators? Everyone is losing foraging ground, help out and plant something that will feed pollinators in August and September.

Beekeeper with a lifetime of keeping bees

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION

The following changes have been proposed to the OSBA Constitution and Bylaws. Please take time to review them. They will be voted on at the General Membership Meeting (October 28, 2017) at the Fall Conference. Whether or not you are able to attend the conference, all members are invited to submit comments and questions. Send them to Mary Edwards at: bfamily@live.com. Copies of the full, current documents are in the Membership Directory.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE III Affiliation

[Remove: Section 1: Association Affiliation—The association is affiliated with the American Beekeeping Federation, Inc., by virtue of annual payment of hobbyist member dues as determined by the federation’s board of directors. By such dues payment, Oregon State Beekeepers Association claims all privileges associated with such affiliation and therefore represents all beekeepers in

Oregon for such purposes as the selection of delegates to the federation convention as well as any other matter or function relating to the federation.]

Section 2 **[Remove: 2; Insert: 1]:** Member Affiliation—The association encourages individual beekeepers to also **[Remove: also]** become members of and to support the American Beekeeping Federation, Inc., by submission of their own dues and/or contributions.

ARTICLE IV Membership

Section 1: Membership Categories—

Section 2: Branch Associations—The association shall recognize branch associations as follows: (A) Five or more paid members of Oregon State Beekeepers Association in any district of the state who wish to associate together and form a branch association may do so by submitting a list of all of its members and officers thus associated to the state association treasurer or secretary/treasurer **[Remove: or secretary/treasurer]** annually.

ARTICLE V Officers

Section 1: Officers—The officers of Oregon State Beekeepers Association shall consist of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and eight **[Remove: eight; Insert: nine]** regional directors. In the event that one person is elected as secretary and treasurer, he or she shall be known as secretary/treasurer. **[Remove: In the event that one person is elected as secretary and treasurer, he or she shall be known as secretary/treasurer.]**

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Section 2: Regional Directors—The eight regional directors shall be known as regional directors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, **[Change to: 8, and 9,]** and each shall have full voting privileges on the executive committee. All regional directors shall be current members of Oregon State Beekeepers Association. The eight **[Remove: eight; Insert: nine]** regional directors shall be elected from eight **[Remove: eight; Insert: nine]** different areas over the state, as follows:

(F) Regional director 6: Southern Oregon (Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lake Counties) **[Remove: Klamath and Lake Counties].**

[Add: (I) Regional director 9: Klamath Basin (Klamath and Lake Counties).]

ARTICLE VI Meetings Section

Section 4: Issues—Issues, except amendments to this constitution or its bylaws, shall be decided in meetings of the executive committee by a simple majority vote of the committee members then present and in good standing **[ADD: , or by electronic vote consisting of all members of the executive committee in good standing, decided by simple majority.]**

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I Membership Section 1: Membership—All applications for membership must be made to the treasurer or secretary/treasurer **[Remove: or secretary/treasurer]**, or the authorized representative, and must be accompanied by the annual dues.

Section 2: Dues—

(B) Honorary life members. Honorary life members shall freely **[Remove: freely]** participate in all activities of the state association **[Add: as do paid members]** and shall pay no dues to the state association . . .

ARTICLE II Duties of Officers

Section 3: Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer **[Re-**

move: or Secretary/Treasurer]—It shall be the duty of the secretary or secretary/treasurer **[Remove: or secretary/treasurer]** to: (A) ...

Section 4: Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer **[Remove: or Secretary/Treasurer]**—It shall be the duty of the treasurer or secretary/treasurer **[Remove: or secretary/treasurer]** to: (A) Maintain . . .



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Oregon State Beekeepers Association Membership Application

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:

Oregon State Beekeepers Association, Membership
4207 SE Woodstock Blvd, Ste 517, Portland, Oregon 97206

Date: _____ New Member Membership Renewal

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

Company name: _____

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

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Membership Directory: The OSBA respects the privacy of members. Please indicate contact information to be included in a directory mailed 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: \$ _____

Note: To renew or join online, please visit:

<http://osba2016.orsba.org/product/osba-membership/>

Thank you!

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The Bee Line

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May all bees and all bee keepers continue to enjoy this Summer of the 2017 Bee Season!

~ **Reminder:** The date on the mailing label is the expiration date for membership.
If the date is August 2017 (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 September issue, 2017. The deadline for submitting copy is **August 10, 2017**. 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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