



# The Bee Line

Volume 42

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Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

November–December 2017



Sharon Schmitz

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OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
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[www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org](http://www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org)

OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM  
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Oregon State University Extension Service*  
[info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org](mailto:info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org)

**Image above:** Marjie Ehry (left) and Virginia Webb judge honey entries during the 2017 Fall Conference Honey Show. For winners of this and the Oregon State Fair Honey Competition, see page 13.

**Thank you** to everyone—so many who made this year's conference such an enjoyable and successful learning experience. More about the conference next time.

## THE VOICES OF BEE CULTURE

*Claire Moody*

In September, the *Bee Culture* magazine put on a three-day event at their headquarters in Medina, Ohio. On a scale of one to ten, it was definitely a ten! It began on Friday with a tour of the A.I. Root Candle factory, and what an awesome experience that was. The making of candles and wicks is a fascinating process. Can you believe they have over 3000 “recipes” just for *wicks*?

In the evening, the seventy-five or so of us had the opportunity just to sit and chat with the speakers. The presentations began on Saturday, and I have twenty pages of notes. Not a single presentation was boring. I was going to try and pick just *one* interesting fact from each speaker, but that's impossible.

Dr. Jay Evans of the Beltsville Bee Research Lab spoke on viruses. Bees with viruses generally die at middle age. Feeding on the waste of fungi decreases the virus. He showed us a video of bees with deformed wing virus crawling to a patch of mushrooms 25 feet away. He also showed us a picture of a capped brood cell that looked like a “sunken muffin” with a lighter ring around the edge. That was a brood cell containing a larva with high Varroa count. The larva was already dead.

Then there was Jessica Louque. She works on honey bee research for the independent company that just finished the research study for the EPA on neonicotinoids. She gave us a mind-boggling amount of information on what it takes to do a scientific study. The only thing she reported about corn and neonicotinoids is that, in all the “cafeteria tests” they did with bees, corn was *always* the last choice.

Ann Harman spoke on cooking with honey and created a sauce right there before us. Think of honey as a *flavor enhancer* rather than a sweetener. Phil Craft shared some of the questions he gets. Tony Burnham of Urban Beekeeping fascinated us with the history and logistics of raising bees and bee awareness in Washington, DC. Clarence Collison's topic was “A Closer Look at Factors Affecting Queens Quality.” That was three pages of my twenty. Kim Lehman gave us a super enthusiastic introduction to “Working with Kids.” Oh, my goodness, what great ideas! She does workshops for libraries and school teachers all over the country. I bought her book, *Beekeeper's Lab: 52 Family-Friendly Activities and Experiments Exploring the Life of the Hive*.

That's not even close to a full report even of listing the speakers or the books I came home with, but surely it's time for me to stop. Not sure *Bee Culture* will do it again. It was advertised as a one-time only event. But if you are looking for great speakers to bring to Oregon for a special event, I sure can make some suggestions! I will be writing up my notes for my association. If you would like a copy, send me an e-mail. If you don't subscribe to *Bee Culture*, I highly recommend it. They have a relatively new magazine, *Bee Culture's BEEkeeping: Your First Three Years*. It's a quarterly.



**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

November and December are very special months in the beekeeping year for me.

After a long year of slugging away with weather, mud, queen issues, pest and disease management, hive movement, irregular sleep, drought, robbing, general bee work, and the rest. It is really nice to have a change of pace.

I love the smell of pine in the shop. Every year, there just has to be several days in a row with the smell of pine and fresh coffee in the morning. The sound of hammer and nails along with soft country music beckons. Calls on the phone from fellow beekeepers are a welcome addition.

Over many years, I have become hooked on the sounds and smell of welding. Oddly, the smell of cutting oil on the drill press and metal bandsaw give a comfortable, familiar feeling. My beekeeping year is not complete without this short period of turning ideas into working beekeeping tools and machinery.

This year, I am going to replace my “open carrier” differentials on my forklift with “electric locking” differentials. Yes, I will be very happy having this improvement on my forklift, but for right now I just look forward to doing the work!

Some of our fellow beekeepers pack up and fly to Hawaii for diversion. Why not?!!

One of the nicest things about this very enjoyable season is the slow, rising anticipation of the new beekeeping year that emerges as the winter continues.

The day finally comes in January to begin uncovering hives and grading for California almond pollination. The smell of that first smoker lit provides an unbelievable awakening of the beekeeping soul. It reminds me of how grateful I am to be a beekeeper. I could go on forever about this!


I hope that you have an enjoyable down time and holiday season this year.

Thank you for your hard work, your dedication to beekeeping and fellow beekeepers, the industry, and the Oregon State Beekeepers Association!

*Harry Vanderpool*

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## CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Thank you, outgoing OSBA Secretary **Mary Edwards**, for all your hours and *minutes*.

Welcome back, **Jan Lohman**, 2018 OSBA Secretary.

Thank you, **Rita Ostrofsky**, 2017 South Willamette Valley Regional Representative.

Welcome, **Tim Wydronek**, 2018 South Willamette Valley Regional Representative.

Thank you, **Sarah Red-Laird**, 2017 Southern Oregon Regional Representative.

Welcome, **Mysti Jacob**, 2018 Southwest Oregon Regional Representative.

Welcome, **Ray Rutler**, South Central Oregon Regional Representative.

Welcome back all other **Officers** and **Regional Representatives**. Thank You for all your good work!

## PolliNation

*Andony Melathopoulos*



It is hard to keep on top of all the initiatives associated with keeping pollinators healthy. These days, if you turn away for a busy summer of beekeeping you can be sure when you reemerge there will be a crop of interesting new programs, books, laws, science, and more. We are living through a truly dynamic moment in the history of bees and people, but to keep on top of it all is necessarily a full-time occupation.

*PolliNation* is a podcast about people making bold strides to improve the health of pollinators. Launched by Oregon State University in May 2017, it is designed to get a handle on what is new and interesting in the world of pollinator health. Each week we host a guest for a 30–45 minute conversation on the fascinating work they are doing on some corner of the pollinator health puzzle.

Over the past 30 episodes, we have talked to beekeepers, book authors, conservationists, landscapers, and scientists, as well people who are a little more off the beaten track (e.g., a sociologist, an artist, and a golf course superintendent). Listeners have told me the episodes pass the time as they drive, garden, or wash the dishes. The podcast is ecumenical, so while honey bees are frequently featured, there is also information on native bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Our favorite honey bee-only podcast is *kiwimana Buzz Beekeeping*.

There are two ways to listen to *PolliNation*:

The easiest way is to subscribe to episodes directly on your

phone using iTunes or an equivalent Android app (e.g., Pocket Casts, Google Play Music, Stitcher, Spotify). To subscribe, just type “PolliNation” into the search bar and hit subscribe. Once subscribed to the podcast, you will get a free new episode downloaded to your phone each Monday morning, allowing you to download while in Wi-Fi range and listen while you are out of range without using data.

You can also go directly to the website [<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/pollinationpodcast/>], where you are able to stream whichever episode you like.

## UCR 2018 Registration Delayed

*UCR Board of Directors*

The Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) Board of Directors is delaying until further notice the start of the 2018 registration period while the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) completes the rulemaking process for 2018 fees. Due to this unanticipated further delay, UCR is recommending to all states that the enforcement period for 2018 compliance not begin until 90 days after the final rulemaking is published.

The fee levels being proposed are based on a recommendation submitted by UCR to the FMCSA in March 2017 to reduce fees for carriers at all levels by 9% in 2018.

Until further notice, please do not submit any carrier fees or forms for the 2018 registration year (online or paper forms). If received prior to the final rulemaking, your fees and forms will be returned. Carriers should expect a further notice soon.



## OREGON HONEY FESTIVAL

*Marjie Ehry*



The third Oregon Honey (and Mead) Festival hosted by Cascade Girl Organization was a great success. It was held August 19th at the Ashland Elks Lodge with approximately 500 people attending the

one-day event. This was a good opportunity for the public to visit with beekeepers while tasting assorted varieties of honey, mead, cheese, and chocolate—and all the time listening to five local different music groups—and oh, not to

overlook face painting! Throughout the day, there were speakers covering a variety of topics, including honey judging, honey sensory analysis with a tasting course, children's stories & books, plants for bees and keeping toxics out of the garden, healthy forage: the 10x10x10 initiative, and (why not?) beauty secrets from the hive. I wasn't able to sit in on all the presentations, but the speakers that I did have the chance to hear were very interesting and provided food for thought.



Among my favorite things to see at a fair or festival are the displays by beekeepers and their products. This event was no exception. It makes no difference whether they are hobbyists or large operators, they have great ideas and are so proud to be able to offer their honey to their customers.

Sharon Schmidt deserves a great deal of praise for the unbelievable job she has done in putting this festival together, with over thirty volunteers, community partners, such as Chamber of Commerce, Ashland Parks & Recreation, Rogue Valley International Airport, Rogue Regency Inn & Suites, and backing of The National Honey Board. Thank you, Sharon!

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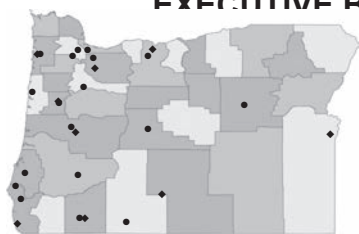


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19255 SW Prospect St, Aloha 97007  
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#### OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

##### North Coast

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##### South Coast

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##### Columbia Basin

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##### North Willamette Valley

Steven Coffman, 2540 Greenwood Rd S, Independence  
97351; 503.838.2981

##### South Willamette Valley

Tim Wydronek, 541.740.4127; tim@aldercreekhoney.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 7:00–8:30 PM, first Wednesday, Douglas County  
Courthouse, 1036 SE Douglas Ave, third floor, Roseburg  
Information: douglascountybees@gmail.com; 541.375.0393  
President: Ivory LosBonos  
Vice President: Kevin Hansen  
Secretary: Gina Holgate | Treasurer: Beau Bogus  
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  
541.928.5259; 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 6:30–8:00 PM, first Monday (demos, 6:30 PM), Southern Oregon Res & Ext Ctr, 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point  
For information, e-mail: sobeekeepers@gmail.com  
President: John Jacob  
541.582.BEES; oldsolbees@gmail.com  
Vice President: Risa Halpin—rhalpin906@aol.com  
Secretary: Shari Shattuck—541.951.9265  
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 Schmidlkofer  
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

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

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

## REGIONAL NEWS

**Note:** All associations invite and welcome visitors to join them at meetings! See pages 5–6 for meeting time and place, website, and/or contact information. Many regional associations also offer additional opportunities for learning, which are posted on their websites as well as [orsba.org](http://orsba.org) and in their reports.

### Regional Representatives

#### South Coast

Pollinator Eco-camp students, all the 6th and 7th graders of Curry County, took time with the honey bee station tended



by members of Oregon South Coast Beekeepers [shown with Brad Remsey at the observation hive in the photo above], enjoying the observation hive and all the photos and posters along the wall near the Life Cycle and Anatomy workstations where groups of four assembled cards in order and used dry erase to label the parts and then entered the information into their workbooks, some drawing quite nice illustrations. Students also visited the pollinator forage flower section provided by the Gold Beach Master Gardeners and the butterfly station, where Monarchs were emerging in their net cages and later set free during lunch at the outdoor stage area of the Event Center on the Beach. It was a two-day event with more than 150 students bussed in from all grade schools of the county.

Oregon Resources Research and Education Center Executive Director Kathleen Root-Bunten, assisted by Lily Miller, had originally planned the early October event for their own property where OSCBA has built its educational apiary, under the supervision of Carla Fletcher, but indoor facilities seemed more appropriate for the season. Several other Eco-camps are planned, and the group is considering participation at Oregon State Fair in the proposed “Pollinator Corner” of Columbia Hall with OSBA.

One of the most-innovative things that we learned from

guest speakers, Brad and Linnette Woodward of Eureka, California, at the September meeting is their tongue & groove bottom board with the centrally placed joint that leaves a little trough all the way out the back and front for draining off moisture.

Honey tasting of the Best of Show Honey of Oregon State Fair was another highlight of the September meeting, comparing the fine light honey that won David Barnes of Gold Beach, member of OSCBA, the top award and the amber honey that won third place for Carol Leighton. The couple bought a pack of a thousand taster spoons for the occasion, and many more.

Featured presenter of October meeting is Risa Halpin, vice president of Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association.

Daniel Strom, OSCBA’s youngest beekeeper, applied for and was awarded the OSBA conference scholarship. He is known for his big enthusiasm. He and Harvey Young have been working on establishing a new 4-H project for Curry County for *Beekeeping*.

He and his family were among the ones evacuated during the Chetco Bar Fire, the #1 priority fire in the nation at the time. They managed to get all of their animals to the livestock pavilion and covered arena of the Event Center on the Beach, along with Daniel’s honey bees and the family camper trailer.

Daniel called most other members in the area to offer assistance with evacuating their honey bee colonies. It is interesting to note that there were no reports of any colonies evacuating themselves during all the period of wildfire smoke, sometimes totally filling the air for skyless days.

November is Thanksgiving potluck and election of officers. Featured speaker is Eric McEwen, owner of Diggin’ Livin’ Farm and Apiary. Happy Holidays! *Mureen Walker*

## Regional Associations

### Central Coast Beekeepers

The weather has gotten spotty on the coast—a little rain, a little sun. The bees are still bringing in pollen from somewhere. A third of our association was able to collect honey this year! Pretty good for our location.

At our last meeting, Lynn Royce ventured out to the coast and gave a talk on her research with tree hive bees. Hopefully we can incorporate some of her findings in our beekeeping practices and raise healthier bees!

Our outreach seems to have been successful as we had half a dozen guests at our last meeting. Most had heard of us at our booths at the Lincoln County Fair and the Oregon State Fair. We’re hoping to expand our pool of new

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beekeepers to get them involved in the association as well as the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, Apprentice level. We are offering two full scholarships this year.

We're also planning our first bee day in November.

Gaelyn Mathews, a new apprentice beekeeper, won our raffle for a free conference registration, courtesy of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association.

At our next meeting Becca Fain, Mark Iassa, and Stan Scotton are giving a class on products of the hive.

*Rick Olson*

### Central Oregon Beekeepers

Aaah, October. Snow on the mountains, warmish days in the valleys . . .

In Central Oregon, we had our first set of freezes in mid September (at least in the low spots). Many folks are attempting to extend the season by covering the plants at night, but there isn't much growth or nectar during the days with the cooler temperatures. Gardens are finishing up, except for the asters and fall crocuses, but some of the rabbitbrush and sagebrush are still blooming. Most of the supers are off and autumn mite treatments are completed. We've had reports of some dramatic infestations of mites this year. Time will tell how this affects survival through the winter. Hopefully at our next meeting we'll have an initial honey production report.

At COBKA, our October talk centered around Myths of Beekeeping, presented by our own Naomi Price. Our November talk will be about winter bees. We frequently don't have a December meeting because the weather can be iffy and we don't want folks sliding around all the way to the meeting. We are hearing about another great class in the Oregon Master Beekeeping Program for next year and are trying to support the program as much as we can.

*Allen Engle*

### Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

We are finally getting a little rain and still some sunshine in the Columbia Gorge. Smoke is gone, still unsure if there will be negative effects from all the earlier smoke. Some plants still in bloom—asters, mums, other fall flowers, and weeds—and the bees are busy when the temperature warms up. Many beekeepers have done at least one fall mite treatment and are wondering if another is needed before winter.

We had a great presentation by Dr. Dewey Caron on winter preparation and growing "fat bees." In October we will have Dr. Ramesh Sagili presenting on Bee Nutrition, a specialty of his.

Looking to the future, CGBA is hoping to host a *Tour de Hives* event next spring as well as a couple of special full-day presentations for our members. Looking forward to the OSBA Conference later in October.

*Zip Krummel*

### Klamath Basin Beekeepers

It seems that winter has arrived, as usual, skipping fall here in the Klamath Basin. We have seen temps drop into the low 20s in the past two weeks. Honey supers are off the hives for now. Most of the flowers are gone, but we still have our rabbit brush, giving the bees the last boost for storing honey for the long Klamath winter. Oxalic acid is gaining in favor here, and some users have seen drastic mite drops and consistently low numbers for those who use it in the second year. Our suspicion is that oxalic residue on the combs has a long-term effect. The county fair, where we introduced our bee petting zoo, was a success. People were surprised to hear that drones do not have a stinger and no venom either. We had children walking off with a pet drone, and we asked them to release them onto a plant. Some even came back returning the drones. Our club had the intermediate beekeeping class last month, focusing on winter preparation, mite checking, and treatment and honey harvesting. In August we had our annual BBQ where, among other things, Katharina Davitt demonstrated how to use a refractometer to test for water content of honey. Several members brought in their honey for testing and sharing a taste among the other attendees. Our next meeting will be on the 21st, allowing members to attend the annual OSBA conference the following week. Thank you to all.

*Paul Davitt*

### Linn-Benton Beekeepers

Our September meeting, a honey-tasting extravaganza, was deemed "a wild success." It was reported by im-



Linda Zielinski

partial sources (board members with tell-tale toothpicks in their craws and honey in their hair) that members and non-members alike bee-lined to this event from far and wide in great swarms.

October's speaker was Dr. Solensky, Allergist, from the Corvallis Clinic. He spoke on bee stings and allergic reactions. November's speaker will be all about Mead making by Mark Luterra. This is bound to be another "wild success" if tasting ensues. So swarm right over to make merry! As per usual, there is no association meeting or board meeting in December. The secretary's seat on the LBBA Board is up for election for the upcoming two-year term. Unless there is a

coup, all other officers will continue in their current roles. Happy holidays and may we each find ways to increase Peace on Earth.

*Laurie Bowman*

### Portland Metro Beekeepers

The Bee Day for 2018 date has been set for April 28th, the weekend after Earth Day.

Also in 2018, our two-day Bee Keeping Class at Clackamas Community College is set for Feb 3rd and 10th. Contact CCC to sign up.

Our club agreed to contribute \$1,500 to the OSU Bee Lab.

Our meeting this month focused on preparing for Winter. Some of the tips included installing mouse guards, using cinnamon on the inner cover to discourage ants and to avoid standard moth balls, which can harm bees.

Kerry Haskins gave a talk on the various ways to make and use fondant to feed bees. Joe Maresh gave a talk and led a roundtable discussion on the things to consider on overwintering bees. One major issue often overlooked by new beekeepers is the problem of a hive being “honey bound.” This means that the bees have put so much honey in the hive that there is no room for the queen to lay the winter brood eggs. Pulling a few frames of honey out and putting in drawn comb can help.

*Paul Jarrett*

### Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

We are plumping up our bees and applying our various ventilation strategies for winter in the Tualatin Valley. Members enjoyed a presentation from commercial beekeeper Mark Johnson for the September meeting, tasted the fruits of our labors in the October honey tasting meeting, and now we can tuck into a good book.

For our November meeting, local author Jacqueline Freeman will discuss Tom Seeley’s article “Darwinian Beekeeping” and ten suggestions that may revolutionize modern beekeeping. Something to keep us looking forward to spring on those stormy winter nights! Jacqueline is our final speaker lined up for 2017. We are drawing up a new list of potential speakers for 2018, so if you or someone you know would be interested in presenting, please feel free to contact us.

Tualatin Valley beekeepers continue to support youth programs, and we have several active 4-H and FFA members.

Also in November are board and officer elections for the 2018 year. New and continuing board members will take the reins in December. We won’t have a membership or board meeting in December, but we will reconvene in January, eager to peruse catalogs and order nucs and packages.

*Yvonne Shaw*

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## KEEPING BEES IN NOVEMBER–DECEMBER

*Morris Ostrofsky*

As we approach November/December there are a number of management tasks we should consider. By this time you have done your fall inspection and the bees are settling in for the winter. It is usually a waste of resources to try to keep weak colonies going through fall and winter. Combining weak hives into one hive gives the bees more of a chance to survive the winter. My suggestion is to use the newspaper method to do this. Make sure that the uppermost box is provided with a ventilation opening when you do this.

If you have not done so already, remove queen excluders and add mouse guards.

While counterintuitive, it is not the cold but moisture that should concern us. As Rusty Burlew of *Honey Bee Suite* ([honeybeesuite.com](http://honeybeesuite.com)) says, there is a big difference experiencing a cold day with wet versus dry gloves. Wet gloves can lead to frost bite while dry gloves keep you comfortable. The temperature is the same but the moisture is the difference.

With that being said, think about this as you prepare your hives for winter. There are various ways to vent excess moisture from the hive. I have found the use of an insulated box containing burlap or other absorbent material, such as old towels, to be very effective. The insulated box serves a dual purpose; it keeps the bees dry as well as warm.

Start with a box that has the same footprint as a standard box. Then add some half-inch screened ventilation holes on the sides, and cover the holes and bottom with one-eighth-inch hardware cloth to keep the absorbent materials in place. Position the box just under the outer cover. Check the absorbent materials once or twice over the winter and replace the absorbent material as needed. It is fun to see what you find in the insulation box in spring. I have found mushrooms, worms, and even a frog once. Early spring is when I remove the insulation box.

Adding an upper entrance can also assist the venting of excess moisture. Additionally the sticky board can be used for additional moisture control. The objective is to provide ventilation while at the same time helping to block cold winter winds. Push it in roughly half way under the screened bottom board. This position is similar to what would be done for a mite count except it is pushed in half way.

By November the bees should have stored approximately 80 pounds of honey. Less than this amount signals that continued feeding is necessary. According to Ann Harman, a frequent contributor to *Bee Culture*, when day time temperatures are

consistently lower than 57 degrees F, we should switch from a liquid feed to a solid feed. With temperatures lower than 50 degrees F, the bees have a more-difficult time metabolizing sugar water and evaporating off excess moisture in the syrup. This is the time for fondant or candy.

Fondant is usually associated with spending time over a hot stove. An alternative is no-cook candy. Rusty's *Honey Bee Suite* site has a recipe for no-cook candy. I find it a simple and effective way to feed the bees during winter.

Leftover candy canes make a sweet, life-saving holiday gift for your bees. (Right after Christmas is a good time to buy them, usually at half price.) A frame of honey from a KNOWN, healthy hive is also an excellent source of food during this time. Continue to check stores periodically.

During fall/winter the temperature occasionally reaches 50 degrees F or more. You should see your bees out doing cleansing flights. With weeks between cleaning flights, what a relief it must be for the bees! On these days, if you notice that a hive is inactive, it bears closer examination. Lightly tap the side of hive and listen for a response. If you find this hive is a dead out, examine the combs for scales of American Foulbrood. If you have any doubts, send a sample to the bee lab in Beltsville, Maryland, for confirmation.

Entrances should be reduced to prevent robbing and yellowjacket harassment. The entrance should also be periodically checked to make sure it is not plugged with dead bees. The undertaker bees don't carry bodies out very far when it is cold; they can pile up at the entrance.

November and December provide a late-season window of opportunity to deal with the dreaded Varroa mite. After Thanksgiving the colony should be broodless. If your mite counts are still above one percent, this is when you can use oxalic acid because there is no brood that it can harm. For the last two years, I have used oxalic acid in the fall—resulting in mite counts at almost zero percent the following spring. This is my newest beekeeping best friend. Please keep in mind that while oxalic acid is a great tool, it must be used at the appropriate time of year and safety. With that in mind, I highly recommend the dribble method versus vaporizing. Although vaporizing is slightly more effective, I do not think it is worth the risk it poses to the beekeeper.

Once the bees are tucked in for the winter, it is a good time attend scheduled conferences and to evaluate what you learned this year and make plans for next. Winter is also the time to build bee equipment and gizmos/gadgets. It is also a great time to read about bees and beekeeping. I have found *BEEkeeping: Your First Three Years*, a newer publication from A.I. Root, to include valuable information even for someone like me with 49 years of beekeeping experience.



# Bee Culture

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

## 12 BIG ISSUES

## 1 Beekeeping Calendar

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The Curry County couple who won top places in the Honey division at the Oregon State Fair. David Barnes, Gold Beach, Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association, won the top prize, Best of Show, with his perfectly presented light honey, and Carol Leighton won third place with her amber honey.

Mureen Walker

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## OREGON STATE FAIR HONEY SHOW

The entries in the 2017 State Fair Honey Show were light this year, but beautiful and very good quality. All of Oregon's varietal honeys are exceptional, and yours is probably the best! But you will never know this if you don't take a moment to entry it in our honey shows. Many of our counties have honey entries in their fair book, and that is a fine place to get started. Also, our local bee associations are a good source for learning. Consider what you might do to entry honey at fairs. It can be fun and you may learn that the honey from your bees is the best around.

### 2017 Oregon State Fair Honey Show Winners

#### Best of Show! Class 243 – Honey, Extracted

David Barnes – 1st with his entry of Extracted Honey

#### Best of Division! Class 244 – (Other) Extracting Frame

Melissa McLaughlin – 1st in Extracting Frame *and*  
1st and 2nd with Extracted Honeys

#### Best of Division! 243 – Honey, Extracted (any variety)

Lorette A. Aggen – 1st in the Extracted Honey Class

Erin Olmon – 1st in Extracted Honey

Dana Toy – 3rd for Extracted Honey

Carol Leighton – 3rd for Extracted Honey

Jeremy Mitchell – 1st Extracted Honey *and*

2nd in Class (Other) Extracting Frame

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## 2017 OSBA CONFERENCE HONEY SHOW

This year those entering their prized honey were in for a real treat. Judging were Virginia Webb, certified international honey judge from Georgia, and Marjorie Ehry, honey judge from Dundee. During the judging, a small group of those attending the conference gathered to watch and learn from the procedure. The judges took time to explain the reasons for decisions and point out little things that matter when preparing honey for a show. We know everyone is proud of the honey harvested from their bees. Now is a great time to prepare to bring your best to the next show.

### 2017 OSBA Fall Conference Honey Show Winners

#### Sweepstakes

Wendi Watson

#### Judges Choice (Best tasting)

Zack Williams

#### Best of Show

Elise Lynch

Elise Lynch – Extracted (Medium) 1st place

Zack Williams – Extracted (Medium) 1st place

Tim Wydronek – Extracted (Medium) 2nd place

Eric Wells – Extracted (Medium) 3rd place

Wendi Watson – Extracted (Dark) 1st place

Ray Rutler – Extracted (Dark) 3rd place

Jeff Garner – Creamed Honey 1st place

Tanya Rudometkin – Creamed Honey 2nd place

Ray Rutler – Wax 1st place

Fred Mann – Wax 2nd place

Max Kuhn – Extracted (White) 1st Place

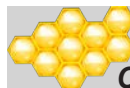
Steve Niles – Extracted (White) 2nd Place

Julie Schmidkofer – Extracted (White) 3rd place

Reana Williams – Photo 1st place

Wendi Watson – Photo 2nd Place

Becky Lymler – Photo 3rd place



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

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**Note:** To renew or join online, please visit:

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**Thank you!**

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The next issue to be printed will be the January-February issue, 2018. The deadline for submitting copy is **December 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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