



The Bee Line

Volume 43

Number 1

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

January–February 2018



Eddie Frie

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www.orsba.org

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
orsbawebmaster@gmail.com

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

Image above: Pollen coming in late! Both we and the bees experienced an exceptional fall season throughout much of the region. May 2018 be exceptional for everyone as well.

Bee Schools and Bee Days are being planned for 2018. Visit orsba.org and regional association websites for dates, times, and updates.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Okay, break time is over!

I hope you had a meaningful off-season and feel refreshed.

I know it's going to sound corny, but, once again this year, I have a New Year's beekeeping resolution in place.

Last year, I promised myself that I would double down on the status of queens in our hives. Queen checking, queen evaluation, and queen replacement would be much more intensively conducted. I'm happy to report that I focused heavily on our queens in 2017!

For 2018, my beekeeping resolution is to focus upon, evaluate, and implement novel strategies for Varroa control. Dr. Brandon Hopkins from Washington State University woke me up with his presentation at the conference about caging queens to force a broodless period prior to mite treatments, something I had experimented with in 2002. Dr. Jennifer Han, also from WSU, had great news about *Metarhizium* as a biocontrol agent against Varroa. Very exciting!!

I am convinced that our industry, absent from such efforts, is losing the battle with Varroa.

Think for a moment about how we managed Varroa 25 years ago. We treated once in the fall.

Fifteen years ago, we found that we needed spring and fall treatment. Monitoring became a new labor-intensive way of life and revealed the need for mid-season treatment.

Today, from the many reports that I regularly receive and what I see, we are now in a period of constant treatment.

Take a moment and think about a graph starting with one fall treatment and now constant treatment. Where is the ray on the graph in 10 or 15 years from now? I don't want to be alarmist, but my projection on the graph reveals NO BEES!

I have lost confidence in the idea of some "new treatment" just around the corner that will save the day, although I suppose I would welcome it. For now . . .

I applaud and am very grateful for others who are working with genetics in our queens.

My approach, my resolution, this year will be to focus on cultural methods that impact Varroa's life cycle.

Let's put our thinking caps on together in 2018 and safeguard our industry with new, novel, and unexpected methodologies for Varroa control.

I look forward to "think-tanking" ideas with you.

I hope your bees wintered well. Be well and work safe!

Harry Vanderpool

OSBA Fall Conference 2017 THANK YOU!

We all know that a conference doesn't just happen on its own. And yet, even after all the planning and organizing and checking and arranging, there's more to be done to make the event a success. The contributions of conference **planners, presenters, honey judges, advertisers, vendors, all who bid** on items in both the silent and the banquet auctions, the efforts of many **others**, some listed below, and **all not named** are greatly appreciated. **Thank you!**

Registration

Rebecca Fain
Ann Schatz
Patti Johnson
Suzannah Kruse

Silent Auction

Suzannah Kruse
Carolyn Breece
Hannah Lucas
Renea Williams

Auctioneers

Pat Heitkam
Alan Turanski
Ramesh Sagili

Oral Auction

Carolyn Breece
Hannah Lucas

Packet Assembly

Liz Vanderpool

Projector Operation

Carolyn Breece
Ellen Topizhofer
Hanna hLucas
Paul Anderson
Thom Trusewicz
Tim Wydroneck

Honey Show Steward

Susan Rauchfuss

Ticket Takers

Steven Coffman
Zach Williams

Speaker Transportation

Suzannah Kruse

Wine Donations

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Nick VanCalcar
Ryan Lieuallen
Vince Vazza

Donors to Silent Auction

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Judy Scher
K & F Coffee Roasters
Kathy Cope
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Sage Honey
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Shastina Millworks
Southpaw Bees & Mfg

Steve Niles

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Oregon State Beekeepers Association 2017 General Membership Meeting

October 28, 2017 ❖ Silverton, Oregon

The OSBA meeting called to order by President Harry Vanderpool at 4:54 PM.

In attendance: Thom Trusewicz, Zip Krummel, Pat Case, Alan Turanski, Jason Rowan, Rosanna Mattingly, Jordan Dimock, Steve Oda, Tim Wydronek, Carolyn Breece, Judy Scher, Debby Garman, Ray Rutler, Steven Coffman, Joe Maresh, Kerry Haskins, Charlie Vanden Heuvel, Paul Stromberg, Anna Ashby, Mike Rodia, Heike Williams, Beverly Koch, Claire Moody, Ryan Lieuallen, Barbara Fitts, Mureen Walker, Yvonne Shaw, Paul Andersen, Jim Sorber, Mary Wallace, Max Kuhn, Stan Scotton, John Jacob, Mysti Jacob, Risa Halpin, Cheryl Wright, Linda Zahl, Katharine Hunt, Pam Leavitt, Nancy Ograin, Jan Lohman, Susan Hansen, George Hansen, Mary Edwards, Joe Hansen, and Harry Vanderpool.

Minutes: Charlie Vanden Heuvel moved to accept the minutes from the 2016 General Membership meeting, as provided. Seconded by Zip Krummel. Motion passed.

Reports

Treasurer's Report: Joe Hansen reviewed the Oregon State Beekeeper Association's sum of all accounts as of September 2017, including balance sheet and a profit and loss summary. Zip Krummel moved to accept the treasurer's report, as given. Seconded by Jordan Dimock. Motion passed.

Regional and Association Reports: The following regions/associations represented today: North Coast, South Coast, Columbia Basin, Eastern Oregon, North Willamette Valley, Portland Metro, Columbia Gorge, Tillamook County, Tualatin Valley, Oregon South Coast, Portland Urban, Southern Oregon, Linn-Benton, and Lane County. Reports of wet spring weather and fires were a concern around Oregon this year. Education, member involvement, community outreach, and adding 4-H chapters were main themes for several groups.

Bee Line/Website: Rosanna shared thank you to everyone for all submissions for *The Bee Line*. The digital newsletter seems to have been well received. As always, please notify Rosanna with any new memberships or changes to regional association board members.

Grants & Fellowships: Jan Lohman shared with us the various grants and fellowship balances. Explaining how donations can be applied as expendable: for current use or endowed.

Agricultural Liaison: Mike Rodia shared HB 4533 in regards to hive assessment registration fees, changing of the law to clarify any box except a Nuc. HB 2653, regarding Residential Beekeeping is in its final review stage. The best practices Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions handouts are prepared and will be available for out reach and training purposes.

OSBA Events Coordinator, Oregon State Fair: Yvonne Shaw presented success of the Oregon State Fair booth- by working with the Marion County Master Gardeners on a floral garden educational display and partnering with the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. Yvonne wanted to thank the 88 volunteers and acknowledge their #700 hours worth of volunteering.

Old Business

Regional Association Affiliation: The OSBA will be sending out a questionnaire to each Regional Association's regarding election dates. Expect reminder's in December, of fee schedule and application form due dates.

New Business

Research Donation to Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab: Oregon State Beekeepers Association has agreed to match all Regional Association funds donated for honey bee research up to \$500.00- to present all donations tomorrow to Dr. Ramesh Sagili during the OSU Honey Bee Lab Research Update.

OSBA 2018 Fall Conference: The OSBA 2018 Fall Conference, to be held at the Salem Convention Center on October 26th, 27th, and 28th.

Proposed Changes to Constitution/Bylaws: Harry provided everyone with the proposed changes as published in *The Bee Line*. OSBA decided to revisit ARTICLE III Affiliation Section 1 and Section 2. George Hansen made a motion to amend to read: The association is affiliated with the American Beekeeping Federation, Inc. Seconded by Zip Krummel. Motion carried.

Zip Krummel made a motion to make changes as proposed to ARTICLE IV Membership. Seconded by John Jacob. Motion carried.

Paul Andersen made a motion to amend proposed changes to ARTICLE V Officers to read: Section 1 Officers- The officers of Oregon State Beekeepers Association shall consist of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and regional directors. Seconded by Alan Turanski. So moved.

Jan Lohman made a motion to amend proposed changes to ARTICLE V Officers: Section 2: to read; The regional directors shall have full voting privileges on the executive committee. All regional directors shall be current members

of Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Regional directors shall be elected from different areas over the state. Jan asked we remove all other wording in section (A) thru (H). Seconded by Mary Wallace. Motion carried.

A motion to approve addition as stated in proposal ARTICLE VI Meetings Section, Section 4: Issues. Seconded by Jason Rowan. Motion carried.

Zip Krummel made a motion to proposed changes as listed to the Bylaws, ARTICLE I Membership Section 1: Membership as written. Seconded by Claire Moody. Motion carried.

Jan Lohman made a motion to amend proposal to bylaws

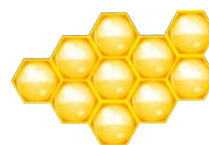
ARTICLE I Membership Section 2: Dues- (B) Honorary life members. Honorary life members may participate in all activities of the state association and shall pay no annual membership dues to the state association. Seconded by George Hansen. Motion carried.

Claire Moody made a motion to accept the proposal to change bylaws in ARTICLE II Duties of Officers, Section 3 and Section 4 as written. Seconded by Zip Krummel. Motion carried.

Election of Officers: Jan Lohman announced slate of officers. The Oregon State Beekeeper Association Slate for 2018 is:

Officers

- President: Harry Vanderpool
- Vice President: Jason Rowan
- Secretary: Jan Lohman
- Treasurer: Joe Hansen



Regional Representatives

- North Coast: Stan Scotton
- South Coast: Mureen Walker
- Columbia Basin: Bill Edwards
- Eastern Oregon: Jordan Dimock
- Portland Metro: Tom Cinquini
- Southern Oregon: Mysti Jacob
- North Willamette Valley: Steven Coffman
- South Willamette Valley: Tim Wydronek
- New area to be named: Ray Rutler

Pam Leavitt made a motion to accept the Officers as Jan Lohman named. Seconded by Alan Turanski. Motion passed. Next Jan introduced and asked each Regional Representative to stand. Katharine Hunt made a motion to

accept each Regional Representatives as named. Seconded by John Jacob. Motion passed.

Jason Rowan made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mike Rodia. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary

Note: The minutes of the OSBA Board Meeting that took place on October 27, 2017, are similar in content to those of the General Membership Meeting and are not printed here. To receive a copy, e-mail osba.newsletter@gmail.com or phone 503.772.3486.

SWARM CALL

The Swarm Call List is now open for 2018. Log in to sign up at orsba.org. Previous entries have been deleted. Similar to the past couple of years, names are randomized rather than alphabetical. Please note that the list is open to current members only.

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We Thank You for 2017 and Wish You The Best in 2018!

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Oregon State Beekeepers Association

EXECUTIVE BOARD AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS



OSBA OFFICERS

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

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

Secretary: Jan Lohman
77225 Colonel Jordan Rd, Hermiston 97838
541.980.0304; jan.lohman55@gmail.com

Treasurer: Joe Hansen
PO Box 10, Aurora 97002
503.824.2265; osba.treasurer@gmail.com

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

♦ OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

North Coast

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

South Coast

Mureen Walker, 25055 Pistol River Loop Rd, Gold Beach
97444; 541.425.0535; mureen.walker.111@gmail.com

Columbia Basin

Bill Edwards, 5051 Lost Lake Rd, Hood River 97031
541.354.2223

Eastern Oregon

Jordan Dimock, 2635 Mitchell Butte Rd, Nyssa 97913
541.372.2726

Portland Metro

Tom Cinquini, 1172 S Sycamore St, Canby 97013
503.547.5386; tomcinquini@gmail.com

South Central Oregon

Ray Rutler, PO Box 334, Keno 97627
541.273.7255; jeswandering@aol.com

Southwestern Oregon

Mysti Jacob, 17101 Ford Rd, Rogue River 97537
541.941.9613; mystijacob@gmail.com

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
Co-President: Patti Johnson—pattandpatt@comcast.net
Co-President: Pat Wackford—pwacky@charter.net
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 December)
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: Randy Sturgill
Vice President: Ron Mueller
Secretary: Ken Denton
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
503.758.4692; ivohart@gmail.com
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: Pam Leavitt
541.344.4228; pamseaver2000@yahoo.com
Vice President: Mike France
541.232.1610; michaelj62@gmail.com
Secretary: Jodi Wiktorowski
541.543.1737; yodi10@hotmail.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: Harvey Young
541.661.0031; fishhawk51@hotmail.com
Vice President: Daniel Strom
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: Nancy Winston
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: Micky Lyski—lyski1978@yahoo.com

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: Eddie Frie—ejfrie@frontier.com
Vice President: Paul Andersen
Secretary: Richard Baker—r.s.baker@mac.com
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

Note: Officers of many regional associations have changed with recent elections. Please check listings and send any additional updates to osba.newsletter@gmail.com. Thank you.



BEE EVENTS

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

February 10. Central Oregon Beekeepers Beginner Bee School. *Information:* www.cobeekeeping.org.

February 10 (10 AM–2 PM). Beekeeping. Columbia Gorge Comm Coll, Hood River. *Information:* 541.506.6011.

February 15, 20, 22, 26. Willamette Valley Beekeepers Bee School.

February 17 (10 AM–2 PM). Beekeeping. Columbia Gorge Comm Coll, The Dalles. *Information:* 541.506.6011.

March 8, 16, and 18. Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Bee School. *Information:* tualatinvalleybeekeepers@gmail.com.

April 7. Southern Oregon Beekeepers Spring Bee School.

April 14 (9 AM–3 PM). Honey Bee Festival. *Information:* see ad, page 10.

April 28. Portland Metro Bee Day. *Information:* portlandmetro.org.

July 14. Southern Oregon Summer Bee School.

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 on orsba.org and under events.

Regional Representatives

North Coast

As I write this we are in an extended dry spell on the Central Oregon Coast. Unusual weather for December. I noticed my bees and a hummingbird on the Oregon Grape yesterday. Pollen is coming in, but I don't imagine much nectar. The bear destruction has seemed to slow down. I have not heard of any bears destroying hives in the last month. This has been a bad year for bears. We have also had late-season yellowjacket attacks on numerous hives. Several members in both the Tillamook County and Central Coast associations have lost colonies as a result.

At the November meeting of the Central Coast association, Kathy Cope was recognized as the association's volunteer of the year. The recognition was richly deserved. Kathy is a mentor for the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. She serves as vice president for the Central Coast association and secretary for the Tillamook County association, and has organized events, staffed booths, and laid the ground

work for upcoming activities in 2018.

With Kathy's volunteer award and the recent elections for officers in Tillamook County and Central Coast as well as OSBA, it got me thinking about all of the volunteers and volunteer hours that beekeepers put in. For all of you who volunteer at the OSBA level, through local bee associations, in the schools, and in your community, Thank You.

Stan Scotton

South Coast

Indian Summer continued to mid-December on the south coast. It was the first real one, according to most locals here, one in which summer ends with a frost, cold, and stormy onset of winter, and then summer warmth returns for weeks, while the autumn trees turn golden warm colors, and the only movement of the air is to slightly stir up the warm aroma from trees, grasses, and other happily growing green life during a time when wind and horizontal rain usually prevail. Those of us here who have been able to keep frame feeders in the hives until the stormy season discovered the results of the Indian Summer effect for plastic feeders. After the first onslaught of rain, when the temperature gets up into the seventies, the outside of the feeder weeps condensation from all sides to produce a terrarium. Not suitable for honey bees. "Like living out in an old wooden coffin," is how our usual winter moisture problem is described by Mark Adams. White Christmas in mid-December on south coast for honey bees was in the form of Coyote Brush. Fat Bee Man inspired our northern member, Harry Lee Whisman, to go to Georgia this past April and learn as much as he could about managing a honey bee production business from that You Tube honey bee feature favorite, Don Kuchemeister.



Mureen Walker

Regional Associations

Central Oregon Beekeepers

We're mostly hunkering down and staying warm. The hives have all been straightened, insulated, treated, mouse proofed, and wind protected. All of us get the urge to check on things through the winter, but there isn't much we can do other than occasionally shovel the snow from the fronts of the hives, make sure the top covers are still on, and dream/plan for what we want to do or do differently this next season. Our group has frequent discussions about the various winterization items: insulate or not; ventilate or place moisture-absorbing substances above hive; treat late season for mites or late summer; do spring requeening or fall

requeneering; when to stop supplementary feeding. There is always someone trying a different technique. In November we had a great presentation on the various talks from the OSBA conference as well as a short talk about winter bees. The January meeting will include a talk about everything having to do with acquiring bees. The discussion in February will be a follow up to answer questions about topics presented at our bee school. Wishing you a warm and happy holiday season.

Allen Engle


Lane County Beekeepers

We will have Ramesh Sagili speak at our January meeting. His topic will be Varroa: Major Threat and Updates on Varroa Biocontrol.

Pam Leavitt

Linn-Benton Beekeepers

To welcome in the new year, we will again be devoting the



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January meeting to the subject of "Getting Started in Beekeeping" to provide potential beekeepers with down-to-earth information about this art and craft we are so passionate about. Last year's event brought a large crowd even with limited advertising. Mike Rodia will be giving an update on Oregon state legislation related to beekeeping. At February's meeting, backyard beekeeper Dillon Blakenship will be presenting his travels documenting different types hives and beekeeping practices. Wishing you an excellent beekeeping year!

Laurie Bowman

Oregon South Coast Beekeepers

For the grand finale of the year, Diggin' Livin' was the fittin' presentation, following the sharin' of the bounty at the Thanksgiving potluck. As Eric McKewen tells in his slide show presentation of evolution with honey bees, there is a question as to who is the keeper and who the kept. From college courses to a well-educated mentor to learning by doing and changing course by every mistake along the way and being forced to do what works no matter what he believes. In the time, he shows the path from being ultimately driven to do organic, treatment-free beekeeping to hauling hundreds of hives to the almonds, and developing bee hives that nest together well. He refuses to be "that guy who feeds by pumping in the syrup, so he is developing production of sugar bricks and encouraging backyard beekeepers to make their own. The meeting kicked off with short reports on the annual conference of OSBA. Daniel Strom brought his nest of bumble bees, and the bee hives that he constructed, sealed and branded. Secretary Shelley Potmeyer has been doing the machine embroidery of the OSCBA logos onto members' clothing now for several years. Harvey Young is working to organize fundraising to enable the group to make a monetary contribution for the honey bee research by Ramesh Sagili at OSU.

Mureen Walk

Portland Metro Beekeepers

To allow new board members to learn the ropes, they are now elected in November and take their role in January. We have grown so much (about 138 members) that the duties are complicated at times. While not an official bee association activity, Don Sieckmann arranged a Mead-making class. Each participant went home with a growler full of mead ready to start fermenting and the knowledge to make more. We had 20 people attend and made 30 gallons of Mead. Great Class. Thanks to Dustin at The Hip Taphouse and Batch 1 Brewing.

Paul Jarre

Tillamook County Beekeepers

The December meeting was festive with Christmas music, candles, and wonderful holiday treats. Two long-time beekeepers, Scott Gordon and Terry Fullan, shared the

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experiences, lessons learned, and the impact of keeping bees on their lives. Kathy Cope added to the evening with a lesson on painting murals on hives. In the November meeting we elected officers and decided to “investigate” the issues and options for creating a “honey house” here in Tillamook. We have SO MANY new members, and it would be lovely to have a well-designed, well-equipped place for extracting that liquid gold! Several people volunteered to work on that task. New members, Pam and Brad York, will be getting their first hive in the spring. What makes this so special is that they live two doors down from the OSU Extension office where we meet. They offered to let us keep additional hives at their place, which means we can do hive inspections and training classes before or during our meetings! We are applying for a \$5,000 forage initiative grant from the Bayer Feed a Bee program. Whether we get the grant or not, we will be working with the Oregon Bee Project team, local master gardeners and nurseries, and the community, in turning Tillamook from being forage poor to being forage rich. We’ll keep you posted!

Claire Moody

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association annual general meeting in November had presenters Jacqueline Freeman and Susan Chernak McElroy. The topic, Dr. Tom Seeley’s Darwinian

Beekeeping, provided an excellent discussion on natural beekeeping. December was surprisingly sunny, and bees seemed happy to shrug off the cold for some unexpected fly time. Backyard beekeepers reported extensive observation opportunities. One of the more-puzzling questions: Where are they finding pollen that time of year? They landed on entrance boards wearing full “pollen chaps,” leaving us scratching our heads. Now that winter weather is here, some TVBA members turn thoughts toward candles and soap making. Others read magazines and books to stay updated for Spring colony management. All of us hope our colonies survive these last months of cold and damp. Bee School registration is underway, and we are gearing up to purchase nucs. We send our thoughts to our fellow beekeepers in California as they recover from the terrible December fires. Thanks to past president Debby Garman, we are now federally recognized as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

Eddie Frie & Yvonne Shaw

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Some members recently planned out the 2018 year for Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association. For the January meeting, there will be a big pizza party along with elections. The 2018 picnic will be in June instead of July. The July meeting will emphasize Varroa control and the timing of that. This is such an important topic to try to discuss at a picnic setting. A few members have already had losses of

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hives. If the hive makes it through November, there is a good chance it will make it to spring. Some beekeepers were just too late in performing some type of Varroa control.

Richard Farrier

KEEPING BEES IN JANUARY–FEBRUARY

Todd Balsiger

Beekeeping is still all about controlling Varroa. Do this, and you can be a beekeeper. If not, as Randy Oliver would say, your just raising mite bombs. The proverbial questions for all beekeepers: When to treat? How to treat?

When to treat is based on monitoring and sampling for Varroa mite infestation. The calendar is still very important. Randy Oliver has produced a nifty seasonal chart outlining times of the year to monitor. Please visit his site: scientificbeekeeping.com. You can find the map within “Basic Beekeeping” as Randy considers Varroa control to be basic. What I learned from attending the 2016 conference is that local beekeepers are treating their hives much more frequently for Varroa than at any time in the past. This may in part be because of our long brood-rearing seasons the last few years.

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

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

Thymol

The first time I used thymol, I followed Randy’s directions to the T. I suffered my greatest loss ever because of it. Dr. Ramesh Sagili had similar results in studies he did. At our 2015 conference in Silverton, Randy touted 98 percent efficacy with Apiguard that past fall with no deleterious effects. Randy told me he no longer places Apiguard between the brood boxes but on top with a spacer. I suspect the formulation for Apiguard has changed? My

recommendation: Experiment before wholesale treatment.

Oxalic Dribble

Oxalic acid is now legal (not that this has ever been a deterrent for beekeepers). It is cheap! It is really easy to use. Also on the horizon is the use of a new mechanism to apply oxalic acid via a vaporizing system. Formerly this was shunned in part for safety reasons (burning your lungs) and better results from the dribble method.

Formic

I was a big fan of MiteAway II. It has been replaced by MAQS. After my experience with Apiguard (thymol), I was very hesitant to try MAQS, especially after reports of queen loss and excessive brood kill by local beekeepers. Then George Hansen piqued my interest in it again. At the last Seaside state meeting, he explained that he used it to get a quick mite knockdown before using Apivar (amitraz-impregnated strips). He also said he used a rim. Hmmm . . . In August 2015, I experimented with MAQS. I was bold enough to experiment with all treatment configurations except two strips between the brood boxes – the directions. My unscientific opinion is, don’t use rims, don’t place strips on top, place one strip between the brood boxes, maybe two. I believe the formulation of this product has been dialed down. I feel comfortable using formic acid again with MAQS, especially one strip between the brood boxes. One caveat: At the 2015 Silverton meeting, Randy stated he suffered loss using MAQS. I did not inquire.

I’m always curious what other beekeepers are using to control Varroa. Unfortunately, my circle of beekeeper friends is very small (Hi, Tom!), so feedback to me is very limited. But I can share with you what I have used this past year. My first treatment was using one strip of Apivar (amitraz) in each of the 40 nucs I made followed by an oxalic acid dribble when capped brood was minimal. I next treated my main hives with MAQS during the honey flow. In August I treated all hives with oxalic/glycerin shop towels (not a legal treatment; Randy Oliver is trying to perfect and register it for use). Then in December, after purchasing a vaporizer (ProVap 110), a small Honda generator, and protective gear, I vaporized oxalic into the hives. This was by far the easiest way to treat hives I’ve ever done. Maybe this year I will try Thymol — on top with a rim!

Have you seen any small hive beetles?

In the past years, some of my returning hives from almonds have had small hive beetles. Then they disappear, nowhere to be seen for the balance of the year. At the 2015 conference, I discussed this issue with Gus Rouse, who believes, because of the high mobility of the small hive beetle, they’re already distributed to regions they find hospitable. One of the

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speakers at the 2016 conference queried the audience whether they had seen any Small Hive Beetles. I saw more hands than ever. I have continued to see an occasional SHB. The worst incident I saw was inside a division board feeder with a thick, wet sugar layer on the bottom that was going rancid. Many dozens of SHB larvae were writhing around — not a pretty sight. That being said, I've yet to see any hive damage, and I'm beginning to wonder if they'll ever be a significant problem here in Oregon.

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

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

- ❖ Heft hives to find any light ones. After the shortest day of the year, brood production resumes and energy demands increase. Provide light hives emergency feed (e.g., fondant, drivert, sugar in division board feeders, frames of honey, pollen patties, etc.).

- ❖ February has historically been the time to treat for Varroa prior to supering. Monitor hives to ascertain Varroa infestation rates. Current recommendations are to treat if the infestation rates reach 1 percent in the spring.

- ❖ Likewise, February has also historically been the time to prophylactically treat for foulbroods prior to supering. While I no longer prophylactically treat for foulbroods, I keep a ready eye out for it. I have a five-gallon bucket of Terra-Pro, a terramycin treatment, at the ready if I have the slightest suspicion.

- ❖ Find and remove dead outs. When I find dead outs, I go through the equipment and do a vigorous cleaning, in part to facilitate frame manipulation. This is the easiest time to cull comb that is dark brown and rubbery hard, comb that has a preponderance of drone cells, or comb with signs of disease (AFB). Everything goes into dry storage to preserve the equipment for future use.

- ❖ Make periodic checks of your apiary, for example, after a windstorm, to make sure nothing is amiss. I personally use single bottom boards for most of the year, and each hive is strapped down holding the lids and bottom boards tight to the brood boxes. My lids can't blow off. If you don't do

something similar, and you've taken a lid off recently for some reason, then the bees most likely will not be able to propolis the lid back down. The next windstorm may blow this lid off.

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

I wish everyone a wonderful beekeeping year in 2018. For me, this year I hope to find the time to raise some of my own queens.

Western Apicultural Society CONFERENCE

Charlie Vanden Heuvel

The Western Apicultural Society's 2017 Conference was held at UC Davis this year. Sister to the Eastern Apicultural Society, it represents a layer between the state's beekeeper associations and the American Bee Federation.

This year's event spanned a mix of presentations to a visit to nearby bee facilities. Although there were other outstanding speakers, I thought sharing the musing of Les Crowder might be of interest.

Les Crowder, author of *Top Bar Beekeeping: Organic Practices for Honey Bee Health*, roused the audience with his practices of using Top Bar Hives in commercial beekeeping. While each respective beekeeper seems to form their own mantra for beekeeping management, Les's style came with clarity of reasoning through the years of experience.

Although I am not a Top Bar aficionado, I have sought out others driven to this style in hopes of appreciating the nuances of the hive configuration. So, with a bit of gusto, when groups were divided to tour the UC Davis Bee Biology Facility where we visited six education stations—(1) Beyond Langstroth: Discussing Various Beehive Iterations, (2) Determining Levels of Nosema or Varroa Infestation, (3) Studying Plant Flower Selection in Open Field Plots South of Bee Garden, (4) Preparing Honey Bees for Molecular (AHB) or Behavioral Studies, (5) Building a Better Bee Garden, and (6) an open Q&A Session with Eric Mussen—I enticed Les to join us in our drive to and from the location.

What a down-to-earth guy Les proved to be! He readily responded to my nonstop queries concerning beekeeping in a Top Bar. I suppose it was no surprise as every entomologist and beekeeping icon I have met exudes similar qualities.

Simple issues, like creating a 120-degree angle to the sides of the Top Bar to preclude the bees attaching comb to the sides, a significant challenge when lifting bars out of the hive. Covering the bars with burlap and hay in the winter to absorb moisture was another great idea. Les, who builds his own hives,



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has gravitated to 2" thick wood for the outside walls with a 20" long bar at a height 7" off the floor of the hive.

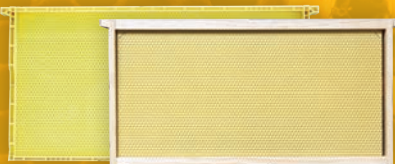
Another issue is where the hive's entrance is located. Some are on the end, while others have a middle entrance. The queen lays her brood closest to the entrance. So this creates an issue as the colony stores honey in both directions away from the central bars housing the brood, especially during winter. In the Top Bar Hive, the colony's cluster begins in the brood area traveling to the other end of the box through the honey stores. Having the entrance in the middle opens potential problems should more honey be available in the opposite direction than the girls determined to travel.

Another interesting presentation was Pesticide Toxicity Testing with Adult and Immature Honey Bees with Eric Mussen as moderator, Daniel Schmehl from Bayer Crop Science, Silvia Hinarejos from Valent USA, and Hank Krueger from EAG Laboratories. Many at the conference determined to not attend this portion as Bayer, the enemy, was speaking. I personally found Daniel's enthusiastic discussion to be most balanced with a zeal toward seeking solutions for all stakeholders.

My appreciation for Top Bars was significantly enhanced through this experience. I already have the conference, which will be in Boise, Idaho, on my calendar. Consider joining!

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OSU BEE LAB SUPPORT

Carolyn Breece

The Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab wishes to extend its heartfelt gratitude to the members of OSBA and to all who have supported the lab in 2017. The support we received from the OSBA conference was tremendous. We received donations in many different ways. Thank you to the many people who brought a wide variety of interesting items to bid on at the silent and oral auctions. Thank you to those who bid on the auction items (whether you won or not!). Thank you to bee associations and organizations who presented Ramesh Sagili with generous research donations. Thank you to those who stopped by the bee lab table to say hello. Thank you to those who attended OSU presentations at the conference or anywhere else in the state. We are fortunate to work with such supportive and encouraging beekeepers.

All donations to research are meaningful whether it is a check for \$5,000 or donated jar of honey. Research is expensive due to high material costs, personnel costs (full-time employees and student employees), and travel all over the state. All these donations add up and play a significant role in executing research projects to benefit the beekeeping community. Such support pushes us forward in developing applied research projects that will have a positive impact on honey bees and their keepers in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

We are excited to plan our research for 2018. We will be conducting several studies that include investigating important components of the honey bee diet (especially sterols), understanding *Varroa* mite migration and quantifying mite intensities over time, production and survival of overwintering bees and pesticide exposure to bees via pollen in different landscapes. We are also gearing up our diagnostic lab (especially honey bee virus diagnosis) for your samples very soon! We will continue the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, provide workshops, and give presentations about our research plans and findings. We hope to see you at these events.

Thank you again for your unwavering support of the OSU Honey Bee Lab. We are honored to partner with such an engaged and inspiring organization and beekeepers in the state.

RESIDENTIAL BEEKEEPING

Mike Rodia

What's Next for the Regions? The cities and counties now have about one year to review their codes and consider bringing them in alignment with the new Residential Beekeeping requirements in statutes ORS 602.035 and 602.045 and the Best Practices for Residential Beekeeping from Oregon

State University. Some governmental officials have started to inquire about doing this. So far they have been advised to wait, a bit, for issuance of the Best Practices and outreach by OSU and the OSBA. At the same time, and preferably sooner, residential beekeepers need to become aware of and follow, as needed, the recommendations in the Best Practices.

To aid in assisting the cities and counties and residential beekeepers, OSU and the Oregon Master Beekeepers along with the OSBA and its regional associations will need to:

1. Make available in hard copy and online OSU's "Frequently Asked Questions About the Residential Beekeeping Legislation, House Bill 2653 of 2015" (now ORS 602.035 and 602.045). This has been done.

2. Video record and make available an online web broadcast of questions and answers concerning the new legislation and the Best Practices. Oregon State University to set this up early next year.

3. Provide assistance through Regional Residential Beekeeping Consultants to help cities, counties, and residential beekeepers implement the new statutes. If there is no Regional Residential Beekeeping Consultant, each region needs to soon select someone for the position. Please notify me of your selection.

4. In the spring, the Oregon Master Beekeepers will begin regional training on the Best Practices. The Oregon Master Beekeepers are working on this.

5. Have the Best Practices included as part of the basic beekeeping teachings, whether that training occurs as part of a regional Bee School or by one of the honey bee equipment suppliers. The regions need to add this teaching to their curriculum. One supplier has already agreed to do this.

6. Widely distribute by hard copy, through the Internet, honey bee equipment suppliers, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and others the Best Practices. Oregon State University is in final preparation of the hard copy and will also put it online. One supplier has also agreed to distribute it and offset some of the printing costs. A draft copy of the Best Practices can be made available to the regions for use by Bee Schools and Regional Residential Beekeeping Consultants.

To help educate OSBA members about the new statutes, provide a brief review of the Best Practices and their roles in this process, I would like and as convenient for the regions, to attend a monthly meeting in each region to explain and discuss this. My presentation can be as short as needed so as not to compromise other presenters already on the agenda. I would appreciate a call (503.364.3275) or e-mail rrodia@msn.com from the regional "agenda" maker to set up a time and date.



The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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The Bee Line

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The next issue to be printed will be the March issue, 2018. The deadline for submitting copy is **February 10, 2018**. 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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