



# The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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**Image above:** Nothing, absolutely nothing, can take the place of a healthy queen bee—and her colony!

Although the president encourages membership in his message, the membership form is *awol* this issue. It can be found in previous issues of the newsletter and at: [orsba.org/resources/become-an-osba-member/](http://orsba.org/resources/become-an-osba-member/).


## Sublethal Effects of Neonicotinoid Insecticides on Queen Bees and Colony Development

*Jan Lohman*

Judy Wu-Smart is one of the bright lights in our arsenal of researchers working tirelessly to understand how honey bees are affected by various outside conditions, be it pesticides, forage, or pests.

She presented at our 2017 OSBA conference by summarizing concerns and potential impact of neonicotinoids on honey bee queens, and then subsequent impact on the honey bee colony. She suggested that we reduce risks in early spring by supplemental feeding, swarm control, and early spring forage planting. Judy also acknowledges a need for more research.

A valid concern is dust contamination with high levels of neonics and limited resources for bees in the early spring. Thirty-two pesticides were detected in pollen over a six-week period, and the bees were interacting with neonics. Why do we not see it? Bees do not go home, residues degrade quickly or are diluted, and the nectar and stores are used for the colony, rather than stored, so our estimated risk is difficult.

So why are the bees dying? Great question. Overuse of pesticides. Neonicotinoids, in combination with fungicides like pristine, in-hive acaricides, all lead to bee declines, so what we need to address is the bigger problem of overuse and dependence on pesticides. One thing that we do understand is that larger colonies are much better at mitigating damage than smaller colonies, so it is of utmost importance to keep our bees strong and healthy. Nutrition can mitigate some of the effects. 

## Spring Is Survey Time

*Dewey M. Caron and Ramesh Sagili*

Oregon beekeepers involved in pollination colony rental should have received a paper survey form asking for information on number of colonies, colony rental price, and crops pollinated in our annual Pollination Economics Survey. Started by Mike Burgett, this survey is now in its 31st year. It is the largest continuous database of its kind. You can see past reports of the survey results in previous issues of *The Bee Line* and *American Bee Journal*.

Your prompt completion of the survey form and mailing it back in the postage-paid envelope, or faxing it, or copying and sending it back electronically is much appreciated.

If you rent colonies for pollination and did not receive this survey, then please let one of us know and we will get it right out to you. Also, if you are no longer doing pollination and/or would like your name removed from our mailing list, then please be sure to indicate your name when returning the envelope.

We will again be seeking the cooperation of Pacific Northwest beekeepers with an

*Continued on page 13*



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 1921, a sharp group of beekeepers put their heads together, drew up the necessary documents, and the Oregon State Beekeepers Association was formed.

In the 97 years since our humble beginning, the OSBA has become a very important and highly respected powerhouse in Oregon's diverse agricultural community.

We have developed and maintained very strong connections and valuable alliances with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Farm Bureau, and most cropping stakeholders. In addition, we have opened up very valuable lines of communication with dissimilar industries such as Christmas tree, horticulture, and forestry.

Of course, our connections and collaboration with Oregon State University (and there are many) are priceless. The OSU Honey Bee Lab, headed by Dr. Ramesh Sagili, is supported in its many vital and timely research projects.

The OSBA Agricultural Liaison Committee, now headed by Dr. Mike Rodia, enjoys relationships often on a first-name basis with many of Oregon's legislators and representatives as well as city and municipal staff members throughout our state. The Agricultural Liaison Committee has a batting record most baseball teams would die for!

There are many more activities supported by the OSBA. I cannot list them all here. The OSBA is active, behind the scenes, throughout the year working hard for you!

I want to ask you to think for a minute about all of the beekeepers you know who are not OSBA members. Of the beekeepers you know who are not members, do you think they understand the value and importance of such an association? Could it be that the newer beekeeper has not yet realized the complex problems and issues facing our industry? Do they know who is fighting for them?

Today, I want to ask all OSBA members to set aside a few minutes here and there, throughout the year, for encouraging membership in the OSBA. How are our very valuable newer beekeepers to learn about the OSBA other than through you?

Will you commit a few minutes in your friendly conversation with your fellow beekeepers this year to encourage membership in the OSBA?

Let's implement an OSBA membership drive in 2018. We have a 100-year anniversary right around the corner. More about that next time . . .

Thank you for your strong support for honey bees, beekeeping, your fellow beekeepers, the OSBA, and our industry! Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

*Harry Vanderpool*



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## OSBA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING February 24, 2018 1:00 PM ❖ Canby, Oregon

Harry Vanderpool, President, called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees at 1:05 PM to the OSBA Executive Board Meeting.

**In Attendance:** Jan Lohman, Joe Hansen, Rosanna Mattingly, Tim Wydronek, Zip Krummel, Rex McIntire, Randy Sturgill, Shigeo Oku, Pam Leavitt, John Jacob, Mysti Jacob, Jason Rowan, Paul Andersen, Harry Vanderpool, Mike Rodia, Stan Scotton, Kathy Cope, Tom Cinquini, and Mandy Shaw

### Minutes

The minutes were provided prior to the meeting for review. Rex McIntire moved to accept the minutes as presented, and Jason Rowan seconded the motion with the motion passing.

### Treasurer's Report

Joe Hansen passed out a 2017 Profit and Loss Statement for review as well as balances in each of our bank accounts. There were under 30 participants who were not preregistered, with 321 Badges issued at the conference this year. Saturday lunches sold out, and almost all of the Banquet and Sunday lunches sold out as well. A total of \$24,760 dollars was presented to the OSU Honey Bee Lab for research. There was a net loss of \$1624.39 for 2017, explained by non-reoccurring expenses for equipment for the treasurer position and above-cost expenses in setting up the Oregon State Fair booth. We are still in great financial position with \$51,155.93 in our general fund checking account.

Harry will meet with our accountant on March 1 to help address a late-filing fee; our accountant is trying to eliminate these charges.

Zip Krummel made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as stated, seconded by Stan Scotton. The motion carried.

### Regional Representatives and Association Presidents' Reports

Mike Rodia reported on **Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association**. They meet the fourth Monday of the month, and last week they completed bee school.

Stan Scotton, **North Coast** representative and **Central Coast Beekeepers Association** treasurer, reported their group did an event in Yachats, the Oregon Coast Honey Lover's Festival, with 500 attendees. They had honey tasting with varieties and a puppet show. Carolyn Breece did a presentation on "Is Keeping Honey Bees Right For You?" Shonnard's sponsored the event. They are planning another event in 2019.

Kathy Cope said that **Tillamook County Beekeepers Association** is growing by leaps and bounds. They are placing a beehive in a member's back yard and are now planning two meetings each month, the second meeting for opening the beehive. Instead of doing their own bee day, they will be part of the Tillamook Garden Show.

Tim Wydronek stated that **Linn-Benton Beekeepers Association** has currently 36 members, but after Bee Day they will add more members and get back up to their usual numbers.

Tom Cinquini, **Portland Metro** representative, said things have been very quiet from hobbyists lately, but they are now getting requests for nucs for the spring.

Zip Krummel, from **Columbia Gorge Beekeepers Association**, said that they are planning a Tour de Hives for this summer. They are a new group. More hives seem to be alive this winter, and their members want more hands on for their meetings.

Rex McIntire, from **Portland Metro Beekeepers Association**, announced that they have an awesome board who are getting their nonprofit lined out this year. They had a two-day Bee School with Ellen Topitzhofer coming from the OSU Honey Bee Lab/Bee Informed Partnership. The Bee Day at Foothills Honey Company is April 28. They are selling nucs again this year. Dick Temple is helping with the Portland Metro website. They have 108 paid members.

**Portland Urban Beekeepers Association** President Mandy Shaw said they have completed their bee school with 40+ attending. Solomon Parker is coming on April 21, and Tom Seeley in September.

Randy Sturgill, from **Coos County Beekeepers Association**, said they are working to get members involved. April 21 is their Bee Day.

Pam Leavitt, from **Lane County Beekeepers Association**, said that they have over 200 members. Ramesh Sagili just came for a talk. Their Bee School is planned for March 10 with 41 already signed up. They have been asked to have a Field Day closer to Eugene, and Jason Rowan has agreed to help with this. There was a beehive, donated by GloryBee, decorated by attendees, and Lane County will give this to the Oregon Bee Project for a fundraiser.

John Jacob, president of **Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association**, said that semi loads of 4 framers have been sent to California for almond pollination. It looks like there will be crop loss from the weather this year.

Mysti Jacob, Regional Representative for **Southwestern Oregon**, said that their group has 145 members and their Bee School is planned for April 7, 2018.

Paul Andersen, from **Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association**, said that Ramesh Sagili came in January to their bee meeting with over 70 attending. John Edwards will be there next. The first week of March is when they have their Bee School.


### The Bee Line/Website

Rosanna announced that there is a third of the membership who have chosen digital rather than paper, and that there are approximately 330 members at this time. There is lots of turnover in our membership. She passed out information about potential redo's to our website. This is for future planning. Harry suggested that we go to the website and review and suggest changes that we think will be helpful for ease of use and cover all that we want to present as an organization. Come back with ideas at the next board meeting and send to Rosanna in the meantime.

Rosanna also reminded the group that previously we have voted on a motion to donate funds to the American Beekeeping Federation. This has not taken place. Rex McIntire made a motion to make a reoccurring annual donation (\$250) to the ABF, seconded by Joe Hansen. The motion carried.

### Grants and Fellowships

Jan Lohman announced the balances in our three OSU Foundation Funds. Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension and Education has \$11,802.70 for current use and \$87,940.08 endowed. The OSU Apiculture Foundation has \$77,905.38 for current use and \$67,338.52 endowed. And the Herman A. Scullen Memorial Fellowship Fund has \$25,429.41 for current use and \$42,734.44 endowed.



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### Agricultural Liaison

Mike Rodia brought up the importance of registering our hives with the state. A revised copy of "Frequently Asked Questions" is available in hard copy or to download from the Oregon State University Extension Service. "Best Practices for Residential Beekeeping" has been finalized and is being printed and will be widely distributed. The Oregon Master Beekeeper Program is working on outreach to educate on best practices.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Oregon State Fair Bee Booth

There is a stipend paid to the person managing the bee booth for the state fair. Harry asks, "Do we want a state fair booth?" Our costs for the state fair booth went over budget in 2017. If we can design and manage the booth for under \$2000 per year, it will be acceptable to continue. We will table the conversation until the April board meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### OSBA Fall Conference

Jason Rowan announced that the 2018 conference will be held at the Salem Convention Center, October 26-28. He has lined up a large group of speakers. James Tew, Steve Pernal, Jennifer Berry, Ramesh Sagili and the Honey Bee Lab, and many more. He only has one more slot to fill. He wants to use *Beekeeping Moving Forward* as our theme. There will also be concurrent meetings held on Friday, including the Commercial Workshop and the Oregon Master Beekeeper Institute.

#### OSBA Membership Drive

As Rosanna pointed out, our membership fluctuates. What can we do to improve our membership numbers? This spring we will try to increase membership by creating a flyer with benefits of being a member of the OSBA information and a registration form included. We will ask everyone who sells nucs to add one of our flyers to their nuc when they send them out in the spring. Jan will contact vendors selling nucs and the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program to see how many we will need. Jan and Rosanna will work on the Membership Flyer.

The next executive board meeting of the OSBA will be on April 28, 2018, time and place to be announced.

At 4:13 PM, Pam Leavitt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rex McIntire.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Lohman



## BEE EVENTS

**April 7** (9 AM–4:30 PM). Southern Oregon Beekeepers Bee School. \$45. *Information:* [southernoregonbeekeepers.org](http://southernoregonbeekeepers.org).

**April 7–8**. Tillamook County Beekeepers at Home & Garden Show. Tillamook County Fairgrounds.

**April 14** (9 AM–3 PM). Honey Bee Festival. *Information:* see ad, page 8.

**April 21** (10 AM–3 PM). Portland Urban Beekeepers Welcomes Solomon Parker. McMenamin's Kennedy School. \$30/\$40 after March 21. *Information:* <https://orsba.org/events/13879/>.

**April 28**. Portland Metro Bee Day. *Information:* [portlandmetro.org](http://portlandmetro.org).

**April 28**. OSBA Board Meeting. Time and place TBA.

**April 28**. Tillamook Home & Garden Show. Tillamook County Fairgrounds.

**May 20**. Trifecta Bee Event (9:30 AM–4:30 PM). *Information:* <http://www.brushymountainbeefarm.com/trifecta-beekeeping-event>.

**June 18–24**. National Pollinator Week. *Information:* <http://pollinator.org/pollinator-week>.

**July 14**. Southern Oregon Summer Bee School.

**August 3–5**. Western Apicultural Society Conference. Boise, Idaho. *Information:* [www.westernapiculturalsociety.org](http://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org).

**August 13–17**. Eastern Apiculture Society. Hampton, Virginia. *Information:* [www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org).

**October 26–28**: OSBA Fall Conference. Salem Convention Center, Salem.

## REGIONAL NEWS

**Note:** All associations invite and welcome visitors to join them at meetings! See page 15 for meeting time, 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](http://orsba.org) and under Events.

### Regional Representatives

#### North Coast

The weather is warming on the North Coast. February teased us with some nice weather, but I think March will deliver spring. Flowers are coming out, and I have noticed multiple sources of pollen. My bees are getting out when conditions permit. Last year was a terrible year on the north coast for swarm collection. Who knows what this year will bring, but I have already gotten two calls from folks who want honey bees removed from their soffits and walls.

*Stan Scotton*

#### South Coast

I participated in the spring tour of Slovenia last year, along with the founders of the Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association, Del and Myrna Barber. We had purchased Slovenian two-story hives and were eager to learn first hand how to best manage them. We found touring with Suzanne Brouillette, founder of Slovenian Beekeeping LLC, to be delightful and fulfilling.

Beekeeping in the area is best known for its unique beehives that are built as fine cabinets with frames of honeycomb removed like sliding a book from the shelf, usually from inside a structure, some on wheels. The fronts are famous as colorful works of art and graphic storytelling.

And, by the way, Slovenia is not only the native home of the current “first lady” but also the origin of the world-famous Lipizzaner horses, the highly trained white stallions that leap through the air during their performances. We have seen them perform several times in the covered arena at the fairgrounds in Gold Beach, and during the tour of Slovenia we saw dozens of them grazing in the vast fields of lush grass.

At the Oregon South Coast meeting in February, the informational presentation was “Treatment-Free Beekeeping, Making Splits, Preventing Swarms.” Brad and Reider Woodward from Loleta, California, were our guest speakers for the evening. President Harvey Young has been obtaining and excellent variety of presenters from along each side of our state’s southern border. Several people brought honey samples this time, and there were many interesting items for the monthly potluck networking break between business meeting and educational presentation. There are three Oregon Master Beekeeper Program Apprentices, and we are eager for the new beekeeping season.

*Mureen Walker*

### Regional Associations

#### Central Coast Beekeepers

The Central Coast Beekeepers were up front and center for the first annual Oregon Coast Honey Lovers Festival in Yachats, Oregon. The club provided educational displays, an observation hive, tastings of local honey and various hive products for sale. Many of the festival attendees commented that they were not aware that it was possible to keep bees on the coast and even more surprised to learn of the fantastic bee associations up and down the coastline.

Winter was pretty harsh on our group. Several club members had colony deadouts. We followed up by providing education at our monthly meeting, with Max Kuhn and Rick Olson leading a presentation entitled, “Why Did My Bees Die?”

Now, with a few more days of warmer temperatures and the bees venturing out of their hives, there is a collective

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excitement and anticipation growing. In preparation for the arrival of our bees coming in April, Carolyn Breece from OSU will help our association prepare, by giving a timely review of how to install packages and discuss what to expect and what needs to be done in spring. *Patti Johnson*

### Central Oregon Beekeepers

Early spring with the Central Oregon Beekeepers Association. First, we lament the mid-winter warm weather, lack of snow, and probability of hive starvation with brood rearing and lack of forage. Then we get the winter weather and snow. It bodes a bit better for the water situation, though we're still below average. We're now hoping the colder weather might last a bit longer, until there is more forage for brood rearing. Although, we have had some reports of a pale white pollen coming in on the warmer days (perhaps willow or alder).

We're starting to do some post mortems on the winter deadouts. So far, most losses have been determined to have been Varroa associated (mite load too high during winter bee production) or starvation (light going into the winter).

With all of our region's new beekeepers and folks who are either expanding or replacing losses, we're having quite a few nuc and package orders. We encourage our members to coordinate pickups with other members on our web forum. Central Oregon is centrally located, a long way from everywhere. We can report that our February Beginner Bee School was attended by about 67 students. This year we had nine instructors, including several Oregon Master Beekeeper Program students. We tried a new format at our February meeting. We hosted several breakout sessions on different topics of interest for the beginner beekeeper. It was a great change of pace. At our next meetings, we'll be discussing queen rearing for the hobbyist and colony splits. We extend an open invitation to any of our monthly meetings. Snacks included! *Allen Engle*

### Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

Winter, and the transition into spring, has not been a bad one for the Columbia Gorge area, a very real relief after last winter. However, the nights will not get out of the upper 20s to mid-30s, so even with days in upper 40s and lower 50s, minimal bee traffic. The Gorge area is experiencing moderate tree pollens right now—predominantly juniper, wild hazelnut, and elm—with bud swell becoming prominent on many trees and shrubbery. Hope is *springing* eternal!

Our first meeting of the year, we did a member's needs survey to give CGBA focus for this next year, and got back some good responses. Plenty of interest in working TopBar hives and getting them to overwinter, wanting more hands-on presentations, concerns about pesticide usage, bulk purchasing and sharing, etc. All good direction for the

Board. To our delight, our membership is up to 40 already and we are hoping for more.

Our March general meeting will find us attentively paying attention to John Edwards and his presentation on Miticides. We will also start incorporating an open Q&A time as well as some-pre-meeting time in the Experiment Station hives.

Come on spring!

*Zip Krummel*

### Coos County Beekeepers

Coos County Beekeepers is doing well, with nearly 40 members and 15–30 at meetings. Meeting agendas are roughed out for the year, and then tweaked and added to to fit opportunities and need. In March we discussed swarm catching equipment (including vacuums to pull swarms from 20 feet up) and catching techniques. Also did some group mite counting exercises. In April we'll install package bees in our bee yard, review making splits, and continue mite checking. We keep a swarm list with 10–15 persons, and get pretty good response from local residents contacting us through Extension, law enforcement, or directly.

Although we've started recording bloom dates, here at the coast something is blooming all the time, of course, and bees are active on any nice day. However, we've lost a lot of hives this winter. Drones started showing up in mid-February, and we're getting ready for an early swarm season. We'll have pictures and swarm contact information in the local newspaper (*The World*) by the end of March as well as contact information with local law enforcement and others.

Our local Cascade Farm and Outdoor is taking orders for packaged bees, a welcome development that will save some folks a long trip. The group hosted a free Beekeeping Workshop by GloryBee in early March. Coos County Beekeepers will have an information table at the OSU Extension and Master Gardener's annual "Fertilize Your Mind" seminar March 31 at Southwestern Oregon Community College, where the keynote speaker will be Andony Melathopoulos, discussing "Bees and Backyard Pollination." *Ken Denton*

### Douglas County Bees

We had a great month for Douglas County Bees. We just finished the Home and Garden Show. We did a honey extraction demonstration in front of an audience. It was sticky but went surprisingly well, and we had a lot of questions and interest that stemmed from it. Our secretary and event coordinator Gina Holgate also did a podcast ([www.kgrv700.net](http://www.kgrv700.net)) and radio interview ([kqennewsradio.com](http://kqennewsradio.com)) for the show. She discussed what our group does for the community and announced the demonstration.

We have a number of events in the coming months where we have a booth available to answer questions (April 21: Earth Day & Energy Fair, DC Fairgrounds; April 28–29:

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Glide Wildflower Show, Glide Community Center; May 5: Master Gardeners Plant & Garden Expo, DC Fairgrounds; May 12–13: Umpqua Community Mother's Day Plant Sale, Umpqua Community Center; June 23: Blooms & Butterflies, Elkton Community Center). We are hoping to have an observation hive at each one. Due to the change in weather and some snow just a few days prior, we weren't able to have one at the Home and Garden Show. The observation hive always attracts a lot of onlookers and kids to the booth to have a look see, great time to get people involved and asking questions.

*Ivory Los Banos*

### **Klamath Basin Beekeepers**

Last month we had springlike weather and no snow. Well, that all changed. Now we got a bunch of snow and all the plants that started to bud out got thrown back into the ice age. Sadly, we don't have enough snowpack and a drought emergency has been declared by the county. This will impact our beekeeping year adversely.

Katharina Davitt, the Educational Officer, gave a presentation on wax moth during our February meeting. Who knew that wax moths are vectors for viruses associated with *Varroa* and cause deformed wings due to their fecal matter? A copy of the presentation can be found at: [www.tinyurl.com/y7t4vakz](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7t4vakz).

Our March meeting, we'll have a vote on our new constitution and bylaws. We will finalize our bee package and nuc orders, and Shastina Millworks from White City will visit in the morning bringing preordered equipment. Dr. Ralph (Mike) Rodia, OSBA Agriculture Liaison, will give a presentation on "Best Practices and Residential Beekeeping."

We had an educational exhibition at the annual Winter Wings Festival and the Farm Expo events. Katharina Davitt completed her book *Black and Fuzzy is so Lovely* ([www.tinyurl.com/BlackandFuzzy](http://www.tinyurl.com/BlackandFuzzy)). This final version comprises 40 pages and the club is almost complete for the funds to print 1,500 copies. Katharina, supported by KBBA membership, is working on giving a class to all 3rd and 4th graders in the Klamath Basin on honey bees this year. Last year she taught 22 classes of school children, approximately 700 children. Every child in the Klamath Basin who takes the bee class at school will receive a free copy.

*Paul Davitt*

### **Lane County Beekeepers**

The annual Bee School was well attended by between 40 and 50 people who are interested in learning how to begin this worthwhile pastime. The early session of our April meeting will feature Rick Olson on "Package Bees." He will discuss installation, mite monitoring, and feeding requirements. The regular meeting will have Mike Rodia sharing "Residential Beekeeping, Best Practice Guidelines for Nuisance-Free Beekeeping in Oregon." We have two volunteers willing to

be trained as *consultants*. We have set our Field Day for Saturday, June 2, 2018, at Beetalan Apiary, in Creswell. Jason Rowan has offered to host this important event. Members can watch experienced beekeepers open hives and do various inspections. We plan to try to have "troubling" situations for new beekeepers to find and be able to learn to identify in their own hives.



Bee School: Small-group session on feeding bees.

Plans are underway to hold an event for National Pollinator Week in June. We have been sponsored by the Science Center in Eugene to set up a booth at their facility on Saturday, June 23. We are working with the National American Butterfly Association in Eugene to have a great educational opportunity for children on the role of various pollinators. In addition, we will feature the Oregon Bee Project at the booth. Everyone is welcome.

*Pam Leavitt*

### **Linn-Benton Beekeepers**

This month's scheduled speaker is Dr. Andony Melathopoulos. Dr. Melathopoulos is an Assistant Professor at Oregon State University and works for the school's extension program in Pollinator Health through the College of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Horticulture. He will be presenting, "Doing the Multiplication: Expanding Your Apiary." The presentation will cover installing packages, splitting, and making nucs. We hope that you can join us.

*Amber Reese*

### **Portland Metro Beekeepers**

For the PMBA February meeting, Ellen Topitzhofer from OSU spoke on "Mite Fight," efforts to cope with mites and associated ills/diseases to keep healthy bees and beehives. She pointed out the importance of knowing the enemy and various effects upon the bees. Summary: Be a good neighbor and keep mite levels low. For March, PMBA experienced beekeepers provided instruction in best practices along with helpful hints when introducing nucs and/or package bees into an apiary. Good information for new beekeepers as well as those with some experience.

Upcoming events include: Bee Day planning at George Hansen's Foothills Honey is on schedule. We are looking forward to gaining more understanding of bees, beekeeping, best practices, and actual hands-on experience in the bee yard under the guidance of skilled beekeepers. We plan to participate once again with the Clackamas County Master Gardeners Spring Fair the first weekend in May at the fairgrounds in Canby. It's a very popular event with the surrounding communities, well attended. *Nancy Winston*

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### Southern Oregon Beekeepers

For our April meeting, our speakers will be Andony Melathopoulos and Mike Rodia. Randy Oliver is coming to Southern Oregon July 2nd. More details next month. Have a good month!

*Cheryl Housden*

### Tillamook County Beekeepers

All is well here on the coast. We're having sunny days. Bees are flying, bringing in pollen. Happy days for us and the bees! Our March meeting was busy and fun. We are doing our Bee Day outreach a little differently this year. Bee Day will begin at the Tillamook Home and Garden Show put on by the Headlight Herald, April 7 and 8. Attendance is usually about 8,000. We'll sell honey, have our observation hive, and all our usual demos of the parts of the hive and equipment, etc. Very, very important to us is emphasis on encouraging bee-friendly plantings. To this end, we will have quite a selection available for sale. Lastly, we'll collect a list of names of folks interested in learning more about bees and have an educational session in May.

Winter colony losses run the whole gamut. We do, however, have a few rather large beekeepers with from 17 to 25 colonies that basically only lost one or two hives. So, the majority of the meeting was spent listening to their philosophies of beekeeping, what they do and why they do it. The group has a great sense of humor and a lively and enlightening discussion ensued. Ever onward with new insights into becoming better beekeepers.

*Claire Moody*

### Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

The TVBA as a new not-for-profit organization has registered both with Google for nonprofit and with Benevity to enable our organization has more impact on our community. This sponsorship activity will be our first full year doing this. We hope this will help the TVBA collaborate more efficiently with better resources.

Four of our most-experienced members taught our new beekeepers in our annual Bee School, presented over three days in early March. On the last day, after talking too deep about two deeps, Mike showed how to use the fancy Ross round for collecting honey in supers. On the swarm capturing front, Jeff Clark worked with a local arborist to get a gum from a diseased tree at our local Hillsboro library. View story and photos at: <https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/Home/Components/News/News/6572/>. *Eddie Frie*

## KEEPING BEES in APRIL

*Max Kuhn*

April, one of my favorite months. It is the beginning of the most exciting part of the beekeeping year. It is the beginning of swarm season for most beekeepers on the west side of the Cascades. While the month of May

usually holds the record for the largest volume of swarms produced in a single month, the months of April and June also see large numbers of swarms. But don't think you won't see any swarms before April or after June because the bees love to surprise us. But before we get started on swarms, is there anything else we should be doing with the bees this month? How about hive inspections? Most of you have probably already completed an inspection or two of your honey bee colonies. (Weather permitting, of course.) Do you have a laying queen? Did you see her? Regardless of whether you did see her or not, you should have seen brood, probably in both open and capped cells. And pollen both in the cells near the brood and on the bees returning to the colony. How about honey capped in the cells? The bees may still need 20–30 pounds of honey before summer. If you don't have that much stored honey, you probably need to be feeding sugar syrup. A 1 to 1 ratio is recommended for this time of year. But hopefully you found brood, and honey inside the hive along with pollen coming into the hive entrance. A fair-sized population of adult bees is a good thing to see also. About 4–5 frames of bees in an overwintered hive of 10–20 frames would be the minimum size I want to see. If you observed all this without seeing sick or dying bees, then you are probably well on your way to a good season of beekeeping. You may also need to purchase a new queen now if you found no brood or living queen in your colony. If the population is less than 4–5 frames, you may want to add a frame or two of bees from another colony to boost the population. Making sure that those frames do not have the queen from the doner colony on them first. Ha! Been there, done that! 😊

So, what exactly is a swarm? Why do they occur? What can we do to prevent them? Do we really need to prevent them? How can we catch a swarm? And what do we do with a swarm if we are lucky/unlucky enough to catch one?

A swarm is the product of a honey bee colony's genetically embedded desire to reproduce, or to multiply. (Those are my words, not Webster's. 😊) It is nature's way of producing more honey bee colonies. Swarms occur when several conditions come together at the same time. But keep in mind that the honey bees want to do this. It is a golden moment for the colony when it can swarm. Sending half their population off to find a new home and produce even more swarms. They seem excited about it and proud to take part in it.

Then we have the beekeeper trying with all he or she knows to prevent them from swarming. Why? Well, if the beekeeper keeps bees for honey collection, the beekeeper stands to lose a crop if they swarm. Most colonies which swarm are not able to recoup their lost population and put

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in a surplus of honey, not in the same season anyway. It is that surplus of honey that the beekeeper depends on for his or her own. And yes, I try to prevent them also. Swarms can sometimes be prevented without going to extremes. Earlier I mentioned conditions which can contribute to swarming. The condition most often associated with swarming is congestion. During the spring months is an especially bad time to allow your colonies to become crowded. This time of year, it is better to have too much space inside the hive rather than not enough. So, try to stay ahead of the bees as they grow in population.

An ample food source is another of the conditions which contributes to swarming. Sometimes we overfeed our bees in our effort to help them. I see this with purchased nucs. A beekeeper will bring the nuc home and install the 4–5 frames of bees in an 8–10 frame box of bare foundation and provide an abundant food supply. Sugar syrup, protein patties, pollen supplements, etc. If the queen has no place to lay eggs because most available brood cells are full of sugar syrup, look out for swarming. Add congestion or crowding to this scenario and swarming is practically guaranteed. When congestion and an abundant food supply come together, the bees may build swarm cells for replacement queens. This is the last step before swarming. If you see swarm cells in your colony, prevention efforts are likely a waste of time.

Weather is the one factor that might postpone swarming after swarm cells are constructed. Good flying weather is necessary and, when absent, may cause the colony to wait until it arrives before swarming. During this period, it is not unusual for a colony to have two queens. Mother and daughter queens can and do share the same hive while waiting for the weather to clear.

So, is swarming a bad thing? Depends. Not really, unless the goal is honey collection. Swarming does have some good aspects. A break in the brood cycle is created during swarming and that is a good thing for Varroa control. The swarm temporarily has no brood in the new nest site and, without brood, the Varroa mite has no place to lay eggs. All mites which rode bees to the swarm's new home are now phoretic and are thereby vulnerable to most all types of mite treatments. So, don't miss this opportunity to treat for mites. While we are on the subject of mites, remember to treat the old hive also. Because it now has most of the former population of mites with half or less of the former bee population. Just remember to remove any honey supers from the old hive before treating that colony for mites.

My efforts toward swarm control are limited to avoiding congestion and trying not to overfeed the bees during swarm season. I prefer to put most of my efforts into being

prepared for swarming. Putting out plenty of *bait boxes* (swarm traps) near my colonies. And being prepared to catch swarms in other locations as well, when called upon to do so. Swarms are really fairly easy to catch, and many tools are available to make this fast, easy, and fun.

I hope we all have great April this year. Now, let's go catch some swarms! 🐝

### Spring Surveys—Continued from page 1

annual Overwinter Loss Survey. Large-scale beekeepers will be mailed a single-page colony loss survey in March and asked to kindly fill that out within a month (if at all possible), and send it back in the postage-paid envelope. If you prefer, you can also complete this survey electronically. The survey is at: [www.pnwhoneybeesurvey.com](http://www.pnwhoneybeesurvey.com). Click under take the survey; first question (number of colonies) separates larger-scale from backyard beekeepers.

We appreciate your past involvement and ask that you help provide us this information once again this spring. Participation in the Pacific Northwest Overwinter Loss Survey should not interfere with the great response of Oregon beekeepers to the national BIP survey. The BIP electronic survey will be available during the entire month of April (as last year). You can sign up for a reminder by visiting: [www.beeinformed.org](http://www.beeinformed.org). During your visit, look for the recent compilations of data on overwintering management, mite control, and other useful information; you can also look at just Oregon responses now on the website. 🐝

### RESIDENTIAL BEEKEEPING

We can now view and download the finished “Residential Beekeeping Best-practice guidelines for nuisance-free beekeeping in Oregon” (EM 9186) at: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9186>.

Oregon's Residential Beekeeping Law. What Is This Law About? and Guidelines is also available at: <https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/residential-beekeeping-oregon>, the Oregon State University site dedicated to providing information about residential beekeeping.

### WORLD BEE DAY

*Mureen Walker*

World Bee Day on May 20 is the time to add our voices to the others of the planet to heighten awareness of how relevant the primary pollinators are to everyone who eats and suggest ways in which any one can participate in improving awareness and conditions beneficial for the bees, especially the honey bee communities.



This official international celebration is the result of an initiative proposed by Slovenian Beekeeping Association to the United Nations several years ago and recently approved, on November 17, 2017, in New York. In the autumn, there is a day for honey bees that was approved for recognition by the USDA, which, over the years, has undergone several changes in names and days, originally as *Honey Bee Appreciation Day*, then *National Honey Bee Day*. *World* was eventually included in the title, and some other counties joined in, but with some challenges in adapting to the original initiative with date and name inconsistencies. The date is defined as “the third Saturday in August,” which will not be on the same day of the month all around the globe. In the US, the date this year is August, 18, 2018, the weekend of beginning to set up the OSBA booth at the Oregon State Fair, which runs for the ten days prior to its finale on Labor Day, this year, on August 24–September 3.

Slovenia “has always been in the front ranks within the EU in regard to raising awareness of the importance of bees in the lives of humans and our planet” reports Dejan Židan in the *Huffington Post*. Slovenia is the only EU member state that has protected its native honey bee, the Carniolan, preventing intermixing within its country. A beekeeping tour to Slovenia on May 17–30 will include a full day of celebrating the first World Bee Day on the 20th there as well as the International Beekeepers Conference on the 18th (see: [www.slovenianbeekeeping.com](http://www.slovenianbeekeeping.com) or write [beeslovenia@gmail.com](mailto:beeslovenia@gmail.com)). For more information, visit: [worldbeeday.org/en](http://worldbeeday.org/en).

## REMEMBRANCES



### Robert Morgan 1951–2018

*The Dalles Chronicle*

Robert G. Morgan, 66, a U.S. Navy veteran passed away at home in The Dalles, Ore., on Feb. 20, 2018. Bob was born Dec. 12, 1951, in Bay City, Mich. At the young age of 9, Bob started his passion for hard work, driving tractor, plowing sugar beets fields in Michigan. Bob then moved to Oregon in 1961 with his parents and family. At the age of 20 he married his long-time love Debra, and soon after, they started their family of four sons. In 1975, Bob worked at Martin Marietta Aluminum plant for five years. There he met many of his life-long friends. In 1977, he started his commercial bee business and soon after bought a cherry orchard in The Dalles.

Bob loved to be busy, working and truly enjoyed spending time working with his bees and being out in the orchard. Bob was an avid deer lover and had a passion for the outdoors. He loved fishing in Alaska, hunting, camping and spending time with his nine grandchildren and beloved dogs.

Bob is survived by wife, Deb (Bartell) Morgan; sons, Lance of Seattle, Wash., Marcus and Celeste (Pulliam) of The Dalles, Ore., Nicholas and Tiffany (Flowers) of Long Beach, Mich., and Vincent and Amanda (Opbroek) of Bend, Ore.; nine grandchildren; siblings, Lee of Michigan, Carol of New Mexico, Jean of Colorado and Steven of Colorado.



### Robert Olstrom 1935–2018

*Karen Finley*

Bob Olstrom tried to keep bees as a child in Wisconsin, in a glass jar. No honey was made. At the age of 36, he built and gave his wife Joann a beehive for her birthday (“because *he* wanted to keep bees!” she says). With the help of mentors in the area and from the state bee association, the couple was soon selling a bit of the extra honey around town in Reedsport, Oregon, and responding to a lot of swarm calls.

Within a decade, Bob and Joann were running over 200 colonies and making record honey crops. They had bee yards set out up and down the Oregon Coast and the lower Umpqua Valley. (Imagine, if you will, their very full basement garage.)

As a high school industrial arts teacher, Bob was a dynamo at building bee equipment, moving heavy things, and fencing out the bears. He was a great promoter of Joann, who (with her home-ec teacher background) packaged and distributed Joann’s Honey, Nutty Honey (with nuts mixed in), and Snappy Ginger Honey on the Oregon Coast and at natural food groceries all the way to Portland.

After his retirement in 1998, the couple also slowed down on the bees; they continued packing and promoting Oregon’s delicious honey for another decade.

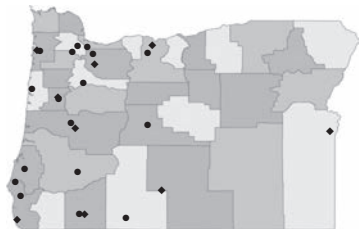
Professionally, Bob designed and ran an exemplary high school shop program in Reedsport for over 25 years. He taught his craft to other teachers-in-training. He was discouraged by the loss of these programs in school districts such as Reedsport and around the state.

Bob and Joann cared for and housed over 40 foster children in their home in Reedsport over the years. As teachers, foster parents, and beekeepers, they were/are keen on acknowledging the shoulders we all stand on. In this spirit, donations in Bob’s memory can be made to the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program ([oregonmasterbeekeeper.org](http://oregonmasterbeekeeper.org)), and to Every Child ([everychildlane.org](http://everychildlane.org)), a nonprofit which provides support to Oregon’s foster families.

Bob is survived by his wife Joann and their son Eric (Dee) and grandsons Jake and Joey.

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##### Central Coast Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, fourth Wednesday, Newport  
 President: Patti Johnson—pattiandpatt@comcast.net  
 Website: www.ccbaor.org

##### Central Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:00–7:30 pm, fourth Tuesday, Bend  
 President: Allen Engle—aengle@bendbroadband.com  
 Website: www.cobeekeeping.org

##### Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

Meets 6:15–8:15 pm, third Wednesday, Hood River  
 President: Zip Krummel—zipk@gorge.net  
 Website: gorgebeekeepers.org

##### Coos County Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third Saturday, Myrtle Point  
 President: Randy Sturgill—randys@rfpco.com

##### Douglas County Bees

Meets 7:00–8:30 PM, first Wednesday, Roseburg  
 President: Ivory Los Bonos—ivohart@gmail.com  
 Website: www.douglascountybees.org

##### Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Meets 9:00 AM, last Saturday, Klamath Falls  
 President: Paul Davitt—president@klamathbeekeepers.org  
 Website: www.klamathbeekeepers.org

##### Lane County Beekeepers

Meets 7:30, third Tuesday, Eugene  
 President: Pam Leavitt—pamseaver2000@yahoo.com  
 Website: www.lcbaor.org

##### Linn-Benton Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third Wednesday, Corvallis  
 President: Everett Kaser—everett@lbba.us  
 Website: www.lbba.us

##### Oregon Prison Beekeepers

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

##### Oregon South Coast Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 PM, third Tuesday, Gold Beach  
 President: Harvey Young—fishhawk51@hotmail.com

##### Portland Metro Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, second Thursday, Gladstone  
 President: Rex McIntire—remcintire\_5@msn.com  
 Website: portlandmetro.org

##### Portland Urban Beekeepers

Meets 7:00–9:00 pm, first Wednesday, Portland  
 President: Mandy Shaw—president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org  
 Website: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

##### Southern Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:30–8:00 PM, first Monday, Central Point  
 President: John Jacob—oldsolbees@gmail.com  
 Website: southernoregonbeekeepers.org

##### Tillamook County Beekeepers

Meets 6:00–8:00 PM, second Tuesday, Tillamook  
 President: Claire Moody  
 503.318.9149; claire@vanirmail.com

##### Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Meets 6:00–8:00 PM, last Tuesday, North Plains  
 President: Eddie Frie—ejfrie@frontier.com  
 Website: tvba.weebly.com/

##### Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, fourth Monday, Salem  
 President: Richard Farrier—rfarrierfarms@gmail.com  
 Website: wvbahive.org



*The Bee Line*

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The queen, I say, is the mother bee; it is undoubtedly complimenting her to call her a queen and invest her with regal authority, yet she is a superb creature and looks every inch a queen. — John Burroughs

~ If the date on the mailing label is April 2018 (or earlier), this is your friendly renewal notice. ~

***The Bee Line***

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The next issue to be printed will be the May issue, 2018. The deadline for submitting copy is **April 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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