



The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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

How are your bees doing? Where they are finding nectar and pollen during this fine month of June? How have planned bee events and pollinator week celebrations gone? Let us know!

A bee is an exquisite chemist.

— Royal Beekeeper to Charles II

HONEY BEE COLONY LOSSES OF OREGON BEEKEEPERS

Dewey M. Caron and Ramesh Sagili

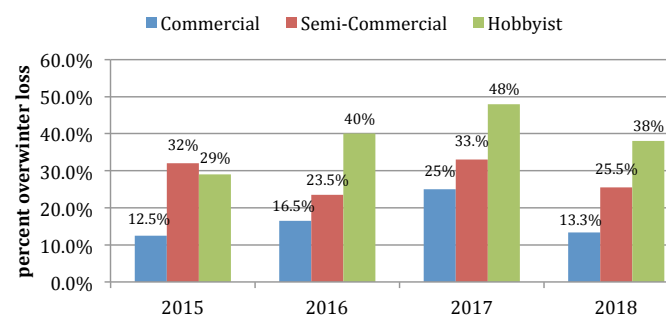
The annual Oregon State University survey (2017–2018) of commercial (owning 500-plus colonies) and semi-commercial (50–500 colonies) beekeepers documents losses considerably reduced from the previous year. Eight Oregon commercial beekeepers managing 41,340 fall colonies (simple average = 5,904 colonies/individual) lost 5,500 colonies accounting for 13.3 percent loss rate; six Oregon semi-commercial beekeepers with 907 fall colonies (simple average = 152 colonies/individual) lost 209 colonies accounting for 23 percent loss rate. The total number of colonies owned by the reporting commercial/semi-commercial beekeepers account for about 57 percent of the NASS estimated colonies in Oregon.

In a different electronic survey, www.pnwhoneybeesurvey.com, 303 small-scale Oregon beekeepers (1–50 colonies) reported a 38 percent loss rate. Thanks to Jenai Fitzpatrick for crunching numbers. For the three Pacific Northwest states, based on the survey responses from 42 individuals (45 percent of NASS estimated colonies), the colony loss rate for commercial/semi-commercial Pacific Northwest beekeepers was 21.3 percent and 40 percent for small-scale beekeepers. We should soon have a preliminary report from the Bee Informed Partnership survey.

Summer losses for seven commercial beekeepers ranged from 0 to 50 percent and averaged 20 percent, while colony losses of seven semi-commercial beekeepers ranged from 2 to 33 percent and accounted for a simple average loss of 15 percent.

Responses to the question regarding “acceptable loss” percentage ranged from 0 percent to 20 percent loss (for the 14 responding beekeepers), with median loss percentage of 10 percent. For the 303 small-scale beekeepers, it was 15 percent.

The survey also asked for “reason” for colony losses; all respondents indicated more than one possible factor for their colony loss with one individual listing seven reasons. In order of number of times the choices were checked, the fourteen individuals indicated Varroa (92 percent), queen failure (79 percent), weak in fall (43 percent), pesticides and CCD (36 percent each), starvation (26 percent), Nosema (21 percent), and one respondent each (7 percent) indicated bears, yellowjackets, and inadequate mite control.



All eight responding commercial beekeepers pollinated almonds, and two of the six semi-commercial used their colonies to pollinate almonds. During the year, commercial beekeepers placed their colonies on average in 3.3

Continued on page 8

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Imagine for a moment that at some point in your life you decided to become a brain surgeon. Once decided, you seek out a brain surgeon for advice on how to move forward on this new career path.

To your surprise, after brief introductions, the surgeon hands you a scalpel and says, “Here you go! In several years you should have it all figured out for yourself. Good luck!” Wouldn’t this strike you as just a little bit crazy?

As silly as this example may be, this is *exactly* how many, or maybe most, beekeepers have started out. After becoming interested in bees, step one for many beginners has been to assemble a hive and place an order for a nuc or package. Like our aspiring brain surgeon, they have no concept whatsoever about the complexity and intricacies that lie ahead.

This is exactly how I got started in bees. My neighbor decided to stop beekeeping and sold me a couple of hives, books, extractor, and everything else related to his beekeeping for 100 bucks. We moved the hives to my house in the dead of winter. That was 26 years ago. What a disaster!

Fortunately, aspiring beekeepers in Oregon have resources available to them in 2018. There is absolutely no reason or excuse for folks to have to “go it alone.”

Oregon’s regional associations report very successful and well-attended bee schools in recent years.

The Oregon Master Beekeeper Program now provides a uniform, current, and legitimate path forward in the development of new beekeepers. In addition, and this is pivotal, mentors are assigned to provide oversight, assistance, and coaching for new beekeepers.

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association is supportive of our regional associations, the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, Commercial Beekeeper Workshops, and other efforts to establish success in beekeeping.

How can you help? You have already become part of the solution by keeping your membership current in the OSBA. Talk with your fellow beekeepers about becoming a member. Consider mentoring a serious new beekeeper. Mentors are needed!

Thank you for all of your effort and support for Oregon beekeepers. Your contribution to the overall success of the industry has an impact on all of us.

I hope your bees look as good as mine! Oops! Did I say that?

Harry Vanderpool

OSBA 2018 FALL CONFERENCE

Planning for the OSBA 2018 Fall Conference, **October 26–28, 2018**, in Salem is underway. It’s not too soon to be thinking about attending. Among others, we will meet:

James Tew, Ohio State University

Steve Pernal, Beaverlodge Research, Canada

Jennifer Berry, University of Georgia

Michelle Flenniken, Montana State University

GloryBee, SAVE the BEE

Anna Childers, USDA ARS Beltsville, Maryland

Krispn Given, Purdue University

Ramesh Sagili and the OSU Honey Bee Lab
and **Caught Red Handed**, Friday Eve, 6–9 PM



The conference will include time and space for both a Silent Auction and a Benefit auction, the proceeds of which go to honey bee research. Yet, neither will happen

without you! Both are in need *items*. Soaps, jewelry, t-shirts . . . priceless works of art, boxes of pears, queen certificates . . . Items need not be bee-related. We look forward to seeing you at the conference. And if you have items to donate, we’ll be ready to accept them from you there!



OSBA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

April 28, 2018 ❖ Colton, Oregon

Harry Vanderpool, president, called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees at 4:01 PM. In attendance were Jan Lohman, Mureen Walker, Rex McIntire, Marjie Ehry, Joe Hansen, Tom Cinquini, Harry Vanderpool, Kathy Cope, Claire Moody, Risa Halpin, Rosanna Mattingly, Mike Rodia, Everett Kaser, Pam Leavitt, Eddie Frie, and Jordan Dimock.

The minutes were sent to board members in advance of our meeting for review. Claire Moody made a motion to accept the minutes, and Rex McIntire seconded the motion with approval.

Marjie Ehry, an honored honey judge and OSBA life member, was introduced to the board for her attendance at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Joe Hansen passed out an updated Profit and Loss Statement and a Balance Sheet up to March 31, 2018, for review. He informed the board that an expense for this quarter, above the usual expenses, was for facility rental for the conference and to date we have a -\$1796.76 in income, but that is not unusual because our income comes from the conference each year. Also we have received \$670 in donations for the Best Practices printing expenses. The April balance is \$70,673, with the Research Fund balance at \$21,005.00.

Pam Leavitt made a motion that the treasurer's report be approved as stated, seconded by Everett Kaser, and the motion carried.

Harry Vanderpool announced that there was a \$5,000 penalty fee for late filing of past income taxes, but our accountant helped to write letters to eliminate those costs. He recently received notice that the penalty was reduced to zero. Taxes in 2018 were filed early.

Regional Representatives and Association Reports

Kathy Cope, filling in for Stan Scotton, **North Coast Regional Representative**, announced that they have received their nuc orders and have had bad weather. There were over 500 attendees at the Honey Lovers Festival. Having a variety of events, diverse vendors, and a variety of activities drew the larger crowd.

Claire Moody, from **Tillamook County Beekeepers Association**, said that most in their group are doing a great job of overwintering, but some did lose their hives. There were 57 who attended their last meeting, and they have a bee class coming soon.

Risa Halpin came for Mysti Jacob, **Southwestern Oregon Regional Representative**. She announced that their group

had 80-plus at Bee School, and they are working on mentorships for new beekeepers to get them started on the right foot. They have strong science-based meetings. Swarms are going crazy in Southern Oregon, and they have a summer beekeeping class planned for mid-July with Dr. Andrew Watson and Jan Lohman booked for the event.

Everett Kaser, representing **Linn Benton Beekeepers Association**, said that they have over 70 members and expect to build their membership up to the 80 that they had in 2017. Last month Andony came to speak, and next month Dewey Caron will be there. Newer beekeepers lost most of their hives, but experienced beekeepers seemed to come out well.

Pam Leavitt, from **Lane County Beekeepers Association**, said that their enrollment is over 200. Mike Rodia presented to their association in April, and in May Martha Strotsky is showing how to read frames. GloryBee gave \$90,000 to Ramesh from their SAVE the BEE Campaign. June 2 is their field day.

Mureen Walker, **South Coast Regional Representative**, said that many in their area had a rough time with overwintering their bees this year because of fire, smoke, and a late freeze. She was pleased that she was able to overwinter her bees.

Tom Cinquini, **Portland Metro Regional Representative**, said that the maple is coming in, and they put supers on before the blueberries. They have a low mite count, but lots of swarmy hives. Recently, OSHA paid a visit to their apiary. Tom warned that, if you use oxalic acid, be aware that it must be from a source that sells it for use on bees. If it does not have the label on the container, you can be fined.

Newsletter and Website Report

Rosanna thanks you as always for what you send in. She noted that the membership is always moving with members renewing, new members joining, and memberships expiring without renewal. Of about 370 members (including many not now renewed), 144 are currently registered on the website. Rosanna is asking for direction for the website. Do we want to redo the website? After discussion, the board unanimously agreed that we want to do a makeover. Rosanna asked for ideas to be sent to her about what the board would like to see included and any ideas for improvements. She will send a copy of ideas to Jan to be distributed to the board members with instructions to let Rosanna know what you would like to see added, changed, or done in a different way.

Agriculture Liaison Report

Mike Rodia needs money for printing the Best Practices information. GloryBee has agreed to make a donation, and Mike has been visiting with associations to request help with the printing expenses. He estimates \$5,000 for printing costs at \$1 per copy. Over \$600 has been donated to this date.

Mike asked the OSBA about a donation for printing costs, and in turn we will receive copies to give to membership. Everett Kaser made a motion that the OSBA donate \$2,000 to the Best Practices Brochure printing expense, in addition to the other donations already received, seconded by Jordan Dimock. All of the board approved. The League of Oregon Cities came up with a Model Beekeeping Ordinance. Mike sent suggestions to them that would make it usable and has not heard back from them. Discussion was held about a location in the Salem area that allows bees on one side of the street and not on the other because Salem, Oregon, allows beekeeping, but Marion County does not in a residential zone. This is currently being reviewed.

Oregon State Fair Booth

Marjie Ehry brought in a suggestion to the board that Bonnie King has volunteered to coordinate the OSBA booth at the Oregon State Fair this year. There are lots of booth items in storage for use, and lots of volunteers to help from last year. Discussion was held about how we have already set a limit of \$2,000 for operating a booth at the state fair. A motion was made by Jan Lohman to offer a \$1,000 stipend to Bonnie King for coordinating the State Fair Booth and an additional \$1,000 for expenses. Mike Rodia seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

OSBA Membership Drive

How to build a membership was addressed by Claire Moody.

Risa Halpin asked, "What do you gain by being a member?" and the group replied, monthly copies of the newsletter, swarm list, ag liaison, and the Oregon State Fair. Harry Vanderpool mentioned that 2021 is the 100th anniversary of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. He would like to see our membership climb to 600 by that date.

OSBA Fall Conference 2018

Claire Moody mentioned that she had been looking at evaluations from last year's conference and noticed that most of the replies came from backyard beekeepers. We need to encourage commercial beekeepers to respond to our surveys. The most-common concerns were logistics, slides difficult, runs too late on Sunday, Ramesh needs more time, and want different information presented. Conversation took place on how to produce dual tracks at the conference and leave time for beekeepers to network.

Proceeds from Honey Show

Marjie Ehry discussed the sale of honey from the annual honey show. Could we hold those funds and use as cash prizes for honey entered in the honey show? There were approximately 20 entries at last year's honey show.

Rex McIntire made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Pam Leavitt, so with no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Lohman



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BEEKEEPERS' BOOTH AT THE 2018 OREGON STATE FAIR

Bonnie King

The Oregon State Fair is just around the corner! That's right, summer has not even started and we're planning our booth, which means we're really excited. The theme of the 2018 Oregon State Fair is "Where Fun Shines," which the bees should love! The OSBA will have an impressive booth at the Fair as is our long-standing tradition, bringing honey bees into the spotlight for generations of Oregonians.

The 2018 fair runs **August 24–September 3**. You can be a part of the Oregon State Fair experience by helping out with our booth! This is a great opportunity to promote the importance of beekeeping and pollinator health to the general public, and it's a lot of fun.

Volunteer

We hope to have members from all of our Oregon chapters hosting the booth at some point throughout the 11 days of the fair.

Signup for 6-hour shifts is now available. There will be three people per shift, so there is plenty of coverage for breaks. We need people of all levels of experience to interact with the public every day.

Volunteers get a free pass to the fair for the day, free parking, and the opportunity to share the love of honey bees to thousands of people.

We will also need observation hives to display on a rotational basis. If you know the ins and outs of observation hives, you can be part of a critical role to manage that important component of the exhibit.

If you have construction or exhibit experience, we could use your assistance to set up our exhibit in the 10 x 40-foot booth on Thursday, **August 23**, and tear down the booth on Tuesday, **September 4**.

Enter the Competition

Show your stuff! Bring your honey and products from the hive. Competition is broken into divisions for youth and adults, though young folks can also choose to compete with the adults. The fair rules will be available soon. For more info, go to: <https://oregonstatefair.org/competitions/creative-living/agriculture-horticulture/>.

Oregon is "Where Fun Shines," especially if you're a honey bee! This is going to be a great fair. If you are interested in volunteering, or have any questions, please contact booth coordinator Bonnie King at bonjking@gmail.com or Marjorie Ehry at marjehry@hotmail.com. See you at the fair!



Booth Coordinator Bonnie King (right), ready to hear from you, stands with Marjorie Ehry, who has spent many years setting up the OSBA booth at the Oregon State Fair.



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“SAVE the BEE”

Pam Leavitt

GloryBee, a Eugene company, was started in the fall of 1975. It is a family owned and operated business. Dick Turanski, Chief Procurement Officer, founder of GloryBee, and a beekeeper, began their social responsibility initiative to SAVE the BEE in 2012. They have partnered with business owners, researchers, and consumers to help with the current decline in honey bee populations. One hundred percent of all funds raised go directly to SAVE the BEE. Since the founding, \$300,000 has been raised.

The company recognizes the importance of funding research to study and work toward solving the crisis facing the honey bee. They provide research dollars to Oregon State University and Washington State University Honey Bee Labs. On April 20, 2018, Dick Turanski presented a check for \$90,000 to Dr. Ramesh Sagili, Principal Investigator of the Honey Bee Lab and Associate Professor of Apiculture at OSU.



Dick Turanski (right) presents SAVE the BEE check to Ramesh Sagili.

GloryBee works with nonprofit organizations that are dedicated to protecting pollinators. In addition, they teach classes and support beekeeping education in the local community and around the state. The importance of the honey bee for our food supply now and for future generations is a primary focus of this initiative.

Several Oregon businesses advertise SAVE the BEE on their products and give a portion of their profits to this important cause. On April 14, 2018, 285 individuals registered to participate in the SAVE the BEE 5k run at Fern Ridge Reservoir. A number of those businesses were on site to support this event and gave away samples of their products to all in attendance.

The State of Oregon is fortunate to have GloryBee and their participating partners working on behalf of honey bees and beekeepers.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA TO MEASURE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HONEY INDUSTRY

*Industry can promote its economic contributions—
but only if beekeepers, importers, packers and processors
participate in study.*

FREDERICK, Colo. (May 16, 2018) – From beekeepers and honey importers to packers and processors, the honey industry plays a unique and vital role in the US economy. To illustrate the industry’s true impact, the University of California is asking business owners to complete a short survey. The questionnaire will measure the economic impact of all aspects of the honey industry by calculating the number of jobs the industry creates and its total economic activity.



The questionnaire’s data will be used to create a final report that showcases the role of the honey industry in the broader US economy as well as its impact on regional economies

throughout the country.

To accurately assess this large and varied industry, the University of California is looking to the businesses that make up the honey industry to take part in the questionnaire. The information will be entirely confidential, with the survey conducted online through a secure form without personally identifiable information.

“The University of California Agricultural Issues Center at UC Davis is committed to helping agricultural organizations better understand their economic impact,” said Project Scientist Dr. Bill Matthews. “We’re looking forward to quantifying the honey industry’s important role within the US economy.”

To participate in the US Honey Industry Impact Questionnaire, please visit www.honey.com/newsroom/pressrelease/university-of-california-to-measure-economic-impact-of-honey-industry before **June 15, 2018**.

“The honey industry makes significant contributions to the US economy,” said Margaret Lombard, CEO of the National Honey Board. “Finally being able to quantify our impact the way other industries have will allow us to generate goodwill for our industry’s many contributions.”

KEEPING BEES IN JUNE

Jan Lohman

Another Summer in the Bee Yard! There are always so many things to tend to with honey bees after you have gotten past the overwintering process and are moving into the swing of summer in the bee yard, understanding that advice that works for Eastern Oregon might be totally inappropriate for the Willamette Valley or Southern Oregon, but there are a few basics of which we all must abide.

Varroa Mite Sampling

Please understand that June is *not* the month to ignore your colonies . . . knowing their levels of Varroa can save you *big* in the early spring to summer. It may not be time to treat, but it is important to know what your levels are, and have a plan of attack for when you need to treat. Also to get your mode of treatment ordered and on hand for the treatment when needed.

Preparation for Summer Inspections

Beekeepers are very creative about how they get their equipment to the beeyard. It might be a wagon, a forklift and pallet, a bucket full of bee gear, or a Subaru tail gate . . . the new tail gate party! However you transport your gear, make sure that you remember a hive tool, smoker, smoker fuel, protective equipment, frames of foundation, nuc box, syrup, excluders, and honey supers.

If your hive is not swarmy and you are not interested in increasing your apiary, by all means let your hive grow and prosper to honey-making size by simply adding excluders, if you use them, and honey supers; but, if you are like most beekeepers, you will find either a supersedure cell or a supply of swarm cells in your colony and decisions will need to be made. Always look between the two hive boxes to see if queen cells are present. If there are supersedure cells, it is always great to replace the present queen with a new, young queen. If there are swarm cells, you can either split the hive *or* pull some frames of brood to lessen the population. Remember to remove the swarm cells after pulling all of the brood necessary. I like to leave about seven frames of brood in the parent hive. It is also advisable to rotate your comb each year, so this method works well to pull out the older comb and replace with a few frames of foundation. Feeding is advisable when you insert foundation into your hive.

What to Do with the Brood

If you are interested in an addition to your apiary, by all means put up to four frames of brood into a deep box with a few shakes of bees and a new queen to build a new colony. You also have the option of building a nuc with two or three frames of brood and two shakes of bees . . . let it grow . . . and use the nuc as a supplement to a queenless hive. I always advise new beekeepers to have at least two hives in their apiary, so that one can help the other, and also have a nuc available for a replacement queen.

Hive Records

It is very important to maintain records of your hives. They can be recorded on the hive itself with a lumber crayon, in a notebook, using a computer program such as Hive Tracks, or on Excel—or any other method that you might dream up. When recording your work, be sure to include the date, weather conditions, observations to include Varroa mite levels, seeing the queen, eggs, larva, queen cells, swarm cells, etc., and what should be done during your next visit.

Happy Beekeeping.

Colony Losses—Continued from page 1

states (mostly California and Washington in addition to Oregon); semi-commercial beekeepers on average placed their colonies in 1.3 states.

All commercials, except one, reported that income from bees accounted for over 90 percent of their total income; two semi-commercial beekeepers reported that bees contributed to less than 10 percent of their annual income, while four individuals reported it to be 10–50 percent. All but one individual indicated that they replaced their colony losses with splits, as did the six semi-commercial beekeepers; one respondent used splits (25 percent), packages (50 percent), and swarms (25 percent) to replace their colony losses.

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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 and under *Events*.

Regional Representatives

North Coast

Spring has arrived with improving weather, more sun, and temperatures moving up. Most of us have our bees and they are thriving. I am still feeding a colony I am concerned about. With all of the new brood about to emerge, I want to make sure the colony can meet the nutritional needs of the new occupants. I just got back from a trip to the Willamette Valley, and I remembered what I heard from a long-time coastal beekeeper that the north coast is about four to six weeks behind the valley. I have bees in orchard where the trees are still not in full bloom. They will be by the time you read this.

Both the Tillamook County Beekeepers Association and the Central Coast Beekeepers Association are also thriving. The numbers of beekeepers attending our meetings is up, as are our membership numbers. Both associations are doing special events for our new first- and second-year beekeepers.

Both associations are participating in the Tillamook and Lincoln counties Master Gardener Plant Sales and various Pollinator Week activities. Both recently had Mike Rodia speak at their meeting on HB 2653 Best Practices for Residential Beekeeping and the regional consultant concept and duties. I thought Mike did a great presentation. I have to say I did not understand the concept of the Regional Residential Beekeeping Consultant, but am now much more comfortable with the concept.

Blackberries are still a long way off for most of us on the north coast. Lastly, thank you to our nuc and package suppliers again this year. This is such a service to our associations, and it helps with building membership and raising interest.

Stan Scotton

South Coast

Local Pollinators & Forage will be featured at the Curry County Fair, July 25–28, with the Oregon South Coast members organizing and presenting for the honey bees, and partnering with other groups and individuals representing the native pollinators and plants that are so crucially co-dependent as well as the butterflies. Suggestions are most welcome for any resources and presenters to make the experience of the exhibit, images, presentations,

and interaction especially dynamic and memorable. Contact BeekeepersCoastal@gmail.com.

In May, some Oregon South Coast members enjoyed bee school just south of the border, aptly on Cinco de Mayo, at the Lucky 7 Casino in Smith River, California, hosted by the Del Norte Beekeepers and the Casino. Dewey Caron was the keynote speaker with a presentation in the morning and again in the afternoon. He and his wife reported that they enjoyed staying in the redwoods with their hosting beekeepers, followed by the northbound trip along the coast on Highway 101.



Vice President Daniel Strom speaks on queen rearing.

Daniel Strom, vice president, gave the first presentation of the afternoon on “Queen Rearing” and noted that he plans for next year to be the first beekeeper on the coast offering queens for sale. He plans to offer nucs as well.

Daniel, with the assistance of President Harvey Young, has begun a 4-H Beekeeping Program, and the Curry County Fair has added a new category for youth division in the honey competition.

Several of us had also been, the prior weekend, at the bee school presented by Portland Metro beekeepers at Foothills Honey Company, prior to the OSBA board meeting, including Risa Halpern of Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association.

The event at the casino was free, with complimentary usage of facilities provided by Lucky 7 and welcome by Erika, the principal gardener for the Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation, who oversees several programs promoting agriculture. Bee school participants’ money liberally went for raffle items generously donated by several beekeepers, including speaker Noah Clipp of Diggin’ Livin’ in Cave Junction as well as Russ and Babbette Rose of My Honey’s Produce.

Off-season losses were especially dramatic this year, beginning with colonies smoked out of their hives by the Chetco Bar Fire in the Brookings area, and yellowjackets killing off twenty colonies, emptying out half of the hives owned by a beginning commercial beekeeper in north Curry County, Port Orford area, and the freeze at the end of February into the beginning of March killed all of the colonies owned by several backyard beekeepers and significant portions of several other apiaries of central Curry coast.

Mureen Walker

Regional Associations

Central Oregon Beekeepers

With another teasing of nice weather (actually up in the

mid 70s), we're all planting our summer veggies and annuals (now for a good hard freeze to put us in our place). Actually, the willows and daffodils are done, the fruit trees in Central Oregon are all in full bloom, and the wax currants are also mid flow. Next up is the bitterbrush.

We had one report of a swarm so far, then a few days of cold weather, so we're expecting a "tidal wave" of swarms over the next few weeks. We've been encouraging our members to be vigilant this time of year if they want to reduce swarming from their own hives. Also, we've had reports of good results with early mite control.

Most Central Oregon cities have specific prescriptive urban beekeeping ordinances, although a few say nothing, so we are optimistically interested to see how the nuisance method of regulating beekeeping using *best practices* will work to keep beekeeping from being outright banned in cities.

Last month, we had a great presentation by one of our Oregon Master Beekeeper Program Apprentices on alternative methods of package introduction, including non-Langstroth hives. Next month, a local Journey student will be discussing the experimental efficacy and specifics of different mite count methods. Please accept my invitation to attend any of our meetings.

Allen Engle

Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

Spring is here and beekeepers (and their bees) are delighted. So far, it has been a pretty good spring—still high for tree and grass pollen—Oregon grape and most of the spring bulbs are putting on a very pretty, colorful (and sometimes fragrant!) show for us and our bees. Nice to hear a variety of association members are catching swarms; what a treat for a new beekeeper to be involved in a swarm catch and installing it into a new hive! Sad to say, we had to kill a feral colony that had lived in a split tree for several years at the edge of a park. Regulations prevented any change to the tree but visitors were getting stung and the split ran a little over 4-feet long, almost straight down. One beekeeper tried to vacuum, but couldn't get far enough to ensure a queen.

May will bring Mike Rodia to present the recommended practices for residential beekeeping to CGBA, followed by Charlie Vanden Heuvel presenting on AFB and EFB in the hive. Meeting starts at 6:15 PM at the Hood River County Extension Office classroom.

BG Bees and Brushy Mountain are sponsoring two events in May happening in the Columbia Gorge: May 19 are small "in-hive" demos with Drs. Seeley, Melathopoulos, Caron, and Alison McAfee in local hives; the 20th will be presentations by Drs. Seeley and Melathopoulos and Alison

McAfee on "Honey Production," "Bees & Agriculture," "Honey Bee Hygienics," and more.

May is turning into a busy month for both bees and beekeepers here in the Columbia Gorge area.

Zip Krummel

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Klamath Basin beekeepers' big event for April was our package and nuc order from A&D Bees in Lincoln, California. We issued 113 packages and 112 nucs. Some went to new beekeepers, but most went to association members either increasing their current hives or making up from winter losses. As for the weather and flowers, spring has finally shown up and the dandelions are blooming.

Education officer, Katharina Davitt, has started her Bees in the Classroom Project, where she is attempting to reach



all 3rd and 4th graders in the Klamath Basin and teach them about honey bees, pollination, how to identify between bees and wasps, and how to treat for stings as well as other subjects. So far, she has most of the schools in the Basin signed up and plans on visiting all 20 elementary schools this year. The association has printed 1,500 copies of her bee educational children's book, *Black and Fuzzy Is So Lovely*, and each child will get a free copy. Currently all 1,500 copies will most likely be distributed this year.

We will have an educational booth at the Migratory Bird Festival in Klamath Falls. This month's meeting will be a field day at our vice president's apiary, where new beekeepers will get hands-on training to help them become successful beekeepers.

Paul Davitt

Linn Benton Beekeepers

Linn Benton Beekeepers will be hosting our Annual Field Day on Saturday, June, 9. The event runs from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM and will be held at Oregon State University's Apiary. The morning session includes three presentations that participants will rotate through. They include: the Varroa mite life cycle, sugar rolls, and honey extraction. After a short lunch break, the group will split up between new beekeepers and experienced beekeepers. New beekeepers will learn how to inspect and evaluate a hive. Experienced beekeepers will inspect hives known to be problematic and

evaluate options to remedy them. This is a free event for paid members of LBBA. For more information, please look at our website at: www.lbba.us/2018-field-day/. Our regularly scheduled meeting for June has been canceled in lieu of the field day.

On June 23, LBBA will be set up a table at the Corvallis Farmers Market from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Member volunteers will be showing picture foundation frames and set up an observation hive. This event coincides with National Pollinator Week, which runs from June 18 to 24.

Bee joke for the month: Why is honey bee hair always sticky?
Answer: Because they use honey combs! *Amber Reese*

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Our hives seem to be packing a lot of honey into supers, some already nicely capped. These girls have taken full advantage of the warm, sunny times between rain, snow, ice, etc.

Portland Metro Beekeepers enjoyed a grand Bee Day at the Foothills Honey Company. Thanks to Dr. Andony Melathopoulos, we learned that replacing old comb results in happier, healthier bees and thriving hives. We all like new “furniture”! Harry Vanderpool provided a list of tips ‘n techniques for efficient and effective hive management. My favorite is to find the queen in just a few seconds, what I call a *frame-ahead* view. We broke into smaller groups for introduction to hive inspections—or for a review of hive inspections, depending upon each participant’s experience. The raffle was a highlight of the day, too, with a variety of equipment and supplies from generous vendors throughout the community, from bee-friendly plant material to hive tools to hive bodies. Even the weather cooperated with sunbreaks and no rain!

On the heels of Bee Day was the Master Gardeners Spring Garden Fair in Canby the next weekend. We hosted a booth with an observation hive, informational literature, and experienced beekeepers on hand to answer questions. The event was well attended, and PMBA ran out of the literature and business cards.

For our May meeting, we plan to address the progress of nucs picked up in early April: how they are doing, what we should be seeing, and potential trouble spots. Last event for May is the Oregon City Farmers’ Market Pollinators Fair, where PMBA will feature an observation hive and several members to introduce young and old alike to the insects who play such an important part of life on earth.

Nancy Winston

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Portland Urban beekeepers have had a busy May out at the Zenger Farm apiary. We sustained two more Langstroth

losses, but we were also able to make two splits. Mandy caught a swarm and donated it to our new top bar hive. We were fortunate to have four nucs donated to us by Jason Rowan from Beetanical Apiary. The students from our March bee class will install them on their field day. Big thanks to Jason!

It has been quite the swarm season, with many PUB members reporting successful swarm captures. Hopefully, if our bees swarmed, we caught them!

Portland is awash in color as the spring bloom continues with apple, pear, plum, dogwood, currant, ornamental cherry, borage, poppies, bellflowers, daisies, allium, wisteria, heather as well as dandelion, to name a few.

Our monthly meeting was well attended. Glen Andresen reviewed what’s blooming in Portland with his usual excellent photos. Later he gave a great presentation on queen rearing. Dewey Caron reminded us to complete the Bee Informed survey on colony management and losses for 2018. Dewey also reviewed what we all need to be doing in our hives this month to try to stay ahead of the bees.

In the coming weeks, PUB will have a booth at the Multnomah County Fair over the Memorial Day weekend, and will participate in the Pollinator Week at the Oregon Zoo in mid-June. We are sponsoring Tom Seeley on September 15, and all are invited! You can purchase tickets from our website; early bird prices still available. *Cheryl Wright*

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

The bee season is in full swing here! Dewey Caron is coming in for our June meeting. His talk will be on “Responsible Colony Stewardship: June management/working toward treatment-free beekeeping.”

Randy Oliver is coming to Southern Oregon for our July 2 monthly meeting. We are still working on the details. If anyone is interested in making the trip to Southern Oregon to hear Randy Oliver, please check in with our website or Facebook page. The information will be there as soon as everything is final.

Ellen Topitzhofer from the OSU Honey Bee Lab and Bee Informed Partnership gave a great talk on Varroa at our May monthly meeting. Our June 4 monthly starts with a hive demonstration at 6:30 PM in the SOBA bee yard, with the meeting at 7:30 PM. *Cheryl Housden*

Tillamook County Beekeepers

This was our second meeting at our new location, the Tillamook Public Library. It’s a lovely space big enough to handle an expanding group, furnished comfortably, and with all the built-in technology we could need. Hopefully this will be our home forever. Mike Rodia was our guest speaker. How generous of him to come to each of our associations to

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As always, there is a lot of sharing and a lot of laughing going on. One of our members drives two hours from Gearhardt, where he has a cranberry bog. He needs ten colonies to pollinate the cranberries and seems to lose those bees in the very windy, very rainy Astoria winters. So, this year he put up a building much like they have in Slovenia and other such countries. His bees are now *indoors* with pipes that connect each colony to the outside. He shared a video of the operation, which I expect we will go and see in person for one of our apiary visits this summer.

On other matters, we had a review of the *May Bee Line* as part of our meeting and a discussion of the advantages of joining OSBA. Applications were distributed, and it is hopeful that we will increase our OSBA membership.

Saturday, May 12, Claire is teaching an “Intro to Bees and Beekeeping” to all the folks who signed up at the Home and Garden Show and the Master Gardeners’ Plant Sale. The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing Thomas Seeley’s Darwinian Beekeeping ideas using the twenty points from www.naturalbeekeepingtrust.org/darwinian-beekeeping. A good time was had by all. *Claire Moody*

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association members are adding brood boxes, feeding syrup to new colonies of hungry bees, and carefully considering what looks to be an early Spring. Blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries are blooming, along with wildflowers, providing the delectable forage that makes Oregon honey so grand.

Member Diane Van Dyke opened a new honey bee friendly

nursery specializing in plantings for pollinators. It is called *River Oak Farms*. And we celebrated the wedding of Mike Standing and Dianne Hutto, who are both TVBA Board members. Congratulations, Mike and Dianne!

The Tuesday and Saturday farmers’ markets have started, allowing a platform for honey and products of the hive sales. We also connect with the general public at community education events. The 4-H and FFA students are off and running with their new hives and colonies.

Our speaker for May is Dr. Dewey Caron, and he specializes in everything related to beekeeping and will be sharing the latest information on best practices in mite treatment.

Yvonne Shaw & Eddie Frie

BEE EVENTS

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

July 11–13. Heartland Apiculture Society’s 2018 Missouri Conference. St. Louis. *Information:* www.heartlandbees.org.

August 3–5. Western Apicultural Society Conference. Boise, Idaho. *Information:* www.westernapiculturalsociety.org.


August 13–17. Eastern Apiculture Society Conference. Hampton, Virginia. *Information:* www.easternapiculture.org.

August 18. Oregon Honey Festival. *Information:* oregonhoneyfestival.com.

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

November 13–15. 2018 CSBA Annual Convention. Harrah’s Resort Southern California. *Information:* www.californiastatebeekeepers.com.

January 8–12. 2019 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. *Information:* www.abfnet.org/?

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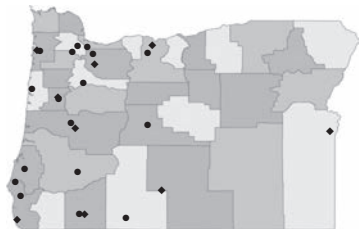
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• REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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 LosBanos—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 PM, 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 6:30–9:00 PM, first Monday, Central Point

President: John Jacob—oldsolbees@gmail.com

Website: southernoregonbeekeepers.org

Tillamook County Beekeepers

Meets 6:30–8:00 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



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The Bee Line

The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Annual subscriptions to the newsletter are included with each membership in OSBA.

Please send news about your bees and your experiences in keeping them, as well as events, corrections, comments, questions, photographs and stories, interviews, recipes, points of view—and ads/advertising—to: Rosanna Mattingly, *The Bee Line*, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland OR 97206; e-mail: osba.newsletter@gmail.com. It's *your* newsletter—we want to hear from you!

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