



The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 43
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October 2018



Mureen Walker

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

Image above: David Matis squeezes honey into the tiny spoons of eager tasters at the OSBA booth at the Oregon State Fair, while Marjie Ehry's big wooden honey bear keeps watch behind. David, of Dallas, won first place with dark honey from his garden. The honey competition display was in the beekeepers booth this year. Honey Judge Marjie also provided the honey tasting kit for the OSBA booth and delightfully hosted tasters several times during the fair.

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY HONEY BEE LAB

Jan Lohman

What is the OSU Honey Bee Lab doing with our generous support? The OSBA received a thank you this month from OSU Foundation for our continued support of honey bee research, extension, and education to the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University.

In their thank you letter, they shared many of the things that the OSU Honey Bee Lab is doing with the funds that are donated to the Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education. I thought that our members would like to know where their donations go and encourage all of you to look ahead to the future of beekeeping and continue your generosity by continuing to support our hard-working Honey Bee Lab.

During the 2017–2018 year, expendable funds from this fund supported honey bee health-related projects by examining colony-level prevalence and intensity of *Nosema ceranae*. They tested Varroa mite treatments, investigated effects of pesticides and fungicides on colony health, and studied colony health in commercial beekeeper colonies pollinating crops on the West Coast. They also helped to formulate appropriate best management practices for beekeepers and growers to promote honey bee health in Oregon. Their efforts have led to significant changes in behavior among beekeepers and growers, and this, in turn, has led to improved honey bee health.

In the wake of deteriorating honey bee health and the absence of evidence to implicate a single factor, bee nutrition has attained greater importance than ever before. Their projects address a large gap in knowledge regarding effects of nutrition on honey bee physiology, health, and colony growth. In their survey, Oregon beekeepers who followed the nutrition management recommendations based on studies at OSU reported about 15 percent decrease in colony loss.

In collaboration with the OSBA, the OSU Honey Bee Lab initiated the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. This program has received overwhelming response from stakeholders, with a current enrollment of over 1,500 participants during its existence.

The funds have also provided training opportunities for several undergraduate students and research assistants.

This is just a small portion of what the collaborative efforts of the OSBA and OSU Honey Bee Lab can accomplish in the future, but of course it takes support from all of us. Please consider a donation to the Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education so that we are supporting our honey bees.

Note: To contribute to the fund, make check out to The OSU Foundation with Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education written on the memo line and a cover letter explaining the donation and repeating Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education. Mail to: The OSU Foundation, 850 SW 35th St, Corvallis OR 97333.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It's Sunday evening and I feel like I'm walking on air. Why? Because today we finished seeding our hay field that has taken many spare minutes of my time between working bees this summer.

It has been eight years since the field was last plowed and planted. Now that the work is done, I can't wait for the beautiful, deep green field to emerge! There is nothing more to do to this field until April or May. All we have to do is watch the grass grow.

Is there *ever* a time for beekeepers to just sit back and watch the bees grow? For comparison, I do not need to lift a single finger with my hay field for at least six months.

For me, and for the many awesome beekeepers with whom I regularly communicate, I can state with confidence that the work with our bees never ends. Even when the bees are all set for winter, hives fed up and covered, the worrying and hand wringing continues.

I don't want to sound like a broken record, but there is a value that we as beekeepers must assign to the level of attentiveness that our work, services, and products require.

When we place a price tag on a bottle of honey, a candle, or a hive of bees in pollination, are we factoring in the total cost basis including off-season worrying/planning time? For many beekeepers, our work continues 24/7/365.

There is one short break that I hope you will consider taking this fall. Please mark your calendar for the OSBA Fall Conference 2018. Our annual conference each fall gives us a chance to catch our breath and adjust our attitudes after a long, hot, dry year of work.

Please register early and commit to enjoying a few days of fellowship, connections, and updates in our industry. Think about it; you deserve the time off.

Oh, and if you're considering switching to hay production, I don't recommend it. Watching the grass grow is fun, but really boring. I'm sure that we can all agree that beekeeping is *not*!

See you at the conference!

Harry Vanderpool

OSBA AT THE 2018 OREGON STATE FAIR

Bonnie King



Bonnie King, OSBA Activities Director, with Fred Mann. For a lot of Oregonians, it's the bees.

The Oregon State Fair means something different to everyone, the smell of corn dogs, the sounds of the carnival, the huge barns full of animals and excited competitors. Scones. These are festive sentiments that draw us back year after year. For

The Oregon beekeepers' booth is a big part of the culture of the State Fair. A favorite destination for generations of fairgoers, "seeing the bees" definitely adds to the traditional appeal. This year, 60 enthusiastic Oregon beekeeping volunteers hosted the booth, where they enjoyed swarms of visitors.

In the busy "Creative Living" building filled with hundreds of displays vying for attention, the beekeepers' booth was again a top choice from open til close, every day—a direct-from-source information treasure trove about beekeeping, pollination, and local groups.

The OSBA booth is one that people will remember, because they were able to spend a significant amount of time with us. The layout had a flow that led visitors around the booth, creating an inviting atmosphere where the visitor could easily see the displays and chat with the hosts, or relax and watch an insightful video.

The Brood Zone coloring area was a constant buzz of activity, with visitors of all ages taking a break to show their creative talent. Some examples will be shown at the OSBA Fall Conference.

The Apiary area was again hosted by the two sturdy experts: Buzz and Flora, mannequins displaying varieties in beekeeping coveralls, veils, gloves, and more. Deep supers brought in by Fred Mann, and shallows, by Dick Temple, provided great teaching tools for those who have

never seen hives “close up” (no bees included!).

Building the booth took two days before the start of the fair. Many thanks to Fred Mann, Harry Vanderpool, Marjie Ehry, Mike Rodia, Lynn Flaming, Brittany Dow, and Austin, Sean, and Christian King for your enormous help in constructing (and taking down) of the booth.

The saga of the missing showcase was a highlight for all our team. A beautiful cabinet was built in the 1980s by Dave Kerr for the OSBA state fair booth. It boasted the large cell designed OSBA sign on top, and it was used for years. Then, about 2006, it disappeared.

Every year, the subject came up and was never resolved. No one could find the cabinet.

This year, Harry Vanderpool was determined to get some answers. He and Mike Rodia went on a mission from building to building throughout the fairgrounds . . .

[Details of their ensuing adventure are on page 16.]

. . . and for the first time in 12 years, we used the custom cabinet, created just for us. The heavy sign was affixed properly to the top with cables, helping visitors spot us from across the showroom floor. It shall not be lost again.

AMAZING OREGON HONEY AND PRODUCTS SHINE

An impressive number of entries competed in the “Honey and Products from the Hive” categories this year, with top honors going to Mark Minzlaff, winning Best of Show. Thursday, August 30, was Agriculture Day at the Fair.



Honey Judge Marjie Ehry



Mark Minzlaff
Best of Show 2018

We had several events going on that day, including a “honey salad dressing” competition, and a presentation on stage by Dick Turanski, the founder of GloryBee, speaking about the SAVE the BEE® campaign, followed by honey tasting with Marjie Ehry throughout the afternoon. Winners of the “Sweet as Honey” honey salad dressing competition were: (1) Zavion Taylor, (2) Melenie Paola, and (3) Renata Stanko. Most entries (except the perishables) were displayed in a lit showcase in our booth this year, so visitors could see all we have to offer within one area, to make the biggest impact.

BOOTH HOSTS ARE BEEKEEPING AMBASSADORS

The beekeeping booth hosts were friendly and very

helpful, answering questions and “finding the Queen” for scores of visitors, sometimes simultaneously.

Recipes, lists of flowers and plants that bees love, and lists of beekeeping meetings were the top handouts. A lot of lucky folks were also treated to a honey stick, donated by Salem’s own HoneyStix company, especially if they happened upon Becca, the Queen Bee.

Becca Fain brought her Queen Bee costume, making coming to our booth even more fun. We had hoped to have the full-size Honey Bear costume in use, but discovered it needed some repairs. The OSBA Honey Bear will make its appearance in 2019!

There are a lot of opportunities for those interested in participating in the fair. You might want to join a committee and help with the creation and daily operation of our booth. Or maybe you can donate a nuc for the observation hive. We highly encourage all beekeepers, OSBA members as well as nonmembers, to enter their products in the competitions.

Fred Mann was the observation hive coordinator, making sure the bees were well tended and rotated on a 2-day schedule. The OSBA purchased two new observation hives this year, so in the future, beekeepers can donate bees without worrying about owning an observation hive. The OSBA has got it covered! Not only can individuals staff the booth, regional beekeeping groups are welcome to reserve an entire day for their group to host the booth.

An 11-day event means everyone gets a chance to experience the fair, should you so choose. Spending a shift in the bee booth is a wonderful opportunity to share valuable information with the public, exposing them to the importance of the honey bee for all of agriculture, and all of humanity. Hosts offer inspiration to new beekeepers and enjoy networking with others who share an affinity for honey bees. You also get gate and parking passes. Next year there will be even more shifts available, as we’ll be going to 4-hour long shifts instead of 6 (by popular vote!).

I can’t say enough good things about everyone who came together to make this annual project a success. Special thanks to Marjorie Ehry and Fred Mann, without whom this all would have been an unworldly task. You all are the Bees Knees!

SPEAKING OF NEXT YEAR . . .

Our booth continues as an important, eagerly anticipated event at the fair again next year. Mark your calendar! We need you! Get on the volunteer list early! Dates are: August 23–September 2, 2019. Meantime, be sure to check out the State Fair display at the upcoming Fall Conference.



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KEEPING BEES IN OCTOBER

Harry Vanderpool

October in Oregon is often time to make “last chance” decisions that can make the difference in our hives. However, many new houses have been painted in November in certain years due to sunny weather! Although every year is different, we should use our time wisely in October to give our bees, and ourselves, every chance for success.

October often presents the last opportunity to feed our hives. If we have done our job as beekeepers very well through the year but do not ensure adequate stores to make it through winter, all is lost.

Conducting final hive inspections in October gives us a chance to remove debris such as mite strips, queen cages, or . . .?

Mark the hives that feel light and give them a few more shots of syrup if weather permits. Feeding syrup too late in the season when temperatures are below 40°F can result in fermented honey in the feeders and frames. Dysentery often follows. Frames of honey added to light hives should be placed in a position that respects the profile of the brood nest. We want to avoid dividing the brood nest.

Queenless hives can be combined or have nucleus hives installed. But special care must be taken to maintain the tight, consolidated brood nest and area above with stores.

Late-season sampling for mite levels, post treatment, gives

very good information on the efficacy of treatments used. Many beekeepers like to perform an oxalic acid dribble, or a “fall clean-up” later on in the year when the brood is at its lowest level. Sampling in October can help in the decision-making for such measures.

Mouse guards installed in the entrance are highly recommended to save your valuable comb through winter. Some prefer entrance reducers, which can exclude mice and protect the hive from cold, windy conditions. Mouse-damaged comb will often be drawn as drone comb in the next year. We want to avoid excessive drone comb as it will become a Varroa-breeding disaster in our hives.

Hive lids should be secured from gusty winds in some manner. Hives should be moved to high ground if flooding is an issue. What is the condition of your lids? Do they have cracks that will allow rain to trickle into the hive?

While insulation of hives is generally considered unnecessary in Oregon, many beekeepers cover pallets of hives with roofing felt or other materials in order to shed rain and snow. This really helps with moisture control as well as helps preserve hive materials.

Once you have done all that you can do for your bees, how about doing something for the beekeeper? Sign up for the Oregon State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference. Do it now! A lot of very valuable information will be presented there that you just cannot afford to miss! Please remember, the OSBA Fall Conference is greatly improved by your presence and fellowship there!

OSBA FALL CONFERENCE | OCTOBER 26–28, 2018 | SALEM CONVENTION CENTER



A. MICHELLE FLENNIKEN



B. DANIELLE DOWNEY



C. JAMES TEW



D. ANNA CHILDERS

The Fall Conference provides an opportunity meet and learn from some of the top researchers in the US and Canada—as well as continue the conversations we began last year and engage in new ones. This fine, quickly moving year of 2018 is no different! Join us in welcoming scientists and others involved with bees from near and far at the Salem Convention Center in October. We'll gather Friday evening, October 26, in preparation for two full days of talking bees and beekeeping. Does it get any better . . .?

As seen in the Agenda, page 9, we'll start with (A) honey bee health and pathogens, and then take a look at (B) the work of Apis m. regarding the industry and Varroa-resistant bees, (C) honey bee queens and American foulbrood, and (D) current efforts of the USDA. We'll gain the latest on (E) Varroa management, (F) American foulbrood and bee breeding, and (G) honey bee reproduction and behavioral resistance to Varroa. And we'll learn what's happening here at home with (H) updates on the research and extension

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E. JENNIFER BERRY



F. STEVE PERNAL



G. KRISPN GIVEN



H. RAMESH SAGILI

activities of the OSU Honey Bee Lab as well as contributions of others in the region.

Updates to the Conference Agenda and Presenter Bios, Abstracts, and additional conference news are at: osba2018.orsba.org. Once there, you'll find a link for online registration. For registration by mail, see the Registration Form on page 10. Please note that rates increase after **October 16**, which is also the deadline for registering by mail. Additional conference events include opportunities to learn directly about the work of the OSU Honey Bee Lab, attend Bee School and other breakout sessions, explore the Exhibitors Area, and participate in the Silent and Benefit Auctions. Activities also include a preconference Commercial Beekeeper Workshop and Honey Show, described in paragraphs that follow.

COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPER WORKSHOP

A successful commercial beekeeper does not just know how to keep good bees. Commercial beekeepers must also maintain an efficient business: make good financial decisions, manage employees, establish and maintain relationships with growers, comply with safety regulations in all aspects of their work, and more. Most educational events for beekeepers

focus on presentations of the latest research in honey bees. There are few opportunities for commercial beekeepers to increase knowledge on less exciting, yet vital information on running a safe, successful business. Oregon State University and the Oregon State Beekeepers Association have teamed up to offer a series of workshops especially for commercial beekeepers. Past topics included best business practices, workplace safety, Food Safety Modernization Act, even forklift safety. Our next Commercial Beekeeper Workshop will be just before the OSBA conference, on Friday, October 26, 2018, from 9 AM to 12 PM at the Salem Convention Center. Details and registration information will be coming soon, so please check the OSBA website or email carolyn.breece@oregonstate.edu if you would like to receive an email announcement.

FALL CONFERENCE HONEY SHOW

Come prepared to enter products of the hive in this year's Honey Show! Honey Steward Susan Rauchfuss will accept entries at the Honey Show Booth in the Willamette Foyer no sooner than 8:00 AM and no later than 9:45 AM on Saturday. Honey Judge Marjie Ehry will begin judging at 10 AM.

CONFERENCE HONEY SHOW QUANTITIES & CLASSES

Minimum Quantities

Comb Honey – 3 lots of 3 rounds
 Extracting Frames each class– 3 frames
 All Other Honey – 3 pint jars
 Extracted Honey – 3 standard, uniform 1-pound honey jars;
 no pint jars

Class Descriptions

COMB HONEY: Class #1

1. Comb honey, any one variety – 3 round sections
2. Comb honey, any one variety – 3 square sections
3. Chunk honey in a jar – 3 wide mouth pint jars

Extracting frames:

4. Full depth, any one variety – 3 frames
5. Shallow, any one variety – 3 frames
6. Western, any one variety – 3 frames
7. Semi, any one variety – 3 frames

EXTRACTED HONEY: Class #2

- Extracted liquid honey – 3 1-pound queenline jars; no pint jars
8. White

9. Amber

10. Dark

OTHER:

11. Creamed Honey – 3 pint jars

BEESWAX: Class #3

17. Natural or Sun bleached 1 pound minimum – 1 piece
18. Beeswax candles, 100% beeswax; 2–5 pounds – dipped large single or several pairs
19. Artistic beeswax, 100% beeswax; entries can be several pieces, but must be fastened together; entries can be different shades of wax, i.e., brood wax or capping wax; no artificial enhancements.

BEEKEEPING PHOTO: Class #4

Entries must be in an 8" x 10" black frame, subject matter: **Bee Hives in Pollinating Crop**. Use your imagination.

GIFT BASKET: CLASS #15

Must contain at least 5 honey and related bee products.

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OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
2018 FALL CONFERENCE
SALEM CONVENTION CENTER | 200 COMMERCIAL STREET SE | SALEM, OREGON
A TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, October 267:00 PM Kick-Off **Wine and Cheese Social****Saturday, October 27**7:30 AM **Registration**8:00 AM **Silent Auction Begins**8:15 AM **Welcome & Announcements**
Harry Vanderpool, OSBA President8:30 AM **Honey Bee Pathogens and Bee Health**
Michelle Flenniken, Montana State University8:30 AM ***Bee School**
Andrew Schwab, Instructor9:15 AM **From the Laboratory to the Landscape:
How Project Apis m. is Helping the
Beekeeping Industry**
Danielle Downey, Project Apis m.10:00 AM **Break**10:15 AM **Making Hard Decisions About Honey Bee
Queens**
James Tew, Auburn University10:15 AM ***Honey Bee Biology**
Rosanna Mattingly, Beargrass Press11:00 AM **Research Updates from the USDA Bee
Research Laboratory**
Anna Childers, USDA ARS, BeltsvilleNOON **Luncheon****Understanding Some Fascinating Bee Behaviors**
Ramesh Sagili, Oregon State University1:15 PM **Fighting for Our Bees**
Jennifer Berry, University of Georgia2:00 PM **SAVE the BEE®**
Alan Turanski, GloryBee2:45 PM **Break**3:00 PM **New Paradigms in AFB Management**
Steve Pernal, Beaverlodge Research Farm3:45 PM **Queen and Drone Reproductive Biology**
Krispn Given, Purdue University4:00 PM **Silent Auction Ends**4:30 PM **OSBA General Membership Meeting**6:00 PM **Social Hour**7:00 PM **Banquet****My “Almost” 20 Years of Beekeeping
Experiences**
Jennifer Berry, University of Georgia
Benefit Auction to Follow**Sunday, October 28**7:30 AM **Registration**8:15 AM **Welcome & Announcements**
Harry Vanderpool, OSBA President8:30 AM **American Foulbrood—Not Gone
and Not Forgotten**
James Tew, Auburn University8:30 AM ***Using Propolis and Beeswax in Making Lotions
and Other Products of the Hive**
Judy Scher, Lane County Beekeepers Assn9:15 AM **Research Updates from the OSU Honey
Bee Lab**
Ramesh Sagili, Oregon State University10:00 AM **Break**10:15 AM **The Times, They a-Changin’**
George Hansen, Foothills Honey Company11:00 AM **Bee Breeding Tools for the Future**
Steve Pernal, Beaverlodge Research FarmNOON **Luncheon****Oregon Master Beekeeper | Oregon Bee Project**
Jen Holt | Dr. Andony Melathopoulos
Oregon State University1:15 PM **Selecting for Behavioral Resistance to Varroa
Destructor**
Krispn Given, Purdue University2:00 PM **The Importance of Sterols in Honey Bee
Nutritional Physiology**
Priya Chakrabarti-Basu, Oregon State University2:45 PM **Break**3:00 PM **Breeding Varroa-Resistant Bees: A Promising
Project You Haven’t Heard About**
Danielle Downey, Project Apis m.3:45 PM **Identifying and Monitoring Disease Threats**
Anna Childers, USDA ARS, Beltsville4:30 PM **Final Comments & Adjourn**
Harry Vanderpool, OSBA President

*Breakout sessions.

Note: *Donations for the silent and benefit auctions are welcome—they need not be bee-related!

*Potential vendors and advertisers, please contact Harry Vanderpool: 503.399.3675; shallotman@yahoo.com.

*Bee trucks and similar vehicles are too large for parking on site. Contact the Salem Convention Center for other arrangements if unable to leave home without them.

OSBA Fall Conference 2018
Oregon State Beekeepers Association

October 26, 27 & 28, 2018
 Salem Convention Center | Salem, Oregon
 Individual and Family Registration

Name: _____ Date: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____ email: _____

Names of Additional Family Members Attending

Names: _____

Event	Cost
Friday Night Hospitality Room	Complimentary
Full Conference ¹	Individual - \$150 Family - \$180 \$
Saturday Conference Only ¹	Individual - \$90 Family - \$110 \$
Sunday Conference Only ¹	Individual - \$90 Family - \$110 \$
Saturday Luncheon	\$28 per Person Number Attending: _____ \$
Saturday Banquet	\$50 per Person Number Attending: _____ \$
Sunday Luncheon	\$28 per Person Number Attending: _____ \$
Research Donation ²	\$
Annual OSBA Dues ³	\$40 per Person Number: _____ \$
Total ^{4,5}	\$

1) Attendees qualify for preregistration rate if application form (with registration fee) is postmarked on or before October 16. **Late and on-site registration rates are: One Day \$110.00, One Day Family \$130.00, Full Conference \$190.00, Full Conference Family \$220.00.**

2) The Oregon State Beekeepers Association is classified as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Research donations made out to the OSBA may be deductible; please consult your accountant.

3) Please include completed membership form(s).

4) Make check **payable to OSBA** and mail with this completed registration form, **postmarked no later than October 16**, to:

Oregon State Beekeepers Association, 2018 Fall Conference, P.O. Box 10, Aurora OR 97002

5) Hotel reservations are not included in these costs. Special rates are available at the Grand Hotel. Phone: (877) 540-7800.

Note: Updates and online registration at: orsba.org; click on **2018 Conference**.



BEE EVENTS

October 19–21. My Story. Four successful commercial beekeepers. *Information:* www.beeculture.com.

October 26–28: OSBA Fall Conference. Salem Convention Center. *Information:* osba2018.orsba.org.

November 13–15. 2018 California State Beekeepers Association 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/

February 9. 2019 Oregon Coast Honey Lovers Festival. Yachats, Oregon.

REGIONAL NEWS

Note: All associations invite and welcome visitors to join them at meetings. See page 17 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

Both Tillamook County and Central Coast got through their county fairs successfully. *Not* having an eclipse helped a lot. Sadly, CCBA was unable to have an observation hive thanks to the untimely depredations of a bear that got into Rick Olson's apiary. They made up for that, however, with an amazing honey tasting. All the honey was donated by Neil Crawford and included such honeys as carrot, pumpkin, and poison oak. Central Coast finished off the summer with an association barbecue hosted by Pat Wackford. Attendees enjoyed good food, great conversation, and a chance to go through Pat's hives.

Tillamook County had a great time with Nick Van Calcar, who talked about feeding and treatments, at their last meeting. Rick Stelzig set up a temporary honey house near Claire's apiary for the use of any association member who needed a place to extract and bottle their honey this year.

In the meantime, we are enjoying pretty nice weather and, so far, no rain.

Kathy Cope

Regional Associations

Central Coast Beekeepers

Our association did something different for our August meeting. It was the first time ever that we had a field day and picnic. We visited, talked bees, opened hives, and shared our

successes and learnings, followed by a delicious barbeque with all the trimmings. Special thanks to Pat Wackford, who not only hosted the event and shared her hives but did all the grilling as well.

Of course, the topics of honey harvests and mites came up. It was interesting to hear folks share their stories. It seemed our beekeepers had good honey harvests this year or no honey at all, not a whole lot in between. As for mites, many of our members had treated or were in the process of treating. It was good news to hear that some of our association members would be participating in the Mite-A-Thon.

For our September meeting, Carolyn Breece, Senior Faculty Research Assistant from OSU, will be speaking about winterizing our hives to ensure that they make it through winter and we have healthy bees for next spring. Carolyn always shares good information with timely reminders that never can be repeated too many times.

I hope that everyone is having a good fall—that honey stores are good, mite counts are low, and you are enjoying a bountiful harvest.

Patti Johnson

Central Oregon Beekeepers

Not to keep harping on the smoke, but it sure seems like Central Oregon, the various parts of the Willamette Valley, and eastern Oregon have traded off on smoke days throughout the summer. Here in Central Oregon, September was, overall, pretty clear. We usually have a couple of cold nights in September and October (frequently with freezes), but then a wonderful, long Indian summer (with no forage so most folks, grudgingly, continue preparing for winter). Most of the native flowers (rabbitbrush being the last) finished up blooming by mid-September. After hearing a couple of speakers talking to us about the timing and nutrition of winter bees, we have a determined group who've tried to get the honey off earlier (end of August) and mites treated in time for a better crop of winter bees. This month we'll be polling our membership to see how the harvest went.

In September, we have talks about when the various flowers in central Oregon bloomed this year, as well as a presentation on honey extraction with some new extractors. The October topic will be "Myths of Beekeeping, Part 2," with further myth busting and reinforcements. We're looking forward to seeing our new group of Oregon Master Beekeeper Program Apprentices, with the group from last year finishing up. We are always excited to see how much info and experience they assimilate. Several talks and demonstrations each year are provided by OMB students (thank you!). We are also working on getting a speaker for a community event about native bees, soon.

Two issues we'll be discussing this winter are the occasional bee and queen kills when using formic acid treatments, including how to minimize, and the various aspects of and

implementation of the nuisance law and best practices in urban beekeeping.

Allen Engle

Douglas County Bees

We had a wonderful August with a great booth at the Douglas County Fair; it included handouts, including catalogs for local beekeepers interested in getting involved, pictures of our group doing cut-outs and swarm removals, examples of a top bar and Langstroth hive, and an observation hive for kids and adults to oogle over (many looking for the queen). We also had donated items for a silent auction and raffle prizes. Some members volunteered time at the OSBA booth at the Oregon State Fair.



For our September meeting we discussed different mite testing and treatments available, what works for people in our area and what hasn't. Information for the Mite-A-Thon was emailed to the group so we can get some good numbers from Douglas County.

Ivory LosBanos

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Klamath Basin members had their annual barbeque indoors last month as the smoke continues to be a problem affecting members and possibly their bees. It seems like forever, but only since beginning of July, that we haven't had a day without smoke. Not sure how the smoke is affecting the bees. At our next September meeting, we'll get a sense of member harvests this year. The association will have its annual Intermediate Beekeeping Class on Saturday, the 15th of September. We'll teach all the fall and winter tasks to educate members on how to get their bees to survive the winter.

For our educational booth at the Third Annual Oregon Honey Festival in Ashland this past month, Paul and Katharina Davitt drove over the hill various educational gear such as a honey bee and bumble bee observation hive, posters, new varietal honey displays, and more.

Paul Davitt

Lane County Beekeepers

We still have beekeepers borrowing the association's extractors as the harvest of honey continues into early fall. Reports are mixed on the amount of surplus honey the bees have accumulated this season. We have heard of members needing to feed as the stores aren't going to be adequate for winter survival.

The ladies continue to bring brightly colored pollen in from their foraging flights. We certainly need rain, but the dry summer has provided more opportunities for the bees to venture out. What will our winter weather look like?

We thank the OSBA board for voting again this year to offer each association a free registration for the annual conference

in Salem. It is important for associations to get their members to this valuable opportunity to learn from experts as well as to network with fellow beekeepers. We budgeted to send three members to the event as well, because we know how important it is to offer educational opportunities to beekeepers. We hold a drawing at our general meeting, and any member who wants to be considered puts their name in the box. They need to be in attendance when the names are drawn to win.

GloryBee in Eugene donated a complete Langstroth hive to LCBA in the spring. It was taken to our pollinator event at the Eugene Science Center and children were able to color in the stenciled pollinators and flowers with oil-based markers. It will be donated to the Oregon Bee Project booth at the annual meeting in October as a fundraiser to help them in their valuable work. *Please visit the booth; make a generous offer to purchase this colorful hive for your apiary. Every apiary needs an attractive hive!*



Remember to monitor and treat, if necessary, mite populations to help your bees overwinter. Don't allow your infested bees be a mite bomb for other colonies.

Pam Leavitt

Linn Benton Beekeepers

By now, most of Linn and Benton county beekeepers' honey supers have been harvested. Reports at our last association meeting indicated that most members had a very successful harvest with higher-than-expected yields. With the nectar dearth high upon us, protein patties are starting to be added to the brood boxes to fatten up winter bees. Now is also the time when we start mite sampling to see how effective our mite treatments have been.

Colorful pollen has been seen entering my hives. Our local neighborhoods are still showing some blooms. We have seen bees visiting daisies, asters, borage, zinnias, and cosmos flowers. Once my protein patties are consumed, I plan on starting to feed my bees a 2:1 sugar syrup to help ensure a carbohydrate source going into the winter in case there is not enough honey stored. Ramesh Sagili is this month's featured speaker, providing updates on OSU Honey Bee Lab research projects.

Bee Joke for the Month: "What did the nice honey bee say to the naughty honey bee?" Answer: "Oh, Beehave." *Amber Reese*

Oregon South Coast Beekeepers

"Yellowjackets are really bad this year" is the frequent refrain, heard at Oregon State Fair and afterwards around south coast, too. They weren't bad at my place, though, so I figured I must be doing things right. It was summer before last when the wasps did so much damage to the honey bee colonies here and I became vigilant. But now I realize that it's just a matter

of the balance of nature. I see that all around here, where there are holes in the ground, the entrance has been cleared of vegetation and scratched at. Aha! The increase in wasps was followed by an increase in skunks! Of course, after the wasp population dwindles then the cute little striped varmints will be looking to the beehives for more meals.

Peppermint. Isn't it handy that the scent that is so useful around the honey bees, so good for masking the alarm pheromone, is one that is so repulsive to wasps? Oh, and I am eager to try a trick that Scott Bradley recommended to some of us at the state fair: rattling a metal sheet to sound like thunder. The wasps go directly to the hole in the ground, and the bees to the nearest branches, all to avoid the "rain."

Coyote brush is the focal forage crop here during September. It seems to be purely for the nectar. The bright orange pollen is coming from elsewhere, probably tansy.

The OSCBA observation hive at the Curry County Fair was a major attractant in Artisan Hall. The small group of beekeepers continue to be a very dynamic bunch with always more pleasant surprises about who will step up to take on a job when the regular one become unavailable. This year, our local instructor for the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, Barbara Fitts, would be gone during the fair, so she trained Nancy Rogers and Julie Hawthorne to do the honey judging. Then, in response to a desperate plea at meeting, Nancy also volunteered to provide her nuc colony for the observation hive. And besides, also for the first time, she offered to prepare honey for the association to sell at the fair, which involved learning the proper content for honey labels and getting materials and help from Carla Fletcher, the creator and overseer of the OSCBA Apiary. The labels were beautiful, and the honey sales, good.

For all those who have been missing out on the experience of joining in on all the fun of sharing with so many enthusiastic people about honey bees and beekeeping because they think they live too far away, consider the free camping available for "vendors," which includes the hosts of the OSBA booth, even though that is in the non-commercial "Creative Living" building, Columbia Hall. *Mureen Walker*

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Welcome, September, with a promise of cooler days and even a little rain, thankfully. The PMBA bees and beekeepers kept up with "life" during August despite some very hot days and wildfire smoke from multiple fires up and down the West Coast—bees still carrying on, finding pollen and nectar, and beginning to prep for winter. Amazing girls! I see them still charging around the anthers of my Sally Holmes roses collecting pollen, all over the late sunflowers, and diving into the nasturtiums. Finally, too, the year-old Caryopteris are blooming, and bees are all over them.

Thanks to 10-plus dedicated PMBA members who staffed the OSBA booth at the Oregon State Fair on August 25th and 30th, and to those who covered the Clackamas County Fair as well. A lot of fairgoers now have more information about bees and their truly positive impact on our way of life. Hopefully, the fascination of bees in a live environment will encourage the next generation of beekeepers and reduce fears of bees and bee stings.

So, PMS affects bees, too! Really?? Well, no, PMS in this instance is Parasitic Mite Syndrome. I learned that recently while assisting beekeeper friends. The Bee Informed website provides a description and notes that the only treatment recommended is to treat for Varroa mites and keep the mite load low. Instead of a regular meeting, PMBA met at a local park for a barbecue/picnic and a great place for youngsters to play. The weather was perfect, not too hot, not cold 'n rainy.

For the September meeting, George Hansen will focus on general beekeeping, reminding us of best practices for healthy hives. A couple of topics at this time of year are which mite treatment is best, tips on winter feeding, and combining weaker colonies with healthier ones. In addition, it's time to begin to think about elections for 2019.

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Portland Urban Beekeepers

All too soon summer is drawing to an end. Robbing screens are on, mite counts and mite-mitigation methods are in progress, and some are beginning to supplement their colonies with 2:1 sugar syrup. The weather is cooler, but continues to be dry and, thankfully, less smoky.

The September meeting was well attended with 50–60 attendees, and about eight new attendees interested in becoming beekeepers. Glen Andresen reviewed what is blooming in the Portland urban area. Dewey Caron reviewed what we should be doing in our colonies this month to stay ahead of the bees. Mite counts were stressed, as well as supplementing light colonies as needed. He has noticed low pollen stores in colonies that he has recently inspected, and discussed the benefits of protein supplementation with pollen patties, if the bees will take them. Fat bees (*diutinus* bees), the goal for successful overwintering, will be emerging in October, though we may notice that they are already demonstrating increased fat (vitellogenin) storage.

We were all encouraged to participate in the national Mite-A-Thon. Member Linda Zahl introduced another citizen science project led by Oregon State University Department of Horticulture. This project involves collecting native bees in our local neighborhoods and green spaces for counting and identification. We plan to host a class led by Dr. Andony Melathopoulos and staff to show us how to collect with a net, preserve, pin, and send to researchers for identification. We get to try to identify the bee, and then we learn if we were right!

Emily Parker of Bee & Bloom gave a fascinating talk about

the taxonomy and evolution of *Apis mellifera*. We learned about dwarf honey bees that are about 7–10 mm long, and the giant honey bees, *Apis dorsata*, that are 17–20 mm, of which the Himalayan honey bee is a subspecies. The Himalayan honey bees are not only huge at 25 mm but also very defensive. Think of Africanized honey bees on steroids! *Apis dorsata* protects its single comb of honey by layering bees up to four bees thick. When threatened, they engage in hissing, shivering, and can even festoon a chain that has a stinging bee on the end! The Nepalese harvest this honey, and every year people are killed by these bees. It was a nice perspective to end the meeting.

September activities included staffing the OSBA fair booth on Sunday, which was a lot of fun and hosting Tom Seeley. We are looking forward to the OSBA conference! *Cheryl Wright*

Tillamook County Beekeepers

We had a robust meeting this week. Honey extraction was lighter than normal this year probably because it was so dry. We set up a honey house tent fully prepared for extracting, but it was hardly used. It was decided that we would invest in an association extractor for anyone who needed it next year. Some of us were inundated with yellowjackets and bald-faced hornets. Others had no problem. A couple of colonies were lost to that issue.

We are very into raising fat winter bees and have 400 pounds of Global Pollen patties (15% pollen). Autumn lasts a lot longer here on the coast. We'll stop feeding the end of October. Of course, we are doing 2:1 sugar syrup, too. Perhaps, most

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important is that treating for Varroa mites has become the norm rather than the exception. Mite-Away and Apivar are the two most common at the moment, but oxalic acid will start soon.

Knotweed is a huge pollen and nectar source here on the coast, and it is in full bloom. Borage seems to never stop blooming, and in the garden it is by far the bees' favorite. They seem, however, to be on lots of things they didn't use earlier in the year. *Claire Moody*

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

We enjoyed another great presentation by Andony Melathopoulos, this time on diseases that our hives face. He quizzed us on what condition is this by showing different example frames. We wrapped up our beekeeping honey extraction by a big clean up of the honey house. We let Mike and Diane's bees clean up for a few days before our final clean up and storage. We have been battling yellowjackets like everyone else in Oregon and our bee expert, Mike Standing, reminded us that there is only one legal bait to use in Oregon: Onslaught. We will have an expert from the Oregon Department of Agriculture on bees and pesticides for our September 25 meeting to talk about bees and pesticides. We have some new members interested in starting beekeeping. *Eddie Frie*




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LOST & FOUND—A Tale of a Missing Cabinet

Mike Rodia

For the last 20 or maybe 35 years, the OSBA has owned a display cabinet used at the Oregon State Fair. It has a light natural wood finished exterior and interior and is about six-feet tall and wide, and one-foot deep. It has three locking cabinet doors below, and the upper part has sliding glass doors on one side and fixed glass panels on the other side. It has full-width shelves that can be adjusted. The upper cabinet has been used to display hive products, including honey, capped frames, beekeeping equipment, and collector items. The lower cabinet has been used to store and secure lunches, purses, display items that might “walk off,” and other items. On the cabinet top corners are eye bolts used to stabilize a large painted plywood sign shaped like comb and with the words *Oregon State Beekeepers Association*. The sign is visible at an elevation of six feet above other displays and from a half block away.

Each year the fair staff would put the cabinet into storage and then, just before the fair was to begin, move it to the OSBA display area. Each year, that is, until ten years ago or so when it disappeared. It was during this time that there was turnover in fair management and prior staff with a memory moved on. Maybe this is not too surprising; the outside of the cabinet had no identification as to who owned it. So, the cabinet also moved on. Despite numerous requests for the cabinet, no one knew where it went and whether or not it was even still on the fairgrounds. Enter Harry and Mike, as this year’s booth was being set up in Columbia Hall.



Bonnie King

Harry suggested they should go looking for the booth at the state fair—*sans* cabinet. And they did. Mike said he was not sure he would even recognize it, but Harry said he would have no problem as it had eye bolts on the top.

First to the Lego area; not there. Then to the quilts; not there. Then to the wedding dresses; not there. Then to the gigantic vegetables; not there. And then to the rest of Columbia Hall; not there. But, what about the Jackman-Long Building? Well, they went to the Avon booth; not there. Then to the dish booth; not there. And then to the sausage booth, the Cutco booth, the Salem Electric booth, the metal roofing booth, and booth after booth . . . The cabinet was not at any of them.

Having failed to find the cabinet, they consoled each other and sadly trucked back to the bee booth. But, as if by divine

inspiration, Mike said, “We might check the 4-H building as they have displays and use cabinets.”

As they made the half-block journey north to the 4-H building, they spoke of mites, treatments, pollination, and all sorts of wonderful things. As they entered the 4-H building, Mike eyed the buffet line set up with lots of good things to eat. After all, it was lunch time, and they had been walking and searching for hours. But Harry, no sooner than having stepped through the door, shouted, “There it is!”

And there it was, complete with eye bolts on top! Harry asked for and found the lady who was in charge and said, “We are taking back our cabinet!” The in-charge lady said something like, “Over my dead-body. We use it for displays. We have had it for years.” Things got a little sticky about then.

About this point, Harry says, “I think I have the key with me . . .” And after fumbling around he found a key that he used to turn the lock housing and opened the left-hand door. Inside the cabinet was a smoker, hive tool, veil, nuc box, banner, and all kinds of wonderful things. The in-charge lady was crestfallen, but acquiesced in the face of overwhelming evidence that the cabinet was indeed ours. Next step was to get it the half block back to Columbia Hall.

Aha! Who to ask for help? Finally, a name. After wandering around for what seemed like ages, Mike advised everyone in the vicinity to hold their ears. He then let out a shout as loud as a jet-engine (and this is true) with the name of the senior in-charge person. The entire building came to attention, and the in-charge person magically appeared. Mike was advised not to yell like that again, lest the workers file hearing loss claims.

Well, to shorten this tale up, the cabinet was too low to the ground to get the forks under it. Harry, Mike, and the forklift operator rolled the cabinet out of the 4-H building and down the winding and sometimes not-so-smooth pathway through the garden display area and into Columbia Hall.

Marge Ehry was at the booth, and she was so happy to see the cabinet she jumped for joy. And you know Marge—she can really jump. Harry and Mike returned to the booth later, and with some modifications mounted the OSBA sign atop the cabinet, just in time for the opening of the fair the next day. Pity those who have to take it down. It fit so tight in its new mountings, they had to hammer it into place.

Last thing, Mike used a permanent-ink pen to mark the inside wall of the cabinet and dated it. Only thing is, he wrote, “*Owed* by Oregon State Beekeepers Association.”

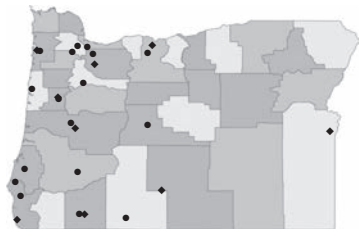


Mureen Walker

As Bee Becca Fain talks to the OSBA sign in the background rests again on its cabinet after so many years apart . . .

Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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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
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Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

Meets 6:15–8:15 PM, third Wednesday, Hood River
 President: James Lombardo—president@gorgebeekeepers.org
 Website: gorgebeekeepers.org

Coos County Beekeepers

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Meets 7:00–8:30 PM, first Wednesday, Roseburg
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 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

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Portland Metro Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, second Thursday, Gladstone
 President: Rex McIntire—remcintire_5@msn.com
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Meets 6:30–9:00 PM, first Monday, Central Point
 President: John Jacob—oldsolbees@gmail.com
 Website: southernoregonbeekeepers.org

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Meets 6:30–8:00 PM, second Tuesday, Tillamook
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 503.318.9149; claire@vanirmail.com

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Meets 6:00–8:00 PM, last Tuesday, North Plains
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 Website: tvba.weebly.com

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, fourth Monday, Salem
 President: Richard Farrier—rfarrierfarms@gmail.com
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Thank you!

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