



# The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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November–December 2018



## BEES ARE BREAKING BARRIERS OF PRISON CULTURE

*Chad Naugle*

Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) has fourteen prisons, and each site has its own unique culture. Nearly a quarter of these sites were constructed prior to 1950, with one prison built in 1912. It can be hard to break through institutionalized barriers such as old culture thinking, operational impacts, and acceptance to implement environmental changes. The bees have played an integral role in changing our sustainability programming efforts inside the walls.

The ODOC Sustainability Office started our beekeeper apprenticeship program back in April of 2014 at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (Coffee Creek). The program almost did not come to fruition due to concerns inside the walls. There was a misconception about bees, an anxiety of everyone getting stung and having allergic reactions. It was concluded that locating the hives inside the perimeter was not safe for all. These concerns came up three days before our three bee packages were scheduled to arrive at a prison in Salem. I reached out to Coffee Creek and educated the management team about the facts and benefits of having this program. Coffee Creek accepted the program with open arms, and it gave the female adults in custody an opportunity to get a program that the male prisons did not have yet. It was decided to stage the hives near our Viola Hoop House outside the prison fences.

There was so much excitement at Coffee Creek when the adults in custody heard about this new program. The Sustainability Office received over thirty job applications and interviews happened shortly after. Ten adults in custody were selected, and they started their beekeeping journey that night when the bee packages arrived. The beekeepers had hive maintenance checks periodically and classroom instruction on a weekly basis. Along with studying for quizzes, journaling, and completing a business plan, each beekeeper needed to complete a written essay or poem on their feelings/experiences with working with the bees. Each class also completed a class project and had to give a group lecture about hive maintenance and the benefits of the bees to the general population.

To see the transformation of the beekeepers has been a rewarding experience. I have witnessed increased pro-social skills, behavior modifications, and higher self-esteem and confidence. The beekeepers have educated their peers, our staff, and their children during visitation sessions. In 2016, the beehives were relocated to the prison garden inside the fence, where there are now six hives. Without the education and awareness from the beekeepers about the importance of bees, prison culture would still be segregated from this apprenticeship program.

This program has expanded to Powder River Correctional Facility in Baker City (2015) and Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario (2016). ODOC has a goal to expand this beekeeping to six more prisons in the future as part of our sustainability plan. There have been 85 apprentices through this program to date. Over the next several months, I'll share some of poems and written statements from the beekeepers who have completed the program at Coffee Creek.

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**Image above:** Beekeepers do a hive inspection at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, where honey bees pollinate plants in the garden as well as contribute in other ways. The bees have now issued swarms to both the Powder Creek Correctional Facility and the Snake River Correctional Institution; plans for issuing swarms to six additional facilities are waiting on the wind.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



This will be my last President's Message to you. I am sorry that it has to be so serious, but sometimes things just need said. The following is the state of our industry as I see it.

We are losing the battle with Varroa mites. If we don't get serious and make major changes, I believe we will have an industry-wide, total collapse within the next few years.

Where will package and bulk bees come from when our entire industry has suffered a devastating, nationwide crash? The bees may simply not be available. What then?

Often, we reflect upon the miticides that have come and gone. The mites developed resistance in very short order to those products. At present, many very talented beekeepers are in a state of continuous treatments, yet still unsatisfied with the level of control regardless of products used.

It appears that Varroa mites are now not only resistant to the few miticides that they have been exposed to but also stronger, more virulent, and more persistent in the face of any treatment(s).

In addition, it appears that the larger, stronger, and healthier hives in the late season are the first to vacuum up mites from crashing hives in the area. How fast can a strong, healthy "mite free" hive reach a lethal level of mite infestation in the late season from robbing activity? A week? Ten days? Nobody knows.

We are operating in the dark. Most of the information available is outdated and incomplete. Our mite sampling methods are highly flawed, based on an incomplete equation. The mite population charts completely ignore the post-honey-flow, robbing-based ingress rates of mites into strong, healthy hives. We need *much more* information about our fight with Varroa, and we need it soon or we are facing imminent disaster.

We are in no position to be wasting time. It's time to get serious, get organized, and get to work finding answers. The questions that need to be answered are very basic, but they are time consuming to evaluate. I spent a lot of time on Varroa research this summer. I was and am rather shocked at how many basic questions arose that need to be answered in order to proceed to the next step.

Every battle has its beginning and its end. How hard are we willing to work in order to win the battle with Varroa? Time is running out. Not a pretty picture, but that's how it appears to me from all reports.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as OSBA President for the past three years. It has been a wonderful experience to represent such a fine agricultural association and fine group of people. I am very excited about and confident in our new officers. Please join me in offering them our utmost support!

*Harry Vanderpool*



Chuck was long engaged with the bees, with OSBA and other organizations, and with learning as well as teaching.



## Charles W. Sowers (1940–2018)

Husband, Father, Teacher, Beekeeper, Great Friend

*Mark Johnson*

Chuck passed away on October 2, 2018. He was born on December 6, 1940, in Saltillo, Ohio, the oldest of four children. Upon graduation, Chuck moved to Idaho to attend college. He then got a job teaching in Richfield, Idaho, where he met his wife Jeanne. Over the years, they had six children (four girls and two boys).

Chuck taught in Idaho for eleven years before moving to Oregon to teach at The Dalles High School, where he worked for four years. Eventually the family moved to Lake Oswego, and Chuck taught at Lakeridge High School for 21 years. In addition to teaching high school during the day, Chuck taught statistics at Portland Community College in the evening. It was at Lakeridge that he finished off his teaching and coaching (basketball, football, baseball, and wrestling) career of 34 years. He retired in 1998.

During his many years of teaching school, Chuck managed a 400-hive commercial

pollination and honey business as well. He was an active member of the Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association and the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Chuck served as President of OSBA for three years, 2007 through 2009. He also was a member of the American Beekeeping Federation and served a term on the nominating committee for the National Honey Board.

After retiring from teaching, Chuck moved to Canby, Oregon, and expanded the bee business to over 2,500 colonies with six employees. He suffered a heart attack six years ago that required him to slow down and his son-in-law, Tom Cinquini, to take over the day-to-day handling of the business.

I first met Chuck at a Tualatin Valley beekeepers meeting. At the time, we were both high school teachers and were running about 400 hives of bees each. We quickly became friends, sharing our lives and experiences.

Commercial beekeepers spend a lot of time trucking bees,

usually at night, and delivering the bees to fields that are often muddy, freshly plowed, irrigated, and so forth. We sometimes have mechanical problems, tire problems, and get lost trying to find a field because it looks different at night than it did when we scouted it during the day. People are not always willing to help when they see we have a load of bees on the truck. Consequently, it is nice to have a fellow beekeeper to count on when help is needed—no matter what the situation may be or the time of day or night. Chuck was one of those who could always be counted on when times got rough.

The cell phone was a fantastic invention for commercial beekeepers, and Chuck and I made use of it to the fullest. We would keep track of what the other was doing, and keep each other awake when delivering bees in the middle of the night—and during those long trips to California. We also shared our problems. (“A problem shared is a problem halved.”) Hardly a day went by that we didn’t talk to each other, often

3-4 times a day. My wife often commented that I talked more to Chuck than I did to her—and during the spring pollination season, she was probably right. I suspect Jeanne felt the same.

Chuck had many sayings (*Chuckisms*) that I recall,

such as: “The number of beehives you have is directly disproportional to your IQ.”



*From left to right: Harry Vanderpool, Mark Johnson, Bill Edwards, and Chuck gather at the 2011 Fall Conference.*

One of my favorites is, “A good friend is someone who, no matter how many times he has heard the joke, will laugh as though it was the first time.” To me, Chuck was more than a good friend. He was a Great Friend.

I am looking forward to sharing a Coke with Chuck in heaven. (For Chuck’s sake, I do hope they have Coke in heaven.) I look forward to sharing stories and hearing Chuck laugh at the punch line, no matter how many times I have told the joke before.



*Chuck and Jeanne with Family*





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**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES****Salem, Oregon ❖ October 27, 2018**

President Harry Vanderpool opened the 2018 General Membership Meeting of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association at 5:05 PM.

The minutes from the previous General Membership Meeting were published in *The Bee Line*. A motion was made by Charlie Vanden Heuvel to accept the minutes as recorded in the newsletter. Pam Leavitt seconded, and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Joe Hansen gave a report including total balances from accounts as well as explained that the profit and loss currently does not evenly reflect the same income and expense from last year. The facility payment was prepaid in 2018 and paid after the conference in 2017 to The Oregon Garden. Our bank accounts currently have approximately \$100,000 in total funds. Our income to September 30, 2018, was \$6,973.64, and that balance will change as income is reported from the conference and expenses are paid. Charlie Vanden Heuvel made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as read, seconded by Jordan Dimock. The motion was approved.

**Regional Representatives & Association Presidents**

**North Coast:** Kathy Cope said that they had warm weather and heavy mites in their area this year.

**South Coast:** Mureen Walker said they had a glorious fall and the bees have not clustered at all. Honey was great.

**Portland Metro:** Tom Cinquini said their area had a great honey start, dry summer, but high mites and high colony losses this year.

**Southwestern Oregon:** Eric McEwen said Varroa mites were high and smoke was terrible this year.

**North Willamette Valley:** Steven Coffman said there was a warm summer, mites are still an issue, and pickup is going to be a bit higher.

**South Willamette Valley:** Tim Wydronek noted that there is some loss of beehives.

**Portland Metro Beekeepers** reported that there are lots of new members this year.

**Portland Urban Beekeepers:** Mandy Shaw reported that they have 210 members and access to thirteen apiaries. They are also struggling with mites, and losses are already reported.

**Southern Oregon Beekeepers:** John Jacob reported there is a solar apiary in Southern Oregon and they are raising native plants for pollinators there.

**Tualatin Valley Beekeepers:** Eddie Frie said they had a good year and shared a honey house for extracting. Their

swarm list is on the website and things are going well.

**Lane County Beekeepers:** Max Kuhn said they are seeing high mites, dry weather, and had an excellent season until the blueberries were over, then honey fizzled. They have 200 members and continue to be active.

**Tillamook County Beekeepers:** Claire Moody said they have new members every month and are up to about 60 members. When the group began, they had about 12 members, but with much beekeeping experience. Yellowjackets were a huge problem. The members were very active at treating Varroa with lots of outreach and helping each other. They are planning to work with the prison next year and would like information from others.

**Columbia Gorge Beekeepers:** Charlie Vanden Heuvel reported that their group has only existed 1½ years and has 60 members with 25–30 attending meetings. They bring speakers from outside the area, and won 1st prize in the 4th of July parade in the area.

**Newsletter/Website Report**

Rosanna Mattingly thanked all who have sent in reports for the newsletter. She is holding *The Bee Line* to get in the minutes from the conference. She is always open to suggestions for both the newsletter and the website.

**Grants and Fellowships**

Jan Lohman reported on the funds currently in our various accounts and encourages members to donate to the Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education if they have money that they are willing to donate. Balances in the Northwest Apiculture Fund are \$12,198.38 in usable funds and \$89,916.01 in perpetuity; OSU Apiculture Fund has \$81,540.98 in available funds and \$67,476.41 in perpetuity; and the Herman A. Scullen Memorial Fellowship Fund has \$4,086.78 in available funds and \$65,954.80 in perpetuity.

**Agriculture Liaison**

Mike Rodia explained that 5,000 of the *Residential Beekeeping* booklets have been printed, with 2,000 to GloryBee, 2,000 to OSBA, and 1,000 to Oregon State University. If you would like some, please contact Mike. Article 2653 promotes residential beekeeping, but Marion County currently allows no fur-bearing animals or bees. Mike will appear on October 30 at the planning committee to propose a change.

**State Fair**

Marg Ehry said that Bonnie King did a spectacular job organizing the OSBA Booth for the Oregon State Fair. There was a great turnout for the booth, and they had lots of volunteers. A display case that was made by Dave Kerr was found; it had been misplaced and now can be used in the future. They will make a change in 2019 that volunteers will

work 4 hours instead of 6 hours during the fair to encourage more volunteer participation.

**New Business**

**Auction Proceeds:** Harry Vanderpool explained that in 2006 the OSBA decided to donate all auction proceeds to research. It was suggested that the proceeds from Honey Show monies collected from a honey sale be used for cash prizes and honey program support. It was explained that this would allow the OSBA Honey Show to be self-supporting and encourage participation. Pam Leavitt made a motion to create a new line item in our budget for honey show and honey promotion to be sponsored by honey sales from honey shows. Claire Moody seconded the motion, and it was approved.

**OSBA Research Funds:** Several discussions were held concerning funding by the OSBA. Harry Vanderpool explained the Executive Board approved a donation of \$4,000.00 to the Oregon Bee Project and \$12,500.00 to Dr. Ramesh Sagili and the OSU Honey Bee Lab with our research funds for 2018. There will be a time set aside right before lunch on Sunday for regional groups to present donation checks. As in the past, the OSBA will match those checks up to \$500 each.

**Oregon Honey Festival:** Marg Ehry reported that the Oregon Honey Festival has a new date of May 18.

**Central Oregon Rep:** Heike Williams suggested adding Central Oregon to our Regional Representatives. This will be something for the new board to review and manage.

**OSBA Fall Conference 2019:** The 2019 conference date and location will be decided by the new slate of officers. Unless they change probable locations, the conference will be moved to mid-November.

**Officers 2019:** Jan Lohman thanked the officers and regional representatives for their work in 2018, and asked if there were nominations from the floor. She presented a slate of regional representatives for 2019 to the membership

as follows: Kathy Cope from North Coast, Mureen Walker from South Coast, Bill Edwards from Columbia Gorge, Jordan Dimock from Eastern Oregon, Tom Cinquini from Portland Metro, Paul Davitt from South Central Oregon, Eric McEwen from Southwestern Oregon, Steven Coffman from North Willamette Valley, and Tim Wydronek from South Willamette Valley. The regional representatives were approved for 2019. There were no nominations from the floor for officers, so the slate of officers suggested by the OSBA, John Jacob, President, Joe Maresh, Vice President, Karen Finley, Secretary, and Joe Hansen, Treasurer, was approved as read.

Charlie Vanden Heuvel made a motion for the meeting to adjourn, seconded by Jordan Dimock. With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jan Lohman*

**Note:** The minutes from the Executive Board Meeting that took place on October 26, 2018, are quite similar to those of the General Membership Meeting printed here. To receive a copy, please email [osba.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:osba.newsletter@gmail.com) or phone 503.772.3486.

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North American Pollinator Protection Campaign

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**Andony Melathopoulos**

2018 Pollinator Advocate – United States

Dr. Andony Melathopoulos of Oregon State University is an entomologist with a passion for promoting bee health and educating growers, forest landowners, landscapers, the general public, and pesticide users. He has worked with various stakeholders in helping develop a strategic plan to promote the health of both wild and managed bees in the state of Oregon. He was instrumental in the creation of the Oregon Bee Project. As part of this initiative, he has trained 163 individuals and formed ten regional volunteer groups for the

*Oregon Bee Atlas.* He coordinated 20 events across the state for 2018 Pollinator Week, has produced 50 episodes of Polli-Nation Podcast, and has presented to more than 2,500 pesticide applicators on practices to minimize pesticide exposure risk to bees.

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## KEEPING BEES IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

*Morris Ostrofsky*

As we approach late fall and early winter, there are a number of management tasks we should consider. By this time, you have done your fall inspection and the bees are settling in for the winter. By this time, combining weak colonies is preferable to trying to keep them going through winter. Combining two weak hives into one colony versus adding a weak colony to strong is suggested. My suggestion is to use the newspaper method to do this. Don't forget that both colonies need ventilation while being combined.

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

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

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

Start with a box that has the same footprint as a standard box. Then add 1/8-inch screened ventilation holes on the sides, and cover the bottom with 1/8-inch hardware cloth to keep the absorbent materials in place. Position the box just under the outer cover. Check the absorbent materials once or twice over the winter, and replace them as needed. It is fun to see what you find in the insulation box in spring. I have found mushrooms, worms, and even a frog. Early spring is when I remove the insulation box.

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

By November, the bees should have stored approximately 80–100 pounds of honey. Less than this amount signals

that continued feeding is necessary. According to Ann Harman, a frequent contributor to *Bee Culture*, when daytime temperatures are consistently lower than 57 degrees F, we should switch from a liquid feed to a solid feed. At this temperature, the bees have a more-difficult time metabolizing sugar water and evaporating excess moisture from the syrup.

This is the time for solid feed. I like to use no-cook candy because it does not produce toxic HMF, produced when carbohydrates are held at a high temperature. Rusty's Honey Bee Suite site has a recipe for no-cook candy. I find it a simple and effective way to feed the bees during winter.

During fall/winter, the temperature occasionally reaches 50 degrees F or more. You should see your bees out doing cleansing flights. On these days, if you notice that a hive is inactive, it warrants closer examination. Lightly tap the side of hive and listen for a response. If you find the hive is a dead out, a necropsy is in order. Try to determine why it failed. If you have any doubts, see if you can get a more-experienced beekeeper to help. A Bee Lab such as that in Beltsville, Maryland, can also be used to diagnose American foulbrood and other diseases.

Hive entrances should be reduced this time of year to prevent robbing. The entrance should also be periodically checked to make sure it is not plugged with dead bees. The undertaker bees don't carry bodies out very far when it is cold; they can pile up at the entrance. A mouse guard will prevent mice from using your hive as a warm, winter hideout.

November and December provide a late-season window of opportunity to deal with Varroa mites. After Thanksgiving, the colony should be broodless. If your mite counts are still above 1 percent, this is when you can use oxalic acid because there is no brood that it can harm. This can be your final safety net for the year. For the last several years, I have used oxalic acid resulting in mite counts at almost zero percent the following spring. Please keep in mind that, while oxalic acid is a great tool, it must be used at the appropriate time of year and safely. I suggest visiting Randy Oliver's website [www.scientificbeekeeping.com](http://www.scientificbeekeeping.com) for the latest application updates. Whatever method you choose, follow the directions exactly.

Once the bees are tucked in for the winter, it is a good time to evaluate what you learned this year and make plans for next. Winter is also the time to build bee equipment and gizmos/gadgets. It is also a great time to read about bees and beekeeping. I have found *Beekeeping Your First Three Years*, a newer publication from A.I. Root, to include valuable information even for someone like me with 50 years of beekeeping experience.



As you have probably heard, Brushy Mountain Bee Farm is now closed for business and so Ruhl Bee Supply is closing its doors during the transition.

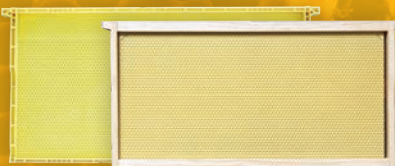
The original goal in merging with Brushy Mountain Bee Farm was to create better support for our Northwest beekeepers than either of us could provide alone. We are painfully aware that this did not happen. In fact, our local support got worse. It has been difficult to watch as the core values that Ruhl Bee has long held became subsumed under other priorities.

We plan to change all this as we re-emerge, unfettered, with a renewed focus on something we always understood: the unique needs of Northwest beekeepers. Thank you for being patient during this transition.

*John Edwards*

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## BEE EVENTS

**November 13–15.** 2018 California State Beekeepers Association Annual Convention. Harrah's Resort Southern California. *Information:* [www.californiastatebeekeepers.com](http://www.californiastatebeekeepers.com).

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

**January 9–12:** American Honey Producers Association 50th Annual Convention & Trade Show. DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Phoenix. *Information:* [www.AHPAnet.com](http://www.AHPAnet.com).

**January 9–12:** The American Bee Research Conference. In conjunction with American Honey Producers Association.

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

**February 9:** Washington State Beekeepers Conference. Eastern Washington University. *Information:* [jenifer@wasba.org](mailto:jenifer@wasba.org).

**July 12–14:** The Western Apicultural Society Annual Conference. Ashland, Oregon.

**September 8–12:** 46th Apimondia. Montreal. *Registration is now open:* [www.apimondia2019.com](http://www.apimondia2019.com).

## REGIONAL NEWS

**Note:** All associations invite and welcome visitors to join them at meetings. See page 15 for meeting time, website, and/or contact information. Many regional associations also offer additional opportunities for learning, which are posted on their websites as well as on [orsba.org](http://orsba.org), under *Events*.

### Regional Representatives

#### North Coast

After a long stretch of dry, warm (for the Coast, which means in the 60s) weather, North Coast beekeepers are starting to prepare for the coming rains. On dry days, the bees are still out foraging on English ivy and asters. Mites have been rampant this year, and beekeepers are checking their colonies and treating accordingly. They have also been taking advantage of the warm days of early fall to get one last look inside their hives to make sure the queen is active and there is sufficient brood for a strong winter population.

The Central Coast and Tillamook County associations have been concentrating on winter care, with Dewey Caron talking about winter preparation and nurturing fat bees at the meeting in Tillamook and a round robin event in Newport featuring Rick Olson, Max Kuhn, and Stan Scotton, who answered questions from beekeepers about the care of their bees.

*Kathy Cope*

#### South Coast

Oregon South Coast beekeepers' attendance at the OSBA Conference was about 33 percent of average monthly attendance. Our little group there looked to us like "a lot of us" since attendance at our meetings averages around 25 and the conference is nearly 600 miles round trip with several overnight stays and numerous meals involved. We were so pleased to be able to hand over a donation for the first time, to join in helping with the research of Ramesh Sagili at OSU. Our president of 2018, Harvey Young, got unanimous approval from October attendance for making the donation.

The OSBA scholarship seems to be a very good idea. So far, now in the third year, all of those we have been able to award the benefit to are people who have never been to the annual conference before and were not planning on attending until offered the scholarship. The first one to attend was elected president of the Oregon South Coast association soon after and served for the following year. The second one was a junior member who was already elected as vice president, but was able to attend the conference only with the help of the OSBA scholarship and the local sponsorship of the president elect. This year, the best prospect was one who had just joined the local group and had "stepped up" to help in many ways during the Curry County Fair—training to be the honey judge, offering her nuc for the observation hive, and bringing her honey for sale at the fair with 10 percent of sales revenue going to the association. We look forward to the benefit of having Nancy Rogers among us again next year with the all the additional information and inspiration of the conference.

The local newspaper featured as its headline the Oregon South Coast meeting notice, "Winter is coming – hail the honey bee," and inserted a large image of the OSBA logo for the annual conference of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association.



Election of officers and the Thanksgiving potluck are featured for the November meeting, the last of the year. This has been the most-wonderful autumn in memory here at the southwestern tip of Oregon. Blessing all – winter is coming. Time for respite. Excellent opportunities ahead for curling up with a good audiobook. Highest recommendations for *Honeybee Democracy* read by author Tom Seeley himself.

*Mureen Walker*

### Regional Associations

#### Central Coast Beekeepers

The Coast has had a bit of needed rain followed by several days of beautiful fall weather. The ivy nectar flow is upon us,

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### 2019 BEEKEEPING CLASSES:\*

- **January 26:** Is Beekeeping Right for Me?, Free
- **February 10:** Ask a Beekeeper, Free
- **February 23:** Beekeeping 101, \$25
- **March 23:** Beekeeping 101, \$25
- **April 6:** Beekeeping 101, \$25

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and the bees are busily trying to gather what more they can for winter.

In our last association meeting, Carolyn Breece from OSU gave us tips to ensure that we have our hives ready for winter, followed by an overview of the current research the OSU Honey Bee Lab is working on.

For our upcoming meeting, three of our most-experienced beekeepers will be answering questions related to the Winter Season. Members will rotate every 20 minutes and have a chance to speak with each of the three. Our hope is to give folks an opportunity to ask specific questions that they may have been hesitant to ask in the larger group, and to offer differing views from well-respected bee keepers. We will do this throughout next year's various seasons.

A few of our folks are looking forward to attending the OSBA Conference, and we always glean from the knowledge they bring back. Looking ahead, our November meeting is a holiday party; there will be no meeting in the month of December.

*Patti Johnson*

### Central Oregon Beekeepers

In Central Oregon, our usual first frost is in mid-September, with a nice Indian summer lasting until the end of October. During the last two weeks of October, we usually flirt with hard freezes again and cover all the tender plants every night. It's always somewhat of a relief when we have a hard frost, killing everything, and there's no longer the need to cover all the plants every night and uncover every morning. Honey bee-wise, everyone's been put to bed with the exception of the last-minute mite treatments. We should be getting reports of how the mite levels were through the summer as well as the honey harvest for the year. We do have several folks who are looking forward to the OSBA conference.

In October, we will be having a talk on "Myths of Beekeeping" during our monthly meeting. We are also hosting Andony Melathopoulos on November 16 for a community talk on the native bees of Central Oregon. November, we usually don't have a meeting because it coincides with Thanksgiving week. December and January occur if the snow isn't too bad because many of our beekeepers are in quite remote rural areas.

*Allen Engle*

### Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

Pollen still is seen as the foragers return. Temperatures have been fluctuating from the 30s to 50s at night, and thus far many hives appear to be strong with great potential for surviving the ultimate honey bee test: winter. The luxury of having two hives at Hood River Extension, where we meet, has allowed the opportunity this year to add a pre-meeting period to review a beekeeping technique (mite check, supering, miticides, and so forth). In the past year and a half, our association has grown to almost sixty strong—drawing

from Goldendale to Corbett along the Columbia River. Still in our youth, we have a strong board willing to put forth the effort to bring bee education to our region. We are looking forward to leaving our winter behind in hopes of discovering that our girls are eagerly waiting to build toward the annual nectar flow.

*James Lombardo*

### Douglas County Bees

As our year comes to an end and the bees are less active, we find that a lot of us are getting the bees "tucked in," preparing for spring, and getting equipment ready. We recently discussed using a vaporizer for mite treatment and are looking forward to offering a spring class where it will be demonstrated.



We did have a bee tree removal the last day of October that went very well. The bees stayed tucked in, and they are doing well in their new location. The process involved lots of cooperation by our members and the tree fallers. The bees will be staying in a section of the removed tree until next spring.

*Ivory LosBanos*

### Lane County Beekeepers

The 2018 annual conference in Salem was supported by our association with 20 members in attendance. We were thrilled that the decorated Langstroth hive boxes that we displayed in last month's *Bee Line* auctioned for \$750. These funds were directed to the Oregon Bee Project to help fund the valuable work they do with all bee pollinators. In addition, several members who brought products of the hive and honey for the Honey Show donated their items to the oral auction.

The speakers at the conference reminded us of the research being done regarding Varroa-resistant bees. In addition, two speakers discussed American foulbrood. The attention the Varroa mite has been given since the 1980s may have taken away from the concern over AFB, but James Tew refreshed our thinking about this disease.

Lane County beekeepers will be holding their election for officers and board of directors at the November 20th meeting. We look forward to adding new faces and new ideas to our decision-making group. The board has begun the process of completing the calendar of topics to be presented in 2019. We



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have set the date for our annual Bee School, March 9, as we often begin to get calls regarding this event in late December and early January.

Hopefully your hives are full of *fat bees* to overwinter successfully. Don't forget to continually monitor for Varroa and take appropriate measures when necessary. *Pam Leavitt*

### Linn Benton Beekeepers

This time of year, all beekeepers should be thinking about overwintering plans. Signs of decreasing amounts of nectar and pollen are seen in our hives along with a decrease in the size of the brood nest. Now is also the time to begin thinking about using oxalic acid or not. Most beekeepers in the Willamette Valley will apply oxalic acid just after Thanksgiving. Most of the capped brood will have emerged by the middle of November. Also, make sure that your hive has at least 60 pounds of honey stored above the cluster. If it does not, you will need to feed your bees with dry sugar or candy fondant so that they won't starve this winter. As the weather really starts to turn, now is also a great time to catch up on reading all the bee journals you did not get to this summer.

Our guest speaker in November is Dr. Dewey Caron. His presentation is titled, "What Are your Bees Saying." There will be no general meeting in December due to the holidays.

Bee Joke for the Month: "Where do bees go on vacation?" – Answer: Stingsapore and Beejing. *Amber Reese*

### Portland Urban Beekeepers

Autumn leaves have fallen, and cold rains have returned. But, what a great time we had at the annual OSBA Conference!

We had a good turnout for both our October and November meetings with 44 members and three new aspiring beekeepers. Glen Andresen presented the Portland October Pollen and Nectar report, and Lauren Smith, our librarian, brought a beautiful bouquet of asters for all to enjoy.

Mandy Shaw, our president, shared her experience with her first cut-out. Once she got the bees hived and home, she noticed what she thought might be a small hive beetle infestation. She sent a sample to the Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab for a positive confirmation. We all thought that small hive beetles were not an Oregon problem, but it seems that it might become an issue with warming trends and our milder winters. We were reminded to monitor our colonies in the summer and fall, and if suspicious to set beetle traps and send specimens to the OSU Bee Lab. This colony was euthanized and the equipment was burned.

We were a very attentive audience this month as Dr. Dewey Caron discussed the "October Plan," or what we should be doing with our bees at this critical seasonal juncture: "Fall management determines spring success." He reviewed the

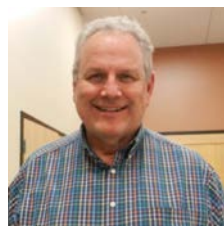
results from the September 2018 nationwide MiteCheck data from the week of September 8 through 16. The map of mite counts exceeding 10 per 300 bees in Oregon was sobering. He warned us that, though we may have treated in late August and/or September and we think that we have knocked the mite counts down, the data indicate that there is an unexplained rebound high mite count in October. The reasons are not clear, but our bees are most likely robbing mite-infested, dying colonies and bringing hitchhiking mites home. So, one more mite count and treatment, if indicated, in October might be a good strategy. Dewey also talked about the new nomenclature for parasitic mite syndrome and introduced the more-accurate term, Bee Varroa Mite Syndrome (VMS). Additionally, he emphasized the importance of fall feeding—carbohydrates (heavy sugar syrup) and protein (pollen patties).

The Tom Seeley event was a great success. It sold out, and he was a delight to host. Many attendees brought books, and he spent time talking with everyone and answering questions while he signed their books. Specifically, he talked about his work with the bees in the Arnot Forest where he does much of his research, the concept of Darwinian Beekeeping and exactly what that means, how to view the hive as an *information center*, and swarm lures. Additionally, he described what it was like to do research on bees, the tedious methods like hand-numbering two thousand individual bees with a unique number to be able to identify patterns of foraging, and what that spreadsheet looked like—wow! The most-surprising thing we took away was, if a beekeeper wanted to be a "treatment-free" beekeeper, for best results the colony should be kept small—and this was defined as no more than one deep brood chamber per colony.

The November meeting included a wonderful trip through the Netherlands by Susan Chernak McElroy and Jacqueline Freeman from the Preservation Beekeeping Council. We learned more about making and keeping bees in skeps. We will be hosting our annual Bee School February 10, 2019, at McMenamins Kennedy School. *Cheryl Wright*

### Tillamook County Beekeepers

Our November meeting is always a honey tasting, elections, and reports from the state conference. It never ceases to amaze us how some honeys, like knotweed, can be from the same plant but taste quite different. It's a dark honey and you either love it or you hate it!



Brad York


How excited we are about our new president, Brad York, and vice president, Pam Burke. They will take office in January for the calendar year. Brad was career military and then a consultant for the military. He is taking

the association to a new level! He's set up teams and is encouraging everyone to participate in at least one team at some level, even if it is very minor. We are all super excited!

The Program team plans the meetings, sets up chairs, and provides snacks. The Promotions team publishes meetings and events but, most importantly, manages the input to our new website. Brad has already done all the background research on the options, and we have decided to have it built by Margie Mathews of Site To Be Seen using the Wild Apricot platform. I'll let you know when it's up and running.

There will a Purchasing team to buy nucs, packages, and anything we buy in bulk. An Education team to conduct "Intro to Beekeeping" classes, continuing education for more-experienced beekeepers, and a Bee Buddy program. The Events team plans and oversees our participation in the Home and Garden Show, the county fair, and other such outreach activities. Lastly, the Forage team introduces bee friendly plants at the meetings, provides plants for outreach events, and anything else they want to do.

Believe it or not, Brad is a *new* beekeeper. It only goes to show us that you don't have to be an experienced beekeeper to be a great leader. *Claire Moody*



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### Affiliated Associations

A reminder to please send updates from elections for 2019 officers and information about upcoming spring events as they become available. In addition, please complete affiliation forms as soon as possible after elections so that we can verify insurance and get the 2019 Membership Directory out in a timely way!



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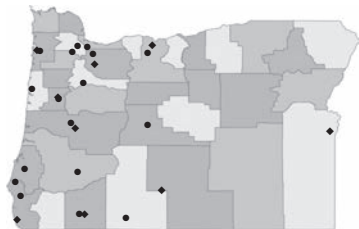
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## Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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##### Vice President

Jason Rowan—541.767.9878; beetanical@q.com

##### Secretary

Jan Lohman—541.980.0304; jan.lohman55@gmail.com

##### Treasurer

Joe Hansen—503.824.2265; osba.treasurer@gmail.com

##### Past President

Paul Andersen—503.332.5410; andersenpk503@gmail.com

#### ♦ OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

##### North Coast

Stan Scotton—503.232.4945; 4scotton@gmail.com

##### South Coast

Mureen Walker—541.425.0535; mureen.walker.111@gmail.com

##### Columbia Basin

Bill Edwards—541.354.2223

##### Eastern Oregon

Jordan Dimock—541.372.2726

##### Portland Metro

Tom Cinquini—503.547.5386; tomcinquini@gmail.com

##### South Central Oregon

Ray Rutler—541.273.7255; jeswandering@aol.com

##### Southwestern Oregon

Mysti Jacob—541.941.9613; mystijacob@gmail.com

##### North Willamette Valley

Steven Coffman—503.838.2981

##### South Willamette Valley

Tim Wydronek—541.740.4127; tim@aldercreekhoney.com

#### • REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

##### Central Coast Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, fourth Wednesday, Newport  
 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: James Lombardo—president@gorgebeekeepers.org  
 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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**Note:** To renew or join online, please visit:

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*Thank you!*



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

### ***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](mailto:osba.newsletter@gmail.com). It's *your* newsletter—we want to hear from you!

The next issue to be printed will be the **January–February** issue, **2019**. The deadline for submitting copy is **December 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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